

Volume XLIII February 2014 Number 2

Dave's Call Dave, KU4YM

On the rare occasions that I write something, it's usually at the end of the RoadRunner. This time I'm a substitute for Dave, KE3VV who appears to be still hunting in Kenya. He might be eating goat right about now. I understand that's a favorite meat in Kenya.

Anyhow, I'm sure he will regale us with tales of his adventures next month.

Is everyone enjoying Matt's (W0NAC) Digital Happenings as much as I have? I've even been inspired to make a few digital contacts myself. I think it will be a while before I tackle a mobile digi contact; I have enough trouble doing phone.

Those articles should inspire some of you to try your hand at submitting an article. Say, on an interesting road trip. Or your mobile installation. Or whatever. It doesn't have to be a polished piece of prose. It can even be poetry. Cowboy Poetry is a big national deal. Why not Ham Poetry? Just a random thought. Let me polish it for you.

OK, that's it. Let's hope the County Lion comes back real soon. 73 Dave, KU4YM

| Contents | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Awards | 8 |
| Awards Manager's Report | 20 |
| Birthdays | 9 |
| Calendar | 21 |
| Dateline CW | 3 |
| Dave's Call | 1 |
| Digital Happenings | 11 |
| National | 7 |
| New Members | 4 |
| Nominations and Elections | 6 |
| Silent Keys | 8 |
| Treasurer's Report (W0NAC) | 19 |

Dateline CW

Ed, KN4Y

The State has many Counties,
With lakes, roads and domiciles,
And every county has an invisible line,
That turns a CW mobile county hunter into greatness.

Can it be true that one twelfth of the year is gone so quickly? I turn on the computer to check my results of operating CW in the Canada winter contest and the Stew Perry top band distance challenge. I worked many county hunters in both contests, a pure joy experience. I made 115 QSO's in the Canada contest and 60 QSO's on 160-meters. The top band conditions were not the best at my location. I did get one new county and a 1x2 call prefix on the topband. I hear Gator's truck slide to a stop at the creosoted recycled railroad tie. He is carrying a white cardboard container; he also stopped at the mailbox and has two white envelopes.

He enters the radio shack, "Greetings Dude. Did you celebrate ground hog day and did you buy a heavy jacket?" Sometimes Gator's comments are off the wall, "No I forgot all about the event. Open up the box. I need a latte and an éclair fix and also open the envelopes." Gator gets the Letter Opener with the Roadrunner's head and slices the narrow edge of each envelope, "Neat Dude, you got a certificate for first place Florida in the Missouri QSO party and a participation certificate in the Pennsylvania QSO party." "Put them on the desk and be quiet and I will tell about my county hunting trip to the South." Gator feigns boredom, I think.

The plan that I planned was to go to the Spring Hill Lanes for the Florida Senior Bowling tournament, run some counties and operate mobile in the North American CW QSO party. I arrived at the lanes ten minutes before the start of the QSO party and pulled into a parking spot on the back area of the Spring Hill Lanes parking lot. The QSO party started and I went to 15-meters and finally found a clear frequency way up the band. I worked stations using CW until time to bowl and I shut down the radio. After bowling the team event we went to Sonny's Bar-B-Cue and later I checked into the Hampton Inn. I moved the van to a clear spot in the parking lot, installed the 40 and 80-meter resonators and hoped to impress some fellow bowlers sitting in the mobile.

I called and called and no stations could hear my signal, I even tried to answer some fairly strong signals without success. I blamed the band conditions and I cried all the way to the bar. Then it started raining. The contest Angels were also sad.

Sunday dawned and with renewed rigor I ran Pasco County on the county hunters' CW frequencies. I made many 599 contacts. I had forgotten I had planned to run Pinellas and went to the bowling lanes and ran Hernando County. I bowled the six games and at this point my plan fell apart. The squad started late and when bowling was finished it was getting dark outside. So I decided to go straight home and not run any counties as originally planned. I look at Gator and he is napping, I kick the chair.

"I am not dosing. I am looking for your ARRL VHF contest log." I make an O with my fingers, "There is no log, I called and called for many hours and did not make a contact." "Can you enter the contest with a zero score?" I contemplate the question, "Naw don't think so and what would I accomplish."

ROADRUNNER

Page 3

"Bummer." Gator is looking intensely at the computer screen, "Dude did you know the ARRL has a centennial QSO party?" "No, read me the information." Gator reads the rules of this ARRL operating event:

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party continues for the entire year: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. "Dude, do you think MARAC would offer a special award for working the counties where the W1AW station is located?" "Probably would Gator, but by the time the award is written and approved by the Awards Committee the QSO party is over." "What if I send a request to Dave the green dragon Dude and ask him to use his executive powers to call a special Board of Directors meeting and ram-rod the award through?" "You know Gator, you will be requested to write the award rules."

Gator's cell-phone sounds off and with a sigh of relief he says, "Sorry Dude, I have to get to the back forty to check out a fence breach. He is gone like time at the Michigan Mini, I did not hear him yell, "Duct tape won't fix that." The printer stops and I get the print out listing the county hunters heard in January on the CW call frequencies. I read: K07X, K2RP, K4YT, KA4RRU, KB0BA, KB6UF, KB9OWD, KC3X, KC7YE, KE3VV, KF0G, KN4Y, K07X, KW1DX, N6AAT, N4CD, N7IV, N9AC, NF0N, NM2L, W0EAR, W0GXQ, W4SIG, W5OP, W5QP, W7FEN, and WB4KZW.

There is the return of the State QSO parties during the month of February: Vermont with 14 counties, Minnesota with 87, Delaware with 3, New Hampshire with 10 and North Carolina with 100 for a total of 214 counties up for grabs. There is also the sideband 10-10 winter contest and the ARRL DX CW contest, a biggie so CW mobile county hunters plan accordingly. A county hunter who runs in front of car gets tired; the county hunter who runs behind the car gets exhausted. Daylight saving time begins March 9, go back and stay current. Nap time.

New Members

MARAC NumberCallsignNameR4551ON4AACFrank Pletinck



History Happens

Gary, K4EXT

The new year got off to a pretty good start for CH-related pictures and information. The County Sign Project continues to grow, although somewhat slowly at this stage. January included submissions by Silver, N9QS from various past trips ... Jerry, W0GXQ and Mike, NF0N in Nebraska ... Ryan, KB9OWD in Wisconsin ... Rick, W5QP in Missouri ... Lowell, KB0BA and Sandra, N0XYL in Missouri ... Ron, N5MLP with some Kansas pics ... and Scottie, N4AAT road-testing his recent spinal repairs in South Carolina before seeing his truck go boom. Many thanks to all!

