

**AMATEUR  
RADIO**



**POCKET  
REF**

# US Amateur Radio Bands

US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS — FCC 97.313 An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications. (b) No station may transmit with a transmitter power exceeding 1.5 kW PEP.

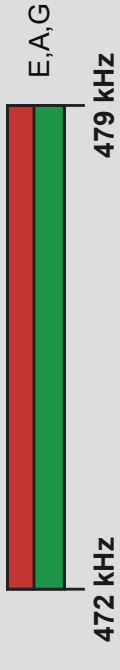
Amateurs wishing to operate on either 2,200 or 630 meters must first register with the Utilities Technology Council online at <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/> You need only register once for each band.

## 2,200 Meters (135 kHz)



## 630 Meters (472 kHz)

5 W EIRP maximum, except in Alaska within 496 miles of Russia where the power limit is 1 W EIRP.

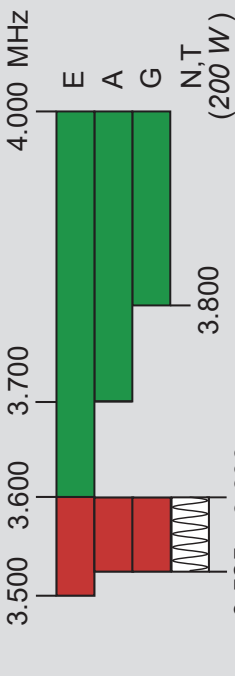


## 160 Meters (1.8 MHz)

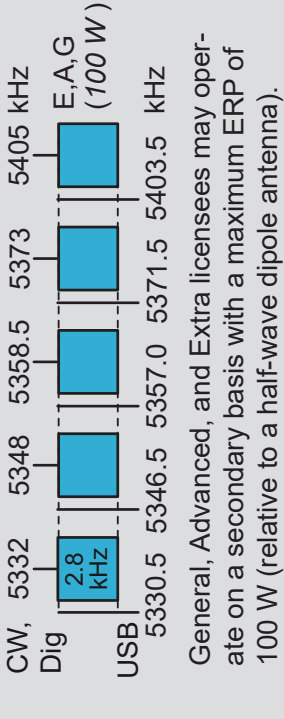
Avoid interference to radiolocation operations from 1.900 to 2.000 MHz



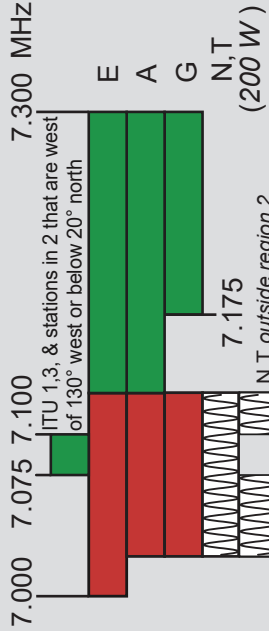
## 80 Meters (3.5 MHz)



## 60 Meters (5.3 MHz)



## 40 Meters (7 MHz)

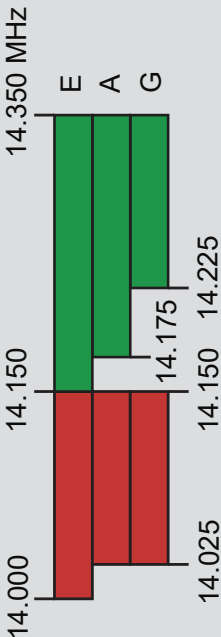


See Sections 97.305(c), 97.307(f)(11) and 97.301(e). These exemptions do not apply to stations in the continental US.

