Chapter 2 Procedures & Practice

- **2.1 <u>HF Operating Techniques</u>**

➢ **Basic Operating**

- **HF operation is not channelized. (except for 60 meter band five channels.)**
- **HF equipment is designed for continuous tuning . The control adjustment is called a VFO for <u>variable frequency oscillation.</u> This is the large knob on the transceiver.**
- **Random contacts are the norm on HF so "CQ" calling is common.**

Basic Operating

- CQ DX (DX meaning “distant stations” - usually outside the Calling station's country) [G2A11]
- CQ for stations operating in a contest or from a special event.
- Saying your call sign during a break between transmissions by the other stations is recommended. [G2A08]

HF Operating Techniques

- **Good Practices**
  - **Selecting a Frequency** **arrl.org/graphical-frequency-allocations**
    - **Choosing a frequency to use is the most important step. If you want to call CQ, start by selecting an appropriate band and frequency. [G2B07] Within the appropriate frequency limits, tune around looking for a clear frequency. [G2B04, G2B05]**
    -

HF Operating Techniques

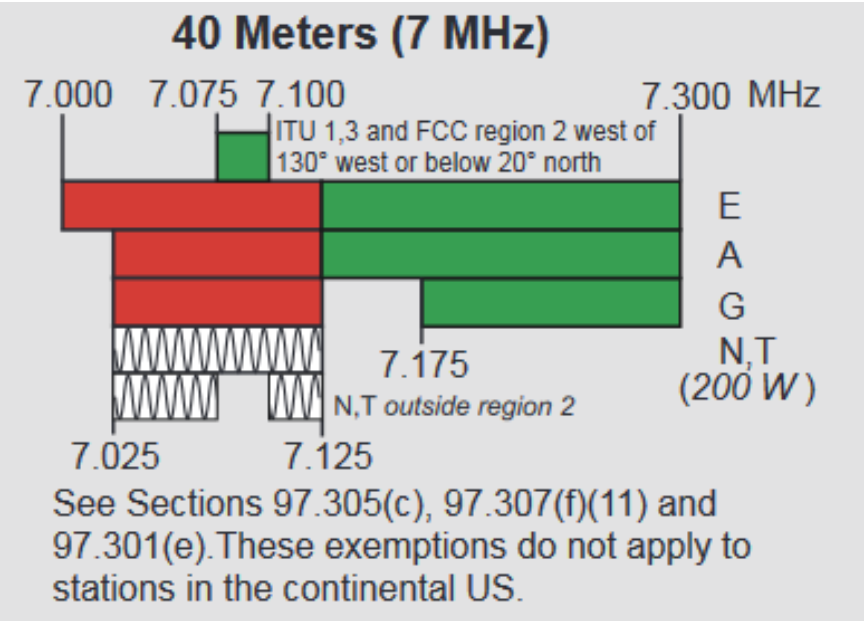
- **Recommended Signal Separation**

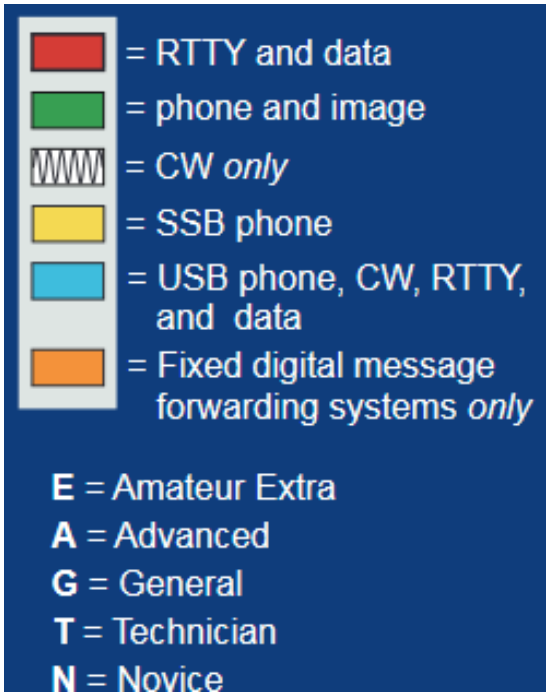
CW	150 – 500Hz
SSB	2.5 – 3 kHz
RTTY	250 – 500 Hz
PSK31	150 – 500 Hz