Jim, W9JL sent me a group picture from the first Midwest Mini Convention held in Joliet, Illinois during the 1970's. Yeah, I didn't know MARAC once had Midwest Mini's either ... and I'm supposed to be the Histo-Guru! So, I need to dig through old Roadrunner newsletters to find more info ... plus quiz Jim and Joyce, WB9NUL about who's who in the picture. Results will be in History Happens soon!

In the meantime, please check out the current collection of pictures and information by visiting the CH History/Archive website at the following Internet address:

http://www.CHarchive.com

This is the time of year that County Hunters are asked to submit their CW totals for 2013 to Dennis, KK7X who is managing the CW Stats project as of a couple years ago. Previously, CW Stats were sent to and compiled by Elwood, KA3MMM.

Now El has been one of the top CW operators in County Hunting for quite a while. He received his first USA-CW award nearly twenty years ago ... and in November 2011, he was the first (and only one thus far) to receive USA-CW 6th Time. The photo below from W3DYA shows El receiving an award at the 1997 MARAC National Convention in Orlando with Harry, N2CWG (SK) and Ed, KN4Y looking on.





Nominations and Elections

Nominations for CW and SSB County Hunter of the Year

Nominations are now in order for the 2014 CW and SSB County Hunter of the Year Awards. Nominations must be received by your District Director not later than March 31ST and should contain a brief list of reasons for the nomination. Your District Director will select one nominee (one for CW and one for SSB) from those received and forward that selection, with the reasons for the selection, to the

Election Coordinator no later than April 15th. Prior winners (per mode) are not eligible to receive this award a second time. Please read the requirements for County Hunter of the Year and support those members who work to make MARAC the vibrant organization that it is.

MARAC 2014 ELECTIONS ANNOUNCEMENT Second Request

Nominations are currently open for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer (all 2 year terms). Nominations are also open for the position of South Central Director (3 year term). Nominations will be open for 60 days - from January 5th through March 10th. Any current member of MARAC is eligible to run for office. For the District Director position you must live within the District which is listed on the MARAC website.

If you are willing to serve MARAC in an elected position, please send your nomination to KR@GCL.NET or via regular mail, which must be received on my end by March 10th.

MARAC VOTING INFORMATION

Remember, if you are a new member or are REJOINING following a lapse in membership, you are <u>NOT</u> eligible to submit nominations or vote in an election until the first day of the month following receipt of initial payment of dues and valid membership application to the Secretary of MARAC.

Those individuals maintaining uninterrupted membership status are not restricted from nominating or voting in the current month.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please go to the MARAC web site at http://marac.org click on Member Database and enter your call in Call Lookup to determine your MARAC Expiration Date.

Kent Reinke KV7N MARAC Election Coordinator 1826 East 4500 North



ROADRUNNER

National

46th Annual National Convention 2014 Registration July 9 – 12 Visalia, California (Deadline for Early Registration Prize Drawing is May 1, 2014)

| NAME: (First Mi, Last)_ ADDRESS: | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| CITY | ST/PROV_ | POSTAL CODE | |
| Convention registration | iee: | | <u>\$ 45.00</u> |
| One registration fee/fan | nily unit – Includes 1 | 1 prize ticket & 1 group photo) | |
| NAME ON BADGE | CAI | LLSIGNUSACA# | |
| Additional Name Badge | s (list information be | elow) Total #@ \$5.00 eac | eh = \$ |
| | | USACA# Relati | |
| | | USACA#Relati | |
| | | Son, M-Mother, F-Father, X-Frie attach or list on back of form. | end, GD-Grand Daugnter, |
| 35-Grand Son, for any ac | | Enter number of persons that wil | ll attend events |
| Wednesday 09 July – Ch | | | |
| FL | | | |
| <u>Fhursday 10 July</u> If enough interest a Rus w | vill come to the hotal | free of charge and transport a gr | roun to the |
| nearby Indian Casino, ple | | | oup to the |
| . , | | · ———— | |
| Friday 11 July (Tour bel | | | |
| Sequoia National Park – I | Depart 8:00/9:00 AM | (2 buses 15 each) | #AdultsX \$35.00 = \$_ |
| <mark>Saturday 12 July</mark> Banquet – San Joaquin 1 | Ruffot | | |
| Mixed Field Green Salad | | 198 | |
| Through the Crown Suluu | Will describe a Division | .50 | |
| Pasta Salad with Bay Shri | mp, Red Onions, Red | d and Yellow Bell Peppers | |
| Platter of Sliced Fresh Fru | it and Berries | | |
| inter of Sheed Fresh Fre | art und Donnes | | |
| Grilled Balsamic Vegetab | le Platter with Fresh N | Mozzarella Cheese | |
| Braised Breast of Chicker | in Red Wine Sauce v | with Pancetta and Pearl Onions | |
| | | | |
| Charbroiled Salmon Meda | allions on Bed of Saut | téed Spinach, Dill Herb Sauce | |
| Rice Pilaf; Roasted Red P | otatoes | | |
| | | // A. 1 . | V 045 00 0 |
| | | #Adu | lts X \$45.00 = \$ |
| Additional Prize Tickets | | | |
| Prize (Singles) | | | X \$ 1.00 = \$ |
| Prize (Book 12 tickets) | | | X \$10.00 = \$ |
| Cash (singles) Cash (Book 12 tickets) | | | X \$ 1.00 = \$ X \$ 10.00 = \$ |
| Photographs | | Ex | xtra: $X $10.00 = $$ |
| | | | YL:X \$10.00 = \$ |
| | | | CA: X \$10.00 = \$ |
| | | | CW: X \$10.00 = \$ |
| | | DA | ATA:X \$10.00 = \$ |
| | | Total Amou | int Enclosed: \$ |
| | and Charleta Dah | ert Devine (KC6AWX) [Home P | |

Mail Registration Form and Check to – Robert Devine (KC6AWX) [Home Phone 1-415-883-8980 (Make check payable to "MARAC", 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949 Hotel Reservations – MARAC (MAR)

Guest rooms have been set aside for your special event (\$89) One King Bed Standard Rooms:

Telephone: dial **(800)holiday** ask for a room from the above group room blogLink: MARAC

