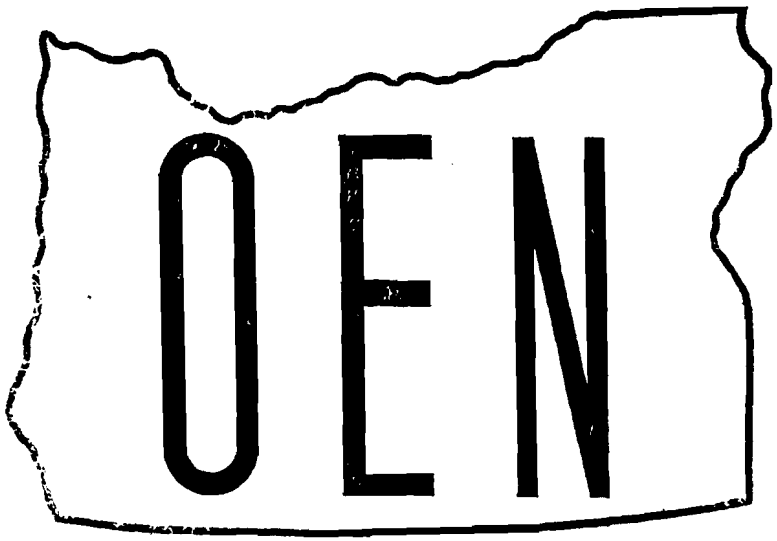
THE OREGON EMERGENCY NETWORK

Its History, Aims, Purposes and Policies



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THE OREGON EMERGENCY NETWORK

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He also serves who only stands and waits.

John Milton

THE OREGON EMERGENCY NET Is a function of the Emergency Corps, dedicated to public service, with member stations in the State of Oregon. This net meets daily at six and seven P.M. on 3840 kilocycles. This net handles into Oregon, out of Oregon and intra Oregon traffic. This is a directed net.

Preamble of the Oregon Emergency Network

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

On May the thirtieth, 1948, rising waters of the Columbia river broke the protecting dikes along its banks and the river's muddy waters swirled over the city of Vanport, a suburb of Portland. The disaster. one of the greatest in the area in modern times, resulted in millions of dollars in loss and damage to homes and business property.

Amateur radio assisted in every way it could, handling communications, patroling the river, working closely with police, military and service organizations, when the "break through" occurred.

For eight days emergency operations continued, twenty-four hours a day. During the first three days no traffic was handled except high priority emergency rescue, health, medical and housing.

The greatest share of these operations were handled on ten meters on such frequencies as were quickly available to most operators.

On the 75 meter phone band there were no scheduled nets or organized emergency frequencies. A tremendous back-log of routine health and welfare traffic had accumulated. Portland amateurs turning now, after the first three days of high priority emergency work, to the handling of some of the routine messages, found themselves deluged by the amount of traffic waiting to be moved into and out of the area. Phone stations picked any frenquency in the 75 meter phone band that seemed clear and announced they were ready for incoming messages. Much of their out-going traffic was very difficult to move due to scattered operations and insufficient and uncertain state-wide coverage.

The emergency operations had clearly demonstrated the need for an organized state-wide amateur emergency communications network and the subject of forming such a network was taken up by a committee of Portland amateurs, headed by the ARRL Emergency Coordinator of Multnomah county.

It was decided that there should be both code and phone sections to the net. Different segments of the 75 meter band were monitored by members of the committee, seeking the most desirable frequencies for the net operations.

The phone section of the band at that time was 3850 to 4000 kilocycles. For phone operation the frequency of 3865 kilocycles was chosen. 3600 kilocycles was to serve as the code frequency.

Operations were started on the phone section of the net the evening of December twentieth 1948, with W7GXO as net control. Sessions were held at seven, eight and nine o'clock each evening, Pacific Standard Time.

Check-ins for several days were from Portland stations only, but as the steady operations continued other localities began to request that their names be added to the roll call.

Early copies of the Oregon Netter, official publication of the Oregon Emergency Network, show the following figures indicating the rate of growth of the net: November 1951, 74 towns, 87 calls check-

ing in ten or more times, with 19 mobiles; January 1952, 89 towns, 55 calls; March 1953, 62 stations, 17 mobiles; March 1954, 111 stations and 29 mobiles; March 1955, 122 stations and 68 mobiles.

The first emergency handled by the net was on January 3, 1949, when a weak code station requested that a phone call be made to a veterinarian in Bend to attend a sick cow. The call was handled and the cow recovered. The calls of the stations performing this service have been lost.

On December 13, 1949, the net was requested to assist in the search for Ruth Aberle, age 15, who had become lost from her party while looking for Christmas trees in a mountainous area near Kelso, Washington. The net cooperated with the Cowlitz County Sheriff's office, Washington State Patrol and Portland City Police in the search and Ruth was found two days later in good condition.

In the same year, on Christmas day, two small boys became lost in the Glendale, Oregon area and the net was alerted to assist the searchers with communications. However, the boys were found before large search groups were formed and the search was terminated.

On January 10, 1950, a severe storm struck the Coos Bay area, which developed into a bad blizzard over Northern California with ice storms along the Northern Oregon coast. This emergency continued through January fifteenth and traffic was handled for the police, railroad and trucking and insurance agencies.

October 26, 1950, a call for assistance was received from Crescent City, California for the net to help in maintaining communications during a heavy wind storm. The emergency continued for three days, during which time communication was established with the Coast Guard to assist a cargo vessel being driven ashore by wind and high seas.

During September of 1951, several stations were called to assist State Forest officials in establishing communications with a party of fire fighters in the Tillamook area.

December 1951 saw the beginning of one of the worst wind storms in Coos Bay history. During the operation a "misplaced" railroad train was located by an amateur mobile and communications furnished for train movements. Agencies served were telephone and telegraph, transportation companies, police, government and private agencies.

On December 19, 1951, the OEN and the Pendleton Radio Club cooperated in a search for a lost airplane in the Blue Mountains. The wreck was located on the morning of the twenty-first and an amateur portable radio station accompanied the Air Force in recovery of the bodies.

Klamath Falls net members were asked to assist with communications on December 7, 1952, with snow bound trains in the Northern California area. A party of amateurs proceeded by car, assisted by highway department snow plows, to Grass Lake and were

helpful in relieving the situation by supplying much needed communications.

During January 1953, Gold Beach and adjacent coastal areas were paralyzed by severe wind and rain storms. All commercial wire facilities failed and all highways in the area were closed. Buses and trucks were stranded and a large number of transients filled the town. This storm also included the Coos Bay and North Bend area and extended inland to the Umpqua and Rogue River valleys. The net was called to assist and much traffic was handled.

January 25, 1954, several members of the net were called to assist in transmitting news reports for the press and radio stations in Portland, to stations in Coos Bay and North Bend, due to phone lines being out in the mountains. Reporters were sent to the stations in Portland and tape machines were used for reception at Coos Bay.

During the period of September fourth to the twelfth, 1955, Southern Oregon and Northern California was plagued by numerous forest fires. Forest Service officials called on mobiles in the Medford and Ashland areas to assist in communications. The net members helped by relaying and guarding the frequency.

