

DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #24

(July 2014)

By W0NAC ("Matt")

This month's Digital Happenings is going to be a bit different than before. First I will cover (in some detail) the results of our digital trip to and from the MARAC National Convention at Visalia, CA. Then I will give you a tip on how to properly set up the RTTY-75N Mode in the latest version of Fldigi. Next month I will pick back up on a technical topic as usual.

Detailed Results of Visalia Trip:

First, let me say thanks to the many county hunters that patiently followed us during some very long days! My trip planning was (once again) overly optimistic in how many miles we could cover in a day and still spend 45 minutes to 1 hour sitting on multiple county lines putting out digital modes. As a result, we were often still driving as late as 11:00 PM to get to our motel. A couple of times we looked at each other and said "We're getting too old for this!" But -- we love it, so what are we going to do? (Hi Hi). Our next trip will be planned with much shorter days and maybe even a bit of sightseeing thrown in.

Overall, our trip covered 20 days (7 of which were spent at the convention and visiting our newest great-grandson "Ari" in Eugene, OR) and ~ 4300 miles on our VW's odometer.

Referring to the Table below, we put out 32 counties "on the fly" using SSB mode only. We had to do this to save travel time. We put out 46 counties (mostly on county lines) using SSB mode plus 3 to 5 different digital modes. In total we put out 78 counties in 11 states.

STATE	SSB ONLY	SSB + DIGITAL	TOTAL
CO	3	7	10
WY	7	5	12
SD	1	1	2
MT	1	12	13
ID	-	2	2
WA	7	7	14
OR	5	-	5
CA	6	8	14
NV	1	-	1
AZ	1	4	5
NM	-	1	1
TOTALS	32	46	78

The next table below shows our combined contacts by call sign and mode for the first 48 of 92 calls that had 10 or more contacts with us. To save space, 83 call signs with less than 10 total contacts are lumped together on line 93 near the bottom of the 2nd page.

			W0NAC/N0LXJ CONTACTS (BY MODE)								
#	CALL SIGN	NAME	PSK	RTTY	MFSK	DOMINO	HELL	SSB	FM	CW	TOTAL
1	AA1VA	Terry						20			20
2	AA9JJ	Frank						48			48
3	AB7NK	Mary						62			62
4	AC0CU	Patty						18			18
5	AJ5ZX	Randy						12			12
6	K0MAF	Jack						32			32
7	K1DFO	Walt						32			32
8	K1TKL	Paul						48		1	49
9	K2HVN	Bill						34			34
10	K2JG	Jim Club						11			11
11	K2MF	Barry						2		14	16
12	K4PBX	Jim	34	34	38	20	8	24			158
13	K4YFH	Jimmy						32			32
14	K4YT	Karl						128			128
15	K5GE	Gene	4		4	4	4	28			44
16	K5XY	Alex						10			10
17	K7REL	Tom	4					34		1	39
18	K7TM	Bob	4					28			32
19	K8EMS	Mike						32			32
20	K8QWY	Edward						16			16
21	K8ZZ	Edward						20			20
22	K9EN	Ken				4		8			12
23	KA1JPR	Percy						12			12
24	KA4RRU	Mike	20	18	18	12	8	18			94
25	KA9JAC	Bob						10			10
26	KB0BA	Lowell						64			64
27	KB6UF	Ron						20			20
28	KB9YVT	Ann						10			10
29	KC3X	Hollis	66	70	68	18	4	104			330
30	KC6AWX	Bob	20	24	20			4			68
31	KD5YUK	Billy						12			12
32	KG7Q	Jim	34	42	36	24		14		1	151
33	KL7D	Bruce						20			20
34	KW1DX	Dave						46			46
35	KY0E	Milt						10			10
36	KZ2P	Jim						11			11
37	LY5A	Jonas						7		1	8
38	N0DXE	Pat		2	4			44			50
39	N0KV	Barry	30	30	30	4		94			188
40	N0LXJ->W0NAC*	Matt		124					125		249
41	N0XYL	Sandra						68			68
42	N1API	Al	52	52	60	22		10			196
43	N4AAT	Scottie						34			34
44	N4JT	Jim	42	54	56	12		62		1	227
45	N5BGQ							14			14
46	N5KGY	Jerry						20			20
47	N5MLP	Ron						86			86
48	N5UZW	Joe						26			26

The next page of this table shows the remaining 44 call signs that had 10 or more contacts with us.

