

The “Other” Digital Modes

Things to do on HF when the sun
or your HOA is not on your side

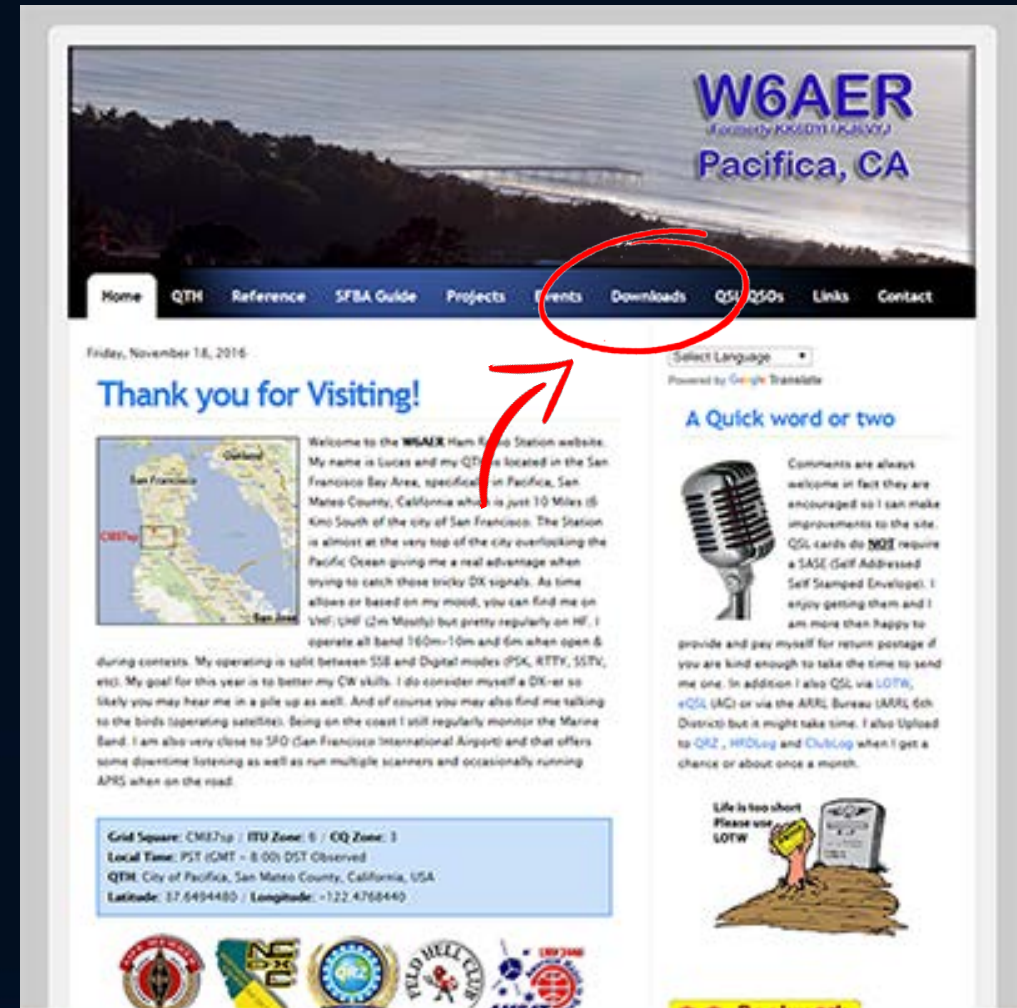
LUCAS FORD, W6AER
W6AER@ARRL.NET

No need to stress about links & tech heavy content. This PowerPoint is on my website

Please Visit:

WWW.W6AER.COM

Click on Downloads



I am always trying to improve content so if something is not clear and/or you have a question please let me know!

IF IT IS COVERED LATER, I WILL LET YOU KNOW

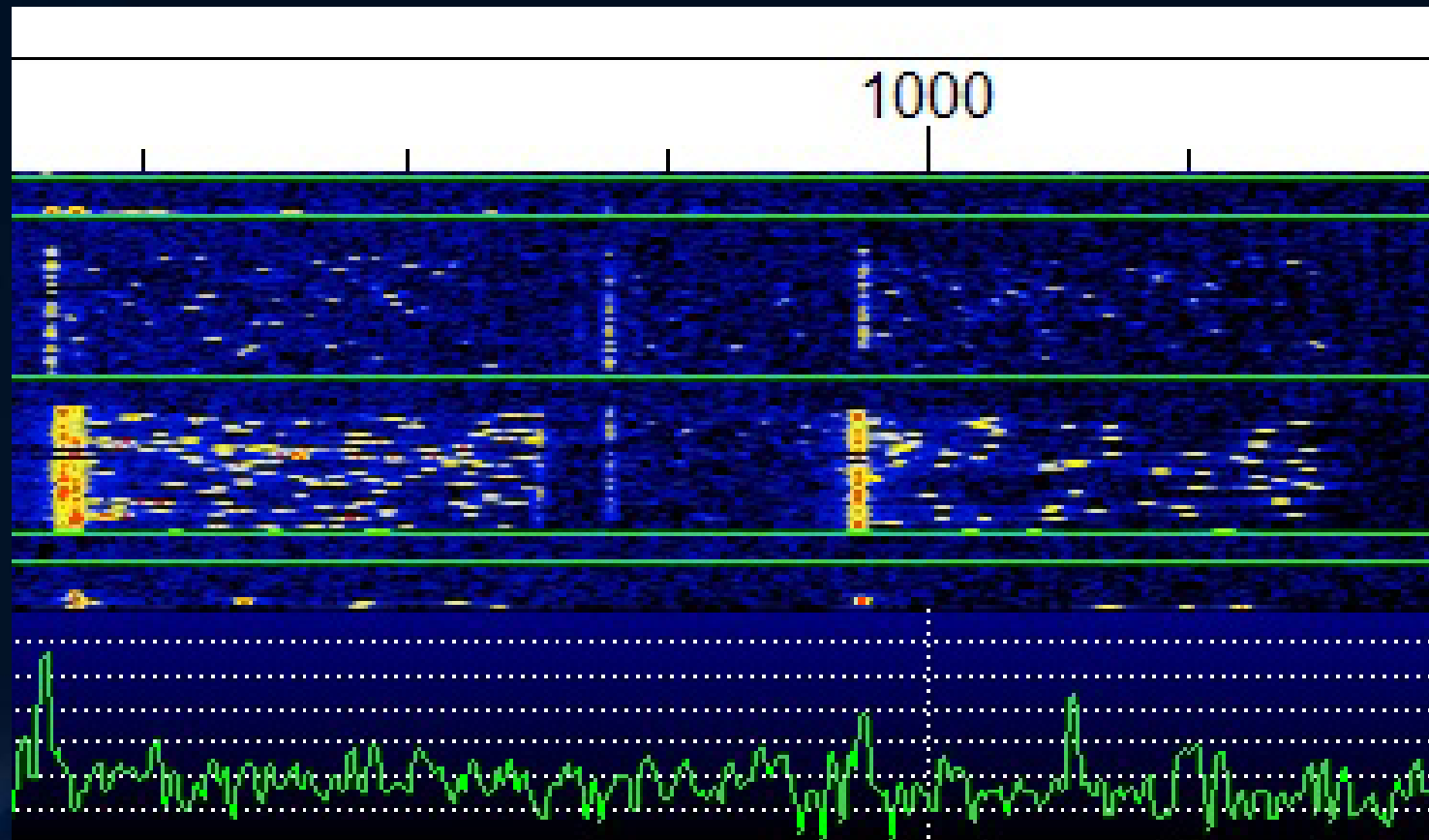


What will be covered Today:

- Why use these digital modes & What is meant by “*other modes*”
 - Not to be confused with VOICE digital modes like D-star, Fusion, etc.
- Very Brief overview for getting started (Part 1)
 - Software / Hardware & My findings from years of experimenting
- Overview of the most common “*other modes*” in 2 parts
 - Why I like them and use them
 - Learn from my/others mistakes as well as Tips
 - DX-ing / Weak Signal Tips for both modes
 - Not my radio on the right (Just liked the picture)



PART 1: HF Digital Overview



What digital modes are out there?



Question of the Day: What is “Other” Digital

- Most common mode is RTTY (Besides CW if you want to get technical) although some would argue this is changing
- RTTY, at least for *decent* DX, often needs an amp & larger antennas
- Not very forgiving when conditions are poor or sun is not co-operating (I will Prove it on the next slide)
- Used by DX Expeditions (Also Changing) and many RTTY contests out there
- BUT: Not the only game in town as you saw!



Why Go Digital in General?

Let's look at the numbers!



Source: "How Much 'Punch' Can You Get from Different Modes?" by Siwiak and Pontius, December, 2013 QST

Using CW as the Baseline - ZERO

Original Article:

<http://www.qsl.net/k4fk/presentations/Mode-sensitivity-2013-Dec-QST-Siwiak-Pontius-1.pdf>

So....Why Go "Other" Digital?

- Conditions get worse (Lack of Sun Spots), some modes will be still widely available as seen in previous slide.
- Can work from Apartments & HOA Restricted locations
 - Most modes don't require much power
 - Smaller or even indoor Antennas are plenty
 - Vertical loops work very well (AOR LA-800 RX Pictured)
 - If you have a full sized antenna, you will be in heaven!



Yet more reasons...

As with CW, easier to work the lower bands (160,80,40 & 30) with JT65/9

Many seem to think 30m is CW only – WRONG! - JT65/9, PSK₃₁, WSPR, etc.

Let's not forget the 60m band – Digital is also OK here, JT65 is very active at times!

Always someone to work, 24/7!



