Running an amateur radio net is easier than it sounds. There is also considerable latitude for individual creativity and stylistic variations. The basic idea is to have a single individual, the net control operator, decide who may speak at any given time. He/she is like the chairperson at an organizational meeting. The difference is that we are using the repeater and all the attendees are at different locations.

None of the attendees, including the net control operator, can hear what they sound like on the air so it is important to give people accurate information so they can make adjustments or adapt if possible. Some participants in the net may be able to listen on the input of the repeater to allow a relay from stations that would not otherwise be able to participate. The net control operator needs to be patient with operators that are experiencing difficulties.

The script on the following page is only an example. There are variations that you will hear on the air and in talking to other net control operators. The basic idea is to be able to pass information in both directions. The actual net has three distinct phases. A check-in phase, an announcements or comments phase and a final phase. After an initial greeting by the net control operator there will be an opportunity for stations to check-in by giving their name and callsign. Some net control operators will ask participants how many announcements they have for the net. As each station checks in the net control operator or an assistant makes a list of callsigns and names. This list gives the net control operator the order of calling on people during the next phase. Once the list has five or six people on it the net control operator can start through the list calling on each station checked in to ask if they have announcements or comments for the net. Stations will respond in a variety of ways ending with the phrase "back to net" or words to that effect. A "thank-you" for informative announcements or comments is always appropriate. At strategic points in the list it is a good idea to ask for "late check-ins". Those names are added to the bottom of the list and will be called in turn. Announcements from the net control operator can be made before going through the list or after the first pass through the list is complete. Once each station that has checked in has had an opportunity to speak and there are no further late check-ins, the final phase begins where stations are given an opportunity to speak in random order. The net ends when no more stations wish to speak and the net control operator signs off.

Good evening, this is <name>, <callsign>, with the Monday Night Arrow Net. The purpose of the net is to gain on air experience, discuss club events and activities and to have fun. All amateur stations are invited to check in. When checking in please give your callsign and your name.

[Optional: number of announcements if that is important to the net control operator]

[Optional: ask the participants to answer a "question of the week" to spur some discussion]

> Examples:
>
> 1. *What was your most memorable contact*
> 2. *How did you get into amateur radio*
> 3. *What are your plans for field day*

<Pause>

Any amateur stations wishing to check in, please give your callsign and name now.

<Pause – wait for check ins, acknowledge the callsigns of each check in>

[Optional: announcements from the net control operator]

Any additional amateur stations wishing to check in, please give your callsign and name now.

<Pause – wait for check ins, acknowledge the callsigns of each check in>

<When there are a sufficient number of check-ins proceed to the list>

<For each check-in>

> **NCO**: *<callsign # n> do you have any announcements or comments for the net tonight?*
>
> **<callsign # n>**: *<NCO callsign> and the net good evening, I have one announcement for the net tonight. On Sunday...., back to net.*
>
> **NCO**: *<name #n> thanks for that.*

<Every third person or so ask for additional check-ins>

Any additional amateur stations wishing to check in, please give your callsign and name now.

<After all stations have had at least one opportunity to speak>

[Optional: announcements from the net control operator]

<Ask if there are any additional announcements, comments or questions and take them on a first come first served basis>

    <callsign #7> : callsign #7

    NCO : go ahead callsign #7

    <callsign #7> : ...blah....blah.....blah....back to net

<Take one more stab at late check-ins>

<Then signoff>

This concludes the Arrow Monday Night Net. This is <name, callsign>. The repeater is now available for normal use.

<Monitor the repeater for a few minutes in case anybody has a final question or wants to continue a previous conversation>