			W0NAC/N0LXJ CONTACTS (BY MODE)								
#	CALL SIGN	NAME	PSK	RTTY	MFSK	DOMINO	HELL	SSB	FM	CW	TOTAL
49	N6PDB	Dennis	88	80	68	44	4	92			376
50	N7JPF	Paul	12					16			28
51	N7LFX	Larry	16	4				20			40
52	N8CIJ	Dick	72	66	60	30	8	38			274
53	N8II	Jeffrey						16			16
54	N8KIE	Bob						64			64
55	N9QPQ	Kay						48			48
56	N9QS	Silver						26			26
57	N9STL	Joyce						54		1	55
58	NA8W	Darl	24	24	28	14		28			118
59	NF0N	Mike	26	32	36			34			128
60	NT2A	Gene	4					10			14
61	NX4W	Lloyd	8	4	8						20
62	VA7MJR	Richard						10			10
63	W0EAR	Don						48			48
64	W0NAC->N0LXJ*	Sharon		124					125		249
65	W0FP	Frosty						32			32
66	W1ATV	Walter						10			10
67	W3CR	Chuck						10			10
68	W3DLM	Don	10	10	8	4		6			38
69	W4SIG	Kerry						48			48
70	W4YDY	Dave	26	18	24	4		32			104
71	W5PKE	Curtis						42			42
72	W5QP	Rick	72	70	66	42	8	10		1	269
73	W7GQK	Abe						10			10
74	W7IN	Larry						16			16
75	W8FNW	Jim						30			30
76	W8RCW	Rich	36	24	18	24	4	24			130
77	W8TZA	Bill						22			22
78	WA0LMK	Leroy						14			14
79	WA3QNT	Bob						30			30
80	WA4EEZ	Leslie	8	4	2	2					16
81	WA4UNS	Doug	36	50	54	28	4	34			206
82	WA6OCV	Susan	52	44	46	30		48			220
83	WA9DLB	Tony						40			40
84	WB0CQO	Joe						12			12
85	WB4KZW	Gene						10			10
86	WB9STT	John						16			16
87	WD4OIN	Jack	20	20	24	12		16			92
88	WD9EJK	Paul						12			12
89	WG9A	Bill						26		1	27
90	WQ7A	Terry	80	80	68	34		74			336
91	WV2B	Duane						10			10
92	WY8I	Jim						62			62
93	Totals For 83 Call Signs With < 10 Contacts	(Various)	14	8	4	2	0	302	1	9	340
	TOTALS:		914	1112	848	390	52	3001	251	31	6599
	NOTE:	* = Team Contacts With Each Other									

Overall we logged almost 6600 total contacts with 175 different call signs. 3316 of these contacts were made using 5 different digital modes, 3001 were made using SSB, 251 were made using FM (mostly working ourselves) and 31 were made using CW.

Numbers listed in red show those who made the most contacts in any given mode (In some cases two or more call signs tied). The most active person on the 5 digital modes and all modes combined was N6PDB (Dennis). Coming in a close second and third were WQ7A (Terry) and KC3X (Hollis).

