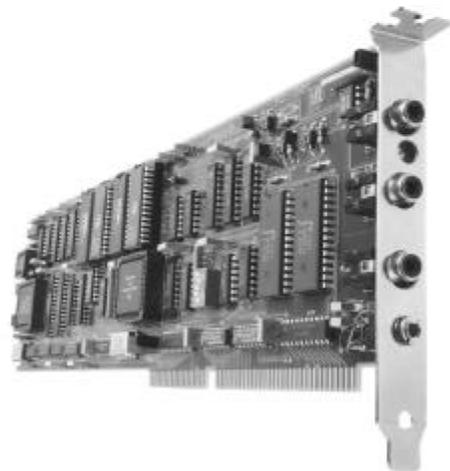# Syria DXpedition — YK9A

The YK9A DXpedition group, from left to right. Front row: Al Rovner, K7AR; Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; Vicky Luetzelschwab, AE9YL; Bob Eshleman, W4DR. Back row: Rosie Eshleman, N4CFL; Lee Sawkins, VE7CC; Fadel, YK1AH; Dick Moen, N7RO; Omar Shabsigh, YK1AO; Melissa Ireland, VA7MI; Jim Wise, W4PRO.

RTTY Contest Schedule — Spring/Summer 2001

Date & Time	Contest	Date & Time	Contest	Contest Information Online
04/21 0000 to	TARA PSK31	05/26 0000 to	Anatolian	ARRL: http://www.arrl.org
04/21 2400	Rumble	05/27 0000	RTTY	Jim's Gazette: http://www.n2hos.com/digital
				LA9HW Contest Calendar: http://home.online.no/~janalme/hammain.html
04/22 1200 to	SP DX RTTY	6/9 0000 to	ANARTS	SM3CER Contest Service: http://www.sk3bg.se/contest
04/23 1200		6/10 2400		The New RTTY Journal: http://www.rttyjournal.com/contests
05/05 2000 to	ARI DX RTTY	6/23 1800 to	ARRL	
05/06 2000		6/24 2100	Field Day	OR — The New RTTY Journal will airmail a printed copy to you. For *each contest,* send $3.00 for U.S., Canada, or Mexico destinations or $4.00 to
	Dates and times subject to change.			other countries. Please allow three weeks for processing and delivery.

Expiration Date: Your address label shows the date of your last subscription issue. Please contact us if this does not agree with your calculations.

The New RTTY Journal is a continuation of the magazine formerly known as RTTY, RTTY Journal, RTTY Digital Journal, Digital RTTY Journal, and Digital Journal.

Hits & Misses

Bill Henry, K9GWT
k9gwt@rttyjournal.com

Hello Spring! Seems like it has been a very long winter. In fact, winter this year was pretty much the same length as last year, give or take a leap second or whatever. We all get cabin fever along about March. It's time to get outside and check the wires and cables and probably string a few new ones. It's also time to review our safety practices. Every year, we injure or lose a few fellow hams to careless acts committed in the enthusiasm of the minute. It's oh so easy to get in a hurry and make a quick run up the tower to hang a test antenna or check a connector — without belt, tools — or brains. Here's a few guidelines I try to follow:

1. Turn ALL the gear in the shack OFF when you are on the tower, especially transmitters! Disconnect the coax cables and unplug the rotator box!
2. Work with a buddy. Do NOT climb if you are the only one around.
3. Talk over with your ground crew what you will be doing and when. Make sure they know which tools and parts you will need, and in what sequence.
4. Use an approved climbing belt and make sure it passes inspection.
5. Take the trouble to string a pulley rope and let the ground crew send stuff up to you. DO NOT try to haul everything up as you climb the tower.
6. Everybody should wear a hard hat, particularly the ground crew! Do NOT let a ground crew member stand directly under the climber.
6a. Hal Blegen, K7IRA, corollary: Don't drink a lot of coffee before you climb (or don't be on the ground crew if your climber has)!
7. Look for power lines. If your mast or antenna could swing into power lines, DON'T PUT IT THERE!
8. Climb concerned — maybe a little scared. Pay attention to where you put each foot and hand as you climb and work.
9. When you are climbing down and are only ten feet off the ground, do NOT "push-off" and slide down. Fingers get removed that way.

