

TROUBLE SHOOTING IMPEDIMENTS TO CW RADIO OPERATING

Presented to CVARC Morse Group
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<i>PROBLEM</i>	<i>PROBABLE CAUSE</i>	<i>CORRECTIVE ACTION</i>
A. Not making contacts.	1. Radio not turned on.	1. Turn radio on; leave on.
B. Problem with turning radio on.	1. Radio not set up. 2. Antenna not set up. 3. Need more equipment and accessories.	1. Set up radio, PS, ant., etc. 2. Set up hasty antenna. 3. Get required equipment and accessories.
C. Not hearing anything.	1. Improper tuning. 2. Band conditions.	1. Check radio settings and proper frequencies. 2. Choose band and time of day or night.
D. Perceived lack of CW proficiency.	1. Too much talking, not enough doing.	1. Take a CW class; practice with a friend; get on the air.
E. Don't know information exchange.	1. Not taking advantage of club and group members' experience. 2. Not taking advantage of informational websites.	1. Talk to experienced hams or mentors about procedures. 2. Review information posted on training websites about standard procedures.
G. Don't know what to say.	1. Not enough time spent listening to ham contacts. 2. Not enough time on the air on all modes.	1. Listen to ordinary ham contacts. 2. Get on the air on all modes; make note cards of your information and topics.
H. Lots of abbreviations and Q-codes used.	1. Not familiar with abbreviations and Q-codes.	1. Learn common abbreviations and Q-codes.
I. Don't know what band or frequency to use.	1. Not familiar with bands and frequencies.	1. Study band charts; talk to experienced hams; become familiar with day/night band conditions.
J. Don't have anyone to talk to.	1. Don't have a contact list.	1. Set up a schedule with local hams from the group or club; check into nets; answer/call CQs; participate in contests.
K. Afraid of making mistakes.	1. Not on the air enough.	1. Get on the air, everyone makes mistakes, get over it; practice with equipment.
L. Thinking code speed is important.	1. Not understanding difference between speed and good CW.	1. Concentrate on clear and accurate code along with good timing and rhythm.