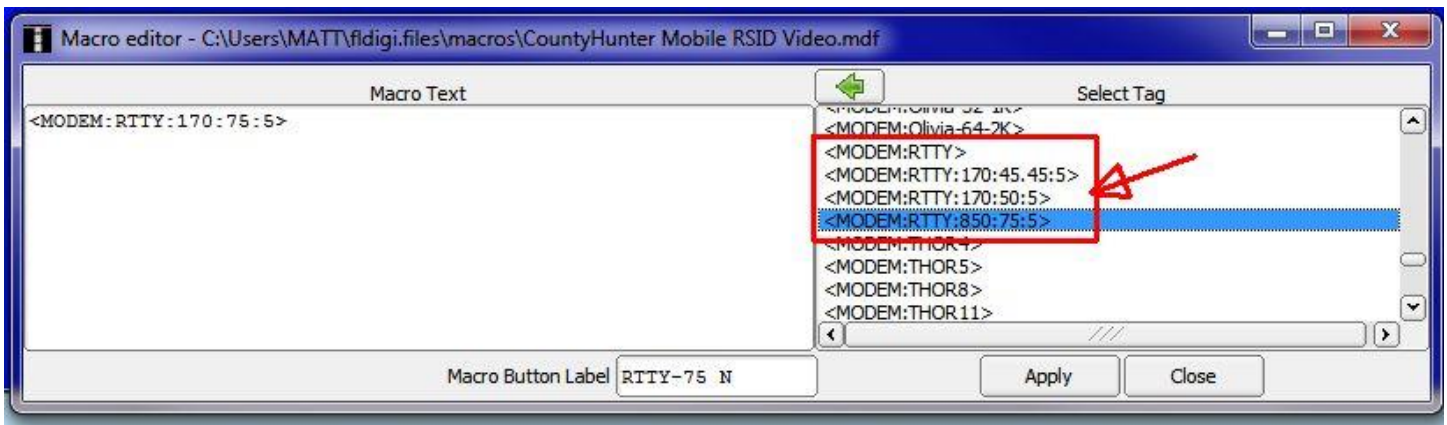
Also, when you look over this list, you will see a total of 20 or so county hunters who are very active on digital! People who are joining the ranks of digital operation seem to be growing rapidly. It wasn't that long ago that Sharon and I felt good about getting 4-5 contacts per mode. On this trip we often had 13 or more contacts on each digital mode. Sometimes it took over an hour sitting on a county line to complete contacts with everyone who wanted one on SSB plus as many as 5 digital modes! We had our macros fairly "tersed up" and were using the faster sub-modes to save time, but were still taking an hour or more to finish running a county line. This is a problem, but a nice one to have. As digital county hunting matures, I'm convinced we will find better operating procedures that will boost everyone's contact rate. If any of you have a better idea on how to speed up mobile digital operations, I would love to test out your idea.

Overall, Sharon and I were very pleased with the results of our trip. I believe that we helped a large number of people make good progress on their **5 – Mode** and **USA – Digital Awards** (That was our main objective). Riding the ferry to Lopez Island (San Juan County) and seeing the scenery was a lot of fun. We even met a fellow ham (K9QJS "Hoop") who lived on the island while sitting in a parking lot putting out San Juan County.

As we were on the final days of a great trip, we found that we were not ready to come home and wished that we had at least another week or so to put out more digital counties! Oh, well, such is the life of a county hunter.....

