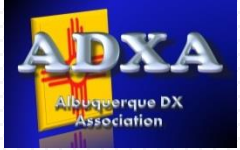


High Frequency University  
the Senior Year 4.0

# 1-HF Operating Techniques Becoming a Better Operator

A pdf of this presentation will be posted on [www.dukecityhamfest.org](http://www.dukecityhamfest.org)  
shortly after the Hamfest is over.



W5UR

# RADIO COMMUNICATIONS



**ARRL** The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**<sup>®</sup>  
[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

**SKILL • SERVICE • DISCOVERY**



# HF Operating Techniques

- Better Operating = More...
- Practice Leads toward Perfection
- Operating Opportunities
- Phonetics & Other Hints
- CW to Your Advantage

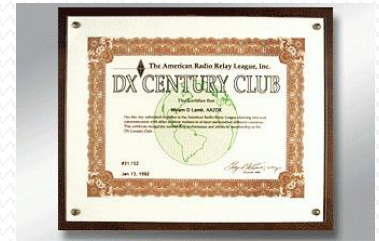


# More Fun with HF

- Chasing
  - ❖ DX
  - ❖ States
  - ❖ Islands (IOTA)
  - ❖ Counties
  - ❖ Grids?

# More Fun with HF

- DXCC
- WAS Worked All States
- IOTA Very Challenging
- USA-CA Logs Only



Islands On The Air



# Practice toward Perfection

- Hone Your Skills by BIC Butt In Chair
- Follow the Best Examples Contesters & DX Chasers
- Don't Rely on Field Day Examples
- Instead, Set the Field Day Example



# Poor Practices—SSB

- Excessive Verbiage  
W6H this is K8TE Calling
- He Knows His Call
- He Knows You Are Calling
- All He Needs is Your Callsign
- And Then Your Report “59 NM”



# Poor Practices—SSB

- Stop the “OVER OVER”
- Stop the “AGAIN AGAIN”
- Stop “QSL?” for Every Over
- No More “Roger That”  
We are not cops!  
Nor do we play cops on TV!





# Poor Practices—CW

- W6H W6H DE K8TE K8TE K
- K8TE K8TE K
- Send Your Call Once Correctly  
Don't Use Paddle Unless You're Good  
Do Use Logger Macro Keys
- Duplicate Her Report  
5nn NM NOT 599 599 New Mexico

# Where to Practice?

- Local Repeaters—Use Phonetics
- DX, Contests, SES, Be Succinct
- Be Interesting for Rag Chews
- Be Short and Sweet Chasing
- Listen, Listen, Listen

# Listen, Listen, Listen

- DX Code of Conduct
- “KD7 Suffix”
- “ABC Prefix”
- “Suffix Second Letter Only”
- “My Report?”
- “New Contacts Only No Dupes”

# When to Practice?

- Contest Calendar
- QST Contest Corral
- ARRL Contest Newsletter
- State QSO Parties
- NG3K DX Operations
- QST How's DX?



Home 8-Day 5-Week 12-Month

Welcome to the **WA7BNM Contest Calendar** summaries, log submission information and li

## 8-Day Calendar

Lists details for each contest during an 8-day

## 5-Week Calendar

Lists the names and dates for each contest fo



# NERD 1's Calendar

- Important Ones On Top & Specific Times

- Shared with Vana

- Look Ahead for the Week/Month

- 7 Ps DCHF 17-19 Sep 2025

SAT

5

IOTA NA-119/120

Ham Expo Belton TX

Los Alamos & Santa Fe Club Meetings

Portable Operating Challenge Contest

ARRL EME Contest

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® 5-13 Oct 2024

California QSO Party CAQP Contest

# All Operating is Skill-Based

- Skill Improves With  
Education  
Training  
Practice
- Rinse & Repeat
- Remember BIC



