

The Ragchewer



ALL HOLLOWES EVE / ALL SAINTS DAY

September 2024



K8QIK = The "Voice" of Amateur Radio in
Fairfield County



Lancaster-Fairfield County's Amateur Radio Club since 6-3-1959

Club Meetings:

1st Thursday of every month
at 7:00 PM. Location: **EMA
building 240 Baldwin Dr,
Lancaster, OH 43130.**

Nets:

MONDAY

NEWSLINE: 8:00pm
CLUB NET at 9:00pm
Monday AM Net at 9:00am
147.03 MHz (+.6)
146.70 MHz (-.6) Alt. Freq.

Packet:

BBS 145.53MHz
K8QIK-1 BBS
K8QIK-2: Ohio53

Weather

Spotter/ARES Net:

146.700 Repeater with 94.8
Hz tone Monday at 7:00 Pm

GMRS REPEATER

Transmits on 462.70 MHz
Receives on 467.70 MHz
PL code 77Hz

FACEBOOK LINK

[Club Facebook Link](#)

www.k8qik.org

ARRL Membership

When you join the ARRL, or renew your membership through the club, we retain \$15 for each new membership OR lapsed membership (of two years or more), and we retain \$2 for each renewal. Please support our club, it doesn't cost any more. Send or give all paperwork to Treasurer with your money.

Free Swap and Sell

If you have anything ham radio related, you can swap it or sell it here. List your items for free. Give a price and how to contact you. Send the list to Webmaster@K8QIK.ORG or Ragchewer Editor at ragchewerk8qik@sbcglobal.net

HAMFESTS

To find a convention or hamfest near you, click [here](#)

Special Event Stations

<http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

2023 Officers

President:

Mary Travis, KD8EEI

Vice President:

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Guy Ingram, W8AGI

Trustee:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Station Engineer:

John Hilliard, W8OF

Volunteer Examiner:

Robert Northrup, KC8PSW

Trainer:

Tim Lentz, KD8QCA

Activities Manager:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUV

Public Relations:

Jim Mills, KE8IID

Safety Officer:

Mark Urbine, KC8TUV

Web Master:

Walter Callahan, W8ALT
webmaster@k8qik.org

News Editor:

Ralph Howes, W8BVH
ragchewer@sbcglobal.net

Minutes of September 5, 2024



At 7:00 p.m., Mary called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 13 members plus 3 guests (Matthew Schoupe KE8ZFS, Bill Kretschmer KD8URN and Jeff Roberts KF8BAM) for total of 16. Member application for 1st review Bill Kretschmer, KD8URN. Member applications for 2nd review were Timothy L Herron, NM8Y; Douglas W Reese, K8DWR; Jeffrey L Roberts, KF8BAM.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Walt Callahan W8ALT John Dolske K9ULO Eric Fox KE8BZZ John Hilliard W8OF Guy Ingram W8AGI | Tim Lentz KD8QCA Robert Northrup KC8PSW David Nowocin WB9PXH Charlie Snoke N8KZN | Connie Snoke N8LPC Kevin Steel KB8KSX Mary Travis KD8EEI Mark Urbine KC8TUW |
|---|---|--|

Minutes were posted in Ragchewer and motion to approve made by Walt, W8ALT and seconded by Guy W8AGI. All were in favor.

Guy gave the Treasurer report. Walt W8ALT made motion to approve treasurer's report and seconded by John K9ULO. All were in favor.

Robert had nothing to report as Vice President.

Tim, KD8QCA reported he is cancelling the technician class because he has had no candidates. Mary recommended that he schedule another class in late October or November and get it on the website and we can send to different clubs to see if there is any interest for a class. Guy and Mary have talked to one lady local who is interested in attending a class in the future.

Robert reported they had 3 tests and all passed. Robert will cancel the test for September because he has no candidates.

John, W8OF reported that a group will be working on Waterworks Hill on Sunday, Sept. 8th beginning at 8:30 a.m. working on getting the 443.875 UHF repeater on air. Anyone wanting to help meet John at the gate to go up the hill at 8:30 a.m.

Walt, W8ALT stated he has made a couple of changes to the website and will make the change on the class and testing being cancelled.

The following people volunteered to run the net: Sept. 9th Robert, KC8PSW; Sept. 16th Kevin, KB8KSX; Sept. 23rd Mark, KC8TUW; and Sept. 30th Guy, W8AGI.

Mary mentioned that Ralph W8BVH had broken his wrist and Mark stated he was recovering nicely. We thank Ralph for doing the Ragchewer for us.

Mark, KC8TUW had sent a video on climbing a tower safely to officers and Guy did not have an attachment. Mark discussed some safety issues to think about if you are considering climbing a tower. He highly recommends that you go to DX Engineering site where they have four videos on this subject.

John had nothing to report as Station Engineer.

