

# The National Traffic System

The what, why, and purpose.

Ray Lajoie, AA1SE



An NTS 2.0 Training Presentation

# A Brief History.....

- The National Traffic System (called NTS) got it's beginnings in 1914 when the ARRL was founded by Hiram Percy Maxim to formalize a system of transmitting messages across the country. The radio's in the day were of low efficiency and did not transmit far, therefore messages were *RELAYED* from station to station to it's destination. Stations would send and receive messages timely and accurately to ensure the message kept it's integrity.
- As time went on, a more formalized procedure to send messages (traffic) as radio became more popular and more stations participated. It has also become a valuable resource as messages can be sent in times of disaster when other means have failed to deliver critical information for health and welfare.

# Why do I need it now?

- Good question! Stations still practice this TODAY! In this technology rich world, there is always the possibility something may happen and cause other communication systems to fail regardless of how well they are built.
- Ham Radio operators work on training, practice, and other things such as rapid deployment tactics, alternate power, etc. to be able to aid in a situation to pass critical traffic as quickly as possible.
- The FCC regards Ham Radio as a service to the public and practicing NTS has value to protect our bands and to give the operator excellent skills and provide an essential service.

# How Can I Start With NTS?

- By viewing this training is a start. This is a series of short subjects to guide you through the structure and procedure of sending and receiving traffic in a orderly, accurate way from origin to destination.
- Find someone who can mentor you and train with him/her and develop the skills needed. Some 'net's' have offered training on the air.
- Get on the air and LISTEN! It's ok to check in a net without traffic. It's practicing skills as an operator.
- With practice you can eventually become a Official Relay Station, a Net Control Operator, or a Net Manager if you wish.

# In Closing...

Traffic handling has a rich history and still has great importance today. Practicing in NTS will provide you with the tools to handle traffic and be a part of continuing this tradition into the future.

Some Links:

[nts2.arrl.org](https://nts2.arrl.org)

[www.arrl.org/nts](https://www.arrl.org/nts)

# Thank You!