

Let's get on the air ! Don't worry about trying to sound like the professional game show announcer. Just push the talk button on the mic and do it ! But first just a few tips on how it's done. Make sure you have your Q signals and phonetic alphabetic sheet handy. Make sure you have an updated band plan too. Don't try to make voice contact on a CW frequency or make a repeater contact on a simplex frequency.

FM simplex: Listen to make sure you are not breaking in on an ongoing conversation (QSO) If you want to talk to anyone, key the mic and just say your call sign. For example KK6XYZ. If no response just be patient and try again in a few minutes.

If you want to break in on a QSO in process wait for a clear time when no one is talking and say your call sign. If no response just be patient and try again in a few minutes.

If you want to contact a specific ham, listen to make sure your not breaking in on an ongoing QSO. Say the other persons call sign, then your call sign. If no response just be patient and try again in a few minutes. That's it - no names - nothing else.

When someone acknowledges your call they will give their call sign and perhaps phonetically too. You may want to write it down. They may give their name (you may want to write it down) and location- or maybe not. They might ask your name and location - maybe not. You can offer your **first name ONLY.** And your approximate location if you wish. You do not need to give a stranger your home address, cell number or any other private information.

You may wish to tell them you are a new ham and appreciate the QSO. Continue on with what ever you think the other ham might have interest in hearing about.

If you have someone who is not a ham and would like to get them on the air, ask if you could pass some THIRD party traffic you have. Tell them it is_____ (relative, neighbor, spouse, etc) Third party means they do not have a license and you are the control operator.

You can end your contact with: Thanks for the QSO, 73 your callsign_____

Repeater: Listen to make sure you are not breaking in on an ongoing QSO.

If you want to speak to anyone - key the mic, wait 2 seconds before you speak, say your call sign and wait. If no response just be patient and try again in a few minutes.

Repeaters take a few seconds to receive and retransmit your message. Wait that 2 full seconds before you start talking, if you don't the first work or two of your conversation could be cut off (not transmitted) If you want to break in on a QSO in process wait for a clear time when no one is talking and say your call sign. If no response just be patient and try again in a few minutes.

If you want to contact a specific ham, listen to make sure your not breaking in on an ongoing QSO. Say the other persons call sign, then your call sign. If no response just be patient and try again in a few minutes. That's it - no names - nothing else.

When someone acknowledges your call they will give their call sign and perhaps phonetically too. You may want to write it down. They may give their name (you may want to write it down) and location- or maybe not. They might ask your name and location - maybe not. You can offer your **first name ONLY.** And your approximate location if you wish. You do not need to give a stranger your home address, cell number or any other private information.

You may wish to tell them you are a new ham and appreciate the QSO. Continue on with what ever you think the other ham might have interest in hearing about.

If you have someone who is not a ham and would like to get them on the air, ask if you can pass some THIRD party traffic you have. Tell them it is_____ (relative, neighbor, spouse, etc)

Third party means they do not have a license and you are the control operator. You can end your contact with: Thanks for the QSO, 73 your callsign_____

HF: (High Frequency) 3 - 30 MHz

Some different tips here. Listen to make sure you are not breaking in on an ongoing conversation (QSO) You may want to use headphones. The HF bands can be noisy and stations can be hard to hear with both background noise where your at, and the noise on the air. Listen for sometime so you can determine which band sounds the best now, and the lowest noise level.

Call CQ, CQ, CQ (3 times) CQ means calling any station who can hear you.

Give your call sign slowly, then give it phonetically. You can give your city, state or general area, no specific address. If no response just be patient and try again in a few minutes.

At this point you may want to tune around the band (search for other frequencies) that you might be able to make a contact on. You might hear several stations on the same frequency (called a pile up) so you may want to stay clear and listen. The pile up could be caused by a number of hams trying to make contact with a rare station. i.e The other ham is at the South Pole with a special call sign, etc. etc.

When someone acknowledges your call they will give their call sign and perhaps phonetically too. You will want to write it down. They may give their name (you will want to write it down) and location- or maybe not. They might ask your name and location - maybe not. You can offer your **first name ONLY**. And your approximate location if you wish. You do not need to give a stranger your home address, cell number or any other private information.

You may wish to tell them you are a new ham and appreciate the QSO. Continue on with what ever you think the other ham might have interest in hearing about.

If you have someone who is not a ham and would like to get them on the air, ask if you can pass some THIRD party traffic you have. Tell them it is _____ (relative, neighbor, spouse, etc)

Third party means they do not have a license and you are the control operator.

At the end of the contact tell the person thanks for the QSO, say 73, give your call sign.

From time to time special contests are held (i.e. Field Day) or other contests. The goal is to make as many contacts you can in a day, a week end, etc. They log the information and they get points for every contact made. **Listen, listen first**. If they are short and to the point contacts, with very brief wording is it probably a contest. If you are not part of the contest please don't try to make the contact. The other person will only loose potential points chit chatting with you - takes to much time! Just move on to another frequency and call CQ !

A NET: simplex or repeater: Make time and listen to a net two or three times. SCIRA has a net each Sunday night at 9 pm, listen in. The frequencies are on the CD. Set up a practice net with 5-6 others, use low power simplex. Inside a building is best. Net should be someone experienced at being net control. You will start to learn the terms. The person called net or net control is in charge. When your call sign is called by net respond with your call sign. **IF YOU ARE ASKED FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION RESPOND BRIEFLY AND THEN SAY BACK TO NET. DO NOT TRY TO TALK TO ANY OTHER HAM UNLESS YOU GET THE APPROVAL FROM NET**. If you are doing a net for a special event you may be called i.e.. "STATION 3" instead of your callsign - respond as Station 3. Respond briefly if net asks for information, end with back to net. If you have an emergency say Net, station 3, emergency !

Wait for net to respond, then state the exact emergency and brief details, please no chit chat.

You are not a peace officer, paramedic or the FBI. Make observations and take notes only.

If net needs more information they will get back to you.