CLUBLOG W6AER Find QSOs

W6AER has worked TU5MH on 2 out of 21 band slots

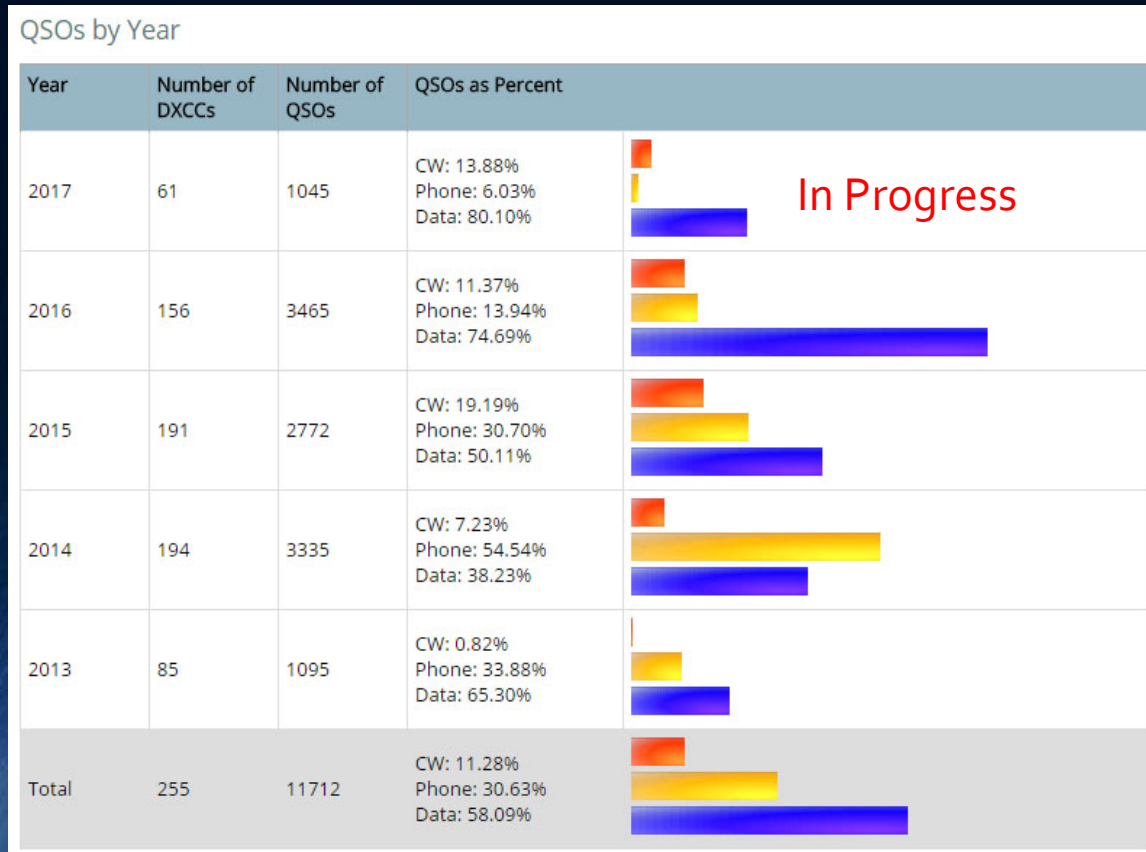
Propagation from UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (Z3) / USA W6 / STATE:CA / ZONE: 3 / Geo Propagation Map

	10m	12m	15m	17m	20m	30m	40m	80m	160m
CW	NEW	NEW	✓	NEW	NEW	NEW	✓	NEW	NEW
PH			NEW	NEW	NEW		NEW		
PSK			NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW		
JT65				NEW					
PSK				NEW					
PSK63F					NEW				

Request QSL

- Some DX Expeditions are branching out with the modes they use. I was very happy to see the above JT65 and PSK used in the Ivory Coast DX expedition, even if I did not get a chance to use it. This opens doors for many “little guns”
- SIDE NOTE: PSK63F is a faster version of PSK31 with Forward error correction. More on PSK later!

Do I practice what I preach?



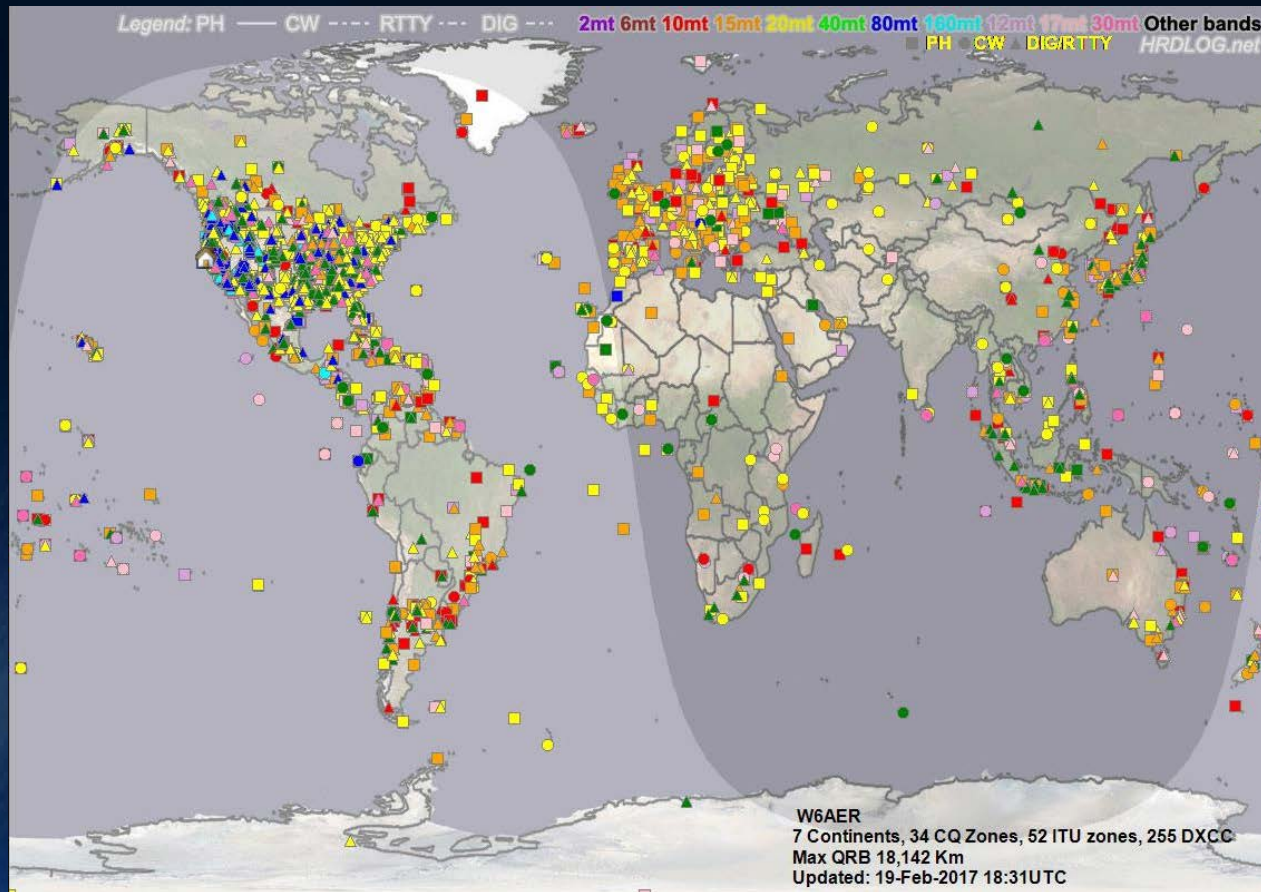
Clublog.org seems to think so even based just on my current call sign!

Over 1/2 of my QSOs are Digital, of these only 5-10% RTTY

Note how conditions get worse more CW and Digital!

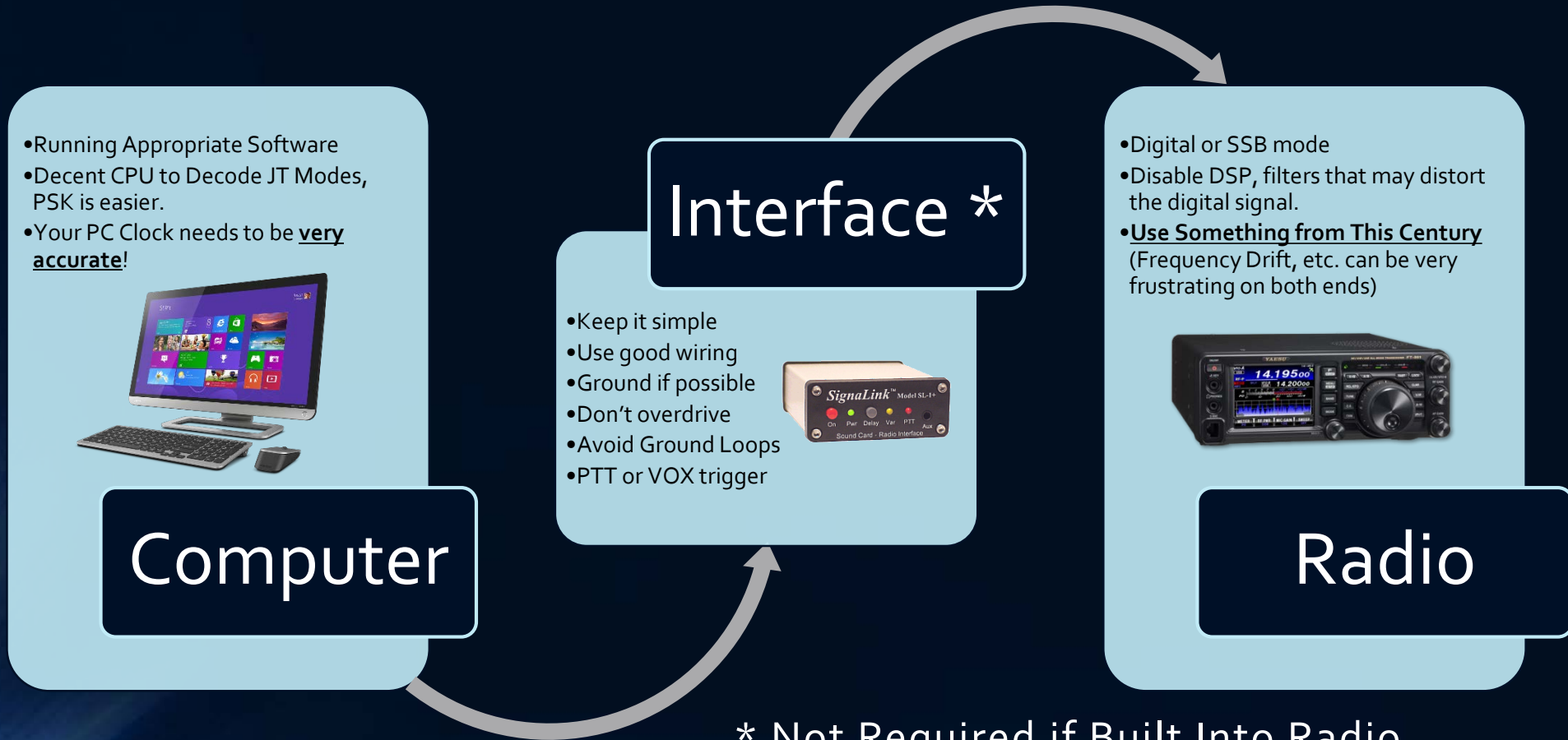
Many band fillers I would not have worked if not for the "other" digital modes. Mainly JT65!