In December of 1955, Southern Oregon and Northern California were overwhelmed by disastrous floods, with many lives lost and a tremendous amount of property damage. For several days the net was constantly in session and a great amount of emergency, health and welfare traffic was handled. During this emergency a landslide destroyed a home in the Remote, Oregon area and several lives were lost. Amateur radio mobiles led a caravan to the scene of the accident, keeping the rescue group in touch with outside rescue agencies. A sick child was flown from Gold Beach to a Eugene hospital by Mercy Flights, assisted by the OEN, and further assistance was given to government helicopters performing search and rescue work in the Coquille and Rogue River valleys.

At the OEN meeting at the Eugene convention in 1952, the net manager was authorized to appoint a Board of Directors to establish OEN policies. After much consideration, the net manager appointed seven men, to be known as the Planning Committee. The original committee was composed of W7s HDN, FRT, LVN, GNJ, HAZ, FKA and KTG. Since that time W7s FRT, LVN, HAZ and KTG have been replaced by W7s FY, MQ, FTA and SBS, with W7GNJ acting as temporary net manager.

The original planning committee was formed by the net manager at the suggestion of a majority of the net members after several months of discussions, starting in September of 1951.

Considerable dissension appeared at the Eugene convention in 1952, in regard to the net being "top heavy", resulting in long waits by members to get checked in and handle their traffic and contacts. It was pointed out that a considerable amount of traffic was routed through the net between Washington and California. These traffic movements were using too much of the net's allotted time. Several

stations from Washington, Oregon and California agreed to form a net to handle this traffic. As a result the planning committee's first action was to limit membership and traffic to Oregon, as had been requested at the convention.

The members of the planning committee held a meeting at Salem, in August 1952, and it was decided that net members must be residents of the State of Oregon, and be active in the net. Traffic to be handled would be only that which was coming into the State of Oregon, originating within the state, and going out, or for delivery within the state after having originated there. The net manager was granted permission by the planning committee to give opinions and make rulings of a temporary nature, and that net controls must be Oregon stations, but alternate net controls may be out of state stations, if reception conditions make it necessary.

Members of the net decided to publish the "Oregon Netter", as the official publication of the Oregon Emergency Network, in 1949, and in December of that year the first issue was printed by W7GXO, assisted by W7FY. W7BDN assumed the duties of net manager and publisher of the Netter in March of 1951 and it was decided to charge a voluntary subscription fee of one dollar a year to meet publishing and mailing costs.

After the first few months of operations by the OEN, on 3865 kilocycles, interference from an Arizona net became a serious threat to the net's continued operations. Since the beginning of operations on 3865 kilocycles, the phone band had been extended to 3800 kilocycles. Accordingly, after study and discussion, operations were shifted to 3840 kilocycles on April 2, 1951.

In June of 1952, W7GNJ replaced W7BDN as net manager and publisher and editor of the Netter.

In August 1955, W7BLN consented to accept the appointment as net manager, with W7GNJ retaining the secretary-treasurer duties of the net, including publication of the Netter. W7BLN continued as net manager until July of 1956 and on his resignation, W7-GNJ temporarily assumed the duties of net manager until a new net manager could be appointed.

The descriptions of the several emergency operations listed here have been brief, containing only the bare essentials. Many of the operations involved hundreds of man hours of net members' operating time and many personal sacrifices. To recount in detail the emergencies in which the net and its members have served, would require many times the space devoted to this booklet.

In the ten years of operation of the Oregon Emergency Net, it has faithfully attempted to practice and maintain the original objectives for which it was established, often under extremely adverse conditions. The many occasions in which the net has served in the public need in the past, is now history, but it shall continue to drill nightly, maintaining a large body of experienced operators who on short notice can provide emergency communications covering the State of Oregon.

Probably the foremost reason that the Oregon Emergency Net has continued to operate each night of the year, for many years, has been the fact that there are continually new members taking the place of those that drop out. The percentage of net members who have been consistently active over a period of many years, is not large. Because of this turnover, much of the past history and policies of the OEN are unknown to present net members. The word "history" here refers to the operating procedures and policies, and not to reasons why the net came into being. Because of this mentioned "turnover" of net members, it is the purpose of this booklet to review some of the net policies and why they were adopted. It will also be noted that in some cases, suggestions on operating procedures have been tested on a trial basis, found to be lacking and dropped.

Originally it was felt by those that guided the OEN that "the less the rules the better", and this in itself was considered a policy. However, as the OEN continued to grow, and check-ins became greater, it was realized that more rules of guidance would be necessary. The word "policy" is generally used in reference to OEN operations, rather than rules. This is because each night of operation and every net control can be confronted with situations that are different, even though each net session may be considered as another routine operation. Therefore, even though policies have been adopted they have always remained flexible and each individual net control has been allowed to exercise his own best judgement to suit circumstances.

Heretofore, there has been no book of policies or records that can be referred to as a guide when searching for a complete listing, of all the policies of the OEN since its inception.

Methods of OEN operations have come about in one of the following four manners: By discussion and adoption in open meetings, of OEN members, the net manager and planning committee, at state conventions; by action of regular, steady, net controls, planning committee and net manager, at state conventions; by OEN Sunday business meetings, over the air; or by net members, net manager and planning committee at OEN picnics.

Net members have always been invited to submit suggestions to the planning committee, the net manager or during Sunday business meetings.

Obviously it would be beyond the scope of this booklet to attempt a review of every suggestion on operating procedure and net policy that has been presented, whether adopted or not, but an attempt will be made to review and discuss those phases of operations which have become standard net practice, throughout the years.

INITIAL ORGANIZATION

How the OEN came into existence has been well covered in another portion of this booklet and will be discussed here only as a link with the forming of an organization to perform in case of communication emergencies.

After the Vanport flood, some of those that took part in the emergency operations strongly felt the need for an organized group, on a state-wide basis, that could operate on a moment's notice. Prime consideration was given to a plan that would provide stations from every section of the state, to meet nightly in what actually would amount to an emergency drill. Although it was considered quite am-

bitious and highly unlikely, the hope was that every major town in the State of Oregon could be represented by an amateur station.

In order for any net to survive any length of time, it must have something of interest to hold its members together night after night. Traffic nets continue to operate year after year because traffic handlers are usually an enthusiastic group, but they number only a small percentage of total operators. Rag-chewing nets are organized for leisurely visits with old and new friends, their membership is usually small and their operations fluid and unscheduled. Military affiliate nets are essentially traffic nets. Almost all other nets fall into the above categories.

With considerable foresight the originators of the OEN borrowed the best features from all these nets and incorporated their best points into the OEN. What began as a group, meeting each evening on the same frequency, drilling and planning for an emergency net for the Portland area, to visit or pass an occasional piece of traffic, grew into the OEN as we know it today.

NET CONTROLS AND NET CONTROL PROCEDURE

Although it is the purpose of this booklet to discuss the operational policies of the OEN, it would be virtually impossible to provide an answer to every problem requiring a decision which might confront a net control. From years of operation, a system has been devised which seems to most nearly satisfy the needs of keeping a large group of operators continually active and prepared to serve in the public need. At the same time, policies shaping this objective have appeared to provide the most service to the most net members. The sequence of the method of operation used by the net controls, from reading the preamble, through the roll call and handling of business, to the net's closing, are evident each night the net operates, and needs little explanation here. Some of the reasons for adopting those methods will now be discussed.

