

SFARES Meetings and Nets

Objective: To have regular monthly meetings and on-air Nets even if group leaders are not present and have left no suggested agenda.

For On Air Nets: Set up a yearly calendar of Nets and a schedule of Net Control Stations (NCS). Get different operators to volunteer to be the NCS for different months (the NCS experience is good skill training for everyone). If a NCS can't make his/her scheduled Net, he/she should arrange to trade months with someone else.

A typical Net agenda might be as follows:

1. Open the Net (to make it as painless as possible, a suggested opening script for the Net is attached. The NCS could change it to suit his /her preferences).
2. Accept and acknowledge station check-ins.
3. Initiate a round-robin discussion where each check-in gives a brief report or comment and then hands off to the next check-in. The purpose is to get each station talking.
4. At the end of the first round, ask for any late check-ins and give them a chance to report.
5. Pause for SFARES business or announcements. Allow time for any questions or comments.
6. Initiate a final round robin discussion similar to the first round. Give each station an opportunity to add further comments or perhaps comment on something from the first round
7. Close the Net.

Some variations might be:

- Suggest a topic that each station could comment on in round robin fashion. Some topics might be technical issues, such as "What type of antennas are you using for VHF?"; or "What ways have you come up with to operate under emergency power?" or "your favorite ham news sources".

- A mini- table-top “drill”, e.g. if you were called out tonight, could you go? How much time would it take you to leave the house? What problems might slow you down?
- Exercise: Have everyone change frequencies to different repeaters or simplex as a test to be sure we have those frequencies in memory (first tell the group what the order will be).
- Exercise: Send and receive a simple NTS message
- Exercise: Tell everyone they just lost street power. Ask them if they could somehow communicate with the Net. Ask them to do it, if they can.

For Regular Monthly Meetings: We already have a place for our monthly meetings at the Santa Fe County EOC (on Rte 14 across from the State Penitentiary) on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 AM. The following is a model agenda for normal use when there is no prepared agenda due to the absence of the DEC or EC. There is normally a prepared agenda distributed before each monthly meeting.

A sample model agenda could include:

1. Reports and comments on recent Past Activities
2. Any old items or business, if anyone remembers any.
3. Reports from the Sub-groups (digital, State EOC support, etc)
4. Reminders of any upcoming events, if anyone remembers any.
5. Show and tell or other demo, if anyone has something.
6. Open discussion of some topic(s), e.g.
 - help on some technical issue
 - recent local, State or nation-wide news/events that affect hams
 - some interesting ham-related technology, procedure, or finding
 - suggestions for a future group activity
 - suggestions for future training or group skill improvement.

SF ARES Net: Suggested Opening Script

Good Evening. This is (Callsign; also phonetically) calling the regular monthly net of the Santa Fe ARES Group. My name is _____ and I will be the net control station this evening.

This Net meets at 2000 on the Tuesday prior to the second Saturday (the nominal date for the Group Meeting at the Santa Fe County EOC) of each month on the Santa Fe Amateur Radio Club's linked repeater system using repeaters on **Tesuque Peak (146.82, -600)**, **St. Vincent's Hospital (147.20, +600)**, **Elk Mountain (147.30, +600)** and **San Antonio Mountain (146.76, -600)**. Tesuque Peak, St.Vincent's Hospital and Elk Mountain all use an access tone (or PL) of **162.2 Hz** while San Antonio Mountain uses an access tone (or PL) of **67.0 Hz**. In addition, there is a 440 link atop Tesuque Peak at **442.825 MHz(+5.0 MHz, 131.8 tone.)**

[Pause] The purpose of this Net is to provide regular tests of member stations and to refresh our net communication skills. While primarily for the benefit of SF ARES members, any station within range of the Net is welcome to check in. We especially welcome inquiries from stations about the Santa Fe ARES organization. As Net Control, I will use the current SFARES Group Roster for roll call. I will use three groups, A-H, I-S and T-Z based on the letter immediately following the number in your callsign.

[Pause] For this evening's check in, I will ask that you use the following format:

1. Say Net control's callsign, (callsign) or simply "net control" and then drop the carrier for a few seconds to make sure you are not doubling with another station.
2. If no one else is heard, re-key your mike and give your callsign, then your call sign phonetically, and finally your first name.

(optional) For example,

Net Control. (Drop the carrier). This is (callsign) . (callsign phonetically) . {your first name}

I will acknowledge all stations after the last station I hear.

I would ask each station to copy down at least the name and callsign of the station that checks in **after you**. Even better would be to copy down all stations.

[Pause] At this time, I will follow the SFARES Group Roster for check-ins for the SFARES Net. At the end of the roll call, I will check for additional check-ins.

Instructions for the NCS:

1. Write down the callsign and name of all check-ins.
2. Acknowledge all check-ins after the last station heard. Repeat the request for check-ins
3. Welcome all unfamiliar/non-SF ARES check-ins and ask where they are from. Offer to give more info about SF ARES after the Net and also mention the SF ARES website at <http://www.qsl.net/sfares/>.