

## **RADIO OPERATIONS**

**Radio Operators are communicators under the direction of the Stage Captain, Control Captain or the Spectator Captain.** Please transmit as close to verbatim as possible the information given by the Captain.

Rally cars MAY NOT start a stage until Net Control states to Start that permission is granted.

### **Communications Overview**

The SOFR will utilize 1 or 2 Repeaters (2-meter Ham Band) plus a single Simplex Channel. Additional Simplex Channels will be assigned to Sweep vehicles.

Arrive at the Rally with your radios programmed with the Rally Frequencies. Those with HT, bring spare Batteries. Because of the terrain, the recommended radio package is a 50-watt mobile radio and a 3dB gain, roof mounted antenna.

### **2023 Amateur Radio Frequencies**

#### **Thursday – Chillicothe Stage Frequencies:**

- Net Control 147.015 +.600 repeater, 74.4 tone.
- Backup Net Control 147.510 simplex

#### **Friday – Shawnee Forest Frequencies:**

- Net Control 147.015 +.600 repeater, 74.4 tone.
- Backup Net Control 147.510 simplex
- SS # 2/6 146.550 simplex
- SS # 3/7 146.470 simplex
- SS # 4/8 146.580 simplex
- SS # 5/9 146.450 simplex

#### **Saturday - Zaleski Forest Radio Frequencies:**

- Net Control 147.015 +.600 repeater, 74.4 tone.
- Backup Net Control 147.510 simplex
- SS # 10/15 146.550 simplex
- SS # 11/16/20 146.470 simplex
- SS # 12/17 146.580 simplex
- SS # 13/18 146.450 simplex
- SS # 14/19 146.420 simple

## **Net Control**

The Primary purpose of the net is the safety of the event, but smooth operation of the rally depends on keeping Net Control Appraised of the Status in your Area. Please keep your log of car numbers carefully, as a total may be asked at any time.

All radio communications will be run through a controlled net. Each operator will be assigned a "tactical designator" based on your assignment, i.e., 4 Start or 6 Finish. Net Control will maintain a log of all call signs as they log in and out of the Net. Please log in with your call sign and use the tactical designator for subsequent calls. Please log off the net with your call sign. Net Control will ID for the net.

Properly Identify with your FCC Call Sign once the contact with Net Control is complete. This is vitally important to meet the ID requirements. Keep all radio transmissions to a minimum, both in length and in frequency. short and concise is best.

### **General Procedures**

1. All calls will be made through NET CONTROL. If you wish to talk to another station on the NET, you can call them only after calling NET CONTROL and getting permission.
2. Make sure the frequency is not in use before you transmit. NET CONTROL will finish messages with its call sign - when you hear this you may then contact NET CONTROL.
3. To call NET CONTROL use your tactical call sign such as "Three Start."
4. NET CONTROL will respond by repeating your tactical call sign & asking you to go ahead. If the NET is busy, this response may not be immediate.
5. Use your call sign only at the end of your last transmission (of a series) so NET CONTROL knows you are finished with your business.
6. Leave a small amount of time to lapse between the end of the NET CONTROL transmission and your call to NET to Provide a window for EMERGENCY TRAFFIC!
7. All radio operators must listen to the NET - this is your duty.

Report the following to Net Control as they occur:

- Arrive at the pickup point.
- Departure from pickup point with stage crew.
- When you are in the place, ready & medical crew is present.
- Arrival of first rally car (other than Car 0).
- Start time of first rally car with Car Number
- Total count of cars starting the stage (Start and Finish only).
- The numbers of the last three cars to start the stage (Start and Finish only).

- Arrival of sweep vehicles at the start.
- Time that sweep starts down the stage.
- Time that sweep finishes the stage.
- When the stage is ready to be shut down.

Stay close to your radio. Share any information with the Control Captain. Immediately inform the Control Captain of any direct communication with your stage or position.

### **Set up**

Place your vehicle at the control location so that you are off the rally route but close enough to easily communicate with the Control Captain. Your communication is a vital link in the safety of this event. If you have an external speaker, feel free to use it. Just remember to disconnect if the information becomes sensitive, ie, an accident, etc.

### **Logs**

You will maintain a log of all competitors to pass your location. Net Control may inquire at any time as to the total number of cars past your position or the number of the last car to pass your position, to aid in the location of a missing vehicle or in the closing of a stage. Completed logs should be held until you return to headquarters.

## **Emergency Procedures**

When you are advised by the Control Captain of an incident on your stage, contact Net Control immediately. Give the following information:

Your stage #

Location of the incident, using a mileage and/or an instruction

Car #

Description of the incident (mechanical, roll-over, etc)

Is the SOS or the OK displayed?

All other radio operators should hold routine calls during an emergency. Net Control will return after the incident to accept held calls. **If Net Control is busy, and you have an emergency to report, use “Break – Break” to alert the net.**

If there is an accident with injuries, **DO NOT BROADCAST** any details. Let Net Control know that Medical is required immediately. Appropriate responses will be taken according to the event’s Safety Plan.