## 30 Meters (10.1 MHz)



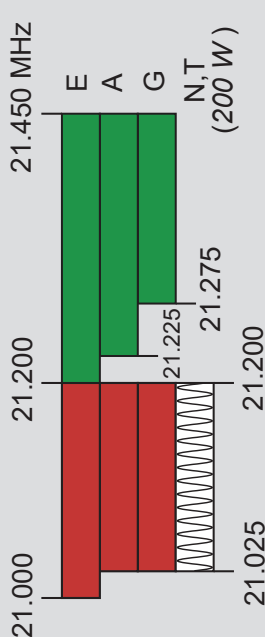
## 20 Meters (14 MHz)



## 17 Meters (18 MHz)



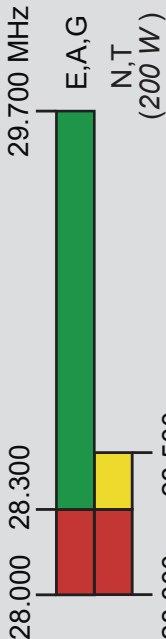
## 15 Meters (21 MHz)



## 12 Meters (24 MHz)



## 10 Meters (28 MHz)



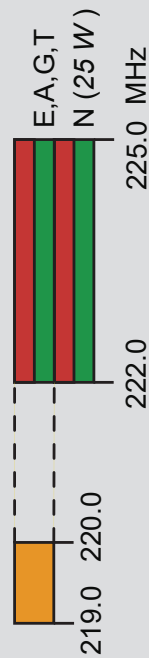
## 6 Meters (50 MHz)



## 2 Meters (144 MHz)



## 1.25 Meters (222 MHz)



\* Geographical and power restrictions may apply to all bands above 420 MHz. See FCC Part 97.303 for information about your area.

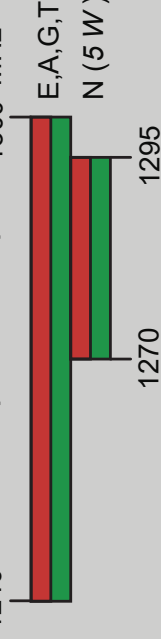
## 70 cm (420 MHz)\*



## 33 cm (902 MHz)\*



## 23 cm (1240 MHz)\*



All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

2300-2310 MHz	10.0-10.5 GHz ‡	122.25-123.0 GHz
2390-2450 MHz	24.0-24.25 GHz	134-141 GHz
3400-3450 MHz	47.0-47.2 GHz	241-250 GHz
5650-5925 MHz	76.0-81.0 GHz	All above 275 GHz

‡ No pulse emissions



### KEY

**Note:** CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands.

**MCW** is authorized above 50.1 MHz, except for 144.0-144.1 and 219-220 MHz.

**Test** transmissions are authorized above 51 MHz, except for 219-220 MHz



**E** = Amateur Extra  
**A** = Advanced  
**G** = General  
**T** = Technician  
**N** = Novice

See [www.arrl.org/band-plan](http://www.arrl.org/band-plan) for detailed band plans.

## ARRL We're At Your Service

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Exams: 860-594-0300 email: [vec@arrl.org](mailto:vec@arrl.org)

