ON4CRD

Volume 03

My First QSO



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Illustrations created with assistance from artificial intelligence.

The big day



Lucas arrives at the club with his valid operator certificate.



The planned station is authorized for the prepared activity.



His mentor (Simon) welcomes him, just as eager as he is.



Today they hope to make his first QSO.



The young operator looks at the microphone and feels his heart racing.



They will take each step at his own pace.

A wish and some questions



He has listened a lot, but speaking feels different.



He imagines a voice answering from the other end.



What if he forgets his words on the first call?



His mentor suggests preparing a few reminders.



He opens a notebook instead of trying to memorise everything.



His wish to meet someone remains stronger than his doubts.

The framework is checked



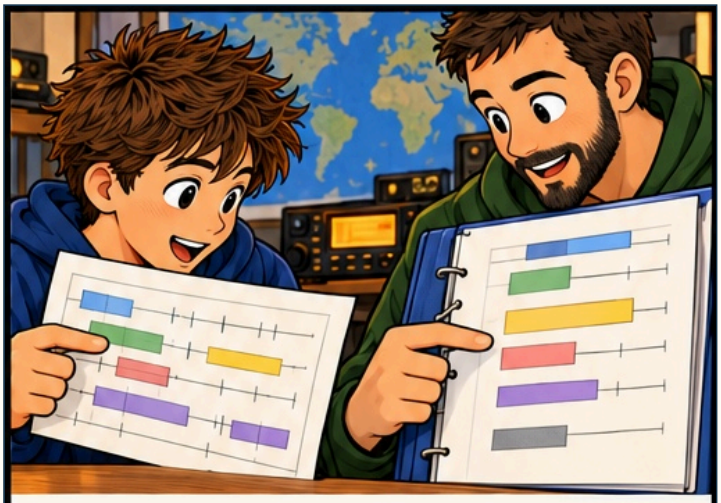
They reread the conditions for the certificate and station.



The chosen band must be permitted in their situation.



They also check the applicable mode and power.



The band plan complements this preparation.



Any doubt is resolved with official sources before transmitting.



The young operator understands why this activity is available to him.

His own callsign



He prepares the identification he will use on air.



It is his own callsign, within the checked framework.



He repeats it clearly face to face with his mentor.



They plan to spell out any parts that are misunderstood.



No example callsign will be mistaken for his own.

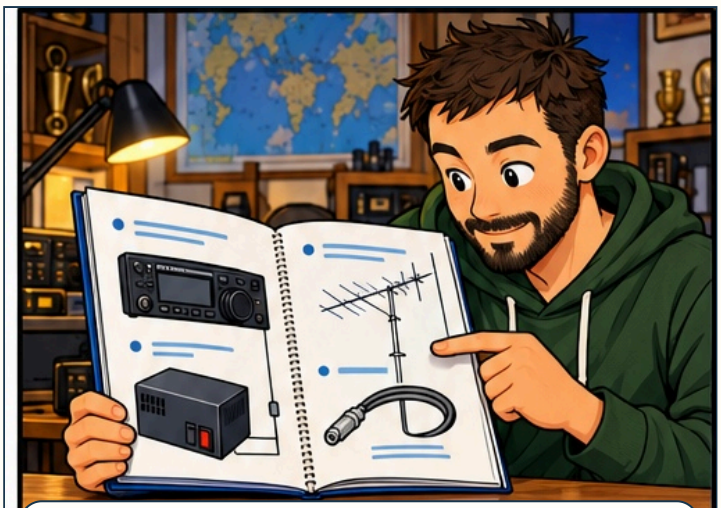


Correct station identification will be part of the exchange.

