

# SHORTS

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## **“New Ham” Tips**

So, you've just earned your General Class License and are all set to get on **HF**. You've got a new or used transceiver on the air with a good antenna system and you're ready to tackle the world of **High Frequency!** (Used to be called Short Wave)

Here are a few of operating hints to HF operating that may help you avoid some uncertainty and make you more effective in making these contacts.

- **Calling CQ** - Before rushing out and calling CQ,

you may want to try listening across the band for other CQ's or stations already in a QSO. Contrary to what you may have heard breaking into an existing QSO is generally welcomed by most hams. The best way to do this, is when you hear a pause in their conversation, just quickly announce your call sign and listen. Most of the time the other stations will welcome you to the conversation. Be sure to tell them you are new to HF. We were once in the same boat and will welcome you.

This way you can make some new friends and learn the procedures of how to be a skillful HF operator. The key method is listen, listen and listen.

**DX Pileups** - There is a common myth that you have to run 2 KW with a beam at 100 feet to work DX. Not so. The key to success is patience! Keep in mind, because the station you want is overseas, you cannot hear what he is hearing. Most DX stations are listening a mob scene of stations that are trying to call from all over the world. For example, if the DX station is in Europe on 20 meters in the evening, the propagation will not enable you to hear too many of the US stations, so you may feel the DX station is not hearing you after several attempts to call him. Actually, if your timing right, he will call you back even if you're running 100 watts. Most big DX stations have monster antenna systems. Trust me they will hear you but you need to be patient. It may take several attempts so keep trying.



**HF Nets** - Be sure to listen to the net for a while to see how their procedures work. Most nets will welcome new check-ins. Don't expect a long QSO. Each of these nets are operating for a specific purpose. They include the Intercontinental Net, Maritime Mobile Net, Western PA Phone Traffic Net and an endless supply of nets, which range from everything to former submarine sailors to the Knights of Columbus. A complete net directory is available at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search>

**Best Bands for DX** - Keep in mind that radio propagation follows the sun. The standard convention is lower frequencies at night and higher frequencies during the day. Most times, you're going to do better on 20, 15, 18 and 10 meters during the day and 160, 75, 60 and 40 meters during the evening and late night. Conditions can change (and often do) but generally this is a good rule. I recommend a great book available from the ARRL. It's called **Low Band DXing**.

### **Say “Over” or “Go Ahead”**

Operation on HF is different than two meter repeaters. There is no beep or squelch tail to let the other station know you're finished talking. So, it's a good idea to say “back to you” or “over” or some indication that you're ready to listen. With QRM often on the band it may be difficult to hear the station so give them every advantage to hear you.

### **Wall Paper**

Many hams like to collect awards, certificates and other evidence of superior operation. The opportunities are limitless. WAS – Worked All States – WAC – Worked All Continents, WAZ – Worked All Zones, DXCC, proof that you have worked 100+ different countries. And, if you really want to make your life's work, Join the “County Hunters” on 14.336 – There are 3,144 counties in the US. Some hams have worked every one of them!

**HF Radio** is one of the most exciting activities in Ham Radio. Some say the most romantic part of radio operation is CW on HF. I happen to agree. This mode on this band is full of surprises. Many ops like to exchange QSL

cards. If you don't want to buy any, QSLs are easy to make. Have fun with your new privileges. Be sure to ask any of us for help.

### **HAM SCRAM SUCCESS!**

BCARS adds a new Technician and an Amateur Extra Class upgrade to its efforts. Michelle Kahl of Curwensville successfully passed her Technician License on 26 March. In addition, our own Jim Hawn, KC3PFA upgraded to Extra. Jim is now improving his HF station in New Paris. You'll be hearing his new big signal shortly.



***Jim- KC3PFA, passing Extra***

## Almost Maritime Mobile



Having spent several years at sea, as K3QNT/MM, I often yearn to return to the ocean blue. Well, the closest I got was a trip last month to Atlantic City. I rolled my Jeep mobile rig within 50 feet of the ocean hoping to take advantage of that legendary 5,000 mho conductivity. I worked two stations in Europe on 40 meters quite easily. As an

experiment, I drove inland and started to lose them. In the propagation biz, this is called **“Beach Reach!”**



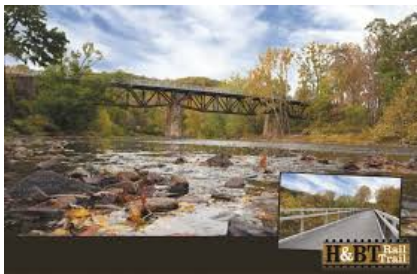
**Wall Paper**

WAZ - 14		PORTUGAL		ITU - 37				
<b>CT 1 EDJ</b>								
RADIO AMATEUR STATION								
QTH OF RTX : CAPARICA - ALMADA, at 10 Km of LISBOA								
CONFIRMING QSO								
TO STATION	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	FREQ	MODE	RST	QSL
K3QNT	28	04	2012	2147	21039	CW	539	TNX
MANUEL JOSÉ C. AURINDO P.O. BOX 4269 1503-002 LISBOA PORTUGAL						RIG: FT2400, And 950Watts ANT: VERTIC - CUSH MOUNT DISTANCE TXN 950 And 95L, 4400 CUSH BEST 73 AND DX JOSÉ		

**QSL Card**

## **Aquatic Communications Assistance Big Success!**

Once again BCARS outdid themselves with two events in Everett and the famous "Float for Charity." Due to the herculean efforts of WB3JEK and KC3CMF, our new "Communications Van" was deployed for the first time at all three events! Even our own Keith Bagley Reporting was able to operate from the mobile command center. All three events went off without a flaw thanks to your assistance from BCARS.



**Rails to Trail Triathlon**

**Send your  
contribution for  
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