# Considerate Frequency Usage

1.800–2.000	CW	14.233	D-SSTV
1.800–1.810	Digital Modes	14.236	Digital Voice
1.810	CW QRP calling frequency	14.285	QRP SSB calling frequency
1.843–2.000	SSB, SSTV and other wideband modes	14.286	AM calling frequency
1.910	SSB QRP	18.100–18.105	RTTY/Data
1.995–2.000	Experimental	18.105–18.110	Automatically controlled data stations
1.999–2.000	Beacons	18.110	IBP/NCDXF beacons
3.500–3.510	CW DX window	18.162.5	Digital Voice
3.560	QRP CW calling frequency	21.060	QRP CW calling frequency
3.570–3.600	RTTY/Data	21.070–21.110	RTTY/Data
3.585–3.600	Automatically controlled data stations	21.090–21.100	Automatically controlled data stations
3.590	RTTY/Data DX	21.150	IBP/NCDXF beacons
3.790–3.800	DX window	21.340	SSTV
3.845	SSTV	21.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
3.885	AM calling frequency	24.920–24.925	RTTY/Data
3.985	QRP SSB calling frequency	24.925–24.930	Automatically controlled data stations
7.030	QRP CW calling frequency	24.930	IBP/NCDXF beacons
7.040	RTTY/Data DX	28.060	QRP CW calling frequency
7.070–7.125	RTTY/Data	28.070–28.120	RTTY/Data
7.100–7.105	Automatically controlled data stations	28.120–28.189	Automatically controlled data stations
7.171	SSTV	28.190–28.225	Beacons
7.173	D-SSTV	28.200	IBP/NCDXF beacons
7.285	QRP SSB calling frequency	28.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
7.290	AM calling frequency	28.680	SSTV
10.130–10.140	RTTY/Data	29.000–29.200	AM
10.140–10.150	Automatically controlled data stations	29.300–29.510	Satellite downlinks
14.060	QRP CW calling frequency	29.520–29.580	Repeater inputs
14.070–14.095	RTTY/Data	29.600	FM simplex
14.095–14.0995	Automatically controlled data stations	29.620–29.680	Repeater outputs
14.100	IBP/NCDXF beacons		
14.1005–14.112	Automatically controlled data stations		
14.230	SSTV		

## Q Codes

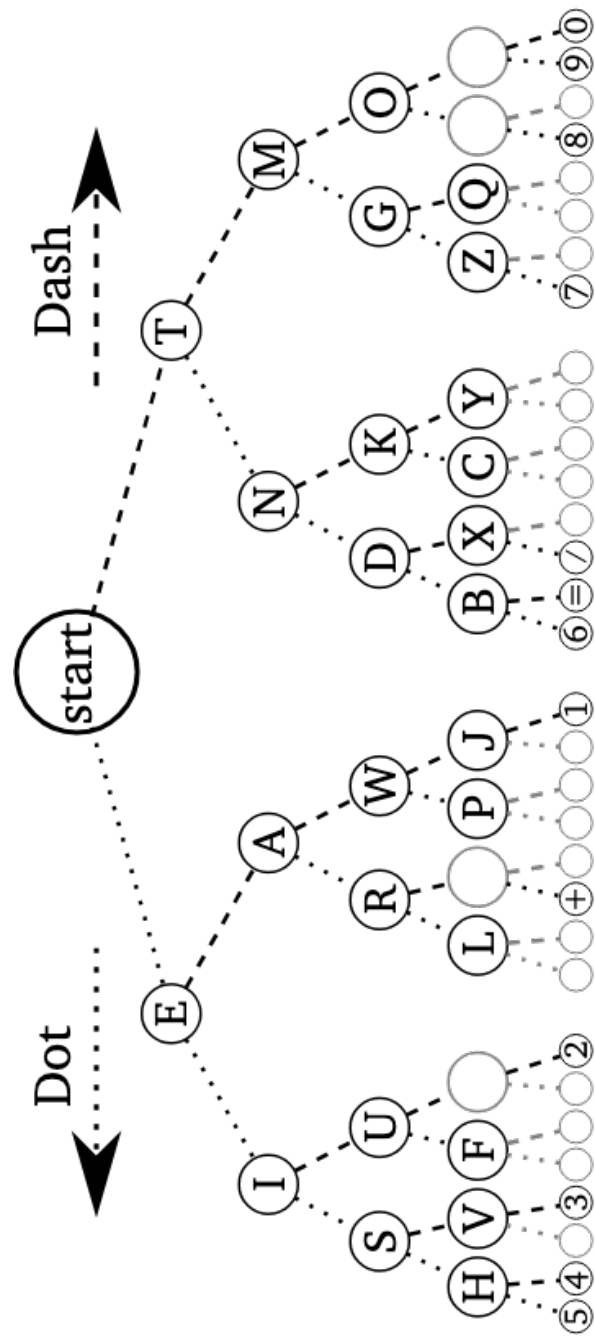
QRG	Your exact frequency (or that of ___) is ___kHz.	Will you tell me my exact frequency (or that of ___)?
QRL	I am busy (or busy with ___).	Are you busy? (Used to ask if frequency is in use)
QRM	Your transmission is being interfered with ___ (1–5).	Is my transmission being interfered with?
<b>QRN</b>	I am troubled by static ___ (1–5).	Are you troubled by static?
QRO	Increase power.	Shall I increase power?
QRP	Decrease power.	Shall I decrease power?
QRQ	Send faster (___wpm).	Shall I send faster?
QRS	Send more slowly (___wpm).	Shall I send more slowly?
QRT	Stop sending.	Shall I stop sending?
QRU	I have nothing for you.	Have you anything for me?
QRV	I am ready.	Are you ready?
QRX	I will call you again at ___ (on ___kHz).	When will you call me again?
<b>QRZ</b>	You are being called by ___ (on ___kHz).	Who is calling me?
QSB	Your signals are fading.	Are my signals fading?
QSK	I can hear you between signals.	Can I break in on your transmission?
<b>QSL</b>	I am acknowledging receipt.	Can you acknowledge receipt?
<b>QSO</b>	I can communicate with ___ direct (or via ___).	Can you communicate with ___ direct or by relay?
QSP	I will relay to ___.	Will you relay to ___?
QST	General call to all amateurs (CQ ARRL).	–
QSX	I am listening to ___ on ___kHz.	Will you listen to ___ on ___kHz?
QSY	Change to another frequency (or ___kHz).	Shall I change to another frequency?
QTC	I have ___ messages for you (or for ___).	How many messages have you to send?
<b>QTH</b>	<b>My location is ___.</b>	<b>What is your location?</b>
QTR	The time is ___.	What is the correct time?