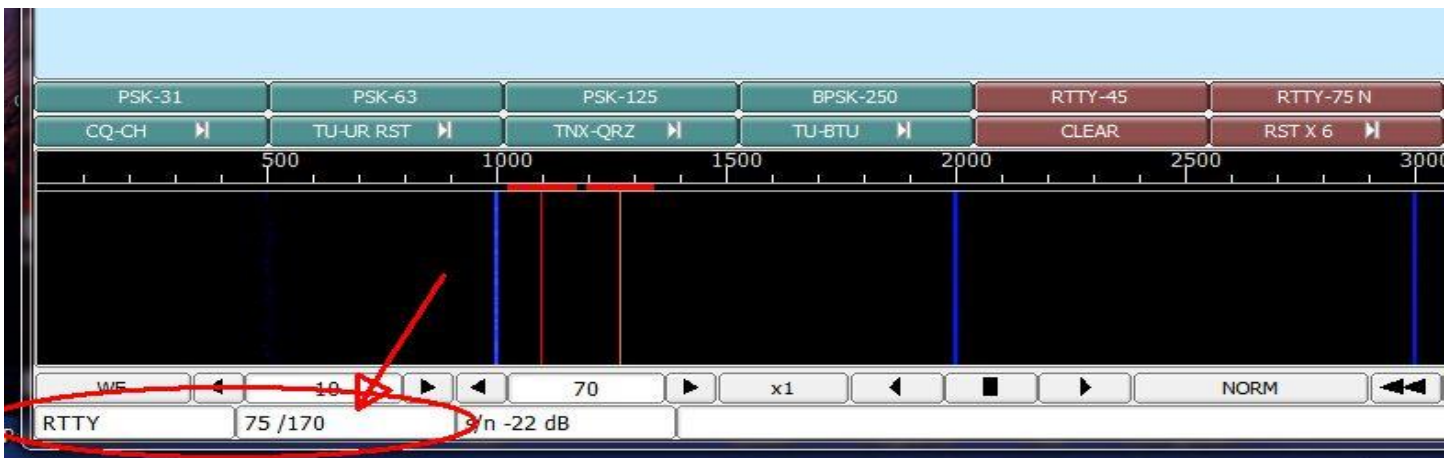
Tip On Setting Up Fldigi For RTTY-75N

The latest version of Fldigi software (Version 3.21.83) has a problem when setting up the RTTY-75N mode using a macro. Manually switching to RTTY-75N using "Op Mode" to pull down a mode selection list still works fine. However, if you try to set up one of your macro buttons with a "canned" Tag using the Macro editor (shown below), you will find only 4 RTTY Tags to select from, and NONE of them are correct for RTTY-75N.



What you need to do is pull one of the four Tags over to the Macro Text box and edit it by hand to exactly match what you see in the left window above. Perhaps the easiest one to edit is the one highlighted in blue, but any of the four will work as a baseline for editing. You could also carefully type in the macro from scratch. Naturally, you will also need to make the Macro Button Label look something like the one above.

Regardless of how you switch to the RTTY-75N mode, the lower left corner of your Fldigi screen should look like this:



If it doesn't match, you will need to re-check your macro.