Awards

| | Awards Issued For January 2014 | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Call | Date | Award | Number | | | | | | |
| KC1NA | 11/29/2013 | Master's Gold | # 60 | | | | | | |
| K4XI | 1/3/2014 | USA-CW II | # 31 | | | | | | |
| WQ7A | 1/6/2014 | USA-PA Prefix "A" | # 5 | | | | | | |
| OE5KE | 1/17/2014 | USA-CA WAC 1 st Time | #1242 | | | | | | |
| WONAC | 4/28/2013 | RAS 5 MODE - CO | # 1 | | | | | | |
| AB4YZ | 1/2/2014 | Worked all Counties - 5th Time | # 113 | | | | | | |

| Ro | Roadrunner Issued For January 2014 | | | | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Call | Date | Award | Number | | | | | |
| N5MLP | 1/28/2014 | Last County Count 75 | # 267 | | | | | |
| KW1DX | 1/28/2014 | Last County Count 225 | # 91 | | | | | |
| WA4UNS | 1/21/2014 | Last County Count 200 | # 111 | | | | | |
| AF3X | 1/7/2014 | Last County Count 275 | # 72 | | | | | |
| W0GXQ | 1/7/2014 | Last County Count 750 | # 18 | | | | | |



Silent Keys

| Callsign | Silent Key Date |
|----------|------------------|
| KR1B | May 8, 2013 |
| KR4ZH | December 3, 2013 |

Birthdays

| Roadrunn | er - Birthdays |
|----------|----------------|
| Call | Birthday Date |
| KD7UZ | Feb - 01 |
| K5TQ | Feb - 01 |
| WA0SGJ | Feb - 01 |
| N5PRU | Feb - 02 |
| NG9J | Feb - 02 |
| KQ4FA | Feb - 02 |
| NA7MT | Feb - 02 |
| WB7ATT | Feb - 03 |
| NK7B | Feb - 03 |
| NG6X | Feb - 04 |
| KD4QIT | Feb - 04 |
| WB5P | Feb - 04 |
| KD7KWM | Feb - 05 |
| KA1Q | Feb - 05 |
| WA0ZVF | Feb - 06 |
| W3QZ | Feb - 06 |
| W9RR | Feb - 06 |
| WN1F | Feb - 07 |
| WV9N | Feb - 07 |
| AA4S | Feb - 07 |
| K8IW | Feb - 07 |
| KJ8F | Feb - 07 |
| AA9MW | Feb - 07 |
| K5BDL | Feb - 08 |
| N4FTA | Feb - 08 |
| NOBHO | Feb - 08 |
| KJ6DB | Feb - 08 |
| KODBK | Feb - 08 |
| N1GM | Feb - 09 |
| WD9BCG | Feb - 09 |
| N8MD | Feb - 09 |
| W7ZD | Feb - 09 |
| K8VJV | Feb - 09 |
| K2HPV | Feb - 10 |
| KL7JR | Feb - 10 |
| AB7NK | Feb - 10 |
| W1JD | Feb - 10 |

| Call Birthday Date W3REG Feb - 10 K6VVA Feb - 10 WA1NSD Feb - 10 N5IWA Feb - 10 KA1YZV Feb - 11 N4ACS Feb - 11 N5PU Feb - 11 KH6KW Feb - 12 W4DUE Feb - 12 WK5D Feb - 12 KY5D Feb - 12 KY5DID Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 K4CYN Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K9Q Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 | Roadrunn | er - Birthdays |
|---|----------|----------------|
| K6VVA Feb - 10 WA1NSD Feb - 10 N5IWA Feb - 10 KA1YZV Feb - 11 N4ACS Feb - 11 N5PU Feb - 11 KH6KW Feb - 12 W4DUE Feb - 12 WH6SR Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 KMTOG Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 K7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 16 | Call | Birthday Date |
| WA1NSD Feb - 10 N5IWA Feb - 10 KA1YZV Feb - 11 N4ACS Feb - 11 N5PU Feb - 11 KH6KW Feb - 12 W4DUE Feb - 12 NH6SR Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 KM5MI Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | W3REG | Feb - 10 |
| N5IWA Feb - 10 KA1YZV Feb - 11 N4ACS Feb - 11 N5PU Feb - 11 KH6KW Feb - 12 W4DUE Feb - 12 WHDUE Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | K6VVA | Feb - 10 |
| KA1YZV Feb - 11 N4ACS Feb - 11 N5PU Feb - 11 KH6KW Feb - 12 W4DUE Feb - 12 NH6SR Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 N4TOG Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | WA1NSD | Feb - 10 |
| N4ACS Feb - 11 N5PU Feb - 11 KH6KW Feb - 12 W4DUE Feb - 12 WHOSR Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 KS6AV Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 NC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N5IWA | Feb - 10 |
| N5PU Feb - 11 KH6KW Feb - 12 W4DUE Feb - 12 NH6SR Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 N4TOG Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | KA1YZV | Feb - 11 |
| KH6KW Feb - 12 W4DUE Feb - 12 NH6SR Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 K4TOG Feb - 12 KD0ID Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 K5AYR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WB9YCO Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N4ACS | Feb - 11 |
| W4DUE Feb - 12 NH6SR Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 N4TOG Feb - 12 KD0ID Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 X4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N5PU | Feb - 11 |
| NH6SR Feb - 12 WC5D Feb - 12 N4TOG Feb - 12 KD0ID Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 XH9Q Feb - 15 XHNGJ Feb - 15 XHNGJ Feb - 15 XHNGJ Feb - 15 XHNGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | KH6KW | Feb - 12 |
| WC5D Feb - 12 N4TOG Feb - 12 KD0ID Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 16 | W4DUE | Feb - 12 |
| N4TOG Feb - 12 KDOID Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 AB5C Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 K4CTI Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | NH6SR | Feb - 12 |
| KDOID Feb - 12 KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 AB5C Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | WC5D | Feb - 12 |
| KK5MI Feb - 13 N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 AB5C Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N4TOG | Feb - 12 |
| N8ELQ Feb - 13 K3CAV Feb - 13 AB5C Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 X4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | KD0ID | Feb - 12 |
| K3CAV Feb - 13 AB5C Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | кк5МІ | Feb - 13 |
| AB5C Feb - 13 WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 AA4C Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N8ELQ | Feb - 13 |
| WA5NWZ Feb - 13 K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 AA4C Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N0CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | K3CAV | Feb - 13 |
| K5NV Feb - 13 N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 AA4C Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 AI9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | AB5C | Feb - 13 |
| N9KEH Feb - 14 N4CCJ Feb - 14 AA4C Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 AI9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | WA5NWZ | Feb - 13 |
| N4CCJ Feb - 14 AA4C Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 AI9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 17 | K5NV | Feb - 13 |
| AA4C Feb - 14 KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 AI9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N9KEH | Feb - 14 |
| KF4YR Feb - 14 KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 M9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 N0CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N4CCJ | Feb - 14 |
| KV7N Feb - 14 N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 AI9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 17 | AA4C | Feb - 14 |
| N2IRQ Feb - 15 K4KWW Feb - 15 AI9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N0CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | KF4YR | Feb - 14 |
| K4KWW Feb - 15 AI9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N0CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | KV7N | Feb - 14 |
| AI9Q Feb - 15 W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N0CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N2IRQ | Feb - 15 |
| W9STW Feb - 15 K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N0CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | K4KWW | Feb - 15 |
| K1NGJ Feb - 15 N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N0CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | AI9Q | Feb - 15 |
| N7TT Feb - 15 K1NY Feb - 15 N0CKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | W9STW | Feb - 15 |
| K1NY Feb - 15 NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | K1NGJ | Feb - 15 |
| NOCKC Feb - 15 N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N7TT | Feb - 15 |
| N7UG Feb - 15 WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | K1NY | Feb - 15 |
| WC9O Feb - 16 N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | NOCKC | Feb - 15 |
| N8LXQ Feb - 16 WB9YCO Feb - 17 | N7UG | Feb - 15 |
| WB9YCO Feb - 17 | WC9O | Feb - 16 |
| | N8LXQ | Feb - 16 |
| NOCSM Feb - 17 | WB9YCO | Feb - 17 |
| | NOCSM | Feb - 17 |

