

W7AIA Clark County ARC Friday Night Roundtable

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Table of Contents

Net control.....	2
Preparation.....	2
Starting the net.....	2
Taking check ins.....	2
Backup plans and procedures.....	3
Preamble.....	4
Conclusion.....	5
Check in sheet.....	6

The roundtable is held on the second, third, and fourth Friday at 19:00 hours local time on the 147.240 repeater. The net exists as a social event for the W7AIA amateur radio club for the Friday nights when a full club meeting is not scheduled. All stations are welcome and encouraged to participate even if they are not club members.

Net control

The net control operator's role is to direct and facilitate communication between net participants. At each round table net control will suggest a topic for the evening, collect a list of interested stations, and give each interested person an opportunity to comment to the net.

Preparation

Several hours prior to the scheduled time for the net an announcement can be made on the repeater indicating the time and the topic for the night. Prior to the event starting net control should use the following checklist to verify everything is ready for the net to go smoothly:

1. Ensure a copy of the net control preamble is readily available.
2. Ensure the microphone and radio are operating properly and the audio gain is set well. Consider asking other stations for a signal and audio quality report prior to starting the net.
3. Ensure a means to track the stations that have checked in is available such as the check in sheet and a few pens or pencils. If the net gets extremely busy you may need 2 or more check in sheets.

Starting the net

When the scheduled time for the round table has arrived net control is responsible for starting the net by reading the preamble. The repeater has a time announcement and identification that it performs approximately every 10 minutes. Net control may want to delay the start of the net until after the repeater has performed these functions so they don't happen in the middle of reading the preamble.

Taking check ins

Net control typically runs in a cycle of collecting stations that would like to check in and providing the stations opportunities to comment to the net. Typically there is a group of check ins at the start, a small trickle of check ins along the way, and a second group of

check ins around half past the hour. Keep in mind that stations listening in or checking in later on may not have heard the preamble. Here's some helpful hints:

1. Wait about 15 to 20 seconds after asking for check ins to give operators a chance to reach their microphones.
2. When the check ins slow down it may help to remind stations that alternate topics are allowed and checking in just to say hello is also allowed.
3. Remind the net that mobile stations maintain priority and should let net control know they are mobile while checking in.

Backup plans and procedures

If something has gone wrong this list may provide some helpful information on what to do.

- The scheduled net time has arrived but the net has not been started or no net control is available:
 - If the net is more than a few minutes late and no notification has been made ask on the repeater if anyone knows about the delay.
 - If the start of the net is significantly delayed then any station may act as net control using a copy of this documentation. Ask on the repeater if an alternate net control exists and volunteer as net control for the evening if desired.
- The net control operator is unable to start or maintain the net:
 - If possible net control should work to hand responsibility for net control off to another volunteer by giving a situation update and asking for volunteers.

Preamble

Welcome, welcome, welcome it's time for the "Friday Night Roundtable!" The net control operator for tonight is <**OPERATOR NAME AND CALLSIGN**>. The regular scheduled time for the net is 7:00 PM on the W7AIA Livingston repeater at 147.240 megahertz and the Yacolt repeater at 443.125 megahertz both with a PL tone of 94.8.

The purpose of this net is to test the status of radios for emergency communications, encourage new and seasoned radio amateurs to participate in net control operations, and to share fellowship with each other. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to check in. If any station is interested in acting as net control in the future please let us know when checking in.

Generally net control will suggest a topic of interest for the night and open up for any other topics of interest for check ins. The suggested topic for tonight is <**SELECTED TOPIC**>.

If you need to reach net control for any reason, such as wanting to make contact with another station, please say your call sign in between transmissions of the other call stations and wait for net control to acknowledge the request. Please limit the contact to share comments or wait until after the net closes.

The net will always yield to emergency traffic. If any station has emergency traffic please indicate so by saying the word break in between transmissions. Is there any stations with emergency traffic? ***Net control should now pause briefly.***

When checking in please provide your call sign, your name, and your location. We will now begin taking check ins with priority given to mobile stations. If there are any mobile stations please come now. ***Net control should now pause briefly.***

We will now begin taking check ins from all stations. If there is anyone ready to check in please come now with your call sign, name, location and indicate if you are mobile. ***Net control should now pause briefly.***

Conclusion

At this time we will secure the net. Thank you to all the stations that participated tonight and to the W7AIA Clark County Amateur Radio Club for providing the repeaters. Your net control operator tonight has been <***OPERATOR NAME AND CALLSIGN***>. The repeaters are now available for normal amateur use. 73.