My Disproportionate Numbers



- Triangle (digital) and Circle (CW) have better reach
- Especially true for the LOW bands (40-160m)
- Best example ZS (South Africa) regular digital QSOs on 40m

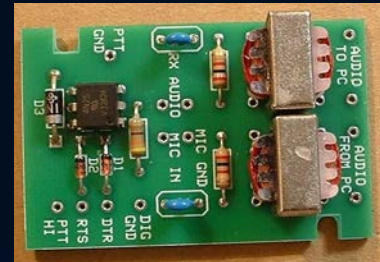
Quick Review of what is Required for Digital



* Not Required if Built Into Radio

Selected Interface Comparison

Model	Ease of Use	Cost + Extras	Performance	Build Quality	Added Features	Designed For
Tigertronics SignaLink	10	\$110+cable	8	8	No	Causal User
Timewave Navigator	6	\$300+cable	10	10	Yes	Casual/Advanced
Homebrew	8-10	With box under \$20	Varies, shielding, etc	Varies	Varies	DYI & Budget Users
Radio Integrated	Varies	Possible higher cost	Varies but usually good	Varies	Varies	Casual/Advance



Selected Software Comparison

Package	My Rating	Cost + Extras	Performance	Ease of Use	Ease of Setup	Modes
WSJT-X	10	FREE	10	9	6	JT65/9 Modes (Also JT4, Echo and WSPR)
FLDigi	6	FREE	10	10	8	Many modes but no JT Modes
Ham Radio Deluxe DM780	8	V.5 Free V.6 Paid	8 9	Varies	6 6	Most but no JT modes or WSPR
JT65-HF	8	FREE	6	10	10	JT65 ONLY (no JT9) No longer Developed
JTDX	10	FREE	10	8	6	Based on WSJT-X 1.7 Beta currently, Good

Additional Software:

- **MixW** - \$70, from the Ukraine
- **MultiPSK** – FREE, from France
- **CocoaModem** – FREE, Mac OSX, from USA



Not a heavy user of the above other than trying them, so can't comment much but these are all alternatives! None of these do JT65/9 but all do PSK and many other modes. Many other options out there, new ones coming out all the time.

Oh...“GRID SQUARES” Anyone?

(c) E181C

AR	BR	CR	DR	ER	FR	GR	HR	IR	JR	KR	LR	MR	NR	OR	PR	QR	RR
AQ	BQ	CQ	DQ	EQ	FQ	GQ	HQ	IQ	JQ	KQ	LQ	MQ	NQ	OQ	PQ	QQ	RQ
AP	BP	CP	DP	EP	FP	GP	HP	IP	JP	KP	LP	MP	NP	OP	PP	QP	RP
AO	BO	CO	DO	EO	FO	GO	HO	IO	JO	KO	LO	MO	NO	OO	PO	QO	RO
AN	BN	CN	DN	EN	FN	GN	HN	IN	JN	KN	LN	MN	NN	ON	PN	QN	RN
AM	BM	CM	DM	EM	FM	GM	HM	IM	JM	KM	LM	MM	NM	OM	PM	QM	RM
AL	BL	CL	DL	EL	FL	GL	HL	IL	JL	KL	LL	ML	NL	OL	PL	QL	RL
AK	BK	CK	DK	EK	FK	GK	HK	IK	JK	KK	LK	MK	NK	OK	PK	QK	RK
AJ	BJ	CJ	DJ	EJ	FJ	GJ	HJ	IJ	JJ	KJ	LJ	MJ	NJ	OJ	PJ	QJ	RJ
AI	BI	CI	DI	EI	FI	GI	HI	II	JI	KI	LI	MI	NI	OI	PI	QI	RI
AH	BH	CH	DH	EH	FH	GH	HH	IH	JH	KH	LH	MH	NH	OH	PH	QH	RH
AG	BG	CG	DG	EG	FG	GG	HG	IG	JG	KG	LG	MG	NG	OG	PG	QG	RG
AF	BF	CF	DF	EF	FF	GF	HF	IF	JF	KF	LF	MF	NF	OF	PF	QF	RF
AE	BE	CE	DE	EE	FE	GE	HE	IE	JE	KE	LE	ME	NE	OE	PE	QE	RE
AD	BD	CD	DD	ED	FD	GD	HD	ID	JD	KD	LD	MD	ND	OD	PD	QD	RD
AC	BC	CC	DC	EC	FC	GC	HC	IC	JC	KC	LC	MC	NC	OC	PC	QC	RC
AB	BB	CB	DB	EB	FB	GB	HB	IB	JB	KB	LB	MB	NB	OB	PB	QB	RB
AA	BA	CA	DA	EA	FA	GA	HA	IA	JA	KA	LA	MA	NA	OA	PA	QA	RA

What are "GRID SQUARES" ?

- A grid square measures 1° latitude by 2° longitude and measures approximately 70 × 100 miles in the continental US.
- A grid square is indicated by two capital letters (the field) and two numbers (the square), followed by an optional lower case letter for more precise location.
- Pacifica, CA (My QTH) is CM87sp
- For JT65/9 I just need CM87 General area
- Also used in weak signal modes on VHF/UHF
- Always used in Satellite Communication
- You can look up yours here:
http://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php

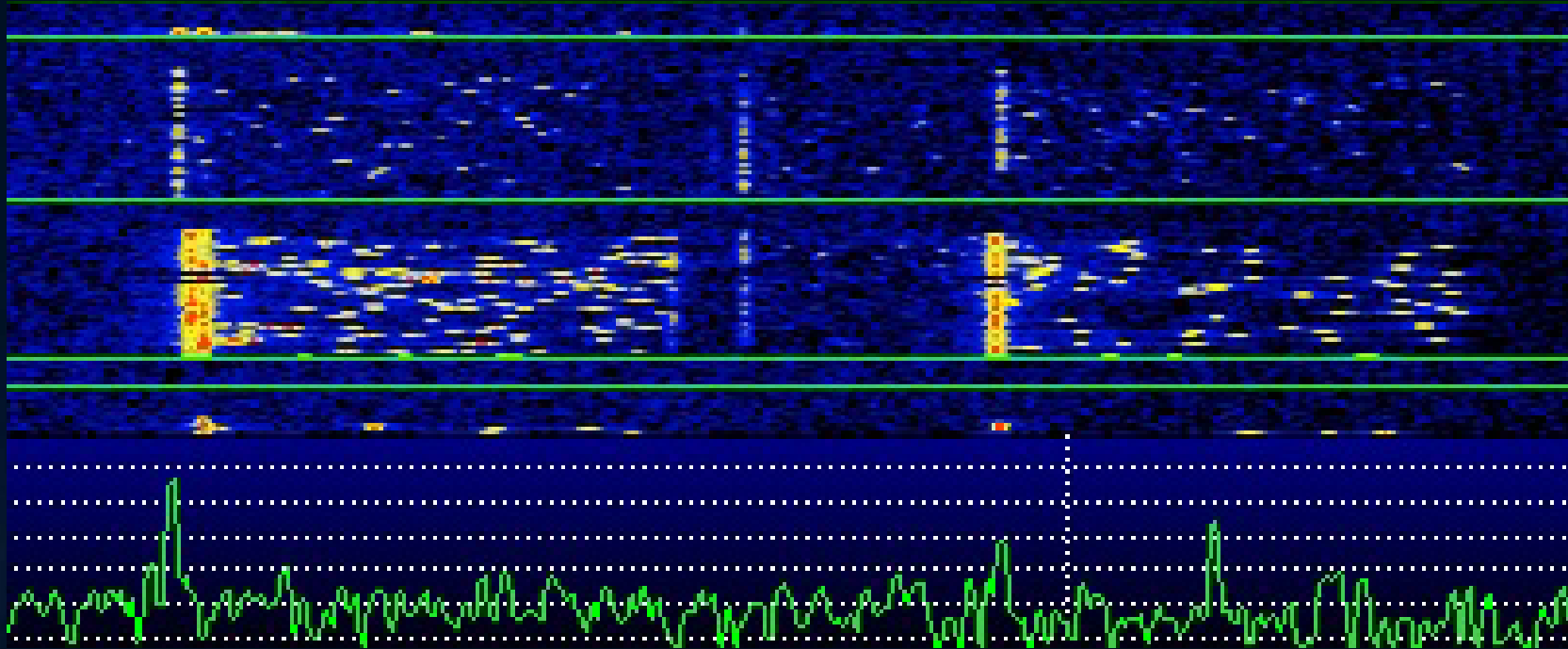


PART 2: So....Let's talk JT



No, not the singer....modes!

PART 2: So....Let's talk JT



JT65 & JT9 Together



Comparing The "JT" digital modes for HF:

Mode	Sensitivity	Band width	CPU Usage
JT65 (a)	Great	Under 300hz	High
JT9	Excellent 2-3 dB Better then JT65(a)	Under 50hz	Higher

There are other JT modes as well as WSPR but not going to cover these at this time.

All very low power modes – No AMP!
No more than 30-40W

Both of them have been compared to *watching grass grow...* but they WORK! Each exchange is 47 seconds, starts on the minute.



QSO Length is about the same for both modes, typical length is about 6 minutes is all goes well

The screenshot displays the WSJT-X v1.6.0 interface. At the top, there are two panes for 'Band Activity' and 'Rx Frequency', both showing a list of QSOs with columns for UTC, dB, DT, Freq, and Message. The 'Band Activity' pane shows a list of QSOs with various call signs and locations, such as 'CQ JA2ICB PM95 ~Japan' and 'CQ DX ROJF P030 AS Russia'. The 'Rx Frequency' pane shows a list of received QSOs, including 'CQ DX ROJF P030' and 'CQ CX2UI GF26'. Below these panes is a control panel with buttons for 'Log QSO', 'Stop', 'Monitor', 'Erase', 'Decode', 'Enable Tx', 'Halt Tx', and 'Tune'. The frequency display shows '14.076 000' and a signal strength indicator. The 'Unique Callsigns TX/RX per Band (NA)' table is visible, showing counts for various bands and call signs. The bottom section shows the 'JTAlertX 2.8.4 W6AER [20m,HRD6+,#1] (Updates!)' window, which displays a list of active call signs and their locations, such as 'JR1NHI Japan', 'N6PF - CA U.S.A.', 'XE2YWB Mexico', 'JA3KBS Japan', 'JR3IIR - B4 Japan', 'K6CLS - CA U.S.A.', and 'ROJF - B4 Russia (AS)'. The interface also shows a 'First QSO' table and a 'Band' selection menu.

WSJT-X 1.6 with JTAlertX Running

(Now 1.7 is out as of 2017)

- Shows basic QSO, running JT Alert Under it with pop-up.
- Allows to color code, Shows worked "B4" (add-on)
- Writes directly to my HRD log
- Now...What does all this mean?