| Roadrunner - Birthdays | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Call | Birthday Date | | | | | |
| кток | Feb - 17 | | | | | |
| W0TOL | Feb - 17 | | | | | |
| KA7RRA | Feb - 17 | | | | | |
| KS4DD | Feb - 17 | | | | | |
| KE9FH | Feb - 17 | | | | | |
| WS9G | Feb - 17 | | | | | |
| AE3O | Feb - 17 | | | | | |
| KD4NFE | Feb - 18 | | | | | |
| K5UO | Feb - 18 | | | | | |
| KB4FS | Feb - 18 | | | | | |
| NOKV | Feb - 18 | | | | | |
| W4ABW | Feb - 18 | | | | | |
| NX4C | Feb - 19 | | | | | |
| KB1EG | Feb - 19 | | | | | |
| K4BIO | Feb - 19 | | | | | |
| K9KDS | Feb - 20 | | | | | |
| KC8ZON | Feb - 20 | | | | | |
| N9VRZ | Feb - 21 | | | | | |
| N8SVR | Feb - 21 | | | | | |
| W5RIT | Feb - 21 | | | | | |
| AE4FL | Feb - 22 | | | | | |
| WB3Q | Feb - 22 | | | | | |
| WA3QNT | Feb - 22 | | | | | |
| KZ3K | Feb - 22 | | | | | |
| K8IWI | Feb - 22 | | | | | |
| KB6TAL | Feb - 22 | | | | | |
| NL7BY | Feb - 22 | | | | | |
| N7CLA | Feb - 22 | | | | | |
| K4QL | Feb - 23 | | | | | |
| WB7VIZ | Feb - 23 | | | | | |
| N4RWH | Feb - 23 | | | | | |
| KS5A | Feb - 23 | | | | | |
| KA2PUX | Feb - 23 | | | | | |
| WD0EPE | Feb - 23 | | | | | |
| W4ARH | Feb - 24 | | | | | |
| NO2W | Feb - 24 | | | | | |
| K4AMC | Feb - 24 | | | | | |

| | Roadrunn | er - Birthdays |
|---|----------|----------------|
| , | Call | Birthday Date |
| | K9OFF | Feb - 24 |
| | W2UP | Feb - 24 |
| | K8MW | Feb - 24 |
| | K0WY | Feb - 24 |
| | KA8MSU | Feb - 24 |
| | K8QWY | Feb - 24 |
| | WB0M | Feb - 25 |
| ٠ | N3RC | Feb - 25 |
| ٠ | K8CW | Feb - 25 |
| ٠ | WD9EMW | Feb - 25 |
| | KD7IQ | Feb - 25 |
| | N3DMI | Feb - 25 |
| | W7AV | Feb - 25 |
| | AF5Q | Feb - 25 |
| | W5EHY | Feb - 26 |
| | K8WR | Feb - 26 |
| | KC2RS | Feb - 26 |
| | KU8R | Feb - 26 |
| | KK7LX | Feb - 26 |
| | N7MZI | Feb - 27 |
| | W0HFG | Feb - 27 |
| | KR0I | Feb - 27 |
| | AA7LJ | Feb - 27 |
| | K4EEE | Feb - 27 |
| | K7REL | Feb - 28 |
| | KOARS | Feb - 28 |
| | N5XG | Feb - 28 |
| | N5DG | Feb - 28 |
| • | WK5A | Feb - 28 |
| | AB4OI | Feb - 28 |
| | AB7KT | Feb - 28 |
| | KJ7FJ | Feb - 29 |



Digital Happenings

DIGITAL HAPPENINGS #18

(January 2014)
By WONAC ("Matt")

You may have heard the old rhyme:

Spring has sprung,
Fall has fell,
Winter has come,
And it's colder than....usual!!

Bad weather may explain the general lull in county hunting these last few months, but then again, maybe not. There are probably multiple other reasons in addition to cold weather. Sharon and I have to plead guilty to not getting out there and running digital counties even though we wanted to. Our only excuse is that life just seemed to get in the way of county hunting. However, as seasoned county hunters will tell you: "The counties will still be there. They aren't going anywhere!".

A special "atta-boy" goes to KW1DX who recently made his first mobile run using digital modes in Cheshire, MA on PSK-31! A combination of snow and his GPS trying to lead him onto a back road caused him to terminate his maiden voyage early, but I'm sure that there will be more when the weather warms up. Thanks, Dave, and know that you are a welcome addition to the growing group of active digital mobiles!

I frequently get asked questions like "How in the *@!X! do I find and work other digital county hunters?". I have tried to answer this question in earlier articles, but it still seems to be a real puzzlement for many people, so at the risk of repeating myself, I am going to talk about this subject again. Maybe I can do a better job a second time.

How To Find And Work Other Digital Mobiles:

True Frequency – You really need to understand the concept of "True" frequency before you can understand and use practical methods of tuning to find other digital stations and setting your own transmitting frequency while using the various digital modes. Please stay with me while I give you a little of the underlying theory on how digital signals are created.

Let's start with creating a simple CW signal. You can just key your transmitter ON and OFF using a mechanical/electronic keying device (after tuning your XCVR to the desired frequency). If the person trying to listen to your signal tunes a simple receiver to exactly match your transmit frequency, they will hear NOTHING. To hear your signal with the desired audio tone, they need to offset their receiver frequency by a few hundred Hz. In a typical modern XCVR these offsets are handled in such a way as to be simple and "transparent" to the user and the "True" frequency is usually the same as the dial reading.

