



VALID QSOs AND ONLINE CHAT

Presented by :

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Central States VHF Society Conference

2023

TODAY'S DISCUSSION

What Constitutes
a Valid QSO?

Online Chat —
What's Allowed,
What's Not
Allowed



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What Constitutes a Valid QSO?

QST 1957 and 2006 World Above 50 MHz

QST March 1957 — What is a Contact?

- The minimum exchange for two-way work to be considered a contact has been fairly well standardized on a two-stage procedure: positive identification of calls at both ends, and the completed exchange of signal reports.
- If he gets the signal report, he then sends one to you. If you get it, you send "R." If he gets the single letter, he also sends "R," and the QSO is over, as far as the claim for a contact is concerned. There is no obligation to hear or send closing 73, or SK...
- Edward Tilton, W1HDQ, The World Above 50 Mc.

QST March 2006 — What is a Contact?

- To this day we still follow the same general outline but with a few changes. Exchange of "signal reports" has come to mean exchange of at least one specific piece of information beyond the other station's call sign.
- This can be an actual signal report in one of several formats, an abbreviation for a signal report like 000, which means full copy but at a very weak signal level, a grid locator, or whatever.
- Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, *The World Above 50 MHz*.

IARU Region 1 Definition 2021

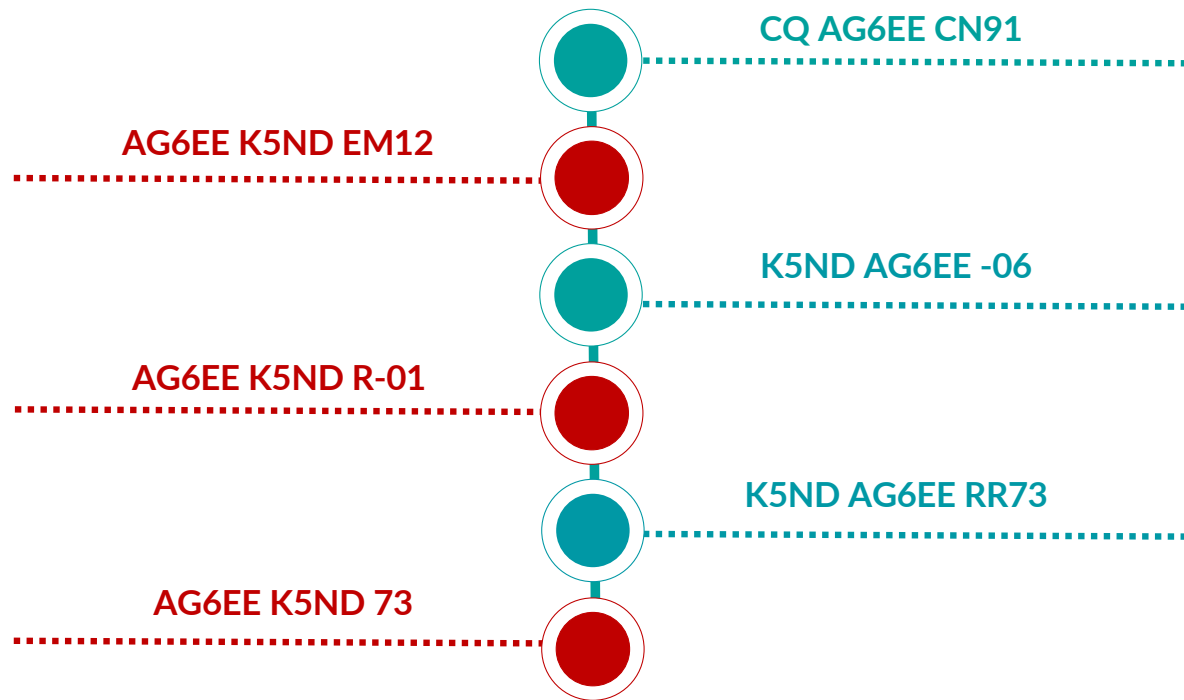
2.1 Minimum Requirement for a valid QSO

A valid contact is one where both operators during the contact have

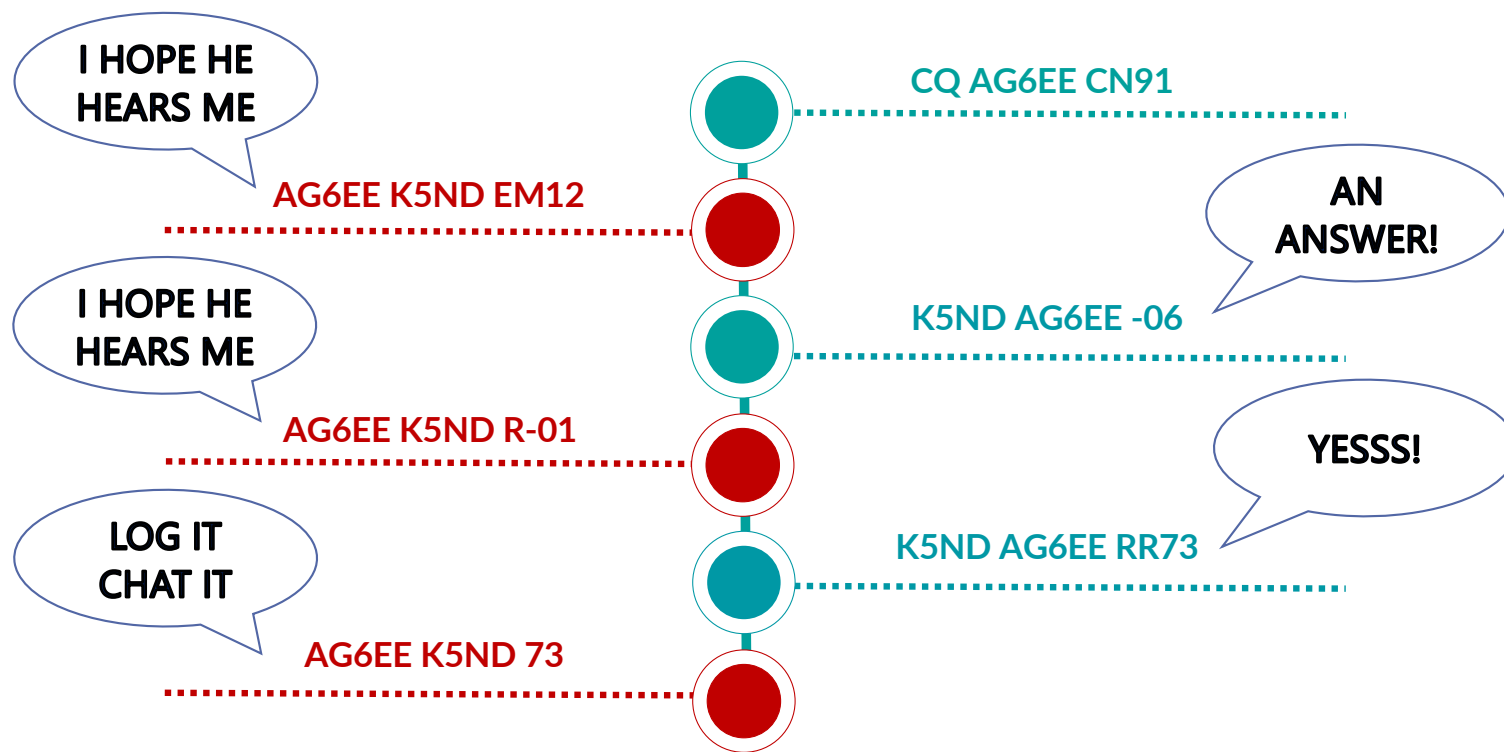
- mutually identified each other
- received a report, and
- received a confirmation of the successful identification and the reception of the report.

It is emphasized that the responsibility always lies with the operator for the integrity of the contact.

TYPICAL DIGITAL QSO



DIGITAL QSO — LOCAL AUDIO



RR73 versus RRR

- WSJT-X Authors suggest only using RR73 when there is high confidence in completing the QSO.
- With WSJT after sending RR73 the QSO is logged and the contact is closed, whether it's completed or not.
- The RR73 or RRR must be received before the contact is complete.
- Sending RRR continues the QSO until completed.