Mark reported that he has programmed the TYT THF5 radios that Mary has donated to the local high school for use by students who are interested in getting into HAM Radio. Mark has them programmed with a code so someone cannot pick up the radio

and start using them. Jeffrey Roberts also stated he has a BaoFeng radio he will donate for our use with the local high school students.

Motion made by Tim KD8QCA, seconded by John K9ULO to accept Jeffrey Roberts, KF8BAM as member, all were in favor. Guy W8AGI made motion to accept Timothy NM8Y as member, seconded by Walt W8ALT, all were in favor. John W8OF made motion to accept Douglas Reese K8DWR as member, seconded by Walt W8ALT, all were in favor. Tim KD8QCA made motion to adjourn and seconded by Walt W8ALT. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Mary apologized for not getting email out after August meeting and so she sent today to all members asking for nominations for offices. Since there were only a couple of responses, the following nominations for office will be:

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| President | John Hilliard |
| Vice President | Eric Fox |
| Treasurer | Guy Ingram |
| Secretary | Mary Travis |
| Activity Manager | Mark Urbine |

Mark KC8TUW volunteered to contact the members to see if there is anyone who would want to run for an office next year. It was agreed that Mary KD8EEI should not have to hold two offices due to lack of interest.

Robert KC8PSW stated he could not run for Vice President and will need to step down from Volunteer Examiner due to health issues. We wish him the best as he deals with new health issues. Robert asked Walt W8ALT if he was interested in taking over Volunteer Examiner and Walt said he would think about it.

Mary asked guests if they had any questions, and they did and we answered their questions in a positive manner.

Tim KD8QCA made motion to adjourn, seconded by Walt W8ALT. All in favor.

Mary Travis, KD8EEI
Acting Secretary.



Currently the K8QIK Radio Club in Lancaster, Ohio installed a GMRS repeater that transmits on 462.70 MHz and receives on 467.70 using PL code 77Hz. The repeater is located on a 60-foot tower at a ground elevation of 1,100 on the north end of the city. Range has been exceptionally good with hand-held coverage to most of the county. The repeater is open to anyone that has a current GMRS license and uses it to identify themselves every 15 minutes of use.

John, W8OF
Station Engineer

PLEASE NOTE: The Weather Spotters net will now include the ARES group also. The net will now be called The Weather Spotter/ARES net and will continue on 146.700 Repeater with 94.8 Hz tone Monday at 7:00 Pm. Also note the time is 7:00pm not 7:30.

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**** Monthly Club Breakfast ****

Location: *Frisch's Big Boy at the mall*
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Time: 9-11 am; 3rd Saturday of each month.

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The Lancaster and Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club (LFCARC)

Exam sessions will be at the Fairfield County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr in Lancaster Ohio, 43130, *on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am*. Please visit our website at <http://www.k8qik.org> for exam dates on our calendar and navigate to our Learning Center/Taking the Exam link for information and requirements. Our VE team looks forward to serving the Amateur Radio community in Central Ohio and across our nation. We have an experienced team that has tested candidates from Alaska, Florida, Texas and points in between!

Contact me at ve_testing@k8qik.org to register.

**

***From the Section Emergency Coordinator
KD8SCL EC***
KD8SCL@gmail.com



Bret Stemen –

Again, Thank You!

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as we travel Ohio and for my wife's (Jinny) family, it is greatly UPDATE: Her mother is home and getting stronger much happier, she is not out of the woods yet and still ahead her. Please continue to keep my wife's family in prayers.

between Florida and appreciated. every day and is has a long road your thoughts and

Speaking of traveling

How many of you when traveling by personal vehicle that have a radio installed, reprogram your radio for the states that you will be traveling to and through? I reprogramed my mobile and I'm glad I did for several reasons, while in Florida I received an alert for severe weather and happen to hear a local severe weather net for the area I was in and was able to check in to the net. After the net was cleared, the NC called for me and asked if I was from Ohio due to my call sign. I told him that I was from Ohio and was visiting for a short time, he too was from Ohio and moved to the Daytona Beach area some time ago. We had a lengthy QSO.

While traveling through Virginia, there was a fatal accident that had closed the freeway. My radio was scanning and came across a couple of locals rag chewing, I through my call sign out and one of the them acknowledged me and I explained to them that the freeway was blocked. They had heard about the accident and was kind enough to give me directions to get around the closure. These directions were completely different than what my GPS wanted to send me and as a result, this saved me about an hour of travel time.

I am glad that I added frequencies to my radio. Yes, it may have some time to figure out the best route and frequencies to program, I feel it was well worth it, I had to adjust the PL Tone for a couple of frequencies. You never know when it will come in handy for any emergency or help.

SET 2024:

The Simulated Emergency Test will be October 5th 2024, the SARGE will be open for those of you that will be operating on the 5th. As I had mentioned earlier this year, each county may conduct an exercise and use the exercise as their SET any time they chose. Each county will be creating their SET/Exercise based on their county's needs. Check with your EM Director, they may give you some ideas based on their needs. Your SET report will still need to be submitted by the end of the year. The 2024 SET forms will be available soon.

