



Come to the Club Meeting Thursday May 17th

Come out to the meeting this month at Arise Brandon Assembly of God 710 South Kings Avenue in the Annex. Things get underway at 7:30 p.m. when Scott bangs the gavel to start things off.

-30-

Radio Astronomy is the Program for May

This month's program is something a little different: Radio Astronomy. It promises to be an insightful and fun discussion! Come on out to the meeting!

-30-

**Commercial Coastal Station Schedules
For the True Believers**

Here is a listing of coastal CW transmissions from Point Reyes, CA at the Maritime Historical Radio Society and Globe Wireless. The transmissions occur on Saturday afternoons at the times listed below.

Ship and KSM/KPH/KFS Frequencies HF Channel 3						
Ship	4.184	6.276	8.368	12.552	16.736	22.280.5
KSM	4.350.5	6.474	8.438.3	12.993	16.914	22.445.8
KPH	4.247	6.477.5	8.642	12.808.5	17.016.8	22.477.5
KFS	12.695.5	This is usually the best signal for us in Tampa				
K6KPH	3.550	7.050	14.050	18.097	21.050	

Time Pacific Time Eastern Time GMT
Press Transmissions
10:00 PDT 13:00 EDT 1700

Calls from ships

12:00 PDT 15:00 EDT 1900

K6KPH available for calls

12:00 PDT 15:00 EDT 1900

-30-

A Revolution in Social Media

Finally we have the time and space for this article.

Q-Signals for Social Media

Q-signals are 3-letter codes starting with the letter Q. They were developed at the beginning of the 20th century to speed up telegraphic communications and to partially alleviate communication obstacles which came about because of the language problem.

Figure one shows the first list of Q-signals adopted in England in the year 1912.

Code	Question	Answer or Notice
QRA	What ship or coast station is that?	This is ____.
QRB	What is your distance?	My distance is ____.
QRC	What is your true bearing?	My true bearing is ____ degrees.
QRD	Where are you bound for?	I am bound for ____.
QRF	Where are you bound from?	I am bound from ____.
QRG	What line do you belong to?	I belong to the ____ Line.
QRH	What is your wavelength in meters?	My wavelength is ____ meters.
QRJ	How many words have you to send?	I have ____ words to send.
QRK	How do you receive me?	I am receiving (1-5). <i>I is unreadable and 5 is perfect.</i>
QRL	Are you busy?	I am busy.
QRM	Are you being interfered with?	I am being interfered with.
QRN	Are the <u>atmospherics</u> strong?	Atmospherics (noise) are very strong.

Figure 1: First Twelve Q Codes Listed in the 1912 International Radiotelegraph Convention Regulations

From this short list the present-day list of Q-signals is several pages long and has hundreds of Q-signals. In my ham career a knowledge of Q-signals served to provide communication across language barriers and to provide a fast way to say something instead of sending a long sentence. When we lived on the island of Crete operating as SV0BM I was keeping a sked back to the States on 20-meter CW. It was still early in the morning in the U.S. and conditions were not the best. Anyway when a Sugar Victor Zero call sign showed up in CW it was somewhat of a rarity. A Russian station called me while I was calling WB9UQG and sent: "QSP WB9UQG?" I replied: "PSE QSP ES TNX" The Russian station had a signal that was lifting my Swan 350-A off the table.

The S-meter was banging into the peg with every dit and dah. He swings his antenna array toward the USA and the signal dropped bit as he starts calling WB9UQG. He starts swinging the antenna array back toward me and calls: SV0BM DE UB5--- (I can't remember the rest of his call) and the S-meter starts banging again as the signal comes up. He told me he was running 100 watts and a quad (and I said yes I believed him). Here was a classic case of Q-signals jumping over language barriers and shortening up the communications exchange. QSP WB9UQG means: Do you want me to relay to WB9UQG? And R R PSE QSP ES TNX means Please relay and thank you very much.

The invention of the cell phone has brought about some huge communication changes for hams. One change was the end of auto-patch as a primary means for communicating from accident sites. Now most hams pull out their cell phone to call emergency assistance or to contact law enforcement. Personal communications habits have changed a lot, too. It used to be everyone would pick a common frequency for their group to use on VHF or UHF when going to ham fests. Now everyone exchanges cell phone numbers to receive phone calls or send text messages.

I have had some ham friends use CW abbreviations and Q-signals when sending text messages. In one instance the guy at the other end of the communication used QTO and QTP to denote when he was leaving and when he would be back. Since he was on a ship, everything made perfect sense using the original meaning of the Q-signals.

A few days ago I was in a situation where I was sending multiple text messages when it occurred to me that there are a lot of Q-signals from the early 20th century that could easily be adapted to the 21st century social media. The Q-signals shown in Figure 2 could fit in well with common communication situations on social media.