More often than not, in a group rag chew, or in passing messages, some one of those stations will find himself relaying for the stations unable to hear each other. The larger the group, the more need for a control station to direct transmissions. The OEN was no exception and it was soon accepted policy for one station to act as net control. As membership grew, stations were checking in from Washington, throughout Oregon and Northern California. Net controls were chosen because of power and coverage, better than average receiving conditions, operating experience and belief in OEN ideas. During this time, three or four net controls handled the net, taking turns and serving two, and sometimes three times a week. It may surprise some to know that several efficient net controls in the State of Washington were quite active at that time.

With the abolishment of the class "A" license and restricted use of certain phone bands, the influx to 75 meter phone was tremendous. The OEN began to grow in membership far surpassing anything it had known previously. Interference became a new threat to efficient operation. Nightly roll calls had already been reduced from three to two each evening, and an attempt was being made to handle the business without operators having to sacrifice many hours every night from other interests. Traffic moved into the net as never before. Attempts were made to handle all traffic listed, coming into,

out of, and through Oregon. Military nets formed and a new source of traffic movement added a share to the OEN. It was not unusual for several stations to list six or more pieces of traffic during any one session. Time became the main factor and very often listed contacts found themselves being pushed farther down in the time table. Traffic men argued that the net must have traffic to keep it alive. Few denied this, as it had often been agreed that a certain amount of traffic provided material for nightly drilling procedures. But now the member who listed a contact with another station rightly contended that his contact, to him, was just as important as a piece of routine traffic. The statement was being continually heard that the OEN was becoming a traffic net and that its original purpose was being destroyed. Included in the arguments was the suggestion that the net was trying to cover too much territory, that it was unwieldy, that it should be strictly composed of Oregon members and that Washington stations should not be allowed to act as net controls of an Oregon net. Many heated and spirited discussions took place and the crux of the situation was resolved at an open meeting at a state convention. From all of this came about the greatest reorganization in OEN history. Some feelings were hurt and almost everyone felt that the OEN had suffered to some extent in its phases of operations. It was decided: that only Oregon operators could be regular net members, only Oregon stations could serve as regular net controls, that traffic and contacts would be treated equal in handling by their order of listings and that through-state traffic would be handled only when all other business had been completed and in the remaining time, before next roll call.

These decisions were not entirely satisfactory to any group, whether they be traffic handlers, rag-chewers or the occasional stations 'dropping in' to look for a friend. Yet, nearly everyone agreed something had to be done. Predictions came from all quarters that the OEN, as such, would soon die.

Washington towns were removed from the roll call and Washington stations gave up their net control nights to Oregon stations. Some traffic interested operators moved to other nets. A few disgruntled rag-chewers reluctantly moved to other frequencies. Some made an issue of moving from their accustomed spot or moved only enough to make themselves "legal". The net lost some old, reliable and experienced friends.

Messages still were moving into and out of Oregon and someone had to move that traffic. Net members now picked up and moved more of the traffic to other nets. A few of the faithful from Washington and California still checked in after the Oregon roll call to aid in any way they could, in traffic movements.

After much discussion and some dissension, these liaison, or jump stations, were accorded certain privileges. According to conditions present at the time, net controls would allow jump-stations to list or move off with other stations out of order, so they could meet other net commitments. It was felt that this was a help to the net at large, saved time and maintained traffic outlets. Two such jump-stations appear adequate to serve the net's needs.

It became policy to handle ordinary contacts, messages and traffic in their order of listing. Through traffic was defined as traf-

fic originating outside the state of Oregon, and passing through the state for delivery elsewhere. Emergency traffic or contacts would always take precedence over other types, with priority types coming second.

It has no doubt become apparent to anyone associated with the net for any length of time, that the efficiency and success of each net session is directly attributable to the net control. His job is not an easy one and each year of the net operations has seen that task become more difficult. Stations participating in the net functions have shown a steady growth, as has the general interference. Net controls have been forced to find ways and means of handling this additional load in the time allocated.

A few years ago the roll call and listings of net business was accomplished in about fifteen minutes. Now it is not unusual for it to consume as much as thirty to forty-five minutes, or more, of the first hour of net time. This leaves little time to complete the net's business, as listed, before beginning of the seven o'clock roll call. Because of this, net controls have constantly experimented with many ideas and suggestions to speed up the roll call.

The two phases of net operations, during the roll call, which are most wasteful of net time are stations which require relays and double transmissions during check-in or when relaying.

One method used in the past, which worked with better than average success, was that the control station, at beginning of net, appointed one or two stations to act as relay stations. These were chosen by experience, which had proven the appointed stations to have excellent receiving conditions and locations. The rest of the net members were asked not to relay, until relays at large were requested. This type of operation eliminated, to a great degree, double transmissions when relaying. The degree of success which it provides depends entirely on the alertness of the appointed relay stations. They must follow the check-in as closely as the net control station, so they will be able to transmit instantly when so requested by the net control.

Another system tried was to insert, at regular intervals in the net roster, "relay points". To accomplish this, the net control would recognize no "breaks" for relaying missed stations until called for at the several relay points and then picking them up all at one time. It was tried on a trial basis for thirty days and, after discussion by the net manager, planning committee and net controls, abandoned. The main objection being that it consumed as much time as it saved and did little to eliminate double transmissions during the relay period. Also there was some abuse of the "channel open for relay" invitation by stations checking in late and out of order.

Another policy which can be quite beneficial and has been used to some degree for years, has been for the net member who hears a missed station, to hold his relay until his town is called and then check in the missed station with his own. The only problem here might be how well the relaying station copied the missed station and whether or not the missed station might have had something to list which required immediate attention.

The number of stations using the OEN, its number of check-ins, and business handled, are closely associated with propagation conditions existing on the higher frequency bands and the season of

the year. The check-in has reached peaks of around two hundred and fifty stations during the two roll calls. To call the roll, check in that many stations and handle the business, can mean that full utilization of every second of net time must be accomplished. Many discussions have been held and methods suggested to streamline the roll call. They have progressed to the point where figures have been submitted showing how, during the course of the roll call, a certain number of seconds could be saved by eliminating a "thank you" or a "good evening".

Every control station strives to conduct as much business with the best efficiency possible in the smallest amount of time, yet somewhere there must be a dividing line. The net is composed of a large group of friendly operators, almost entirely within the state of Oregon, many of whom have been meeting on the same frequency, night after night, for years.

The majority of the net members have felt that the net could continue to operate with friendliness and efficiency without becoming a cold, impersonal and automatic type of military operation.

As mentioned previously, original net controls were chosen because of transmitter coverage, better than average receiving ability, operating experience and a background of the aims and purposes of the net. These are recognized to be ideal requirements for good net control material. However, the net manager and planning committee realize that in a net which operates every day of the year a good many different net members must serve as net controls. Furthermore, they realize that each operator who acts as net control may not be fortunate enough to have all the above listed requirements. It does not necessarily follow, then, that a given station will not be a good net control unless he fills every requirement. He may excel in one requirement enough to make up for inadequacy in another phase of net control duties.