# Prosigns

AR	End of message	Often sent as “di-dah-di-dah-dit” (•—•—•)
AS	Stand by	“di-dah-di-di-dit”; used to ask someone to wait
BK	Break	Used to invite the other station to transmit immediately
BT	Separator	Break between thoughts or paragraphs (“dah-di-di-di-dah”)
CL	Closing down	Used when signing off the air permanently or for the day
CQ	Calling any station	General call: “dah-di-dah-di” then “dah-dah-di-dah”
CT	Start of message	Used to begin formal traffic messages
EE	Error	Correcting a mistake; usually sent as “di-di-di-di” rapidly
K	Go ahead	Invitation for the other station to transmit
KN	Go ahead, named station only	Stronger version of K—only the called station should respond
R	Roger (message received)	Confirms receipt of last transmission
SK	End of contact	“Silent Key”; final sign-off (di-di-di-dah-di-dah)
SN	Understood	Used in formal message handling (equivalent to “QSL” or “Roger”)

<b>A</b> Alpha ..—	<b>N</b> November —.	<b>0</b> ————	<b>‘</b> .———.
<b>B</b> Bravo —...	<b>O</b> Oscar — — —	<b>1</b> .———	<b>!</b> —.———
<b>C</b> Charlie —....	<b>P</b> Papa ..—.	<b>2</b> ..——	<b>/</b> —....
<b>D</b> Delta —...	<b>Q</b> Quebec — — —	<b>3</b> ...——	<b>(</b> —...—
<b>E</b> Echo .	<b>R</b> Romeo ..—.	<b>4</b> ....—	<b>)</b> —...—
<b>F</b> Foxtrot ....	<b>S</b> Sierra ...	<b>5</b> ....	<b>&amp;</b> .....
<b>G</b> Golf — — .	<b>T</b> Tango —	<b>6</b> —....	<b>:</b> — — —...
<b>H</b> Hotel ....	<b>U</b> Uniform ..—	<b>7</b> —...—	<b>;</b> —...—.
<b>I</b> India ..	<b>V</b> Victor ...—	<b>8</b> — — —..	<b>=</b> —...—
<b>J</b> Juliet .— — —	<b>W</b> Whiskey .— —	<b>9</b> — — — — .	<b>+</b> .——.
<b>K</b> Kilo —..—	<b>X</b> X-ray ..—.	<b>.</b> .——.——	<b>-</b> —....—
<b>L</b> Lima —...—	<b>Y</b> Yankee —...—	<b>,</b> — — .——	<b>_</b> .....—
<b>M</b> Mike — —	<b>Z</b> Zulu — — ..	<b>?</b> ..——..	<b>@</b> .——...—