10. If you fall off, it isn't the fall that gets you, it's the sudden stop at the end. Moral — don't fall — but if you do, land on something soft.

I must recommend that anyone doing tower work read the excellent article by Hal Blegen, K7IRA, on page eight of the December 1989 RTTY Journal. It's available on CD-ROM now (Archive Disc Five) and maybe we'll have space to reprint it later this year.

This issue starts a new series by our newly appointed "Associate Editor", Dale Sinner. Dale is doing a series of biographic sketches of some of the "movers and shakers" on RTTY. Dale is, of course, an old hand at the RTTY Journal, having been editor, publisher, and bottle washer for ten years. I think you will enjoy reading about these pioneers of RTTY. We also have a great report about the recent YK9A DXpedition in Syria by Al Rovner, K7AR. Jim Mortensen, N2HOS, also an editor emeritus of this Journal, shares his enthusiasm and exuberance about PSK-31. He says it's "sticky". Maybe the peanut butter is too close to the keyboard? AND — of course — this is the issue just before Dayton. Dale and I have some things to say about that. DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED — GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN NOW!

Next issue we'll have a lot of mug shots from the "big noise" at Dayton. See you there.

— 73
de Bill, K9GWT

...HEY HAL, SEND THE VICEGRIPS UP AGAIN...

BY HAL BLEGEN, K7IRA (FORMERLY WA7EGA). REPRINTED FROM THE MARCH 1988 RTTY JOURNAL.

YK9A DXpedition

Al Rovner, K7AR
k7ar@arrl.net

I had the opportunity to participate as an operator for the YK0A expedition back in November, 1994. Although we had almost 15,000 QSOs, I was somewhat disappointed in the lack of North American and Asian contacts. There were many folks who needed YK for an all-time new country that never made it in the log.

I thought it would be great to return to Syria and activate another expedition during times where the sunspot activity was more conducive to contacting the above areas. After negotiating with our host Omar, YK1AO, I decided to be the team leader for a new expedition that would visit Syria in February, 2001. I chose this time to better exploit low band propagation conditions to our target areas. The challenge was to get a sufficient number of talented operators to make such a trip worthwhile. We eventually arrived at a team of these nine operators: Al, K7AR; Dick, N7RO; Lee, VE7CC; Melissa, VA7MI; Carl, K9LA; Vicky, AE9YL; Jim, W4PRO; Bob, W4DR and Rosie, N4CFL.

I was pleased to have several YLs as operators and an emphasis on more rare bands and modes. The group had plans to make a serious effort on the WARC bands, low bands, six meters and RTTY. There is virtually no RTTY activity from Syria so this would certainly be a welcome mode for RTTY ops.

We would use a network of five laptop PCs running WriteLog to do the logging chores, so I wanted a RTTY box that would be compatible with WriteLog. The nice folks at HAL Communications loaned us two DXP38s for our use. (Turned out we only brought one unit due to space constraints). After making up test cabling at my home QTH and working a few guys to verify proper operation, I packed everything up in the HAL box and got it ready for shipment.

We arrived right on schedule on Friday evening, February 2nd and were met by a crew of folks, including Omar, YK1AO, Marwan, YK1AU and the Customs Official who knew we were arriving at this time. After a very brief check of our equipment, all of us drove off to the operating location where we dropped off all our equipment and headed to the hotel for a well deserved night of rest. The hotel was only a mile or so from the operating site, so we walked back and forth regularly. Even in the middle of the night, Damascus is one of the safest cities I have ever been in; no trouble of any kind.