- **After finding an apparently clear frequency, check for any other station that might be using it. If you're engaged in a QSO and a station calls to request the use of a frequency for a scheduled activity, try to accommodate their need and move your contact to another frequency. [G2B06, G2C04, G2B01] Listen to the frequency. It's that easy [G1B08]**

HF Operating Techniques

- **Nets and Schedules**
- **Band Plans**
  - **The FCC regulations dividing the amateur bands help stations using compatible modes stay together. <u>Arrl.org/band-plan (ARRL also has an app for that)</u>**



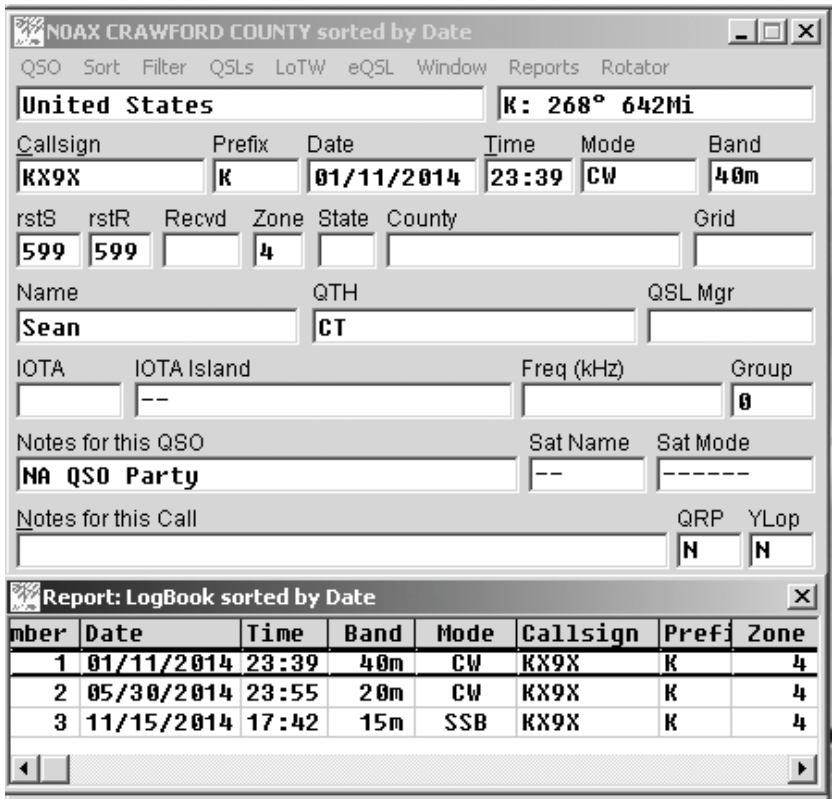


HF Operating Techniques

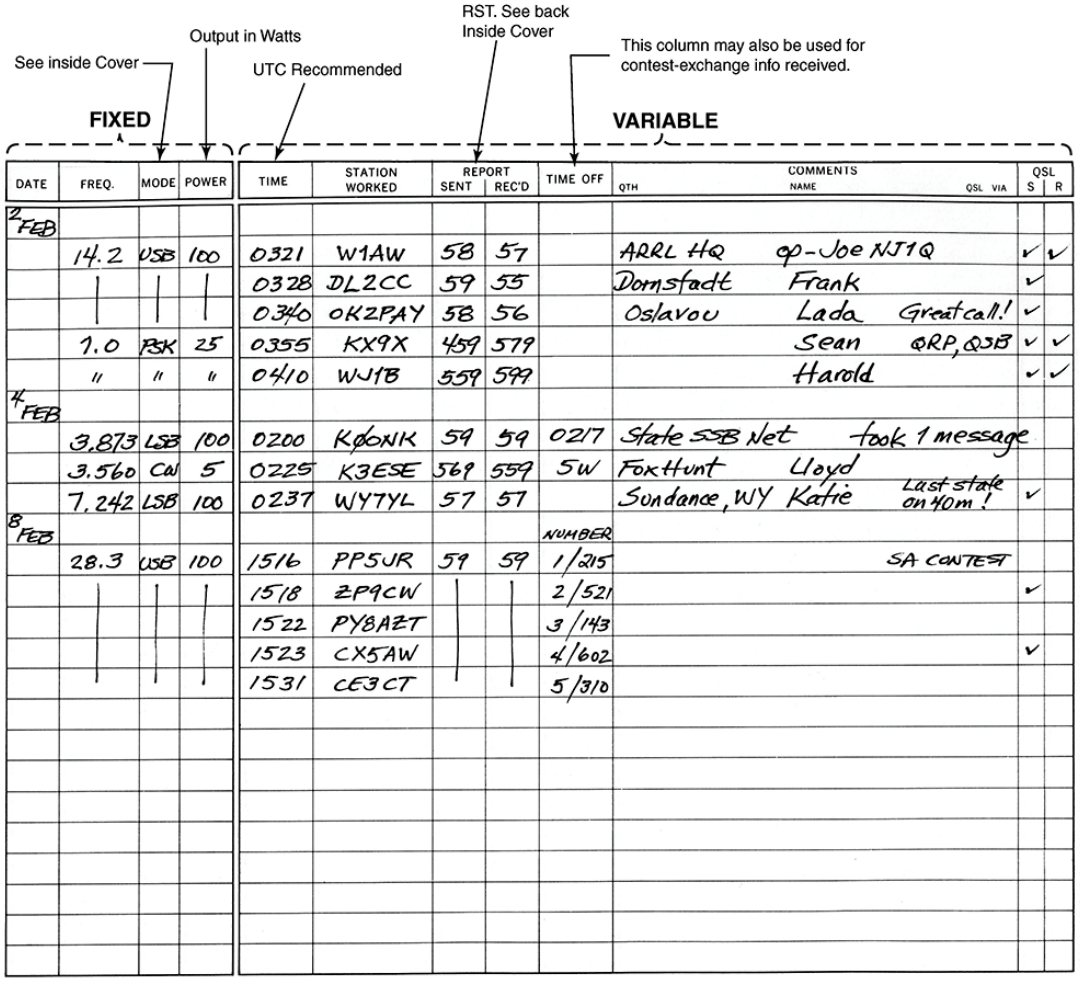
- **Outside of the US particularly in ITU Regions 1 and 3 amateur band allocations are limited especially on the 160 and 80 meter bands. In some case they are shared with government and commercial operators. A DX window designates part of the band where amateurs with restricted privileges can be found. This allows the restricted amateurs to make better use of their limited privileges. Where a DX window is specified in a US band plan or contest rules contact between stations in the 48 contiguous US and Canada are discouraged. [G2B08]**

