

Introduction to HF QSO's

Getting Started with HF:

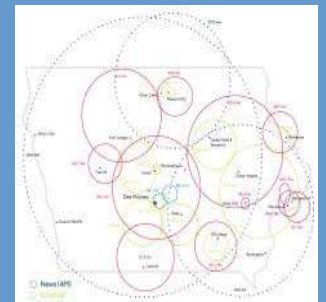
Topics:

- General Idea of the various types of contacts
- A range of QSO *formats* is presented by the variety of HF Modes
- Example of scheduled HF QSOs with multiple stations participating

A Brief Overview of HF Contacts

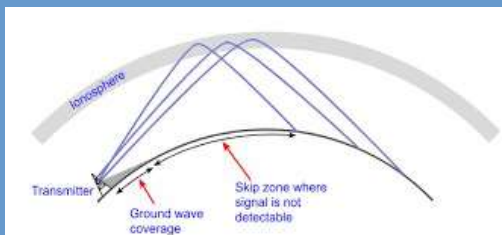
- The various modes(SSB, Digital, CW etc.) tend to shape the content of the contact QSO.

- This presentation is about SSB QSOs



(a) How to get started – once your station is functioning.

- The wide variety of operation that is open to you
 - Time on the air - a little or a lot
 - Weekdays, weekends, mornings, nights (or all of the above !!)



(b) How a schedule for a group of Midwest Ham takes place

SSB HF QSOs

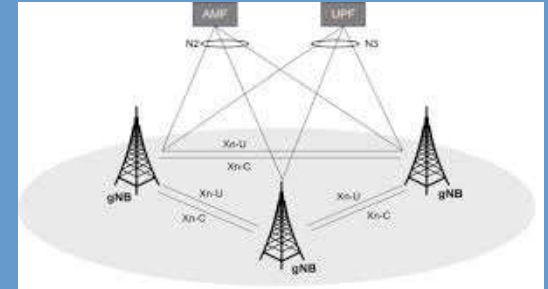
- Easy ways to get started on HF

- **Nets:**

- A great way to transmit “little”, but yet find out how your signal is doing.
- Following a daily net may give some propagation insight of the band(s).
- Nearly all bands change during the day, and during the seasons – spring, summer, winter etc.

Where to find HF Nets:

- ARRL.org has net listings
 - <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search>
- Can google "Ham Radio Nets"
- Huge number of nets in the US and Internationally
 - Find them for each State / Region/County etc.



Kansas & Missouri SSB Nets:

From the ARRL On-line Net Directory

Kansas Evening Weather Net	3.92	Dy	6:00 PM
Kansas Morning Weather Net	3.92	Dy	7:00 AM
Kansas Phone Net	3.92	S, Sn	8:00 AM
Kansas Phone Net	3.92	M, W, F	6:45 AM
Kansas Phone Net	3.92	MWF	6:45 AM
Kansas Sideband Net	3.92	Dy	6:30 PM
Missouri Emergency Services Net	3.963	Sn	6:15 PM
Missouri Emergency Services Net (MESN)	3.963 7.263	Sn	
Missouri Section Net (MON) Early Session)	3.585	Daily	6:30 PM
Missouri Section Net (MON) Late Session	3.585	Daily	9:45 PM
Missouri Traffic Net	3.963	Dy	
NARC Net	53.270 (-1.7) (162.2)	Thursday	7:30 PM

SSB QSOs

Brand New QSOs or Scheduled QSOs

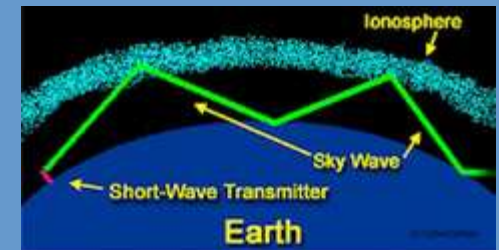
- General process for making a brand new QSO:

1. Check that the frequency is not in use
2. Ask "is this frequency in use" a few times
3. Call CQ & give your call sign
4. Exchange, names, locations, signal reports etc
5. If the station seems to want to continue:
6. Any topic – they may hint at topics
7. Typically stay away from politics and religion
8. Don't "monologue" - try to keep the time balanced between stations.
9. Note: Some folks may only want a short QSO
(don't be surprised if they get called to lunch or to help someone)



