



National Traffic System (NTS) Overview

Shamelessly stolen and compiled from a variety of sources (thank you all!)
by Andrew, W2BOS (W2BOS@arrl.net).

What is the National Traffic System?

The National Traffic System (NTS) consists of [American Radio Relay League \(ARRL\)](#) affiliated and independent amateur radio networks ("nets") which pass non-commercial messages on behalf of third parties as a public service. A variety of communications modes are used. CW and other digital modes are most often used for "long-haul" interstate traffic. Regional traffic is handled using both CW and SSB, while local (city or county) nets most often use FM repeaters.

The NTS has been in operation since 1949, established by the ARRL in response to membership demand. It carries on a proud tradition of message relaying, established by Hiram Percy Maxim when he founded the ARRL for the purpose of handling message traffic in 1914. The NTS is the tightest, and solidest organization within the ARRL framework.

The goals of the NTS are to provide two things:

1. Timely and reliable movement of formal written message traffic from origin to destination as a free public service to the amateur community and the general public.
2. Training of amateur operators in handling of written traffic and participating in directed nets.

Training of amateur operators in the processing of third party messages in directed nets continues the existence of a reserve of well trained radio communications personnel. The NTS also supplies communications during states of emergency on behalf of [ARES](#) and [RACES](#) (see subpart 'E'), especially for medium and long range messages. It is important for these organizations to [work together](#) to provide the communications capabilities expected by served agencies.

Why Join?

Fun, Good Practice, Means to Operate on a Daily Basis, and Helpful! Hudson Valley NET meets daily at 1930 Local Time on KC2DAA, 146.970.

Resources:

- WE2G ENY Section Traffic Manager Website:
<http://www.hudson.arrl.org/eny/NTS/index.html>
- ARRL Website: [Public Service Communications Manual \(PSCM\)](#) and [NTS Methods and Practices Guidelines](#)
- [Hudson Valley NET Homepage](#) (Ed, N2JBA, HVN Net Manager):
Contains Qs&As, Net News, Net Control Schedule, Net Statistics, Liaisons to/from other NET Nets, HVN History, ARL ('shortcuts') and Handling Instruction Lists, etc. HVN meets each night at 19:30 local time on 146.970

Local Nets – Good ones to get started in!

- 2 Meter FM: Hudson Valley Net (HVN)
1930d, 146.970 (N2JBA Ed, NM)
- SSB: New York Public Operations Net (NYPON)
1700d, 3925 LSB (N2YJZ Pete, NM)
- CW: Empire State Slow Speed (ESS) Net
1800d, 3576 CW, (W12G Anne, NM)

Hudson Valley NET History – By Ed, N2JBA, HVN Manager

The Hudson Valley Net is a local net of the ARRL National Traffic System which was originally established to provide a means by which messages could be sent from point to point by amateur radio in a reliable and expeditious manner.

The Hudson Valley Net serves the Mid-Hudson valley of New York and handles formally written traffic messages, whether they be routine, priority, welfare or emergency in nature, into and out of the local area to anywhere in the US or the world, provided that there is a third-party agreement between the US and that country.

HVN is a public service and training net which renders a free service to the ham radio community as well as the general public. The Net trains duly licensed amateur radio operators in the art of composing, processing and sending traffic messages in a formal manner and under the supervision of a net control station, who is assigned by the net manager.

The Hudson Valley made its debut in 1979 and was founded and organized by Don Kalinowski, WB2QOH, (now NJ2E). The net was held only 5 days a week, Monday through Friday, but in March 1981, it became a daily operation. The Net was located on the Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club repeater, 146.970 from Monday to Friday, and

on the repeater of the Putnam Emergency and Amateur Radio League, (PEARL), 145.130, on Saturday and Sunday.

Joe McGowen, N2BDW, was the net manager from June 1980 until May 1984; Joe was generous enough to furnish me with this historical background of the net. During Joe's tenure, traffic training sessions were held weekly and ran for about 30 minutes. The net in those days averaged about 4 pieces of traffic and had an average of 15 check-ins. The net liaised with many other nets, ie. ARES/RACES of various counties, MARS, Southern District Net, Big Apple Net, Capital District Net, New York Phone Net, New York State CW Nets, New York Public Operations Net and some independent nets like the New York State, Phone, Traffic and Emergency Net and Clearing House Net.

For a number of years, the net was conducted on the PEARL repeater, and in 1998, the net moved to the Mt Beacon ARC repeater, where it is found today.

Former net managers include Joe McGowen N2BDW, Andrew Schmidt N2FTR (now W2BOS), Michael Steup KA2MSL, Mark Rappaport WB2EAG (now W2EAG), Tom Cody WE2G and Ben Fleck K2LYE. Ben was my predecessor and mentor and managed the net with pride and precision.

The Hudson Valley Net is involved with NTS net certificates, for those stations who meet certain criteria. Other NTS certificates are awarded by the section traffic manager and the section manager, Those certificates include Official Relay Station (ORS), Official Bulletin Station (OBS), Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) and Brass Pounder's League (BPL), the ultimate award. Finally, the Net plays an active role in the yearly Simulated Emergency Test (SET), which is sponsored by the ARRL and which tests the strengths and weaknesses of amateur radio operators in their ability to provide formal and expeditious communications during emergency situations.

Who to Contact for More Information?

Hudson Valley Net, Ed N2JBA, Net Manager (N2JBA@arrl.net)

Eastern NY Section Traffic Manager (STM) Tom WE2G (WE2G@arrl.net)

Eastern NY Section Manager (SM) Pete N2YJZ (N2YJZ@arrl.org)