HF Operating Techniques

- **Housekeeping and Operating Support**
  - **Part of keeping an orderly and efficient station is maintaining a log, a record of your station's activities. [G2D08, G2D09]**



HF Operating Techniques



DATE	FREQ.	MODE	POWER	TIME	STATION WORKED	REPORT SENT	REPORT REC'D	TIME OFF	COMMENTS QTH	NAME	QSL VIA	QSL S	QSL R
2 FEB													
	14.2	USB	100	0321	W1AW	58	57		ARRL HQ	op-Joe NJ1Q		✓	✓
				0328	DL2CC	59	55		Dornstadt	Frank		✓	
				0340	OK2PAY	58	56		Oslavou	Lada	Great call!	✓	
	7.0	PSK	25	0355	KX9X	459	579			Sean	QRP, QSB	✓	✓
	"	"	"	0410	WJ1B	559	599			Harold		✓	✓
4 FEB													
	3.873	LSB	100	0200	KØONK	59	59	0217	State SSB Net		took 1 message		
	3.560	CW	5	0225	K3ESE	569	559	5W	Fox Hunt	Lloyd			
	7.242	LSB	100	0237	WY7YL	57	57		Sundance, WY	Katie	Last state on 40m!	✓	
8 FEB								NUMBER					
	28.3	USB	100	1516	PP5JR	59	59	1/215			SA CONTEST		
				1518	ZP9CW			2/521				✓	
				1522	PY8AZT			3/143					
				1523	CX5AW			4/602				✓	
				1531	CE3CT			5/310					

What does the expression “CQ DX” usually indicate?

