

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI ARES

DIGITAL VHF NET

SCRIPT v 2021.0516

STARTING THE NET:

6:00 pm: (End before 7:00 pm so that the next net can meet)

1. PREAMBLE:

All stations, good evening. This is **(your callsign)**, Net Control for this session of the Central Mississippi ARES Digital VHF Net.

This digital net meets every Monday night, 6:00 pm local time, preceding the ARES voice net, which begins at 7:00 pm local time.

The purpose of this Net is to serve as a training tool and practice session for persons interested in using the digital sound card modes for passing information. Our primary focus is emergency communications, but all persons interested in digital communications are welcome to check in.

Our primary focus will be on NBEMS, which stands for the Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System, and uses the FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP suite of free software. These programs are available for download at WWW.W1HKJ.COM That's WHISKEY WHISKEY WHISKEY DOT WHISKEY ONE HOTEL KILO JULIET DOT COM.

Training and exercises will cover NBEMS and other tools the Central Mississippi ARES team plans on eventually using in support of any activations and served agencies.

If you have the NBEMS software, please go ahead and turn on FLDIGI, FLMSG, and FLAMP.

This net is conducted in a mixed mode format, which means that both digital messaging and analog voice communications are used. This allows us to practice sending and receiving digital transmissions, while still being able to give verbal training and assistance.

This is a directed net, which means that stations must be invited to transmit by Net Control.

2. CALL FOR CHECK-INS:

Check-ins will proceed in two phases. The first phase will allow stations already setup for NBEMS to check in digitally. Following digital check ins, stations who are still setting up their NBEMS system or simply wishing to monitor the net will be welcomed to check in by voice.

Please stand by for digital check-ins via FLDIGI using MT63-2KL centered at 1500 on the waterfall.

<Call for Check-ins digitally with provided “Call 4 Chk Ins @>|” macro. Log each digital check in for future use. Acknowledge them and call again for digital check ins using with the provided “CALL AGAIN @>|” macro as needed. When finished with digital check ins acknowledge each of them by call sign and say;>

I've got the following digital check ins: _____, _____, ...

All other stations wishing to check in by VOICE, please give your CALLSIGN and let me know if you have NBEMS turned on. Please call now.

<Log each station inside the Text Reception Macro and note which ones have NBEMs so that you can call on them later. Acknowledge each of them by call sign and say;>

I've got the following check ins: _____, _____, ...

3. TRAFFIC HANDLING

<If any non-test/non-exercise traffic was identified during check-ins handle it it now in Priority and check-in order.>

4. SCREEN TEXT RECEPTION TEST:

At this time Net Control will send a screen text message to determine if your NBEMS system is receiving correctly. Please make sure your RxID is turned on. Stand by to copy.

<Send using our WELCOME Macro>

<Afterwards, using the check-in log, call on each station individually which had NBEMS and ask them...>

(Their call-sign), how did you copy my screen text?

<After calling on all of the stations on in the log which had NBEMS and noting which ones had problems, go back and assist each individual who did not copy or copied poorly. Talk them through the typical sources of error for their particular Screen Text Reception problem. If you have several people needing assistance, and helping one person is taking more than three minutes, tell them you will come back to them, and move on to the next person needing assistance. If necessary, offer to remain on frequency after the net to help anyone whom you were not able to help and move on. After you have helped everyone as much as possible at this stage of the net move on to the next stage.>

<Next Send using our AGENDA macro>

<Afterwards, ask...>

Did any stations have any issues receiving my text transmission?

<Followup with any issues as able, resending the message or having the message relayed if needed.>

5. FLMSG RECEPTION TEST:

At this time Net Control will send an FLMSG to determine if your NBEMS system is receiving FLMSG forms correctly.

<Send an FLMSG form which you filled out and saved prior to the net. It can be a Radiogram, ICS-213 Form, or Storm Report. Address it to "Net Participants". Make sure it does not take more than one minute to send. >

<Afterwards, using the check-in log, call on each station individually which had NBEMS and ask them...>

(Their call-sign), did my FLMSG transmission open up in your FLMSG window and/or in your Received Messages Panel?

<After calling on all of the stations on the log and noting which ones had problems, go back and assist each individual for whom your FLMSG did not open up. Talk them through the typical sources of error for their particular FLMSG Reception problem. If you have several people needing assistance, and helping one person is taking more than three minutes, tell them you will come back to them, and move on to the next person needing assistance. If necessary, offer to remain on frequency after the net to help anyone whom you were not able to help and move on. After you have helped everyone as much as possible at this stage of the net move on to the next stage. >

6. CALL FOR LATE CHECK-INS:

This is **(your callsign)**, Net Control for this session of the Central Mississippi ARES Digital VHF Net. I will now take late check ins. Please give your CALLSIGN and let me know if you have NBEMS turned on. Please call now.

<Update your log and acknowledge each of them by call sign and say;>

I've got the following check ins: _____, _____, ...

7. TRANSMISSION TEST:

At this time Net Control will allow participants to send a test message to determine if their NBEMS system is transmitting correctly. You may use screen text or an FLMSG for this test.

For screen text you may type your text in the bottom panel and send it manually using the TX/RX button. However, it is preferable that you place it in a macro button. That way you can easily resend it if any tweaking and re-sending are needed.

If using FLMSG you may use an FLMSG Radiogram, ICS-213, or Storm Report. Please have your FLMSG form filled out, saved, and ready to send before your turn.

Please limit your transmission to one minute or less. This can be done by testing it before the net.