Here are a couple of articles from the ARRL website I found interesting and helpful.

Estate Planning for Hams (What happens to all your stuff?)

08/30/2024

August is National Make-a-Will month. Some estimates show that nearly two-thirds of Americans don't have a plan. For some, it's procrastination. Others don't know where to start. "So many times we hear from the family of a Silent Key who are overwhelmed with what to do with a lifetime worth of amateur radio gear," said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL. "Simply thinking through what needs to be done ahead of time can prevent the stress on our loved ones after we are gone."

ARRL this week [held a webinar](#), hosted by Beal and Dino Papas, KLØS, to discuss the first steps of planning. “It is something that, unfortunately, doesn’t get a lot of attention. The bottom-line up front is, ‘what happens to all our beloved ham gear when that inevitable day comes along that we become a Silent Key?’... Unfortunately, that day may arrive unexpectedly – so we need to prepare ahead of time to make it as simple as possible for our families,” said Papas.

On the ARRLHQ YouTube channel, you can see a [replay of the 52-minute presentation](#), along with the question-and-answer section at the end.

“Your station is an asset, just like anything else you’ve built and put resources into. Deciding now what happens when you become a Silent Key can help solidify your legacy to ham radio,” said Beal. [The ARRL Legacy Circle](#) recognizes the generosity of individuals who have planned support for ARRL through wills, trusts, life insurance gifts, and other ways. The ARRL Legacy Circle ensures that ARRL and amateur radio will continue to thrive for generations to come.

Resilience Through Amateur Radio for National Preparedness Month

08/30/2024

Amateur radio is an excellent tool for community resilience in times of crisis. The utility value of the critical communications it provides is enhanced by having well trained local [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) groups and other teams. However, to maximize the value to yourself, your family, and your community; an operator must be prepared. September is National Preparedness Month. ARRL’s partners at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are sharing tips to help you be prepared. They are centered around the theme of [“Start a Conversation”](#).

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, is starting the conversation with radio amateurs to help make sure you, your station, and your family are ready for whatever may come your way. “It’s important that we take steps to ensure that not only are we ready to provide assistance to our served agencies, but that we have a plan for our families as well,” he said.

Over the month of September, ARRL will share best practices to help prepare you, your station, your family, and your local ARES® group to thrive in times of emergency. “There are times when hams may be activated to serve when all aspects of your life, your station, and your environment are under stress. That’s not the time to start planning or to discover shortcomings,” said Johnston.

Johnston encourages any radio amateur who is interested in participating in ARES® to check out the “Join ARES” [flyer](#), then reach out to their local ARRL Emergency Coordinator. If you don’t know who that is, find your local [ARRL Affiliated Club](#), or reach out to your ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator, whose contact details you can find on page 16 of QST or on www.arrl.org/sections.

Find resources for ARES® at www.arrl.org/ares and tools to help plan your family’s resilience at www.ready.gov.

I sincerely appreciate all you do for your neighbors, and for the Ohio Section!

Bret KD8SCL, SEC

wa3ezn@att.net



Duties of Section Traffic Manager (STM)

The STM is appointed by the Section Manager to supervise traffic handling organization at the section level--that is, to coordinate all traffic efforts within the section, regardless of mode or National Traffic System affiliation, so that routings within the section and connections with other networks and digital traffic nodes will result in orderly and efficient traffic flow.

Requirements: Familiarity with traffic handling on all modes; Technician class license or higher; Full ARRL Membership.

Responsibilities:

- Establish, administer, and promote a traffic handling program at the section level, based on, but not restricted to, National Traffic System networks.
- Develop and implement one or more effective training programs within the section that address the needs of both traditional and digital modes of traffic handling. Ensure that Net Managers place particular emphasis on the needs of amateurs new to formal network traffic handling, as well as those who receive, send, and deliver formal traffic on a "casual" basis, via RTTY, AMTOR, and Packet based message storage and bulletin board systems.
- Cooperate and coordinate with the Section Emergency Coordinator so that traffic nets and emergency nets in the section present a unified public service front.
- Recommend candidates for Net Managers and Official Relay Station appointments to the SM. Issue appointments/cancellations and appropriate certificates. At the SM's discretion, the STM may directly make or cancel NM and ORS appointments.
- Ensure that all traffic nets within the section are properly and adequately staffed, with appropriate direction to Net Managers, as required, which results in coverage of all Net Control and liaison functions. Assign liaison coverage adequate to ensure that all digital bulletin boards and message storage systems within the section are polled on a daily basis, to prevent misaddressed, lingering, or duplicated radiogram-formatted message traffic.
- Maintain familiarity with proper traffic handling and directed net procedures applicable to all normally-used modes within the section.
- Collect and prepare accurate monthly net reports and submit them to ARRL Headquarters, either directly or via the Section Manager, but in any case, on or prior to the established deadlines.
- Encouraged to earn certification in Levels 1, 2, and 3 of the ARRL Emergency Communications Course.