## SSB

**A (Calling CQ):** “CQ CQ CQ, this is K1ABC, Kilo One Alpha Bravo Charlie, calling CQ and standing by.”

**B (Responding):** “K1ABC, this is W2XYZ, Whiskey Two X-ray Yankee Zulu.”

**A:** “W2XYZ, good afternoon, you’re 59 here in Boston, Massachusetts. Name is John, Juliet Oscar Hotel November. Back to you, W2XYZ from K1ABC.”

**B:** “Thanks John, you’re 59 as well in New Jersey. Name is Mike, Mike India Kilo Echo. Nice to meet you, John. K1ABC, this is W2XYZ.”

**A:** “Very good Mike, thanks for the QSO. 73 and have a great day. K1ABC is now clear.”

## SSB Contest

**Activator (A) calling:** “CQ POTA, CQ Parks on the Air, this is K1ABC, Kilo One Alpha Bravo Charlie, calling CQ POTA and standing by.”

**Hunter (B) responds:** “K1ABC, this is W2XYZ.”

**Activator (A):** “W2XYZ, you’re 59 into park US-1234.”

**Hunter (B):** “Thanks for the 59. You’re 57 in New Jersey. 73!”

**Activator (A):** “Copy the 57 New Jersey. Thanks for hunting! QRZ, this is K1ABC, park K-1234.”

## CW

**A (Calling CQ):** “CQ CQ CQ DE K1ABC K1ABC K1ABC K”  
(Calling any station, this is K1ABC, standing by)

**B (Responding):** “K1ABC DE W2XYZ W2XYZ K”  
(K1ABC, this is W2XYZ, over)

**A:** “W2XYZ DE K1ABC UR 599 IN MA = NAME JOHN = HW? W2XYZ DE K1ABC K”  
(You're 599 in Massachusetts. My name is John. How do you copy?)

