

Electric Blanket?

What is a "Blanket Check-in"?

This term means that everyone on the current roster gets an automatic check-in for that night. It's up to the Net Control Station to decide if it's warranted. If you get less than 15% of the roster checking in on the air and band conditions are bad, or you have really bad noise or QRM and can't copy any relays, then throw a blanket on it. That means six (rounded) or less check-ins from our current 41-person roster. This is a guide, not a strict rule, the idea is to be fair to those who could be trying to check in but are not being heard. NCS needs to hang around at least until 18:35 and make a couple of final calls, just in case someone comes on right at net time and also to announce the Blanket Check-in. Remember, conditions can change within minutes and so can improve. And if you do declare a Blanket Check-in please also include stations you did hear in your report, and try to put out a QST on the net within a few nights that there was a Blanket Check-in declared. Active Net Control Stations may also send in "supplemental" reports when they can't hear the NCS but hear others having trouble checking in.

I just had a good example on my Saturday net - the band was really long and I got 11 check-ins (not including me), but there were two stations that I just couldn't copy and no relays. So I decided to call a Blanket because there were stations trying that didn't get in, and conditions were generally lousy. We ask members to maintain a certain number of check-ins which at times may not be possible, for many reasons, but we can give them a break sometimes for crummy band conditions.

Thanks for your participation es 73, jf - WB6YGU