

DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #13

(August 2013)

By W0NAC ("Matt")

As food for thought this month, I offer the following quotes:

"Nothing worth having was ever achieved without effort" – Theodore Roosevelt

"All the effort in the world won't matter if you're not inspired." — Chuck Palahniuk, Diary

Both of these quotes would make good captions for this picture.....



Let me ask you – are you still having fun with your ham radio and county hunting activities? Are you inspired in your efforts? If you are, that's great, but if you are a little bored with the "same-ol same-ol", maybe you should consider doing something new and challenging. Of course, I'm talking about going Digital (especially mobile). I hear you muttering "He's been on this soap box many times before!" and you are right – I have, but I feel like every so often, I need to retry converting those who have never used the Digital modes! If my efforts result in only one added convert, they will not have been in vain.

When I suggest that you go "Digital", this doesn't mean that Digital activity would totally replace what you're doing now. What I am talking about is Digital work having a shared relationship with SSB and CW. Think of it as being like adding a second or third child to your family.

Challenge Department:

Last month I challenged you to solve 4 riddles and 6 people submitted answers (in the order given). Scoring the replies was difficult because some of the riddles have more than one good answer and most people were quite inventive in their replies.

- 1) KE3VV - Dave 75% (missed #4).
- 2) NB9VQM - Louie 75% (missed #4)
- 3) NX0X – Brian 100%
- 4) W8DCD – Kirby 85% (partially missed #3)
- 5) K7TM – Bob 100% (Very different answers, but OK)
- 6) W2CC – Dave 73% (Little off on #2, missed #3)

The “book answers” are given below in red:

- 1) What do you throw out when you want to use it, but take in when you don't want to use it? **Anchor**
- 2) Six glasses are in a row. The first three are filled with milk and the last three are empty. By moving only one glass, can you arrange them so that the full and the empty glasses alternate? **Pick up the second glass and pour the milk into the fifth glass and then put it back in the second position.**
- 3) How is it that a person born in Massachusetts, whose parents were both born in Massachusetts, is not born a U.S. citizen? **If he was born before February 6, 1788, then Massachusetts would still be a British colony.**
- 4) If you were standing exactly on the earth's South Pole facing north, which direction would you travel if you took one step backward? **North. (The only direction you can move from being exactly on the South Pole is North)**

Other valid answers to #1 included “fishing net”, “garden hose”, “fishing line and bait”, and “fishing lure”. I considered all of these as correct.

Everyone had #2 right except I docked one person for failing to mention returning the now empty glass to its original position.

#3 seemed to be the most difficult for people. The key words in the riddle are “born” and “Massachusetts”. If someone was “born” in the colony of Massachusetts before it became a state, they were not “born” a U.S. citizen. One could argue that being born anywhere in the 13 colonies after July 4, 1776 made you a “born” U.S. citizen, but it is not clear that this would have been the case. Never the less, I gave one person credit for this answer.

Two people missed #4 by answering South.

I believe people had fun with these last month, so I'll give you another (and perhaps harder) puzzle to solve which was sent in by Kirby (W8DCD).

You have 2 rooms. In room one, there are 3 light switches that go to 3 lights in room 2. There is a door that separates the rooms so you cannot see between them. You are in room 1 with no tools or any other help. You need to arrange the light switches then go into room 2 and tell me which switch goes to which light. You can only pass through the door once and cannot see between. This is NOT a trick answer....just requires a little bit of logic and common sense. What can you do in room 1 to tell you what's up in room 2?

I figured out one answer to the puzzle, and Sharon came up with a different solution, so watch out! There may be more than 2 answers! What can you come up with? Watch for our answers in next month's article along with a list of those that sent in their solution(s) to this riddle. Have fun, and send your solutions to w@nac@comcast.net .

Fldigi Tip of The Month:

WA4EEZ (Leslie) suggests that when you are happy with your Fldigi setup, that you capture (and save) screen shots of your Fldigi setup screens. This will allow you to restore your original configuration if things get messed up. This is an excellent idea! She also suggests that you do a “**Configuration/Save Configuration**”

after you make any changes. Note: Fldigi gives you NO indication that a “save” operation was completed successfully. This can be a bit disconcerting!

