



8 May 2022

A Letter to the Community of Traffic Operators

As Radio Relay International enters its seventh year of operation, we would like to reach out to the traffic community to discuss our accomplishments, motivations, and our plans for the future.

Radio Relay International was conceived and built as an advocacy organization for the traffic handling community. We believe the art and skill of traffic handling has significant value as does the network infrastructure and relationships that support it. Unfortunately, for many years, if not decades, traffic handling as both an operating activity and as a network system was misunderstood and pushed to the margins of organized amateur radio. The founders of RRI felt it necessary to create a positive, forward-looking advocacy organization to promote traffic handling as both an operating activity and a messaging infrastructure.

It is important to understand that RRI was **not** created as an anti-ARRL organization. From the very beginning, RRI leadership has worked with ARRL section leadership throughout the United States in a supportive and positive role. We have assisted with numerous emergency communications exercises, presented peer-reviewed training of high quality to numerous radio clubs and ARES® organizations, and perhaps most importantly, we have created an extensive work product designed to support public service communications.

RRI has also been working to expand and modernize the infrastructure of the traffic system. We have introduced VARA access to the Digital Traffic Network, expanded the Digital Traffic Station roster, improved the gateway functions between Winlink and the traffic system, and we have begun the process of expanding our international footprint.

We have also reached out to the state/section traffic community by offering dual affiliation of traffic networks, and we continue to publish and distribute the "QNI Newsletter" to the amateur radio community. We are also integrating our programs with other radio services such as GMRS to improve local emergency communications capabilities while establishing a framework for recruiting new radio amateurs via our *National SOS Radio Network* and *Neighborhood Hamwatch/Radiowatch Programs*. **In other words, RRI has not only reimagined NTS; we are reinventing it, and in the process, we have restored NTS and traffic handling to a respected activity.**

In every respect, it has been our goal to remain apolitical and above the fray of Amateur Radio Service politics. For RRI, mission success is the primary goal. It is our sincere belief that we have proven to be an honest broker in all respects and always with a focus on positivity and constructive conduct.

Creating RRI and building the fundamentals of a public service organization has taken considerable time and tremendous effort. With much of this fundamental work completed, we now seek to improve our outreach to all stakeholders involved in traffic networks and their day-to-day operations. In the coming months, we will be conducting on-line seminars designed to familiarize traffic operators with our

programs and activities. These seminars will be followed by meetings and surveys designed to obtain stakeholder input from the traffic community. Our goal is to establish a consistent, on-going dialogue between traffic operators, net managers and the RRI Board to ensure that we always act in YOUR interest.

We encourage all traffic operators to become an *RRI Registered Radio Operator*. In doing so, you will be added to our mailing list to receive timely announcements regarding training activities, stakeholder meetings, upcoming emergency drills and exercises, and notifications when the latest “QNI Newsletter” is issued. Because RRI is an association of nets and NOT a membership organization, we do not charge dues (although we do accept donations). Therefore, there is no charge for becoming an RRI Registered Radio Operator beyond an agreement to adhere to the highest standards of operating courtesy and professionalism.

It is our hope that all traffic operators will register with RRI and support our organization. It is also our hope that all traffic nets will affiliate with our organization. In doing so, we can create a robust, high-quality traffic system poised for the future.

It has been said that “actions should match words.” We believe the actions of Radio Relay International have proven our organization to be positive, constructive, and apolitical, and by doing so, we seek the support of all active traffic operators.

Please visit our websites to learn more about Radio Relay International at:

www.radio-relay.org

www.facebook.com/radiorelayinternational

www.qni-newsletter.net

Also, please consider joining one of our email reflectors to participate in discussions about traffic handling activities and emergency communications planning:

tfc-ops+subscribe@groups.io

RRI-EMCOMM+subscribe@groups.io

73,

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