Several years ago the planning committee decided that, in so far as possible, they hoped that each regular member of the net could serve as net control, at least once.

The net manager and regular net controls often ask certain stations to act as temporary net controls during the first roll call. Generally the stations requested have previously served as net control on the second roll call. The net controls and net manager are qualified to make these requests, because of close observations of the net's operations. These "fill in" net controls may become alternates and very often eventually find themselves becoming regular net controls. It is not uncommon for net controls to ask for volunteers to take the second roll call. Considering the increase of net activities that have taken place, making it more difficult to "break in" as net control, it has become popular for beginners to make their start by volunteering for the not-so-busy second session. If you feel you have enough of the discussed requirements you are invited to volunteer. You alone must be the judge of whether or not you feel you can do a reasonably good job. You can always rely on full help and cooperation of more experienced net members. Do not allow the fact that you may be nervous and make errors to influence your decision, as only experience will remove these operating difficulties.

Even though the OEN is an organized net, operating primarily

as an emergency net in the public need and has, by far, the largest representation of any net in the state of Oregon, the FCC does not grant them any special privileges regarding frequencies. When interference from other stations occur on the net frequency, net controls will do well to remember this fact. Every effort should be made to continue operations without asking the interfering station to move. If operations are impossible, then net control should stop the net and he, or someone he may designate, request the interfering station or stations to move frequency. By using courtesy and diplomacy the request will be effective in nearly all cases, and by such actions the net will have actually gained in good will toward its operations.

Some discussion has taken place in the past concerning net controls moving stations off frequency to conduct their business and the following policy was adopted. Net controls will endeavor to handle all business possible on the net frequency. He may request stations to move off when it is apparent the transmissions will be lengthy and delay net operations, but it should always be accomplished with their permission. By experience, he may know certain stations prefer, and expect to move, and he may direct them to do so without permission. Many stations prefer not to move and control stations should respect that wish.

It often happens that listings will be such that two or more stations will want to contact a single station. If net control feels it will speed net operations he may direct all stations concerned in the multiple listings to complete their transmissions in one sequence, even though it means handling some of the listings out of order.

Phone patch contacts should be considered one exception in handling business on the net frequency. They usually are personal in nature and can be lengthy and hard to control. Control stations will normally request they be handled off frequency.

The objective of each net control is to start the net precisely at six o'clock and end that session at seven o'clock. Many times the press of listed business makes this impossible, without leaving contacts or messages unhandled. It then becomes the net control's responsibility to decide whether he should stop proceedings at seven o'clock and request that unfinished business be relisted on the second roll call, or continue the session and attempt to complete the listings.

Accordingly it was decided that the policy would be for a net control to finish the listings of the first roll call before he starts the second roll call. An exception within the policy would be that, when it is apparent to the net control that he will "run" late, as much as fifteen or twenty minutes, he should end the first roll call as near to seven o'clock as possible and request that unfinished business be relisted. In any case, when the first roll call runs past seven o'clock, the net control should stop all business and open channel for emergency or priority traffic, or contacts, before continuing on with the regular business.

After the net control has completed the entire roll call, he reads all the listings back to the net and asks if there are any corrections. This serves two purposes: First, it assures both the control station and the listing stations that all listings are complete and correct before traffic and contact movements start; secondly it provides the net mem-

ber who was not present through the entire roll call, the information whether or not anything was listed for him or his town.

When a net member qualifies as a steady net control, it is assumed that he has a transmitter and receiver which can be "set," with close tolerance to the net frequency. It is also assumed that he has adaquate operating experience to determine, with a fair degree of accuracy the quality of received signals. In the interests of better net operation and general amateur pactice, the net control should inform the net members of off-frequency operations and poor quality signals and they in turn should appreciate the effort and cooperate.

Net controls must keep a complete accounting of all check-ins and business handled on each session of the net. This record of the roll call serves three purposes. It provides the information necessary for the control station to direct the net, furnishes a copy of the net's business to the net manager for keeping net statistics and provides a station log for the control station, of his transmissions. In order that there be some uniformity in the net control roll call log sheets, submitted to the net manager by the net controls, for computing net statistics, a typical example is shown on the following page. If the log sheets follow the same general pattern as shown, the net manager's tasks of keeping the net's records will be simplified.

Each individual net control may have certain abbreviations for towns or listings with which he is familiar or methods for determining between contacts and traffic which he is accustomed to using and if such is the case he is privilaged to continue their use. To those net controls who are new or serve only occasionally, the example will help to act as a guide in preparing their reports.

For the most part the log sheet is self explanatory. It is helpful if the net control will total the contacts, traffic and check-ins as shown. If he takes both roll calls, he may show a summary of totals for both net sessions.

As each listed contact or piece of traffic is completed, it is circled and a small "t" over the listing may differentiate between contact and traffic. If, when handling traffic, one or more relays are necessary the net control may take credit for "two handled" as the case may be and so indicate by placing the proper numeral with the listing. Net controls should take credit for contacts and traffic only if they are handled or arranged for after the net has been opened in regular session. A small "o" or the actual time following the call letters of the station checking in might indicate that the operator is 'out immediately" or when he intends to actually leave the net.

A dash appearing before a call indicates that the call is a K7. This is necessary because K7 calls now being issued make it possible for two calls to be the same except for prefix. A call which has been underlined is one that has been checked in by another operator and is present at the time but has not actually transmitted and has been explained under, ROLL CALL CHECK-IN PROCEDURES.

Mail your reports promptly to the net manager as he totals the net's statistics each day and your promptness will help him keep his work and net records current.

Many other minor policies effecting net control procedure have been adopted, for regular and general usage, and will be mentioned in conjunction with the following phases of net operation.

OEN Tue Feb 11th 1800 Roll W7FTA/NC

6SIY/E
BXU/E
RWQ/E
RVN/M
AEF/M
EOS/M
ABR/M
TMF/M
AGS/M
AZD/M
UIU/M
TGR/M
IRY/M
CRN/M — Med
NFZ/M
CUS/M
YSD/M
FKP/M
SCY/M
CUW
RAX — SBS off
MA
LZG
ULR
JAB
EUC
THX
FBM
EZH
OKM
GWC
HJU
GNJ
UFR
ETM
SY
ZLT

ESI
FKC
GZW
UGW
BOE
GUD — QST
EJ — 6:30
ZHK
VLS
UIH
QYS — ZLT / Kimberly T
REG
JCL
IGY
— ADJ — VCM
VCM
VLA
DVL/7
— AON
APF — Sweat Home / Medford
EXB
BIO
JEC
GGL
EOT
DEM
ZQM
DXY — o
CPV — o
GCK
FTA
LBA
UYR
— AJB
AIH
TAZ
ZZY — MEd
YIL
PRC — GNJ — JMW
CAI
VPH
CSM

GNC
TOV
SMR
VOR — o
UDZ
AMF
ODG
WBS
HIK — Sy off
HDN
ENU — eugene 2T — west T — APF
FSU
CGS
LYY
EUG
DFV
SGV — UDZ
WNW
ZHX — BWO
GDL
BWO
RHX — PFA
HAW
SPA
EOS
SBS
QCL
TMF
DMR — QLA
HRG
DIC
6ABZ
— LUVC
BDS — DVL
SF — EXB — SPB
LRMM — BDS

TOTALS

Traffic - 4
Contacts - 14
Check-in - 116

THE NET PREAMBLE

Years ago, it was felt that each session of the net should be preceded by a short statement of the net's aims and purposes. This gives new operators and those unfamiliar with OEN procedure, a picture of the services rendered. Occasionally, suggestions have been offered to improve the preamble but it has remained, for the most part, as adopted several years ago. Even though some changes have come about in the net's methods of operation, its purposes still remain the same. Those that have been, and are, net controls, the planning committee and net manager, have attached enough importance to the reading of the preamble to search for plans to keep its reading from being covered by tuning-up stations.