A Story about a multi-station QSO schedule

- Long run schedule with "ham buddies"
 - A number of Hams I've known since high school
 - We've held hundreds of QSOs over the air through the years
 - All of us have moved – many states away but stayed in contact.
- **SSB HF has kept us in contact with each other**
 - Through the years we've
 - Traveled to numerous hamfests to meet up
 - Visited each others QTHs
 - Met each others families
 - Dinned at nice restaurants



How It All Started



- I grew up in a small Nebraska town: O'Neill, NE
 - Hams were sparse – sometimes in the next county
 - It was typical to search each other out
 - (2M/440 was barely starting there)
 - SSB HF was universally used (for short & long distances)
- AI: WAØHQQ lived 100 miles west in VALENTINE - heard about me_(no car)
- Took me to my 1st Field Day (Long Pine State Park, NE)
- I met his brother-in-law: Larry: WAØKFP
- I met more hams on NETS & with AI & Larry at hamfests, and on the air.

Field Day at: Long Pine State Park, Nebraska

Page 16B Thursday, June 28, 1973 — Ainsworth (Nebr.) Star-Journal



Al, WAØHQQ, Valentine, NE
 George, WBØCNK, O'Neill, NE
 Merritt, WAØHFH, Ainsworth, NE

Wes Bassett, NE

Margaret & Milt (Ideal, SD)

Some of the Ham Radio operators on hand during the 26-hour simulated emergency workout were, from left: Al Tirevold of Valentine, George McCarville of O'Neill, Merritt Plantz of Ainsworth; Margaret Habeger of Ideal, S.D., and Wes Jones of Bassett. Standing at rear is Milton Habeger of Ideal.

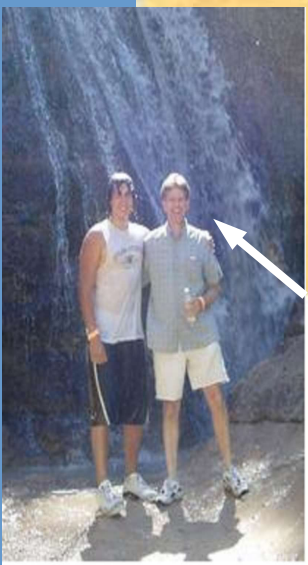
Members of the Niobrara Valley Amateur Radio Operators club began a simulated emergency session Saturday afternoon in a camp set up in the

Long Pine State Park, and by Sunday afternoon had logged a total of 586 contacts with other ham operators in 47 states, four Canadian provinces, and the Canal Zone.

486 other ham stations, for an average of one every three minutes.

Emergency-type antennas were erected at the site. One was put in the top of a tall pine tree by shooting a fish line with a bow over the tree, and then pulling an antenna and coaxial cable up with the line. Hams were on hand from Valentine, Ainsworth, Bassett, Newport, O'Neill, Sargent, Taylor and Ideal, So. Dak.

Some 14 licensed "hams" spent all or part of the 26-hour period at the campsite in the park, including four novice licensees who made an even 100 contacts by Morse code. The 10 licensees holding general or higher radio ratings, contacted



Alan, WDØBGZ(& son)
 Was a Novice with me at Long Pine Field Day

Victoria Springs State Park, NE , 1973 (State Hamfest)