A. A general call for any station

B. The caller is listening for a station in Germany

C. The caller is looking for any station outside their own country

D. A distress call

G2A11

What does the expression “CQ DX” usually indicate?

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B. The caller is listening for a station in Germany

C. The caller is looking for any station outside their own country

D. A distress call

G2A11

Which of the following is a recommended way to break into a contact when using phone?

A. Say “QRZ” several times followed by your call sign

B. Say your call sign during a break between transmissions by the other stations

C. Say “Break Break Break” and wait for a response

D. Say “CQ” followed by the call sign of either station

G2A08

Which of the following is a recommended way to break into a contact when using phone?

A. Say “QRZ” several times followed by your call sign

B. Say your call sign during a break between transmissions by the other stations

C. Say “Break Break Break” and wait for a response

D. Say “CQ” followed by the call sign of either station

G2A08

When selecting a CW transmitting frequency, what minimum separation should be used to minimize interference to stations on adjacent frequencies?

A. 5 to 50 Hz

B. 150 to 500 Hz

C. 1 to 3 kHz

D. 3 to 6 kHz

G2B04

When selecting a CW transmitting frequency, what minimum separation should be used to minimize interference to stations on adjacent frequencies?

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B. 150 to 500 Hz

C. 1 to 3 kHz

D. 3 to 6 kHz

G2B04

What is the customary minimum frequency separation between SSB signals under normal conditions?

A. Between 150 and 500 Hz

B. Approximately 3 kHz

C. Approximately 6 kHz

D. Approximately 10 kHz

G2B05

What is the customary minimum frequency separation between SSB signals under normal conditions?

A. Between 150 and 500 Hz

B. Approximately 3 kHz

C. Approximately 6 kHz

D. Approximately 10 kHz

G2B05

Which of the following complies with good amateur practice when choosing a frequency on which to initiate a call?

A. Check to see if the channel is assigned to another station

B. Identify your station by transmitting your call sign at least 3 times

C. Follow the voluntary band plan for the operating mode you intend to use

D. All of these choices are correct

G2B07

Which of the following complies with good amateur practice when choosing a frequency on which to initiate a call?

A. Check to see if the channel is assigned to another station

B. Identify your station by transmitting your call sign at least 3 times

C. Follow the voluntary band plan for the operating mode you intend to use

D. All of these choices are correct

G2B07

What is a practical way to avoid harmful interference on an apparently clear frequency before calling CQ on CW or phone?

A. Send “QRL?” on CW, followed by your call sign; or, if using phone, ask if the frequency is in use, followed by your call sign

B. Listen for 2 minutes before calling CQ

C. Send the letter “V” in Morse code several times and listen for a response or say “test” several times and listen for a response

D. Send “QSY” on CW or if using phone, announce “the frequency is in use,” then give your call and listen for a response

G2B06

What is a practical way to avoid harmful interference on an apparently clear frequency before calling CQ on CW or phone?

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D. Send "QSY" on CW or if using phone, announce "the frequency is in use", then give your call and listen for a response

G2B06

What does the Q signal “QRL?” mean?

A. “Will you keep the frequency clear?”

B. “Are you operating full break-in” or “Can you operate full break-in?”

C. “Are you listening only for a specific station?”

D. “Are you busy?”, or “Is this frequency in use?”

G2C04

What does the Q signal “QRL?” mean?

A. “Will you keep the frequency clear?”

B. “Are you operating full break-in” or “Can you operate full break-in?”

C. “Are you listening only for a specific station?”

D. “Are you busy?”, or “Is this frequency in use?”

G2C04

Which of the following is true concerning access to frequencies in non-emergency situations?

A. Nets always have priority

B. QSOs in progress always have priority

C. Except during FCC declared emergencies, no one has priority access to frequencies

D. Contest operations must always yield to non-contest use of frequencies

G2B01

Which of the following is true concerning access to frequencies in non-emergency situations?

A. Nets always have priority

B. QSOs in progress always have priority

C. Except during FCC declared emergencies, no one has priority access to frequencies

D. Contest operations must always yield to non-contest use of frequencies

G2B01

When choosing a transmitting frequency, what should you do to comply with good amateur practice?

