

Oregon Section, Net Scheduling – Traffic Routing – AREA NET CYCLES 1 – 4

Rev. August 30, 2024

The following is a brief analysis of the old NTS net cycle plan and a comparison with current net schedules that affect the Oregon Section.

The old NTS plan is based on fixed AREA net meeting times. It is worth noting that the current Western Area, formerly known as the Pacific Area, spans 4 time zones (counting Alaska and Hawaii), where the Eastern and Central Areas are mostly single time zones.

The attached chart shows the old NTS plan for each level of net activity along with suggested meeting times. The Cycle 1, Western Area net is probably a good compromise given the broad span of time zones that are covered by this net. Area and Region nets set the standard meeting times of the Section nets that serve them. With the Area net in Cycle 1 meeting an hour prior to the suggested schedule, and the Region net lagging as well, Oregon Section Net in the first Cycle is out of order and misses the Region net schedule for outbound traffic. Moving the Daytime Oregon Section Net in Cycle 1 to 17:15 UTC (09:15 PST) would place this net in a better position for outbound traffic. (Note: The Daytime session of the Oregon Section Net has been discontinued due to lack of support.)

Oregon has no active nets to serve inbound Cycle 1 or outbound Cycle 2 traffic flow at the Section level. Check-in nets such as the Noontime Net (3970 & 7284 kc @ 11:30/10:30 PT) may be useful for message delivery, however it is not a reliable outlet.

Evening nets in Cycle 3 receive incoming traffic from the region Cycle 2 in time for local net distribution. Outbound traffic in Cycle 4 meets the plan nicely with incoming traffic arriving at the end of the cycle.

Cycle 1, incoming traffic to the morning sessions, is being handled by individual Region 7 operators on the Washington State Net, CW, (3563kHz @ 07:30 PT) which serves as the morning traffic clearing house. Distribution for the Oregon section routes via the Oregon Digital Traffic Network or held for the evening net sessions.

The Digital Traffic Network is able to move messages outside of the established net cycles and provides the best routing in emergencies. Currently, traffic may be routed to the DTN through W7EES via 2 meter packet, 1200 bps, on 144.930 in the Portland metro, Tualatin Valley region or on HF, frequencies 3.5880, 3.5970, 7.1000, 10.0430 and 14.1065 MHz USB carrier/dial (scanning) using the VARA software modem. Call W7EES for BPQ BBS. Use standard text NTS DTN format. (MPG 6A1.1). Non-emergency, hours of operation; 08:00-15:00, 20:00-03:00 daily. Prearranged web-mail access 24/7 via the internet is available for manual entry and retrieval at: <http://w7ees-1.ddns.net>. (If RF links are not available. User/pass required.)

Each net level needs Liaison Stations to relay traffic and Net control operators to run each net session. Volunteers are needed to staff these functions daily. We need you!

73 – Dave Bogner – W7EES
ARRL Oregon Section Traffic Manager