Recruitment of new hams and ARRL members is an integral part of the job of every ARRL appointee. Appointees should take advantage of every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public.

So just how do I fill out a radiogram

[illegible]

From the NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM TRAINING MANUAL

By R. Bruce Winchell, N8UT

Copyright 1997 Permission is hereby granted for non-profit reproduction of this material provided this statement is included and the material is used in its' entirety, or properly credited by same, if used in part.

PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL Whenever the Authors have attended a class on the NTS, the instructor managed to “lose” 90% of his students in the first ten minutes. They simply go into too much detail. The NTS is not a difficult service to understand. There are, unfortunately, a lot of little details concerning the Radiogram forms. Most instructors get side-tracked by these details. They drone on and on about details and their students feel overwhelmed. The students seldom become involved in the NTS. They have been led to feel that there is too much to absorb. We have addressed the need to keep it simple. A definite attempt has been made to apply the KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid!) principle to the main text of this manual. Some of the manual contents were left in Outline format so that different concepts and statement relationships can be very clearly understood. A set of Appendixes furnish the details on various topics . . . not the main text. The purpose of this manual is to provide a simple teaching tool for you to use in learning about the National Traffic System (NTS)

The National Traffic System (NTS) seems, to a lot of operators, to be this big, huge, complex operation that is very difficult to understand. Some of you may feel that you have to be an Extra with 20 years' experience as a Ham to get involved in NTS because it's all done on the HF bands and they use a language . . . so different that you need 20 years of just listening to understand it. **WRONG!!** After going over this material, you will understand that it is *not* complicated or difficult to be involved in the NTS. Its' members are operators just like yourself. You do *not* have to hold an Extra, Advanced, or General License. There is a place for everyone in the NTS. These materials are designed to teach you not only how to get involved, but how to be effective once you do get involved. This subject will be broken down simply. As you go through the manual, it will become more complex only because we put most of the details at the end. If you start at the beginning and work your way through, you will have absorbed enough simple background information to make sense out of the rest. The most important part of the NTS and this manual, is the part that the authors cannot include That part is you. This manual means nothing unless you use it to improve yourself and your operating skills. We welcome the opportunity to help you do that.

NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM (NTS) TRAINING MANUAL PART ONE I. What is NTS?

The NTS is a relay messaging system developed for *content accuracy*. Whatever message is sent by way of the NTS, is received *exactly* as it was originated. There is no margin for error. The National Traffic System consists of ARRL affiliated and independent amateur radio networks ('nets') which pass non-commercial messages on behalf of third parties as a *public service*. That's it in a nutshell. NTS has been in operation since 1949. It was established by the ARRL in response to membership demand. It carries on a tradition of message relaying, established by Hiram Percy Maxim when he founded the ARRL for the purpose of handling message traffic in 1914.

II. Traffic – What is it?

NTS messages are formalized utilizing the "RADIOGRAM" format. Once a message has been formalized and entered into the NTS it is called "Traffic". Non-formalized messages relayed over Amateur Radio frequencies are *not* "traffic" as defined within the NTS. NTS messages may be sent to, or by, anyone. You do not have to be a ham to initiate or receive a message. A licensed ham must, of course, handle the transmission of the traffic.

III. THE *MYSTERIOUS* RADIOGRAM NOTICE!!! Explanations of this simple form have probably stopped more people from participating in the NTS than anything else. — It is just a piece of paper! — This is *not* a confusing IRS tax form! — It's simple! — If you can remember your name and callsign, know what you want to say, and who you want to send it to, you are already 3/4 done with this form. — No Mysticism or Rocket Science is involved.

THE FOUR PARTS OF A RADIOGRAM and the basics of what to do with each one of them. This is dealing with the very top of the Radiogram form. You should have a copy of the Radiogram in front of you. This won't make much sense without it.

1. Preamble: The top part of the form, with all the little boxes, is called the Preamble. The different parts of the preamble are highlighted below. Look for the heading on the Radiogram form and read the description for that area.

Message Number This is the number assigned by the first Amateur putting the traffic into NTS. It never changes, no matter how many other operators handle the message.

The message has to have a number. If you are originating the message, you can put any number in this box. What number it is does not matter. What numbering sequence you use doesn't matter. If you are receiving the message,

you *must* use the number given to you by the sender. DON'T say the words "my number 001". DO say "*Message Number Zero, Zero, One*". Note: there is no such number as "Ohh".

Precedence This tells the importance, or how urgent the traffic is.

99% of all traffic is listed as "Routine." Put an "R" here. Don't worry about this right now. There is a more detailed discussion of this further on in the manual.

Handling Instructions This is just an Optional set of specific instructions dealing with methods of delivery.

Most of the time, this area is ignored. Don't worry about it! We will do some details later on. See Attachment "A" at the end of this document.

Station of Origin This is the Call-Sign of the Amateur who first put the traffic into the NTS system

Check This is a count of the number of words in the text area of the form, (the area with all the little horizontal lines).

