Introduction

The Buckeye Net is the ARRL's Ohio Section traffic net and is a part of the ARRL’s National Traffic System (NTS). The net is designed to provide medium and long-haul communications on the behalf of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and their served agencies.

This guide is designed to provide a basic introduction to operating on a Buckeye Net session. It is intended for any station desiring to bring traffic to or take traffic from a session of the Buckeye Net. The procedures described herein are generic instructions and generally apply during day-to-day operation, drill or exercise operation, and emergency operation of the Buckeye Net.

Preparing For Net Operation

Stations desiring to operate on a Buckeye Net session should be familiar with this guide as a minimum requirement. In addition, familiarity with the Buckeye Net SOI and loading the Buckeye Net Macro Set into your fldigi program will make operation easier. Detailed information on the Buckeye Net and net operation is found in the Buckeye Net SOP. These materials, and other materials of interest, may be found on the Buckeye Net web site at http://buckeyenetweb.wordpress.com/. The materials will be found on the “Reference” page.

Locating The Net

A Buckeye Net session will generally operate on a specific frequency on a specific band and at a specific time.

It is possible that the designated primary net frequency will be occupied at net start time. Should this occur, the net will be called on the designated secondary frequency. If the secondary frequency is also occupied, the net will be called on the tertiary frequency. Should the tertiary frequency be unavailable, NCS will call the net on the first clear frequency higher in frequency than the tertiary frequency.

It is possible that propagation is poor and preventing a station from hearing the NCS. Stations should listen on each frequency long enough to hear other stations checking in. If this occurs, announce your call and ask for a relay.
Operating On Buckeye Net

Checking In

Checking in to the net will be done using standard NTS two-step procedure. When your callsign, job, or role is called, answer by saying your callsign, job or roll, and either the words “with traffic” or “no traffic”, in that order. The NCS will say your callsign. You are checked in to the net at this point. If you have no traffic, you will be told to stand by. Stations with traffic will be asked for their traffic list. This is where you tell the NCS if you need words with someone, have an announcement for the net, or have a query or other request for the NCS. This is also where you list your formal traffic. NCS will say “roger”, acknowledging your traffic list, and either ask you to stand by or give you further instructions.

Passing Traffic

Traffic may be passed via voice, CW, or digital modes. The mode used at any given time will depend on the type of traffic, band conditions, and station capabilities. Traffic may be passed on the net frequency or on a side frequency.

The passing of ARC traffic will be done via digital modes. NCS will dispatch the receiving and sending stations to a specific frequency and will assign the mode to use. Frequencies will be designated by the band and frequency number. The NCS will say the desired mode and the frequency as, for example, “80F4”. This frequency designates the frequency listed in the SOI as the 80 meter band and frequency F4 as listed in the “Digital Traffic Frequencies (Khz)” section. The “80F4” fldigi macro button also refers to this frequency.

The NCS will say the receiving stations callsign first. The receiving station will answer NCS by saying their call. The NCS will say the sending station’s callsign second. The transmitting station will say their callsign. The NCS will then say to move to a frequency, designate a mode to use, and name how many pieces of traffic to move. The receiver acknowledges they are going by saying “roger” or “going” followed by their callsign. The sending station, after hearing the receiver’s acknowledgement, does the same.

The receiving station, assuming the frequency is clear, makes sure they are on the proper frequency, are set to the proper mode, and are ready to receive. When ready, the receiving station sends the “READY” macro.
Operating On Buckeye Net

The sending station is also making sure they are on the correct frequency and set to the correct mode. Once they copy the receiving stations “READY” transmission, they send their first piece of traffic.

The receiving station sends either the “RX OK” macro button if the message was received without error, or, sends the “RESEND” macro button if there were errors. If a piece of traffic is not received without errors in three attempts, the receiving station sends the “ERRORS” macro button followed by the “TNX” macro button and no further attempts are made to pass the traffic. The sending station sends the “TNX” macro button.

This process continues until all traffic is passed without error or if the “ERRORS” macro is sent. In either case, both stations wait on frequency for 30 to 45 seconds in case another station has been dispatched for one of the stations. If no station is heard calling, both stations return to the net and the receiving station informs the NCS of either success or of any problems that occurred. The sending station informs the NCS that they are back. If a call is heard, the station not called returns to the net and informs the NCS of either success or any problems that occurred.

Stations sent with traffic to an on-going traffic session will make sure they are on the correct frequency, they are set for the correct mode, and the desired receiver’s callsign is set. They will listen for the on-going stations to both send their “TNX” macro. The new sending station will send their “TFC1”, “TFC2” sequence to announce their presence and and wait for the receiving station to send their “READY” macro. The communication then continues as described above.

**Leaving The Net**

**Closing The Net**