Past “Digital Happenings” Topics:

Instead of delving into some detailed technical discussion this month, I have decided to provide you with a list giving you the main topic that each past “Digital Happenings” article covered. Also, at the end of each listing, I give a Dropbox link that is good 24/7 so that you can download any individual article you wish or all 12 of them in one file. (All files have been Zipped to avoid their being rejected by your computer’s security functions.)

Digital Happenings #1 – “How Do I Get Started?”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%231.zip>

Digital Happenings #2 – “How To Tune & Decode Digital Signals”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%232.zip>

Digital Happenings #3 – “How To Adjust Your System For A Clean Signal”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%233.zip>

Digital Happenings #4 – “How To Create And Use Macros”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%234.zip>

Digital Happenings #5 – “How To ‘Put Out’ Counties Using Digital Modes While Operating Mobile”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%235.zip>

Digital Happenings #6 – “How To Operate As A Mobile OM/YL Team Using Digital Modes”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%236.zip>

Digital Happenings #7 – “Selecting Modes & Rapid Mode Changes Using Macros”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%237.zip>

Digital Happenings #8 – “Fldigi Operating Tips”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%238.zip>

Digital Happenings #9 – “Digital Mode Tests & Other Interesting Modes”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%239.zip>

Digital Happenings #10 – “Western Colorado Digital Mode Experiment”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%2310.zip>

Digital Happenings #11 – “Interface Choices”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%2311.zip>

Digital Happenings #12 – “First Ever Digital Meeting At Deadwood”

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%2312.zip>

Digital Happenings #1 – 12 (Single Zipped File With All Articles 1 – 12)

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/DIGITAL%20HAPPENINGS%20%231-12.zip>

August Activities:

Digital activities during August were kinda “slim pickins” (maybe everyone was resting after the convention?).
Mobiles heard putting out Digital counties were:

W0NAC (Solo) in Boulder, CO July 30th

W0NAC/N0LXJ in Elbert, CO August 8th

WA4UNS in Greenwood, SC August 8th

WA4UNS in many GA Counties August 9th – August 11th

W5QP in Benton/Washington, AR August 24th

W5QP in Oklahoma, OK August 27th

In addition, there were some KS counties put out using Digital modes during the KS QSO Party August 25th.

Support calls related to Digital setup, etc. also dropped off this month. As always, I stand ready to help anyone who has problems or wishes to get started with Digital operations. Just email me at w0nac@comcast.net or call me any time at 303-799-3658.

