ERC-East / ARRL / NCS & Net Suggestions
25 Aug 12 / Version 1.2.2

- Learn the purpose and mission of your nets. Work diligently to support both.
- Develop a set of written rules for net participants then follow the established rules.
- Formal nets have opening and closing scripts / have both a written opening script and a closing script / make them concise and complete.
- Have your radio ready 10 minutes before the net is to begin.
- Have necessary supplies handy:
    - Pad and pen/pencil
    - Net script
    - Radiogram forms
    - Computer programs running
- Make sure the frequency is clear prior to starting the net. When using a repeater, announce the net 3 to 5 minutes before start to make sure no one needs to use it before the net begins.
- Learn the locations of those who are checking in. Use a good detailed map such as the DeLorme Atlas & Gazetteer.
- Listen carefully to net control for instructions
- Do not hurry transmissions. Speak slowly and clearly and wait to make certain the frequency is clear before transmitting. When passing traffic remember to speak slowly and clearly. If necessary remind other stations to do likewise.
- Be courteous, pleasant, and patient. Maintaining order without instilling fear is important.
- Check in at the appropriate time with the required information, ie "K7GAP portable, Greg, No Name City, no traffic".
- Copy callsigns and significant reports of all net participants
- Take lots of notes. Even trivial things may be important later.
- Spell words that are uncommon or could be confused easily.
- Use standard ITU phonetics when necessary.
- Accuracy is the first priority, rather than speed. {slower is faster!}
- Be clear and concise by not using unnecessary words. Remember you are a radio operator, not an editorialist.
- Transmit messages exactly.
- Always transmit FACTS rather than hearsay.
- Avoid using Q-signals or 10-codes in voice transmissions - use plain English.
- Use the proper format for all communications.
- After two or three hours turn the net over to a new operator.
- Handovers should be planned.
- A list of outstanding messages should be kept up to date.
- A traffic log of sent messages should be on hand.
- Keep the operating area organized as possible.
- Status of open queries should be kept up to date.

- Log of local and remote contacts for served agencies and others at each location.
- All other information that the outgoing operator feels is pertinent to the situation should be noted.
- When at all possible the two operators should work together at least ten minutes to help ensure a smooth Transition between handovers.
- Prior agreement to handle coverage breaks.
- Have multiple alternate frequencies in your communication plan.
- Have more than enough operators available to call upon. Have a few floaters available to replace any of your operators.
- When appropriate, each station should have an extra person or two designated as a runner.
- If the net gets quiet, check on the operators. A roll call may be in order.

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Things that Are Problems For NCS's.........

- Not having a plan in place to handle interfering stations.
- Not knowing how to handle an irate participant.
- Not being polite
- Not slowing down and acting to fast to a situation or comment.
- Not knowing when to take a discussion off the air.
- Not knowing enough about your operators.
- Don't try to make others feel that they are wrong about something or that they don't understand.
- Not knowing how to handle disputes and problems in a timely professional manner.
- Not taking breaks when needed or planed.
- Not sticking to a preplanned schedule or agreed upon schedule
- Not listening intently as you can. Missing details.
- Not listening to others suggestions or solutions if they are within reason.
- Not knowing how or when to politely remove someone from his or her post or duties.