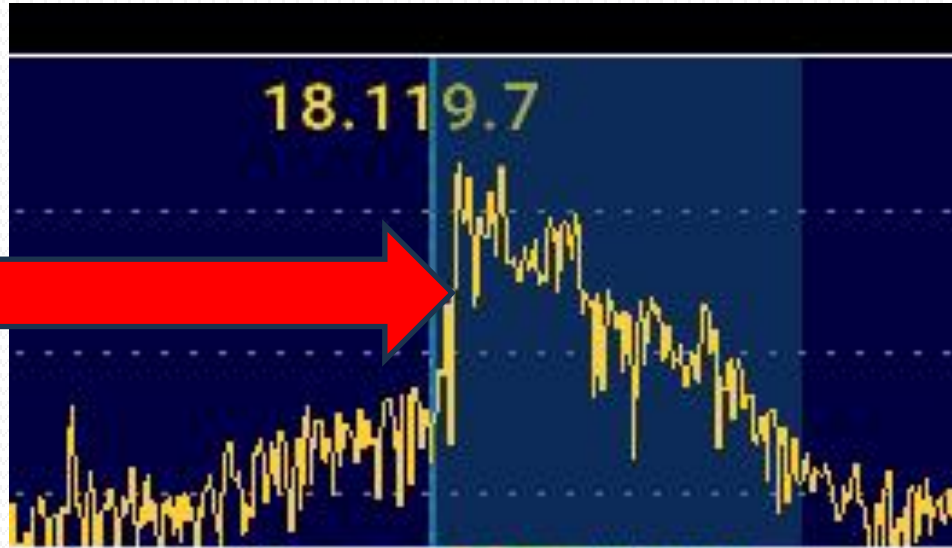
# Good TX Audio

- Have Good, Crisp Audio
- Cut Lows
- Emphasize Highs
- Record on an SDR
- Watch/Correct ALC
- Use a Qualified Mentor
- Become a Qualified Mentor