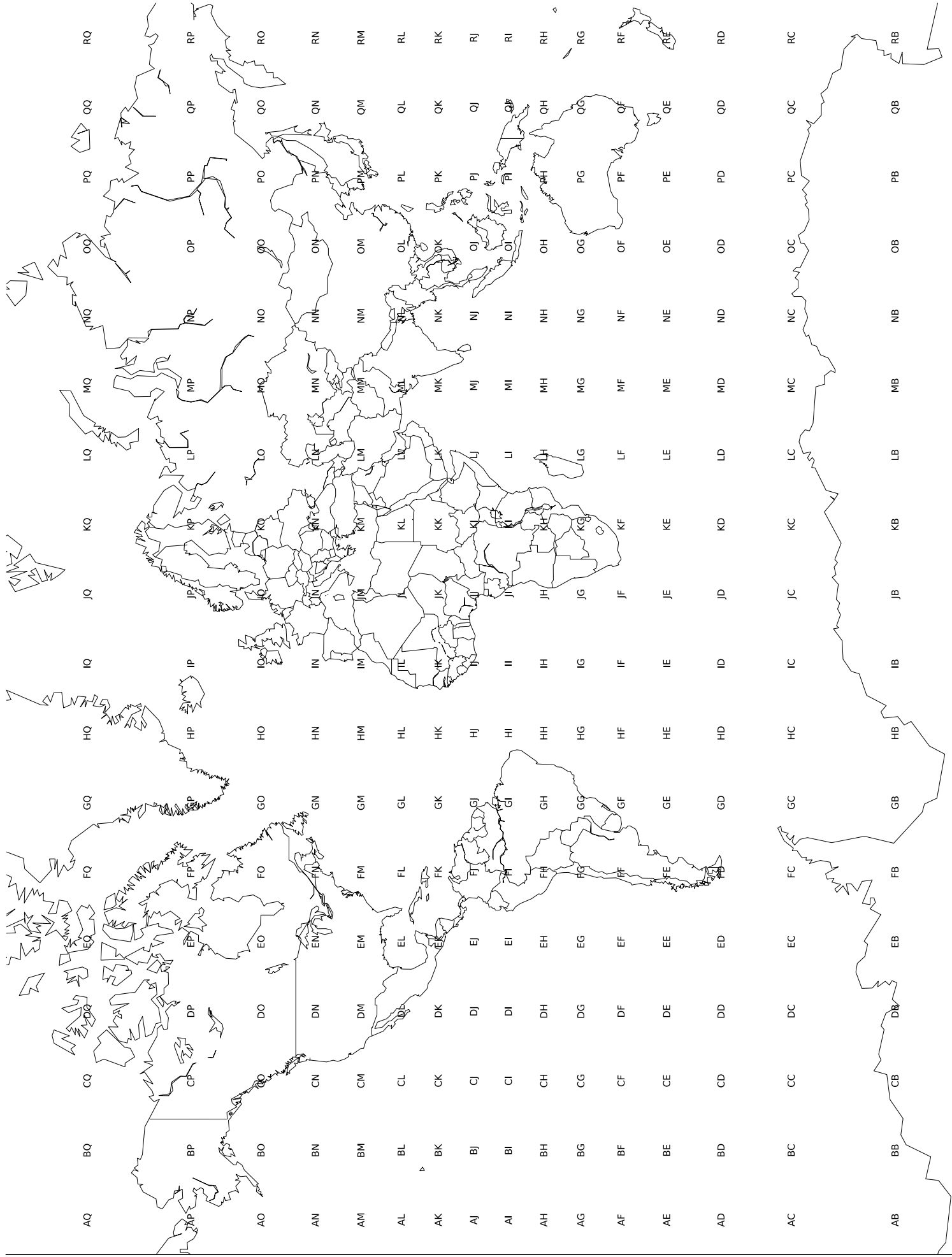
**B:** “K1ABC DE W2XYZ R UR 589 IN NJ = NAME MIKE = RIG KX3 10W = WX SUNNY = K1ABC DE W2XYZ K”  
(Roger, you're 589 in New Jersey. My name is Mike. My rig is a KX3 running 10 watts. Weather is sunny.)

**A:** “R TNX MIKE = 73 ES HPE CUAGN = W2XYZ DE K1ABC SK”  
(Roger, thanks Mike. Best regards and hope to see you again. Signing off.)



## Callsign Country Prefixes

<b>K, N, W</b>	United States	<b>CT</b>	Portugal
<b>AA–AL</b>	United States	<b>LU</b>	Argentina
<b>VE</b>	Canada	<b>PY</b>	Brazil
<b>VA, VO, VY</b>	Canada	<b>CX</b>	Uruguay
<b>ZL</b>	New Zealand	<b>YV</b>	Venezuela
<b>VK</b>	Australia	<b>XE</b>	Mexico
<b>JA, JE, JH</b>	Japan	<b>TI</b>	Costa Rica
<b>G, M</b>	United Kingdom	<b>OA</b>	Peru
<b>F</b>	France	<b>CE</b>	Chile
<b>DL</b>	Germany	<b>HL</b>	South Korea
<b>I</b>	Italy	<b>BY, BG, BH</b>	China
<b>ON</b>	Belgium	<b>HS</b>	Thailand
<b>PA</b>	Netherlands	<b>9V</b>	Singapore
<b>SM, SA</b>	Sweden	<b>VU</b>	India
<b>OH</b>	Finland	<b>4X, 4Z</b>	Israel
<b>LA, LB</b>	Norway	<b>ZS</b>	South Africa
<b>OE</b>	Austria	<b>SU</b>	Egypt
<b>OK</b>	Czech Republic	<b>A6</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>SP</b>	Poland	<b>A7</b>	Qatar
<b>HA</b>	Hungary	<b>A9</b>	Bahrain
<b>YU</b>	Serbia	<b>9K</b>	Kuwait
<b>EA</b>	Spain		