This does *not* include anything in the preamble, address and signature. Note: **When you use the word "X-Ray" to indicate punctuation, it counts as a word.** When you use the word "Break" it is a courtesy to the receiving operator and it does not count as a word. DON'T say "Check 25, Station of Origin KB8ZDX". It is bad form to say the headings. DO say "25, KB8ZDX ". Please note that whatever your call is or the proper information received is what will go in these spots, please do not take "25, KB8ZDX" literally (thanks!).

Place of Origin This is the City and State of the party who initiated the traffic, *not* the Station of Origin location.

Explained: If you are initiating a message for someone in Bozoville, Montana and you live in Ohio, then Bozoville, Montana would be the *Place* of origin.. Your callsign would be the *Station* of origin.

Time Filed: This is the UTC or ZULU time the traffic is placed into the NTS system, **not** the time written. You could have written the message last week. What is important here is the time you actually put it into the NTS. Many NTS operators ignore this field on the form for Routine traffic.

Date: This is the date the traffic is first placed into the NTS system.

DON'T say "12/4" for the date. DO say "December 4". You do not *have* to use the year. If the person taking your message doesn't know what year it is, perhaps you should find someone else?

Address This is the address of the individual to whom the traffic is supposed to be delivered. It goes under the word "TO" on the form.

Name

Full name (including Jr., Sr., or callsign if there is one)

Street address or P.O. Box

(complete as possible) DON'T send numbers as 12345. DO say "*figures* 12345".

City, State, Zip

DON'T say "Zip Code 12345". DO say "Zip figures 12345".

Phone number: This is important because most traffic is ultimately delivered via local phone calls

DON'T say "phone number 290-456-7890". DO say "phone figures 290 456 7890".

DON'T say "Text to follow" after the address. DO say "Break" after the address before giving the "text".

Text

Keep it all brief and to-the-point

DON'T say "ARL figure 61". DO say "*ARL* sixty-one ". (More on this "ARL" stuff later.) 25 words or less (if possible) May contain ARRL Numbered Radiograms (i.e. "ARL One") Attachment "C" lists all of these Use "X-Ray" in place of periods, commas' -Ray" counts as a word. DON'T send "period" at the end of sentences. DO send "*X-Ray*" in place of punctuation. DON'T say "End of message" after text. DO say "*Break*" after giving the text of the traffic.

Signature: This can be a single name, a name and callsign, or a name and title. Just enough information to enable the receiver to identify the sender.

The Originating amateur should provide enough information that a reply can be sent. DON'T say "Signature or Signed "John". DO say "John ".

(NOTE: Amazingly, on the ARRL Form, FSD-244, RADIOGRAM there is no mention of this fourth part of the form! [It's there ... just in invisible ink] Put it anywhere you want.).

OK, you are done . . .

NOW WHAT?

Say, "*End . . . No More.* "

That's all there is to filling out a basic NTS Routine message on a Radiogram form. It really is simple when you don't get bogged down in all the fine little details right away. Go over this a few times and actually fill out a blank form while you are doing it. To get used to how it feels to actually put your voice to it, go to Appendix "C" where you will find a message all written out. Just read it out loud several times.

OK, you are done . . .

NOW WHAT?

Say, “*End . . . No More.*”

That’s all there is to filling out a basic NTS Routine message on a Radiogram form. It really is simple when you don’t get bogged down in all the fine little details right away. Go over this a few times and actually fill out a blank form while you are doing it. To get used to how it feels to actually put your voice to it, go to Appendix “C” where you will find a message all written out. Just read it out loud several times.

Sending Procedures

The biggest mistake that all newcomers make is **sending too fast**. Those who seem to be aware of this fact go too far in the opposite direction and send too slowly. Listen to the sending pace of the experienced operators and try to emulate what they do. DON’T just keep going from one end of the message to the other. DO pause between each section to allow the receiver to “Break” if necessary for fills. (A “fill” means a repeat of a certain section.) DO send it clearly and slowly, but not dragging it out. Practice writing your own message down as you send it. This will give you an idea how fast you can reasonably expect someone else to copy it down.

How a “Fill” works.

If a receiving operator misses copying part of a message, he/she can request that you repeat part of it by breaking back to you during one of your pauses and saying, “Break.... fill from [last word of a string that he got] to [the next word that he got]”. Just back up and give him the part he missed by saying “Fill . . . [give him what he missed] *pause* and go on with your message.

When and where to send a “Radiogram”

Local Traffic (In-town/county), send it: During a Net on your local repeater Anytime on the repeater or via local telephone

Out of town or county traffic During any Net on your local repeater ask for a station who may take “traffic” for the area it needs to go into. Check with your Local Net Manager or Emergency Coordinator for stations who take relays of traffic for other areas and counties.

