

Field Day Preparation – Session 4

Basic Morse and Digital Operation

How do we Make Contacts?

Morse and Keyboard-Keyboard Digital Modes have similar contact scenarios

- Calling CQ
- Answering a CQ call
- Tail-ending a QSO

Why are we Making this Contact

Contact style will vary depending on whether we're doing rag-chew, DX, or contesting

- Rag-Chew contacts can go on for a while
- DX and Contest QSOs are intended to be short
- In all cases, a QSO has a beginning, a middle and an end...

Responding to CQ

Station calling CQ will send something like:

- CQ CQ CQ DE VE3CJ VE3CJ K
- 'Prosign' K means “Any station go ahead”
- Above transmission reads as “Any Station from VE3CJ, please go ahead”

Responding to CQ

Zero-beat the station and send back:

- VE3CJ VE3CJ DE VA3TSK VA3TSK AR
- 'AR' is the prosign for 'End of Transmission' when not currently in a contact.
- If conditions are good, you might just send your callsign and AR.
- This is really a request to begin a conversation

Responding to CQ

If the CQ'ing station hears you and wants to respond they will start a conversation

- VA3TSK DE VE3CJ GE ES TNX FER CALL BT UR RST 599 599 BT QTH OAKVILLE, ON? OAKVILLE, ON BT NAME FRED FRED SO HW? VA3TSK DE VE3CJ K
- Note that they have sent the essential information for the contact: signal report, location, and name.
- Other notes: Prosigns and abbreviations: GE, TNX, FER, BT, ?, 'SO HW?'

Responding to CQ

You note down the information, along with time and frequency, then send back

- VE3CJ DE VA3TSK GE FRED NICE MEET U BT UR 599 599 IN BURLINGTON, ON? BURLINGTON, ON BT NAME GREG GREG BT RU GOING TO BE AT FIELD DAY? LOOKS LIKE FUN THIS YEAR BK
- We've now sent back the essential QSL information, so if the band fades or whatever, we can still log the contact.
- Since we're in a conversation, we don't need to sign the message with call signs, just BK is fine.

Responding to CQ

Fred might reply with

- BK RRR C LOOKING FWD TO FD BUT SORRY TO NOT BE IN A REAL FIELD THIS YR HI HI BK
- BK is short for 'turnaround' or 'Back to You'.
- RRR (really just one R but people seem to like sending multiples) means 'received and understood'.
- C for 'yes'. 'HI HI' for laughter. Note other abbreviations.

Responding to CQ

After some idle chat, you might want to politely move to end the contact...

- VE3CJ DE VA3TSK OK FRED MUST PICK UP YF FROM MALL BT TNX NICE QSO ES HOPE CUA 73 73
VE3CJ DE VA3TSK

After which, Fred says

- OK GREG, TNX QSO ES CUA 73 73 SK VA3TSK DE
VE3CJ (pause) dit dit

And you might send back dit dit, then log the ending time and carry on.

Sending CQ

Similar to responding, except you're initiating...

- CQ CQ CQ DE VA3TSK VA3TSK K
- Listen ten or fifteen seconds for a call, then repeat til bored.
- If it's easy, you might want to turn off your narrow filter while listening. That way if someone isn't exactly on frequency, you'll still hear them and can get them with RIT