A. Insure that the frequency and mode selected are within your license class privileges

B. Follow generally accepted band plans agreed to by the Amateur Radio community

C. Monitor the frequency before transmitting

D. All of these choices are correct

FCC Rule: [97.101(a)] G1B08

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FCC Rule: [97.101(a)] G1B08

What is the “DX window” in a voluntary band plan?

A. A portion of the band that should not be used for contacts between stations within the 48 contiguous United States

B. An FCC rule that prohibits contacts between stations within the United States and possessions in that portion of the band

C. An FCC rule that allows only digital contacts in that portion of the band

D. A portion of the band that has been voluntarily set aside for digital contacts only

G2B08

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D. A portion of the band that has been voluntarily set aside for digital contacts only

G2B08

Why do many amateurs keep a log even though the FCC doesn't require it?

A. The ITU requires a log of all international contacts
B. The ITU requires a log of all international third party traffic
C. The log provides evidence of operation needed to renew license without retest
D. To help with a reply if the FCC requests information

G2D08

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G2D08

What information is traditionally contained in a station log?

A. Date and time of contact
B. Band and/or frequency of the contact
C. Call sign of station contacted and the signal report given
D. All of these choices are correct

G2D09

What information is traditionally contained in a station log?

A. Date and time of contact
B. Band and/or frequency of the contact
C. Call sign of station contacted and the signal report given
D. All of these choices are correct

G2D09

Procedures & Practice

- **Managing Interference**
- **Types of Interference**
- **Avoiding Interference**
- **Reacting to Interference [G2B03]**

Types of Interference

- **Harmful Interference: Interference that seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radio communication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations.**
- **Malicious, deliberate or willful interference: It's specifically forbidden by the FCC rules.**

Managing Interference 2-6, 7

Avoiding Interference

- **Learn the characteristics of each band with respect to propagation and noise.**

Reacting to Interference

- **No one has a claim to any frequency. It's better to merely change frequency to avoid an interfering signal.**
- **Keep a cool head!**

Modes

- **CW**
- **Morse code, called "CW" for continuous wave, is found in the lower ranges of each HF band because FCC rules prohibit phone and data signals there.**
- **AM & SSB Phone**
- **On the HF bands, single sideband (SSB) is by far the most common voice mode or phone signal. SSB AM uses less spectrum space (3 kHz).[G2A05 , G2A06, G2A07]**
-

Modes 2-7, 8

- **Use upper sideband SSB on frequencies above 9MHz (20 through 10 meter band) .**
- **Use lower sideband LSB elsewhere except on 60 meters. [G2A01, to G2A04, G2A09]**
- **Note: FM, in general, is not used on HF because the higher noise levels and wide bandwidth of the mode do not result in good signal-to-noise performance.**

Modes 2-7, 8

- Digital Modes
- RTTY (pronounce “ritty”
- PSK31
- JT65
- JT9
- FT8
- PACTOR
- WINMOR
- Chapter 6 explores digital modes, protocols, and operating practices in detail.. (see Table 2.3 page 2-8)
- Image Modes
- Mode Comparison Table 2.3

HF Receiving

- On VHF, FM receivers have three basic controls:
- <u>Frequency</u> (or channel)
- <u>Squelch</u>
- <u>Volume</u>
- SSB/CW receivers have many more adjustments
- <u>Selectivity</u>, the ability to discriminate between closely-spaced signals, is more important on HF than <u>sensitivity</u>, the ability to detect a signal.
- Preamplifiers [G2C10]
- Yaesu FTDX-9000D

HF Transmitting *2-10 through 12*

- **Phone**
- **On HF phone, there are several ways to put our transceiver into transmit (called "keying" the transmitter) when we want to talk. [G2A10]**
- **Arrl.org/general-class-license-manual.**
- **CW [G2C01, G4A10]**
- **qrparci.org**
- **CW and Digital Mode Prosigns and Abbreviations**
- **Just as with text messaging, to short-cut words & phrases, telegraphers developed an extensive set of abbreviations & procedural signs called <u>prosigns.</u>**

