OARC New Ham Quick Guide
Getting Started

Here is a bunch of info that hopefully with be more useful than confusing.

First, some web sites that can be quite useful.

Then a listing of nets with their associated frequencies.

After that ARES information.

Finally, quite a bit of general information that might help explain some of what you hear on the air waves.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask.

Cheers and 73, Craig W0VRM

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www.arrl.org	American Radio Relay League – National Association for Amateur Radio
user.xmission.com/~uarc/	Utah Amateur Radio Club
ogdenarc.org	Ogden Amateur Radio Club
dcarc.net	Davis County Amateur Radio Club
utahvhfs.org	Utah VHF Society
Utahvhfs.org/rptr.html	Repeater List for Utah
Repeaterbook.com/index.php/en-us/	Repeater Book

Weather.gov/nwr/stations NOAA Stations (radio frequencies)

trac.chirp.danplanet.com/chirp_daily/LATEST/ CHIRP programming software site

noji.com/hamradio/hamradio.php N0JI resources site
Hardware/Software/training/NETS

KV5R.com Antennas and more
K9YC – RFI info
Dcasler.com KE0OG Dave Casler

HamRadio.com HRO - Ham Radio Outlet Equipment vendor
DxEngineering.com Equipment vendor
GigaParts.com Equipment vendor

https://noji.com/hamradio/hamradio.php – Comprehensive site excellent reference that I refer to often. Noji Ratzlaff KN0JI is the President of the Utah Valley Amateur Radio club and exceptionally knowledgeable.

Here is a list of weekly Nets with their associated organization and frequencies / repeaters. I have checked into most of these at one time or another. I have tried to clear my Wednesday evenings for teaching classes and helping with exam sessions lately.

Ham Nets

Day	Time	Net	Freq		Offset	PL
Monday	8:00pm	Jackson Hole	146.76	"-"	600	
Monday	9:00pm	2 M SSB NET	144.25	USB Horizontal		
Tuesday	6:30pm	Weber Ham & Eggs	448.6	"-"	5	123
Tuesday	7:00pm	C4FM Net	446.52	Simplex		
Tuesday	7:30pm	Utah Code Net	3.575	LSB		
Tuesday	8:00pm	DCARC Tech Net	147.04	"+"	600	123
Tuesday	9:00pm	UCARC ARES	145.23	"-"	600	131.8
Wednesday	6:00pm	DMR-Utah	3149			
Wednesday	7:00pm	76ers	146.76	"-"	600	
Wednesday	8:00pm	Eden GMRS	Channel 18			
Wednesday	8:30pm	CSERG	145.77	Simplex		
Wednesday	9:00pm	K7BZW HF 10M Net	28.313	USB		
Thursday	7:00pm	OARC 10M Net	28.385	USB Horizontal		
Thursday	7:30pm	DC ARES	449.925	"-"	5	100
	7:30pm	DC ARES	147.42	Simplex		
3rd Thursday Even months	8:00pm	RACES Prom PT #993	145.49	"-"	600	100
Thursday	9:00pm	UVARC SSB Net	144.234	USB Verticle		
Friday	8:00pm	Six Pack 6M Net	50.14	USB		
Friday	9:00pm	Borrego Rams Net	7.204	LSB	KG6YVD	
Saturday	7:00pm	Montana DMR	3130			
3rd Saturday Odd Months	8:00am	RACES #993	3.913			
Sunday	8:30pm	LDS Net	147.48	Simplex		
Sunday	9:00pm	Eagle Mountain Net	146.23	"-"	600	131.8
Sunday	9:00pm	UARC	146.62			
Sunday	9:00pm	GMRS Mt. Ogden	462.6			D114 N

Weber County ARES is lead by Brad Sawyer. If you have interest in emergency communications reach out to Brad and he can provide info on how to get involved.

The Jackson Hole Net on Monday evening and the Ham and Eggs Net Tuesday at 6:30pm (Ogden Club) and Tech Net (Davis Club) are all informal nets where you check-in and then they come back and have general comments, discussions, answer questions and the like. I call the Tech Net every Tuesday except the 3rd week when we turn over the air waves to the Lady Operators for their Ladies Net. All are welcome to listen in to the YL Net (Ladies), but only the ladies participate (talk).

The Ogden Ladies net occurs each Monday evening at 7:00 pm (again only for lady operators to participate – talk) 448.775 repeater negative offset PL 123.

Things we are supposed to know but nobody tells us.

We are all constantly learning and often do things outside of an "accepted" norm. Be courteous, kind, patient, and helpful as we experience communications together.