A typical Single Sideband Suppressed Carrier (SSB) signal can start with a single carrier signal (much like the CW signal above), but instead of being keyed on and off the carrier is amplitude modulated with audio (voice) from a microphone. This results in an Amplitude Modulated (AM) signal which consists of the original carrier and 2 sidebands which contain all the information you wish to send. If you then suppress the carrier (which serves no useful purpose anyway) and also filter off the lower of the two sidebands, you end up with a signal containing just the upper sideband. This would be an Upper Sideband (USB) signal whose "**True**" frequency for tuning is the same as the frequency of the missing carrier (Dial Frequency on most XCVRs). With voice modulation, the USB signal can extend higher in

frequency by as much as 2.7 KHz above the "True" frequency. This is why you must be very careful to not set your dial higher than about 3 KHz below the upper band limit when operating USB near the high end of a band. For example, if operating USB on the 20M band, the highest you should set your dial is \sim 14.347 MHz. If you were to set your dial to 14.348 MHz, you might transmit a signal that extends outside legal band limits.

Now, if you take your modern XCVR, set it to the USB mode, set the dial to exactly 14.1000 MHz, and inject an pure audio tone of 500 Hz into the microphone jack (with the transmitter keyed ON), your XCVR will generate a single CW carrier signal at 14.1005 KHz.

You can then key the 500Hz audio tone ON and OFF with a keyer and obtain the same result as if you keyed the carrier directly. Provided certain conditions are met, both the mechanically produced CW signal and the software generated CW signal are almost exactly the same (Emission type A1A). In fact, some modern XCVR manufacturers use software techniques to generate their CW signals instead of directly keying the amplifier.

All modes used in amateur radio have a finite bandwidth. This begs the question of what is the "True" frequency for each mode. Do you use the left (lowest) side of the signal, the right (upper) side of the signal, or the center? Any of the three options is correct, but a choice must be made to avoid confusion. The problem is resolved by agreeing to a standard convention (similar to the one that when operating SSB USB is used on 20M and up and LSB is used on 40M and lower).

For county hunting I suggest that we agree to the conventions given in the table below with ALL digital modes operated with the XCVR set to USB (even for 40M and lower). With the exception of RTTY (most commonly operated by non-county hunters with the radio set to LSB), these conventions match up well with the rest of the digital operators. I will discuss the RTTY compatibility issue at length next month. In the interim, all county hunter to county hunter RTTY contacts should work just fine. If you have difficulty decoding the RTTY signals of non-county hunters, try clicking on the "Rv" (Reverse) button near the bottom right of your FLDigi screen. This will reverse the "polarity" of your RTTY signal.

| Mode | Signal Bandwidth (Hz) | "True" Frequency Convention | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| PSK- 31 | 40 | Center Of Trace | | |
| PSK- 63 | 80 | Center Of Trace | | |
| RTTY- 45 | 180 | Center Of Trace | | |
| MFSK- 16 | 230 | Center Of Trace | | |
| MF S K - 32 | 475 | Center Of Trace | | |
| HELL- 80 | 450 | Center Of Trace | | |
| CONTESTIA 8/1000 | 880 | Center Of Trace | | |
| DOMINO- 22 | 380 | Center Of Trace | | |
| OLIVIA 8/1000 | 875 | Center Of Trace | | |
| THOR- 22 | 385 | Center Of Trace | | |
| THROB- 4 | 125 | Center Of Trace | | |
| JT65- HF (W6C QZ) | 175 | Left Edge Of Trace | | |
| JT65 (WSJT- X) | 175 | Left Edge Of Trace | | |
| JT9- 1 (WSJT- X) | 16 | Left Edge Of Trace | | |

Why is all this important? The reason is that to avoid confusion and have everyone playing by the same rules, <u>all</u> spots should be entered using "True" frequencies. Then, knowing how "True" frequency is specified for that mode, you can set your XCVR dial to a setting that will allow you to find the signal that was spotted. Let me give you a few examples.

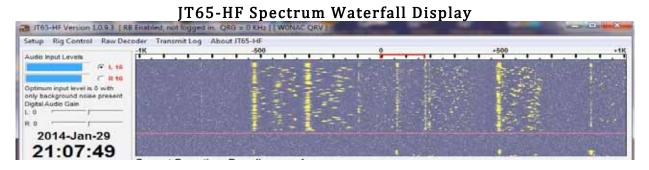
Example #1 - You have been monitoring one of the 4 spotting sites available in Logger (K5UGD, W6RK, K4PBX, W0MU). You receive an audio alert for a new spot where the mobile team of W0NAC/N0LXJ is putting out Custer county, C0 on PSK31 on a frequency of 14.074 MHz (If the spotter is following standard practice, this is their "True" frequency). You wish to see their signal in the "sweet spot" for most sound cards (between \sim 500 Hz and \sim 1500 Hz). Knowing that "True" frequency on your waterfall is your XCVR dial setting plus the offset on the waterfall, you determine that you need to set your XCVR dial to 14.073 MHz. With this dial setting, the signal should appear around the 1000 Hz plus offset point on your waterfall display.

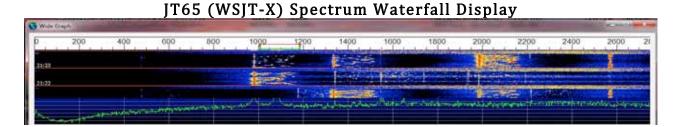
Example #2 - Let's say that Lloyd (NX4W) wants to put out the county line of Bacon/Pierce, GA. He wants to transmit on a "True" frequency of 14.073 MHz using PSK-63. Since he knows that "True" frequency is his XCVR dial setting plus the offset on his waterfall, he will set his XCVR dial to 14.072 MHz and then click on his waterfall near the 1000 Hz offset point on the scale. This will put his "True" operating frequency at 14.073 MHz which he will announce in his spot (if he is spotting himself) or be specified as 14.073 MHz by whoever is spotting him.

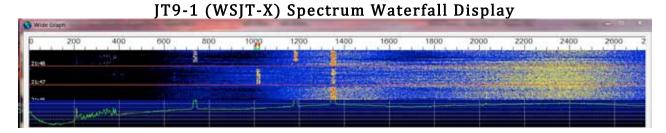
Example #3 – A new spot is displayed showing that N5MLP is running the county of Deaf Smith, TX using RTTY-45 on a "True" Frequency of 18.100 MHz in the 17M Band. To receive (and transmit) on his "True" frequency, you would set your XCVR to USB Mode and set the dial to 18.099 MHz. Then on your waterfall you would look around the 1000 Hz offset point for his signal. I say "around" because most county hunters putting out digital counties will need to adjust their transmit frequency up or down a bit to avoid QRMing other signals. If there are multiple signals near the announced frequency, you can usually tell which one is the one you want by the content (county hunter digital runs use short transmissions and a fixed format).

