

# PSRG Suggested Net Control Guidelines

11-9-2013

- 1) A net control person is a facilitator. You are the common connector between the listener(s) and the contact. You make it happen. You turn potential chaos into a melody.
- 2) The beauty of the 9/9 nets is the unscripted individual personalities as represented by the net ops crew. Everyone does it a little bit differently and this is entirely appropriate and fun in my view so no changes are warranted in this respect.
- 3) In the old days (late 60's and early to mid 70's) nearly all 2m stations were mobile and the fixed station was in the minority. Just the reverse today. To assure that mobiles are not out of range after a wait to be called it is a good idea to take mobiles immediately when they check in, but not waste a lot of time trolling for mobiles...just take them as they come and go back to the check-in list.
- 4) The Net control operator's main job is to facilitate check-ins and keep the net moving, not to converse with every check-in. For whatever reason some folks end up way down the check in list. Waiting for the net operator and contact to finish a dialogue that is more suited for after net is frustrating at times. Two or three minutes is a long time and, when multiplied by 10 or 12, can put you 20 to 30 minutes down the list. I suggest that brevity is a golden rule that will make everyone happy. That said there will probably be situations where the rule needs bending. So, generally keep it short but know that you will not be censured if a longer exchange is warranted.
- 5) Check-in stations should direct their comments to the net control operator, not each other, and direct discussion between check-in stations should be discouraged by the net control operator.
- 6) A station wishing to make a comment to a previous check-in station or ask a brief question should do so with the net control operator's permission, typically during his or her check-in:  
W7ABC: "Net Control, I have a question for K7XYZ, if she's still listening."  
Net Ctl: "OK. K7XYZ are you monitoring?"  
K7XYZ: "K7XYZ"  
Net Ctl: "Go ahead W7ABC"  
W7ABC then asks his question, to which K7XYZ may respond directly, or she may choose to direct her response to Net Control. When the exchange is complete W7ABC may complete his check-in if he hasn't done so already.
- 7) If you sense any type of emergency then take immediate and forceful command. Take breakers immediately and ask if they have an emergency. If non-emergency and/or fixed location then entirely appropriate to ask them to take the end of the queue. If a regional emergency occurs during the net then expect someone from the Seattle ACS to assume control of the repeater and standby to assist if appropriate.
- 8) In my experience... if you are having a good time then so goes the net. Chuck Lamb, N7GHD, who ran this net for 25 years, had a simple philosophy: "Keep it positive!"
- 9) Identify often. I try to ID every third checkin. Very quickly as in "N7KC for the 9 O'clock net"

or "This is Glenn, K7GLE, for the 9 O'clock net". The use of calls is mandatory, using names is optional however everyone needs to know the net operator's name. I try to connect names and calls whenever appropriate. For example "let's go to Kingston and check on Bill, KC5WFH, go ahead Bill".

- 10) Non-standard phonetics on call signs can be kind of fun if not taken too far, but standard ITU phonetics are preferred.
- 11) Allowing politics and religion will bring nothing but grief. The last thing we need is a polarized net. The same applies to even veiled off-color language or subject matter, and to criticism directed at another repeater user. If a user needs some operating or behavior guidance it is best done off the air, and diplomatically. By and large everyone is doing his or her best and even experienced operators slip occasionally.
- 12) Any apparently intentional interference, such as jamming or other unauthorized transmissions (music, unidentified comments), are best handled by following the ARRL's recommendation of completely ignoring them without acknowledgement of any kind.
- 13) Do use the Google calendar to schedule yourself as net operator. So far this calendar has been working pretty well.

This guideline business is a work in progress. Nothing cast in concrete. I am not unhappy with anyone for the way they run the net. We do have enough folks involved now to warrant written guidelines and this is an attempt to do that.

In summary, try to keep it tight thinking of the folks down the list. Have a good time with net control. If you have ideas that should be added to this listing then please send them along.

Thanks for your participation!

Lee, N7KC  
PSRG Net Manager Emeritus

Glenn, K7GLE  
President, PSRG Board of Directors