

How can you tell if you are a radio nerd?

By Jock Elliott, KB2GOM

[Jeff Foxworthy](#) made a name for himself with his comedy routine, “You Might Be a Redneck.”

That phrase – you might be a redneck – is always followed by a qualifier, such as: “If you ever financed a tattoo.” My favorite: you might be a redneck if you ever mowed the lawn and found . . . a car.

Taking a cue from Foxworthy, I thought I might help the readers of the *SWLing Post* determine if they are radio nerds.

You might be a radio nerd, if . . .

- **You think DXing NOAA weather radio stations is kinda fun.** ([That would be me.](#))
- **You made special arrangements with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to visit WWV, the NIST time station in Colorado.** (That would be our very own Thomas, Maximum Leader of SWLing.com. Check out [this post.](#))
- **You traveled to Newfoundland, Canada, to lay out hundreds of feet of wire to listen to tiny maritime weather stations in Northern Europe.** (That would be Don Moore, and if you have not read Don’s posts–[this one](#) or [this one](#)–you are in for a treat!)
- **You see a display of pool “floaty” noodles, and all you can think of is: “Construction materials for ferrite sleeve loop antennas.”** (That would be Gary DeBock, [with this post](#) and numerous posts on SWLing.com.)
- **You think it is fun to get up in the middle of a 10 degree Alaskan night to DX an Australian station 8,000 miles away and then find yourself on an Australian newscast.** (That would be [Paul Walker.](#))
- **You are constantly thinking about how you might improve reception at your station.** (That would be most of us, I think.)
- **You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.** (Me, again.)
- **You find yourself using ham lingo in ordinary conversation: “I’m going to QSY to the kitchen.”**

So, are you a radio nerd? If so, present your evidence in the comments below.

1.  [13dka](#) [May 24, 2022 at 3:55 am](#)

1.) you have a long history of spending all of your money for radios, even if that meant you can’t buy food until next month.

- 2.) you had some eventful life but you can't remember all that happened and when, but you know exactly which year you bought what radio and what extraordinary stations you heard/worked with it and when, and what the signal was.
- 3.) you can't remember most relative's birth dates but you have all HF Aero frequencies or band limits memorized.
- 4.) you moved to the coast to improve reception.
- 5.) you don't do walks without some kind of radio and used to purchase overpriced handheld radios because they promised HF reception.
- 6.) in a hospital, you were always the guy with a huge oldschool portable radio on the bedside, despite each bed having radio/TV.
- 7.) if you're browsing the market for a new car and you check its aptitude for your specific radio related activities before you want to know the mileage or if it accommodates all of your kids.
- 8.) many memories of your happiest days bring up images of backlit analog dials and the smell of dust roasting on tubes.
- 9.) you had high anxiety most of your life, never climbed trees but you remember standing on a 30ft ladder to install a wire antenna, then climbing up a few branches to get it "just a liiiiittle higher", climbing rocky mountain tops for added VHF goodness and other things that make you feel dizzy in hindsight.
- 10.) you know next to nothing about your neighbors but you know exactly what QRM-inflicting devices they own and when they use them, you also learned from their line transformer QRM what underclass TV shows they watch.

(I'll stop here, could go on and on I guess) 😊

2.  **Andy** [May 23, 2022 at 12:24 pm](#)

When honeymooning on Kauai, the first thing you do is visit WWVH and have the incredulous staff, after giving a great tour and showing your childhood dream (an HRO-500) tell you about some incredible hidden beaches.

3.  **Andrew (grayhat)** [May 23, 2022 at 11:09 am](#)

...when you see the pic of that West Virginia bridge on qrper and start thinking at how one could use it as an antenna or an antenna support

<https://qrper.com/2022/05/pota-camping-in-west-virginia-and-focusing-on-the-radio-journey/>

heck, that would make a nice pota activation on the 2200m band 😄 😄

ok, ok, j/k ... maybe 😊

4.  [Rob W4ZNG](#) [May 22, 2022 at 11:44 pm](#)

When you take a portable with you while house shopping, to test for local RFI sources. Because who wants to live in a noisy location?

[Reply](#) ↓

1.  [Jock Elliott](#) [May 23, 2022 at 4:37 am](#)

Rob,

Makes sense to me . . . heck, I know a guy — no kidding — who bought a house in part BECAUSE IT ALREADY HAD A TOWER.

Cheers, Jock

[Reply](#) ↓

5.  [Eric Richards](#) [May 22, 2022 at 6:16 pm](#)

...If you see a local neglected tower, inspect it, take down the tower number and call the owner to try to lease time on it (after talking pros and cons with a retired tower site manager).

...if, during evacuation from a wildfire, you pack the pets and what radios you can save before you pack clothing and medication.

...if you are seriously considering getting an 8 way RF splitter so you can 4 more HF receivers to your collection.

6.  [jack dully](#) [May 22, 2022 at 5:57 pm](#)

You spent four hours putting two long dipoles in the trees with slack, Then the 40 MPH wind from the NE began for 2 days straight & the rain fell like in a monsoon. Before your first morning coffee you checked to see if your antennas are still where you put them and intact and maybe cut in a little extra slack in. THEN you have your wake up coffee. Life is good and so is hearing Bucarest in English from the woods of Pennsylvania


7.  **Zack S** [May 22, 2022 at 5:40 pm](#)

You might be a nerd if you like to tune your CCradio 3 to 520 khz during the summer and then fall asleep listening to lightning static.

N8FNR

8.  **Wesley Griffin** [May 22, 2022 at 5:11 pm](#)

When someone called the cops on me for working on my 40 meter inverted V on my tower at 3:00 am .

9.  **John** [May 22, 2022 at 4:54 pm](#)

When you drive around listening to the white noise of an open channel on your car radio in the hopes of an Es opening

10.  **Bob** [May 22, 2022 at 4:03 pm](#)

This past Tax season I needed to talk to a tax advisor. I found one on listed on the internet, I called her & got her voicemail. At the end of my message I left my callsign. What an idiot. She never called me back.

11.  **Bill Meara** [May 22, 2022 at 11:21 am](#)

In the morning, you sometimes turn the soldering iron on before you turn on the coffee pot.

You follow space weather as closely as you follow ordinary weather.

12.  **Steve** [May 22, 2022 at 11:09 am](#)

When I see a car near me with ham plates (I have them also) and use my horn to say
and they reply in Morse.