Long distances within same state During a Net on your local repeater, see if there are any relay stations to the HF Nets operating within the state that can pass to a “Higher Net” If you have the privileges, check in to one of the state wide nets and pass traffic to a station who is local to the intended receiver Check with your Local Net Manager or Emergency Coordinator to find who is the Local Liaison for HF Nets if you do not have the privileges or the equipment. (A Liaison is an operator who has agreed to help pass NTS traffic for others.)

Out of State or Country

Pass it to an NTS Net that you have the privileges to Pass your traffic to the Local Liaison via repeater or telephone If the message is going out of the Country, check to ensure that the US has a third-party agreement with the country it is going to. If not sure, check with your Emergency Coordinator or your local Net liaison

IV. METHODS OF PASSING “TRAFFIC”

RADIOGRAMS may be passed via any means available to an Amateur Radio Operator . . . voice, phone. Repeaters, simplex, VHF, UHF, HF, as long as you have the privileges to operate on a frequency, you can pass messages there.

You may use:

Phone (Voice) anywhere it is legal for you to operate.

CW. NTS messages can be passed using CW on VHF, UHF, HF, any frequency that the operator is authorized to use

Packet. VHF and HF are the most common. Packet can be the ideal means of passing formalized message traffic in certain circumstances. It is especially useful when a “secure” method is necessary to safeguard the privacy of disaster victims. It is also very handy whenever a “hard copy” is needed for record keeping.

Packet BBSs provide a looser structure for getting messages from the sender to the area of destination. This looseness has its advantages and disadvantages. An advantage is that participants can have more flexible schedules – one does not have to set aside a specific time for a regularly scheduled net. A disadvantage is that the sender does not know if there is a human-receiver on the other end that will deliver the message. For the system to work efficiently, each BBS should have someone (or some group) responsible for delivering NTS messages.

RTTY/AMTOR. HF is the most common. Another digital mode(s) available for passing of traffic

Traffic Nets

There are specific times, days of the week and a variety of frequencies available for formal “Traffic Nets”. Check with your local Net Manager, Emergency Coordinator or Net Liaison to find out when and where they meet. The *ARRL Net Directory* is a good source of information. We have also included several Appendices at the end of this manual which are lists of various nets at different levels. During a Club Net, ARES Net, District Net, etc. is the perfect time to pass some traffic, even if just for practice. You can usually locate someone who will receive the traffic and will also work with you on your technique. Don’t worry about getting everything perfect. Practice makes us all better. If you listen to an NTS net for ten minutes, you will hear some of the old-timers make some blunders. It’s no big deal! The most important part is to listen to how the traffic is handled and passed, then practice what you know is correct out of what you hear. People who are involved in the NTS nets welcome newcomers. Just tell them you are new to the system and they will coach you. Of course, there is always the net “Grump”. Don’t worry about him.

If you never learn any more than this about the Radiogram, you will do just fine passing traffic in the NTS with what you have learned so far.

By the time you compose and send 10 or 12 messages, the Radiogram form, these simple procedures, and what to say, will be permanently imprinted on your brain.

SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

This information applies regardless of any mode of message transmission or mix thereof. This section is to explain what can go in the little box marked “HTX” in the Radiogram Preamble. Again, there is no mystery to this if it is presented simply. Sometimes there are some special things that need to happen to a message. Have you ever gotten a letter from the Post Office that you had to sign for? Someone wanted to make sure that their message was

delivered. Have you ever sent a letter or package “Second-Day Air” so that the Post Office would rush it through? You can do exactly the same type of thing with an NTS message by plugging in some standard coding in the HTX box of the Radiogram. The codes are pretty self-explanatory and can be found in Attachment “B” at the end of this manual.

PRE-FORMATTED MESSAGES (The “ARL” Stuff we promised to explain.)

If you listen very long to NTS nets, you will soon discover that many messages that you hear are very common and identical. To cover this fact, the NTS uses sixty-nine different pre-formatted messages. The first 26 are emergency related messages. Numbers 46 through 69 are common greetings. Using the ARL messages saves everyone time. The next time you want to send Grandma a “Merry Christmas” greeting, instead of putting “Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year” in the text area of a Radiogram, you would simply put “ARL Sixty-One”. The person who eventually takes the message for delivery to Grandma has to dig out his little chart of ARL numbered messages, call Grandma, and read the words of the message to her over the telephone. Simple. (Except that most grandmothers will send a return message ARL 12). Multiples of the AR

L messages can be strung together in sequence on a single Radiogram to form a pretty impressive message that would be much longer than the recognized maximum of 25 words.

OK, that’s neat. But how do I put it on the Radiogram . . . What do I say?

First, when you are using ARL messages you always put “ARL” in the “Check” Box of the Preamble. No numbers. Just “ARL”. In the “Text” area of the Radiogram you would put (and say)” ARL sixty-four Detroit ARL fifty-seven ARL sixty-eight love Dad.” to say at the other end, “Arrived safely at Detroit/ wish we could be together/ sorry to hear you are ill. Best wishes for a speedy recovery/ Love Dad. You send 12 words . . . they get 23. Everything else in the Radiogram is the same as before. A list of the standard ARL messages can be found in Attachment “C” at the end of this manual.

