

3905 CENTURY CLUB

NET CONTROLLERS STUDY GUIDE

Introduction.

The 3905 Century Club has for years provided an opportunity in an aspect of the hobby that permits radio amateurs a challenge to both equipment and personal operating ability. By providing nets of varying modes of operation on a variety of bands the club serves those amateurs who seek the satisfaction of achieving many general and specialized awards. The awards of the Century Club have significant value in the amateur radio world.

The idea of making contacts and exchanging QSL cards in the pursuit of a wide variety of award certificates has become enormously popular and the Century Club has become the premier club in this area of the hobby. In order to insure that those amateurs who pursue this facet of the hobby are well served, it is imperative that the club nets operate at optimum and that the reputation of the club for efficiency, fairness and progressive innovation be maintained.

Since the nets are what the amateur radio community will judge us by, it follows that our Net Control Stations are at the forefront and are key to achieving that goal. For this reason, this Net Controllers Study Guide has been prepared to assist prospective Net Controllers in preparing for the job of operating the nets and maintaining club standards of uniformity.

Objective.

The objective of this study guide is to provide each prospective Net Controller with a working knowledge of the club's prescribed operating procedures and the policies under which the club's nets are conducted.

Description.

The study guide is in the form of an open book exam and is to be used in conjunction with the official PROCEDURES FOR NET CONTROL STATIONS. These procedures may be downloaded from the Century Club website. The URL for the website is www.3905ccn.com.

It is intended that when all questions have been answered, the answers are to be forwarded to the NCS Training Officer. The candidate will then be given a trial run as a Net Controller which will be critiqued privately with the Training Officer before final certification.

Nature of the Job.

Before tackling the questions, the NCS candidate should have a realistic expectation as to the character of the job.

To be sure, an NCS operator must be aware of the use and limitations of his equipment. He must have a good understanding of antenna use, an ability to adjust filters on his receiver, get the most out of his transmitter and maintain his station in good working order, etc. But beyond that, Net Controlling is an art. It is technique - the ability to operate well- that makes a successful Net Controller.

He must be understood clearly, since the entire net is dependent upon his directions. In addition to maintaining the proper distance from his mike, he should practice good enunciation of words. He should stick to standard phonetics. An example he will run into many times, is the difference between "nine" and "five" reports. Often the two are confused; but by using "niner" instead of nine the difference through QRN or QRM becomes quite distinguishable.

The proper use of relay stations by noting who and where the strongest stations are will enable him to facilitate a relay or complete contacts more rapidly, even under very adverse conditions.

This is important, since the Net Controllers job is to complete as many contacts as possible during the period of the net. Unless he moves the net along at its best pace under given conditions, he will lose those who will not wait for hours to make one contact. The pace that he sets will most often determine his reputation as a Net Controller.

The Net Controller must always operate in the best interests of the net. Should he place his own interests before those of the net; for example, by taking more calls than he is entitled to under the rules, he will generate grumbling -guaranteed.

The Net Controller must always treat every station fairly. When moving down the list he should always call a station at least twice before passing him/her up. Never adopt the attitude that, "if I can't hear him that's his tough luck." Relays can usually solve the problem.

The Net Controller represents the club. Casual listeners to the net draw their opinions of the club from the Net Control Station. On occasion -NCS must bite his/her tongue. This is particularly important when NCS receives inappropriate requests, numerous and out of order "contacts." Handle them with a certain amount of grace. This is not to say that the NCS should ever give up any of his authority over the net, nor that he can't be insistent about what he is trying to do. Good judgement based on the foregoing, however, is essential to the good order of the nets.

By becoming familiar with The Procedures for Net Control Stations much of the foregoing will become second nature. Please begin the question and answer section. Should you have any questions, or problems, you may contact the Training Officer, [NT4Z](#), by e-mail.

Questions and Answers.

Read the question carefully. Choose the correct answer and then place a prominent check mark over the letter of your choice.

Net Preparation.