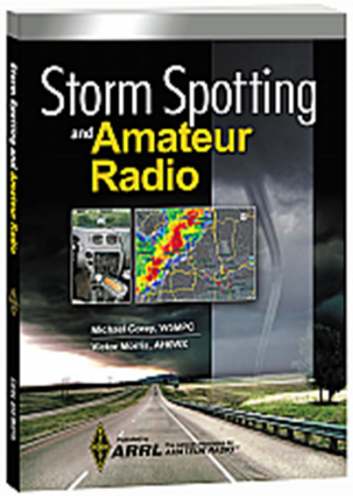
HF Transmitting

2-10 through 12

- **Q&As:** **[G2C01; G2C08; G2CO5; G2C02; G2C06; G2C03; G2C09; G2C11]**
- **YAESU FT 857**

2.2 Emergency Operation

- **Community. Many decide to become hams to service our community.**
- **ARES Amateur Radio Emergency Service.**
- **www.arrl.org/field-organization**
- **RACES Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service.**
- **www.arrl.org/chapter-4-ares-and-racesw.arrl.org/**



2.2 Emergency Operation

- **Normal communication disrupted? Hams, who are familiar with emergency rules & procedures may be in short supply. Be patient.**
- **[G1B04; G2B09]**
- **Table 2.4 lists FCC rules pertaining to emergency communications. P. 2-14**

- **Distress Calls**
- **Q&As [G2B10; G2B02; G2B11; G2B12]**

- **"The Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide" p. 2-17**

If propagation changes during your contact and you notice increasing interference from other activity on the same frequency, what should you do?

A. Tell the interfering stations to change frequency

B. Report the interference to your local Amateur Auxiliary Coordinator

C. As a common courtesy, move your contact to another frequency

D. Increase power to overcome interference

G2B03

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G2B03

Which mode of voice communication is most commonly used on the HF amateur bands?

A. Frequency modulation

B. Double sideband

C. Single sideband

D. Phase modulation

G2A05

Which mode of voice communication is most commonly used on the HF amateur bands?

A. Frequency modulation

B. Double sideband

C. Single sideband

D. Phase modulation

G2A05

Which of the following is an advantage when using single sideband as compared to other analog voice modes on the HF amateur bands?

A. Very high fidelity voice modulation

B. Less bandwidth used and greater power efficiency

C. Ease of tuning on receive and immunity to impulse noise

D. Less subject to interference from atmospheric static crashes

G2A06

Which of the following is an advantage when using single sideband as compared to other analog voice modes on the HF amateur bands?

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B. Less bandwidth used and greater power efficiency

C. Ease of tuning on receive and immunity to impulse noise

D. Less subject to interference from atmospheric static crashes

G2A06

Which of the following statements is true of the single sideband voice mode?

A. Only one sideband and the carrier are transmitted; the other sideband is suppressed

B. Only one sideband is transmitted; the other sideband and carrier are suppressed

C. SSB is the only voice mode that is authorized on the 20-meter, 15-meter, and 10-meter amateur bands

D. SSB is the only voice mode that is authorized on the 160-meter, 75-meter and 40-meter amateur bands

G2A07

Which of the following statements is true of the single sideband voice mode?

A. Only one sideband and the carrier are transmitted; the other sideband is suppressed

B. Only one sideband is transmitted; the other sideband and carrier are suppressed

C. SSB is the only voice mode that is authorized on the 20-meter, 15-meter, and 10-meter amateur bands

D. SSB is the only voice mode that is authorized on the 160-meter, 75-meter and 40-meter amateur bands

G2A07

Which sideband is most commonly used for voice communications on frequencies of 14 MHz or higher?

A. Upper sideband

B. Lower sideband

C. Vestigial sideband

D. Double sideband

G2A01

Which sideband is most commonly used for voice communications on frequencies of 14 MHz or higher?

A. Upper sideband

B. Lower sideband

C. Vestigial sideband

D. Double sideband

G2A01

Which mode is most commonly used for voice communications on the 17-meter and 12-meter bands?

A. Upper sideband

B. Lower sideband

C. Vestigial sideband

D. Double sideband

G2A04

Which mode is most commonly used for voice communications on the 17-meter and 12-meter bands?

A. Upper sideband

B. Lower sideband

C. Vestigial sideband

D. Double sideband

G2A04

Why do most amateur stations use lower sideband on the 160-meter, 75-meter and 40-meter bands?