PRECEDENCES

Let’s again go back to the Radiogram form. This time we will look at the “Precedence” box in the Preamble. We stated that over 90% of NTS messages passed carry a “Routine” precedence. This is true. There are some other designations that can go in this box.

Welfare Messages: These messages are either an inquiry as to the health and welfare of an individual in a disaster area or an advisory from the disaster area that indicates the condition of an individual, family, or group. From a Disaster scene, Outgoing welfare messages usually are handled first, with Incoming welfare inquiries being handled second. Welfare traffic is handled *only* after all emergency and priority traffic is cleared. If there has been a disaster somewhere in this country, you will hear Welfare messages being passed. You will also hear them during emergency drills and tests. If the message is for real, you will hear something like this: “zero one two, welfare, [call sign], ARL, etc.”. If it is a test, the first thing you will hear is “Test Message”. If you are dealing with Welfare messages, you will probably be using another form of the Radiogram, titled “Amateur Radio Disaster Welfare Message”. This form is even simpler than the Radiogram. For the parts that are the same as on the Radiogram, it is filled out following exactly the same procedures as the Radiogram

There is one very important exception. The originating station must be working from a form that has actually been signed by the person who is requesting that the message be sent!!

The originating station is usually asked to turn these signed message forms in to someone of authority on a disaster scene.

Emergency Messages:

An Emergency Message is any message having life and death urgency to any person or group of persons, which is transmitted by Amateur Radio in the absence of regular commercial facilities.

Emergency messages have top priority and must be handled before any other message is processed.

These messages can include official messages of welfare agencies during emergencies requesting supplies, materials, or instructions vital to relief to stricken populace in emergency areas. During normal times, it will be very rare to hear one of these messages, as they are usually used in areas very close to the disaster scene, and on local nets.

Priority Messages:

This is a second level priority used for important messages having a specific time limit, official messages not covered in the emergency category, press dispatches and emergency-related traffic not of the utmost urgency. This is where the “Time Filed” box on the Radiogram form becomes important to use. Routine: Most traffic during normal times. In disaster situations, traffic should be handled last, or not at all when circuits are busy with higher-precedence traffic

Want to know where to go to get the courses you need? It's all Right Here!

- [Ohio EMA Training Calendar](#)
- [Login to the DPS Training Campus](#)
- [Create a new account on the DPS Training Campus](#)

NOTE:

- Most courses are in-person but some course may be hosted virtually (this will be noted).
- Seats available listed are as of the release of this update and will change quickly.
- All classes will be posted on the DPS training campus at least 60 days prior to the start of the course.
- Please read the [Training Policy & Catalog](#) for more information on Ohio EMA trainings.

National Preparedness Month: Have a Go Kit

September is National Preparedness Month, and ARRL is working to help radio amateurs have a plan for family resilience. Many hams enjoy public service as part of their operating. Being ready to activate for a served agency through the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) involves not only being licensed and trained, but also prepared and equipped.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, suggests that hams and their families have a “go-bag”. He says there are a few things to consider: “You need to be able to function while activated, so that means you need a kit for your needs and a kit for your radio needs. If your family is impacted by the situation, they also need to have some gear at the ready.”

On the ARRL website, there’s an [Emergency Prep Kit Checklist](#). It lists the common items such as food and water for several days, a first aid kit, medications, chargers for your devices and other useful items.

Having a kit for your radio is useful as well. “Go kits will vary based on function and need for the field,” said Johnston. “Most kits should include a dual band HT and/or mobile radio with antenna, a power supply and all necessary cables and connectors. Every kit should include note pad or paper of some type as well as pens or pencils. You should have a power source and power cables. If you are working HF then you will need an HF radio and antenna, and if you want digital capabilities, then a computer with software preloaded will be desired.”

Other things you may want will include tape and tools, spare batteries, headphones, flashlights of some sort, cell phone chargers, and a multimeter. Other items that won’t fit in a bag but may be needed include a generator, a working surface like a small folding table, a chair, and some type of shelter.

Need a bag for your go kit? Consider the [ARRL Gray Canvas Backpack](#). \$30.00 in the ARRL Store.



ARRL Gray Canvas Backpack



Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License

(By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the **FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents** to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one.

Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial “reference copy” — from the ULS License Manager. I’ve created a set of instructions on how you can request an **“official” printed copy of your license*** [Click here to download the instructions](#)

A sample of an Amateur Radio License document from the Federal Communications Commission. It includes the licensee's name, call sign, and FCC registration number. The document is titled "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE". The licensee is John Q. Amateur, K8ZT, with an FCC Registration Number of 0000000000. The document is dated 01/01/2011 and expires 01/01/2015. It includes a section for "Special Conditions / Endorsements" and a section for "Licensee's Signature".