1. Net Control station is told to monitor the intended frequency prior to net time for which of the following:
 - (A) to move other hams off the frequency.
 - (B) to check for potential new members
 - (C) to ensure a clear frequency for the net.
 - (D) to conduct a social time before the net.

2. In order to avoid QRM, the net frequency should be moved a maximum of:
 - (A) 2.5 KHZ
 - (B) 3 MHZ
 - (C) 5 KHZ
 - (D) 3 KHZ

3. The 40 meter frequency of 7.2335 MHZ is reserved for the Century Club at 0000z each day.
 - (A) true
 - (B) false

4. NCS may take a pre-list of check-in stations prior to net time. The pre-list serves

- (A) to give NCS an estimate of the call areas represented
- (B) to allow NCS to plan for relay stations he might use during the net.
- (C) to shorten check-in time and hold the frequency until net time.
- (D) to provide an opportunity to socialize before the net.

5. According to FCC rules, NCS must identify every

- (A) 5 minutes.
- (B) 20 minutes.
- (C) 10 minutes.
- (D) 7 Minutes.

6. Reading of the preamble at the start of the net is

- (A) optional.
- (B) mandatory.
- (C) by direction of the net coordinator.
- (D) all of the above.

7. In planning for the use of relay stations, the main consideration is

- (A) call area of stations needing relays.
- (B) band conditions at the time relays are needed.
- (C) the power level of the station furnishing relays.
- (D) the local area of the NCS station.

8. During an emergency, net operation

- (A) will cease immediately on request.
- (B) will be turned over to competent authority if necessary.
- (C) will be suspended for the duration of the emergency.
- (D) all of the above.

9. Information concerning the club's QSL bureaus, sources of information about the club, etc., will be given out

- (A) 3 times per net.
- (B) 2 times per net.
- (C) at halftime.
- (D) all of the above.

Net Operation.

10. A rare DX station comes on and NCS knows he will be of interest to all the net. NCS will

- (A) move him to the top of the list and give him his turn.
- (B) take a list of stations wishing to work him.
- (C) give him a bonus call.
- (D) treat him as any other check-in on the list.

11. A calendar date on which early nets will not conduct normal operations is the

- (A) 31st of each month.
- (B) 28th of February.
- (C) 30th of each month having 31 days.
- (D) 1st Sunday of each month.

12. On Q&A nights, the moderator , when questions are no longer forthcoming may close the Q&A portion and a regular net may be held.

- (A) true.
- (B) false.

13. On Q&A nights, the late nets must:

- (A) review the questions from the early net.
- (B) conduct the net in the usual manner.
- (C) hold a brief Q&A session before beginning the net.
- (D) hold a Q&A session the same as the early nets.

14. When taking check-ins, NCS should look for regular and faithful stations at the beginning of each call area.

- (A) true.
- (B) false.

15. A station checking in ,as a favor to a friend who is not present , may check him in under what circumstances?

- (A) never.
- (B) only if the other station has asked him to.
- (C) if the other station usually comes on but is apparently late.
- (D) only if the other station is related to him.

16. Officers of the club, as contacts, have a point value for certain awards. For this reason NCS should:

- (A) list them separately.
- (B) when informed, or known, identify them as officers.
- (C) announce the number of officers checked in.
- (D) give them bonus calls.

17. Master degree stations may be checked in at any time, should they have a club station that station:

- (A) is checked in with the master degree station.
- (B) is not checked in.
- (C) is checked in with its appropriate call area.
- (D) is checked in wherever the master prefers it.

18. When taking check-ins, certain information about a given check-in should be repeated. Which of the following is correct:

- (A) call sign and qth of the station checking in.
- (B) status, such as mobile or portable.
- (C) check in number, whether officer, master, YL or charter member.
- (D) all of the above.

19. Net control has selected a station to put the check-in list on the internet. He may:

- (A) Give that station two bonus calls.
- (B) Not give bonus calls.
- (C) Permit that station to take his call at any time.
- (D) Give that station one bonus call.

