

*How do I?*

*An occasional series*

*This week: Wallpaper*

Many amateur radio operators spend hours in front of the radio. To the untrained eye they may not seem to be accomplishing much. They may have a log book full of contacts made, but many seek other “validation” of their skills.

Enter wallpaper. No-not the stuff your grandmother hung on the living room wall. Certificates. Many special event stations will send you a certificate if you have a confirmed QSO with them. Others hand out certificates for doing well or even very well in an on air contest.

A few weeks ago I was lucky enough to capture some SSTV images from the International Space Station. I uploaded a couple to their website (that is how they have an idea of the transmission quality, coverage area, etc) and in return they emailed me the following certificate.



Some are fun: Contacting a station in Ohio in the “freeze your acorns off” special event held in the winter a few years ago. Some are kinda serious, as in participating in the annual 13 Colonies special event stations in July,

Because of postage and printing costs, many special event stations are now simply emailing them out so you can print your own.

Think of it this way: sure, it’s a little more work, but at least you know it was not lost or damaged in the mail or rolled and stuffed into your mailbox.

Fall is coming. There are a lot of social events and contests the next four months.

Catch ya on the air!

