

TRAFFIC FLOW

A traffic net is an organized meeting of amateur radio operators dedicated to handling third party messages. To facilitate an efficient flow of traffic there are rules to abide by. Here are a few:

1. LISTING YOUR TRAFFIC : Always list your traffic with NCS and follow NCS instructions as to who to send it to and where.
2. RECEIVING STATION CALLS FIRST: If you are the one with traffic to send and you are sent “up 5”, wait until you hear the receiving station calling you. Remember, it is up to the receiving station to find a clear spot, and it may not always be exactly up 5. Get on to **his** frequency to send your traffic.
3. IDENTIFY YOURSELF: Make sure you identify yourself properly. This ensures you are either sending the correct traffic, or receiving the traffic intended for you. Also, on a busy net, there may be others waiting to pass traffic with you and are waiting in line. They want to be sure they are on the correct frequency.
4. DO NOT TUNE UP ON FREQUENCY: Never tune up right on a net frequency. Others are often monitoring, or could be passing traffic under difficult conditions. If you tune up off to the side of a frequency your rig will still be tuned for the net. Also, it is very unlikely that you need to re-tune when

going off 5, or even 10, away from the net frequency.

TRAFFIC TIPS

1. When sent off frequency to pass traffic, the receiving station picks a clear frequency and calls the transmitting station. This makes sense as it is the receiving station that has to copy the traffic.
2. When receiving traffic, make sure you have the correct amount of words in the text as indicated in the CHECK in the preamble. Query the transmitting station, it is easy sometimes to miss sending a word, especially if you have a lot of traffic, and one word can make all the difference to the meaning of the text. If you find there are 17 words in the text and only a check of 15, when you pass that traffic along make the check 15/17. Conversely, if you find there are only 15 words in the text with a preamble check of 17, put check 17/15 in the preamble when you pass it along. This shows the receiving station that there are either more or fewer words in the text than in the CK. It also shows the delivery station, and therefore the addressee, that the message may be incomplete.

A handy way of counting the words in the text is to write only 5 words on each line when copying the

message. You can see at a glance if you have the correct count as indicated in the CK.

Passing third party traffic through the nets is a team effort, and a certain amount of pride can be felt by those who participate in getting a message to its destination correctly. Accuracy is the name of the game; you do not need to understand a message, but you do need to make sure you have copied it correctly. If it is sent correctly by all participating stations, in all likelihood the addressee will understand it. Be sure you have copied it correctly from the transmitting station before you pass it, and pass it on exactly as you have received it. If you think there is an error in the message add a note at the end to the receiving station.

Traffic handlers have a history of gentlemanly conduct. Not only does this make our hobby more enjoyable, but also encourages others who may be listening to think about joining us. Keep up the good work, and have fun.