20. The correct number of times to repeat the log number, call sign and required information for the station checking in when compiling the list for the net is:

- (A) one
- (B) two
- (C) three
- (D) partially repeat once.

21. A station checks in and you find that he is new to the net. You should:

- (A) welcome him and move on.
- (B) give him a detailed explanation of the net.
- (C) welcome him, give him the url for the website and explain that more info will be given later.
- (D) do nothing more than announce his call sign.

22. Once contacts have begun, NCS should take check-ins only after

- (A) approximately 10 minutes then every 15 minutes thereafter..
- (B) approximately 20 minutes then every 10 calls or more.
- (C) approximately 40 minutes but relays of check-ins at any time.
- (D) none of the above.

23. On his turn, each station has three options. First, to make a call. Second, to “go up for grabs.” Third, to “pass.” If he fails to get a response from his choice of either the first or second option, he then

- (A) forfeits the turn.
- (B) takes a pass after either the first or second option fails..
- (C) takes the second option after the first option fails..
- (D) all of the above.

24. When a station does not answer when called for his/her turn, NCS moves on and the station loses the turn for that round except, or unless that station is

- (A) a portable station.
- (B) a mobile station.
- (C) a combo.
- (D) a master degree holder.

25. A station that checks in just after the first round has started will

- (A) be listed as late and will be worked in with other “lates” after the first round.
- (B) be given a number and a call in turn on the first round.
- (C) be given a turn in the second round in accordance with his place on the list.
- (D) be give a turn after “passes” have been picked up.

26. When a station checks in during the last 30 minutes of the net, NCS will

- (A) extend the net to insure that he/she gets a turn.
- (B) give that station a call immediately to ensure it a turn.
- (C) inform the station that it may not get a turn before the end of the net.
- (D) encourage other stations to work that station before the net ends.

7. Master Degree holders are checked in at the top of the list. Should a Master Degree holder check in at any other time

- (A) he/she will be given an opportunity to make his/her call on the very next turn.
- (B) he/.she will be given a turn at the beginning of the next call area on the list.
- (C) he/she will be given his/her turn at the end of the list.
- (D) he/she will be given his/her turn in the order in which checked in.

28. When either member of a “combo” goes up for grabs, the successful responding station may work that station and the other member(s) along with the associated club or special event call sign if included.

- (A) True.
- (B) False.

29. A station goes “up for grabs” and only one station responds. The station “ up for grabs” fails to hear it. NCS may

- (A) not interfere.
- (B) assist only after three tries.
- (C) identify the station to him/her.
- (D) not use relays.

30. Mobile and/or portable stations operating from state lines, or multiple state lines with club or special event stations may be given as many lines on the list as needed to accommodate all call signs.

- (A) True.
- (B) False.

31. A mobile or portable station in the situation described in 30 above

- (A) may only make one outgoing call.
- (B) must make each call individually.
- (C) may combine the calls but only gets one turn.
- (D) must make the calls in pairs.

32. A station calling the mobile or portable station in the situation of 30 above may

- (A) claim all the call signs listed.
- (B) only claim the first call signs on the list.
- (C) only choose the two call signs he/she desires.
- (D) only claim two states.

33 A mobile station parks on a bridge over a river on a state line. He must

- (A) check in on state lines for the two states of his location.
- (B) choose one state or the other, since wet lines are not allowed.
- (C) move his vehicle, since bridges are not allowed.
- (D) answer from whichever state the calling station wants.

34. Two essential pieces of information that must be received correctly in any contact are the call signs of the stations making the contact and the numbers in each report. To insure correctness, NCS may

- (A) relay, or cause to be relayed, the call signs only.
- (B) hint at the exchanged reports by saying “not that good” or some other phrase.
- (C) have a relay station pass the reports.
- (D) say roger contact if the reports are guessed closely.

35. When one of the stations is a “no relay” station, neither NCS nor any relay station may assist in the contact.

- (A) True.
- (B) False.

36. Which of the following reports is not allowed.

- (A) 2 by 1.
- (B) 3 by 6.
- (C) 1 by 1.
- (D) 2 by 5.