A great many net members start listening to the net frequency before net takes up. Very often there is considerable activity on the frequency, up until the time for net control to start the net. Each night there will be net members who need a phone call, or a quick word, with another station before net, because he is unable to stay through the roll call. He knows the station is likely to be listening a few minutes before net's opening. This last flurry of business can prevent tune-up until the very minute net opens and results in the preamble getting covered by hetrodynes. Repeated efforts to get members to tune a few kilocycles off frequency and then move-on, or use a dummy antenna, have been fruitless. It seemed then a good idea to invite tuning-up for about a half minute, before reading the preamble. This half minute tuning period stretched into minutes, even before tune-up invitation, and the frequency became an impossible mass of hetrodynes. It was a poor display of operating courtesy and efficiency to precede a net operation. The regular net controls, planning committee and net manager decided to drop the tune-up invitation and so notified other net controls and members. Every net member is urged not to tune-up after net control has opened the net.

EMERGENCY POWERED TRANSMITTERS

The OEN being an emergency net, recognizes emergency powered transmitters as being extremely valuable in emergency work when commercial power fails. Such transmitters often are low power and may be battery operated. They are afforded the privilege of first check-ins on the roll call and their business is handled immediately.

MOBILE CHECK-IN AND OPERATIONS

Everyone is aware of how popular mobile operation has become in the last few years. Their value to the net is probably even greater than the emergency powered station due to their mobility. Until recent years, mobiles were called and checked-in on a state-wide basis. As their numbers increased, along with general interference and double transmissions, it became apparent some method must be devised to speed-up the check-in. Several methods were tried. One system was to call mobiles in an alphabetical manner. For example, mobiles with calls beginning with 'A' to 'D', then 'E' through 'H' and so on through the alphabet. Another was to call mobiles by call, using check-in records, and calling those who were likely to be checking in most consistantly first, then picking up the rest. Another plan was to divide the state into equal sections. This last plan made no allowance for the areas which had the heaviest number of check-ins. An improve-

ment to this last plan was a division of the state into areas. This made it possible to control the check-in, by making areas having large mobile representation smaller. Each area was bounded by imaginary lines determined geographically. The areas were then called in a definite pattern around the state, clockwise. This plan has been the most successful and has continued as net policy.

According to the individual net control, mobile contacts are handled as soon as listed, at the end of an area call-up, or at the end of the total mobile call-up. Any mobile may check in at anytime throughout the roll call or during the business session. Stations with replies or unfinished business for mobiles may expect to complete their contacts immediately by "breaking" net control with their call. The net member who checks in, mobile, from his driveway and again from his fixed station is within his rights. The same thing applies to owners of emergency powered equipment. Such operation is considered by the net as a test of emergency equipment. Aeronautical mobile operations fit into the same pattern as regular mobiles. Mobiles with fixed antennas are considered portables and may check in as emergency equipment.

THE REGULAR ROLL CALL

The method of checking in stations on the regular roll call has probably been cause for more discussion than any other phase of OEN operations. A great many times the question has been asked: "Why not check-in stations by call, instead of towns?" The answer was, and still is, because the OEN wants the greatest coverage throughout the state of Oregon possible, and a check-in by towns, instead of calls, makes that objective easier to obtain. In other words when your town is called, it is an open invitation to take part in the net activities and you atomatically become a part of the net's functions, by your check-in. No requests or application of any kind are necessary. If your town is not already represented on the roll call, you may check-in on "channel open for late check-ins," and advise the net control of your call and location. It will be necessary to do this enough times that each net control will become familiar with your location and call. When you have checked-in seven or eight times in this manner, each of the various net controls will have added your town to their roll call roster.

When there is more than one station in a town checking-in, it has become the custom for the station who has been an OEN member the longest to check-in first and the rest to follow in that same order, although this is not necessarily a net policy.

From stations whose towns are alphabetically toward the end of the roster has come the suggestion that the roll be called alternatingly from A to Z and Z to A. For example, for a week net controls would call towns beginning with "A" and on through the alphabet, then reverse the call-up by calling through the alphabet from "Z" or what would be the last alphabetically listed town. This seemed fair and on at least two occasions it was discussed by net members and actually tried for a period of time. It was found for the most part, that those stations toward the end of the roster preferred the present system because it gave them more time to prepare for the check-in and that they could gauge their time of check-in by the clock, with

fair accuracy, even though they might not be home or listening to a receiver. This last was an objection from many members who believed a revolving roll call would lead to confusion and stations missing the check-in.

In an attempt to keep the rosters of the net controls uniform, the planning committee has decided that checking-in stations should show some minimum amount of activity to keep their towns on the roll call roster. When a town is represented by only one station and that station fails to check-in at least ten times during thirty days and offers no particular explanation, he may be removed from the roster by net controls. This helps to eliminate "dead" towns that are no longer active and net controls may apply the time saved to new or more active towns or in the handling of net business. Statistics provided in each monthly Netter will help to provide the net controls with information to keep their rosters up to date. When periods of forced inactivity prevent a station from checking in, and he is the only station from his town, he should so inform net controls and estimate when he will again be active. Net controls will not remove the town from the roster but merely skip it for the period of inactivity, as they call the roll. Net members who are operating portable temporarily, as on vacation, may check-in on the call-up of the town of their regular fixed location. Regular net members who have moved to a different town, and that town is not on the roll call, may break-in at the proper alphabetical point of his town, or check-in on late check-in, requesting the several net controls to insert the new town in the net roster. There is no limit to the number of stations that may check-in from one town.

Although the OEN is a phone net, code stations will always be recognized. However it should be remembered by code and single side band stations that the net control has little time to adjust his receiver to a mode of operation different from that used by the majority of net members and such stations should temper the amount of their activities on the net, until they can operate with conventional amplitude modulation.

It sometimes happens that newcomers to the net who live adjacent to a town already on the roll call, request their town be added to the net roster, rather than check-in on a nearby town already being called. It may be that the new town does not add to the net's coverage but does add to the load each net control must carry. Therefore, those making such requests should exercise good judgment to determine if the request is to the advantage of the net at large. Consideration should be given to the following: Does adequate and efficient toll-free telephone service exist between the two communities? Is electrical service dependable? Do roads and highways provide dependable transportation in all types of weather? Are there natural geographical boundaries which in times of emergency could make communications and travel difficult? An example of which would be, to mention a few, rivers and lakes with their associated bridges, ferry services, high mountains or deep canyons with possible bad slide areas. Another factor could be the number of check-ins presently being received from the nearby town already on the net roll call roster. Such an example would be the Portland area with its large net representa-

tion. Suburban towns in the Portland area help to break up and divide the large check-in from the city itself.