RRR versus 73

- Ed Muns, W0YK, National Contest Journal, May/June 2022.
 - "There is no reason for FT8 modes to require this additional acknowledgment [73] any more than other modes. It is a superfluous QSL message."
- Jon Jones, N0JK, National Contest Journal, July/August 2022
 - "Most FT8 operators on VHF want a "73" message to confirm a valid contact."
 - "I recommend getting that "superfluous QSL message" if possible on VHF WSJT-X contest contacts. It will lower your NIL rate."

Recent FT8 QSO

201815	50.313 Rx	-14	0.0	681	K5ND	XX1X	-06
201900	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	CQ	K5ND	DM86
201915	50.313 Rx	-15	0.0	681	K5ND	XX1X	-06
201930	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	XX1X	K5ND	R-15
202000	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	XX1X	K5ND	R-15
202030	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	XX1X	K5ND	R-15
202100	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	XX1X	K5ND	R-15
202130	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	CQ	K5ND	DM86

Recent FT8 QSO

NO QSO
FOR YOU!

201815	50.313 Rx	-14	0.0	681	K5ND	XX1X	-06
201900	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	CQ	K5ND	DM86
201915	50.313 Rx	-15	0.0	681	K5ND	XX1X	-06
201930	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	XX1X	K5ND	R-15
202000	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	XX1X	K5ND	R-15
202030	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	XX1X	K5ND	R-15
202100	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	XX1X	K5ND	R-15
202130	50.313 Tx	0	0.0	620	CQ	K5ND	DM86



+ . Online Chat —
o What's Allowed
What's Not Allowed

Ping Jockey, Contest Rules, QST 2006



Ping Jockey Statement

Exchanging any contact details on here before you're complete, invalidates the contact.

QSO Completed on Air or on Chat?

- Coordination is often needed to line up and start a QSO.
- Confirmation can be very helpful after the QSO is completed.
- No interim reports, either by the participants or any observers.
- Encouragement, such as “let’s go another 30 minutes,” is fine.

ARRL Contest Rules

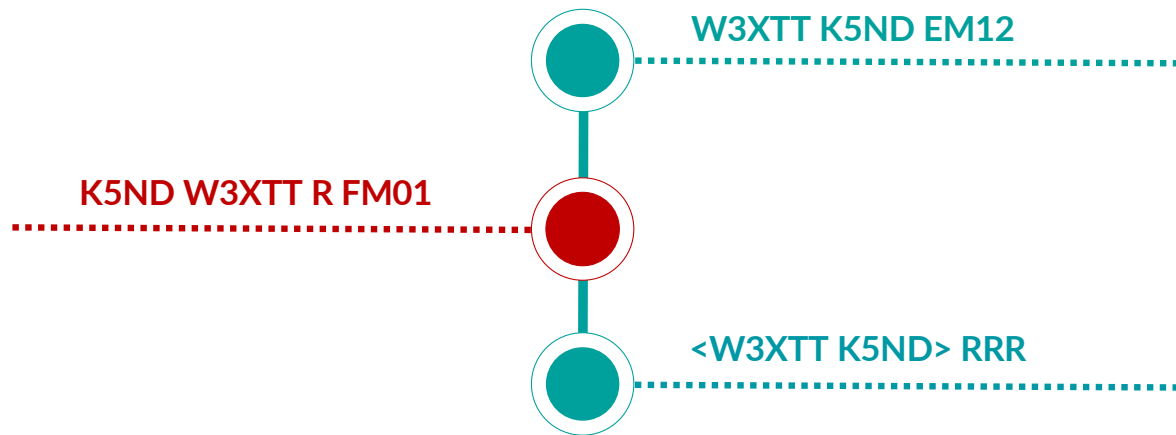
OPRG.8.4. Such assistance may not be used to facilitate the completion of any contact once the contact has commenced. This means such assistance may not be used to convey receipt or non-receipt of any required element of a contact or to request a repeat of any required element of a contact.



QST March 2006, W3ZZ

In addition, once the contact sequence has begun, there can be no communication between the participants by some other means like the telephone, the Internet, or some other amateur frequency, HF or VHF+.

2 METER MSK144 QSO



CONTEST MODE with SH
CHAT confirmation from W3XTT

Amateur Radio is a Hobby

- Authoritative sources say only R is needed.
- But if you want 73s, why not?
- Follow the wishes of that rare grid station.
- Goal = valid QSO completion.



Scout Law

- Trustworthy.
- Helpful.
- Courteous.
- Kind.
- Obedient.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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