

## The New SVTN Preamble

The "Preamble" is the set of instructions Net Control Operators recite during the process of initiating and managing formal nets. For many years the Seminole VHF Traffic Net has used a preamble through thick and thin that served well. As times change, however, new opportunities open up that beg for a new preamble. In January, SVTN Net Control Operators initiated the new preamble that is described as follows.

The new SVTN preamble consists of five basic sections. In the first section, the net is identified and the capability to handle message traffic for the session being called is established. The words are as follows:

*(About 7:13 say):*

*This is (Your Call). I will be calling the Seminole VHF Traffic Net in about 2 minutes. Please pay attention to instructions in a new preamble for the net.*

*(At 7:15 say):*

*Does anyone need to use this frequency before I begin the Seminole VHF Traffic Net? Please pay attention to the new preamble for the net.*

*This is (Your Call) calling all amateur radio stations to the Seminole VHF Traffic Net. Good evening everyone. My name is (Your First Name) and I am located in (Your Location). I will be the net control operator this evening. This is a directed net. Please follow the instructions of net control.*

*The Seminole VHF Traffic Net meets daily starting at 7:15 pm on this frequency, 147.090 MHz, a Seminole County ARES/RACES repeater, with a P/L tone of 103.5 Hz. Please listen for the beep and pause briefly before you initiate a transmission to avoid pile-ups.*

*On the first Monday of each month, the SVTN meets on 147.450 MHz Simplex. On the first Thursday of each month, the SVTN meets only under emergency conditions. We will not call the net if there is lightning or thunder in the area as a safety precaution.*

*This is a training net with the purpose of providing experience in net operations and relaying formal written traffic into, out of, and within Seminole County and the surrounding area. We make an effort to share message relay opportunities with all stations interested in handling traffic.*

*The SVTN is an official net of the National Traffic System and maintains liaison with other recognized traffic nets. This is (Your Call) for the Seminole VHF Traffic Net.*

*Do we have any Liaison Stations holding inbound or able to take outbound traffic? Call now please.*

*(Take check-ins from Liaison Stations)*

This first part is very important because it logs the availability of Liaison Stations, without which, the SVTN would not receive any inbound traffic for local delivery, nor would the net be able to forward any outbound traffic into the National Traffic System. If a Liaison Station does not check in to the session of the net being called, no message traffic can move, and the session now becomes a net for passing general information and sharing comments of participating net stations. Assuming a Liaison Station does check in to the net, then the net's capability of handling traffic is established, and the preamble goes on to the second part which deals with identifying message traffic by priority, who holds it, and where it needs to go.

*Do we have any stations with emergency or priority traffic?*

*(If emergency traffic, handle immediately. If priority, use your discretion)*

*We will now take check-ins from any stations willing to accept and deliver inbound message traffic, call now please giving call sign and first name.*

*(Take check-ins from stations willing to take inbound traffic.)*

*We will now take check-ins from any station holding outbound traffic. Call now please, first name and destination of traffic held.*

*Take check-ins from stations holding outbound traffic.*

Net Control Operators are very busy at this time recording stations checking in with Emergency or Priority Traffic, or checking in with the willingness to deliver inbound traffic, or stations holding outbound traffic. Keeping all of this straight is a challenging job, but doing so yields a much sought after degree of efficiency. It is important to note here, that stations willing to accept and deliver inbound traffic may or may not always be directed to take inbound traffic. Being selected depends upon the Net Control Operator's efforts to share the opportunity to handle traffic with everyone who wants that experience. So being the first to hit the push-to-talk button on your mic and state you will take traffic, doesn't mean you are going to be directed to take any messages. Our effort here is to not let any one or two stations dominate handling the net's traffic load, and let everyone have an opportunity to learn by doing. Now that we know the traffic load, who holds it, and where it's destined, the Net Control Operator can begin to direct the passing of traffic in the third part of the preamble.

*We will now pass message traffic.*

*(ONE STATION AT A TIME, Direct the Liaison Station to call station(s) holding outbound traffic and pick up outbound traffic. When finished passing all outbound traffic, direct stations able to take inbound traffic, ONE STATION AT A TIME, to call the Liaison station and pick up inbound traffic for local delivery.*

*[OPS NOTE: We want to give all stations a chance to take inbound traffic. So any station that indicates a willingness to take inbound traffic will be allowed to do so. Clearly, every station willing should have an equal opportunity to participate.]*

After all the message traffic has been handled, the Fourth part of the preamble allows the Net Control Operator to handle announcements or bulletins of general interest to the net, and call for check-ins from short-of-time, portable or mobile stations as well as general check-ins with or without comments. This part of the preamble allows for the sharing of formal information (bulletins or announcements) and informal comments from any station wishing to check in to the net. This is also an important part of the net because it helps to document the “reach” of the net; that is to say, the extent to which the net is being monitored by Hams in the community.

*Are there any stations with announcements or bulletins for the net?  
(If there are- Thank you. We will call you to give your announcement just prior to the release of short-of-time stations.*

*We will now take check-ins from short of time, mobile and portable stations. Please slowly state your call sign phonetically and give your first name. Call now please.*

*(Continue asking for short of time, mobile and portable, until no more check-ins.)*

*(Call back any stations holding announcements or bulletins.)*

*Does anyone have any need to contact one of these stations before they are released?*

*Liaison Stations and Short Of Time stations are free to secure as necessary. Please join us again for another session of the SVTN.*

*We will now ask for check-ins from any station wishing to join the net tonight. Please slowly state your call sign phonetically and give your first name. Call now please.*

*This is (Your Call) for the Seminole VHF Traffic Net.*

*Are there any more check-ins before we close the net?*

In the Fifth and final part of the preamble, the Net Control Operator closes the net by acknowledging everyone that participated in the session. A “net report” is generated and may be passed to the Net Manager at this time.

We would like to thank all the stations that checked in to the SVTN and especially those who helped with traffic. Please join us again as often as possible.

Send (or hold) net report to Net Manager:

KG4QCD please copy my net report number \_\_\_\_\_ for (date). Check-ins \_\_\_\_\_ traffic \_\_\_\_\_ time \_\_\_\_\_ (Your Call)

This is (Your Call) closing the SVTN at (time pm) local time, and returning this frequency to regular amateur use. Thank you and good evening.

We hope you will understand the effort being made to focus on message handling and the sharing of the message handling experience, as well as opening the net up for general check-ins and commentary of general interest.

Give us a number. Give us *your* number. And use the preamble to follow along.

Andy KG4QCD  
SVTN Net Manager