



First Class CW Operators' Club

Founded in 1938, and with its roots, history and management in the UK, The First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) promotes good CW operating, activity, friendship and socialising via its 515 worldwide membership. Members are active on all HF bands and the character of the club is best expressed in its motto: "A man should keep his friendship in constant repair" - Samuel Johnson (1755).

FOC members aim to:

- i) Foster and encourage a high standard of operating and behaviour on the bands;
- ii) Observe the licence conditions and principles of band planning;
- iii) Be considerate to other amateurs at all times and, in particular, by:
 - (a) Ensuring that the radiated signal conforms to a good technical level;
 - (b) Avoiding interference to other band users by thoughtless tuning or by use of unnecessarily high power levels;
 - (c) Recognising that it is inconsiderate to 'break-in' to a contact unless there is a reason that is relevant to both of the participating stations;
- iv) By example, promote exemplary operating standards by:
 - (a) Sending at a speed that is considerate of the other station's ability;
 - (b) Giving signal reports that are, where appropriate, honest;
 - (c) Ensuring a frequency is clear before transmitting;
 - (d) At the end of a contact, moving away if it is not 'your' frequency;
 - (e) In DX 'pile-ups', observing the calling instructions of the DX station and never 'policing' the frequency;
 - (f) If you are a 'DX' station, ensuring good management of your frequency by sending your own callsign at appropriate intervals - 'anonymous operating' does nothing to control a pile-up or increase contact rates and leads to chaos;
 - (g) Always remembering that many others may be listening to your contacts – refrain from bad language or derogatory comments;
- v) Protect the future of the hobby by:
 - (a) Being active on a regular basis on as many bands as possible;
 - (b) Giving encouragement to newcomers;
 - (c) Supporting a national society.

Activities

FOC have many planned activities throughout the year. Our club "Marathon" is held over the first weekend in February, where members work each other on all bands (excl. WARC). There are two QSO party days held in March and September, where non members are encouraged to participate along with two new QRS days in May and November, in an attempt to encourage beginners onto the CW end of the bands.

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