I was treated to breakfast in bed by the hotel staff on Saturday morning, February 3rd. We then went to the operating location to start assembling the many and various antennas for the expedition. We had two crews at work, one putting up antennas, running coax and rotor cable, and the other crew assembling the four stations in the shack. Each station consisted of an Icom IC-756 Pro rig, laptop computer for logging, and some stations had an Ameritron AL-811H amplifier. One lucky station had the HAL DXP38 TNC hooked up.

We also had an assortment of Dunestar band-pass filters to minimize inter-station interference problems.

Later Saturday afternoon we completed the assembly of all the antennas and stations and were ready to get on the air. Not bad for six or seven hours of effort to get four stations up and running. But we found at that point in time that we would be unable to get on the air due to the lack of a government monitoring person, who was to be with us at all times during the expedition. We were not able to officially start the expedition until Sunday, February 4th about 1000Z.

The first contact of the expedition was DJ9GS on 20m RTTY with myself as the op. I thought it would be a nice touch to kick things off in RTTY mode. And, as I expected, RTTY was quite popular and it didn't take long for me to be spotted on the European packet clusters and we were off! YK9A was on the air and now everyone would be looking for us. In an effort to give the most folks the chance to work a new one on RTTY, I limited my RTTY operation to only 20m for the first few days. I then started up on 15m RTTY. Those were the only two bands we operated RTTY on. I was planning on going to 10m but seems like there was always activity there, especially from the YL ops.

Starting up on 15m RTTY gave us a good chance to work North America. I had many

The Syrian Telecommunications Establishment in Damascus, Syria was the operating site for YK9A. *(Editor's Note: The antennas have been traced over to enhance visibility.)*

contacts with east coast stations. Gradually the W9s and W0s started finding their way into the RTTY logs also. We worked WA6KBL for the first west coast RTTY contact. Overall, the number of west coast RTTY contacts was quite small. On the next to the last day of the expedition, instead of working 20m SSB as I did every morning around our local sunrise, I went to 20m RTTY and worked a whole bunch of happy W6s and W7s. It's hard to balance things when everybody wants you to be on their favorite band and mode when it's open to their area and you're the only one in the shack who knows how to use the RTTY gear.

At first, the European RTTY ops were a little difficult to deal with when I had limited propagation to North America and all I copied was "work Europe" over and over again. It's hard to copy an S5 signal from NA when the Euros are 599+20. Eventually it all worked out OK. I tended to work Euros and Japan during the day when there was no propagation to NA, then work NA in the evening hours.

Overall, the total number of RTTY QSOs was smaller than I expected, only 876. I was hoping to break 1000 QSOs but it never quite happened. Nonetheless, there are 876 happy folks, no doubt, especially if their QSO was

for an all-time new country for them. The RTTY gear from HAL worked flawlessly with no issues of any kind, and worked very well with WriteLog. A good overall combination, I'd say.

Many thanks go to a lot of groups and individuals for allowing YK9A to get on the air, but I especially want to thank Icom America, INDEXA, and the Northern Cal DX Foundation for their wonderful support. And, of course, the RTTY operation would not have been possible without the support of HAL Communications.

Also, many thanks to Dr. Omar Shabsigh, YK1AO for his efforts in procuring us a license, an operating location, and working with the customs officials to clear our equipment.

Please QSL YK9A via K9LA either direct or via the W9 bureau.

The shack at YK9A. Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, is in the white shirt; Dick Moen, N7RO, is to his right.

The YK9A DXpedition group, from left to right. Front row: Al Rovner, K7AR; Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; Vicky Luetzelschwab, AE9YL; Bob Eshleman, W4DR. Back row: Rosie Eshleman, N4CFL; Lee Sawkins, VE7CC; Fadel, YK1AH; Dick Moen, N7RO; Omar Shabsigh, YK1AO; Melissa Ireland, VA7MI; Jim Wise, W4PRO.

The Biography of a RTTY Operator

Dale Sinner, W6IWO,
Associate Editor
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I have often times wondered what a person or his or her station looked like. Well, now I'm going to do something about it. In this issue I am starting what I call "The Biography of a RTTY Operator." I have asked a number of RTTY hams to send me their personal biography and a picture to share with us all. I have had fantastic support and herein are the results of the first group selected. There will be more in upcoming issues and I hope you will enjoy this type of coverage.

