04 November 2023

Proposal for an Oceania CW Traffic Net   -   OCWTN
The acronym OCWTN may also be interpreted as the 'Oceania Wireless Telegraphy Net'

Introduction

The proposed OCWTN will operate at times and in designated amateur radio bands to be decided by consensus.   The net will have only one focus, that of traffic handling.

No one will have the right to claim ownership, management rights, exert dominance notional or otherwise, over the OCWTN, the net name, the frequencies upon which it operates or the participants. This means either a flat-management structure or preferably none at all.

No one will dictate to participants in the OCWTN, the content of the Morse traffic they transmit, each being responsible for their own compliance with ruling national laws and moral standards.

The net will be open to participation by all qualified amateur radio operators under the national licensing system of their respective countries.

Common sense Logistics

OCWTN sked once per week: Tuesday 0630Z on 7.026 MHz. Between weekly skeds there will two CW traffic-handlers' calling frequencies: 3.526 MHz and 7.026 MHz.

'The principle that 'Accuracy supercedes Speed' prevails at all times. The speed of CW should be between10 and 20 words per minute. Logical reasons for this speed range are available on request.

Efficiency is the goal.   To eliminate wasted time, intending participants on the OCWTN are encouraged to check-in only if they have traffic to send, or if an already checked-in participant announces a QTC addressed to the listener.   QRUs serve no useful purpose, and there will not be an on-air QNS, however statistics may be gathered and published separately.

Common Q-codes as well as traffic-net-oriented Q-codes may be deployed wherever possible.

The OCWTN is not a closed shop and confers no privileges. The first operator to notionally check-in by calling CQ becomes the NCS, though this role can be transferred on-the-fly with a simple QNN request.

Free qsl.net webpages may be set-up to provide a record of the traffic handled on the net, as fully as practical.   Net participants can request to have their traffic uploaded and will be responsible for emailing a JPG file of their completed Telegram form with type written or legible handwriting to the webmaster in a timely fashion following its transmission.   Standard A5-size paperTelegram forms will be used and file-size specifications made available.

The purpose of the webpages is obviously to provide a record for visual after-net checks and to raise the level of interest, awareness and enjoyment of how traffic handling can work in a constructive and accepting environment.   The webmaster will neither create nor edit Telegram forms for participants, but will simply upload submitted images to the website.   Participants are strongly encouraged to making use of this facilitiy, though it will always be voluntary.

No limit will be placed upon the types of traffic on the net,   e.g. considering the potential for public relations and the learning of new skill-sets, third party and encrypted messages are encouraged.   Simple or complex messages in clear or encrypted, experimental typography, competitions, tracking games, puzzles, maritime, weather and military-style reporting, so long as the content is legal and involves the transmission and reception of International Morse code, it will be acceptable - without judgement, criticism, condemnation or restriction.

The transmission of encrypted traffic comes with a codicil. Each message must include a brief instruction, such as a simple URL, which points to a decryption resource.   Supporting reasons for this requirement are available on request.

Participants will indicate by their level of involvement and commitment whether any longer-term project, and indeed the OCWTN itself, has sufficient merit to continue.

Summary

This proposal is now open for discussion.

This proposal is also an invitation to submit ideas for optimizing the efficiency, convenience and ways to encourage participation in the OCWTN.

Please email your feedback to Stephen ZL1ANY   pearce.sg@gmail.com

The final date for submissions is Sunday 19 November 2023.

An 'OCWTN User Manual' incorporating this proposal, modified to incorporate constructive feedback, will be distributed before the commencement date, which has yet to be decided.

73 de Stan ZL3TK

E & OE (Subject to change)