

SWARC Simplex Net Announcement:

Some of the newer SWARC members and Hams in the local area want to expand their capabilities in communicating, so they have come up with the idea of a simplex net, that is a net without the use of the area repeaters.

The net will occur on those Wednesday evenings when we have no SWARC meetings, so that would be on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The simplex nets for September will therefore be on September 9th and 23rd. These simplex nets will be on 146.535 MHz (no PL, of course, on simplex). The net starting time will be at 9:30 PM local time (the late start time is to accommodate those participating in DMR and other nets on these evenings that typically end late).

The format of the net will be as follows:

This will be a directed net, most likely called up by Mike, KE8EOD, in Weirton.

The net will start out on analog FM.

When check ins are called for, follow this procedure:

[PTT & you say]: "Net control" [unkey PTT]

[Pause momentarily]

[PTT again & you say]: "Please copy <YOUR CALL SIGN>" [unkey PTT]

This procedure, along with the pause, will help to minimize doubles. Everyone should keep their transmissions spaced out to allow net control to hear even the weaker stations (remember, this is SIMPLEX!). The use of phonetics for your call will be appreciated by net control.

After check ins are taken, the net participants will be contacted, in order, and comments will be taken from each station.

Once comments are completed, the net will switch to Yaesu digital C4FM mode (for those that have radios equipped for that mode).

Digital voice check ins will proceed as in analog FM mode ("Net control", pause, "Please copy <your call>").

NO comments will be requested in the digital voice mode.

Some pointers for simplex operation:

Use a radio with a good, sensitive receiver, high transmitter output power (50 watts or more would be great), and use a good, high mounted, high gain antenna, omni-directional preferred, but rotatable beams are okay, but they will just cause you work pointing it to the various stations.

Remember, since this is simplex, station-to-station communication, you may not hear every station at your location. Net control will most likely ask for relay stations to relay in those stations not being heard by net control. Your location far away from, but still in contact with net control, will most likely qualify you to be a relay station.

We hope everyone who participates finds this a fun and interesting exercise. It will help to expand your skills in communication without the use of repeaters, which, incidentally, were designed to facilitate mobile operators by improving their communication range.

All SWARC members and those not affiliated with the club are invited to participate. We look forward to having good participation on this simplex net. We hope to hear you on the air!

Greg Day – N8GD
Secretary/Treasurer
SWARC
Steubenville-Weirton Amateur Radio Club