

**SIXTH REGION NET/Cycle 4**

## **LIAISON ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

These Guidelines set forth general and specific guidance for an effective liaison assignment of a Sixth Region Net/Cycle 4 (RN6) operator to/from the Pacific Area Net/Cycle 4 (PAN).

The following guidelines are consistent with the provisions of the ARRL **Public Service Communications Manual** (see FSD-98). This Manual serves as an authoritative source for basic and practical information on operating within the National Traffic System (NTS). Stations performing RN6 liaison assignments should have the most current edition of the Manual and the RN6 Net Control Station Guidelines, and they should be familiar with these references.

The NTS is an organized effort to handle traffic in accordance with a plan which is easily understood and basically sound, using modern methods of traffic networking and relaying in general acceptance today.

For RN6 to play its part in this public service communications system, there must be a fair degree of discipline, observance of protocol, uniformity to our operations, coupled with courtesy and camaraderie.

Please observe these guidelines. Lets serve and have fun together.

All times are given in Local Pacific Time.

### **II. GENERAL**

The NTS is not a deterrent to, or in competition with, other organized traffic networks and circuits. When necessitated by overload or lack of an outlet for traffic, such routings should be used in the interest of effective message relay and/or delivery.

The purpose of RN6 is to exchange formal traffic among the sections in the region. These sections are: **NCN** - East Bay, Nevada, Pacific, Sacramento Valley, San Francisco, San Joaquin, and Santa Clara Valley; and **SCN** - Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Santa Barbara. RN6 also relays out-of-region traffic through designated liaison stations to the PAN, and distributes traffic from outside the region to section net representatives.

RN6 is administered by the Net Manager, K9JM. The Net Manager is appointed by the ARRL Field Services Department following election by the NTS Pacific Area Staff under written Terms of Reference.

The Net Manager assigns session net control stations and liaisons to and from PAN; monitors section net representation to RN6, and maintains a close rapport with all the section net managers to help assure that the distribution of traffic through RN6 is not unnecessarily delayed for lack of section net representation.

Session net control stations (NCS) may designate a station to a liaison or section representative function in the absence of an assigned station. Such designations are made with the concurrence of the station to be designated. Once designated, the station agrees to fully perform the function, absent unavoidable circumstances.

The participants in a typical RN6 session include: the **NCS, representatives from various Northern and Southern California section nets, a liaison assigned to receive traffic at the early RN6 session (P1) for PAN (6T), and a liaison assigned to receive RN6 traffic at PAN (6R) for the RN6 late session (P2)**. There may be more than one representative from the section nets, but more than two are usually superfluous. All section representatives should represent the entire section, not merely their own net.

RN6 sessions are by necessity structured in format and protocol since the singular objective is to promptly relay traffic between section representatives and/or PAN liaisons. General check-ins without traffic may be promptly excused by the NCS unless they can provide a needed outlet or act as an alternate. RN6 sessions operate on a tight time schedule, but visitors are to be treated with courtesy appropriate to the circumstances.

Session net participants need wait no longer than two minutes, if the assigned NCS has not opened the session, before designating an NCS to open and complete the session. Participants are encouraged to keep net integrity by promptly designating an NCS in the absence of the assigned NCS.

### **III. SPECIFIC**

There are two RN6 liaison assignments needed for each session under the present Regular Schedule: **liaison to PAN (P1)**, and **liaison from PAN (P2)**. The following specific guidelines apply to both liaison assignments:

**Prompt Check-In.** Stations performing the liaison function are the means through which the NCS is able to accomplish the objective of RN6 at each session. It is critical that the sessions not only meet on time, but that they be able to promptly move all listed traffic. Hence, liaisons should promptly check in at the prearranged call (QNA) of the NCS.

Liaisons are also expected to check-in and list all traffic when called by the PAN NCS. Area Nets operate on a close schedule, and a delayed check-in by a liaison can affect the effectiveness of a PAN session.

**Adherence to NCS Directions.** The NCS is the session leader. Net participants are expected to follow NCS directions. If a direction is unclear or not understood, don't guess, ask for a repeat or for clarification. See the RN6 NCS Guidelines.

**Maintain Pace of Net Session.** Liaisons are expected to maintain the pace of the net session: session procedures (including use of QN signals, clean signals, and good message sending/receiving practices), speed, zero-beat net frequency set by NCS, and all-around "net savvy." A comfortable learning-curve is allowed for newcomers, but once it is learned, stick with the pace.

**Relay All Traffic from Sessions.** A station performing the liaison function accepts the assignment to receive and relay **all** traffic between the prescribed nets (RN6 and PAN). Adherence to the function assignment and schedule is the most critical part of this assignment.