A. Lower sideband is more efficient than upper sideband at these frequencies

B. Lower sideband is the only sideband legal on these frequency bands

C. Because it is fully compatible with an AM detector

D. Current amateur practice is to use lower sideband on these frequency bands

G2A09

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D. Current amateur practice is to use lower sideband on these frequency bands

G2A09

What does the Q signal “QRN” mean?

A. Send more slowly

B. I am troubled by static

C. Zero beat my signal

D. Stop sending

G2C10

What does the Q signal “QRN” mean?

A. Send more slowly

B. I am troubled by static

C. Zero beat my signal

D. Stop sending

G2C10

Which of the following statements is true of voice VOX operation versus PTT operation?

A. The received signal is more natural sounding

B. It allows “hands free” operation

C. It occupies less bandwidth

D. It provides more power output

G2A10

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G2A10

Which of the following describes full break-in telegraphy (QSK)?

A. Breaking stations send the Morse code prosign BK

B. Automatic keyers are used to send Morse code instead of hand keys

C. An operator must activate a manual send/receive switch before and after every transmission

D. Transmitting stations can receive between code characters and elements

G2C01

Which of the following describes full break-in telegraphy (QSK)?

A. Breaking stations send the Morse code prosign BK

B. Automatic keyers are used to send Morse code instead of hand keys

C. An operator must activate a manual send/receive switch before and after every transmission

D. Transmitting stations can receive between code characters and elements

G2C01

What is the purpose of an electronic keyer?

A. Automatic transmit/receive switching

B. Automatic generation of strings of dots and dashes for CW operation

C. VOX operation

D. Computer interface for PSK and RTTY operation

G4A10

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G2C01

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B. Automatic keyers are used to send Morse code instead of hand keys

C. An operator must activate a manual send/receive switch before and after every transmission

D. Transmitting stations can receive between code characters and elements

G2C01

What should you do if a CW station sends “QRS”?

A. Send slower

B. Change frequency

C. Increase your power

D. Repeat everything twice

G2C02

What should you do if a CW station sends “QRS”?

A. Send slower

B. Change frequency

C. Increase your power

D. Repeat everything twice

G2C02

What does it mean when a CW operator sends "KN" at the end of a transmission?

A. Listening for novice stations

B. Operating full break-in

C. Listening only for a specific station or stations

D. Closing station now

G2C03

What does it mean when a CW operator sends "KN" at the end of a transmission?

A. Listening for novice stations

B. Operating full break-in

C. Listening only for a specific station or stations

D. Closing station now

G2C03

What is the best speed to use when answering a CQ in Morse code?

A. The fastest speed at which you are comfortable copying

B. The speed at which the CQ was sent

C. A slow speed until contact is established

D. At the standard calling speed of 5 wpm

G2C05

What is the best speed to use when answering a CQ in Morse code?

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B. The speed at which the CQ was sent

C. A slow speed until contact is established

D. At the standard calling speed of 5 wpm

G2C05

What does the term “zero beat” mean in CW operation?

A. Matching the speed of the transmitting station

B. Operating split to avoid interference on frequency

C. Sending without error

D. Matching your transmit frequency to the frequency of a received signal

G2C06

What does the term “zero beat” mean in CW operation?

A. Matching the speed of the transmitting station

B. Operating split to avoid interference on frequency

C. Sending without error

D. Matching your transmit frequency to the frequency of a received signal

G2C06

What prosign is sent to indicate the end of a formal message when using CW?

A. SK

B. BK

C. AR

D. KN

G2C08

What prosign is sent to indicate the end of a formal message when using CW?

A. SK

B. BK

C. AR

D. KN

G2C08

What does the Q signal “QSL” mean?

A. Send slower

B. We have already confirmed by card

C. I acknowledge receipt

D. We have worked before

G2C09

What does the Q signal “QSL” mean?

A. Send slower

B. We have already confirmed by card

C. I acknowledge receipt

D. We have worked before

G2C09

What does the Q signal “QRV” mean?

A. You are sending too fast

B. There is interference on the frequency

C. I am quitting for the day

D. I am ready to receive messages

G2C11

What does the Q signal “QRV” mean?