Typical JT9 QSO (Same as JT65)

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
2359	-21	0.8	2594	@ CQ DX R0JF PO30
0000	Tx		2594	@ R0JF W6AER CM87
0002	Tx		2594	@ R0JF W6AER CM87
0003	-19	0.8	2593	@ W6AER R0JF -23
0004	Tx		2593	@ R0JF W6AER R-19
0005	-19	0.8	2593	@ W6AER R0JF RR73
0006	Tx		2593	@ R0JF W6AER 73

- @ = JT9
- # = JT65
- Same Process for BOTH

1. Station Calls CQ with HIS GRID
2. I respond with MY GRID
3. He Sends his report (-23, *I was very weak, can decode to -26*)
4. I send his with an R (Roger) and he is at -19 (Better then me)
5. RR73 and my 73
6. In the log! 6 Min. if all goes well

Each cycle is 47 seconds, starts automatically at the top of the minute via macros. Check your Clock!

Did you say Macros?

Calling CQ	Answering CQ
CQ	Grid
dB	R+dB
RRR	73

<input type="text" value="CQ W6AER CM87"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Gen msg
<input type="text" value="TNX 73 GL"/>	<input type="radio"/> Free msg

You will need to enter your call sign and your grid square (*remember those*) when you setup your software and your macros are ready to go!

- Yes, I did....Here is all you need to know!
- If YOU are calling CQ left side
- If you are ANSWERING a CQ use right side
- **DONE!** No, really that is it!
- PS: You can generate your own very short text in "Free msg" but keep it short

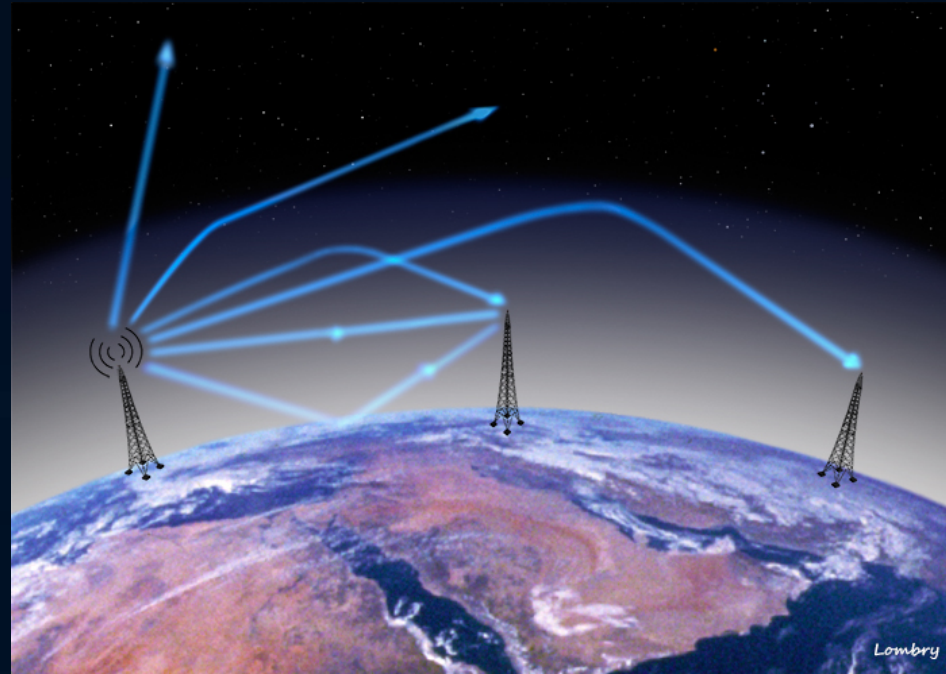
But if you are Hunting DX like Antarctica!

UTC	dB	DI	Freq	Message
0442	-19	-2.9	1526 #	XE205 RI1AND RR73
0443	Tx		1527 #	RI1AND W6AER CM87
0444	-18	-2.9	1525 #	W6AER RI1AND -30
0445	Tx		1528 #	RI1AND W6AER R-18
0446	-20	-2.9	1525 #	W6AER RI1AND RR73
0447	Tx		1528 #	RI1AND W6AER 73
0448	-20	-2.9	1525 #	NT2A RI1AND -12



- THE RULES CAN BE BENT!
- Don't wait for a CQ, likely will not see one! Everyone, their neighbor and dog (likely unlicensed) will want to work him!
- See how I followed the XE (Mexican) Station and NT2A (New York) followed me
- Can work split, but not needed on this one.
- All 3 of us got Antarctica in the log on 40m JT65 mode

Remember how I said JT65/9 is great on the lower bands?



WSJT-X v1.6.0 by K1JT

File View Mode Decode Save Help

Band Activity

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
0552	-17	0.6	1100	# E51WL KE7B -14
0552	-13	0.1	1194	# E51WL XE1TD R-20
0552	-1	0.4	1415	# CQ AR6VS CM87 U.S.A.
0552	-17	0.5	1600	# CQ KOFY EN10 U.S.A.
0552	0	1.0	2598	@ W6AER KB6TSQ 73
----- 160m				
0554	7	1.0	2598	@ CQ KB6TSQ DM05 U.S.A.
0554	-1	0.1	1051	# CQ W7IXZ DN14 U.S.A.
0554	-2	0.4	1415	# CQ AR6VS CM87 U.S.A.
0554	-20	0.5	1600	# CQ KOFY EN10 U.S.A.
----- 160m				
0556	5	1.0	2600	@ CQ KB6TSQ DM05 U.S.A.
0556	-1	0.2	1051	# W6AER W7IXZ -10
0556	-18	0.1	749	# E51WL N5BCA R-14
0556	-2	0.4	1415	# CQ AR6VS CM87 U.S.A.
0556	-21	0.5	1600	# CQ KOFY EN10 U.S.A.
----- 160m				
0558	-1	0.2	1050	# W6AER W7IXZ RRR
0558	-20	0.1	749	# E51WL N5BCA 73
0558	-1	1.0	1600	# CQ KB6TSQ DM05 U.S.A.
0558	-19	0.4	1801	# CQ DX WB4JWM EM83 U.S.A.
----- 160m				
0600	-1	0.1	1050	# RR TU LOIW 73
0600	-1	1.0	1600	# CQ KB6TSQ DM05 U.S.A.
0600	-22	0.3	1801	# CQ DX WB4JWM EM83 U.S.A.
----- 160m				
0601	-10	0.2	1251	# W5UU E51WL 73

Rx Frequency

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
0508	Tx		1526	# E51WL W6AER CM87
0519	Tx	0.5	1511	# K1NJ E51WL 73
0528	Tx		1511	# E51WL W6AER CM87
0528	Tx		1805	# E51WL W6AER CM87
0532	Tx		1239	# E51WL W6AER CM87
0533	-7	0.5	1238	# W6AER E51WL -21
0534	Tx		1239	# E51WL W6AER R-05
0535	-6	0.5	1238	# W6AER E51WL 73
0536	Tx		1239	# E51WL W6AER 73
0538	-13	0.6	1865	# CQ KOFY EN10
0540	Tx		1865	# KOFY W6AER CM87
0541	Tx		1865	# W6AER CM87
0542	-11	0.5	1864	# W6AER KOFY -21
0543	Tx		1865	# KOFY W6AER CM87
0543	Tx		1864	# KOFY W6AER R-11
0544	-14	0.5	1864	# W6AER KOFY -21
0545	Tx		1864	# KOFY W6AER 73
0548	5	1.0	2598	@ CQ KB6TSQ DM05
0549	Tx		2598	@ KB6TSQ W6AER CM87
0550	Tx	1.0	2598	@ W6AER KB6TSQ -05
0551	Tx		2598	@ KB6TSQ W6AER R+09
0552	Tx	0	1.0	2598 @ W6AER KB6TSQ 73
0553	Tx		2598	@ KB6TSQ W6AER 73
0554	Tx	7	1.0	2598 @ CQ KB6TSQ DM05
0554	-1	0.1	1051	# CQ W7IXZ DN14
0555	Tx		1051	# W7IXZ W6AER CM87

Log QSO Stop Monitor Erase Decode Enable Tx Halt Tx Tune

160m 1.838 000

DX Call DX Grid Tx JT65 # Tx 1051 Hz Tx<Rx Rx 1051 Hz Rx<Tx Lock Tx=Rx Report -1

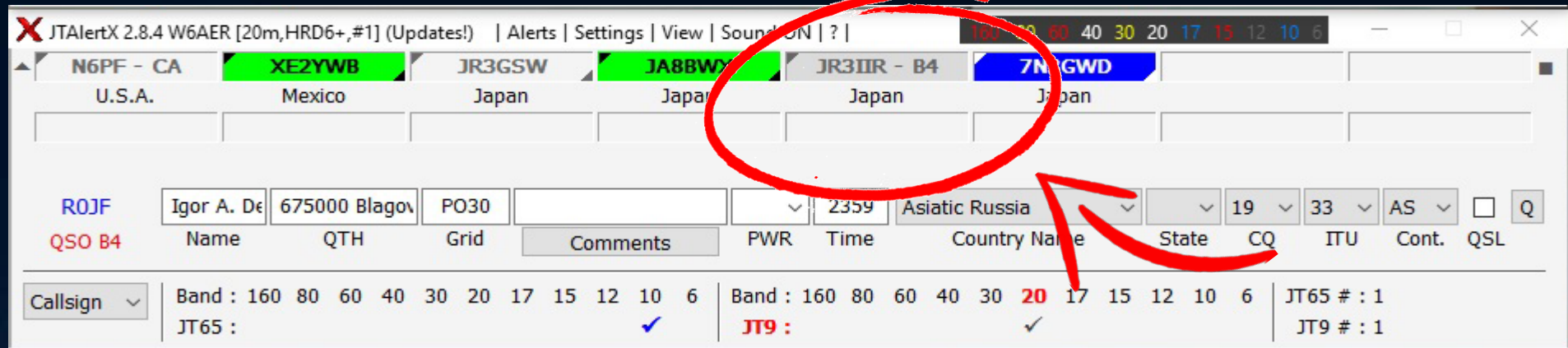
Calling CQ Answering CQ
CQ Grid
dB R+dB
RRR 73
CQ W6AER CM87 Gen msg
TU73 DE W6AER Free msg

Receiving JT9+JT65 Last Tx: W7IXZ W6AER 73 Tx-Enable Armed 25%

160m QSO

- E51WL (North Cook Island) using 25W and a Butternut Vertical Antenna & 140 feet of coax!
- Got report of -05 he was -21
- I like to keep things around -10 or so but personal preference
- Will go over QSO Flow in a bit...

