

*How do I?*

*An occasional series*

*This week: It's what you make of it*

Last weekend I had to work on a door sill. I know, it's not radio related. In fact fixing stuff around the house interferes with playing radio. But while hunting up a piece of lumber and ripping it to size, I got to thinking. Sure it only took a few minutes to make enough room in the garage to set up the table saw and make a couple cuts. But ya know what? It felt good! Making things is fun. Sure, its not an heirloom. It's a replacement for a door sill that rotted out before its time. But even so, I made it. Never mind it's a patch since I put it back like it was and in a few weeks need to redo it right so it lasts many more years.

What does this have to do with radio? We live in a busy world. We cannot always devote hours to participating in an on air contest or chasing that rare DX station. Some folks rely on various spotting sites and DX clusters to find the rare station/country/county/grid square they need to obtain an operating award or other accomplishment. For some modes you can now receive alerts on a smart phone app or a text message when your target is on the air.

Sometimes, just coming home after a long day at work and turning on the radio and working a new to you country or state or county that you just stumbled on by tuning around, turns that frown upside down! Let the magic happen.

Sometimes assembling a bunch of parts into something that works is just awesome. A kit can provide the same satisfaction. Sometimes its simply getting an old radio-probably a tube set-back on the air. Maybe it's using a straight key with your "boat anchor" and reliving the past.

Or maybe successfully completing a QSO on a new to you mode-RTTY, PSK31, FT8, Echlink, etc is what makes the day.

No matter what your interests, try something! Never know where it may lead!

Catch ya on the air!

