NET GUIDELINES

NET CONTROL STATIONS

As net control stations (NCS), it pays to remember that the net regulars are the net. Your function is to preside over the net in the most efficient, business like way possible so that net participants can promptly finish their duties and go on to other ones. You must be tolerant and calm, yet confident and quick in your decisions. An ability to "take things as they come" is a must. Remember that you were appointed NCS because your Net Manager believes in you and your abilities.

1) Be the boss but don't be bossy. It's your job to teach net discipline and train new net operators. You are the boss when the net is in session. However don't be a tyrant.

2) Be punctual. Many of the net participants have other commitments or other nets to attend. Liaison stations are often on a tight schedule to make other nets.

3) Know your territory. Your members have names—use them. They also live somewhere-by knowing their locations, you can ascertain who needs to get the traffic.

4) Take extra care to keep your antennas in good shape. A Net Control with a wimpy signal cannot run a net. Although you don't have to be the loudest one on the net, you do have to be heard.

5) NCS establishes the net frequency. Just because the net has been operating on a certain frequency for years doesn't give rights to it if a QSO is already in progress. Move to a nearby clear frequency, close enough for the net to find you. QRM is a fact of life on HF, so live with it.

6) Keep a log of every net session. Just because the FCC dropped logging requirements doesn't mean you have to drop it. The Net Manager or others may need information about a check in or a piece of traffic, and your log details can be helpful in determining what happened on a particular night

7) Don't hamstring the net with unnecessary "chatter". Move the traffic as quickly as possible and handle the "formal" part of the net expeditiously so that members can be free to leave the net or enjoy the informal "rag-chew" where "chatter" is acceptable.

NET MEMBERS

As a net member, you have a duty to be self-disciplined. A net is only as good as its worst operator.

You can be an exemplary net member by following a few easy guidelines.

1) Zero beat the NCS. The NCS doesn't have time to chase all over the band for you. Make sure you're on net frequency.

2) Don't be late. There's no such thing as "fashionably late" on a net. Liaison stations are on a tight timetable. Don't hold them up by checking in 10 minutes late with traffic.

3) Speak only when spoken to by the NCS. Unless it is a bona fide emergency situation, you don't need to "help" the NCS unless asked. If you need to contact the NCS, make it brief. Resist the urge to help clear the frequency for the NCS or to "advise" the NCS. The NCS, not you, is boss.

4) Transmit only to NCS, unless otherwise instructed by the NCS. Side comments to another station during the FORMAL portion of the net are out of order.

5) Stay until you are excused. If the NCS calls you and you don't respond, the NCS may assume you've left the net, and net business may be stymied. If you need to leave the net prematurely, contact the NCS and simply ask to be excused.

6) Be brief when transmitting to the NCS. A simple "yes" or "no" will usually suffice. Shaggy dog tales only waste valuable net time. Save these comments for the RAG CHEW portion.

7) Know how the net runs. The NCS doesn't have time to explain procedure to you. After you have been on the net for awhile, you should already know these procedures.

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