

Example of quest NPC dialogue. This pair of NPCs is meant to come across as Click and Clack, constantly finishing each other's sentences and jovial.

By Tim Macauley. © Red 5 Studios.

HAM-radio hobbyists: Marcelo & Bautista

First time doing signal-scanning mission:

Aero:

"Boss, I've got two locals who have been spamming the local frequencies, desperate for volunteers. They say it's charitable work - pro bono. I know this isn't usually your thing <laugh>, but I will say these two are persistent. I listened to their pitch and--it caught my ear, what can I say. I'm gonna patch them through to you and if you want to help them, great, and if not, that's fine too. Here they are now."

Marcelo:

"Hello? Hello! Thank you for your time! I'm Marcelo and this here is--"

Bautista:

"Bautista! But you can call me...Bautista! (laugh)"

Marcelo:

"We're radio operators!"

Bautista:

"Well, enthusiasts..."

Marcelo:

"Yes, yes...really more of hobbyists, if you will. Tinkerers."

Bautista:

"We are dedicating our lives to searching for life outside of New Eden"

Marcelo:

"Yes, out in the YOU-KNOW-WHAT..."

Bautista:

"[whispers] the Melding..."

Marcelo:

"Now we're not foolhardy enough to step out there..."

Bautista:

"Heaven's no! No, no, no..."

Marcelo:

"And furthermore, we don't want you to go in our stead..."

Bautista:

"[thoughtful] Well..."

Marcelo:

"No--no, we don't. Instead, though, maybe you could help us in a totally safe way."

Bautista:

"Well, a very low-risk way."

Marcelo:

"If you want to know what would be a huge favor for us--"

Bautista:

"A tremendous favor"

Marcelo:

"Yes, astronomical, really, would be for you to go to a manufacturing terminal, toss some materials in and have the machine print a new antenna array for us. Here, we'll bounce the nanoprint schematic to your viewport right now!"

Bautista:

"Before you can say no! (laugh)"

Marcelo:

"Now again, you'll have to use your own materials to craft it, but it shouldn't be too painful. If you do this favor for us, well...who knows, it might very well be remembered for time immemorial..."

Bautista:

"It would be legendary! If we end up making the discovery of all discoveries--"

Marcelo:

"Yes, if our humble attempt to detect life outside of New Eden succeed--"

Bautista:

"Then your name will be praised and celebrated with our own!"

Marcelo:

"Yes...although maybe in slightly smaller font--"

Bautista:

"Yes, well, side-billing, if you will, but definitely credited"

Marcelo:

"Indubitably"

Bautista:

"So...off you go...manufacturing terminal, craft a new antenna array."

Marcelo:

"Thank you!"

[after antenna has been crafted]

Marcelo:

"Awww, that a girl! [or boy if gender is an easy boolean to read]"

Bautista:

"Tremendous!"

Marcelo:

"OK, so now you need to equip it and we'll send you the coordinates of where we think the best place to start with is."

Bautista:

"OK, check your SIN map. Work your way to that location and once you get a lock on it, try and hold the lock steady until the timer runs out. Don't move. That gives us eggheads the necessary time to study the signal..."

Marcelo:

"Now, several important things to note. Once you've activated the antenna"

Bautista:

"Oh, that's right"

Marcelo:

"Once you've activated the antenna, and you've locked on a signal, you must move quickly to the location. If you're too slow to meet the current waypoint timer, no biggie. We'll check our database for another promising candidate and send you another series of coordinates soon after."

Bautista:

"Now, the more locations you're able to reach, the bigger the reward!"

Marcelo:

"You're promising rewards now are you?..."

Bautista:

"Well..."

Marcelo:

"Fine, fine. <ahem> Right, so in summary. The more waypoints that you reach, and the more signals that you can maintain a lock on until the timer runs out, the greater the rewards."

Bautista:

"Toot sweet. No lollygagging."

Marcelo:

"Remember, looking for survivors is like looking for a needle in a haystack, but it COULD happen!"

Bautista:

"Yes, it could! We WANT to believe!"

Marcelo:

"Um, but there is one other thing...I was going to mention the.."

Bautista:

"You should mention the other thing...wait, maybe you shouldn't..."

Marcelo:

"Yeah, well... you see, signal tracking like this tends to draw a lot of attention."

Bautista:

"An exceptional amount of attention..."

Marcelo:

"Turns out, these creatures...they're not so keen on shinies...and your antenna array is awfully shiny. So, you know, nothing to get worried about, but...be sure to have a fresh clip in and--"

Bautista:

"Make sure your affairs are all in order--"

Marcelo:

"No, no, no, don't say that. No need to overstate the case...Just...stay frosty."

Bautista:

"Yeah, on your toes. You'll do fine!"

Marcelo:

"Oh yes, and one more thing. If you unequip your antenna...or die and have to be repatterned--"

Bautista:

"Painful!"

Marcelo:

"--your antenna will be likely be worthless as it is a rather brittle thing and we haven't yet worked all the kinks of our nanoprint design. Our issue...not yours...only...well....you'll need to craft a new one each and every time...so careful now..."

Bautista:

"Thanks again for helping us. Just because the Accord has given up looking for life out there, doesn't mean we have!"

Marcelo:

"That's right! Now go get it done!"