37. Without being given an extra call for the round, which of the following is permitted to take his/her

call at any time:

- (A) club President.
- (B) 40 meter QSL bureau manager.
- (C) all QSL bureau managers.
- (D) all of the above.

38. When it becomes obvious that a given contact will not succeed, NCS has the right and duty to terminate that contact.

- (A) True.
- (B) False.

39. In each round, NCS is permitted to make

- (A) 2 contacts for himself.
- (B) 3 contacts for himself.
- (C) 4 contacts for himself.
- (D) a reasonable number of contacts for himself.

40. In the interest of serving the net, NCS should refrain from

- (A) making his own contacts before others have worked the desired station.
- (B) making a contact with a late check-in before most of the list has run.
- (C) responding to an "up for grabs" since he can take his calls any time.
- (D) all of the above.

41. At the end of the net, there remain only three stations on the list who have not made their calls. NCS should

- (A) not extend the net a few minutes to accommodate the remaining stations.
- (B) always conclude the net at the specified time.
- (C) get permission of the late net NCS to extend the net a few minutes.
- (D) Ask the late net controller to give them bonus calls on the late net.

42. When the list is exhausted with time remaining to the end of the net. NCS may close the net as long as he is sure no stations remain that wish a call.

- (A) True.
- (B) False.

43. Should NCS be relieved for any reason during a net, either because of split net operation or a need to be excused. The relieving NCS must

- (A) take a new list.
- (B) start from the top of the list.
- (C) pick up where the relieved NCS left off.
- (D) close down the net at the next opportunity.

44. Should an NCS need to leave for some emergency or experience equipment failure during a net and no volunteer is forthcoming. The net will

- (A) be closed down.
- (B) be suspended until a volunteer is found.
- (C) be operated in "free" mode.
- (D) be turned over for an early late net.

Operating Practices.

45. A station comes up with an urgent question about the club rules. As NCS you should

- (A) answer as best you can and let him know you are not entirely sure.
- (B) ask anyone on the net to come forward and answer the question.
- (C) look for club officers on the list and ask them to respond to the question.
- (D) tell him/her to forget it until Q&A night.

46. Occasionally, the net experiences deliberate QRM. NCS should

- (A) determine if one of the officers with quick access to FCC monitoring is available.
- (B) follow the officers instruction to take a "silent break" in the event DF bearings are being taken.
- (C) after 20 to 30 seconds resume net operations.
- (D) all of the above.

47. On occasions when QRM is not deliberate, NCS should

- (A) not allow anyone to move off frequency to chase the QRM.
- (B) politely ask the interfering station(s) to move.
- (C) if necessary, move the net +/- 3 khz.
- (D) all of the above.

48. A station has not answered for two rounds. NCS should

- (A) just scratch him/her off the list.
- (B) announce that he is automatically checked out.
- (C) tell the net to cease calling that station.
- (D) just move on without comment.

49 In the event a mobile station has not been heard for two rounds, NCS should

- (A) announce that he is checked out but may return after refueling, eating, etc.
- (B) just scratch him/her off the list.
- (C) keep calling the station at periodic opportunities.
- (D) tell any calling stations they can have a turn when the mobile returns.

50. When two stations engage in a QSO on subjects unrelated to net activity on either of their turns. NCS should

- (A) cancel their contact for award purposes.
- (B) be polite but firm in insisting the net must move on.
- (C) break in and continue the net forcefully.
- (D) Skip over the offending stations in the next round.

Bonus point question -may be substituted for any missed question above to obtain total score:

51. Legitimate passes (i.e. a station does not make a call, or go up for grabs, but initially requests a pass) will only be picked up:

- (A) at the end of any round in which taken.
- (B) at the end of the second round.
- (C) at the end of the first round.
- (D) at the calling station's choice.

This completes the open book exam. Please mail it to the club Training Officer after you have double checked your answers. He will then contact you, discuss the exam and set up a mutually agreed upon time for a trial run as Net Control Station after consulting with the Coordinator of the net you wish to be on.