Since JT65-HF, JT65, and JT9-1 modes are never used for mobile digital runs (TOO Slow!), they are not typically spotted. In this case, the only reason you need to be aware of "True" frequency is when you might be operating close to a band edge or for super accurate logging. For all 3 modes, the "True" frequency convention is to use the leftmost edge of the signal trace. So, if you are operating with your XCVR set to USB the highest frequency component of your signal will be ~ 175 Hz higher than the "True" frequency for JT65 and ~ 16 Hz higher than the "True" frequency for JT9-1.

The Offset scale when using JT65-HF software is a unique case. It displays a scale with "0" at the middle of the offset scale (nominal center of the audio pass-band) with negative numbers to the left and positive numbers to the right. "0" on the JT65-HF offset scale actually represents a true offset of 1270.5 Hz. All other digital software programs I am aware of including FLDigi and WSJT-X software display their offset scale with "0" at the far left end of the audio pass-band (0 Hz). Examples of all three are shown below:







Here is how you can determine the lower and upper frequency limits of your signal for each mode.

Note: For the JT65-HF case the left end of the **red** signal bracket is aligned with the "0" point on the offset scale (which is an actual offset of 1270.5 Hz). For the JT65 (WSJT-X) and JT9-1 (WSJT-X) cases the left end of the **red** signal bracket is aligned with the "1000" point on the offset scale (which is an actual offset of 1000 Hz).

When using JT65-HF software, the "True" frequency (also the lowest frequency component of your signal) is your dial setting (14.076 MHz) plus the actual offset (1270.5 Hz) = 14.0772705 MHz. The highest frequency component of your signal is just 175 Hz (signal band-width) up from the lower frequency or 14.0774455 MHz.

Using JT65 (WSJT-X) software, the "True" frequency (also the lowest frequency component of your signal) is your dial setting (still 14.076 MHz) plus the offset (1000 Hz) = 14.077000 MHz. The highest frequency component of your signal is still 175 Hz (signal band-width) up from the lower frequency or 14.077175 MHz.

Using JT9-1 (WSJT-X) software, the "True" frequency (also the lowest frequency component of your signal) is your dial setting (now 14.078 MHz) plus the offset (1000 Hz) = 14.079000 MHz. The highest frequency component of your signal is now 16 Hz (signal band-width) up from the lower frequency or 14.079016 MHz.

Typical Digital Frequencies Used By County Hunters:

Given below is a suggested band plan for digital county hunters (operating mobile). It is certainly "not cast in concrete", but seems to work out well in practice. Also, the frequencies suggested are given as XCVR dial settings (what you see on your radio dial). When your dial is set as suggested and an offset of $\sim 1000~\rm Hz$ is selected on your waterfall, the "True" frequency will be 1 KHz higher than the dial setting. "True" frequency is what should be announced in any spots.

Mobile Suggested Band Plan For Digital Operation

| Band | XCVR Dial Setting (MHz) | "True" Frequency (1000 Hz Offset) | | |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 160M | 1.835 | 1.836 | | |
| 80M | 3.573 | 3.574 | | |
| 40M | 7.073 | 7.074 | | |
| 30M | 10.136 | 10.137 | | |
| 20M | 14.073 Or 14.074 | 14.074 Or 14.075 | | |
| 17M | 18.099 | 18.100 | | |
| 15M | 21.073 | 21.074 | | |
| 12M | 24.923 | 24.924 | | |
| 10M | 28.073 | 28.074 | | |
| 6M | N/A | N/A | | |

These frequencies have been carefully selected so that they don't conflict with other digital operations. For example, on the 20M band, "rag chew" and other casual PSK-31 and PSK-63 QSOs typically occur on "True" frequencies between 14.070 MHz and 14.073 MHz. Wider digital signals (such as RTTY, Contestia, etc.) are **not** welcome in this segment of the band. JT65 contacts are traditionally made on frequencies between 14.076 MHz and 14.078 MHz. JT9 contacts are typically made on frequencies 2 KHz higher than JT65 (14.078 MHz to 14.080 MHz). This leaves a 3 KHz slice of frequencies between 14.073 MHz and 14.076 MHz available for county hunter use. For these reasons, I recommend that county hunters use "True" frequencies of either 14.074 MHz or 14.075 MHz (dial setting of either 14.073 MHz or 14.074 MHz.

The Rest Of The Story:

Well folks, I ran out of space before I could totally answer the original question. I will try to finish answering this question next month by discussing the following topics:

How Do I Tell What Mode The Other Guy Is Using?

Typical Modes Used On Digital Mobile Runs And Why.

What Is RSID (Reed-Solomon Identification) And Video Text? How Do You Use Them In FLDigi?

Compatibility Issues When Making RTTY Contacts.

Oneida, ID

January Activities:

01/22 AG7LB

Digital activities during January picked up, but remain low. Digital stations spotted on W6RK were:

PSK-31

 01/01 K8GI/4
 Glynn, GA
 RTTY-45

 01/01 W1AW/4
 Iredell, NC
 RTTY-45

 01/09 W0NAC/N0LXJ
 Douglas, CO
 PSK-31

 01/19 KW1DX
 Cheshire, NH
 PSK-31

01/27 KA4RRU

Culpeper/Rappahannock, VA

PSK-31

There were undoubtedly many other digital stations out there, but they were not county hunters and were not spotted on W6RK.

Special Notice:

If there is someone out there who would really like to get going on digital operations (Fixed or Mobile), but can't afford to buy the equipment needed, I have an almost brand new SignaLink USB interface, cable, and manual available for free (a \$100.00 value). Please be aware that the cable may not be the correct one for your transceiver. You may have to purchase a different cable (\$20.00). This equipment was sent to me by a donor who wishes to stay anonymous. All you need to do is send an email to me at w0nac@comcast.net stating how this unit will help you. Near the end of February I will select the one I judge to need it the most and will send it to them postpaid. If more than one person makes a good case, then a random drawing will be used to decide who gets it. The winner will remain anonymous, but I will make note in my article when the equipment has found a new home.

