

Perils of the Tenth or Being A Zero

John WØJLC says; Well, it's about time for my annual dissertation of being a Ø. What prompted this was several bouts of trying to work a mildly rare Middle East station.

In round one, we experienced the famous east coast curtain. This curtain is generally more severe than the Iron Curtain. Ranging from 2-5 "S" units stronger at the receiving station, the phenomena usually appears as countless 1s, 2s, 3s and 4s working the station with little or non of the other call areas. It's usually followed by the following situation or comments;

A. Good afternoon Saad, **this is the third time I've worked you this month.**

B. After about a ten minute dissertation about everything under the sun, a station will say; **Well, I don't want to hold U as I hear hundreds of other stations calling you."**

C. Could you please QSY to 40 or 80 Meters - **because that's the only band I haven't worked you on.**

D. I just wanted to let you know **I received your QSL card.**

Round two was one that is all too typical. The pileup was enormous, so the station decided to work by call district. Now everyone knows that Zero comes before 1 - If it didn't my call would be W1ØJLC. The stations started, as most do, with W1. He worked everyone with a quarter of a watt or more in W1, thru 5th zones. He couldn't hear W6 or W7, so he started on W8. About four calls into W8, then he said, "Gee, I didn't realize what time it was, I must QRT." then promptly left the air.. This was one and a half hours after he started working his first W1. These experiences tend to remind me over and over about the club logo. If you haven't seen one, ask KØRWL to send you a sample QSL.

Now I know to some extent this sounds like sour grapes and maybe it is and I guess this situation can be reversed for some East Coast stations. The simple fact is that unless you run an elaborate antenna system or propagation is exactly right, you are apt to face these situations everyday as a Ø. I have sympathy with 8s and 9s as well. I think it is good to remember that no matter what your call, that many of the stations calling may need the station for a new DXCC country. If you have already gotten a QSL and there is a pileup, let the other guys work him. They many need the QSL for a new one!

Per October 85 Radiosporting.

Now on to my own observations! At age 12 and a SWL the family didn't have any understanding for the radio game. The noise, static and heterodynes coming from my headphones and radio set! What the devil is that? W Ø ?????? please read my article "Slant Zero" on PDF

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