Larry, WAØKFP

John, WAØYFR

Al, WAØHQQ

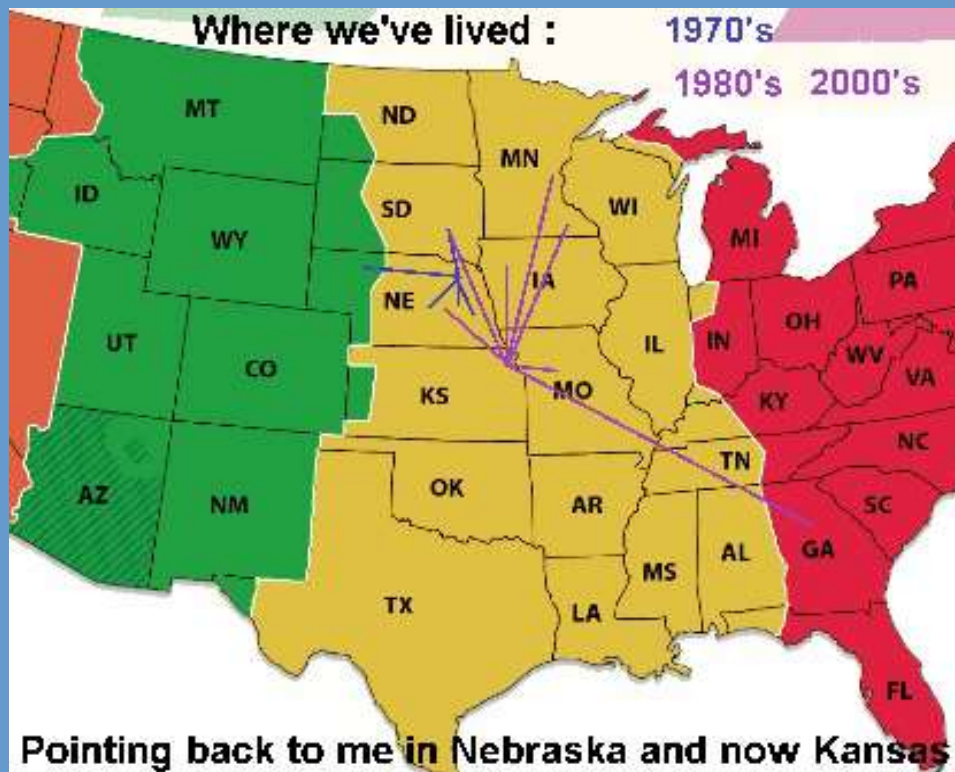


Hams that have stayed in contact with the scheduled HF QSO

AI,WAØHQQ (and others) around 1974

Decide to create a 80M SSB HF QSO Schedule

- Since folks were moving to new locations.
- We have usually met on the upper part of 80M (75M SSB phone).
- Sometimes 160M or 40M (depending upon the propagation conditions)
- Many have stuck to the schedule through the *years*



Over the years
the group expands:

Atlanta, GA
Sioux Falls, SD (3 stations)
Winona, Minnesota
Overland Park, KS
Bolivar, MO (Springfield, MO)
Cherokee, IA
Hastings, NE

- We track each other traveling on vacations when they are HF mobile.
- (Even John, WAØKFP & Wife Sue when they were HF mobile in Alaska!)

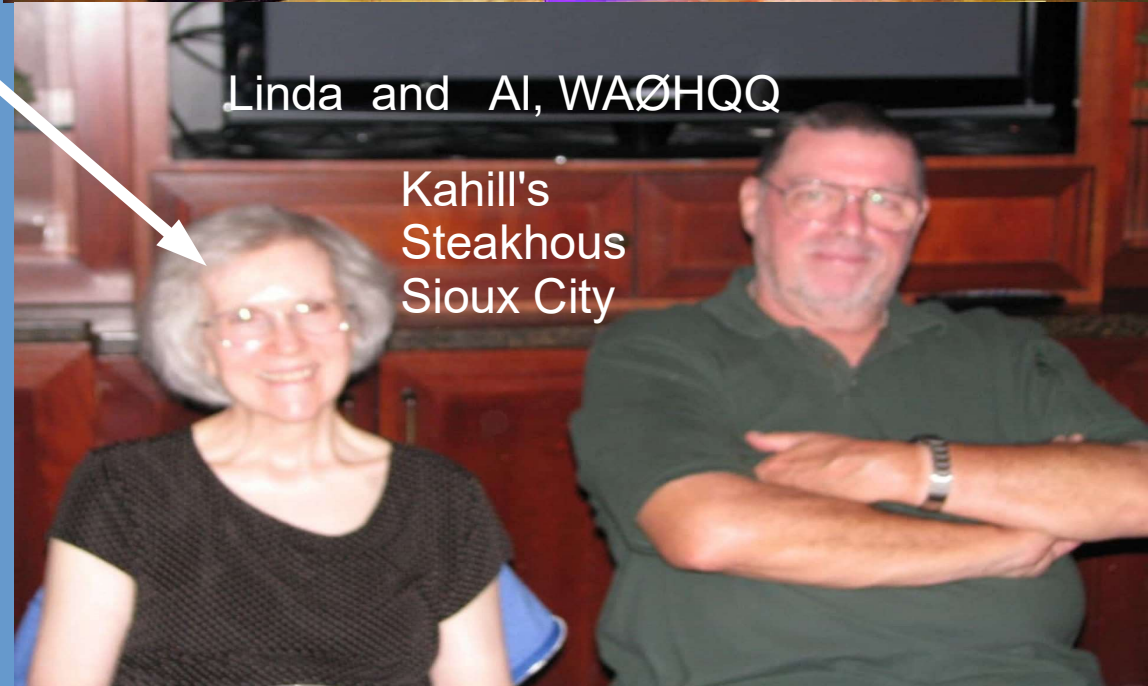


Here's John, WAØYFR and Sue from Sioux Falls,SD in 2023 when they visited while Traveling across the US on Vacation.