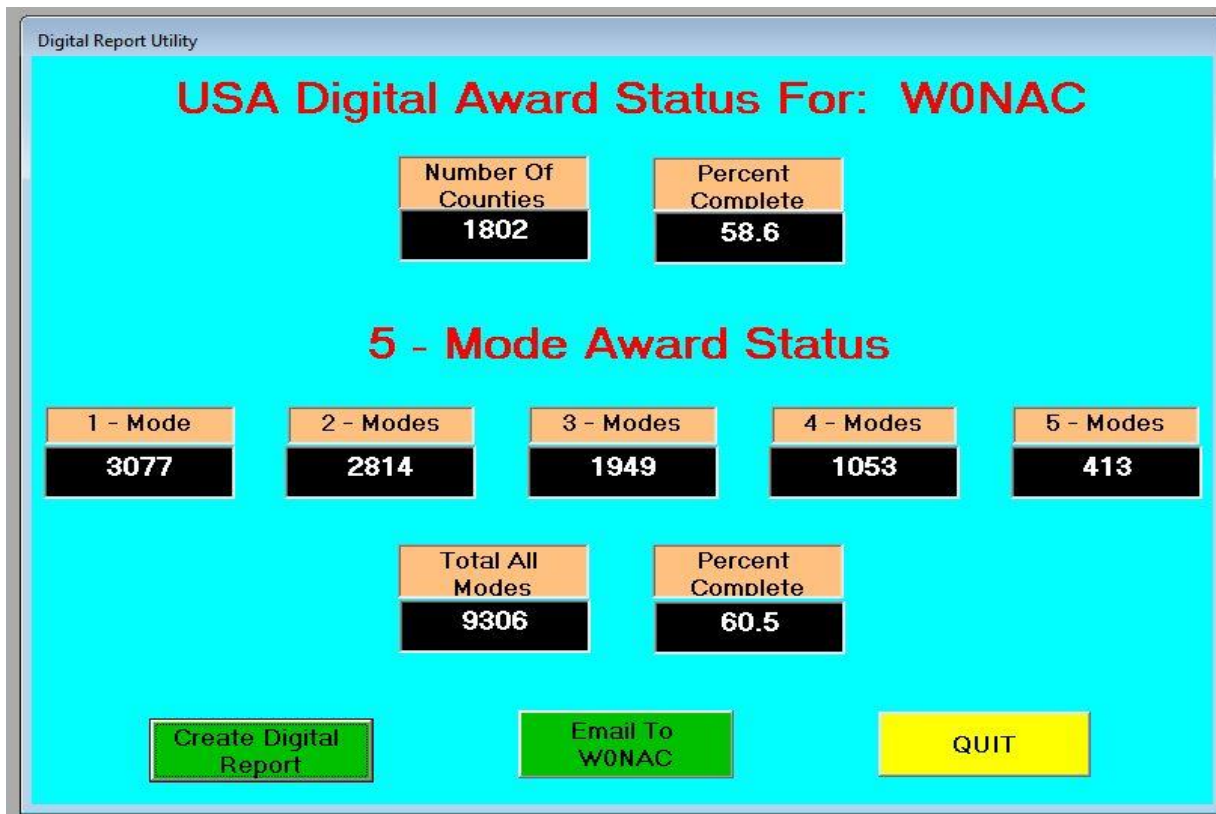
The updated Table 3 is given below:

Table 3 - Active Digital County Hunters Award Status

#	CALL	NAME	STATUS* (M,F,I)	USA - DIGITAL Counties (of 3077)	(1 MODE)	(2 MODES)	FIVE MODE COUNTIES (3 MODES)	(4 MODES)	(5 MODES)	TOTAL	% 5-Mode Completed	LAST UPDATED
1	AA8R	Randy	F	1000+	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	9/30/2012
2	AC0B	Cliff	F	205	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	12/10/2012
3	AD1C	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
4	K0DEQ	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
5	K0PVW	Rob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
6	K0WJ	Lou	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
7	K4PBX	Jim	F	106	2575	84	6	0	0	2665	17.3%	10/15/2012
8	K5GE	Gene	F	26	1893	575	8	0	0	2476	16.1%	5/26/2013
9	K5SF	Dick	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
10	K5WAF	Bill	F	599	3044	?	?	?	?	3044	19.8%	5/2/2013
11	K7REL	Tom	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
12	K8QWY	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
13	K8ZZ	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
14	KA8IQP	Pamela	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
15	KC3X	Hollis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
16	KC6AWX	Bob	F	450	3077	1592	264	59	14	5006	32.5%	5/7/2013
17	KC7YE	Jack	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
18	KD5YUK	Billy	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
19	KD7KST	Bill	M/F	1792	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	9/30/2012
20	KG5RJ	Greg	F	573	3048	2078	524	167	44	5861	38.1%	8/7/2013
21	KM1C	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
22	KM6HB	Mark	F	714	3077	2936	694	87	1	6795	44.2%	2/3/2013
23	NOKV	Barry	M/F	412	3077	2996	2064	249	24	8410	54.7%	8/26/2012
24	NOLXJ	Sharon	M/F	1359	3077	2252	1201	467	235	7232	47.0%	8/30/2013
25	N1API	Al	F	457	3077	1327	326	180	96	5006	32.5%	8/2/2013
26	N3HOO	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
27	N4JT	Jim	F	572	3077	3058	575	99	55	6864	44.6%	10/30/2012
28	N5MLP	Ron	M/F	391	3077	409	54	37	9	3586	23.3%	5/19/2013
29	N6PDB	Dennis	M/F	664	3077	2768	745	420	305	7315	47.5%	8/27/2013
30	N8CIJ	Dick	F	664	3077	3004	436	290	220	7027	45.7%	7/31/2013
31	N8HAM	Jim	I	0	3077	0	0	0	0	3077	20.0%	4/2/2013
32	N9WNN	Steve	F	0	2180	0	0	0	0	2180	14.2%	2/24/2013
33	NA8W	Dar	F/M	535	2993	?	?	?	55	3048	19.8%	4/6/2013
34	NF0N	Mike	F	785	3077	3077	915	108	50	7227	47.0%	12/31/2012
35	NN9K	Pete	F	816	3077	859	78	1	0	4015	26.1%	3/23/2012
36	NT2A	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
37	NU4C	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
38	NW6S	Jim	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
39	NX4W	Lloyd	M/F	1135	3077	1274	436	290	97	5174	33.6%	7/27/2013
40	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1802	3077	2814	1949	1053	413	9306	60.5%	8/30/2013
41	W3DLM	Don	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
42	W4IHI	Garv	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
43	W4SIG	Kerry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
44	W4YDY	Dave	F	752	3077	3077	921	213	46	7334	47.7%	3/6/2013
45	W5QP	Rick	M/F	138	3077	2362	137	57	46	5679	36.9%	5/30/2013
46	W6RK	Risto	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
47	W6RLL	Joe	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
48	W7IN	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
49	W7QQ	Bill	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
50	W9JR	Rich	F	90	3077	1674	44	0	0	4795	31.2%	10/31/2012
51	W9SUQ	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
52	WA4EEZ	Leslie	F	1034	3075	1257	483	69	6	4890	31.8%	6/4/2013
53	WA4UNS	Doug	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
54	WA6OCV	Susan	M/F	328	3077	328	320	130	10	3865	25.1%	3/28/2013
55	WA7JHQ	Sterling	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
56	WB0M	Jeff	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
57	WB2ABD	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
58	WD4OIN	Jack	F	395	3077	3065	410	67	8	6627	43.1%	3/3/2013
59	WQ7A	Terry	F	201	3077	3028	206	132	112	6555	42.6%	8/24/2013
60	WY4D	Bennie	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	