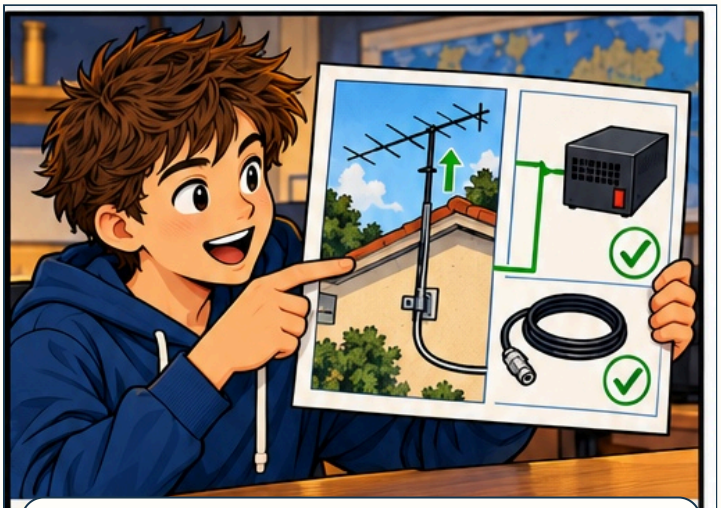
A station ready to use



The planned technical checks are completed before use.



The equipment stays closed and installed according to its instructions.



The antenna and power supply match the prepared setup.



The young operator places his notebook within reach.



His mentor checks the final points with him.



With the station ready, they begin by receiving.

Starting with listening



A conversation is already under way on the receiver.



The young operator follows the voices answering each other.



He notices introductions, questions and pauses.



His mentor gives him time to recognise the rhythm.



The notebook collects his first observations.



Before his own contact, he is still learning from others.

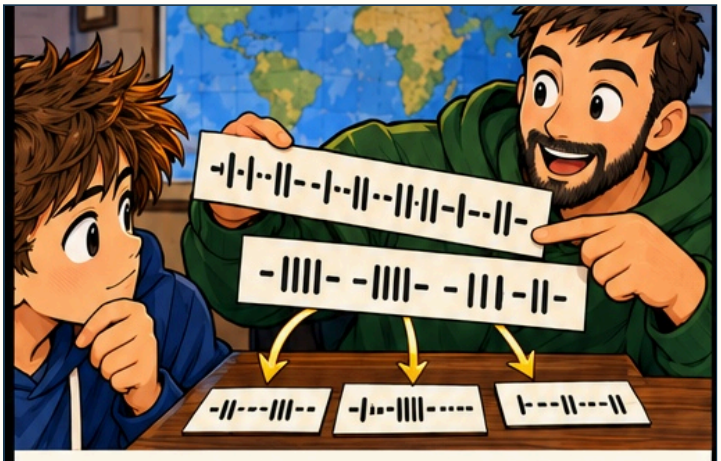
A conversation between two



He notices that each person lets the other finish.



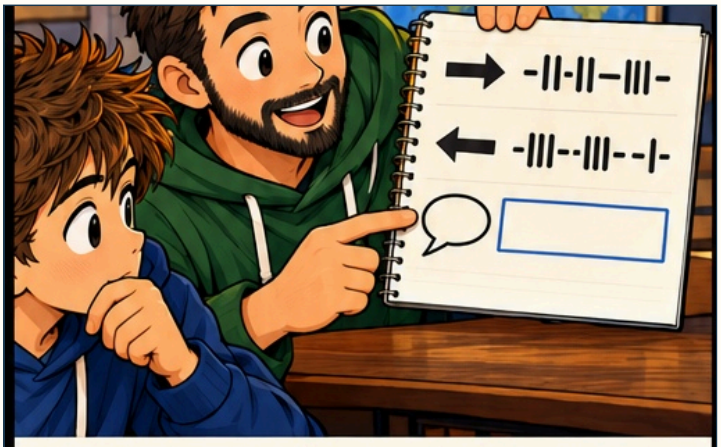
Replies sometimes pick up a detail from the previous sentence.



An exchange is therefore different from two monologues.



He leaves room for listening as well as speaking.



His mentor shows that space on the planning sheet.



He begins to imagine his role in the conversation.

