Calling stations to pass traffic.

Conditions on EAN Cycle 2 at 2:30 PM this summer have been mostly poor and sometimes almost impossible. We have been doing a good job to work through it, but sometimes it gets confusing and time consuming. In order to be more efficient and less confusing, Net Control Stations, when setting up pairings to pass traffic, will direct the <u>sending operator to call the receiving operator</u> - "WV8CH, how copy, W8YS?" The receiving operator, WV8CH will answer, "Ready to copy", unless he cannot copy, has poor copy, or needs a relay. The magic words are "Ready to copy". "Ready to copy" means that I have traffic quality copy on you, I have pencil in hand and I will copy all of your traffic that is for me.

Net Control Stations need to recognize who can hear you and who cannot hear you. If the sending operator cannot hear you, then you will have to contact the receiving operator or get someone to relay your directions. Net Control stations – your first option is <u>sending operator to call the receiving operator.</u> This will be more efficient and less confusing.

Agreement on the check

I have noticed some confusion and a lot of time needlessly wasted when the receiving operator does not agree with the check. I hear, "please read the text again". Sometimes that works, but many times it does not. The receiving operator may hear it the same way the second time, but still not agree. And then I hear, "please read it again". The second time usually does not work any better than the first. Everything that follows that is usually confusing and nonproductive with everyone ready to throw up their hands. So after much time is wasted, the problem still exists and doubling starts and the situation deteriorates.

Sometimes the word or words missed are in the first line, and we have wasted time reading the entire text.

What can we do to remedy this? I learned a very good procedure from an old traffic handler who is now a silent key. When the check does not agree, the sending operator will send the text, <u>5 groups at a time</u>, at reading speed, and then pause. If the receiving operator does not find a mistake in the first 5 groups, he/she will say, "go ahead". The sending operator will then send the next 5 groups. The process will continue, 5 groups at a time, until the error is found. (Or until the sending operator discovers that he/she has read it incorrectly, or the receiving operator finds that he/she can't hear.) It really works! It saves a lot of time and confusion, and makes the net more professional and more efficient. Please use this procedure.

Review of the day

What is the response to "Break"? <u>Nothing</u>, silence, unless the receiving operator needs a fill.
What is the response to "Break", in book traffic at the end of the signature and at the end of each telephone number? <u>Nothing, unless the receiving operator needs a fill.</u>

What is the response to "end" or "end book"? <u>Roger</u> (and Roger only, nothing else).

Your teamwork and positive attitude are enabling us to be successful under very difficult conditions. Thank you.

From the ARRL NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines - Do what the trained receiving operator expects and confusion and errors will be minimized. 73

Dennis W8YS