The NCS should not hold liaisons beyond the time they are scheduled to meet the assigned net. Likewise, liaisons (absent poor band conditions, overload, missing representatives or liaisons, or in the case of messages to be delivered or routed locally by the liaison), are to relay **all** traffic received during the liaison function to/from the assigned net.

### **Liaison Assignment-Specific Guidelines**

For liaisons receiving out-of-region traffic at the RN6 early session (7:45 PM Pacific Local Time) - **P1** - and taking this traffic to PAN (9:40 PM Pacific Local Time) - **6T** - for relay at that net, the following specific guidelines apply:

#### ***PAN 1 / 6T***

Check in when called at the RN6 early session. Generally, this station lists no traffic (QRU). A typical check-in is : **de (call sign)/ P1 QRU k**. The nominal net frequency is 3.575 MHz.

As directed by the session NCS, receive for relay all out-of-region traffic listed with the NCS on that session. Clear all such traffic by the time required to meet PAN at (8:30PM Pacific Local Time). If there is no such traffic, the liaison must still check in to PAN on schedule. The nominal PAN frequency is 3.552 MHz (7.052 mHz during the summer months).

Check in when called at the PAN session and list all traffic received at the RN6 early session. If no traffic was picked up at RN6, simply report in as QRU. List traffic by region and area. A typical check-in is: **de (call sign)/ 6T QTC RN7 3 TWN 1 EAN 2 CAN 4 k**.

As directed by the PAN NCS, send traffic listed to the region and/or TCC liaison stations.

When all listed traffic has been cleared and the PAN NCS has excused you (QNX), this liaison assignment is complete. Check-in to RN6 late session is not required.

For liaisons receiving RN6 traffic - **6R** - on PAN (7:30 PM Local Time) and taking this traffic to the RN6 late session (9:30 PM Local Time) - **P2** - for relay at that net, the following specific guidelines apply:

#### ***PAN 2 / 6R***

Check-in when called at the RN6 early session (7:45PM Local Time). Generally, this station has no traffic to list (QRU). A typical check-in is: **de (call sign)/ P2 QRU k**. The nominal net frequency is 3.575 MHz. The RN6 NCS will normally excuse the liaison promptly after it is determined that the **P1** liaison is present and that there is no need for the station to remain on the net. The nominal PAN frequency is 3.552 MHz (7.052 MHz during the summer months).

Check-in when called at PAN (8:30 PM Local Time) session as the liaison (6R) to receive RN6 traffic listed on that session for relay back to the RN6 late session. Generally, this station lists no traffic. A typical check-in is: **de (call sign)/ 6R QRU k**.

As directed by the PAN NCS, receive listed RN6 traffic from other region and/or TCC stations in time to be excused by the PAN NCS and return all traffic to the RN6 late session (9:30 PM Local Time).

Check in when called at the RN6 late session (9:30 PM Local Time) as the liaison from PAN and list all region traffic received at PAN. The nominal net frequency is 3.575 MHz. Traffic is normally listed as either for the "NCN" -*Northern California Net* (including: East Bay, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Joaquin Valley, Pacific, Sacramento Valley sections, and northern Nevada), or for "SCN" *Southern California Net* (including: Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and southern Nevada). Hawaii and APO/FPO SF traffic is handled through NCN. Traffic listed should include (as "THRU") messages to be delivered or routed locally by the liaison. A typical check-in is: **de (call sign)/ P2 QTC NCN 3 SCN 2 k.**

As directed by the RN6 session NCS, send traffic from the assigned or designated liaison function to the section representatives. The NCS should be advised if the liaison still holds traffic at the end of the late session that cannot be relayed by the operator within 12 to 24 hours.

When all traffic has been relayed to the extent possible, the NCS will excuse (QNX) the liaison. At this point the liaison assignment is complete.

#### **IV. LIAISON RECORDKEEPING**

Operators performing liaison assignments should record in sufficient detail the the key aspects of each liaison function. This information is useful for the reporting of individual station traffic and net activitiy (BPL and PSHR) to the Section Manager or Section Traffic Manager, and can assist the Net Manager in obtaining session data, absent a NCS report.

Note:

During the portion of the year that daylight savings time is in effect, the Idaho Montana Net (IMN) permits early check-ins at 7:45PM Pacific Daylight Time at 3572 KHz, down 3 from RN6. During DST, NCS are advised not to use down 3. IMN keeps their schedule, starting at 0245Z regardless of daylight or standard time. In the winter.