It is fine to ask



He misses a word in the received conversation.



He does not invent it to fill his note.



His mentor reminds him that he can ask for repetition.



They practise a polite phrase face to face.



He keeps that option beside his other reminders.



He will not need to pretend he understood.

A few reminders are enough



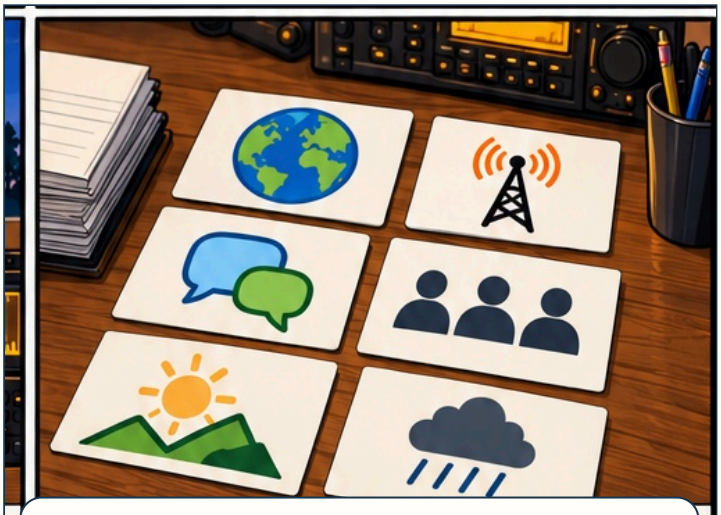
They prepare a short guide for the coming call.



He plans his identification and what he wants to do.



He then leaves space for a reply.



Further information can come as the contact develops.

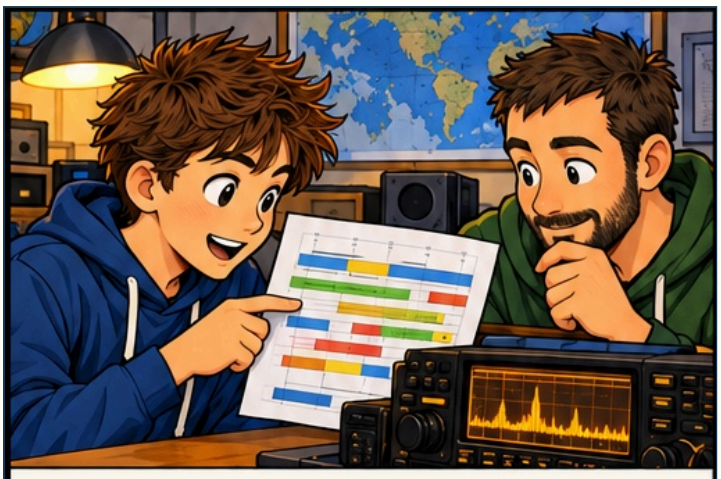


He rehearses the guide at a normal speaking volume in the room.



The paper reassures him without fixing the entire conversation.

Looking for room



They explore the part of the band suited to their activity.



The intended frequency seems quiet at first.



Lucas is tempted to begin immediately.



Simon suggests listening for longer.



They observe nearby signals and what they hear.



A quick impression is not enough to choose a place.

An almost hidden voice



A faint voice reappears while they wait.



The young operator had not distinguished it at first.



Another station soon answers it.



The frequency was occupied despite its apparent silence.



They keep listening without interrupting the exchange.