OPTIONAL ADD-ON: JTAlertX Helping me see what I need



B₄ – Means I have worked it before

GREEN – Station not worked and calling CQ

YELLOW (Not Pictured) – Needed Entity (State/Country/Etc. as you defined)

BLUE – Needed Prefix (if you are a prefix hunter for CQ award)

These can be all setup based on YOUR Preference

0006 Tx 2593 @ R0JF W6AER 73
0008 -20 -0.1 1733 # CQ CX2UI GF26
0009 Tx 1733 # CX2UI W6AER CM87

-10 0.1 662 # N6PF CX5RZ RR73
-11 -0.2 975 # CQ JA2ICB PM95 ~Japan
-18
-14

JTAlertX 2.8.4 Settings - W6AER - [Logging Enabled - HRD V5/V6]

- Alerts
 - Own Call
 - CQ and QRZ
 - Wanted Prefix
 - Wanted CQ Marathon
 - Wanted US State
 - Wanted DXCC
 - Wanted Continent
 - Wanted CQ Zone
 - Wanted Grid
 - Miscellaneous Alerts
 - Alerts Priority
 - Worked B4
 - LoTW / eQSL(AG) Flags
 - Filters
 - Logging
 - Applications
 - Window
 - Miscellaneous
 - Web Services
 - Scan Log and Update
 - Sound Card
 - Station Callsign
 - Program Updates
 - About

Quick Enable / Disable Audio and Visual Alerts

ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Own Call	ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CQ and QRZ
OFF <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted Callsign	ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wanted Prefix
ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wanted US State	ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wanted Grid
ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wanted DXCC	OFF <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted Continent
ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wanted CQ Zone	OFF <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted CQ Marathon
OFF <input type="checkbox"/> Decode Keywords	OFF <input type="checkbox"/> User Defined Alert

Quick Enable / Disable Audio only Alerts

OFF <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Shack	OFF <input type="checkbox"/> End of TX/RX Period
OFF <input type="checkbox"/> Start of TX Period	OFF <input type="checkbox"/> Rx Frequency
ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TX Watchdog	

Quick Enable / Disable Visual only Alerts

ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worked B4	ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Band Activity Display
ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LoTW Stripe/Flag	ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eQSL(AG) Stripe/Flag
OFF <input type="checkbox"/> Ignored Callsign	

Decoded Callsign Data Tooltip

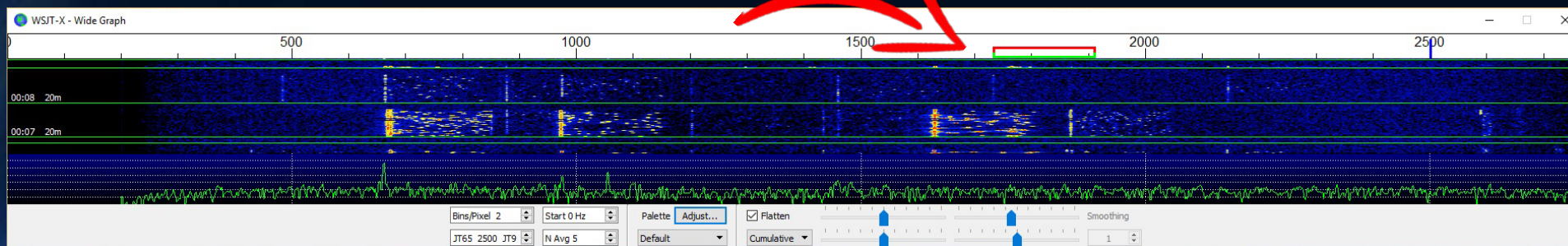
ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enable	ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show all triggered Alerts
ON <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show distance in Miles	

JTAlert by VK3AMA

Help OK Cancel Save

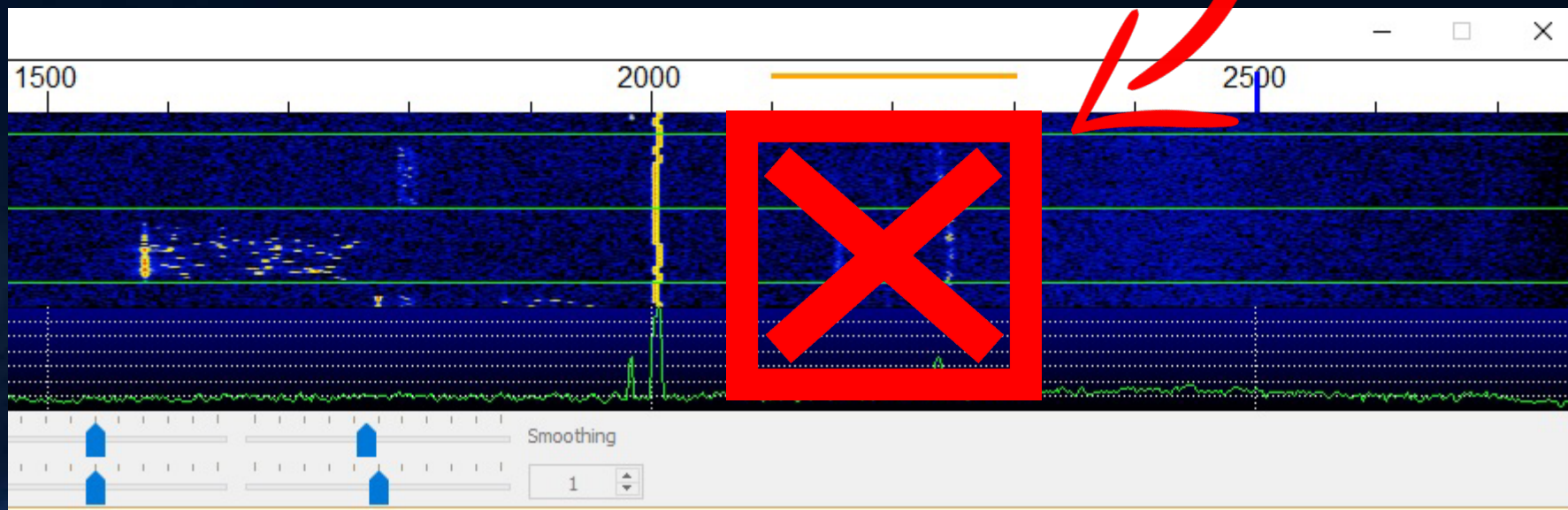
Quick word about the Waterfall

- You may not hear it but it's there! Stick around for 2 minutes...Always listen first as you would on CW or SSB to avoid QRM-ing
- Above 2500 Mark is JT9 / Below is JT65 – Stay in your area!
- Each Cycle is 1 Minute with close to 50 seconds of activity.
- Bars Indicate where you are (Green is RX / Red is TX)



Things to know about 30m

- Brown Bar is WSPR "Whisper" – NEVER Transmit JT65/9 or anything other than WSPR here...ever!



JT Alert Plugin showing Activity

- Note the conditions and the active bands! These were supposedly “Bad Conditions” ...Not on Digital!
- This was in December 2016, since I have seen a growth in 80/160m
- Keep in mind, this does not mean you hear it all from your QTH but gives you a good general idea

Unique Callsigns TX/RX per Band (NA)									
Solar : SFI 78 : A 4 : K 1									
	tx	rx	tx	rx		tx	rx	tx	rx
160m	2	8			17m	11	6		
80m	24	40	1	6	15m	22	15		
60m	18	16			12m				
40m	56	127	22	63	10m				
30m	15	28	2	7	6m				
20m	44	116	6	22	ALL	187	337	29	95
JT65	(Last Update : 19-Nov, 00:11 utc)								JT9

Frequencies and tips for JT65/9

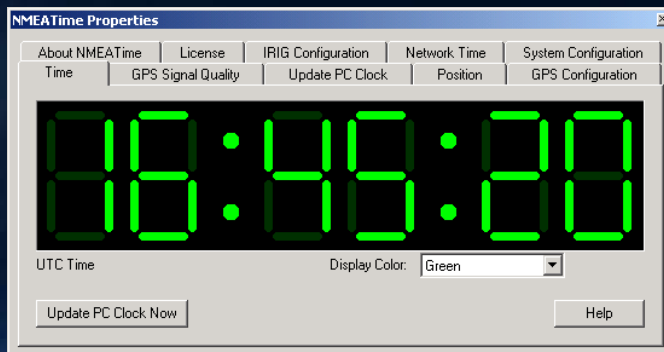
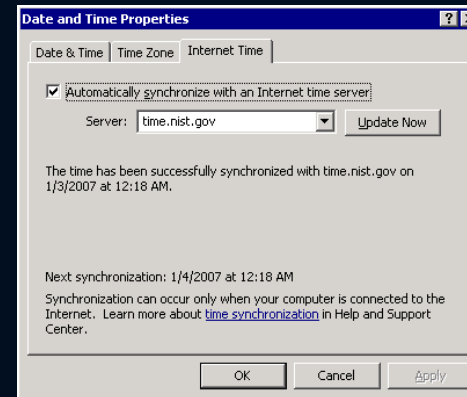
- 160m - 1836-1838
- 80m – 3576
- 40m – 7076
- 30m – 10138-10141
- 20m – 14076-14078
- 17m – 18102
- 15m – 21076
- 12m – 24917
- 10m – 28076
- 6m - 50276



- WSJT-X software has there preprogrammed
- For 60m Use the CENTER CHANEL of the 5 after selecting 60m on your software.
- 6m openings you can work out of state and even DX with few watts!
- 40/60/80/160 come alive after dark as it does with other modes, local QSO only daytime
- 10/12/15 are mainly when sun spot counts are high but worth checking as they DO open.
- 30/20/17 are your money bands for this mode and activity round the clock at times.
- The JT65 mode used for moon bounce is a different version, NOT JT65(a)

Quick word about TIME...

- JT 65/9 send on the top of the minute...EXACTLY. For successful QSO PC time needs to be spot on or no decodes.
- Aftermarket Software: Atomic Clock Sync, NetTime, Time-Sync and of course Dimension4 (I used this before)



Another option is to use GPS to set Time via NMEATime, I use this NOW but is overkill for most. Requires a USB or Serial GPS.

Decoding JT65/9 Signal Reports

- NOT using 59 (SSB), 599 (PSK, RTTY), 5NN (cw)
- JT65 always **NEGATIVE** numbers like -18
- JT9 can be **BOTH** (-23 or +02, etc.)
- If you are getting a +10, YOU ARE TOO LOUD!
- Lower number is always weaker
- Decoder Ring Optional (Joke)

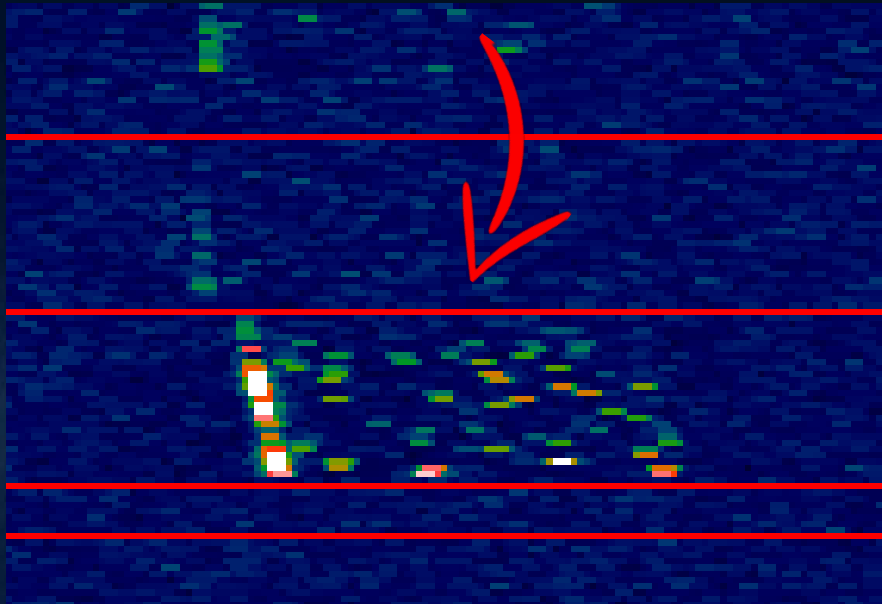


Before we move on...

