Instructions to Local NC's

Thank you for volunteering to be a local Net Controller for your geographical area.

History and reasoning:
In my past experience of a Simplex net where we were all on 147.58, the information sharing (hearing net control) has been a problem. If I couldn't hear the main net control station, how could I be sure the information that was getting relayed was the whole of the message intended from the main Net Control station? Now that I am challenged with being the main net controller, whether at the EOC or alternate, I would like to simplify data collection and time spent gathering data.

You may ask: "How many stations are in my geographical area", or "How do I get in touch with those in my area"? We are working on that. We have verified that there are 517 active station in Clatsop County. We have a couple ideas: (1) Create a web page where all stations that want to participate can fill their name and contact details, which then we can use for you to contact those individuals in your area that have signed up – introducing yourself and what we are setting about to do, or (2) We are preparing a postcard that can be mailed to each station requesting them to email back to your email address or the COML address. From there, we will inform them of what we are doing on simplex, ask for their support as well as informing them of who their local NC is, and how to get in touch. For simplex mapping purposes, we will also be asking for their physical address (for example: CB only uses PO boxes mail – including FCC licensing). Efficient contact with all stations is still a little in flux. I believe we should make ALL aware realizing that perhaps a small percentage will join us to start.

We are also preparing a standardized form which you will use to record information as well as sending it to the stations in your area to use for capturing information you will be expecting. The form should take care of the reporting of 'unnecessary' issues (you can weed out this information on your form).

Instructions:
What we are setting out to do here follows an ARES & ICS structure of collecting all information from an area, then passing it on to the main net control station (EOC or alternate) on a specific time set basis. In an attempt to collect information from your area, without treading on other geographical areas collecting data at the same time, we are assigning specific Simplex frequencies to each geographical area. The idea is that you, as the local net controller, will practice on this assigned frequency gathering local information, then pass that onto the main net control station (EOC or alternate) on 147.58 Simplex.

1. The initial call out to you all, will be from the main net control station on 147.58, on a specified training day / time for practice. Open 147.58 and wait / listen for announcements from the main net control station. You will be asked to check in with your name, call sign and state your physical location at time of check-in along with your

availability to be net control for your area. You will give a quick / concise report of your immediate areas condition. We have attempted to get 2 local NCs for each area as a redundancy if one of you are not available. This second person could also act as your hand-off if you need to leave your station for any reason.

2. Inform your local area stations of this practice session and to open their assigned Simplex frequency, that you have hopefully been practicing on, and stand by for you to open the net and begin similarly as we did in the first check-in above – they should check in with their name, call sign and state their physical location at time of check-in. They should give a quick / concise report of their immediate area's condition (hazards, power availability, weather and anything else you or they deem pertinent in your practice sessions). Take notes from each person checking in / reporting. These notes will be used to relay info to the main net control station on 147.58.

3. The above 2 points are how we will **practice**. In the event of a real emergency AND REPEATERS ARE DOWN, we will use this process real-time for data gathering. If the repeaters are functioning, all stations will meet as normal on the SEARC network of repeaters to communicate.

Once we have established the net in #1 above, we will make a note of the time and develop our next time to all meet on 147.58 to pass information gathered from the local areas back to the main net control station. The idea will be to gather information in your local area over the next half hour on that area's assigned frequency. Then, on the half hour, tune back into 147.58 and pass the information back to the main net control station. This will be done by geographical area as called upon by the main net control. This keeps the frenzy of information sharing to a minimum. The main net control station will repeat what he/she has gathered. This is twofold: (1) To ensure the information passed is accurately recorded, and (2) It gives the other local net controllers the picture of what the situation is around the County.

Remember, you have been picked because your station can hit the main net control station on 147.58 Simplex, thus you can hear the main net control station restating the information that has just come in – even if you can't hear the local NC passing info to the main net control station.

During practice, we may only run this drill for 30 minutes. This will give you an opportunity to: (1) Check in to the main net controller at the start, (2) Manage your own net complete with data gathering, and (3) Check back into the main net to pass your information. We should also do a quick debrief to see what went right and what needs improvement. I plan to gather this info by geographical area to keep doubling with another local NC from happening. All in, a practice session should only take 45 minutes.

In a real emergency, and repeaters are down, we will continue this half hourly reporting process throughout the event or until it has subsided enough that it dictates an hourly check-in will suffice.

Moving on to frequency assignments: The following are local areas, along with the chosen pair of net control stations and the assigned Simplex frequency for that area:

Area	Local NCs	Assigned Frequency
Knappa	Mike – KA7SGB Brad – KJ7KHW	147.540
Astoria	Ralph – AG7FE	147.510
Central Clatsop Co	Christopher – KE7LSP Caren – KE7OHV	147.465
Warrenton / Hammond	DB – KF7CYH	146.420
Gearhart / Seaside	Robin – KN0LL Vanessa – N7ESS	146.400
Cannon Beach / Arch Cape	Dale – K7FW Carl – KI7RJD	146.480
EOC or alternate	Mike – W5MMB	147.580

For your info: I have vetted these frequencies through Don with his blessing.

As a final note: If you ever hear general, regular, public traffic on the frequency that you have been assigned, please let me know and I'll look for another free frequency to assign to your area. And remember, this is a trial and a process that I believe to be better than what we have done in the past. We hope everything works as our guidance says it will. The success is down to us all.

Mike, W5MMB
Clatsop County AuxComm Unit Leader