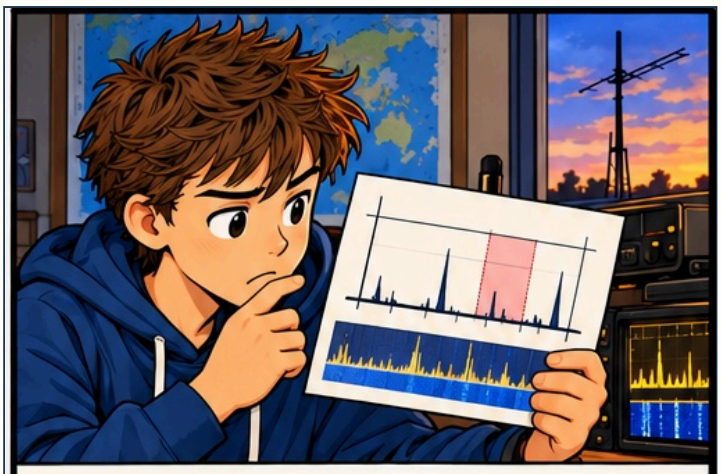


He sees the value of this first moment of patience.

Letting the exchange continue



They listen to a few more speaking turns.



He understands that this place already belongs to an exchange.



He gives up preparing his call there.



His mentor approves this calm choice.



They will seek another possibility within their planned framework.



Respecting traffic is already part of his practice.

Following another lead



They consult their band-plan reminders again.



He finds another possible frequency.



He checks the intended mode before continuing.



They start the listening process again.



Changing frequency removes none of the checks.



The notebook follows their progress without rushing.

Taking time to choose



This time, nearby noise makes listening uncomfortable.



He describes what he hears instead of guessing.



They compare it with earlier observations.



The aim is an understandable exchange within the authorized framework.



They seek a better situation without turning controls at random.



The first contact can wait for proper preparation.

Clearer listening



A new possibility offers better listening conditions.



They check again that it fits their preparation.



He recognises the received sounds more easily.



He adjusts only the receive controls that are needed.



His mentor watches and lets him make the actions he understands.



Confidence grows from concrete observations.

A planned meeting



His mentor suggests arranging this first contact between their two stations.



He also has the necessary authorization to use his own station.



They agree how to find each other while listening.



The frequency remains subject to checks and actual traffic.



An arrangement gives no priority over other users.



The young operator accepts, happy to begin with someone he knows.

Each goes to his station



The mentor leaves to return to his own station.



The young operator remains at the authorized station he prepared.



He has his certificate and will use his own callsign.



His notebook collects the steps already checked.



Elsewhere, the other operator prepares his station too.



Two separate places now await the same exchange.

The notebook within reach



Alone at the radio, he feels a little nervous again.



He finds his guide and takes a calm breath.



He rereads the identification he must use.



His reminders leave room for replies and surprises.



He puts on his headphones and focuses on what he hears.



The next step still begins with listening.

Check before calling



He observes the situation on the intended frequency for long enough.



Then he politely asks whether it is in use, identifying correctly.



He releases the transmit control to listen.



He allows time for a reply that could be faint.



No use is reported by the end of his checks.

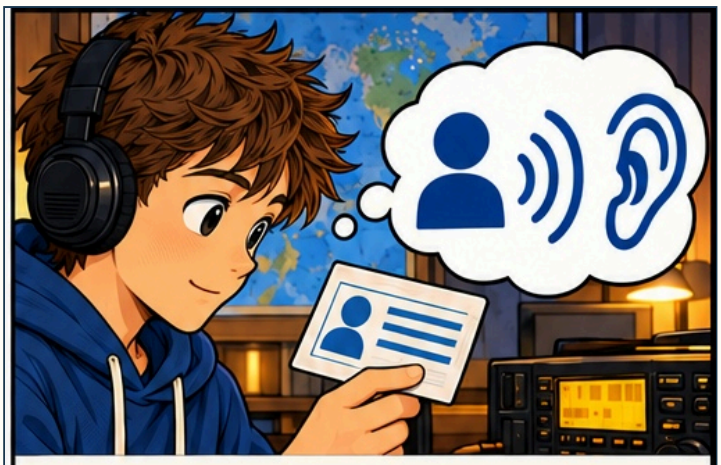


He then prepares his call, still attentive to activity.

The first call



He makes a brief, clearly spoken CQ call.