QUIZ
TIME!

Can you Identify this JT65 Issue?

AS SEEN ON WATERFALL:

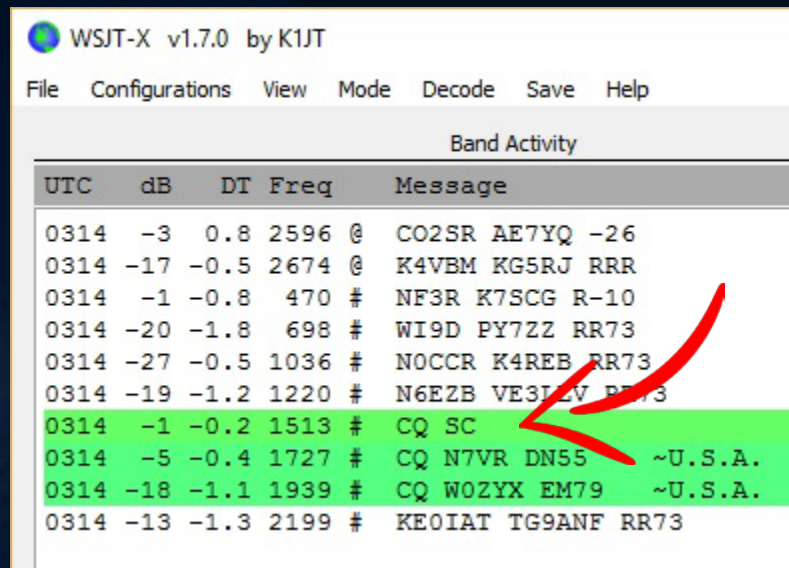


ANSWER:

- Frequency drift. Possible older radio warming up, or soundcard is drifting. I see this a lot with CO (Cuban) Stations lately.
- Very hard to decode, although I have seen it done & have done it.
- NOTE: If everything looks like this on your waterfall...Then it's YOU!

Can you Identify the problems here?

SEE FIRST GREEN CQ LINE:

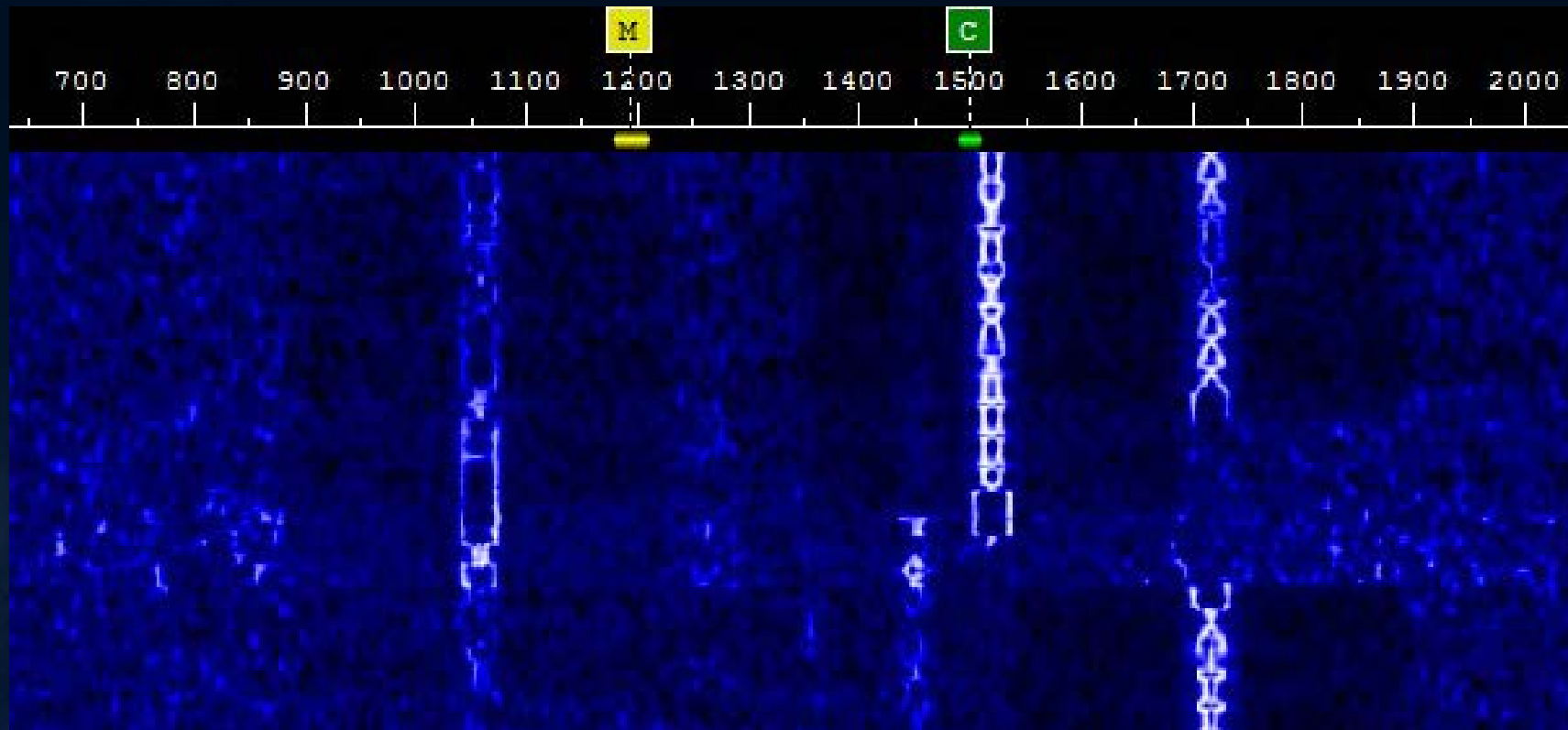


UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
0314	-3	0.8	2596 @	CO2SR AE7YQ -26
0314	-17	-0.5	2674 @	K4VBM KG5RJ RRR
0314	-1	-0.8	470 #	NF3R K7SCG R-10
0314	-20	-1.8	698 #	WI9D PY7ZZ RR73
0314	-27	-0.5	1036 #	NOCCR K4REB RR73
0314	-19	-1.2	1220 #	N6EZB VE3JLV RR73
0314	-1	-0.2	1513 #	CQ SC
0314	-5	-0.4	1727 #	CQ N7VR DN55 ~U.S.A.
0314	-18	-1.1	1939 #	CQ WOZYX EM79 ~U.S.A.
0314	-13	-1.3	2199 #	KE0IAT TG9ANF RR73

ANSWER:

- No call sign of ham looking for South Carolina
- We are required to ID
- Not possible to Respond due to JT65 QSO Structure.
- Likely STILL looking for SC!
- Proper form is **CQ W6AER SC** instead of **CQ W6AER CM87** if SC hunting...CQ DX (Call) or CQ (Call) DX is also ok.

PART 3: The world of PSK



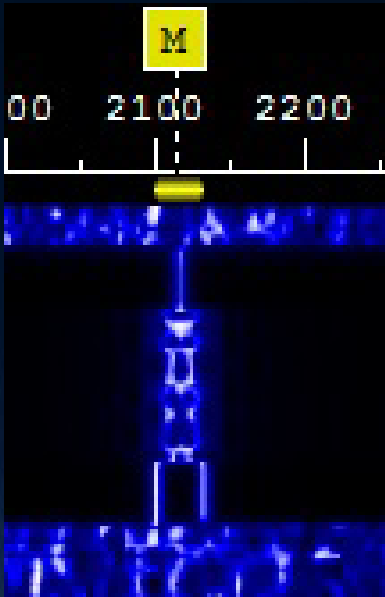
Comparing the Phase-Shift Keying (PSK) Modes

- Easy to use
- Low power – No AMP!
- As conditions improve, speed used tends to go up.
- QPSK - Quadrature phase shift, slower, more accurate but rarely used sadly! (Ex. QPSK₃₁)
- Recommend Macros, especially with faster speeds! PSK₁₂₅ is faster than I can read.
- The “F” After mode is forward error correction (Ex. PSK₃₁F)

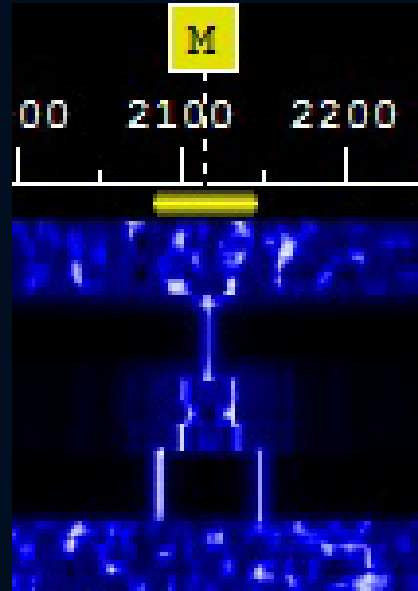
Mode	Data Rate	Conditions for use	Bandwidth
PSK ₃₁	Typing Speed	Average	31hz
PSK ₆₃	Fast	Good	63hz
PSK ₁₂₅	Yikes!	Great	125hz

As Seen on the Waterfall:

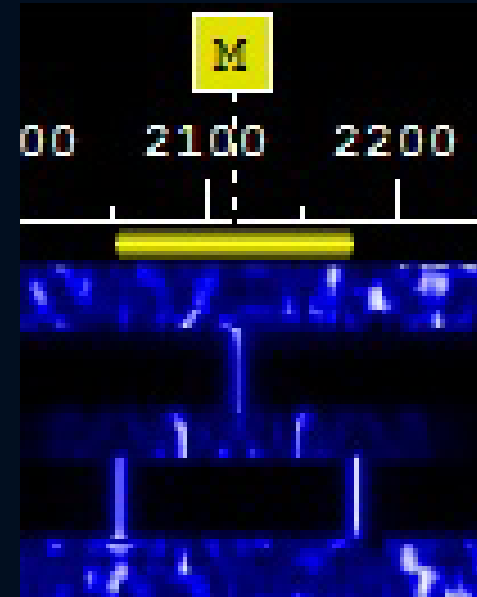
PSK 31



PSK 63



PSK 125



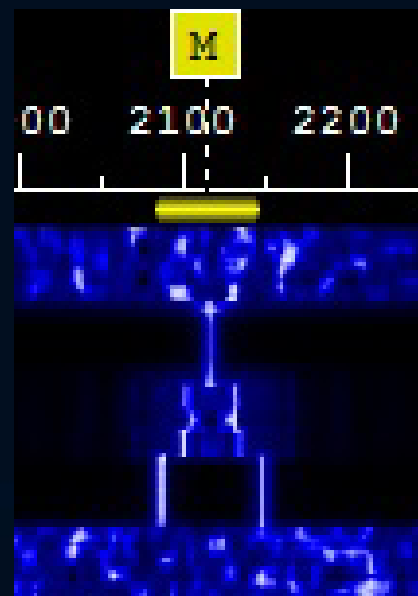
- As speed goes up, so does bandwidth, Only “mid portion” is data!
- When bandwidth goes up, can be harder to decoded. Errors tend to go up unless conditions are good.