I would ask anyone who would like to share their biography with us to contact me by e-mail. I will send you the format to follow. I will also be asking many of you for your biography. Please let me hear from you and let's make this a regular column in the Journal. I want to thank these first few who stepped forward to share their biographies with us. There are lots and lots of RTTYers out there, and I would like to hear from you.

This month we will feature the biographies of Jules Freundlich, W2JGR; Don Hill, AA5AU; and Bob Boyd, NT1V.

On the subject of Dayton, we still have rooms available. Please see the RTTY Journal website (www.rttyjournal.com) for all of the details. See you all in Dayton.

— 73, Dale Sinner, W6IWO

Biography   W2JGR

Jules Freundlich

What follows is a collection of snapshots, of one person's sixty-six years of ham radio experience gleaned from twenty-two paper log books, two large loose leaf books, eleven shoe boxes of QSL cards, and a still mostly intact memory.

How did I become interested in ham radio? I recall it clearly. I had read in the New York Times about a ham in Alaska who was able to have a calculus problem solved for him, via radio, by a ham in Texas. That struck a chord. I somehow sought out the ARRL and received a booklet entitled "How to Become a Radio Amateur." On October 7, 1935 I took an examination, which included a code test at 10 wpm, at the Radio Inspector's (RI) office at 641 Washington St. in New York.

I received my two sided, wallet-size radio license dated 12-31-35, signed by J.B. Beadle, assigning me W2JGR with Class B operating privileges. To this day I have that original license in my possession. Following World War II, I upgraded to Class A, which included taking a code test at 13 wpm. Class A was ultimately grandfathered to Advanced Class. In April of 2000 I upgraded to Extra Class.

First QSOs

My first logbook was a collection of stapled pages produced by a mimeograph machine using a layout of my own design. The first entry is dated March 23, 1936, although my first QSO of record was on March 30, 1936 with a local station on 80 meter CW. I had to call on my "doublet" antenna, with a rig that I do not recall, for a whole week before I made a contact. Each call was dutifully logged even though no contact had resulted. With visions of a visit by the RI in my head, I continued this practice for many years. The first DX contact (my 114th QSO) from W2JGR was not logged until 1:40 AM local time on December 13, 1936, and was with VK4HR on 20 meter CW. An hour later VK3GP gave me RST 569. I still have his QSL card, but none from VK4HR. Soon after, I worked a local down the street. He said he worked me on 40 meters. I was transmitting 20 meters! We visited and became good friends. Unfortunately I can find no record of what my rig was those first months, but in late December 1936, I made a marginal note that I was now using a Type 57 tube as an electron-coupled oscillator, a 46 buffer, and a 210 final. I do recall I had built this rig on a true 'breadboard', and that I was using a wire dipole. 20 meter CW DX kept being worked sporadically and all DX contacts were highlighted with red pencil. Logbook one went until February 8, 1937. It appears that of all the calls that were made, only about ten percent resulted in QSOs. Many pages have a marginal notation of "PHOOEY." That poor old log book is now faded and crumbling around the edges. My first QSL cards carried the banner across the top: "W2JGR IS OPERATED FOR WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIPS." Over the

years, that statement evoked many pleasant responses on reply cards.

Progress and War

Logbook two shows that in June 1938 I was using a 6L6G Tri-tet oscillator operating off 110V DC mains with about two watts output. AC power by Con Edison had not yet made it to the west side of Manhattan. It was not until February 1939 that I noted completion of a new rig consisting of a 6L6G ECO., with two 6L6Gs as a final amplifier with 500-600 volts, feeding a Zepp antenna cut for 80 meters. I now had a noisy motor-generator located in the 'john' adjacent to my shack that converted the city DC mains to AC. It started up every time I turned on the transmitter. If a visitor was sitting on the 'john' at the time I transmitted, he would get a small surprise as the motor-generator started up. A note in my log margin says "September 1, 1939. War starts in Europe. VK's, ZL's, G's, F's, D's are off the air." My last pre-war QSO was on January 28, 1940. I was then employed as a civil servant Naval Architect on the conversion design of merchant ships to army transports, and had no time for ham radio.