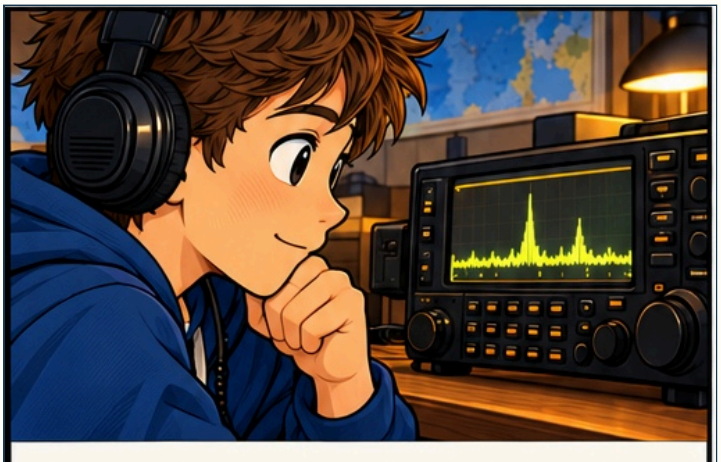
He uses his callsign and announces that he will listen.



The microphone stays in a comfortable position.



Then he stops transmitting and waits.



His eyes follow the receiver, but his ears remain essential.



He has taken a step without yet knowing who will answer.

No reply yet



The first call has no audible answer.



He looks at his notebook, a little disappointed.



He remembers that silence does not explain everything.



His correspondent may not have heard him.



He keeps listening to activity around him.



This wait does not turn his attempt into failure.

Resisting the rush



He wants to fill all the silence with his voice.



But he finds the pause reminder on his guide.



He lets the receiver show him what is happening.



The frequency and conditions can change.



He adapts his preparation to what he actually observes.



Patience leaves room for a reply.

Another measured attempt



After checking activity, he makes another suitable call.



Identification stays clear and the words stay brief.



He does not change several controls just to reassure himself.



When the call ends, he releases the transmit control again.



He listens fully, attentive to faint signals.



This time, a voice begins to emerge.

Someone answers



A reply takes shape in the headphones.



At his other station, the green-hoodie operator has heard him.



He recognises a voice but first checks who is being called.



He records the identification details he can distinguish.



He waits for the passage to end before speaking.



The earlier silence has become the beginning of an exchange.

Being sure who is called



The reply must actually concern his call.



He compares what he heard with his own callsign.



The correspondent identifies his station too.



One part is still a little uncertain.



He prepares a clear question instead of guessing.



The joy of a reply does not replace attention.

Taking his turn



The young operator speaks after his correspondent.



He uses the identification needed in the exchange.



He confirms that a reply has arrived.



His sentence is short, even if his voice trembles a little.



Then he switches to listening.



The two stations begin to find their rhythm.

Asking for repetition



He asks for the misunderstood part of the callsign to be repeated.



The correspondent calmly repeats the useful spelling.



He follows each part without filling gaps at random.



He checks his note before keeping it.



He thanks his correspondent for the clarification.



Asking has made the contact more reliable and clearer.

An honest report



They discuss how each receives the other.



Lucas describes how well he can actually understand the signal.



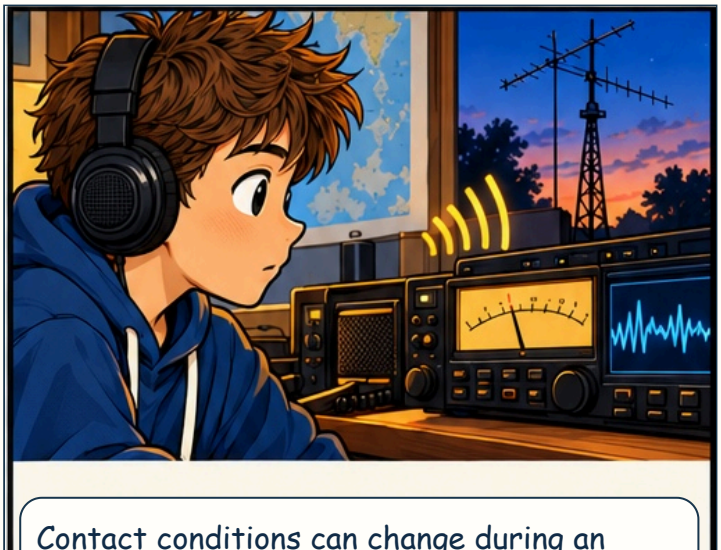
His report matches his listening, rather than an automatic number.