....And now, what they sound like:

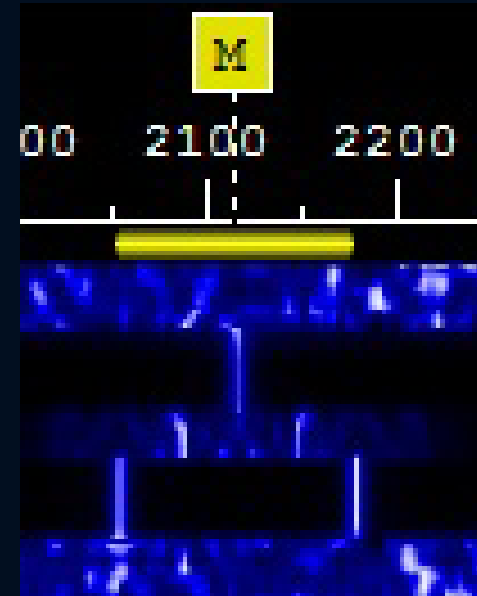
PSK 31



PSK 63



PSK 125





The screenshot displays the Digital Master 780 software interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, QSO, Browser, Logbook, SSTV, DataController, SuperSweeper, World Map, Tools, Window, and Help. The main window is titled "BPSK-31" and shows a QSO log entry for "KE9CK" with details such as Name: Robert L Robinson, QTH: Lafayette, IN, and Frequency: 14.070.000. The "QSO Window" displays a conversation between KE9CK and W6AER, with a red arrow pointing to the "CONTROLS" section. The "Responses" section shows the text of the QSO. The "Waterfall" display at the bottom shows a signal at 14.070 MHz, with a red arrow pointing to the "Waterfall (Showing Transmit here)" section. The status bar at the bottom indicates CPU: 0%, Audio: 2%, and a system tray with various icons.

Typical PSK QSO Start: (I responded to CQ)

```
17:20:44> Main
KE9CK KE9CK de W6AER W6AER pse kn
K6AER de KE9CK <- Note the Errors, NO Error Correction!
Hi OM
Report : 599 599
Name : Bob Bob
QTH : Lafayette, Indiana loc : EN6ØNI [73.2° 1,909.0mi] Tippecanoe County.
How copy? BTU OM, W6AER deE9CK kn
17:21:39> Main
KE9CK de W6AER

Hello Bob, name here is Lucas Lucas
RST is 599 599 (QTH) Pacifica Pacifica
6mi (1Økm) South of San Francisco, (LOC) CM87sp CM87sp
Web: www.w6aer.com

BTU Bob, KE9CK de W6AER pse kn
```

REPORT

GRID

REPORT

GRID

I REPEAT REPEAT to reduce errors

Typical PSK QSO End:

```
BPSK-31 | [Icons] | [Slider]

My setup summary:
  Yaesu FTDX-3000, 25 Watts, using Timewave Navigator & HRD v.6.2 + DM780
  Antenna : Hexbeam & Butternut HF9V

QSL is OK via LOTW, eQSL (AG), ClubLog, HRDlog, Bureau or Direct Mail / Actual Card
NO SASE / NO STAMP needed, I always respond 100%

BTU KE9CK de W6AER kn
W6AER de KE9CK, 73 Lucas copy 100% and thanks for PSK31 QSL1228 on 20m.
Good DX. Best wishes from Lafayette, Indiana. QSL ok via e-QSL.cc (AG).
QSO Logged 1/26/2017 UTC: 17:25:36 W6AER de KE9CK Bye Bye sk
17:25:49> Main
KE9CK de W6AER

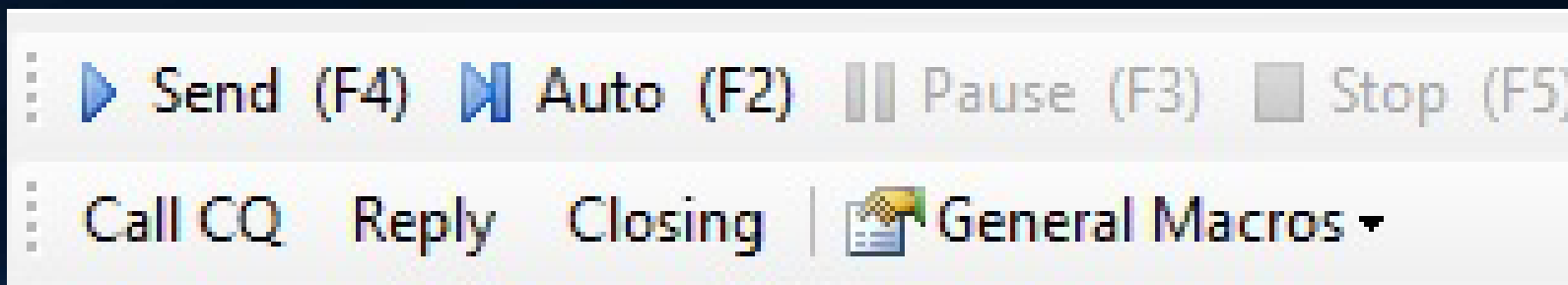
73 Bob & thank you for this BPSK-31 QSO 1249 on 20m, good DX & Health to you!
KE9CK de W6AER sk sk
```

KN = Go ahead to specific station

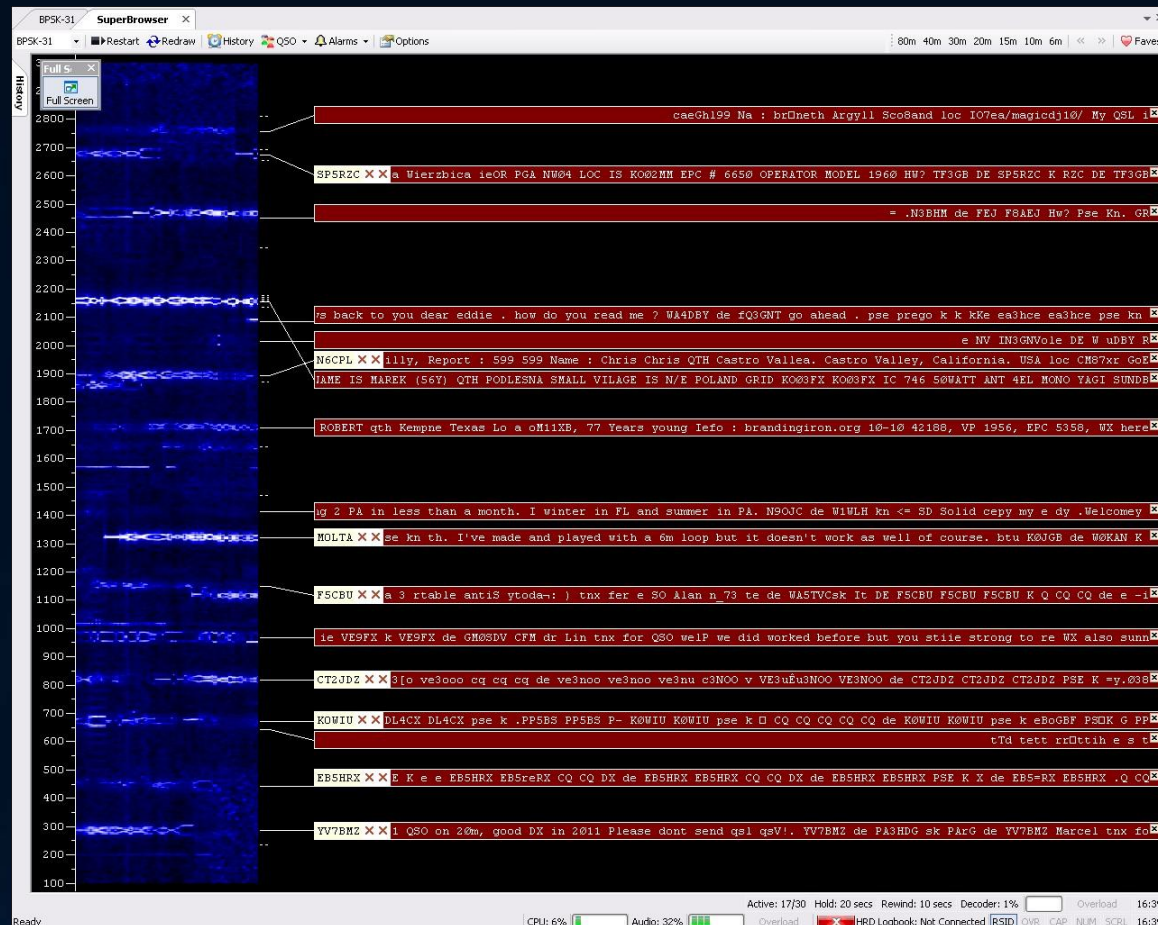
SK = End of Contact (Silent Key)

Controls to know:

- Exchange is much like JT65/9 but FASTER and you CAN ragchew. Drawback, does not decode as well but does decode better than RTTY and in some cases yes it even beats CW!
- Call CQ, Reply, Closing can all have multiple “Macros” (Pre Written text...I do not like to type too much)! Handy if running your system remote from a tablet, etc.