The updated Table 3 is given below:

Table 3 - Active Digital County Hunters Award Status

| | | | | USA - DIGITAL | | | FIVE MODE | | | | | |
|----------|------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| # | | | STATUS* | COUNTIES | | | COUNTIES | | | | % 5-Mode | LAST |
| # | CALL | NAME | | | (| (| | (| (| | | UPDATED |
| | | | (M,F,I) | (of 3077) | (1 MODE) | (2 MODES) | (3 MODES) | (4 MODES) | (5 MODES) | TOTAL | Completed | |
| 1 | | Randy | F | 1000+ | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 9/30/2012 |
| 3 | | Cliff Jim | <u> </u> | 205 | | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% 0.0% | 12/10/2012 |
| 4 | | Bill | <u> </u> | - | | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 5 | | Fred | F | 169 | 3077 | 3006 | 169 | 11 | 0 | 6263 | 40.7% | 1/17/2014 |
| 6 | | Rob | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 1, 1, 1, 2011 |
| 7 | | Lou | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 8 | | Jim | <u>F</u> | 136 | 2903 | 121 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3033 | 19.7% | 11/12/2013 |
| 9 | | Gene | F | 26 | 1893 | 575 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2476 | 16.1% | 5/26/2013 |
| 11 | | Dick Bill | F | - 599 | 3044 | - 7 | - 7 | - 2 | - 2 | 0 3044 | 0.0% 19.8% | 5/2/2013 |
| 12 | | | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 3/2/2013 |
| | | | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | Ö | 0.0% | |
| 14 | | Ed | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 15 | | | M/F | 975 | 3077 | 2939 | 944 | 49 | 1 | 7010 | 45.6% | 1/10/2014 |
| 16 | | | M/F F | 22 | 202 | 64 | 53 | 28 | 4 | 351 0 | 2.3% 0.0% | 9/12/2013 |
| 17 18 | | Hollis Bob | F | 450 | 3077 | 1592 | 264 | - 59 | 14 | 5006 | 32.5% | 5/7/2013 |
| 19 | | Jack | F | - | - | - 1592 | - 204 | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 3/ // 2013 |
| 20 | | Billy | F | - | | - | _ | _ | - | Ö | 0.0% | |
| 21 | | | M/F | 1792 | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 9/30/2012 |
| 22 | | Davis | F | 379 | 879 | 211 | 48 | 15 | 1 | 1154 | 7.5% | 10/9/2013 |
| 23 24 | | Greg | F | 637 | 3049 | 2087 | 590 | 221 | 80 | 6027 | 39.2% | 1/24/2014 |
| 25 | | Bill Dave | F | 30 | 2782 | 29 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 2824 | 0.0% 18.4% | 9/6/2013 |
| 26 | | Mark | F | 714 | 3077 | 2936 | 694 | 87 | 1 | 6795 | 44.2% | 2/3/2013 |
| 27 | | | M/F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 2/3/2013 |
| | | | M/F | 500 | 3077 | 3029 | 2289 | 355 | 69 | 8819 | 57.3% | 1/7/2014 |
| | | | M/F | 1366 | 3077 | 2263 | 1212 | 476 | 237 | 7265 | 47.2% | 1/29/2014 |
| | | Al | F F | 501 736 | 3077 3077 | 1882 3064 | 405 743 | 202 235 | 120 150 | 5686 7269 | 37.0% | 1/24/2014 10/21/2013 |
| 31 | | | M/F | 391 | 3077 | 3064 409 | 743 54 | 37 | 9 | 3586 | 47.2% 23.3% | 5/19/2013 |
| | | | M/F | 756 | 3077 | 2838 | 836 | 480 | 340 | 7571 | 49.2% | 1/24/2014 |
| | | Dick | F | 676 | 3077 | 3014 | 668 | 303 | 229 | 7291 | 47.4% | 9/5/2013 |
| 35 | MAH8N | Jim | F | 0 | 3077 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3077 | 20.0% | 4/2/2013 |
| 36 | | Steve | F | 0 | 2180 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2180 | 14.2% | 2/24/2013 |
| 37 38 | | | F/M | 579 785 | 3022 3077 | 852 3077 | 381 915 | 212 108 | 99 50 | 4566 7227 | 29.7% | 9/12/2013 12/31/2012 |
| 39 | | Mike Pete | F | 816 | 3077 | 859 | 78 | 108 | 0 | 4015 | 47.0% 26.1% | 3/23/2012 |
| 40 | | 1 6 16 | F | - 810 | - | - 833 | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | 3/23/2012 |
| 41 | | | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 42 | | Jim | F | 722 | 3077 | 3077 | 743 | 59 | 35 | 6991 | 45.4% | 9/7/2013 |
| 43 | NX4W | | M/F | 1135 | 3077 | 1274 | 436 | 290 | 97 | 5174 | 33.6% | 7/27/2013 |
| 44 | | Matt | M/F F | 1816 359 | 3077 3077 | 2833 2390 | 1979 298 | 1084 101 | 432 | 9405 5921 | 61.1% 38.5% | 1/29/2014 10/12/2013 |
| | | Don Dick | F | 359 5 | 3077 | 2390 | 298 11 | 2 | 55 0 | 5138 | 38.5% 33.4% | 12/4/2013 |
| | | Gary | F | - | - | - | - | - | | 0 | 0.0% | 12, ., 2013 |
| 48 | W4SIG | Kerry | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| | | Dave | F / 5 | 883 | 3077 | 3077 | 1041 | 361 | 181 | 7737 | 50.3% | 12/22/2013 |
| | | | M/F F | 244 | 3077 | 2598 | 252 | 113 | 83 | 6123 0 | 39.8% | 10/6/2013 |
| | W6RK W6RLL | Risto Joe | F | - | | - | - | - | _ | 0 | 0.0% 0.0% | |
| | W7FEN | Larry | F | 25 | 3077 | 2975 | 32 | 1 | 0 | 6085 | 39.6% | 10/3/2013 |
| 54 | W7IN | Larry | F | | | | | | | 0 | 0.0% | |
| | | | M/F | - | | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| 56 | | Rich | F | 90 | 3077 | 1674 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 4795 | 31.2% | 10/31/2012 |
| 57 58 | | Larry | F | 1086 | 3077 | - 1742 | 699 | 234 | 31 | <u>0</u> 5783 | 0.0% | 1/6/2014 |
| | WA4EEZ WA4UNS | Dong | F | 1090 | 30// | - 1/42 | - 699 | 234 | 31 | 5/83 0 | 37.6% 0.0% | 1/6/2014 |
| 60 | WA60CV | Susan | M/F | 328 | 3077 | 328 | 320 | 130 | 10 | 3865 | 25.1% | 3/28/2013 |
| | WA7ETH | | F | 122 | 122 | ? | ? | ? | ? | 122 | 0.8% | 1/15/2014 |
| 62 | WA7JHQ | Sterling | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| | | Jeff | F | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0.0% | |
| | WB2ABD WD4OIN | | F | 904 | 3077 | 3070 | 914 | 334 | - 145 | 7540 | 0.0% 49.0% | 1/15/2014 |
| | | Jack Terrv | F | 201 | 3077 | 3070 | 206 | 132 | 145 | 6555 | 49.0% 42.6% | 8/24/2013 |
| | | | F | 272 | 3077 | 294 | 36 | 152 | 9 | 3431 | 22.3% | 1/17/2014 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 the coming months include (in no particular order):

"How To Log Your Digital Contacts In Logger"

Come on Guys and Gals! I still really need (and welcome) your suggestions on topics for future articles! Or, if you have a story or tip that you wish to contribute, I will certainly try to include it. Short stories describing your experiences/joys/frustrations/etc. 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



[&]quot;Macros - Revisited"

[&]quot;New Digital Awards?"

