

Adherence to Protocol is the hallmark of a trained traffic handler (revisited)

ROGER One of the most misused and abused words in the radio operators' lexicon. ROGER HAS ONE MEANING ONLY! To acknowledge the receipt of a foregoing transmission in its entirety.

AVOID AT ALL TIMES: Mixing CW terminology on phone work! QSL, QSO, QRT, QSY and so forth. Also avoid such phrases as: Common spelling; the word direction when a compass designation appears in the address. Also note that when a virgule (/) is used, the preferred handling of this is slant, slash is preferred in the United Kingdom, and "fraction bar" is permissible in mathematics only.

Now for a look at the "from line" in a message. Referring to the message form, refrain from identifying each portion of the from line - - - follows a preferred way to send it: "Here is number 123 routine W6IEX ARL 7 Anytown, Any state, June 14". Allow 2 to 3 seconds - - in case the receiving station needs a fill. A better method of getting fills is to use the proword "say again word after, or word before, or all between and"

Now for a look at the "to line". One of the most important items in the to line is the ZIP !! Only 4 of the US states do not have duplicated place names - - even Oregon has its share. "to John Jones, figures one two three four south westfigures eight two avenue, any town, any state, zip figures niner seven zero one six, phone figures two zero six (pause) four three two (pause) six one six three. If there is no phone number given, say "no phone number given".

Notes: Regarding zip code, never add the "plus four" to the 5-digit code, it does nothing to speed up the handling of NTS traffic, it only causes confusion. Likewise, numbering of messages beginning with zero are confusing. Zero is an insignificant number at the beginning of a message number. If you are using an Email address instead of a phone number, ask yourself why in the world would you send it via NTS and not via the Internet? Also, you send a message via NTS and not via the Telephone because you need the practice; when the cell towers aren't working, neither is your cell phone.....

Following the Phone Number use the proword "break" and read the Text.

Following the Text, use the proword 'break' and after a pause of 2-3 seconds (to give the receive station time to request fills, then just say the signature.

Many operators have formed the habit of either mentally or physically writing the message as it is transmitted - - thus giving the receiving station adequate copying time. And, many operators will transmit a message in groups of five words at a time, which gives the receiving operator a good easy chance to verify the word count to make sure that nothing has been missed. *Note: I always copy in 5-word groups per line, N7YSS message form also is set up that way and really helps!*

Phonetics are over-used sometimes. But, when it comes to Last Names like MaGillacuddy or towns like Clatskanie, use them. "I spell" Clatskanie: Charlie Lima Alfa Tango Sierra Kilo Alfa November India Echo.

Use of the ARRL numbered list of messages accomplishes a savings of time and strain - - for instance, 'ARL Fifty One' (a word count of 3) translates into "Greetings by Amateur Radio. This message is sent as a free public service by ham radio operators here at (-----) Am having a wonderful time" which is a count of 24. The presence of ARL preceding the message count serves as an indicator to the receiving station that an ARRL # message is included.

Two letters in the Phonetic Alphabet should be noted: P (Papa, accented on the 2nd syllable) and Q, pronounced KAY-BEK.

I'm happy to revise this with additions and corrections and send it around again! 73/Scott W7IZ (Oregon STM) Thanx Eli