

STM REPORT WISCONSIN SECTION APRIL 2024

Pros for the Amateurs

FAQ #273 What's with all those prosigns? All After. All before. Addressee. Stand by. More. Break. Check. Confirm. Go ahead. (reply expected) Negative. Preamble. Out. (no reply expected) Word after. Word before. I say again - what's with all those prosigns?

We use prosigns or procedural words because they make it easier to get a message exactly right. When we all use the *same* set of prosigns *in the same ways*, we hear them and respond to them more easily, more quickly, more accurately. We train ourselves so that they are automatic responses even under pressure.

Examples: When using "I spell," the sender says the word in the text first, then says "I spell" and then spells the group phonetically. When using "I say again," the sender says the word or group first, pauses, says "I say again" and repeats the group. "Roger" means received and understood. "Affirmative" means yes.

Similarly, a net control station will use some standard phrases to direct a net – "Act as relay between. . ." (QNB) "This is a directed net." (QND) "Can you relay. . ." (QSP) "The net has traffic for you. Please stand by." (QNU) "Send your message for . . . to. . ." (QNK). Of course, the "Q" signals are for CW use only.

And what about punctuation? It's true that punctuation, such as a comma or the word "query" following a question is spelled out as a word group in the text and counted that way in the check, too. If the only punctuation allowed in the text of an NTS message is the x-ray as a period, why do we hear the "slant" or "slash" in groups? The answer is (no fanfare necessary) that the "/" – otherwise known as the "slant," "slash," "diagonal," or "slant-bar" isn't being used as stand-alone punctuation. It's used as a character within a group. It might also be called a "stroke," but – as an elderly Ham – I tend to avoid that term.

So when the text includes a group such as "N9VC/9RN/CAN," it is voiced as "NOVEMBER NINE VICTOR CHARLIE SLANT NINE ROMEO NOVEMBER SLANT CHARLIE ALPHA NOVEMBER" or "NOVEMBER NINE VICTOR CHARLIE SLANT 9 R N SLANT C A N" and it's counted as one group. In practice, a sender of the additional identifier added to a call sign often skips the slant and simply pauses briefly. On CW, the slant is always DN. It's a handy *character* within a group, and I guess, on our nets, there are a lot of those.

Knowing and using the procedural words and phrases makes traffic handling more efficient. Good use of pro's is – well, poetic. It might be a good time to review those signals. Check out the famous pink card or FSD-218

(<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/fsd218.pdf>) 73. K9LGU/ STM-WI

WISCONSIN SECTION
STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY April 2024

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	ATT	TOTAL
NX9K	724	176	1135	1	0	2036 - BPL
WB9WKO	0	506	408	7	0	921 - BPL
N9CK	0	402	399	0	0	801 - BPL
AG9G	0	279	187	0	0	466
KB9GO	0	233	116	3	0	352
N9VC	0	309	39	0	0	348
KC9UC	0	143	146	0	0	289
WJ9L	1	86	69	16	0	172
K9LGU	0	71	81	0	0	152
KB9ROB	0	53	18	18	0	89
KC9FXE	0	13	44	10	2	69
KA9BAE	0	24	20	0	0	40
W9RTP	0	20	5	1	1	27
WB9ICH	0	22	2	0	0	24
W9RNA	0	8	1	4	0	13
KA9KJE	1	6	1	0	0	8

WISCONSIN SECTION P S H R SUMMARY APR 2024

POSSIBLE POINTS >	40 nets	40 tfc	30 appt	5 /hr. sked events	5 /hr. emrg events	10ea bbs/web pg	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9VC	40	40	30	285	0	20	415
AG9G	40	40	30	75	0	0	185
KC9FXE	40	40	20	35	0	10	145
K9LGU	40	40	30	5	25	0	140
WB9WKO	40	40	30	20	0	0	130
NX9K	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
KB9GO	40	40	10	0	0	0	90
KC9UC	40	40	10	0	0	0	90

WISCONSIN SECTION**MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY APRIL 2024**

NET	QNI CHECK -INS	QTC TRAFFIC	QTR TIME	SSNS SESSIONS	NM NET MANAGE R
BEN	322	365	519	30	NX9K
WSBN	484	320	704	30	AG9G
WSSN	167	51	381	30	KB9ROB
WIN/E	162	287	286	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	181	111	299	30	W9RTP
WI ARES/RACES HF	61	24	130	4	WB9WKO
WI ARES/RACES VHF	24	0	44	1	KA9KJE
WI ARES/RACES DIGITAL	264	2236	5760	4	KB9MMC
totals	2820	5075	11218	189	