

DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #26

(September 2014)

By W0NAC ("Matt")

I have had a dream for many years that the use of digital modes in county hunting would grow to the point where it is at least equal in popularity with SSB and CW. Slowly, but surely, I believe that this dream is coming true. It appears that more and more people are discovering that digital operations have many inherent advantages and are just plain fun for those who like and need new challenges.

I started writing these monthly Digital Happenings articles over two years ago. The prime objective of writing them was (and still is) to promote digital county hunting and to help people get started in this new activity. However, since writing these articles is a self-appointed task, I need to step back every now and then and evaluate whether they still serve a useful purpose. This is one of those times.

I am looking for truly honest feedback on the usefulness of these articles. Assuming that they are still useful, I am also looking for someone who would enjoy "taking over the helm" and writing these articles beginning in January 2015.

I really do need to hear from you! You can reach me by phone (303-799-3658), email (w0nac@comcast.net), text message, or even smoke signals!

Discussion Of Links Problem:

Unbeknownst to me until just after release of last month's Digital Happenings #25, there is a significant problem using some of the live links to view/download some files. For those links affected, your browser will not open the file and will give you an error message (404 for Internet Explorer) stating that the file cannot be located. The links most likely to fail are those created in my Public DropBox account. The root cause of most of the link errors was in versions of Adobe Acrobat Reader XI prior to 11.0.03. Simply stated, Acrobat Reader was wrongly encoding blank characters in the URL to "%25%20" instead of the correct "%20" when sending a URL address to the browser. If you would like to see most of the gory details you can read through the following thread: <https://forums.adobe.com/thread/1133628>. Even though this thread concludes with this problem being solved in version 11.0.03, there are still a few pesky bugs in Adobe Reader that can cause similar errors.

What this all means to you is that some of the links contained in all past Digital Happenings may not work. If you really need any of these files, just contact me with the file name(s) and I will arrange an alternate way for you to download them. Incidentally, all past Digital Happenings articles (1 – 25) are now available for download using file names from the table below.

Guide To Past Digital Happenings Articles:

DIGITAL HAPPENINGS ARTICLES

#	Road Runner Date	Main Topic	File Name
1	SEP 2012	How Do I Get Started?	DIGHAPP01.DOC
2	OCT 2012	How To Tune & Decode Digital Signals	DIGHAPP02.DOC
3	NOV 2012	How To Adjust Your System For A Clean Signal	DIGHAPP03.DOC
4	DEC 2012	How To Create & Use Macros	DIGHAPP04.DOC
5	JAN 2013	How To 'Put Out' Counties Using Digital Modes While Mobile	DIGHAPP05.DOC
6	FEB 2013	How To Operate As A Mobile OM/YL Team Using Digital Modes	DIGHAPP06.DOC
7	MAR 2013	Selecting Modes & Rapid Mode Changes Using Macros	DIGHAPP07.DOC
8	APR 2013	FLDigi Operating Tips	DIGHAPP08.DOC
9	MAY 2013	Digital Mode Tests / Other Interesting Modes	DIGHAPP09.DOC
10	JUN 2013	Western Colorado Digital Mode Experiment	DIGHAPP10.DOC
11	JUL 2013	Digital Interface Choices	DIGHAPP11.DOC
12	AUG 2013	First Ever Digital Meeting At Deadwood	DIGHAPP12.DOC
13	SEP 2013	Past "Digital Happenings" Topics	DIGHAPP13.DOC
14	OCT 2013	Choosing Your Digital Software	DIGHAPP14.DOC
15	NOV 2013	The Story Of W0NAC's new Mobile Installation	DIGHAPP15.DOC
16	DEC 2013	The Story Of W0NAC's new Mobile Installation (Continued)	DIGHAPP16.DOC
17	JAN 2014	JT65 & JT9 Modes (Re-visited)	DIGHAPP17.DOC
18	FEB 2014	How To Find And Work Other Digital Mobiles	DIGHAPP18.DOC
19	MAR 2014	How To Find And Work Other Digital Mobiles (Continued)	DIGHAPP19.DOC
20	APR 2014	How To Find And Work Other Digital Mobiles (Conclusion)	DIGHAPP20.DOC
21	MAY 2014	Compatibility Issues When Making RTTY Contacts	DIGHAPP21.DOC
22	JUN 2014	Less Well Known Features Of Fldigi	DIGHAPP22.DOC
23	JUL 2014	(None) - Just Updated Digital County Hunters Status Table	DIGHAPP23.DOC
24	AUG 2014	Detailed Results Of Visalia Trip	DIGHAPP24.DOC
25	SEP 2014	How To Set Up & Operate A New Digital Rig	DIGHAPP25.DOC
26	OCT 2014		
27	NOV 2014		
28	DEC 2014		
29	JAN 2015		
	1 TO 25	Complete Collection Of Past Digital Happenings Articles	DIGHAPP1TO25.ZIP

