

Net Control Station (NCS) Class

Who can establish a Net?

- Anyone who feels there is a need, at any time, from anywhere
- Should have strong signal
- Never ask, "Why hasn't someone started a Net?"
- For routine "Social" nets, obtain permission from repeater owner
- For an "Emergency" or "Public Safety" net, permission not necessary
- Can also be disbanded when no longer necessary

Identification

- Identify with FCC callsign at least every ten minutes as required by Part 97
- Keep an eye on the clock
- Modify your ID to include the "Net ID" *every time*
- Include Traffic List, if you have one
- For Drills, make a "This is an Exercise" announcement *often*
- Use Tactical Call Signs whenever convenient

Logging

- Log everything that happens on the Net
- Time-stamp every item
- Record every station that checks in or out
- Mark items of special interest

Net control is always "right"

- Make decisions when required
- "When in command, COMMAND" – Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz
- If you need to change your mind, do so, but don't dither
- Do not "explain" except when absolutely essential to the net's conduct
- Keep things moving when there is "business for the Net"
- Keep extraneous chatter to a minimum.

Handling Check-ins

- Read back every callsign so they know they have been heard
- Run a "List"
- Collisions, "Doubles"; try to pick up some differentiating detail
- "The one ending in 'G', go again"
- Avoid impossible requests
- "There were two of you, one of you, try again..."
- "Only one at a time..."
- Keep track of who is checked in and their location

Net Participants should expect to:

- Check in when called for, list Traffic (if any)
- Check OUT when leaving the net
- Or check in for a specific time interval
- Stand By.
- Monitor the Net and be ready if called
- "They also serve, who only sit and wait."
- Be prepared to take traffic.

Traffic

- Try not to get "in the middle"
- Traffic is best passed between two check-ins
 - Possibly on another frequency
- Take traffic yourself only as last resort
- List any traffic you are holding at each ID
- If possible, copy all traffic handled on the Net
- All traffic has "Precedence" (explicit or implicit), work in proper order
- Avoid having non-hams directly in contact on your Net
 - Loss of control and very inefficient compared to written message

Accommodating stations operating on limited power

- Note their limited power status
- Handle them first
- Ask if they have any traffic
- Advise them of our policy for handling limited-power stations
 - Net will call at :15 and :45 past hour
 - List any traffic for them
 - Stand by in case they want to call
 - Read any General Announcements
 - Ask when they are likely to check in again

Pacific County Net Control Levels

- NORMAL*** (no net)
 - Just like everyday operations
- PRE-ACTIVATION INFORMAL*** (no net)
 - No specific NCS
 - Stations commit to monitor as able
 - Make presence known periodically
 - Inform others of power outages, road blockages, flooding, etc.
- PRE-ACTIVATION LOCAL DIRECTED NET***
 - NCS at a home station establishes a formal net
 - Mainly informational
 - Can also be organizational
 - Any participant observations are collected
 - Reported to DEM upon request
- FORMAL ACTIVATED NET***
 - DEM requests ARES/RACES support
 - If Net was formed (as in 3) it can continue
 - Otherwise, the EC/RO will request a Net be formed
 - Used to organize volunteers, and make assignments
 - Used to gather and disseminate information
 - Usually concurrent with EOC activation
 - NCS not necessarily at EOC