The OEN has not always started its first roll call at six o'clock. For several years it was OEN policy to begin the first roll at seven o'clock. During summer months the first call-up was shifted to six o'clock, in order to complete business earlier and thereby allow net members more time for outside activities during the longer summer evenings.

With the advent of fall and shorter days, the time of first roll call was moved back to seven o'clock.

About four or five years ago a period of extremely poor propagation conditions became evident, by long skip and partial to total fade-out of reception between Oregon stations. This skip effect would begin about six-thirty to seven-thirty and progress to a complete fade-out, of 'local stations.' These poor conditions continued with more or less severity during winter, spring and fall months for over two years. Consequently, many times, net controls found themselves unable to hear only the Oregon stations located the greatest distance across the state from them. Quite often the skip would 'lengthen' to a point where only California and Washington stations would be readable. Net controls would then request an out-of-state station to act as alternate net control, to finish calling the roll or direct the business.

During these years of difficult operating conditions, the shift of time of the first roll call during summer months, from six o'clock back to seven o'clock, was not made. This gave more time to complete as much of the net's business as possible, before the evening skip 'set in.' When operating conditions returned to normal, a poll of the net was taken and it was decided to keep the first roll call at six o'clock, both summer and winter.

ROLL CALL CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Many pages of accepted policies and instructions could be written for net control guidance to formulate a smooth and efficient operating net, but they would be meaningless unless the other half of the team contribute their share. That other half of the team is composed of you, each individual member of the net, who make up its membership.

From the many reports collected over the years of operation of the OEN, it is evident that there is a surprisingly large number of people, who listen to the nightly net proceedings, who are not net members.

Many different reasons make this fact possible. Some feel their area is already well represented, some do not have enough time to devote to steady net activities, others are in the process of getting their license, some are just short wave listeners and some do not care for net operations. In any case, the important thing is that the net has many listeners.

The opinions of the operating procedures, of an individual amateur station and its operator, are a direct result of the amount of operating time that station spends on the air.

The same thing applies to net operations. It follows, therefore, that the net as a whole and each individual member should deem it a

privilege to do his share in establishing and maintaining a high degree of good operating practices and procedures.

A system of uniformity has been adopted and certain policies agreed upon as proper usage for checking into the net and conducting net business.

In the past, each station checking in stated the name of his town and his call, followed in many cases by such typical phrases as "I have one piece of traffic for Portland, one piece for Salem and wish to contact W7GNJ in Bend," or "One piece of traffic for W7MA and other than that I have nothing, I'm QRU." Partly to save time and partly because it was repititious, the repeating of the town's name was dropped.

Experience has shown that, in the case of the first example, it is a complete and positive check-in, to merely state, "I list one Portland, one Salem, and contact W7GNJ," or as in the second example, "I list one for W7MA," or the third could be, "With nothing," or better still, just the one word, "Nothing."

When you "list one' for a town or station, it has become policy to assume that the listing will be traffic or a message. By using the word "contact" in your listing, it implies just that, a contact, not traffic.

The use of code abbreviations and "Q" signals in phone work, has been discouraged many times in good operating procedures, by ARRL, by articles in the Netter and after general discussions by the net manager and planning committee.

Closely allied with "Q" signals is the use of phonetics. The tendency toward their misuse is growing. Phonetics were originated for but a single purpose, to serve as an auxiliary means of identifying letters when receiving conditions are difficult or the meaning unusual, or not clear. "Humorous" types of phonetics should not be used in lieu of your assigned call letters when engaging in net operations.

This is not to say that phonetics should not be used. On the contrary, they are an important aid to operating technics when used wisely and properly. It is net policy to use only the standard ARRL word list for radiotelephony during net sessions.

As stated in the preamble the OEN is a directed net and, as such, no station should transmit or "break" out of order without permission of the control station. Whether or not the net control will recognize a routine break out of order will depend on circumstances existing at that time. However, extenuating circumstances do arise and make "breaking in" necessary. Two short "breaks" with your carrier, without modulation is the accepted manner. A break of this kind is easily recognized by the net control even though the station may be weak and the frequency covered with considerable interference. Another advantage is that, even though the station "breaking" may be a strong one, his "break" seldom interfers with the readability of another station who may be copying. Three breaks repeated as often as necessary to get the net's attention, has been established as the emergency break and should not be used for any other purpose.

Net members who are present and check-in when their town is called are contributing their share toward making each session of the net a success. They should not be penalized by late stations checking

in out of order, delaying the net proceedings and complicating the duties of the net control.

If you are late, or for some reason have missed your check-in at its proper time, you should, in fairness and courtesy to other net members, wait until net control opens the channel for late check-ins. Even though there is a listing for you and you have not had an opportunity to check-in, net control will call and ascertain if you are on the freqeuncy when that listing is handled in its turn. These are and have been definite OEN policies for several years.

Each year has seen an increase in the mounting problem of general interference to net operations. Net controls and net members attempt to meet this difficulty by using better receivers and more selectivity.

It adds to the net control's work to continually "sweep" the frequency as he conducts the net in order to pick-up off-frequency stations which otherwise would be missed. Here again, each net member can contribute his share to over-all better net operation by making an extra effort to be directly on the net frequency.

Much time is wasted each session of the net, that could be put to better use, by needless call signing. The FCC is liberal in its rules concerning transmission of call signs and every effort should be made to take full advantage of the benefits of "fast break-in" type of transmissions when handling traffic or completing contacts.

Net controls will always attempt to be cooperative in helping stations arrange an off-frequency contact, out of order, when they have a valid and reasonable excuse for doing so, but it is the responsibility of net members to not abuse the privilege. When off-frequency contacts are requested, it is the duty of the requesting station to be prepared to name a frequency, when directed to do so by the control station.

Occasionally it will happen that a net member is present and ready for check-in when his town is called and when he attempts to transmit his transmitter will fail. If it is possible, he then may call another station in his town by telephone and request that he be relayed into the net. Credit will be allowed for the missed check-in because the net member is still in contact with the net. Conversely, the member who asks another station to check him in and does not plan to be present during the net session, should not be allowed check-in credit. The station who "checks in and out immediately" should realize he is of little value to the net and make an effort to remain until the reading of the listings.

Every net control needs the help and cooperation of the net members in conducting the net and in "picking up" missed stations. The relay of a missed station can be doubly helpful if the relaying station "breaks" with his relay, at such a time that it does not interrupt the sequence of the control stations "call up."

For example: Net control has completed checking-in a town and then calls another. Immediately, as the control station removes his carrier, one or more stations put theirs on and say, "Relay, this is W7XYZ." The relay station or stations double with the stations from the town called for check-in and the net control receives nothing. The net control then must break his sequence, stop the net, sort out the

doubling relay stations, pick-up the missed station, recall the town and continue. Many time consuming, needless and double transmissions have taken place, which might have been avoided. The fact that you have heard a missed station indicates you are following the check-in closely and that you should have a reasonably accurate knowledge of when the check-in from a given town is completed. Insert your relay at that point, not after net control has called the next town.