Getting Started Again — Post-WWII

The end of the war with Japan, V-J day, was August 14th, 1946. August 31 found me back on the air using a 6V6 crystal oscillator, with 6L6 final and a power input of 15-20 watts. An entry dated a few months later noted I was using my first post-war newly constructed rig using a 6L6 Tri-tet Oscillator, 807 doubler with an 813 final running 1500 volts on the plate. The city mains were now AC. My transmitter was designed by Noah, W2HEE, and built by myself. The receiver was war surplus equivalent Hammarlund Super-Pro.

The transmitter had a few problems. I had a nice apartment QTH overlooking the Hudson River with a wire dipole on the roof. On October 26, I received a polite phone call from the New York City Police Department telling me that I was interfering with their 33 Mhz receiver located on top of the George Washington Bridge tower, which was about thirteen blocks away. In a few weeks the rig was cleaned up, and I started operating again. It was not until November 8, 1956 that I had my first phone contact. From then on it was mostly phone, and occasionally CW, until the RTTY bug hit me in the early '80s.

Several of the most pleasant QSOs I ever had were with "Jim", W2SMA, in late 1946 and early 1947. He was located at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, fifty miles up the Hudson River from me. He was a young Lt-Col teaching electricity at the academy. Our 20 meter QSOs were so solid that I figure the Hudson River acted as a 20 meter waveguide for us. We were both new parents at the time. 23 years later, in 1969, I read in Electronic News that Brig. Gen. Irving R. Obenchain Jr. had been appointed commanding general of the Safeguard Communications Agency, Army Strategic Communications Command. That was Jim.

New Thrills

On a Saturday evening, December 14, 1946, I had one of those thrills that only come a few times in a ham's lifetime. At 8:07 PM local time, I called Yuruey Phi, C8YR, in Laochunmiao (Petroleum City) in Kansu province, China, on 20 meter phone. I had been in the process of checking the band edge with my BC-221 frequency meter when I heard him call CQ. That QSO lasted one hour and three minutes, with signals at both ends peaking S7-8. I was running 345 watts to the dipole on the roof. He was running 220 watts. I received his photograph and QSL card not too long afterwards via the ARRL QSO bureau. That QSL card was valid for my first DXCC submission thirty years later.

The post-war years provided many contacts with hams in the military, stationed overseas. Although I never did phone patch work, I did relay messages, and on occasion had a family member come into the shack to speak directly to loved ones overseas. The DX counters kept coming. In the late evening of August 25, 1949, I had a one and a half hour phone QSO with Len Collett, W0DEA, in Joplin, MO, on 20 meter phone. In 1950 we moved from our apartment in upper Manhattan to an eight room house in Malverne, Long Island to accommodate a growing family.

My next radio activity would not come again until September 25, 1954. With three youngsters growing up, and in the middle of a developing engineering career, ham radio had to wait a bit.

Revitalization and Hiatus

January 1954 QST carried a great construction article of a multiband 300 watt CW/AM transmitter using a tube lineup of 5763-6C4-5763-5763-6146-813. I built the transmitter from scratch, including all the metal work except for the front panel, which was machined and engraved as a 'government job'. I also built the high powered phone modulator with a tube complement of 6J5-6J5-6L6-two 811As. I still kept logging unanswered calls, although the percentage of 'hits' approached 100 percent at times. Phone was the mode of choice. On December 29, 1954, I replaced my wire dipole with a sixteen foot

vertical with four radials mounted on my garage roof.

