

## **Suggestions for Working Rare Stations on GreenCube IO-117**

To begin with I suggest everyone put themselves at the controls of the station they are trying to work and understand what they are trying to do at the same time you are trying to contact them. The ultimate question is: when are they listening and when are they transmitting?

Also understand that IO-117 is one packet in and one packet out at a time system. Fifty packets at the gate, only one gets through. Sometimes no one gets through. That's when the satellite gets eerily silent. We also know you don't receive packets when transmitting.

It also helps to know if they are using the OZ9AAR GC Terminal Program. The program informs it's users of that and if they are sending out multiple confirmation calls in one transmission they ARE using it.

When you successfully send a single digipeat to the station using the OZ9AAR GC Terminal Program and they receive it YOUR CALL ends up in the Calling Me Window and stays there until it is cleared by logging a station or purposely deleting it without logging it. If you get eight successful digipeats to the station you are still in the Calling Me Window ONCE.

When will the station you are trying to work be listening? That's your job to consider carefully. Certainly after a CQ they will be listening and after a successful multi call digipeat they will be listening. These are generally the times to try to get your digipeat through but the real question is how long do you persist at doing that? I don't know the answer but I do know it's not forever! My practice is if I get a successful digipeat in the first 1 to 2 minutes I will STOP transmitting, if I don't get a successful digipeat in I will STOP transmitting.

Why would you stop transmitting if you did not get in a successful digipeat? Well, think about it, what's he or she trying to do at this point? Of course, they are trying to answer a group of stations with a multicall digipeat. Just like you they receive an occasional digipeat between TX attempts but otherwise they are "off-line" trying to transmit... click, click, and click.

What affects the rare station's ability to get a successful digipeat off? Lots of stuff but one of the most import items is access to the digipeat which is minimal if EVERYONE keeps on calling them incessantly. There are also those stations that call CQ every 30 seconds of so for multiple times in a row during a pass that affect sat access for everyone.

When you don't see the rare stations for 5 or 10 minutes after their last digipeat what do you think they are doing? Sleeping? Getting coffee? No, they have been trying to hit the freak 'in Satellite to answer you. They have likely been clicking faster than you have been. I know this from personal experience. Remember; when you transmit you DO NOT receive their TX.

## So here's the deal, this is what I **attempt** to do when trying to work these stations.

1. I try to get a digipeat off successfully in the first couple of minutes. If I do I stop transmitting until I see the stations next transmission. IF I DON'G GET A DIGIPEAT OFF I STOP TRANSMITTING and wait until his next transmission. After that first one to two minutes my guess is they are definitely trying to transmit, so I do my part to let them. I don't want to miss my next opportunity to TX when I know they are listening.
2. If my call is not in the next transmission I will try again, and repeat the cycle.
3. You get a pretty good idea of what difficulties they are having hitting the digipeater just by watching. If they are not having any issues then you'll close the deal in no time. If you don't see them for several minutes then they are having difficulty in getting a TX Packet out.
4. WAITING is probably the most important part of trying to work one of these stations. When I say wait I really mean wait. WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THEM ON THE SCREEN AGAIN; THAT COULD BE SECONDS TO GREATER THAN 10 MINUTES. This may change if you had a heavy fade cycle and missed what was going on while you could not copy.
5. Last night a \*\*\*\*/MM station showed up 15 minutes before my LOS. I got an early digipeat off successfully and started waiting. I waited for the last 15 minutes of my pass and never saw him transmit again. In that first 10 minutes almost every transmission I decoded was for him. Some stations in the 10 minute period called him up to four times. During the last five minutes there were probably 75% of the decodes still calling him. So LOS occurred and I never worked him and I called him once but guess what, the people that called him four +++ times also never worked him during that 15 minutes. I and likely a small group of waiters may have been the only ones that knew for a fact he had never been able to transmit during that 15 minute period.
6. Know that this system works! I have had several instances when after a single digipeat success I received a confirmation TX from them five minutes later in their first transmission since the original one I saw.
7. Remember, a lot of these guys are using battery power and small antennas so let's try to give them a break and listen more than transmit
8. PUT YOURSELF IN THE SHOES OF THE RARE OPERATOR. CONSIDER WHEN YOU THINK THEY WILL BE LISTENING AND WHEN THEY ARE TRYING TO TRANSMIT.... AND WAIT!!!

**9. One last thing, if they are not using OZ9AAR's GC Terminal and they are confirming one call at a time then good luck. All bets are off since they don't have a Calling Me Window on their program. How they will prioritize the "mess" coming at them on their screen is anyone's guess but the principles are still the same, just more of a crap shoot I guess for everyone.**

**These are just my opinions based on what I know about how this particular satellite functions and my experience chasing rare stations from home and activating rare grids and states. You are welcome to do what you will with the information. My feelings have never been hurt ending up in the recycling bin of history. The satellite is a shared resource so treat it kindly.**

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