

WHAT IS A "NET CONTROL"?

Net Control is an Amateur Radio Operator who performs as the control point for coordinating a group or team of amateur radio operators all communicating on the same frequency, providing a communications net during an event.

CONCEPT:

- The purpose of the net control is to maintain orderly communications and serve as the focus for net functions. The net control directs the order and effective flow of traffic during the net. The net control is also responsible for keeping track of all resources, active and reserve, directing traffic effectively, maintaining net discipline and recording all incidents and traffic.

RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES:

- Communications
 1. The net control is in charge of the net during the event and is responsible for the information flow and the character of the event net. The net control operator can make or break a net.
 2. The net control shall have strong, clear signal with good audio characteristics.
 3. The net control shall issue all instructions in a clear and concise tone.
 4. The net control is expected to take direction from the event communications coordinator during the shift.
 5. The net control is responsible with keeping track of the status of all stations and their capabilities and functions.
 6. The net control is responsible for keeping a written log of traffic handled during the event.
- Shift Duration. Most event operations have duration's of 12 hours or less. This time may vary depending on the actual needs of the operation.
- The net control operator shall have good communications skills, voice quality and language command and decisive judgment. An even temperament along with the ability to think clearly during high stress situations and remain calm and decisive during emergencies. The ideal net control operator has both the confidence and cooperation of the net's operators. Good hearing, listening and writing skills are a must.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:

The net control shall furnish the following equipment when reporting for duty:

1. Mobile 2 meter/440 cm, 25 watt minimum, synthesized transceiver with programmable CTCSS encoder.
2. Ear piece or headphones.
3. Large capacity battery power for 12 hours operation.
4. Power adapter connectors -- for direct battery or power supply connection with cables at least 10 feet long. RACES compatible connectors recommended.
5. Dual Band mast mountable antenna with necessary coaxial cable, connectors and adapters.
6. Optional push-up or section assembled 15 to 20 foot mast, antenna and cable.
7. Optional scanner or back-up transceiver to monitor repeater output when a repeater is used for net operations.
8. A log book or notepad and pencil for use in the logging of calls and other related information.

This equipment set is considered Resource Type B .

Adapted from RACES by N5TIM with assistance from AA5QX(9/01)