We've made a point of traveling to meet at Hamfests

Linda met Al,
by talking to him on Larry's
Radio while they were in high
school.

Siblings



Goofing off at the Sioux City Hamfest

John Dick George Gerry
WAØYFR WØSIR WBØCNK WAØJCV
Sioux Falls Sioux Falls OP KS Sioux Falls





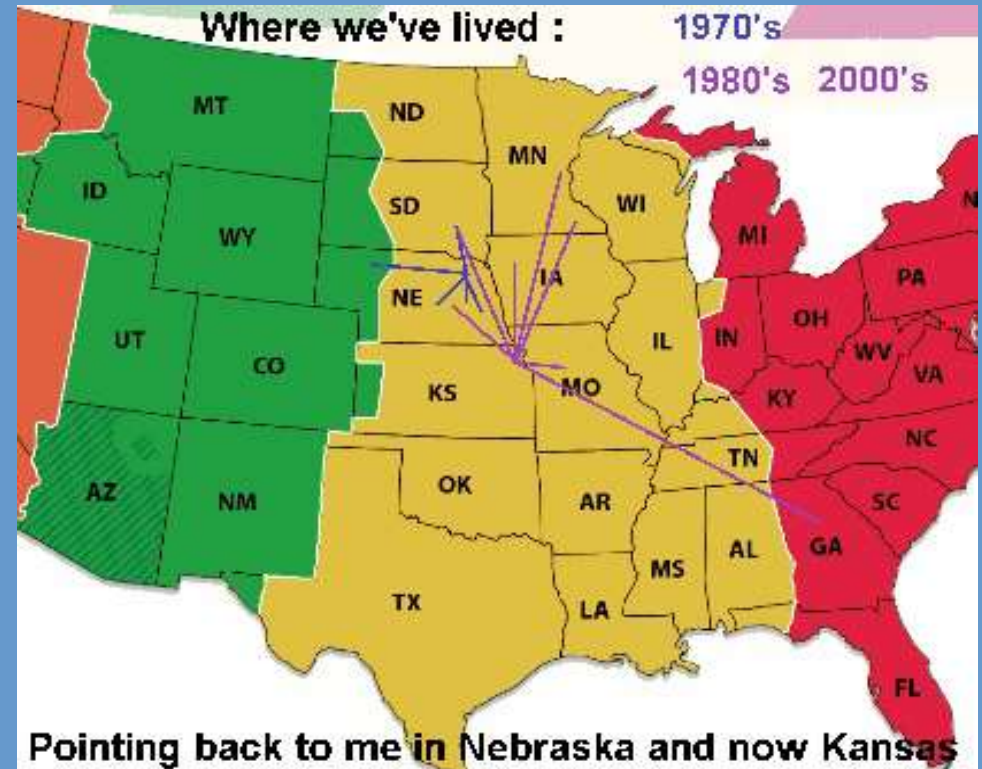
A lot of the gang at Sioux City Hamfest

Dinner at Kahill's Steak House



On the Air ID Audio Clip from a QSO

- Our QSOs typically last hours (8pm to 10PM -sometimes longer)
- We "ID" every 10 minutes (as required by the FCC)
- Evening SSB QSO on 80M
- Stations in the QSO are from:
 - Atlanta, GA
 - Sioux Falls, SD (2 stations)
 - Winona, Minnesota
 - Overland Park, KS
 - Bolivar, MO (Springfield, MO)
 - Cherokee, IA
 - Hastings, NE
- Audio recording by AI, WAØHQQ (in Atlanta, GA)



Johns' wife Sue

Made a recording for the 10 MINUTE ID TIMER

"This is WAØYFR" (which "leads off" all of our station identifications.

Click the link below to hear the stations ID

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WgV8kBIf-P5ShoFQNULMnwh0bRTKQi7L/view?usp=drive_link