Use "SuperBrowser" to view all QSOs Live



The Lingo

- K = Over / KN = Turn Over to a specific station
- SK = End of QSO (Silent Key)
- BTU = Back to You
- TU = Thanks, sometimes TNX
- PSE = Please, can be used with PSE K or KN
- OM = Old Man / YL = Young Lady / XYL – Wife (Used instead of names at times)
- FB = Fine Business (in other words, good or all received)
- GM = Good Morning / GA = Good Afternoon / CUL = See You Later
- Arigato/Sayonara (Japanese), Gracias/Adios (Spanish) = Thank you/Good Bye
- 73 = Best Regards / 88 = Love and Kisses



Frequencies and tips for PSK Modes

- 160 m – 1.838 MHz
- 80 m – 3.580 MHz
- 40 m – 7.040 MHz
- 30 m – 10.142 MHz
- 20 m – 14.070 MHz
- 17 m – 18.100 MHz
- 15 m – 21.070 MHz
- 12 m – 24.920 MHz
- 10 m – 28.120 MHz
- 6 m – 50.290 Mhz



ALWAYS use USB (Upper Side Band) even below 10Mhz Unlike you would on Phone. Also True for JT65/9 and most HF digital modes.

You will find 20m to be the most active on average

10/12m are hopping when sun spots are good!

40m is good at night but traffic varies

Many Software packages have these preset

Do not type EVERYTHING IN CAPS, Slower on PSK!

Check out pskreporter.info to see where you are heard

Tips for DX and getting these modes to perform even better!



HARDWARE END:

- Use your roofing filters! If you have a 300hz, center the waterfall on it. I worked stations that I could not decode otherwise!
- Narrow the bandwidth to just what you want to work! No need to see 2.4-2.8Khz at the time IF something weak catches your eyes.

SOFTWARE END:

- On WSJT-X set decode to DEEP (There are 3 settings)
- Also you can have it do multi-pass. 2-3 is great but will use more CPU so don't go to crazy
- Call SPLIT if needed on PSK or JT modes, yes like in Phone/CW... WORKS on DX!

Things I learned and for you to remember:

Turn off Radio DSP
used for CW/Voice

Turn off ALL
compression

Keep your eye on the
ALC, Don't overdrive!
Stay below blue line.

AGC OFF or FAST



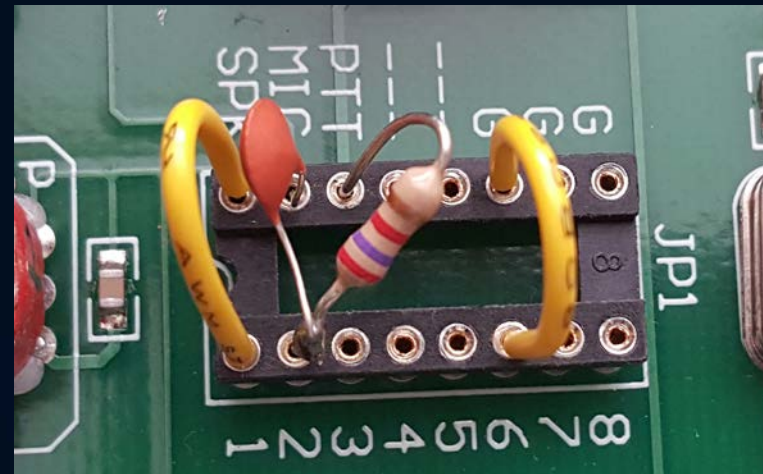
Additional Hardware **T**ips :

USE FERRITES TO CUT NOISE
TYPE #31 IS USUALLY
RECOMMENDED FOR HAMS



You can make your OWN cables using Cat5 Ethernet cables

SOME RADIOS NEED SPECIAL
"JUMPERS" OR CABLES. THIS I
HAD TO DO FOR THE FT-847 ON
THE SIGNALINK



Speaker and Ground and straight through, In needs a capacitor, resistor stops false trigger

The Law and Digital Modes



ACCORDING TO THE FCC:

- Modes must have technical characteristics which are documented publicly for the purpose of facilitating communications. (97.309 (a)(4))
- Below 28 Mhz can not exceed 1 kHz in width. (97.305 notes 3 and 4)
- Station ID may be done in the mode or with CW. (97.119 (b)(3))
- Can not be encrypted to hide meaning

WHICH IS WHY:

- Has to be well documented. New modes are introduced regularly!
- SSTV is technically a voice mode and is close to 3khz, Hellschreiber similarly so.
- There is no FM below 28Mhz – Too wide!
- CW id can be set on WSJT-X and recommended, required at the end of QSO
- There are in fact ways to encrypt both data and voice.

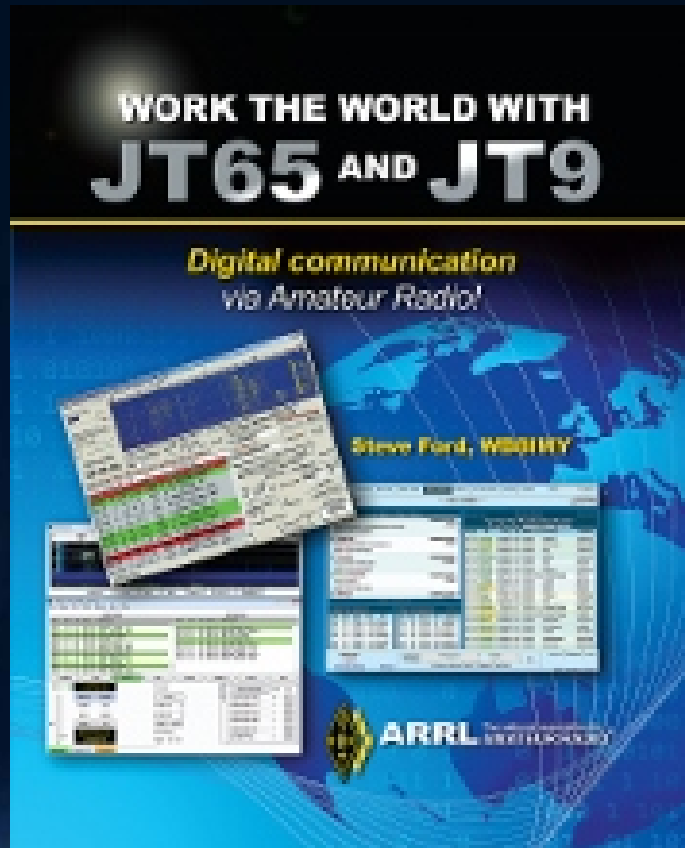
Please never do this: It's ILLEGAL!

Where to Obtain the Software:

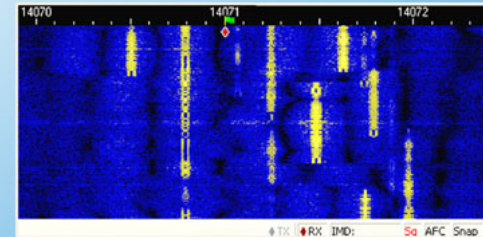
- WSJT-X: <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjtx.html>
- JT-Alert: <http://hamapps.com>
- Fldigi: <http://www.w1hkj.com>
- Ham Radio Deluxe: <http://www.hrdsoftwarellc.com>



Additional Recommend Reading on these two digital modes covered



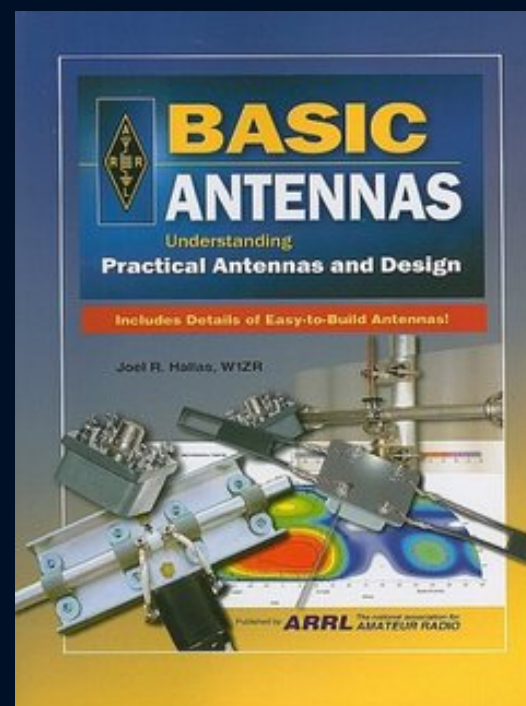
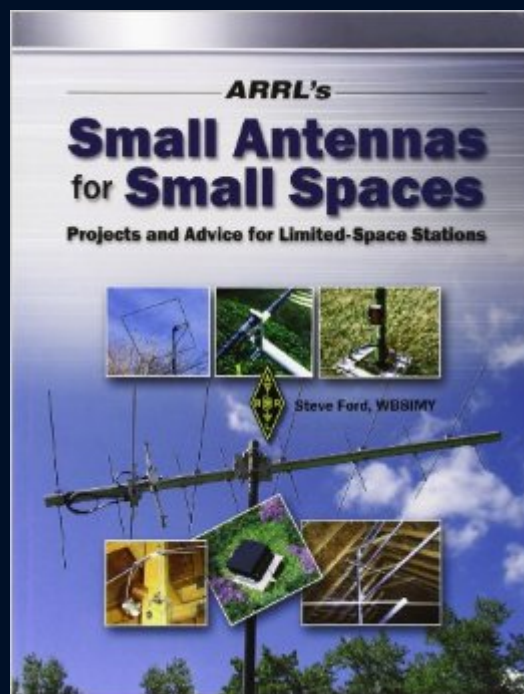
Nifty E-Z Guide to PSK31 Operation



PSK31 Digital Operating Modes
PC to Transceiver Interfacing
Practical Issues of Operation
DigiPan Software Operation
Sound Card Configuration
Homebrew and Commercial Interfaces

Bernie Lafreniere, N6FN

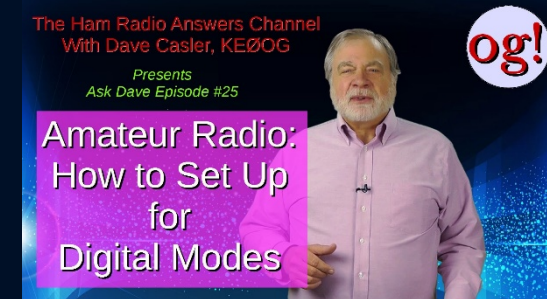
And even more to get you going even if you have limited space



Recommend Video Viewing:

Dave, KEoOG has a great Intro do Digital Setup as well as other resources on his website, Including PSK31 Demo

<http://dcasler.com>



Randy, K7AGE has great video tutorials on PSK31 and SSTV he also presents at Pacificon and SeaPac if you get a chance to catch him

<https://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE/videos>



Alternatively another PSK31 Tutorial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbmXFzmXFoo>

Additional Recommend Video Viewing:

If you rather attempt fldigi check out these:

<https://coastalhamradio.wordpress.com/2017/02/26/wondering-how-fldigi-works/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/K4REF/videos>



Additional Info on the Web:

- WB8NUT has a very detailed website: <http://wb8nut.com/digital>
- The ARRL Overview: <http://www.arrl.org/digital-data-modes>



Any Questions for me?



My Question for you: What would you like to see next?