

One of the best ways to make conversation with anyone in any scenario is to ask questions that allow the other person to talk about themselves. When we call CQ or answer the CQ of a station we have never worked, we are faced with an unknown that has the potential to become a friend, if not a good friend. If you are genuinely interested in other people, you will develop your own collection of questions to pose to new acquaintances that will help you learn quickly about the other person.

Asking good questions take practice. The first rule is to formulate your questions so they can't be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." Questions that start with "How do you..." or "What do you..." will yield answers that contain real information. Hams typically talk about:

- 1. Their rig;**
- 2. Their key;**
- 3. Their antenna;**
- 4. Their job;**
- 5. Their other hobbies;**
- 6. Their interests in ham radio.**

There are many others, of course, but these 6 will keep you busy for 30 minutes at least. You should be willing to answer similar questions. Keep each transmission focused on one subject at a time. If the other party says something particularly intriguing or interesting, dig deeper to learn more.

If you find that the other party shares your interest in something other than ham radio or perhaps you both were employed in the same industry, there will be a great to chat about to be sure. If the other party was employed in an industry vastly different than yours, you have an opportunity to learn about that industry or type of work.

The possibilities are endless and limited only by your creativity and curiosity. Asking good questions will lead to great conversations.