

Net Control Instructions for the Los Altos Monday Night Net

Thank you for volunteering to be the Net Control operator for the Monday Night LAARES net.

Operating as Net Control for the Los Altos Monday night net is easy to do. If this is your first time, the big thing to remember is not to panic. It is easy to get nervous when you cannot copy a call sign or there's a large number of doubles, but that's OK – don't let it get to you. Just take a breath and ask for people to repeat their check in if you missed it or aren't sure. And don't hurry. Leave enough time to allow others to fully check in. Don't be too quick on the PTT key.

As the Net Control operator for Los Altos, you actually have four things to do:

1. Check to see if the repeater is linked.
2. Check in on the main SPECS Net
3. Switch frequencies and run the Los Altos net
4. Switch back to the SPECS net and report the total for Los Altos

Check to see if the repeater is linked

There are four ways to check to see if the repeater is linked

1. If you have a 440-capable radio, tune to the repeater frequency, push the PTT button, say your call sign then press *6 on the keypad of your radio. Quickly release the PTT button. If the repeater is linked, it will announce the frequency it is linked to – you should hear 146.595.000 (the last set of zeros are extra). If you hear nothing, try again. If you still hear nothing, the repeater is not linked. The repeater will not say anything if it is unlinked.
2. If you have two radios, tune one to the Los Altos simplex frequency and the second to the repeater frequency. On one radio, press the PTT button and announce yourself ("This is KK6AAA"). If you hear yourself on the other radio, the repeater is linked.
3. Try to raise someone on the Los Altos frequency and ask if the repeater is linked. You can also try calling a Los Altos ham on the SPECS frequency before 8 PM
4. Call Jim on his cell at 650-823-3265

Check In on the main SPECS Net

During the first few minutes of the SPECS net, the NC person will do a roll call of cities. When they call "Los Altos", respond to the call by saying "for Los Altos, this is <your call sign phonetically>"

Later in the script, the NC person will ask "and who will take roll for the city of Los Altos". You should respond with the message that is at the top of the next page.

Switch frequencies and run the Los Altos Net

After you make the announcement, switch to the Los Altos frequency, wait a minute for others to switch, then start the Los Altos net. The script is on the next page.

Switch Back to the SPECS Net and report the total for Los Altos

There are two methods to report the Los Altos total to the SPECS net: you can report the total yourself or you can ask another person on the Los Altos net to report the total for you. In either case, don't wait too long – we don't want to delay the SPECS Net Control operator too long.

Again, thank you for helping with the net. We hope you will do it again.

Respond for Los Altos During the First Roll Call

Early in the SPECS script, Net Control will do a roll call of officials and cities. First call is to elected league officials, followed by the Section Emergency Coordinator, then the District Emergency Coordinator, then the SPECS Representative. Right after they call the SPECS Representative, they will call Los Altos.

When the Net Control says “Los Altos”

<you say...>

“For Los Altos, this is <your call sign>”

Respond if it Los Altos does the Net Next Month

Los Altos is responsible for doing the main SPECS net and the SPECS UHF/220 net in the months of June and December. In May and November, the Net Control operator for that month may announce “We would like to remind Los Altos that it is their turn to handle net control duties for next month.....is there someone from Los Altos who can acknowledge?” When the operator says this, you can reply with:

“Los Altos acknowledges, <your call sign>”

Frequency Announcement for the LAARES net during the Main Net

<Part way through the script, the SPECS Net Control will say...>

Who will call roll for Los Altos?

<you say...>

<your call sign> will take check-ins for Los Altos on the Los Altos simplex frequency of 146.595 mega-hertz [and the repeater on 440.875 mega-hertz, positive offset, 100.0 hertz PL tone.] (Only announce the repeater if you have confirmed that it is linked - ether by asking or testing.)

<At this point, switch to 146.595 or 440.875 and proceed with the script for the LAARES net that starts on the next page.>

Script for the Monday Night LAARES Net

Is this frequency clear?

<wait a few seconds>

Hearing nothing, I will proceed. *(if there are users, ask politely if LAARES could use the frequency for the next 30 minutes. If you receive push back, go to LAARES alternate frequency)*

Good Evening. This is _____ *<call sign>*. My name is <_____> , the time is <____> on Monday <_____>. I will be Net Control for the Los Altos Amateur Radio Emergency Service (LAARES) Monday Night net. This is a directed net. Please direct all traffic (messages) through Net Control.

Stations with emergency traffic may break in at any time. Note that I do not have the ability to dispatch emergency resources. If you have an emergency, call 911. *<wait a few seconds>*

I will now begin the regular check in process. Please check in slowly, saying your call phonetically. I will acknowledge each call that I hear. If you hear a call sign that I do not acknowledge, please announce with term "Relay". When I acknowledge the Relay, then pass missed call to me.

<Call stations by groups>

Will all stations with call sign suffixes starting with _____ through _____ please check in now?

<Acknowledge all stations in each group>

Suggested Groupings (matches the Frequent Caller Sheet)

Alpha through **Echo**

Foxtrot through **November**

Oscar through **Sierra**

Tango through **Zulu**

Are there any missed or late check-ins

Do we have a packet count for this week? *<Acknowledge the count>*

Does anyone have an announcement, question, or comment for the net? If so please give your call sign only now.

<Acknowledge all replies and call on each in sequence>

I have a count of _____ check ins for this evening. Can anyone confirm my count?

Can someone volunteer to take the count of _____ back to the main SPECS net?

Thank you for making yourselves and your equipment available tonight. Your continued check-ins are appreciated. We would also like to thank Tim Shoryer KH6N, the owner and operator of the KH6N repeater for allowing us to use the repeater during our nets.

The Los Altos Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net is now closed and this channel is returned to normal usage. This is _____ *<call sign>* clear.

Don't forget to go back to the main SPECS net to report the total number of check-ins for Los Altos, if not done above by a volunteer.