

DFW METROPLEX TRAFFIC NET MANUAL

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This Manual is for the support of the North Texas Section Nets, especially the DFW nets.

Any suggestions or additions would be welcomed.

Any content suggestions should be forwarded to Herman May (ke5hyw@arrl.net)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| WELCOME | 3 |
| Section Traffic Manager | 3 |
| NET Managers | 3 |
| GENERAL NET CONTROL STATION PROCEDURES | 4 |
| DFW Early Script..... | 5 |
| DFW Late Script | 7 |
| TRAFFIC MOVEMENT | 9 |
| We welcome new traffic handlers!..... | 9 |
| SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER NET OPERATION | 10 |
| NTS RELATIONSHIP | 11 |
| “Chain of Command” | 11 |

WELCOME

On behalf of the ARRL National Traffic System, we would like to welcome you to the DFW Metroplex Traffic Net. This manual was prepared to serve as a guide to Net Control Stations for net operations. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call upon the following personnel:

SECTION TRAFFIC MANAGER Herman May, KE5HYW

NET Managers

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| Early | KE5HYW | Herman May |
| Early Assistant | KE5JIT | Randy Patterson |
| Late Assistant | KE5DKV | Scott Drummond |

If you would like to become a net control station, contact the net manager for that net. If you would like to receive an appointment as an Official Relay Station (ORS), contact any of the net managers or KC5OZT, Carolyn Womack, for a Station Appointment application. That application should then be submitted to KC5OZT.

We would like to thank the many Net Managers, Section Traffic Managers and all of the many traffic handlers that have contributed to this Net Manual.

There is now a web site established that will contain up to date DFW net information including this manual. This site is at dfwtrafficnet.com

GENERAL NET CONTROL STATION PROCEDURES

The DFW Metroplex Traffic Net is the local NTS affiliate net for the Dallas-Ft Worth Metroplex area. The D/FW Early Net meets at 1830 local time on the Dallas ARC repeater (W5FC) on 146.88 MHz and the D/FW Late Net at 2230 on the WA5CKF repeater 147.720 MHz. The D/FW Early session at 1830 is a training net as well, and anyone interested in learning how to handle traffic is encouraged to check in. The D/FW Late Traffic net is not a training net and everyone checking in will be expected to handle traffic if called upon.

Remember that certain officials and situations can preempt the net before or during operation:

RACES/ARES call-ups, any section, division, area, regional, or national staff member, particularly the ARES or NTS managers. When requested to do so by one of these individuals who identifies him/herself as such, do so immediately and assist them as they request - it is their right to do so, one which is not exercised lightly.

All Net Control Stations are requested to submit their report to the Net Manager as soon as possible through the DFW net.

The following procedures are to be used when calling the net:

DFW Metroplex Early Traffic Net
18:30 on 146.88 Mhz / 110.9
Net Manager: Herman May (KE5HYW)
Assistant Net Manager: Randy Patterson (KE5JIT)

Just before the net ask if anyone needs to use the repeater. If they do need it, then let them use it. At 6:30 pm, open the net and give the preamble.

The DFW Early Metroplex Traffic Net Preamble

This is <callsign>, my name is _____, and I'll be your Net Control Station for this session of the D/FW Metroplex Early Traffic Net. This net is a local affiliate of the ARRL's National Traffic System. Our purposes are to move traffic into and out of the D/FW area through the NTS and to provide training for stations interested in traffic handling. All stations licensed to transmit on this frequency are welcome and encouraged to participate. This is a directed net; therefore, please do not transmit without direction from net control and **stations are reminded to ID at the end of their transmissions**. Stations with emergency or priority traffic may enter the net at any time by using the prosign BREAK-BREAK followed by your call sign.

<break for Emergency or Priority traffic>

Order of Business:

I will now check-in our liaison stations:

ANC (Alternate Net Control)

TEX (TX CW Net)

TSN (TX Slow Net)

TTN (TX Traffic Net)

7290 (7290 Net)

MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System - any service)

Digital (Digital)

DFW Late (Liaison going to the DFW Late Session)

Any *ARES/RACES Liaisons* for *Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, Collin, or Rockwall*

Any *ARES/RACES Liaisons* for any other *North Texas County*.

Take a list of check-ins **by callsign only, phonetically** from stations with traffic for the net.

Traffic going outside of the DFW area is handled first. Pass as much of the traffic on net as possible. Keep in mind that the TTN meets at 18:30 Local Time and that TEX starts at 19:00 Local Time. If there are several pieces of traffic, consider moving the sender and receiver to an alternate frequency to relay their traffic. The 1st alternate is 146.720.

Take one list of check-ins **by callsign only, phonetically** with or without traffic. If there is large listing of incoming formal traffic, don't hesitate to request check-ins from only stations willing to deliver traffic.

Handle traffic in this order:

Out of state

Other cities in Texas

Incoming local traffic

ARRL Bulletins

Announcements

Net Reports

Informal

Be sure to take checkins periodically throughout the net. Any traffic not passed can be carried over to the DFW Late Session through the DFW Late Liaison.