Emergency Prep Kit Checklist

It's hard to think clearly during an emergency, and the last thing you want to do is leave something important behind. Use this checklist to gather essential items and prepare today for what might happen tomorrow.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, HAVE THESE ITEMS READY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and Water A 3-day supply of water and food. Include 1 gallon of water per person per day and non-perishable food items like energy bars, cereal, dried fruit, nuts, peanut butter, and canned meats. | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit Sterile gloves and dressings, bandages, soap, antibacterial towels, hand sanitizer, burn ointment, antibiotic ointment, eye wash, and a thermometer. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utensils Eating utensils, plates, cups, bowls, a can opener, and paper towels. | <input type="checkbox"/> Medications A 3-day supply of prescription medications, pain relievers, cold and sinus relief, anti-diarrhea medicine, antacids, and laxatives. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing A change of clothes for each person, rain gear, extra shoes, and waterproof boots. | <input type="checkbox"/> Devices A cell phone, a charging cord, a portable charger or battery pack, a hand-crank radio, an LED flashlight with extra batteries, and a headlamp. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day-to-Day Living Items Garbage bags, toilet paper, matches in a waterproof container, a multipurpose tool, dust masks, duct tape, plastic sheeting, Mylar® blankets, a whistle, local maps, and bleach. | <input type="checkbox"/> Important Documents Copies of birth certificates, driver's licenses, insurance cards, medication lists, medical records, proofs of address, passports, wills, bank records, marriage licenses, adoption papers, and emergency contact lists. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Items Toiletries, an extra pair of glasses/contact lenses, tweezers, and nail clippers. | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Small denominations and change. |

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ **For Babies**
Diapers, baby wipes, baby powder, diaper rash cream, baby wash and lotion, formula, baby food, bottles, bibs, burp rags, pacifiers, teething tablets or gel, and blankets.
- ☐ **For Seniors**
Medications, hearing aids and batteries, extra eyeglasses, syringes, portable oxygen, mobility supplies, and contact information for doctors and caregivers.
- ☐ **For Children**
Books, toys, puzzles, crayons, and comfort items.
- ☐ **Ham Radio Gear**
A handheld, a mobile radio, chargers, extra batteries, antennas, power cords, and a laptop.



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ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program

The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new amateur radio license candidates younger than 18 years old for tests administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program.

"We are thrilled that we are able to provide this opportunity to our youth candidates," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

The \$35 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates younger than 18 years old would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required at the session.

The ARRL Board approved the Youth Licensing Grant Program at its July 2021 meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, expanding on the scope of the original motion proposed by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.

The Board believes the recruitment and training of young amateur radio operators is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL and subsidization of the \$35 fee will reduce the number of new amateurs that would otherwise be lost from these groups. Initially the new program would serve up to 1,000 new license applicants under 18 years old. The program length is indefinite; it may be renewed or terminated by the Administration and Finance Committee or by the Board of Directors.

Visit the ARRL website for the program instructions and reimbursement form at www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program.



CONTESTS

| Contest | Start Date | End Date |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| All Asian DX Contest, CW | 6/15/2024 | 6/16/2024 |
| West Virginia QSOP | 6/15/2024 | 6/16/2024 |
| IARU HF World Championship | 7/13/2024 | 7/14/2024 |
| North American QSO Party - CW | 8/3/2024 | 8/4/2024 |
| 10-10 Intl. Summer Contest, SSB | 8/3/2024 | 8/4/2024 |
| WAE DX Contest - CW | 8/10/2024 | 8/11/2024 |
| Maryland-DC QSOP | 8/10/2024 | 8/11/2024 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| North American QSO Party - SSB | 8/17/2024 | 8/18/2024 |
| World Wide Digital DX Contest | 8/24/2024 | 8/25/2024 |
| Hawaii QSOP | 8/24/2024 | 8/25/2024 |
| Ohio QSOP | 8/24/2024 | 8/25/2024 |
| Kansas QSOP | 8/24/2024 | 8/25/2024 |



On the night of Sept. 6, 2013, NASA launched a mission to the Moon from Wallops Flight Facility, and a still camera on a sound trigger captured this photo with an airborne frog photobombing the scene.



Ohio Section Cabinet

| | |
|--|---|
| Section Manager – Tom Sly, WB8LCD | Section Traffic Manager – David Maynard, WA3EZN |
| Section Emergency Coordinator – Bret Stemen KD8SCL | Section Youth Coordinator – Anthony Luscre, K8ZT |
| Technical Coordinator – Jeff Kopcak, K8JTK | Affiliated Clubs Coordinator – Amanda Farone – KC3GFU |
| State Government Liaison – Bob Winston, W2THU | Public Information Coordinator – Elizabeth Klinc - KE8FMJ |

As always, we want to thank the ARRL, QST, ARRL Ohio Section Manager, and, their contributors and also the Scioto Valley ARC, Hillsdale Michigan Amateur Radio Club, Highland ARA for their contributions to our newsletter.