How To Get Your 5 – Mode Statistics Updated:

As of the date this article is published, there is now a new and handy way to update your Digital statistics for Table 3. I have created a small program called “Digital Report Utility”. This new program will create a report for you with your progress shown for both the **USA – Digital** and the **5 – Mode Awards**. Here is a sample screen shot of the report (Using my own database):



Once the report is showing on your screen and you are OK with the numbers, the program can also email your statistics to me so I can update Table 3. There is no longer a need for anyone to manually extract their statistics.

Installing and running the new utility is easy. Just download "Install Digital Report Utility Version 0.1.9.exe" from the MARAC Server (<http://www.marac.org/chdownloads>) or use the following Dropbox link (which is available 24/7)

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Digital%20Report%20Utility/Install%20Digital%20Report%20Utility%20Version%200.1.9.zip> to get a zipped version of the same install file. You can save the file anywhere you wish on your computer (desktop, download folder, etc.) because it is not sensitive to location. When you execute this install file, just follow the default selections and it will install the new utility program in the proper folder (Program Files) and place an icon on your desktop that you can use to run it.

Please Note: When you first run the program you need to make sure that it is pointed to your call sign database file (files if you are an OM/YL team). This file(s) will usually be found in your "C:\Logger Data" folder.

To point the program to your file(s), press F-10 while on the opening screen (shown below). Then click on the button indicated:

Digital Award Status Reporting Utility

Version 0.1.9

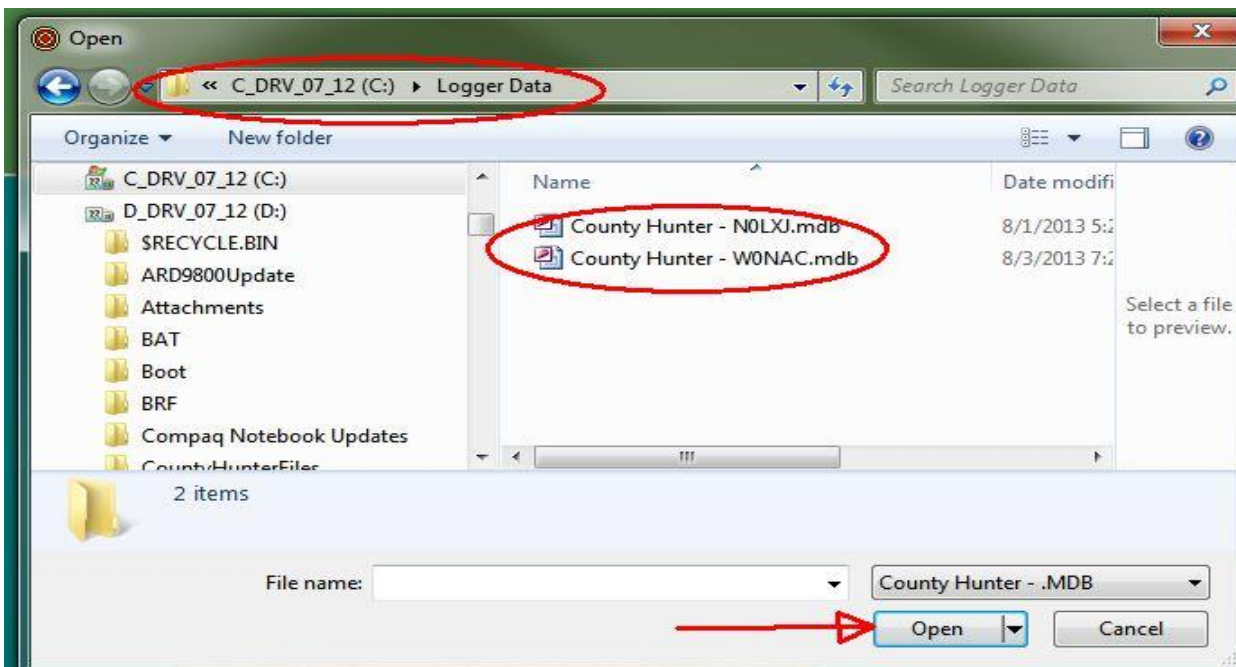
**Press F-10 For
Different Data
File/Folder**



Some Code Adapted From Logger
KD9ZP Original *Programmer*
W0NAC *Programmer, User Help*
N6PDB *Assistant Programmer, User Help*

**CLICK HERE TO LOCATE THE
FOLDER WHERE YOUR
DATABASE IS LOCATED**

Then use the following window (example below) to browse to your "Logger Data" folder and select your call sign database. Then click on the "Open" button.



This will take you back to the opening screen with your call sign (two call signs if you are a team) displayed like this:



Clicking on your call sign will bring up the report screen where you can create your report and email it to me for updating Table 3.

Since it is nice and easy now, I encourage everyone listed on the table to use the new utility to email me current statistics NLT September 25th so I can get you up to date. If there are others not listed in Table 3 who would like their statistics included, just run the utility and have it email your numbers to me. I will get you listed!

Incidentally, the email portion of this program may not work with every email client out there, especially web based email clients. If that part doesn't work for you, just include your numbers in an email that you create using your own email client and send it to w0nac@comcast.net. Many Thanks!

Possible topics for the coming months include (in no particular order):

"How To Log Your Digital Contacts In Logger"

"Macros – Revisited"

"New Digital Awards?"

"Digital Software Installation – Revisited"

"Award Difficulty Index"

"Additional Digital Mode Test Results"

"Digital Software Choices"

However, I still need your suggestions on topics for future articles! Or if you have something you wish to contribute I will certainly try and include it. Short stories describing your experiences/frustrations/etc. in getting started in Digital ops would be especially welcome. Summaries of your Digital trips would also be good. I look forward to hearing from you.

So long again.....Please email me with your comments/suggestions at w0nac@comcast.net and don't forget to send me your counties worked status for the **USA – Digital and 5 - Mode Awards** so I can update the Digital County Hunter Status List again next month.

73's and we hope to see you on our waterfall again real soon!

Matt – W0NAC