

Being A Better Operator

Am I being the best operator that I can be? Would I want others to operate the same way I do? Would I like it if they did? What do I need to change? These are some very important questions we all should be asking ourselves. How do you rate yourself?

Being a better operator probably would include some soul searching on our behalf. Let's start with our attitude towards the hobby and how it might affect others. Do we constantly complain about our hobby? Then maybe we need to look a little further into it and see if we're happy with where we are as an amateur. Being unhappy with where we are is sometimes a problem that is easily corrected by just upgrading or changing our area of proficiency. Like maybe becoming a net control for a RACES/ARES net or even the local traffic net. On the other hand, if you're already doing that and you're unhappy then maybe you might want to look into being an Elmer or just becoming a VE. Whatever you opt for you need to be happy in doing it or you'll not only be not helping those you chose to help but won't be helping yourself as you'll still be unhappy. An unhappy attitude is a deterrent to others.

I'm sure if you see others acting this way you probably have many ideas as to what they should be doing with their life. Let's not point the proverbial finger until we make sure we're doing the best we possibly can. We may be strong to labor, but there should be no complaining in our streets. When our friends or their brethren come to us to complain, we should say to them, be helpful for our sakes, as a peaceful heart is what leads us to a healthy attitude. How we come to that depends on what we put into the hobby is what we can expect out of the same. I sure you like the happier times of life as do you fellow hams and getting there takes some work for most of us.

Being a better operator might mean pausing before replying to a fellow ham so that someone else would have a chance to break in. There is a courteous beep on most repeaters not only to reset the timer but also to offer us a chance to let other stations break in. On HF the way I've found best is to say your call to yourself after the person that is talking finishes before you start talking and most of the time that is sufficient for most conversation round tables. Now I know that there are frequencies that doubling and tripling are an everyday occurrence, but we need to pause in case of an emergency or needed use of the frequency. I'm sure there are other pet peeve that you've come across that needs changing, try suggesting it to the individual but use brotherly love to do it. Remember that we're all human and need understanding and TLC.

Think about what you would need to change, if anything, in order to help those just coming into the hobby. Try being a spark that enlightens the heart of a new ham, invite them into your group or home and make them welcome to their upcoming fraternity. You might just be the one who helps change a bad situation into something productive. There has been so much change in the Kentucky Section that it makes my job as Section Manger very interesting and enjoyable. Keep up the good work and comradery, as you are your brothers' keeper.

73

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Kentucky Section Manager
Great Lakes Division