

Relay

We have all noticed that communications are sometimes staticy and difficult to understand. Our zone net controls, and occasionally our channel 119 net control, may not be able to hear a specific transmission clearly. When this occurs, net control may ask the caller to change locations and try again. Often moving just a few feet or making sure the antennae is vertical will allow the transmission to get through. But this may not work. Here's where we can help each other.

If net control cannot understand a transmission but you can hear it clearly, you can relay the transmission to net control. For example, net control might say, "I didn't hear that. Can someone relay?" You can contact net control saying, "Net control, this is Jack with a relay". Once net control acknowledges you, "Go ahead Jack", you can repeat what you heard to net control. Net control will say "Copy that" and repeat it back to confirm.

If you hear a transmission, for example a check in, that is not acknowledged by net control, this indicates that net control may not have heard anything. Again, you can contact net control with a "Relay", then share what you heard once net control acknowledges you.

This informal process works for our local YR Net.

We also have a growing number of HAM radio operators. Have you wondered what role HAMS will play in an emergency? The most important job of HAM operators during emergency and disaster net operation is the ability to accurately relay or "pass" messages exactly as received. For HAMS this is a serious and formal process that facilitates communications over distances that we can't reach with our Yellow Radio Net.