

7/27/17, Tonight's Educational Moment is "What is a Directed Net?"

We call our Nets "Directed Nets" because we need order on the Net. The only way to have order is to have one person, Net Control, be in charge, and direct communication on the Net. Every communication needs to go through Net Control. This way Net Control knows who is speaking and what is being said.

We have Nets for two reasons: for practice and training, the purpose of our Thursday night Nets; and for emergencies. In both cases we want to know who is participating. Sometimes Net Control finds this out by calling role, as on the Ham Net. Or Net Control will ask participants to call in, as on the GMRS Net.

Unless you are checking in to a "call in" Net, or Net Control has specifically asked you a question, you need to get permission from Net Control before you speak. You do this by saying "Net Control, this is So-and-so." Then you say no more until Net Control says "So-and-so, go ahead", or something very similar. That is your 'direction' to speak.

There are two reasons for this procedure. The first is similar to airplanes and Air Traffic Control. Only one airplane at a time can land on a runway, and Air Traffic Control directs which one lands. Likewise, only one person at a time can speak on a radio frequency, or channel. Net Control 'directs' a person to speak. If two people ask permission at the same time, Net Control will hear only one of them. When Net Control gives that one person permission to speak, the other person knows that he or she will have to ask for permission again after the first person's communication is finished.

The second reason for getting permission before you speak is that Net Control needs to know who is speaking, and to hear what they say. At the time you ask for permission to speak, Net Control may be doing something, and not hear your request. She may be writing something down, or looking for her place in the script, or listening to someone in the room speaking to her. In any of these situations if you speak without permission, Net Control may not hear what you say.