

“CONFORMITY”

Let's suppose for a moment that you are an appointed ARRL Section Cabinet member, or maybe you have been appointed to an ARES/RACES leadership position, or that you are a committed ARES/RACES Member. Now let's suppose you have been monitoring different frequencies throughout the past weeks and you hear folks that you know, and they are making snide comments about net procedures, not being emergency communications professionals like some people, people trying to change the Sections nets, proper ID's, proper relays, training nets and a whole host of other comments that are not proper to be mentioned on this net or as far as that goes even on Amateur radio. Some of the folks making these comments are in Section leadership positions, or have been in the past, some are current NCS's, NM's and the others were a part of the group that was occupying the frequency.

When you hear these folks making their comments you realize that these same people never participate in any kind of training, they never check in on any of the training nets, some of them are not able to serve with the Emergency Management Office or the ARES/RACES organization in their home county because of problems they caused in the past and some

of them rarely follow proper net procedures. Is this what we want our new hams hearing? Now, here is something else that comes to your mind. Some of the people mentioned above are assigned to be NCS's for emergency nets, and they are not properly trained as show by their actions, they do not practice any skills they believe they have, they never participate in drills, some of them have less than desirable attitudes, some are not team players and yet, they all believe that they are the best thing going. You now start remembering that if an emergency should ever occur that these people will be conducting net and field operations. Folks this scenario to me is both scary and sad, but it happens all over the US.

Folks, just being a regular NCS on one or more popular nets or holding a Section or an ARES/RACES leadership position does not make you automatically ready to serve during an emergency or disaster in any position. It takes training, practice, effort, time, a commitment, a desire to serve the public; it takes pride, having a good attitude and a willingness to be a team player. Like David said on the ARES net yesterday morning, "If you want to play in the game do what is required and if you don't want to play in the game we'll arrange something else".

As one of the Arkansas Section ARES/RACES Training Managers and the Section Traffic Manager, it is my responsibility to:

1. Assure proper ARES/RACES Training for all members, NCS's and those that hold leadership positions.
2. To establish, administer, and promote a traffic handling program at the section level with particular interest to the Section Nets based on, but not restricted to the National Traffic System networks. This includes the Razorback Net, The Arkansas Phone net and The Mockingbird Net which are all three listed as NTS Affiliate Section Nets.
3. To develop and implement one or more effective training programs within the section that addresses the needs of both traditional and digital modes of traffic handling.
4. To insure 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 both a regular and "casual" basis.
5. To insure that all traffic nets within the section are properly and adequately staffed with trained operators with appropriate direction to Net

Managers, as required, which results in coverage of all Net Control Station and liaison functions.

6. To maintain Section familiarity with proper traffic handling and directed net procedures applicable to all normally-used modes within the section.

Folks, some people may not appreciate what my duties involve, but many of you do. I have accepted the positions I have been appointed to, I take them seriously and I intend to perform the duties as specified by the ARRL and our SM. If it makes some people feel good about themselves to grip and make snide remarks about what is going on in their Section and on Section Nets that is fine with me, but these same people need to realize they are holding a position, that they accepted, that is important to their ARRL Section, and they should conduct themselves in the proper manner. Do the amateurs of the world want a person in a leadership position that just wants the title and never does anything so when something goes wrong they can complain about them, or do they want someone that accepts an appointment and does their best to do their assigned duties with respect to the rules, training, protocols, procedures and the good of amateur radio? No one in the Arkansas Section is trying to change anything except maybe those that do not follow Section net protocols. All that the current Section Leadership in Arkansas is trying to do is to

give instructions on the approved and proven procedures and protocols that have been passed down to us over the years.

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Folks, it's time for everyone to follow in the footsteps of our traditions and the Amateurs Code!!!!