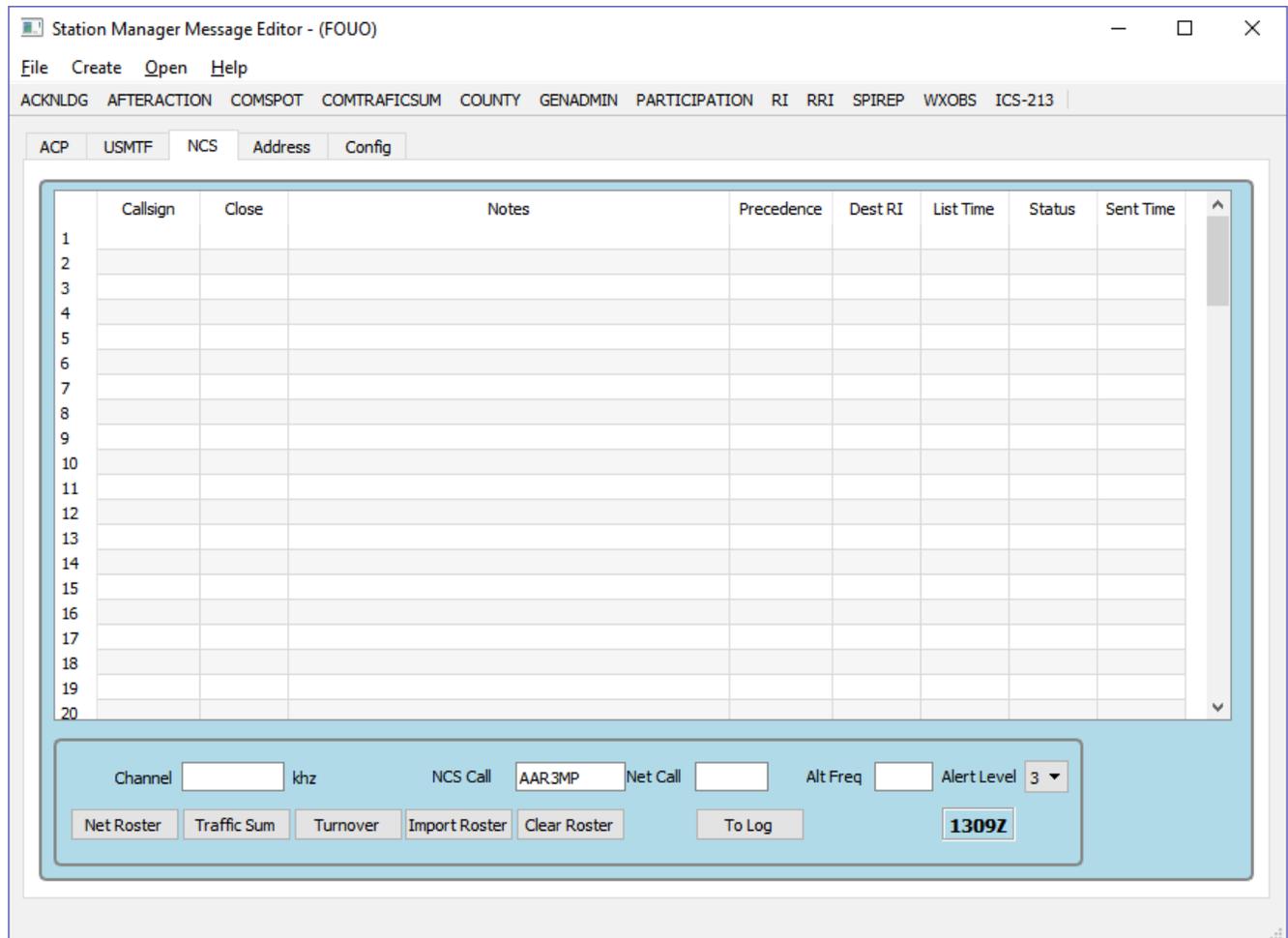# Station Manager NCS Tools

The Station Manager Message Editor contains a helper tool for Net Control Stations. It is a simple way to maintain the state of a current net, not only for Net Contol Stations, but for all users.

A Tour of the NCS Tab

Using the NCS Tab is very straightforward and also leverages data which may be present in the Address Book tab as well. The main table has 8 columns with a header over each column.

1. Call Sign – the call sign of the station entering the net.

2. Close – the time the station closed if before the scheduled end of the net.

3. Notes – A place to enter information about that station.

4. Precedence – if the station lists traffic upon checking in, this column is for the precedence of that traffic.

5. Dest RI – A destination Routing Indicator would be used here, but it could also be a call sign.

6. List Time – ZULU time when the traffic was listed on the net.

7. Status – the current status of the traffic. Suggest "s" for sent when the traffic is sent.

8. Sent Time - The time that the traffic was actually sent.

Form fields below the table are as follows:

1. NCS Call – The call sign of the NCS station

2. Net Call – The call sign of the net in progress.

3. Alt Freq – The current alternate frequency assigned by the NCS for this net.

4. Alert Level – The currently assigned Alert Level.

Form buttons below the form fields are as follows:

1. Net Roster – Creates a simple net roster ACP service message for use in offline encoding or in-line cipher text transmission.

2. Traffic Sum – Creates a simple traffic summary as an ACP service message for use in offline encoding or in-line cipher text transmission.

3. Turnover – Creates a pre-formatted CSV style ACP service message for the purpose of transferring the current state of the Station Manager NCS tab to another station.

4. Import Roster – The receiving station may import a Turnover message into Station Manager and populate the NCS table..

5. Clear Roster – Clears the NCS Roster table.

6. To Log – generates a Turnover message and writes it to a text file in the Station Manager ./log directory for archival purposes.

Getting Started Using the NCS Tab

Using the NCS tab is very simple. As the Net Control Station, simply fill in the form fields near the bottom and call for check-ins. As each check-in comes, type the call sign into column 1 beginning at row 1. Now, if the station lists no traffic, simply press the <Enter> (Return) key. Your cursor should move to the next row but in the first column. If that station has information in the MGRS and/or Information fields in the Address Book, it will be concatenated together and automatically populated in the Notes column for that station.

Otherwise, if the station DOES list traffic, after entering the call sign into the first column, press the <Tab> key repeatedly until you reach the Precedence column and enter the precedence (R, P, O, Z) and the Destination in the following column. Note also that if that station has information in the Address Book, it will have been automatically populated into the Notes column. Each column is also made upper case as you progress.

Note also that once you <Tab> out of the Precedence column, the List Time column is automatically updated to the current ZULU time. You may change the time value at any time. When the Status column is changed to any word beginning with "s" and <Tab> is pressed, the Sent Time will automatically be updated to the current ZULU time. You may change the time value at any time.

One more tab will bring you back to the first column of the next row.

The Traffic Summary process will use the List Time and Sent Time to calculate the "time in queue" for each message. This will facilitate filling out COMTRAFICSUM USMTF messages later. The user is advised to use the "To Log" button at the end of the session to it is saved and the COMTRAFICSUM information is not lost.

How to Use the Traffic Summary Import

Click the "Import Roster" button. You will be presented with a File Dialog in order to locate the text file which contains the Turnover roster that you have received over the air. Locate that file (most likely in the RECEIVED_CT or RECEIVED_PT folder. Click the <OK> button to accept this file as your imported file.

Station Manager, with a properly formatted Turnover roster file which originated from another Station Manager NCS tab, (or which has key marker lines and the proper CSV format) will populate the NCS table with the information provided. It is still the NCS's responsibility to set all of the form fields at the bottom of the screen so that any subsequent use of service message buttons will be correct for HIS net.