The Goal of the non-emergent net

The goal of non-emergency nets is to train the Net Control Station, and those listening, in the procedures and the efficient handling of traffic. In addition, nets are commonly used to disseminate information concerning ARES/RACES operations throughout the state and the US. It is expected that those who check into a net will share new information with others who have not participated in the net.

Emergency (life and death urgency) and Priority (time based urgency) traffic come ahead of the net. But emergency traffic can break into the net at any time and is allowed by law.

We take all possible check-ins first. There may be a few gaps at times, just ask for anymore check-ins three or four times. If nobody comes, then it denotes the end of the main check-in period.

At the end of the check-in period, we take traffic as indicated below.

Formal Traffic for the net (entire group)

We allow any traffic for the net (the entire group) to be passed. After that traffic is passed, we allow the second go's.

Second go's are such because your first go is to check-in and advise if you have traffic. You may want to ask for additional check-ins again, after the group traffic is passed. You will likely find a few stragglers. You are not required to fill out a form for training traffic. However, there may be ARES/RACES formal messages (usually ICS-213) that are expected to be passed to all operators via county ARES nets. Before taking it, it is acceptable to ask others to assist in writing it down. Nothing wrong with assistance!

Formal traffic for individuals

 If there is anyone indicating that they have formal traffic (such as Radio-grams or ICS 213) to pass for an individual, Net Control should note this and immediately after check-ins, ask if anyone is willing to accept the traffic? If someone

volunteers to take it, it should be decided between the two stations, where they will meet to pass the traffic. It can also be held until the end of the net and passed then by both individuals. If nobody volunteers to take the traffic, net control is NOT required to accept the individual traffic. While we will attempt to assist in passing traffic, this is not an NTS traffic net. Most traffic coming to this net is informational, instructional or for a net participant. But someone may be interested in assisting in passing individual messages so please afford them the chance. It also makes for good training.

We try to be flexible, but this is the procedure nation-wide and is what is followed in most locations. Uniformity makes for easier participation. There may be some mistakes along the way, but this IS a training net. So go easy on yourselves and each other. But please make the effort to comply.

A Net Control Station reports to the Net Manager. A report should consist of all participating call signs and the time that the net closed as well as any formal traffic for the group that was not training related. You might want to also give a simple note of any discussion item that you think necessary. Again, no need to pass along "training messages" in reports. Just note that you received one is fine if at all.