

Central Ohio Traffic Net

Daily Traffic Net at 7:15 P.M.
Columbus, Ohio time.

Frequencies

Precedence	Output (MHz)	Input (MHz)	CTSS (PL) Tone (Hz)
Primary	146.970	146.370	123.0
1 st Alt	146.760	146.160	123.0
2 nd Alt	147.330	147.930	123.0
Simplex	147.510	147.510	None

Check us online at
www.cotn.us for more
information.

Helpful Web Pages

Ohio ARRL Section - <http://arrl-ohio.org>

National Traffic System Methods and Practices
Guidelines - <http://www.arrl.org/appendix-b-nts-methods-and-practices-guidelines>

AMATEUR MESSAGE FORM

Every formal radiogram message originated and handled should contain the following component parts in the order given.

I PREAMBLE

- Number (begin with 1 each month or year)
- Precedence (R, W, P or EMERGENCY)
- Handling Instructions (optional, see text)
- Station of Origin (first amateur handler)
- Check (number of words/groups in text only)
- Place of Origin (not necessarily location of station of origin.)
- Time Filed (optional with originating station)
- Date (must agree with date of time filed)

- ## II ADDRESS
- (as complete as possible, include zip code and telephone number)

III Text

(limit to 25 words or less, if possible)

IV Signature

CW Message Example

I 1 R HXG W1WG 8 Newington CONN 1830z July 1
a b c d e f g h
II DONALD SMITH
164 EAST SIXTH AVE
NORTH RIVER CITY MO 00789
733 4968
III HAPPY BIRTHDAY X SEE YOU SOON X LOVE
IV DIANA

Note that X, when used in the text as punctuation, counts as a word.

The National Traffic System



*Develop real communications
skills and prepare for
emergencies!*

National Traffic System

Do you have an interest in emergency communications preparedness? Are you seeking supplemental skills for programs like ARES or RACES? Perhaps you want to be better prepared for emergencies without the need to attend monthly meetings or a requirement to engage in activities not specifically related to radio communications? If so, NTS may be just the program you are looking for!

The NTS program offers a unique and challenging operating activity, which prepares you to provide survivable, effective emergency communications services to your local community. NTS allows you to train for emergency communications without leaving your home! It allows you to support local emergency service agencies from your own ham radio shack by serving as a liaison between your local ARES or RACES program and locations throughout your State, Province, or Region.

NTS is also FUN! You can transmit and receive “radiogram” messages for yourself, your friends and relatives, and for your fellow radio amateurs, or for third-parties during emergencies. Would you like to thank an operator for a particularly enjoyable “QSO?” Perhaps you want to acknowledge a contact with a rare “grid square” or that last state needed for an award? Perhaps you want to arrange a schedule with an old friend? Why not do so by sending a radiogram?

Join NTS and start learning useful communications skills today!

NTS has Changed!

NTS is undergoing a significant modernization program. New capabilities, such as NTS-Digital (NTSD) allow one to originate and receive message traffic using a variety of digital modes. Message traffic can flow across the United States and Canada at high speeds using modern HF data modes such as PACTOR.

The same equipment used for NTSD can be also be utilized for radio e-mail programs such as WinLink, which provides Internet connectivity using HF and VHF data modes.

Voice and CW Nets are Alive and Well!

“Traditional” mode nets offer elegant simplicity and universality. Best of all, they offer a unique and challenging interactive operating activity not available with automation.

CW Nets are ideal for QRP, portable, and mobile situations, which may require a survivable and effective method for transmitting and receiving important message traffic. These nets offer the ultimate operating challenge. They are often more efficient than voice nets.

Voice Nets are the ideal “common denominator” method, whether one utilizes VHF-FM Nets or High Frequency SSB Nets. They offer convenience, camaraderie, and an easy way to learn the basics of traffic handling in a friendly, low-pressure environment.

Why handle Traffic?

In an era of ubiquitous high-tech communications methods, it is easy to forget that common-carrier resources such as cellular telephone and data networks are vulnerable to natural and technological disasters. Here are just a few recent major disasters, which disrupted normal communications systems:

- The September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks
- The August, 2003 Black-Out
- Hurricane Katrina

There are also countless smaller disasters, during which NTS Nets or the skills learned through participation in NTS Nets have proven beneficial. ***However, perhaps the most important fact is that NTS Nets are a fun and challenging operating activity.***

Net Members:

NTS Net members are encouraged to check-in to their favorite net whenever possible. Ideally, a net member is equipped to accept NTS radiogram traffic for delivery in their area and is encouraged to originate at least one to two radiograms per month. These can be a “thank you” for a contact or an enjoyable QSO, or simply a birthday or holiday greeting to a friend or relative. These messages exercise the system and provide valuable training for net members.