

Attention Net Operators:

As a Net Control Station, you are responsible to conduct your net on the dates scheduled. If for any reason you are unable to conduct your scheduled net, contact your Net Manager (Kat, KC9WXT, 618.339.6412 KC9WXT@gmail.com) or any other scheduled operator, and arrange for someone else to conduct the net on your scheduled date. If you do not have a copy of the schedule, it is available on the club web site **W9CWA.net**.

Due to some confusion in how to be a Net Control Station and how to conduct a net, some changes are being explicitly implemented. A basic guideline is provided below so you can run your net. A sample/example script is also provided if you would prefer to use a prepared script instead.

A “net” is a meeting of hams who have common interests. Sometimes nets are strictly for pleasure. Generally speaking, the purpose of the Centralia Wireless Association 2-meter net is to share local information, inform members and friends of club activities, and buy, sell, and trade amateur radio-related equipment. Other nets are more utilitarian, such as those for traffic handling, emergency services, and weather reporting.

If a net follows standard operating rules, it’s called a ***directed net***. Nearly all directed nets have a similar basic structure. A Net Control Station (NCS) initiates the net operations, maintains order, directs the net activities, and then terminates net operations in an orderly way. The NCS is responsible for maintaining order and managing communications between stations. Remember, “Amateur” does **not** mean NOT PROFESSIONAL. Radio communications can be conducted in a professional manner and still be enjoyable.

Stations that want to participate in the net check in at the direction of the NCS. A Net Manager defines net policy and focus, and works with the Net Control Stations to keep the net meeting on a regular basis.

Your ham radio net should include most or all of, but does not need to be limited to only, the following key points:

- ➔ Announce your net – Call for all stations to pay attention and prepare to participate. State who you are and what your purpose is for calling the net. Include the purpose of the net.
- ➔ Instruct stations on how you want them to check in. Call signs are strictly required, but you could also ask for name or any other identifiers of the station or the operator.
- ➔ Remember that there are no special exemptions for a net, so you are required to identify your station **at least once** every ten (10) minutes.
- ➔ If you want specific groups or types of check-ins in a certain order, say so. For example, maybe you want EchoLink stations to check in first and any stations with traffic to check in last. Also, let people know when they should call in about buying, selling, and trading.
- ➔ The club's web site needs to be incorporated into each net. Please read points from the **News** section from **W9CWA.net**.
- ➔ As a courtesy, prior to closing the net, you should ask if anyone came in late and wants to check in, or if anyone wants to say anything before concluding the net operation.
- ➔ At the time of closing, you should thank those who participated and announce how many stations checked in. Please announce next week's Net Control Station during closing.

Remember, “Amateur” does **not** mean NOT PROFESSIONAL. As licensed radio amateurs, we represent the Amateur Service, the community, and the Centralia Wireless Association. “Amateur,” simply put, means not commercial (meaning we don't earn money by doing it).

SAMPLE/EXAMPLE SCRIPT :

CQ... CQ... CQ... This is NV9S calling the Centralia Wireless Association 2-meter net. My name is Rob and I'll be your Net Control Station tonight. This net meets each Wednesday at 8 PM local time using the Centralia Wireless Association 2-meter repeater. This is an open repeater and all amateurs with a technician or higher class license are invited to participate. The purpose of this net is to pass local traffic, inform members and friends of club activities, as well as buy, sell, and trade amateur radio equipment.

This is a directed net. This means that stations don't directly contact each other out of turn. If at any time you ever need to contact another station on the net, simply advise net control and **wait** for permission to do so, please. When checking in to this net, please identify yourself by your call sign, first name, and location. Also let me know if you **HAVE ANY TRAFFIC** for this net. If you don't tell me you **HAVE** traffic, I will assume you don't have traffic.

The order of check-ins for this net will be: EchoLink..... mobile and portable stations..... then the net will be open to all stations..... and finally, anyone who would like to buy, sell, or trade amateur radio equipment.

Are there any stations on EchoLink who would like to check in? Please call Net Control.

Any mobiles or portables who would like to check in? Mobiles or portables **only**, please call NV9S.

At this time the net will be open to all stations who would like to check in. Please call Net Control. *(repeat this section until there are no more stations calling to check in.)*

Any stations who would like to buy, sell, or trade amateur radio equipment? Please call NV9S.

I'm going to read some announcements from the club web site, W9CWA.net. *(Read key points from the News section of w9cwa.net.)*

Are there any late check-ins or anyone I missed? Late check-ins, or anyone else.

This will conclude tonight's net. We have [COUNT] check-ins tonight. I'd like to thank everyone who checked in. Your Net Control Station next week will be [LOOK AT THE SCHEDULE]. This is NV9S releasing the repeater for regular amateur use at [TIME] PM. **Seven Three!**