STM Report Wisconsin Section *February 2026*

Who knows what lurks...

FAQ #295 With apologies to Lamont Cranston and Margo Lane (probably before your time) training yourself to be a good net control station is not an impossible task. It can start by being a shadow, listening and modeling. So an easy way to teach yourself is to *shadow* (See what we did there?) a good net control.

Basics: The Net Control Station controls the net -- the sequence, the protocol, the speed, the efficiency, and the friendliness. A good NCS is essential for a good net. Here are some guides you'll hear from those who serve as NCS and for willing volunteers to step into the NCS slot when needed.

Training yourself to be a good NCS

A. Become familiar with the other stations on the net. Knowing correct call signs, names, and locations is a good idea. Even if you never perform as an NCS, it's good to know with whom you're working and where they live. Check out the current QNI Index on the Wisconsin ARRL Section site, https://wi-arrl.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/QNI-LIST-NOV-2025.pdf

B. Make some notes. Pay close attention to the stations that go off frequency to pass traffic. What frequencies does the net use to move traffic? Up to 90? Down to 77? UP 4? DWN 5? Usually the NCS knows the open spots, where adjacent nets are, etc. You'll get a feel for the NCS action by keeping track of what's happening.

C. Try to guess what the NCS will do next. Sometimes, different types of traffic will appear on a net and the NCS will have to rank them in importance. For example, you may notice that out-of-state or "thru" traffic gets higher priority than a message bound for a city usually represented on the net. Of course, formal traffic will take precedence over "informal" exchanges.

D. A good NCS notices the order of things. Who's asked to check in first? Liaisons? 9RN representative? Listen for the jargon, the pacing, and the phrases that make things flow. "Additional stations please call . . ." "NEED MKE, LAX, QNI K" Under poor conditions, hear how the NCS has the the receiving station call the station holding the traffic and establish contact on the net frequency before moving.

What the NCS does.

The NCS keeps order, calls up the net at the right time and announces the purpose and procedures that apply. It's easy to follow a script, and net managers gladly provide the wording.

Makes a list. As stations check in, the NCS gets their calls right and doesn't forget to say or send the call of each station acknowledged. They won't know they've been heard unless the NCS says so.

The NCS is friendly but efficient, a facilitator, not a lecturer. Keeps things moving. Handles all formal traffic first.

As the good NCS takes comments (or second-goes), he remembers to stand by frequently for additional check-ins. He doesn't need to respond at length to each comment. The time for the NCS's second go is on a different net. Here, he's just the traffic cop. The outstanding traffic is listed each time there's a stand-by. If the NCS has traffic, it can be sent on frequency, sending it properly to set an example.

When band conditions are noisy, the NCS doesn't hesitate to ask specific stations for relays and assistance from stations who check in. Bad conditions might also prompt handling more traffic on net frequency. Stations are thanked for checking in, for relays, and for their liaison duties. The net is closed when the work is done.

The good NCS times the entire operation for a net report and includes the time it takes to send the net report to the NM at the end of the net, since that's net activity, too. When the net is over, the NCS sends that net report to the Net Manager and includes the name of the net, the date, the number of stations who participated (including the NCS), the number of pieces of traffic cleared, the total time of the net (including traffic sent after the check-ins are excused), and which stations served as liaisons to or from other NTS nets such as 9RN or WIN.

The Wisconsin Section Nets need more stations to serve as NCS. Follow along as you listen to a net. Please volunteer when you can. Who knows what a fine net control you can be? *The Shadow knows... heh, heh, heh*. 73 -- Denny K9LGU/ STM

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY FEB 2026

NET	**QNI** CHECK-INS	**QTC** TRAFFIC	**QTR** TIME	**SSNS** SESSIONS	**NM** NET MANAGER

BWN	**1015**	**1456**	**3049**	**28**	K9LUK
BEN	**316**	**221**	**457**	**28**	NX9K
WSBN	**436**	**175**	**607**	**28**	AG9G
WSSN	**152**	**52**	**377**	**28**	KB9ROB
WIN/E	**115**	**211**	**297**	**28**	WB9ICH
WIN/L	**124**	**96**	**248**	**28**	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	**39**	**7**	**89**	**4**	K9STN
WI ARES/RACES VHF	**29**	**0**	**45**	**1**	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	**284**	**1814**	**8640**	**5**	KD9USW
totals	**2510**	**4032**	**13809**	**178**	

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY Feb 2026

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	**313**	**94**	**551**	**0**	**0**	**958 BPL**
WB9WKO	**0**	**252**	**263**	**8**	**0**	**523 BPL**
AG9G	**0**	**278**	**185**	**0**	**0**	**463**
KC9UC	**0**	**150**	**167**	**0**	**0**	**317**

N9VC	**0**	**262**	**31**	**0**	**0**	**293**
WJ9L	**0**	**57**	**40**	**20**	**4**	**121**
K9LGU	**0**	**44**	**56**	**0**	**0**	**100**
KB9ROB	**3**	**51**	**14**	**10**	**6**	**84**
W9RTP	**1**	**22**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**30**
KC9FXE	**0**	**5**	**15**	**4**	**0**	**24**
WB9ICH	**0**	**22**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**24**
W9RNA	**0**	**4**	**6**	**2**	**3**	**15**
KA9KJE	**1**	**7**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**9**

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY **FEB 2026**

POSSIBLE POINTS >	**40 nets**	**40 tfc**	**30 appt**	**5 /hr. sked events**	**5 /hr. emrg events**	**10ea bbs/ web pg**	
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**T**
N9VC	**40**	**40**	**30**	**245**	**0**	**0**	**395**
AG9G	**40**	**40**	**30**	**80**	**0**	**0**	**190**
K9LGU	**40**	**40**	**30**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**125**
WB9WKO	**40**	**40**	**30**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**120**
KC9FXE	**35**	**24**	**20**	**23**	**0**	**10**	**114**
NX9K	**40**	**40**	**20**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**100**
KC9UC	**40**	**40**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**90**