

Getting On the Air

Technician Exam Preparation Class
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Session 7

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How to Make a Contact

- When calling another station either on a repeater or on simplex, say the other station's call sign first followed by your call sign, e.g., "KE7AFB this is K7OJL calling."
- To answer someone calling 'CQ' give the other station's call sign followed by your call sign, or simply respond with your call sign.
- You must identify, even when testing. Don't "kerchunk" the repeater!
- Remember to identify every ten minutes and at the end of the communication.

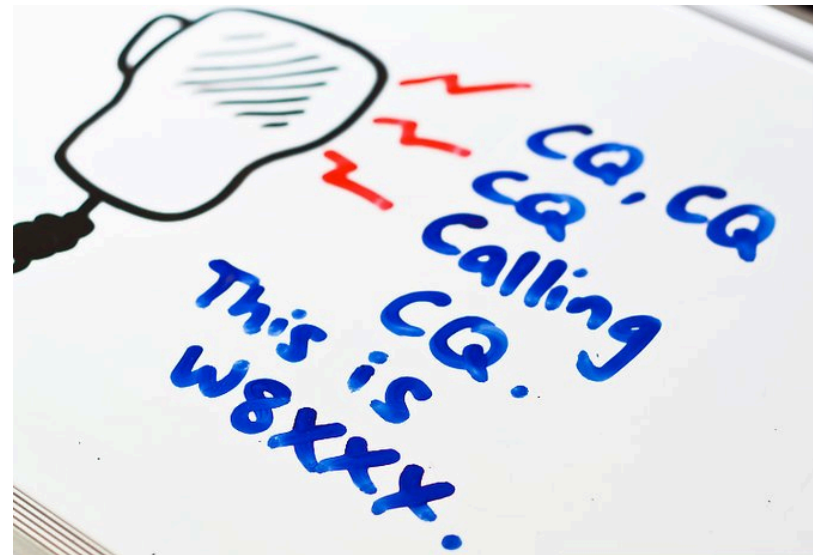
Proper Practices

- Listen, listen, listen. Is the frequency clear? Are you on an authorized frequency? While no one has “rights” to a specific frequency, be accommodating
- When giving call signs, transmit the other station’s call sign first then your call sign
- If the other station reports a weak signal, move a few feet
- Mobile stations sometimes have issues with **picket fencing**, a “chopping” sound made as the transmitter moves and the signal is intermittently blocked

T3A01, T2A12, T2B08, T3A06

Ham Radio Terms

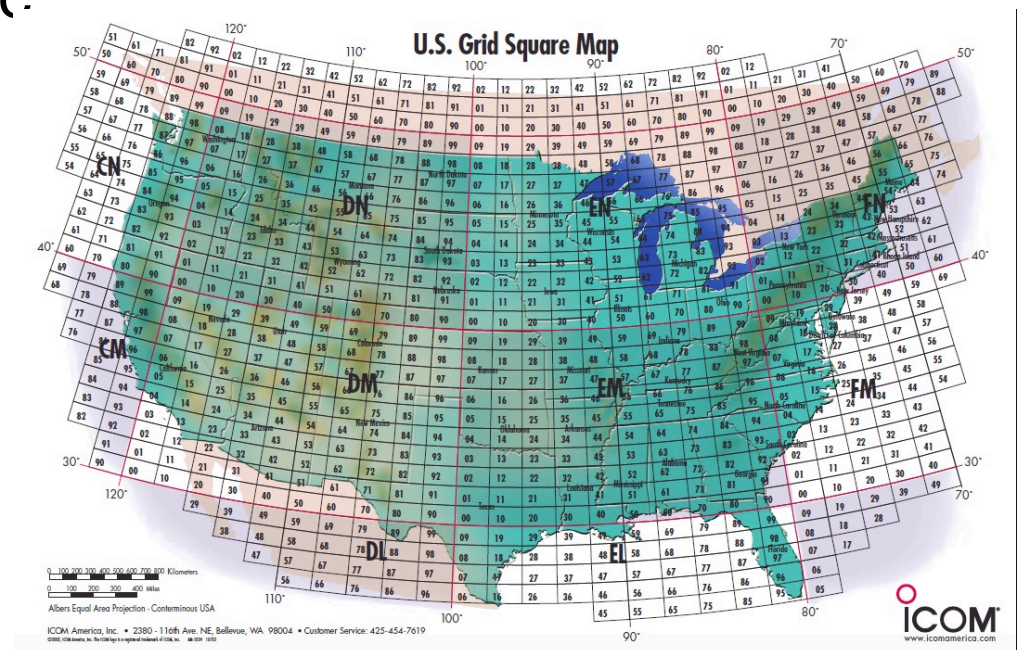
- **CQ**: Calling any station
- QSO: A conversation over the air (also eyeball QSO)
- QTH: My location
- QRT: Going off the air
- 73: Best wishes
- 88: Hugs and kisses
- QRP: Low power
- QRO: High power
- **QRM**: Man-made interference
- QRN: Natural interference
- **QSY**: Changing frequency



T2A08, T2B10, T2B11

Grid Squares

- A letter / number designator for a specific area.
- Can go up to 10 characters. Most common is 2 letters followed by 2 digits. We're in DN30.
- Making contacts in as many grid squares as possible is a "radio sport"



Radio Sport

- There are myriads of contests where the object is to make as many contacts with other amateur radio operators as possible over a period of time. These are usually held on weekends and during the winter
- Fox Hunts or Hidden Transmitter Hunts are very popular
 - Uses radio direction finding techniques with highly directional antennas
 - No license required for Fox Hunting as there is no need to transmit
- County hunting, Worked All States, Worked all Zones, DXCC, Grid Squares are all types of Radio Sport



Many of these activities are conducted on VHF and higher frequencies

Can I Operate In a Foreign Country?

- Yes, when the foreign country authorizes it.
- There is an agreement covering most of Europe and North America called CEPT.
- The ARRL has information on which countries allow operations and what is allowed.
- In many cases, however, Technician Class license holders are quite limited in privileges in other countries.



- You may also operate from any vessel or craft located in international waters and documented or registered in the United States

**Jot down any questions
you may have to ask
during the online meeting**