

## The NCS Says So

### Who's the Boss?

I think that, around my house, I might be the boss, whenever my wife allows it. At work, the boss may be your supervisor or if you're self-employed a customer is in charge. It can be the traffic cop on the road, the director at the symphony, or the chairperson at the committee meeting. In all ARRL Sections the SM is the boss and the members of the ARRL is his or her boss. Along these lines there are those that truly know their business and unfortunately there are those that just think they know their business and grip about everything anyone does without ever knowing the facts. This hurts the ARRL and the Amateur radio community because many of these folk's starts sending e-mails out full of complaints, hate, sour attitudes and they never seem to have all the facts or information needed to make an intelligent decision.

A Net Manager appoints a Net Control Station because the NM trusts the NCS. It's the NCS who must call up the net, make decisions about what to do first and how to do it. Once that net has begun, the NCS is indeed boss.

When the NCS says, "Net Stand by" that means everyone listens. There's no chatter, no additional

check-ins, it is not a time for visiting, for informals, or for questions. “Net stand by” means do not transmit. Also, all stations should listen carefully to the nets preamble for instructions and follow those instructions 100% of the time.

When the NCS directs a station to change frequency, to clear traffic on the net frequency, or to decide which is best, the station responds as the NCS directs. If an NCS says, “Please notify me if you leave the net,” stations should request permission to leave. All instructions that the NCS gives in their net preamble should be followed. This isn’t the time for discussion. The decision has been made.

If an NCS asks stations to check in carefully to avoid doubling, stations should use this easy three-step procedure: (1) Give the call of the NCS (2) then listen on frequency (3) Then give your own call phonetically and indicate if you have traffic. Except for perfect doubles this will make the job of the NCS easier.

Most Net Control Stations have some net savvy. They often know who can handle what traffic, who’s a likely RN5 or WINLINK representative for taking out-of-state traffic, and if there may be an outlet on another net. They usually know which stations can be

of assistance helping with relays due to signal strength or location in the state.

If you're interested in serving as an NCS, just let the Net Manager know. There are plenty of opportunities.

It isn't always stressful being an NCS, but cooperative stations checking in makes it a breeze - even when there's lots to do. Giving the NCS some respect, listening and following directions can really make life easier. Come to think of it, that works when I do that with my XYL, too.