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	1344	3077	3077	1461	576	203	8394	54.6%	5/24/2014
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	K0FG	Fred	F	188	3077	3013	187	20	6	6303	41.0%	4/14/2014
6	K0PVW	Rob	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
7	K0WJ	Lou	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
8	K4PBX	Jim	F	270	2982	255	107	75	34	3453	22.4%	7/23/2014
9	K5GE	Gene	F	26	1893	575	8	0	0	2476	16.1%	5/26/2013
10	K5SF	Dick	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
11	K5WAF	Bill	F	599	3044	?	?	?	?	3044	19.8%	5/2/2013
12	K7REL	Tom	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
13	K8QWY	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
14	K8ZZ	Ed	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
15	KA4RRU	Mike	M/F	1026	3077	2989	1009	130	68	7273	47.3%	7/23/2014
16	KA8JQP	Pamela	M/F	22	202	64	53	28	4	351	2.3%	9/12/2013
17	KC3X	Hollis	F	400	3077	3077	408	353	304	7219	46.9%	7/20/2014
18	KC6AWX	Bob	F	450	3077	1592	264	59	14	5006	32.5%	5/7/2013
19	KC7YE	Jack	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
20	KD5YUK	Billy	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
21	KD7KST	Bill	M/F	1792	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	9/30/2012
22	KF7PKL	Davis	F	379	879	211	48	15	1	1154	7.5%	10/9/2013
23	KG5RJ	Greg	F	711	3050	2133	655	273	104	6215	40.4%	7/25/2014
24	KM1C	Bill	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
25	KU4YM	Dave	F	112	2856	109	54	14	4	3037	19.7%	7/26/2014
26	KM6HB	Mark	F	714	3077	2936	694	87	1	6795	44.2%	2/3/2013
27	KW1DX	Dave	M/F	68	3077	991	65	50	24	4207	27.3%	4/26/2014
28	N0KV	Barry	M/F	529	3077	3034	2361	389	99	8960	58.2%	7/20/2014
29	N0LXJ	Sharon	M/F	1406	3077	2293	1278	560	307	7515	48.8%	7/30/2014
30	N1API	Al	F	874	3077	2511	827	586	459	7460	48.5%	7/25/2014
31	N4JT	Jim	M/F	911	3077	3067	919	417	296	7776	50.5%	5/18/2014
32	N5MLP	Ron	M/F	391	3077	409	54	37	9	3586	23.3%	5/19/2013
33	N6PDB	Dennis	M/F	1065	3077	2971	1260	949	780	9037	58.7%	7/26/2014
34	N8CIJ	Dick	F	888	3077	3044	881	508	382	7892	51.3%	7/25/2014
35	N8HAM	Jim	F	0	3077	0	0	0	0	3077	20.0%	4/2/2013
36	N9WNN	Steve	F	0	2180	0	0	0	0	2180	14.2%	2/24/2013
37	NA8W	Darl	F/M	699	3064	980	481	266	135	4926	32.0%	6/4/2014
38	NF0N	Mike	F	900	3077	3077	1091	283	127	7655	49.8%	4/18/2014
39	NN9K	Pete	F	816	3077	859	78	1	0	4015	26.1%	3/23/2012
40	NT2A	Gene	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
41	NU4C	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
42	NW6S	Jim	F	784	3077	3077	805	114	79	7152	46.5%	5/6/2014
43	NX4W	Lloyd	M/F	1185	3077	1327	493	338	103	5338	34.7%	4/26/2014
44	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1861	3077	2854	2031	1180	541	9683	62.9%	7/30/2014
45	W3DLM	Don	F	359	3077	2390	298	101	55	5921	38.5%	10/12/2013
46	W3ZUH	Dick	F	5	3077	2048	11	2	0	5138	33.4%	12/4/2013
47	W4IHI	Gary	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
48	W4SIG	Kerry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
49	W4YDY	Dave	F	1000	3077	3077	1149	495	300	8098	52.6%	4/22/2014
50	W5QP	Rick	M/F	661	3077	2827	727	382	314	7327	47.6%	7/20/2014
51	W6RK	Risto	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
52	W6RLL	Joe	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
53	W7FEN	Larry	F	25	3077	2975	32	1	0	6085	39.6%	10/3/2013
54	W7IN	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
55	W7QQ	Bill	M/F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
56	W8RCW	Rich	M/F	273	2395	465	56	8	5	2929	19.0%	7/14/2014
57	W9JR	Rich	F	90	3077	1674	44	0	0	4795	31.2%	10/31/2012
58	W9SUQ	Larry	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
59	WA4EEZ	Leslie	F	1137	3077	2055	814	299	55	6300	40.9%	6/2/2014
60	WA4UNS	Doug	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
61	WA6OCV	Susan	M/F	328	3077	328	320	130	10	3865	25.1%	3/28/2013
62	WA7ETH	Ed	F	211	1925	418	39	3	0	2385	15.5%	7/24/2014
63	WA7JHQ	Sterling	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
64	WB0M	Jeff	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
65	WB2ABD	Paul	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0%	
66	WD4OIN	Jack	F	1126	3077	3070	1136	577	312	8172	53.1%	7/16/2014
67	WQ7A	Terry	F	494	3077	3065	497	397	324	7360	47.8%	7/29/2014
68	WY4D	Ben	F	326	3077	347	41	15	9	3489	22.7%	6/10/2014

How To Get Your 5 – Mode Statistics Updated:

Several past Digital Happenings articles have given detailed instructions on a new and easy way to update your digital statistics for Table 3 by using a small program called “Digital Report Utility”. This new program will create a report for you showing your progress for both the **USA – Digital** and the **5 – Mode Awards** and email it to W0NAC. Instead of repeating these instructions every month I have included them in a Microsoft Word document that you can download by clicking on the following link:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/26171574/Happenings/5%20Mode%20Update.doc>

Other possible topics for future months include (in no particular order):

“More Lesser Well Known Features of Fldigi”

“How to Log Your Digital Contacts in Logger”

“Macros – Revisited”

“New Digital Awards?”

“Digital Software Installation – Revisited”

If anyone has a story or tip that you wish to contribute, I will certainly try to include it. Short stories describing your experiences/joys/frustrations in getting started in digital ops would be especially welcome. Summaries of any digital trips you make (or have made in the past) would also be good. I look forward to hearing from you. Don't be shy!

Please email me with your comments/suggestions at w0nac@comcast.net and don't forget to send your updated status for the **USA – Digital** and **5 - Mode Awards** so I can update the Active Digital County Hunters Award Status list again next month.

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

Matt – W0NAC