To obtain copies of individual articles or a Zipped file containing all, click on the following link:

<http://www.marac.org/chdownloads/digital> select the desired file name from the file list.

September Digital County Hunter Activity:

Digital Mobiles offered a veritable smorgasbord of counties and digital modes in September! A total of 9 mobile stations including 2 mobile teams were spotted ~100 times from Sep 1 through Sep 27th. Although these spots probably represent a major fraction of the total activity, a lot of activity is missing. This is because some digital mobiles were only spotted for their first mode and some were never spotted at all. Given below is a list of mobile stations and the number of spots recorded for them on W6RK:

KG5UZ/KJ5PQ	- 35
N4JT	- 24
W0NAC/N0LXJ	- 5
WA4UNS	- 5
W0/G4KHG	- 1
W0NAC (Solo)	- 2
W5QP	- 27

The most popular digital modes used by the mobiles this month were PSK-63, RTTY-75N, MFSK-32, DOMINO-22, and HELL-80. The most popular bands/frequencies used were 20M (14.074-14.075 MHz) and 40M (7.074-7.075 MHz).

All these mobiles should be commended for their contribution to the growing level of digital county hunting activity!

Active County Hunter Award Status:

As can be seen in Table 3 below, many digital county hunters have made a lot of progress toward completing their “USA – Digital Award” and “5 – Mode Award”.

10 digital county hunters have logged over 1000 counties toward completing the “USA – Digital Award”.

9 digital county hunters have logged over 50% of the 15385 mode/counties needed to complete the “5 – Mode Award”. These are shown in **red** in Table 3.

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	276	3015	262	111	75	34	3497	22.7%	9/23/2014
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	442	3077	3077	450	396	351	7351	47.8%	8/20/2014
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	730	3050	2138	672	280	108	6248	40.6%	8/28/2014
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	2297	1280	564	307	7525	48.9%	9/28/2014
30	N1API	Al	F	906	3077	2647	873	623	503	7723	50.2%	9/25/2014
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	1124	3077	3003	1313	996	832	9221	59.9%	9/26/2014
34	N8CIJ	Dick	F	923	3077	3051	917	542	411	7998	52.0%	9/25/2014
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	1228	3077	1365	554	396	162	5554	36.1%	8/26/2014
44	W0NAC	Matt	M/F	1872	3077	2864	2044	1193	553	9731	63.2%	9/27/2014
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	1135	3077	3077	1271	639	434	8498	55.2%	9/25/2014
50	W5QP	Rick	M/F	685	3077	2878	768	422	350	7495	48.7%	9/21/2014
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	388	2422	565	131	55	34	3207	20.8%	8/14/2024
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	1184	3077	3070	1193	645	367	8352	54.3%	9/19/2014
67	WQ7A	Terry	F	558	3077	3070	561	463	392	7563	49.2%	9/28/2014
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 would like 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