Some stations associated with the OEN have more than one licensed operator, each of whom like to check into the net. To accomplish this, it has been the custom in the past for a net member to check into the net in the approved manner saying, "W7RHX and W7SPA, with nothing." The net control then entered each call on his net control log sheet and each person received check-in credit.

The FCC has indicated that this is not proper operating procedure.

The net control's log indicated that two operators were actually contacted in the transmission, but such was not the case. At the same time, the log of the station checking-in would show only one operator and one transmission. To clarify logging procedure and check-in credit, the following suggestion has been made:

The operator will check himself into the net in the usual manner, followed by the request for net control to check-in another call, or calls, or by stating that other calls are present and naming them. The net control station will then underline all additional calls, other than the initial check-in, showing that they are logged for check-in credit only and that contact with them was not actually made.

USE OF THE NET FREQUENCY

When a group as large as the membership of the OEN have been meeting nightly on the same frequency for years, that frequency becomes a popular meeting place, anytime, during the day or night. Because of this activity on and around the net frequency, many stations are listening who are not actually engaged in the business or conversations taking place. The net frequency has become Oregon's most monitored frequency.

When in need of assistance, it is usually possible to contact someone without undo delay and mobiles and stations with emergency traffic depend on this assistance. Groups operating on the net frequency, during the time when the net is not in session and directed, should be particularly alert to "breaks" from low power and mobile stations.

Mobiles with dynamotor operated power supplies cannot "break" as quickly as conventional stations and their carrier or voice break can easily be lost under more powerful "fast breaking" stations. It has happened in the past that mobiles have not been able to "break in" on a fast-breaking, rag chewing group to summon aid to an accident, call an ambulance or transmit emergency messages. The fact that stations are very often operating on the net frequency is beneficial, as it gives an immediate outlet for emergency use, but only if the emergency station can make himself heard. Remember to pause slightly between transmissions and give the low power station a chance to "break in." It may be an emergency.

The popularity of 3840 kilocycles extends to activities taking place at times other than during the evening net sessions. Many mobiles throughout the state have their antennas tuned on, or near, the net frequency, and do the most of their operating in that portion of the band. Very often communications of local, public service nature are furnished for some worthy public or private organization.

Some of these activities in which net members have taken place are: helping to organize and maintain order and line of march during parades, working with police to provide auxiliary patroling and communications on Hallowe'en, gathering early election reports for press and radio, providing communications for organizations conducting fund raising campaigns, making special occasions of handling messages for veteran's hospitals and many more.

When an individual amateur club or group makes a special request for the use of the net frequency, the members cooperate by aiding in any way they can with communications or by helping to keep the frequency clear or by themselves operating on other frequencies. These are just a few examples of the services rendered by the net and its members at times other than emergencies or during regular net sessions.

TRAFFIC AND THE OEN

Because the OEN is an emergency net and was instituted to assist in communications in times of emergency, each net member should know how to properly handle a message with speed and exactness. Under the stress, strain and excitement of handling traffic under emergency conditions, the chances for errors are multiplied. A garbled message can do great damage, convey wrong or incomplete information and reflect severely on amateur and net status. Make your first rule one to NEVER acknowledge receipt of a message unless you are absolutely sure you have the message complete and correct as sent.

Regardless of whether or not you are active in the handling of traffic, it is one part of the many phases of amateur radio in which you should be familiar, especially if you are a member of an organized net. After an emergency strikes is not the time to familiarize yourself with the necessary knowledge to quickly originate, relay or deliver a message.

The proper procedure for forming and transmitting a message has been developed for many years by the ARRL and traffic interested groups and has become standard amateur practice by traffic handlers throughout the amateur world. Many fine and interesting publications are obtainable which completely cover all phases of operations concerned with traffic handling and should prove particularly valuable to those new to traffic and net operations.

Traffic as handled by the OEN has been previously classified in this booklet. In addition, it has been determined, as policy of the net, that in originating the text of a message an effort shall be made to hold the word count to thirty or less.

Fair and hobby show traffic is not solicited by the net, as the messages usually are of little importance, normally being of a greeting nature and often such traffic is used merely as a means for bringing up traffic count.

Normally a net member will not ask a net control to "take and hold" messages or make telephone calls.

Care in not reading a message too fast, that you are transmitting for copy, can be a time saver, as it is better to talk slowly than have to repeat. As you transmit, visualize yourself as writing each group of words as you speak them and you will seldom exceed a normal copying speed. Take full advantage of "fast breaks" when confirming or getting fills. Don't expect the receiving station to do your work and fill in your message's heading. Be complete, give your call letters, the place of origin, the time and the date. Help him, he is the one doing you the favor. Use phonetics only when the meaning of the word or reception conditions demand it and don't say words twice unless you are so requested.

Members of military affiliate nets point out that it is not their policy to handle their administrative traffic on regular amateur system nets, except in cases of emergency. Therefore, such traffic will not normally be handled on the OEN. Military nets use different types of headings, different word count and time systems than normally used by amateur operators and such traffic will be "refiled" using conventional amateur system headings, message numbers and group count before it shall be offered for relay on amateur frequencies. Net members should refuse when called upon to handle messages from any military affiliate net which have not been "refiled" to conventional amateur form.

It has not been intended to imply that all the hints on traffic handling in the past paragraphs are net policy or that they cover all the points necessary to make a net member or the net a fast, accurate and efficient system for traffic movements, but they have been cited merely because they have most often been noted as the weak spots in the net's traffic handling or have tended to cause uncertainty or confusion.

NET AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Searching for a device to encourage reporting into a net and provide interest for those not actively engaged in the handling of traffic, Vic Gish, W7FIX, who publishes the Pacific Area News, the PANN, a monthly booklet about nets and traffic in general, originated the BRAT system in 1951. BRAT, short for BROTHERHOOD RADIO AMATEUR TRAFFICKERS, was adopted by the OEN in November of that year and W7BDN, net manager at that time, mailed out the first BRAT cards.

The BRAT system permits members of a net to earn and accumulate points, and works in the following manner: Reporting into the OEN every night for a month, solid, earns you 25 points. If you are a net control, you earn two points for each session. If you handle traffic, you are credited with 3 points for each 100 handled. Even though you might not check into the net solid for a month, you still may earn a BRAT card. Suppose you checked into the net 20 times in a month. At the rate of three quarters of a point for each night you check-in you would have earned 15 points. But, since 25 points is the minimum for which a card is issued, you would need at least 10 more points.

You might earn these 10 additional points by taking net control four nights, which gives you 8 points, and should you have had enough traffic for the three points, your total would be 15 plus 8 plus 3 or 26 points for the month.

Should you accumulate 300 points within 2 years, you are entitled to a Master Brat Certificate. If you earn 1,000 points within 4 years, you can then have a Grand Master Brat Certificate. As of November 1957, there have been 40 stations of the OEN earning Master Certificates, and out of 20 Grand Master Certificates issued in the Northwest, OEN has 11 of them as follows: W7AMF, W7APF, W7BA, W7BLN, W7FTA, W7GNJ, W7OEV, W7PRC, W7QKU, W7THX and W7UFR.