A. You are sending too fast

B. There is interference on the frequency

C. I am quitting for the day

D. I am ready to receive messages

G2C11

Which of the following must be true before an amateur station may provide news information to the media during a disaster?

A. The information must directly relate to the immediate safety of human life or protection of property and there is no other means of communication available

B. The exchange of such information must be approved by a local emergency preparedness official and transmitted on officially designated frequencies

C. The FCC must have declared a state of emergency

D. Both amateur stations must be RACES stations

G1B04

Which of the following must be true before an amateur station may provide news information to the media during a disaster?

A. **The information must directly relate to the immediate safety of human life or protection of property and there is no other means of communication available**

B. The exchange of such information must be approved by a local emergency preparedness official and transmitted on officially designated frequencies

C. The FCC must have declared a state of emergency

D. Both amateur stations must be RACES stations

G1B04

Who may be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting in RACES to assist relief operations during a disaster?

A. Only a person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license
B. Only a RACES net control operator
C. A person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license or an appropriate government official
D. Any control operator when normal communication systems are operational

G2B09

Who may be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting in RACES to assist relief operations during a disaster?

A. **Only a person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license**
B. Only a RACES net control operator
C. A person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license or an appropriate government official
D. Any control operator when normal communication systems are operational

G2B09

What is the first thing you should do if you are communicating with another amateur station and hear a station in distress break in?

A. Continue your communication because you were on the frequency first

B. Acknowledge the station in distress and determine what assistance may be needed

C. Change to a different frequency

D. Immediately cease all transmissions

G2B02

What is the first thing you should do if you are communicating with another amateur station and hear a station in distress break in?

A. Continue your communication because you were on the frequency first

B. Acknowledge the station in distress and determine what assistance may be needed

C. Change to a different frequency

D. Immediately cease all transmissions

G2B02

Who may be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting in RACES to assist relief operations during a disaster?

A. Only a person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license

B. Only a RACES net control operator

C. A person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license or an appropriate government official

D. Any control operator when normal communication systems are operational

FCC Rule: [97.407(a)] G2B09

Who may be the control operator of an amateur station transmitting in RACES to assist relief operations during a disaster?

A. Only a person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license

B. Only a RACES net control operator

C. A person holding an FCC issued amateur operator license or an appropriate government official

D. Any control operator when normal communication systems are operational

FCC Rule: [97.407(a)] G2B09

When may the FCC restrict normal frequency operations of amateur stations participating in RACES?

A. When they declare a temporary state of communication emergency

B. When they seize your equipment for use in disaster communications

C. Only when all amateur stations are instructed to stop transmitting

D. When the President's War Emergency Powers have been invoked

FCC Rule: [97.407(b)] G2B10

When may the FCC restrict normal frequency operations of amateur stations participating in RACES?

A. When they declare a temporary state of communication emergency

B. When they seize your equipment for use in disaster communications

C. Only when all amateur stations are instructed to stop transmitting

D. When the President's War Emergency Powers have been invoked

FCC Rule: [97.407(b)] G2B10

What frequency should be used to send a distress call?

A. Whichever frequency has the best chance of communicating the distress message

B. Only frequencies authorized for RACES or ARES stations

C. Only frequencies that are within your operating privileges

D. Only frequencies used by police, fire or emergency medical services

FCC Rule: [97.405] G2B11

What frequency should be used to send a distress call?

A. Whichever frequency has the best chance of communicating the distress message

B. Only frequencies authorized for RACES or ARES stations

C. Only frequencies that are within your operating privileges

D. Only frequencies used by police, fire or emergency medical services

FCC Rule: [97.405] G2B11

When is an amateur station allowed to use any means at its disposal to assist another station in distress?

A. Only when transmitting in RACES

B. At any time when transmitting in an organized net

C. At any time during an actual emergency

D. Only on authorized HF frequencies

FCC Rule: [97.405(b)] G2B12

When is an amateur station allowed to use any means at its disposal to assist another station in distress?

A. Only when transmitting in RACES

B. At any time when transmitting in an organized net

C. At any time during an actual emergency

D. Only on authorized HF frequencies

FCC Rule: [97.405(b)] G2B12

That’s the end…of just Chapter 2

* **Much more to Learn!**
* **Have and enjoy the journey!**