CN70	CN89	CN99	DN19	DN20	DO10	DO00	CO90	CO80	CO70
CN79	CN98	DN08	DN18	DN28	DN38	DN48	DN58	DN68	DN78
CN77	CN97	DN07	DN17	DN27	DN37	DN47	DN57	DN67	DN77
CN76	CN96	DN06	DN16	DN26	DN36	DN46	DN56	DN66	DN76
CN75	CN95	DN05	DN15	DN25	DN35	DN45	DN55	DN65	DN75
CN74	CN94	DN04	DN14	DN24	DN34	DN44	DN54	DN64	DN74
CN73	CN93	DN03	DN13	DN23	DN33	DN43	DN53	DN63	DN73
CN72	CN92	DN02	DN12	DN22	DN32	DN42	DN52	DN62	DN72
CN71	CN91	DN01	DN11	DN21	DN31	DN41	DN51	DN61	DN71
CN70	CN90	DN00	DN10	DN20	DN30	DN40	DN50	DN60	DN70
CM79	CM89	DM09	DM19	DM29	DM39	DM49	DM59	DM69	DM79
CM78	CM88	DM08	DM18	DM28	DM38	DM48	DM58	DM68	DM78
CM77	CM87	DM07	DM17	DM27	DM37	DM47	DM57	DM67	DM77
CM76	CM86	DM06	DM16	DM26	DM36	DM46	DM56	DM66	DM76
CM75	CM85	DM05	DM15	DM25	DM35	DM45	DM55	DM65	DM75
CM74	CM84	DM04	DM14	DM24	DM34	DM44	DM54	DM64	DM74
CM73	CM83	DM03	DM13	DM23	DM33	DM43	DM53	DM63	DM73
CM72	CM82	DM02	DM12	DM22	DM32	DM42	DM52	DM62	DM72
CM71	CM81	DM01	DM11	DM21	DM31	DM41	DM51	DM61	DM71
CM70	CM80	DM00	DM10	DM20	DM30	DM40	DM50	DM60	DM70
CL79	CL89	CL09	CL19	CL29	CL39	CL49	CL59	CL69	CL79
CL78	CL88	CL08	CL18	CL28	CL38	CL48	CL58	CL68	CL78
CL77	CL87	CL07	CL17	CL27	CL37	CL47	CL57	CL67	CL77
CL76	CL86	CL06	CL16	CL26	CL36	CL46	CL56	CL66	CL76
CL75	CL85	CL05	CL15	CL25	CL35	CL45	CL55	CL65	CL75
CL74	CL84	CL04	CL14	CL24	CL34	CL44	CL54	CL64	CL74

# References

## **CW Parse Tree**

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Morse-code-tree.svg>

## **World Maidenhead Grid Map**

<https://www.dxengineering.com/techarticles/dxegeneralnews/download-a-free-worldwide-grid-square-map-from-dx-engineering>

## **ARRL Frequency Allocation Chart**

<https://www.arrl.org/graphical-frequency-allocations>

## **ARRL Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide**

<https://www.arrl.org/considerate-operator>

## **ARRL Communicating with Other Hams**

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Get%20on%20the%20Air/Comm%20w%20Other%20Hams-Q%20Signals.pdf>

## **Icom US Grid Square Map**

[https://www.icomamerica.com/lineup/amateur/Band\\_Plan\\_Map/](https://www.icomamerica.com/lineup/amateur/Band_Plan_Map/)

## **Icom Common Prefixes of Countries**

<https://www.hamqsl.com/bandchar.pdf>