[&]quot;Digital Software Installation - Revisited"

[&]quot;Award Difficulty Index"

Page 18 ROADRUNNER

Treasurer's Report (W0NAC) December 2013*

Beginning Account Balances Dec 4, 2013

\$34,972.12

December Income:

Money Market Interest \$2.47 Awards Manager Income \$618.00 # Membership Income \$588.00 Logger distribution \$20.00

Total Income: \$1,228.47

December Expenses:

Awards Manager Expenses \$642.79 #
Office Expenses (Postage) \$0.00
Seed Money For Michigan Mini \$300.00

Total Expenses: \$942.79

December Net Income Less Expenses \$285.68

New Total Balance ALL Accounts: \$35,257.80

Checking Account Balance \$4,220.27 Money Market Account Balance \$31,037.53

Total: \$35,257.80

Note:

The following monies are not included in the account balances above:

Awards Manager's Funds \$1,500.00

2014 National Convention Seed Monies \$4,000.00 (Some will be expensed later)

Awards Manager Combined Income/Expenses For November/December



^{*} Includes December Transactions through 1/6/2014

ROADRUNNER

Page 19

Awards Manager's Report January 31, 2014

| Funds Balance December 31, 2013 | | | \$1,500.00 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Income | \$ 217.50 | ¢ 217.50 | |
| Expenses: | | \$ 217.50 | |
| Office supplies | \$ 0.00 | | |
| Plaque Suppliers | \$ 265.00 | | |
| Postage | \$ 113.36 | | |
| | | <u>\$ 378.36</u> | |
| Sent to Treasurer | | | \$ 217.50 |
| Reimbursement received from Treasurer | | | \$ 378.36 |
| Remibulsement received from Treasurer | | | φ 3/8.30 |
| Funds Balance January 31, 2014 | | | \$1500.00 |



ROADRUNNER

Calendar

| ~ February 2014 ~ Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Sun | Mon CLICK ON | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | | |
| ONLY START DATE | EVENT TO GO TO | | | | | VT QP | | |
| SHOWN | WEB SITE | | | | | MN QP DE QP 10-10 SSB QP | | |
| 2 NA CW SPRT | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 NH QP CQ WPX RTTY OMISS QP FISTS SPRT | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | |
| 16 | 17 RUN4BACON | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 CQ 160M SSB | | | |
| 23 NC QP | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | Notes: MI MINI 4/24 | | |

Awards Committee

These MARAC members are serving on the Awards Committee:

Awards Manager - Bob Devine (KC6AWX)

Phil Yasson (AB7RW)

Bob Gedemer (KA9JAC)

Dave Splitt (KE3VV)

Kent Reinke (KV7N)

Ed Palagyi (KN4Y)

"Matt" Matthew (W0NAC)

David Pyle (KW1DX))

The County Line Roadrunner MARAC Secretary 2690 Bohicket Rd Johns Island, SC 29455

"A Road Runner Is A Very Fast Bird"

Monthly Deadline for Articles is the 25th!

Board of Directors

President: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Ave NW, Washington DC 20015, 301-300-2818, davidsplitt@erols.com Vice-President: Leo Bingham, WY7LL, (SK)

Secretary: Jim Grandinetti, KZ2P, 2690 Bohicket Rd, Johns Island, SC 29455, 843-323-8385, k2jg@comcast.net

Treasurer: Matt Matthew, W0NAC, 17525 Wilde Ave, Unit 108, Parker CO 80134, 303-941-0867, w0nac@comcast.net Great Lakes Director: Dan Mulford, KM9X, 5225 N Co Rd 100E, Osgood IN 47037, 812-498-6702, km9x@frontier.com North Central Director: Tony Mazzocco, WA9DLB, 275 E County Line RD, Barrington, IL 60010, 224-678-5265, wa9dlb@hotmail.com

Northeast Director: Carol-Ann Reitman, AB2LS, 100 Woodbury Rd, Highland Mills, NY 10930, 845-928-6238, ab2ls@optonline.net

South Central Director: Barry Mitchell, N0KV, 12200 Boothill Dr, Parker, CO 80138, 303-842-5635, n0kv@arrl.net

Pacific Director: Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949-6302, 415-883-8980, kc6awx@marac.org

Southeast Director: Kerry Long, W4SIG, 1385 Auburn Woods Dr, Collierville TN 38017, 901-331-1881, kerrylong@comcast. net

Immediate Past President: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-202-3373, joycenul@aol.com

Awards Manager: Robert T. Devine, KC6AWX, 407 Alameda Del Prado, Novato, CA 94949-6302, 1-415-883-8980, kc6awx@marac.org

Appointees

Historian: Gary Beam, K4EXT, 195 Nanny Goat Hill Rd, Elizabethton, TN 37643, ch2@k4ext.com

Newsletter Editor: Dave Hyatt, KU4YM, 159 Schooner Bend Ave, Summerville, SC 29483, 843-442-8666, dhhyatt@ieee.org

Sunshine Coordinator: Pat Reiner, KM6QF, 16931 Aldon Rd, Encino, CA, 91436, 213-999-0100, lovedoxies@aol. com

Webmaster: Mike Fatchett, W0MU, PO Box 3500, Parker, CO 80134, 303-790,4611, w0mu@w0mu.com Custodian, Club Call, K9DCJ: Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, 21175 FM2556, Santa Rosa, TX 78593 1-956-202-3373 joycenul@aol.com

Election Coordinator: Kent Reinke, KV7N,1826 East 4500 North, Buhl ID 83316, 208-543-6083, kr@gci.net MARAC General Counsel: David Splitt, KE3VV, 6111 Utah Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20015-2461, 1-202-362-3355, ke3vv@marac.org

Computer Data Manager: Gene A Olig Sr, KD9ZP, W 4325 4th St Rd, Fond du Lac, WI 54937, 920-923-0130, kd9zp@att.net

Dues with an Electronic copy of the Newsletter copy are \$14.00 per year, check or money order; \$14.75 via PayPal.