The correspondent gives a useful indication in return.



He notes it without treating it as a promise for later.



Contact conditions can change during an exchange.

A simple introduction



He gives the introduction details he has prepared.



He shares his first name in an easy-to-follow sentence.



He leaves time to hear the reply.



The correspondent introduces himself in turn.



Behind the signals, the conversation becomes more personal.



He no longer feels that he is only talking to a machine.

Placing the other voice



The correspondent briefly describes where his station is.



He shares a suitable location detail in return.



The globe helps him imagine two points linked by radio.



They need not list unnecessary personal coordinates.



He keeps the information useful for remembering the contact.



Distance becomes a shared curiosity.

An interest that connects



They exchange a few words about their interest in radio.



He explains that this is his first QSO.



His correspondent encourages him without speeding up the conversation.



They talk about what they enjoy discovering while listening.



The notebook stays ready, but he truly listens.



Technology has made room for a meeting.

When a sentence becomes unclear



Part of the next sentence is lost in noise.



He hesitates, then finds his repetition reminder.



He simply explains what he did not understand.



Then he lets his correspondent repeat it.



Nobody needs to become angry to make progress.



This small obstacle becomes a normal stage of the contact.

An easier reply to follow



The correspondent repeats the useful words more slowly.



He keeps his reply simple enough to follow.



The young operator better distinguishes the part he missed.



He confirms his understanding in a few words.



The two stations return to taking turns.



Courtesy has just made the exchange smoother.

Keeping actions measured



He checks only the receive settings he knows.



He does not turn every difficulty into an increase in power.



His voice stays normal and the microphone well placed.



The correspondent keeps listening and adapting his sentences.



They seek understanding before showing off.



The conversation progresses through simple actions.

Keeping a shared record



He asks whether a QSL card would be welcome.



The correspondent agrees to prepare a memento of the exchange.



They agree on a suitable way to send the confirmation.



He notes their agreement with the contact information.



A card can confirm the details they exchanged.



It replaces neither listening nor accurate notes.

The first farewell



The time comes to conclude this first exchange.



He thanks his correspondent for the contact and his patience.



They exchange a friendly greeting, including the traditional 73.



He identifies again according to the applicable rules.



He stops transmitting and returns to listening.



His first QSO now has a beginning, an exchange and an ending.

After the final words



He keeps his headphones on for a moment.



He makes sure his own transmission has finished.



Emotion rises now that the contact is complete.



He looks at his notebook and smiles broadly.



At the other end, his correspondent also tidies his notes.



A few words have been enough to make this day different.

The contact in the notebook



He tidies his notes while the memory is fresh.



He checks the callsigns actually exchanged.



He records the date and time in UTC.



The band, mode and received reports complete his record.



He also keeps a sentence about what he learned.



This personal notebook will let him revisit the experience.

A card to remember



He prepares a QSL card for his correspondent too.



The chosen picture recalls his location and his passion.



The contact details must remain accurate.



He therefore rereads his notebook before filling in the card.



The memory belongs to both stations that exchanged words.



He enjoys giving it a personal form.

Checking the memory



Before sending, he checks every detail one last time.



A wrongly recorded letter would change the correspondent's identification.



A wrong date or mode would make the memory less accurate.



He corrects only what he can actually verify.



Unnecessary personal details stay off the card.



An attractive design goes together with carefully reviewed content.