When all traffic has been passed that can be passed, and all other net business has been completed, give the postamble and shut down the net.

DFW Early Metroplex Traffic Net Postamble

That will conclude this session of the D/FW Metroplex Early Traffic Net. To become a registered member of this net, please send eMail addressed to register@dfwtrafficnet.org; include your callsign, name, address, telephone number, eMail address, license class and traffic handling capabilities — the modes and bands on which you can operate — along with the areas to which you can deliver traffic

by a toll free phone call. All stations are invited to call us on the air following the net or visit our web site, www.dfwtrafficnet.org. Feel free to contact the managers, KE5JIT, the assistant manager for DFW Early; KE5DKV, the assistant manager for DFW Late; and KE5HYW, the Net Manager and Section Traffic Manager, by sending eMail addressed to the appropriate callsign at dfwtrafficnet.org.

Does anyone need any fills? <break for any response>

This net will meet again tomorrow night at 6:30 pm with a different net control and D/FW Late will meet at 10:30 pm on 146.72 MHz, with a PL tone of 110.9. I'd like to thank all stations for their participation and thanks to the Dallas Amateur Radio Club for the use of their repeater, W5FC. This is <callsign>, closing the traffic net at _____ pm.

Please remember to record the number of minutes the net was in session and how many messages were passed and send the net manager a net report within 48 hours after the net.

D/FW Metroplex Late Traffic Net

22:30 on 146.72 MHz / 110.9

Net Manager: Herman May (KE5HYW)

Assistant Net Manager: Scott Drummond (KE5DKV)

Just before the net ask if anyone needs to use the repeater, and let any stations do so. Then open the net and give the preamble.

The DFW Early Metroplex Traffic Net Preamble

This is callsign , my name is _____, and I'll be your net control station for this session of the D/FW Metroplex Late Traffic Net. This net is a local affiliate of the ARRL's National Traffic System. Our purpose is to move traffic into and out of the D/FW area through the NTS. All stations licensed to transmit on this frequency are welcome and encouraged to participate. This is a directed net; therefore, please do not transmit without direction from net control and **stations are reminded to ID at the end of their transmission.** Stations with emergency or priority traffic may enter the net at any time by using the prosign BREAK-BREAK followed by your call sign. (Pause to listen for any priority traffic)

<break for Emergency or Priority traffic>

Order of Business:

Alternate net control station (ANCS)

Texas CW Net (TEX)

Daytime Texas Traffic Net or 7290 (DTTN/7290)

Digital (DIGITAL)

MARS (MARS)

Southwest Traffic Net (SWTN)

D/FW Early Net (DFWE)

ARES or RACES from Dallas, Collin, Tarrant, Denton or Rockwall counties (ARES/RACES)

ARES or RACES from any North Texas county (ARES/RACES)

Take a list of check-ins with traffic first.

Take one list of check-ins with or without traffic.

If there is a large listing of incoming traffic, don't hesitate to request check-ins from only stations that can deliver the traffic.

Pass traffic in this order:

Incoming local traffic (to stations in calling area for delivery)

Other cities in Texas (to DTTN/7290 first, otherwise Digital)

Out of state (to Digital first, otherwise DTTN/7290)

ARRL Bulletins

Announcements

Net Reports

Informal

Be sure to take check-ins periodically throughout the net. Any traffic not passed can be carried over to the D/FW Early Net through the DFW Early Net Liaison.

When all traffic has been passed that can be passed, and all other net business has been completed, give the postamble and shut down the net.

DFW Early Metroplex Traffic Net Postamble

That concludes this session of the D/FW Metroplex Late Traffic Net. To become a registered member of this net, please send email addressed to register@dfwtrafficnet.org; include your callsign, name, address, telephone number, email address, license class, and traffic handling capabilities, which is what modes and bands you can operate, along with the areas you can deliver traffic by a toll free phone call. You may also contact us on the air after the net or find more information on our web site at www.dfwtrafficnet.org. Feel free to contact the managers, KE5DKV, the assistant manager for DFW Late; KE5JIT, the assistant manager for DFW Early; and KE5HYW, the Net Manager and Section Traffic Manager, by sending eMail addressed to the appropriate callsign at dfwtrafficnet.org.

Does anyone need any fills? <break for any response>

D/FW Early will meet tomorrow evening at 6:30 pm on 146.88 MHz, with a PL tone of 110.9, and this net will meet again tomorrow night at 10:30 pm on this repeater with a different net control. I'd like to thank all stations for their participation and thanks to the Irving Amateur Radio Club for the use of their repeater, WA5CKF. This is callsign , closing the traffic net at _____pm.

Please remember to record the number of minutes the net was in session and how many messages were passed and send the net manager a net report within 48 hours after the net.

TRAFFIC MOVEMENT

NOTE: FOR BOTH DFW EARLY AND LATE THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

If there is a lot of traffic, move stations off frequency to another repeater. TEX meets at 7:00 PM so try to free up the TEX Liaisons by 7PM.

