

==RADIO NIBI-NIBI==

Dear listener friend:

- (x) Thanks for your report.
() No thanks for your report.

Q.S.L.
Quinton S. Leek, C.E.

AN
HONEST LOOK
AT QSLs

by Al Sizer

Let me make it clear at the outset that these are but one man's views. Nor do I insist that they are necessarily correct (altho I obviously feel they are, or I wouldn't

be writing this article...hi!). But if you don't happen to agree, that is your priviladge and your are invited to register your opposition.....

PROPOSITION ONE: A large percentage of QSLs are phony, involving little or no checking on the part of the stations sending them out.

PROPOSITION TWO: An unscrupulous DXer could easily obtain most QSLs without ever turning on his set, providing he has a little know-how. It is easy to determine the times and frequencies a station maintains from the WRTH and club bulletins, etc., and these will generally indicate also the languages of xmsn and also a general idea of the type of format the station runs.

PROPOSITION THREE: At least 75% of all QSLs received lack some vital bit of information which could render them as truly legitimate---i.e. date, time, frequency, verification statement, etc.

PROPOSITION FOUR: The arguments of some DXers making a verie out of a non-verie would do a Philadelphia lawyer credit! Unfortunately, none of them would stand up in a court of law. Examples: "...While they don't actually use the word confirm, they do "thank" me for my report, and surely they wouldn't be thanking me if they thought that possibly I hadn't heard them..." or else there's "...They say that 'we are glad you heard us'. They wouldn't be glad if they didn't think I had heard them." And they go on and on, ad nauseum...

PROPOSITION FIVE: In most cases, not all, a DXer is really off his rocker if he is counting on a reply from the station proving to him, the listener, that which he had not been sure of---whether or not he had actually heard the station. I must say that this is the most serious of my propositions and one that never ceases to astound me. I've seen numerous cases where it appears that DXers have heard no IDs, and are not sure of what they've heard, and then--suddenly--they are counting it on the basis of a verification. I believe that this is very risky. I indicated that I feel that there are indeed exceptions. If there is evidence that the station actually checked out the program content you reported, and providing you gave them enough material to check out--or if you sent a tape and are reasonably sure that it was played at the station--then you are justified in claiming such a logging.

PROPOSITION SIX: A QSL should be regarded in most cases as proof of little or notning---only an interesting souvenir of an unusual listening experience. To have a book of them and go over them some nite when the QRN is too high for good reception, or to show them to friends, is all a fine part of the hobby and excuse enough for getting QSLs.....but please, Fellows..let's not take them too seriously!!!

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