The memory sets off



He uses the sending method agreed with his correspondent.



He keeps his notes and the reminders useful for following up.



Confirmation need not arrive instantly.



While waiting, he rereads how his QSO unfolded.



He sees what helped and what he still wants to practise.



The exchange continues to teach him something.

A few days later



They meet at the club after the time planned for confirmation.



The green-hoodie operator brings the card he prepared.



He recognises the details of their exchange.



They compare the card with the notes he kept.



The two memories answer each other, like their voices on the radio.



He already knows this first card will have a special place.

What really mattered



Simon asks what he remembers from this first QSO.



He first mentions listening before calling.



Then he recalls the request for repetition that helped him progress.



His callsign and the checks gave him clear reminders.



His correspondent's patient reply did the rest.



They recognise real progress, rather than a race for performance.

Help to pass on



He prepares a guide for another beginner at the club.



He keeps the reminders that genuinely helped him.



He recalls that everyone needs the required authorization before transmitting.



The guide leaves room for questions and hesitation.

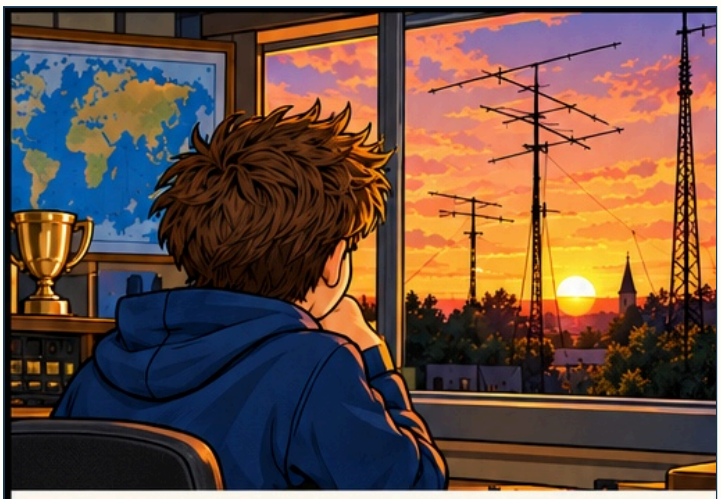


His mentor rereads it with him.



The first contact is already becoming an experience to share.

The world feels closer



At sunset, he watches the antennas from the club.



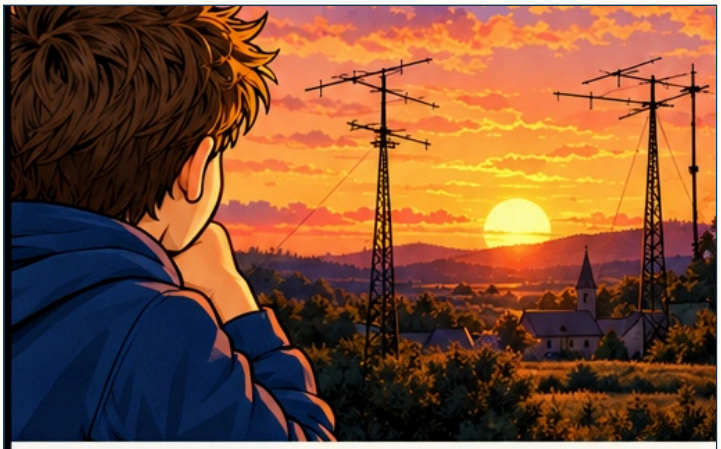
He remembers the silence before the first reply.



Behind that silence was a person ready to listen.



The notebook and card keep a record of that meeting.



Other voices will come, with other questions to explore.



His curiosity now holds the memory of a real exchange.

My first QSO



Lucas returns to the station that had impressed him so much.



It now reminds him of a voice and a meeting.



He knows another contact will still require listening and checking.



Simon shares his joy without taking over his achievement.



The notebook closes on this carefully experienced first QSO.



The passion continues: waves, people and so much to discover.