Q-Signal	Original Q Signal Meaning		Social Media Adaptation	
	Question	Answer	Question	Answer
QRA	What is the name of your vessel (or station)?	The name of my vessel (or station) is ...	Who are you?	I am _____
QRB	How far approximately are you from my station?	The approximate distance between our stations is ... nautical miles (or km).	How far away are you?	I _____ am _____miles/minutes away.
QRD	Where are you bound for?	I am bound for	Where are you going?	I am going to____.
QRE	What is your estimated time of arrival at ... (or over ...) (place)?	My estimated time of arrival at ... (or over ...) (place) is ... hours.	When will you arrive?	I will arrive at ____ at ____ (time).
QRF	Are you returning to ... (place)?	I am returning to ... (place). or Return to ... (place).	Are you coming back?	I am returning to _____.
QRL	Are you busy?	I am busy (or I am busy with ...). Please do not interfere.	Can you talk?	No, I am busy.
QRW	Shall I inform ... that you are calling him on ... kHz (or MHz)?	Please inform ... that I am calling him on ... kHz (or MHz).	Do you want me to tell _____ that you are trying to	(Yes) _____ tell _____ that I need to contact him/her.

			call him/her?	
QRX	When will you call me again?	I will call you again at ... hours (on ... kHz (or MHz)).	When will you call me back?	I will call you again at ____ (time)
QSP	Will you relay to ... free of charge?	I will relay to ... free of charge.	Can you call ____ for me?	Yes I can call ____ for you.
QTC	How many telegrams have you to send?	I have ... telegrams for you (or for ...).	Do you have anything to tell me?	Man, have I got something to tell you!
QTH	What is your position in latitude and longitude (or according to any other indication)?	My position is ... latitude, ... longitude (or according to any other indication).	Where are you? Or Where is ____?	I am at ____. Or ____ is at ____
QTO	Have you left dock (or port)? or Are you airborne?	I have left dock (or port). or I am airborne.	Have you left (____) yet?/ Are you on your way?	I have left/I am on my way.
QTP	Are you going to enter dock (or port)? or Are you going to alight (or land)?	I am going to enter dock (or port). or I am going to alight (or land).	Have you arrived at ____ yet?	I have arrived at ____.
QUA	Have you news of ... (call sign)?	Here is news of ... (call sign).	Have you heard the news about ____?	I have news about ____.

Figure 2: (cont.)

Say you message a friend to find out where he is and you type in: QTH? [Where are you?]

He responds: QTO home QRD hardware store QRF B4 lunch. QRL QRX 20 min. [translation] I have left home en route to the hardware store I will get back before lunch. I can't talk/text now I will call you back in 20 minutes.

Twenty minutes later he sends: QRB 10 MIN UR QTH. COFFEE? [translation] I am about 10 minutes from your location. Coffee?

You send a reply: FB COFFEE READY HR. C U IN 10. [translation] Great. Coffee is ready see you in 10.

QTC in the modern sense is slightly different from its original meaning. Originally it meant "I have telegrams or message traffic for you". On social media we don't usually handle radiograms, but there are times we have some really HOT news to pass along. QTC fills that need nicely.

Here is another example: It's Tuesday morning and you are still at the home QTH getting ready to head out for the Tuesday morning breakfast when your phone announces a text message: "QRD BKFST?" [Are on the way to breakfast?] Your response: "QTO 5 MIN." [I will be on the way in 5 minutes] He answers with: "QTC QUA HAROLD?" [I have something to tell you – have you heard the news about Harold?]

We have already used a few CW abbreviations. There are some abbreviations that are too radio related, but some will work nicely on social media and in fact are already being used. Here are some that are useful on social media:

CW ABBREVIATIONS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Abbreviation	Meaning		
		N	No, negative; incorrect; no more
ABT	About	NIL	Nothing; not
AGN	Again	NW	Now
		PSE/PLS	Please
BCNU	Be seeing you		
BTU	Back to you	R	Received OK; are
B4	Before		
C	Yes (si)	RPT	Repeat; report
CFM	Confirm, Yes	RUFF	Rough
CU	See you	SEZ	Says
CUAGN	See you again	SHUD	Should
CUD	Could	SIG	Signal; signature
CUZ	Because	SRI	Sorry
CW	Continuous wave (Morse)	TEMP	Temperature
DLD/DLVD	Delivered	U	You
DN/DWN	Down	UR/URS	Your; you are/ yours
DR	Dear	VY	Very
ES	And (&)	WID	With
ENUF	Enough	WX	Weather
FB	Fine business, excellent, great	XMAS	Christmas
FER	For	XYL	Wife
FM	From	YF	Wife
GA	Go ahead; good afternoon	YL	Young Lady
GB	Goodbye; God Bless		
GE	Good evening		
GM	Good morning		
GN	Good night		
GUD	Good		
HI/HEE	Telegraphic laugh		
HPE	Hope		
HR	Here; hear; hour		
HRD	Heard		
HRS	Hours		
HV/HVG	Have/having		

HW	How; How copy?			
LNG	Long			
LSN	Listen			

I have used this when texting with other hams (who are CW ops) with no problems. Start communicating this way with your ham friends on social media. U cud save keystrokes es cud learn q-sigs es radio stuff. 73 es hv fb day hpe 2cu agn.

That's it for this month. Have fun with radio!

Keep in Mind Our Weekly Nets and Bulletins

Monday 8 p.m. The Two Meter Net 147.765 - 147.165 MHz Hosted by Doris Haskell WB9VDT

Tuesday 7 p.m. 6-meter Roundtable 50.200 MHz USB followed at 8 p.m. with the 10 Meter Roundtable 28.365 MHz USB

Send us your articles AND PICTURES! We do much more in the digital format! I would like to have pictures of BARS members and their ham shacks!

Remember to check out the BARS website:

brandonhamradio.org