

# How do I?

## Part of an occasional series

### This week: Top Ten Reasons I enjoy operating Morse Code mode

I recommend that you read this article in the spirit that David Letterman would have presented the material on LATE NIGHT.

- 10.) Morse Code transmissions are simple. ON OFF. I like simple because I am one.
- 9.) Because Morse Code transmissions are so simple, the signals get through when radio conditions are sub-par.
- 8.) Morse Code doesn't care whether I have laryngitis or a cold.
- 7.) I am extremely thrifty. A basic Morse Code sending key is a lot less expensive than the lowest priced microphone.
- 6.) Morse Code is a universal language among Ham Radio Operators. Hams around the world know exactly what it means when I transmit RST 5NN QTH DILLSBURG PA PSE QSL 73 AF3I
- 5.) Except for Scouts, 6<sup>th</sup> Graders, Navy Seals, other skilled Ham Radio Operators, and prison inmates hardly anyone else knows what I am saying when I transmit Morse Code.
- 4.) I put a lot of effort into learning Morse Code. I had to sit in a room at the Federal Building with the FCC Inspector and knock out twenty words per minute sending and receiving. You can bet I am going to continue using Morse Code whenever I am able.
- 3.) Imagine how unusual it would seem if Ham Radio Operators ended every voice conversation with the spoken version of SHAVE AND A HAIR CUT, TWO BITS. On Morse Code, sending: "dit dit dit dit dit" and hearing the reply come back: "dit dit" is the trademark of a pair of professional telegraphers who really know the Morse Code. Some hams use the shorthand notation LID to describe this operating technique. A lid is the top of a jar or can. On top is good. Being a LID must be good.
- 2.) If I wanted my ham radio signal to sound like Donald Duck I would have invited Clarence Nash to operate my ham radio station for me.

⚡⚡⚡ Drum Roll ⚡⚡⚡

1.) In some way that I cannot put my finger on, being known as a BRASS POUNDER sounds a whole lot better than having your friends call you a RAG CHEWER.

Catch 'ya on the air.

dah dah di di dit      di di di dah dah

Andrew Forsyth AF3I