

This educational moment is about Directed Nets: what are they, why we have them, and the three types of communication on them.

A 'Net' is a network of people who want to talk to each other on the radio at an appointed time on an agreed upon frequency. A 'Directed Net' is a Net controlled by one person, called Net Control, or Zone Net Control in our individual Zones. You may be thinking "Aren't all Nets directed?" I don't know; it seems like they would be. Regardless, in the EVC we call our Nets Directed Nets.

We have directed nets in order to have clear and orderly communications, or traffic. Traffic is just another term for communication on a radio frequency. There will usually be a dozen or so people on a Net, and we need to have a way to allow those who want to speak to do so.

There are three types of traffic on a Net. The first is the 'check in'. The Net Control needs to know who is listening on the Net, so he or she will ask people to check in. In our zones with a lot of listeners, the Zone Net Control will probably ask this way: "Will all those listening with first names beginning with A through H please check in now?, over". Or if there are geographic regions in a zone, check-in can be done by those. For example in Zone 8, Wheeler, Zone Net Control may ask "Will all those listening from Wheeler Heights please check in now?, over". In this type of traffic you will check in when appropriate using the 'hey you, it's me' protocol: "Zone Net Control, this is John Q". That's all you need to say. If Zone Net Control has heard you, he or she will say something like "John Q, I hear you". If you are not acknowledged, keep trying.

The second type of traffic is that directed from Zone Net Control to you specifically. Zone Net Control may ask you a question, such as "John Q, is the street in front of your house passable for vehicles?, over." You would reply "Net Control, yes it is, or no it isn't, over". Or Zone Net Control may ask on the Thursday night practice Net if there are any comments.

The third type of traffic is that directed from you to Zone Net Control. This may be in response to a general question from Zone Net Control, such as "Are there any comments?, over". Or maybe you want to initiate the conversation. In both cases you will contact the Zone Net Control using the 'hey you, it's me' protocol: "Zone Net Control, this is John Q". That's all you need to say. If Zone Net Control has heard you, he or she will acknowledge you and direct you to do one of two things; either to speak, or to stand by. Zone Net Control will say something like "John Q, I hear you, go ahead, over". Or Zone Net Control will say "John Q, I hear you, but please stand by, over".

In summary, on our Directed Nets, the Net Control controls who speaks when. When checking into a Net follow the Net Control's instructions on how to do it. When you want to contact the Net Control, use the 'hey you, it's me' protocol: "Zone Net Control, this is John Q". That's all you need to say. Then wait for permission to speak.