

Northwest NTS Nets

Nets of particular interest to us in Idaho are:

High Frequency Nets

The Idaho FARM Net. Meets 365 days/year at: 0200Z on 3937 Khz. LSB.

Montana Traffic Net (MTN): Meets daily on 3910 KHz LSB at 0030Z.

Idaho-Montana Net—(IMN) A slow-speed CW traffic net. Meets daily on 3572 Khz, CW, at 0300Z.

Idaho Civil Defense Net (IDACD): M-F, 7:00 PM local, 3990 KHz. LSB.

Idaho ARES/RACES NET: Thursday, 7:00 PM local, 3929 KHz, LSB.

VHF Nets

Latah County RACES Net: 146.22/82 Repeater, Thursdays, 7:00 PM Local.

Note: All times are Zulu (GMT) unless otherwise stated and meet at the same time regardless of daylight savings time.

Helpful Web Pages

Idaho ARRL Section:

<http://www.idahoarrl.info>

ARRL Public Service Communications Manual:

<http://www.arrl.org/public-service-communications-manual>

The URL below lists traffic nets in the Pacific NW.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/nwnets.html>

Others:

FARM: <http://farmnet.nfshost.com/>

MTN: <http://montanatrafficnet.com/>

IMN: <http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/imn/imn.html>

Idaho Section Traffic Manager

TERRY L O'KEEFFE WB6N
12905 Spring Valley Road
Donnelly, ID 83615-5042

wb6n@arrl.net

The National Traffic System



This brochure provided free of charge by

Kenneth G. Gordon W7EKB
226 N. Washington St.
Moscow, Idaho 83843
208-882-8745
w7ekb@arrl.net

If more brochures are needed, please contact me at the above addresses.

Develop real communications skills and prepare for emergencies without leaving your home!

National Traffic System

Do you have an interest in emergency communications preparedness? Are you seeking supplemental skills for programs like ARES or RACES? Perhaps you want to be better prepared for emergencies without the need to attend monthly meetings or a requirement to engage in activities not specifically related to radio communications? If so, NTS may be just the program you are looking for!

The NTS program offers a unique and challenging operating activity, which prepares you to provide survivable, effective emergency communications services to your local community. NTS allows you to train for emergency communications without leaving your home! It allows you to support local emergency service agencies from your own ham radio shack by serving as a liaison between your local ARES or RACES program and locations throughout your State, Province, or Region.

NTS is also FUN! You can transmit and receive “radiogram” messages for yourself, your friends and relatives, and for your fellow radio amateurs, or for third-parties during emergencies. Would you like to thank an operator for a particularly enjoyable “QSO?” Perhaps you want to acknowledge a contact with a rare “grid square” or that last state needed for an award? Perhaps you want to arrange a schedule with an old friend? Why not do so by sending a radiogram?

Join NTS and start learning useful communications skills today!

NTS has Changed!

NTS is undergoing a significant modernization program. New capabilities, such as NTS-Digital (NTSD) allow one to originate and receive message traffic using a variety of digital modes. Message traffic can flow across the United States and Canada at high speeds using modern HF data modes such as PACTOR.

The same equipment used for NTSD can be also be utilized for radio e-mail programs such as WinLink, which provides Internet connectivity using HF and VHF data modes.

Voice and CW Nets are Alive and Well!

“Traditional” mode nets offer elegant simplicity and universality. Best of all, they offer a unique and challenging *interactive* operating activity not available with automation.

CW Nets are ideal for QRP, portable, and mobile situations, which may require a survivable and effective method for transmitting and receiving important message traffic. These nets offer the ultimate operating challenge. They are often more efficient than voice nets.

Voice Nets are the ideal “common denominator” method, whether one utilizes VHF-FM Nets of High Frequency SSB Nets. They offer convenience, camaraderie, and an easy way to learn the basics of traffic handling in a friendly, low-pressure environment.

Why handle Traffic?

In an era of ubiquitous high-tech communications methods, it is easy to forget that common-carrier resources such as cellular telephone and data networks are vulnerable to natural and technological disasters. Here are just a few recent major disasters, which disrupted normal communications systems:

- The September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks
- The August, 2003 Black-Out
- Hurricane Katrina

There are also countless smaller disasters, during which NTS Nets or the skills learned through participation in NTS Nets have proven beneficial. ***However, perhaps the most important fact is that NTS Nets are a fun and challenging operating activity.***

What is Expected of a Net Member:

NTS Net members are encouraged to check-in to their favorite net whenever possible but on a regular basis. Ideally, a net member is expected to accept NTS radiogram traffic for delivery in his area. He or she is also encouraged to originate one to two personal radiograms per month. These can be a “thank you” for a contact or an enjoyable QSO, or simply a birthday or holiday greeting to a friend or relative. These messages exercise the system and provide valuable training for net members.