

NCS (List Keeper)

Guidelines

Thank you for your dedication to the Corn Cob Net! The importance of your role in the survival of the Corn Cob Net cannot be overstated. Here are a few simple, common-sense guidelines to keep the CCN a good place to be:

1. Nets survive when we have quality net controls stations (List Keepers) who see their job as that of the survival and integrity of the net and who are truly concerned for making the people who check in feel at home on the net.
2. Always be cheerful, friendly, helpful, and ready to quickly extinguish any conflict that might arise.
3. Always work to keep the net clean, orderly, and fun. I have not heard this happen in my experience on the CCN but if things were to go off in a sour direction, do all you can to steer it back on the right course to diffuse conflict.
4. Strive to avoid doubling. No one likes to hear that and it has the aroma of a disorganized mess. Try to get into the habit of using the word “over” or the phrase “back to you” or something along those lines to indicate you are through talking. Also, when the station on the other end turns it back over to you, don't jump right in. Pause for a couple seconds so that you are sure they are finished talking, so that others listening in have the opportunity to say “contact” or put out their call-sign in order to be picked up.
5. If you are on the first hour which starts the net, please do your best to start on time. We have some people who want to come in early and then move on to another band or go to bed from working a night shift. If you foresee trouble getting the net started on time, please let the Net Coordinator know in advance if possible so the net can be covered.
6. If you are on the 0600 – 0700 period, please start the net by identifying the Net and by explaining who we are. Say a few words about the frequency we operate on, the times of the net operation, the history of the net, and the purpose of the net. I am not going to “script” this as many nets do and you certainly don't have to say all of this all of the time. Simply use your own words and tell folks who we are.
7. During the operation of the net it is proper, especially during periods when check-ins are at a minimum, to once again identify the net as previously described.
8. If things are slow, and this usually happens on the 1st hour of operation, start back up at the top of the list and do some more rag-chewing.

9. On the subject of rag-chewing, try and guard against that going on for too long with a single individual. If you get into a ten minute conversation with someone, others who are waiting to get in may get frustrated and leave. This is a hard one to balance and I mention it only as something for us to be aware of as I have heard that complaint on the CCN.
10. If you cannot make your designated “shift”, please try and find a replacement to cover for you and let the Net Coordinator know of the temporary change.
11. Try to remember to point new check-ins to our web-site: www.CornCobbers.com. Also, mention our Facebook page.
12. It is good to know of the history of the net so that you can answer people when they ask, “Why are you on this odd frequency?” Of course, that information is available on the web-site.
13. Netlogger
 1. Since we are on 40 meters and since conditions are usually less than desirable during our period of operation, especially 6AM to 7AM, some of us are using Netlogger to facilitate the passing of the check-in list from one list keeper to the next. Further, Netlogger provides AIM (Almost Instant Messaging) such that call-signs can be “messed” by those who are hearing it better. Also, control can be turned over to another station using AIM.
 2. You do not have to use Netlogger to be a List Keeper. It is only a tool and is never to replace talking on the radio. With that said, it is not at all proper to put someone on the check-in log who simply showed up as a net monitor. Do not put anyone on the check-in log who has not been in contact with the List Keeper or the List Keeper's relay. This is HAM Radio and we want to keep it that way.
 3. If you want to use Netlogger, you will need a bit of instruction. In particular, you will need to know how to get the latest “club profile”. The Net Coordinator or his alternate can give you that instruction.
14. Finally, have fun! This is a hobby! It is not a “job”. Yes, we perform a job function for sure but this is supposed to be fun and let's be sure and keep it that way. Further, God, family, health, and work are always first! Always!