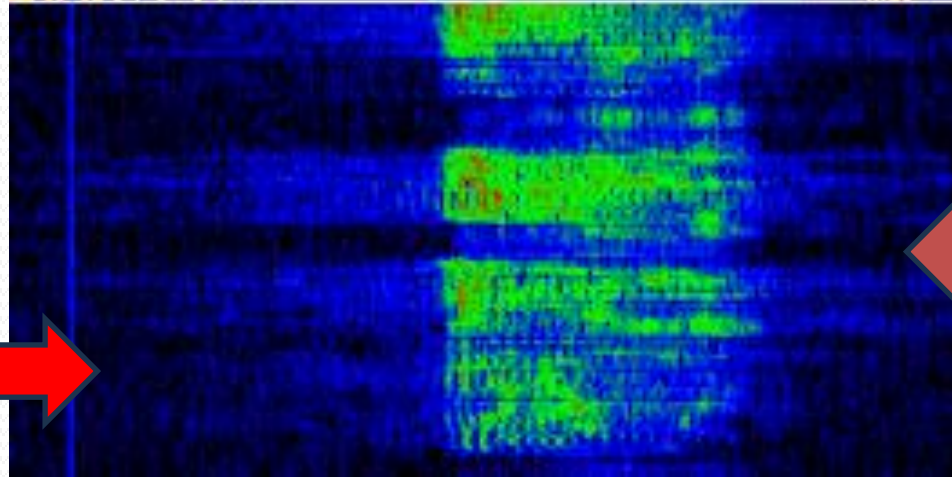


# Bad TX Audio

Lows Hot  
Highs Cut



Excessive ALC  
Splatter Low  
Splatter High





MIC 20  
*CMP*

PWR 50  
*DLY*

BW 2.50  
*HI*

SHFT 1.50  
*LO*

M.SQL 0  
*M.RF*

S.RF 0  
*S.SQL*

11.5V 3.2A  
45W 1.1:1

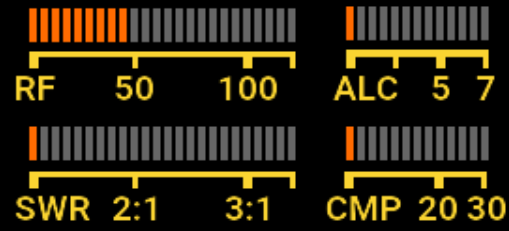
14.256.000

A  
USB  
FL2

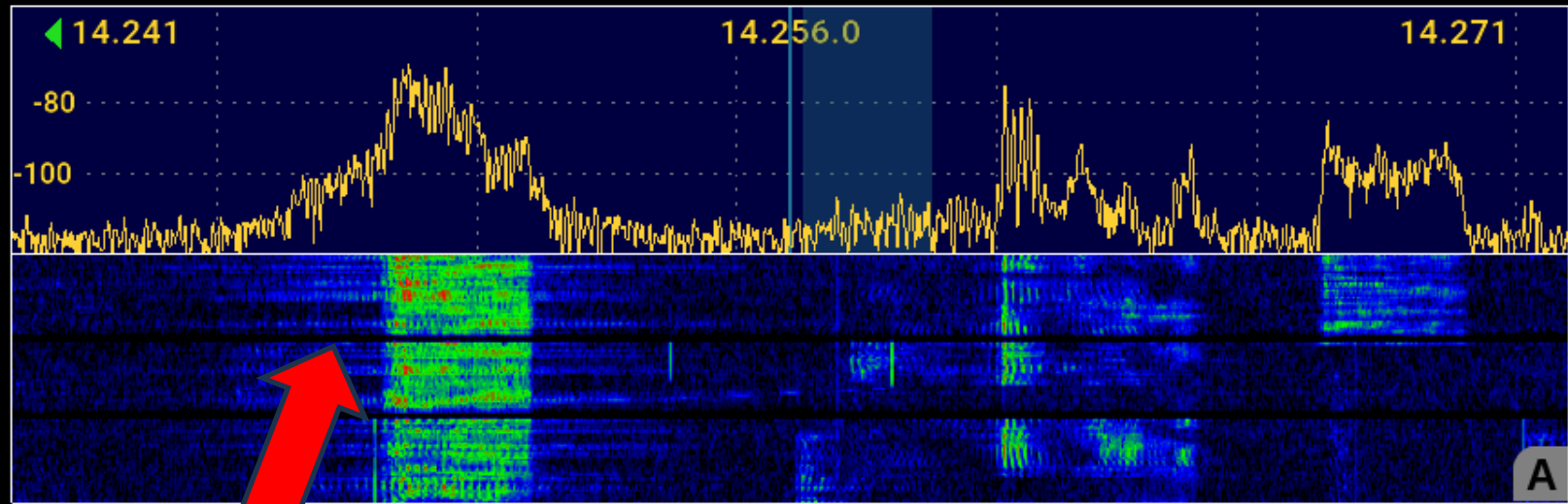
TX  
SPLIT OFF  
MSG: I

B  
CW  
FL2  
DR+

14.033.000



RIT XIT  
+0.06



? MENU Fn DISPLAY BAND MAIN RX SUB RX TX

Mic Gain too Hot & ALC too High

# Why Not CW?

- No More “Please Copy” Pictures
- Better  $(S+N)/N$
- Often Faster Exchanges
- Pileups Are “Easier”
- No Accents Barrier (Mostly)
- Easy Keyboard Macros

# Why Not CW?

- Keyboard Macros (Shortcuts)
- F1 Your CQ  
CQ FD K8TE K8TE FD
- F2 Send Report “5NN NM”
- F3 Thanks “TU K8TE”
- F4 Your Callsign “K8TE”

# Why Not CW?

- Program Into the Radio Too
- Interface Logger & Radio
- Avoid Bugs & Paddles  
Until You Become an Expert  
Intense Moments Cause Wrecks
- KISS Method

# Operating Potpourri

- Feel “Loud” if Not Truly Loud
- Friendly to Non-Participants
- Update SCP/Call Histories
- Change Tactics if No Responses
- In-State—Call CQ All the Time
- Out-of-State—Search & Pounce

# Operating Potpourri

- Focus on QSO Rates in Contesting
- Focus on Mults for DX'ing
- Call Slightly Off Frequency for CW
- Use a Panadaptor for “Clear” Spots
- Use a Checklist for Contest Prep
- Attend Contest University
- Attend DX University

# References

- <https://www.arrl.org/dxcc>
- <https://www.arrl.org/was>
- <https://www.iota-world.org/>
- <http://www.countyhunterweb.org/>
- <https://dx-code.com/>
- <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>
- <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxoplain.html>
  
- [easywayhambooks.com](http://easywayhambooks.com)