 CW QSO Protocol

Prepared by W6JIM

**PROTOCOL-1**

*(their call) DE (your call)*

1. GM/GA/GE ES TNX FER (CALL/RPRT) Key-Words:
2. UR RST 599
3. QTH FRESNO, CA x2 RST - QTH - NAME
4. NAME JIM
5. OK HW?

*(their call) DE (your call)* K

**PROTOCOL-2**

*(their call) DE (your call)*

1. OK (John) FB ES TNX FER (INFO/RPRT) Notes:
2. RIG IC 7300 ES PWR 50W
3. ANT DIPOLE UP 45 FT
4. WX Rain ES TEMP 50F
5. OK HW?

*(their call) DE (your call)* K

**PROTOCOL-3**

*(their call) DE (your call)*

1. OK (John) SOLID CPY Notes:
2. AGE 55 YRS
3. BEEN HAM FER 25 YRS
4. MY KEY J38
5. OK HW?

*(their call) DE (your call)* K

**ENDING**

*(their call) DE (your call)* Notes:

1. OK (John) TNX FER FB QSO
2. ES HP CUAGN 73

*(their call) DE (your call)* TU

(Send closing “Dits” as described on next page)

**Additional Info**

1. QRL? - Before calling CQ. Call **QRL?** at least twice to ensure the frequency is not in use
2. Calling CQ - A typical CQ call is in a 2 x 2 format: **CQ CQ DE (your call) (your call) K**
   1. Wait then repeat, if necessary, again 2 x 2. No need to call lengthy CQs
   2. Stations most typically respond with **(your call) DE (their call) (their call) K**
   3. When a station answers your CQ begin protocol P1 using the **TNX FER CALL** option
3. Answering a CQ - Answer a CQ by sending **(their call) DE (your call) (your call) K**
   1. The calling station will go through protocol-1 then hand it back to you
   2. Now you start protocol-1 using the **TNX FER RPRT** option
4. Ending - other station starts the ending sequence:
   1. Come back after the like you normally would for a K
   2. Answer any open questions, say anything else you want to share, then initiate Ending
   3. After sending your send **2-dits**. The other station will send 2-dits back & your QSO is done!
5. Ending - you start the ending sequence:
   1. Wait for the other station to finish their turn after you
   2. Send **2-dits** after the other station sends theirs and your QSO is done!
6. Repeat important information (RST, QTH, Name) twice
   1. RST, QTH, and Name and anything else that you feel is important (like club numbers)
7. **BK** – is used in quick QSOs in place of the Callsign Exchange. When you’re handed the QSO with a **BK** you acknowledge by starting with a **BK. BK** is not a pro-sign. There is space between the B and the K
   1. Example:
      1. (other station) OK JIM, UR RIG AGN? **BK**
      2. (W6JIM) **BK** RIG HR IS TEN TEC EAGLE, TEN TEC EAGLE **BK**
      3. (other station) **BK** OK JIM FB ON UR TEN TEC EAGLE….
8. R R - stands for Roger-Roger.
   1. It is sometimes (not required) sent before you start your portion of the exchange
   2. Only do this if you fully understood the other stations message
   3. Example: **R R** (their call) DE (your call) FB CPY JOHN ES TNX FER NICE RPRT

1. **is** used to separate topics or to fill dead air like a verbal pause
2. The Callsign Exchange: **(their Call) DE (your call)** 
   1. In a Standard QSO, each turn starts and ends with **(their Call) DE (your call)**
3. For extended Rag-Chews
   1. Write down some info to share in case you draw a blank
   2. You may start with the callsign exchange and roll into abbreviated “BK” in a long QSO
   3. Don’t forget to identify your station with a callsign exchange every 10 minutes (minimum)
4. The examples in this reference sheet are just that, examples
   1. Feel free to tailor your content as you become more comfortable and hear more QSOs
   2. Abbreviations may differ (Name vs OP, CUAGN vs CUL, CPY vs CPI) , etc.…
   3. **Please edit this document to make it work for you!**