<Afterwards, using the check-in log, call on each station individually which had NBEMS and ask them...>

(Their call-sign), would you like to test sending a screen text message or FLMSG?

<After calling on all of the stations in the log and noting which ones would like to test sending a screen text message, call on them individually and allow them to send their screen text.>

(Their call-sign), you're free to go ahead and transmit your message..

<Give them a verbal percent copied report and then read their text out loud to the net for the benefit of those who cant copy it or who do not yet have NBEMS. Verbally assist them if their transmission failed. Talk them through the typical sources of error for their particular Screen Text Transmission problem. If you have several people waiting to send a screen text and helping one person is taking more than three minutes, tell them you will come back to them, and move on to the next person wishing to send a screen text. If necessary, offer to remain on frequency after the net to help anyone whom you were not able to help and move on. After you have helped everyone as much as possible at this stage of the net move on to the next stage. >

8. WEEKLY TRAINING OR EXERCISE

< This is a placeholder for training or an exercise. If not previously instructed, call on the AEC for digital training (KI5JCL) to conduct this portion of the net. >

9. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / TESTS

< If time permits work through the list of participants and ask... >

(Their call-sign), do you have any additional tests you would like to perform or comments for the net?

< *Follow up as needed based on responses* >

10. CLOSING THE NET: (End before 7:00 pm so that the next net can meet)

Before we close the net, if there are any stations who would like to check in, please call now with your CALLSIGN.

I want to thank everyone for participating and thank W5PPB for the use of his repeater.

This is [your CALLSIGN name] closing the Central Mississippi ARES Digital VHF Net at ____ Hours and returning this repeater to normal operations. 73 to all.

MACROS:

Call 4 Chk Ins @>|

<MODEM:MT63-2KL>
<TX>

WELCOME TO THE CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI ARES DIGITAL VHF NET

FOR STATIONS ABLE TO RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE AND RESPOND PLEASE CHECK IN WITH THE FOLLOWING FORMAT

CALLSIGN (MYCALL Tag)
NAME (MYNAME Tag)
COUNTY (MYCNTY Tag)
QTH (MYQTH Tag, City or Locality)
OFFICIAL POSITION OR ARES LEVEL (ie: EC,AEC, Lvl2, NA)
EMERGENCY POWER AVAILABLE (Y/N)
NON-TEST/ NON-EXERCISE TRAFFIC (ie 1 PRIORITY or 2 ROUTINE or NO TRAFFIC)

EXAMPLE:

<MYCALL> <MYNAME> <MYCNTY> <MYQTH> AEC Y NO TRAFFIC

DE <MYCALL> NCS

DIGITAL STATIONS PLEASE CALL NOW
<RX>

CALL AGAIN @>|

<TX>

DIGITAL STATIONS HEARD:
<MYCALL>

...

ANY OTHER DIGITAL STATIONS WISHING TO CHECK IN

PLEASE CALL NOW.

<RX>

Welcome @>|

<TX>

WELCOME TO THE CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI ARES DIGITAL VHF NET

THIS NET MEETS EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 6:00 PM LOCAL TIME, COURTESY OF THE W5PPB REPEATER.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NET IS THREEFOLD:

1. TO SERVE AS A TRAINING TOOL AND PRACTICE SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF ARES, RACES, AND SKYWARN,
AND ALL EMCOMM FOCUSED INDIVIDUALS WHO DESIRE TO LEARN HOW TO DIGITALLY PASS RADIOGRAMS,
ICS 213 FORMS, AND SKYWARN STORM SPOTTER REPORTS
2. TO ACTIVATE AS THE CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI ARES DIGITAL EMERGENCY NET DURING EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS

3. TO ACTIVATE AS THE CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI ARES DIGITAL SEVERE WEATHER NET DURING THE THREAT OF SEVERE WEATHER

DURING TRAINING, PRACTICE, AND ACTIVATIONS THIS NET RUNS IN A MIXED MODE FORMAT. WE USE VOICE MODE FOR TAKING

CHECK INS AND GIVING INSTRUCTIONS. WE USE DIGITAL MODES FOR PASSING RADIOGRAMS, ICS 213 FORMS, AND SKYWARN STORM SPOTTER REPORTS.

THIS IS A DIRECTED NET, SO PLEASE WAIT FOR NCS TO GIVE YOU PERMISSION BEFORE TRANSMITTING

DE <MYCALL> NCS

<RX>

AGENDA 2 @>|

<TX>

TONIGHT'S NET FORMAT:

1. DIGITAL CHECK INS
2. VOICE CHECK INS
3. TRAFFIC HANDLING (For non-test/exercise traffic only)
4. SCREEN TEXT RECEPTION TEST (Part 1 and 2 of This Bulletin)
5. FLMSG RECEPTION TEST (Participants Receive)
6. CALL FOR LATE CHECK-INS (Digital or Voice)
7. TRANSMISSION TEST (Participants transmit message in either Text or FLMSG format)
8. WEEKLY TRAINING OR EXERCISE
9. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS / TESTS (Time permitting additional comments or tests by participants)
10. LAST CALL FOR LATE CHECK-INS (Digital or Voice)
11. CLOSING THE NET

TONIGHTS CHECK INS:

<MYCALL> NCS ON

...

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING
PLEASE PASS THE WORD ON TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BENEFIT FROM THIS NET.

de <MYCALL> Net Control Station

<RX>

Check In @>|

<TX>

<MYCALL> <MYNAME> <MYCNTY> <MYQTH> AEC Y NO TRAFFIC

<RX>