Q Codes:

Q Codes came from short cuts for CW to make transmissions more efficient.

QSO – A conversation.
QSL – Do you copy or I copied/understand
QSY – I am moving from this frequency to another one.
QST – Announcement follows
QRN – Natural interference
QRM – Man made interference
QTH – Your location, often also meaning your home
QRT – I am leaving the frequency and the radio

When using phonetics, as a general rule use the ITC codes rather than making things up. Especially if you are having a QSO with those who are not native to your language.

Many folks do not like to hear phonetics constantly. It may be a time saver if your call sign has letters that sounds like many other letters for instance: B, C, D, E, G, P, T, and V all sound very much alike. If another operator is having difficulty with a word, use phonetics to help spell it out.

To start a QSO on 2 meters, 70 cm, and digital modes simply say: your call sign, or call sign monitoring. Usually there is no need to call CQ on the FM mode.

If you are trying to determine if your radio or antenna is working properly call for a “Signal Report”. It is best to not call out for a signal report if you are looking for a QSO.

Signal reports are very useful to operators. If you have difficulty hearing an operator or there is QRM/QRN both are benefitted by trying to describe what you are hearing and trying to clean up the signal. Sometimes speaking more directly across the mic helps. Sometimes a little more power helps. Sometimes moving around or putting up an external antenna is needed. Helping each other identify ways to be heard better is an important part of radio.

When giving your call sign at the 10 minute or end of QSO it is not necessary to say “for Identification” saying your call sign IS Identification. You do not need to use your call sign before and after every interaction, only at 10 minutes and the end of your QSO.

It is common for someone to end a QSO by saying “I will be clear on your final”. Which means they are finished and will listen to your next (final) transmission. It is bad form to keep talking and asking questions to continue the QSO at that point. We don’t know what their circumstance is at the time and they may need to return to their family or work or whatever.

Ham band frequencies are not the property of any individual. It is very bad form to “claim” a frequency. Always listen first to see if others are using the frequency. If there is any question, put out your call sign and ask if the frequency is in use.

When nets are using a frequency always first assume that it is a directed net and only join in as invited. Allow the net to complete all of it’s business before using the frequency.

Break Tags: Break tags are used to interrupt a QSO or a net. Examples of break tags are: Break, Priority, Emergency, Comment, Question,

Query, Relay. These words are the Break Tag. To use a break tag, say the break word and your call sign. Then Wait to be acknowledged.

If you have emergency information, it is appropriate to call out again, if not acknowledged. Emergency traffic always has priority on any frequency until the situation is resolved or the traffic moves to another frequency. Using an emergency or priority break tag without an actual emergency is not only bad form it is a violation of law and repeated incidents of this behavior may result in FCC action up to and including suspension of your licenses.

If someone is intentionally interfering with a frequency it is best to ignore the issue, move to another frequency and at an appropriate time use direction finding equipment to identify the offending party, who may then be reported to the FCC.

Many new hams struggle with the concept of repeaters.
There is a myth that in order to activate a repeater you need to kerchunk it then transmit after. Kerchunking is when you key up your radio without putting out your call sign. This is illegal per FCC rules. It does take a second or two after you push the PTT button to wake up the repeater but you can talk immediately after without having to kerchunk, then talk.

FRS/GMRS radios largely use simplex channels so those familiar with those modes may need a bit more instruction about offsets.

Commercial radios and GMRS repeaters always use a positive offset, where many of our ham repeaters use minus offsets. While not perfect, the Utah VHF Society website and booklet are a good source of information for repeater information. If you are uncertain about the status of a particular repeater it is best to contact the repeater owner for permission to use.

We are expected to use minimal power to accomplish our communications goals. Some experimentation is great and very helpful. When on nets especially if you are inside with an HT and a rubber ducky, most radios benefit from using high power (which is usually only 4 or 5 watts) to get out and reach the repeater. It makes it much easier for others to hear you especially the Net Control Operator.

When you are serving as the Net Control Operator, be certain that you can be heard. A little extra power can make a big difference in the participation and quality of the net. Nets fall apart if the control station is unable to reach the participants.

One bone of contention with many operators is the use of 73. The meaning of 73 is "Best Wishes". You will notice that wishes if plural. So, saying 73s is redundant Best Wishes(s). Most operators try to let it go, but as with most items of etiquette if you understand the concept it is best not to push too many buttons.

There are many amazing resources available to the ham community at large. One of them is located here in Utah. The SDRUtah.org web site provides access to highly sensitive receivers 24/7 that you can access over the internet. The antenna farm covers a wide spectrum of bands and can be used to measure against your equipment.

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