

- 1) So why is radio communication important?
 - a. In an emergency Telephone, Video, Email and Texting may not be available. All that may be left is radio communication that relies on **no one else but you**.
 - b. While “self-quarantined”, who can I talk to that will acknowledge me?
 - c. Amateur radio people, for the most part, seek to help and encourage goodness. They try to avoid religious, political or other subjects that encourage argument.
 - d. Where else can you find these attributes?
- 2) Using a radio and a microphone require some unique skills that require practice.
 - a. Communication face to face is by far the most effective communication because a significant part of the communication is not the words seen or heard but how the words are seen or heard. The same words seen or heard while frowning are different than the same words seen or heard while smiling.
 - b. Video face to face communication is the next best.
 - c. Telephone communication is the next best communication because it allows interruption because you can hear the other party while you are talking. This is often called duplex communication. An important part of this communication is that you can still hear a smile or frown.
 - d. Radio communication is the next best. Most often the communication is started by pushing PTT (a Push To Talk button on the microphone) and then talking after a pause. You can't hear the other end of your conversation until you release the PTT button. This is called simplex communication. An important part of this communication is that you can still hear a smile or frown from those that respond to you.
 - e. Emails and Texting have their place but can easily be misunderstood. You can't detect a smile or frown very easily unless you add one visually.
- 3) Tips
 - a. You can find an example of a FM Net Script and copies of guides and notes at this link <https://www.w7yrc.org/> These are examples which you may modify to your own personality.
 - b. The example of a FM Net Script with a “Roll Call List” represents a “Formal Controlled Net or Directed Net”. This approach may be too formal and scare off some participants so just a basic intro may be appropriate. But a formal net may also attract those that want structure and a path to follow so they don't feel left out of the loop.
 - c. If you do a basic intro with open check-in a better approach for you may be to use a filter to open check-in by “only A prefix call signs” or “only KJ prefix call signs” then “all other call signs”. This could help reduce two more trying to call at the same time.
 - d. After you have a list of check-ins you could announce a “Round Table”. The first check-in turns it over to the second check-in and so forth down the list of check-ins. The last check-in would refer back to net control. Net Control would then check for new participants. This encourages a different level of paying attention and acknowledgement to the participants.
 - e. Speak slowly. Avoid non-technical slang words. Remember there may be several hearing impaired listeners.

- f. Using phonetics like “alfa, bravo, tango” are very helpful and should be used, but are not required.
- g. Assure yourself that your audio will be understood on the repeater you will be connecting to.
- h. After PTT wait for linked repeaters to connect. Five minutes or so before net is to start announce “This is ____ (call Sign) Yavapai Amateur Radio Club FM Net will start in five minutes this is ____ (call Sign)”.
- i. Do not “quick-key”. Allow sufficient time for someone to identify and join the group.
- j. It is not necessary to say anything like “reset” when resetting the repeater timer.
- k. It is very important to acknowledge check-ins otherwise they will try to check-in again.
- l. Be flexible. The Ops are our clients/customers. We are doing this for them. We want them to enjoy the experience and have fun. Without them the net would have no purpose and activity will dwindle.
- m. We are not repeater police. If there is a flagrant violation of the FCC rules and regs we need to act. If there is a faux-pah, contact off line and one on one is far better than embarrassing the OP and/or yourself.
- n. Some may check-in with a “one time only” which means to pass them on the next round.
- o. If you are not using a roll call list of call signs be aware that many will attempt to check-in at the same time. Pick out pieces of call signs you hear then ask for a repeat. It is your choice on how to handle this. However, consider acknowledging each check in as they come in instead of waiting for 3 or 4 more. It may save you time having to ask for repeats on the second and third because you were busy writing the first one.
- p. When others finish and turn it back to net control wait for repeaters to reset. This also allows emergency traffic or other traffic to break in and be recognized. Don’t get in a hurry. Take your time. Don’t “quick-key”. This will allow the break-in, if one is needed, and allow the OP the opportunity to finish if they did not identify or merely released the PTT to reset the repeater timer.
- q. Repeating what a participant has said is great acknowledgement and makes them feel good and makes them a great participant.
- r. When participant wants to talk to another participant it is best practice for them ask permission to do so from Net Control but don’t correct someone if they don’t ask.
- s. On a repeater a signal report is only about readability i.e. how is my audio? A 5-9-9 or 5-9 report is not appropriate. Terms you can use are “You are full quieting into the repeater”, “You have some noise on your signal, but readable”, “You are sounding good, go ahead”. If it were a simplex report a 5-9 report would be appropriate. You are either connected to the repeater or not, understood or not.