The following repeaters have been approved for back up.

- 146.88 Dallas Amateur Radio Club (alt freq #1)
- 146.72 Irving Amateur Radio Club (alt freq #2)
- 147.12 K5GW Repeater (Alt Freq # 3)
- 145.19 KA5CTN (110.9 CTCSS required) (alt freq # 4)
- 442.425 Dallas Amateur Radio Club (alt freq # 5)
- 146.74 McKinney (alt freq # 6)
- 146.52 Simplex (alt freq # 7)
- 145.15 Mesquite area
- 146.66 Garland
- 145.13 Jim Haynie

The Alternate frequency reference number will be used should the net have to be moved because of interference or problems, and it is not desired that an actual frequency be given over the air.

WE WELCOME NEW TRAFFIC HANDLERS!

If time permits give a special welcome to the new traffic handlers.

SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER NET OPERATION

1. The net is only allowed thirty minutes on the repeaters to clear the traffic and net business. Therefore, it is imperative that all stations listen to net control and operate according to net control's instruction.
2. Limit rechecks to traffic only. i.e. stations returning to net and liaison stations listing additional traffic.
3. **Rechecks for informals and landline should be held until final call for check-ins is made.**
4. Q signals are improper on voice nets.
5. When checking into the net, only transmit your call. When the net control recognizes you, then state your traffic or that you have no traffic. No other comments are needed. Traffic is listed by city if in Texas, otherwise it is listed for NTX or MARS.
6. Training tips are given by the Section Manager, Section Traffic Manager, Net Manager or a specific designated station. This is to keep mis-information from being passed to the net.
7. Do not keep the net open any longer than necessary. After all traffic and net business is cleared, take one final round of check-ins and close the net. Remember, we are guests on these repeaters and we do not want to wear out our welcome.
8. When moved to another repeater to pass traffic, remember we are guests and the proper courtesy must be observed. If the repeater is in use, return to net frequency, recheck, and get further instructions from net control.
9. Suggestions for net operation should be made to the net managers.
10. In the event of obscene interference, suspend net operation without further comment.
11. Remember, only traffic passed as directed on net is counted in the traffic count.
12. More than anything else, the net is supposed to be fun. But we must get business taken care of first.
13. Remember also, that one of the major purposes is to train operators for in case of an emergency. Many operators (and net controls) may still be learning. Training or operation suggestions should be by the managers only and preferably off line in a manner so as not to discourage anyone.
14. Watch these pages for information updates.
15. The following materials are recommended to be on hand to provide information and assist in handling traffic related question:
 - Public Service Communications Manual
 - ARRL Numbered Radiograms FSD-3 (2/94)
 - Q Signals, Msg. Form FSD-218
 - ProSigns, Phonetics etc. FSD-220

Contact the Net Secretary, Net Managers, or Section Traffic Manager should you need assistance in obtaining information materials.

NTS RELATIONSHIP

The DFW Net is a local affiliate of the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS), and as such, is the local link in a long and highly organized traffic chain. The local link is perhaps the most important link, inasmuch as without dedicated local members to bring traffic to put into the system and to take traffic from the system for delivery to the public, the rest of the chain would be irrelevant.

Our net liaisons with both SSB and CW Section nets for moving traffic beyond the limited and sometimes uncertain range of VHF modes. These nets are: DTTN, TTN, SW, and 7290 on SSB, NTX and TSN on CW.

DFW, being a local NTS net, also means that we are obligated to operate under a set of guidelines which are given to us in three basic ways.

1. The “Public Service Communications Manual” (PSCM), which serves as the primary source.
2. The “Terms of Reference” (TOR) from the Area Staff, which gives structure and order to the NTS above the Section level (Region, Area Nets and TCC functions), and therefore indirectly effects the NTS at all levels.
3. “Section Policy”, The Section policy is the elasticity of the NTS, and other ARRL programs implemented on a section by section basis so as to meet the varying needs of each section. These policies are established by the Section Manager, (SM), upon consultation with the Section Traffic Manager, (STM), and others as needed.

“CHAIN OF COMMAND”

We need to use the “chain of command” when we have questions regarding net operation and related topics. While the NTS is an ARRL function, ARRL members and non-members alike are welcome to express their comments, or criticisms concerning the net or related matters in the following order:

1. Net Manager or their assistant (as desired by the manager)
2. Section Traffic Manager
3. Assistant Section Managers who may be available
4. Section Manager – Walt Mayfield, KE5SOO

The final authority for section matters is the Section Manager, but if after going through these steps, you still have not received a satisfactory answer, you may contact ARRL directly:

Steve Ewald, WV1X
Field Service Supervisor
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111-1494
860-594-0265 or WV1X@arrl.org

For questions regarding other policies of the ARRL that you cannot resolve with the Section Manager, please contact:

Jim Haynie, W5JBP
President Emeritus
3226 New Castle Dr.
Dallas, TX 75220
214-352-6180
W5JBP@arrl.net