Brat cards are mailed each month to OEN members by the net manager and show the total number of points earned that month. Should you report into several nets, you may accumulate points from only one net of your choice.

As a higher award for those OEN members who have demonstrated exceptional attendance records, the OEN will present a gold cup to any member for checking-in four years solid. Two cups for this outstanding service have been presented to W7AMF and W7UFR.

An attractive certificate of membership in the OEN is available to those members who have checked into the net at least 10 times a month for three months. However, the certificate is not issued automaticaly and the net member must request the certificate from the net manager when he has met the necessary requirements.

THE OREGON NETTER

Since the year of 1949, The Oregon Emergency Network has published its own monthly pamphlet, "The Oregon Netter." The first editor of the Netter was W7GXO of Portland, assisted by W7FY, and early issues consisted of one sheet of net statistics, comprising check-in records, amount of traffic and contacts handled, a financial report and a brief resume of business discussions and decisions concerning the net's operation. It was decided at that time, that a charge of $1.00 a year for the Netter would be made to defray the printing and mailing expenses.

W7BDN relieved W7GXO of publishing the Netter in 1951 and also assumed the duties of net manager. He used the facilities of one of the Pendleton schools for printing the net's pamphlet.

It is interesting to note that during the month of March, 1951, 1335 stations checked into the net during 31 net sessions, for an average of 43 stations per night. There were 150 messages handled and 243 contacts, 58 stations checked-in 10 times or more and one station checked-in 18 times out of a possible 31 days.

During the month of October, 1957, 4,333 stations checked into the net during 31 net sessions, for an average of 139 stations per night. There were 190 messages handled and 519 contacts completed, 176 stations checked-in 10 times or more and 34 stations checked-in 31 times, in a possible 31 days.

In May, 1952, Carl Austin W7GNJ, Bend, became editor of the Netter, a position which he still holds today.

For about 8 months the Netter was printed by the staff of the radio department of Pacific Stationery Company of Portland, as a courtesy to the net, without printing charge. In February, 1953, the OEN treasury contained finances enough for the net to buy its own mimeograph and, by unanimous vote of the planning committee, the net manager was instructed to buy the necessary equipment. An electric typewriter was added to the equipment in 1955.

The Netter has kept pace with the growth of the net and from a single sheet the monthly editions now contain from ten to twelve pages. In order to handle this increased volume of publication, the net manager has asked permission to buy certain auxiliary equipment to speed up the printing. The planning committee has given their permission and the equipment has been purchased.

Circulation of the Netter now numbers about 230 copies monthly and approximately 45 man hours of preparation are necessary each month to compose, print, fold and mail each edition.

Those interested in the operation of the Oregon Emergency Network are enthusiastic in their support of the Netter and look forward to each new issue. In addition to complete net statistics of the check-in records and business conducted, the Netter contains interesting articles of operating and constructional value as well as columns devoted to activities of net members, jokes, letters from readers and a free advertising service to subscribers who wish to buy, sell or trade equipment.

Assisting the editor in preparation and distribution of the Netter are many of the Bend hams.

Address communications and contributions for the Netter to Editor Oregon Netter, Carl Austin W7GNJ, 1137 Federal, Bend, Oregon.

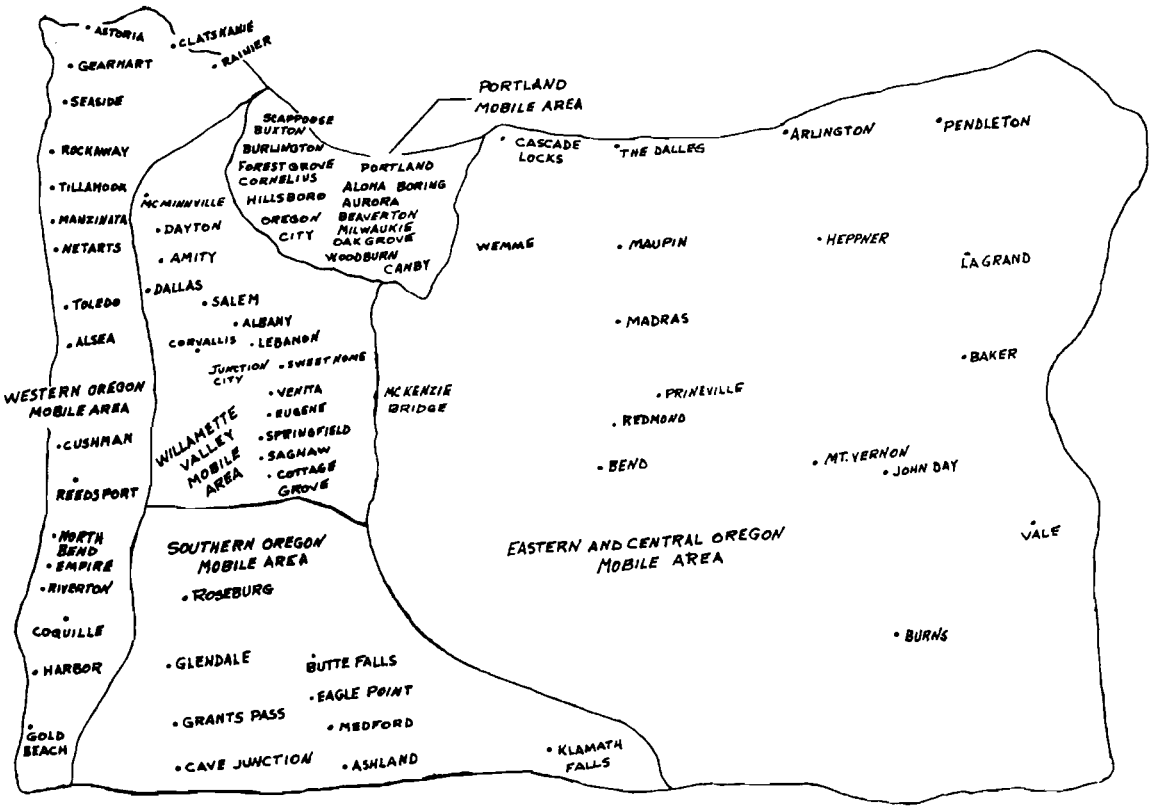
SIGNATURE

It is the sincere hope of the net manager and planning committee that this booklet will provide a source of information of the aims and purposes of the OEN, as well as the operational policies of the net.

It is felt that by being better informed, new members in the net will be better members and that older members will redouble their efforts to establish and maintain higher examples of good operating practices. These achievements in turn, will do much toward placing the OEN as a net even higher in its accomplishments in public service and as a source of pleasure and pride, in the operation of the net, by the many of its faithful members throughout the state of Oregon.

Gratitude is expressed to the net manager, W7GNJ, for his help in assembling material for this booklet, to the planning committee, especially W7HDN for his work on the historical section, to W7APF, for assistance on the traffic section and to the advertisers, whose excellent support and cooperation make the publication of this booklet possible.

W7FTA, Planning Committee Member, OEN



OREGON EMERGENCY NET COVERAGE AND MOBILE AREAS