

A DISCUSSION AGAINST USING HIGH POWER FOR IO-117 ACTIVITY

FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF ALL IO-117 USERS "Be Kind and Turn It Down" by KI0KB

1. Consider first that a 15 element RHCP 70cm antenna can gain digipeater access with 200 mw at the antenna.

2. An 8 element RHCP beam can gain access at the 1 watt level reading on the 9700.

3. The output of IO-117's digipeater is about 1 watt.

3. Knowing that information ask yourself why would anyone need to use 300 to 500 watts or more? I suspect everyone has their own answer to that question.

4. Remember that operating QRO on IO-117 is a completely different concept than HF QRO operations. On HF there are generally large band spreads with multiple frequency options available in SSB, CW or FT8, so that QRO does not interfere with QRP stations. QRP operators generally stay away from QRO ops if possible on HF but on IO-117 this is not possible. Everyone is operating on the exact same frequency.

5. QRO operations on IO-117 interfere with EVERYONE'S ability on that pass to gain digipeater access, often including the station the QRO operator is trying to contact.

6. QRO stations are seemingly able to get digipeats at will, i.e. anytime they want to transmit they get a digipeat with a high percentage of success What this QRO mentality does is inhibit the ability of other stations on the pass to complete successful QSOs, much less get a single digipeat. High power RF overwhelming the input to the satellite will certainly de-sense the front end of the satellite's digipeater for some period of time making access temporarily limited to everyone else.

7. Why are passes that include primarily Japan seemingly less chaotic? Perhaps it's their operating skill and patience as well as a good antenna system, in addition to their 50 watt power limit on non-EME 70cm operations.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Improve your IO-117 operating skills. Improve your 70cm antenna situation. Don't terrorize pass users by going QRO and shutting them out of occasional contacts with someone other than you. **MOST OF ALL LEAVE THE AMPLIFIER OFF! IT'S NOT NEEDED.** If you were able to make a contact with every station you ever called where would be the challenge in that? We have cell phones and the internet these days if you really need to contact someone.