

President's Column

One of the oft touted mantras of ham radio is "Listen, listen, listen." Of course you must listen on a frequency so make sure you are not transmitting over someone else. But if everyone only listens then nobody makes contacts. With the exception of traffic nets, I almost exclusively use digital HF operations, Olivia, Thor, PSK31, JS8Call, and of course FT8. Of the contacts I make, about 75% is answering a station that is replying to a CQ that I made.

Maybe many people are just anxious to add Delaware to their contact list as sometimes I have multiple replies to a single CQ. If one band doesn't look promising I try another. Of course I don't make contacts every time but at least I am not listening to someone else listening for me. I typically answer someone's CQ when it is from a country or maidenhead square I have not contacted or if they are doing a POTA. In order to catch fish you have to throw the line in the water.

Be radio active!

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