

Element 4

This is the heart of radio communication. There are several mode of communication, namely, Morse code, Voice (Single Side Band) VHF (2 Meter and 440 Meter) and digital mode.

Morse code is nothing more than sending a continuous signal interrupted by stopping the signal. So, turn on the transmitter in CW (Constant Wave) and shut it off at specific intervals. You would get a signal with a on very short (Dot) and a longer signal being sent (Dash). The signal when on (transmitting) is also known as a "carrier". This is morse code. The code is like learning the times tables, it just take brute memorization. For now CW is just one mode of communication.

Voice is a signal was combined with the carrier signal and that is called modulation. There are two forms of this modulated signal. AM or amplitude modulation where one can change the strength of the signal and FM or frequency modulation where you can change the frequency. Television broadcasts the voice over AM and the visual portion over FM.

Finally digital mode, such as RTTY (Radio Teletype) or BPSK MT61 which is sent using a sound card or the older veision of a TNC (Terminal Node Controler)

Basically, you need to understand there are several mode of communication. (Pages 23-24)

RETURN TO BSA SCREEN