In early 1955 it appears I tired of domestic rag chewing and the log started filling up with DX calls. By early 1956 I no longer logged unanswered calls. I alternated CW and phone. On April 8, 1956, Terrell, G8BD visited my shack. On October 5, 1957 at 8:10 PM, I logged the Russian satellite, Sputnik, on 20.005 Mhz. I then copied it on successive orbits and sent a QSL card to which I received a response. My activity between early 1957 and late 1974 consisted only of a few QSOs a year. Family obligations and a maturing engineering career took priority.

SSB Arrives For Me

In December 1974, having almost lost interest in the hobby, I purchased a Yaesu FT-101B SSB transceiver at the suggestion of Greg Stephenson, W2OBO/W1DGC, and was back on the air with a vengeance. The old military surplus Hammarlund Super-Pro receiver and the 813 transmitter languished in the basement for years before being sold and scrapped respectively. I was still using my vertical.

The Belgian Raft

With my new modern rig sitting on a card table on the second floor of my home, I made it a habit to monitor 20 meters every day before going to work. Early on December 27, 1974, I picked up a male voice of heavily accented English signing ON4AXA/MM. He identified himself as The Belgian Raft called "The Last Generation". This was Alfonso Oerlemans, who, with a countryman Raoul de Boel, and a Moroccan fisherman Hassan Cribatou, were crossing the Atlantic Ocean from Safi, Morocco to Trinidad in the West Indies. His home base contact was ON5KL, and his QSL manager Pam, ON4QP, with whom they checked in frequently. Every morning, as I monitored, I taped their contacts. Finally, on January 8, 1975, I made a contact with them. They were at 9 37 N, 55 W. They had left Morocco on October 26th and landed on Trinidad on January 16, 1975, after traveling 3500 miles for eighty-two days. The raft was described as being 5x8 meters and equipped with sails which were said to be used if equatorial current was not to their liking. I called a popular columnist at the local Long Island paper and told him what was happening. To my surprise, he came out with a column entitled "Maritime Mystery". It started like this:

"Who is this brave and mysterious sailor named Franz? What is he doing out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? What is the nature of his medical experiments? What is he observing? And for whom? They are tantalizing questions for Jules Freundlich of Malverne, himself and explorer of distant places, though by radio beam, not raft..."

The article continued, and he pretty accurately reported what I had told him. Toward the end, he said:

"Now that is an intriguing tale. But Franz's mission seems to be a particularly well kept secret. Crossing the Atlantic on a 16x25 foot raft is an undertaking of high drama, yet the Coast Guard, which knows pretty much everything happening at sea, never heard of Franz or his raft. Franz identified himself as a Belgian, yet a series of inquiries at the Belgian Consulate in Manhattan yesterday afternoon produced no one who knew anything about Franz..."

Well, the arrival of the raft at Trinidad was duly reported by the Associated Press, and my columnist friend sent me a copy of the AP wire story and a great accompanying 8x10 glossy photo of the raft and its occupants as it arrived at its planned destination. In due time I received a QSL card from his manager. It contains a picture of the raft and a map showing the route taken.

Epilogue to The Belgian Raft

About four and a half years later, in July 1979, I received a handwritten letter from Fons. He was in Canada with his wife, visiting North America. He mentioned he had made over 700 QSOs during the trip. I quote the next sentence verbatim.

"In October 1979 we'll make a new and more remarkable expedition. It's our intention to cross the Atlantic in a steam boiler. It's an underwater excursion module."

However, the main purpose of the letter was to advise me that he would be visiting New York City and wanted some help in receiving information about the city. He gave no return address in Ontario, but promised to call me when he arrived. I never heard from him, or of him, again.

The Roaring Seventies

The '70s saw a dramatic change in my ham life. In 1975, after 40 years of using verticals and dipoles, I erected a 40 foot E-Z Way two section, crank-up, tilt-over tower, and attached a Hy-Gain TH3Mk3 beam on top. I could not get over the difference in performance over a dipole! Someplace along the line, I purchased a real husky amplifier, the Henry K-2000. This was my first taste of real power. The logbooks filled up fast, and are crammed with DX entries. I entered SSB fone contests, and received my first DXCC certificates (Mixed and Phone) in April 1976.

In mid-1976, the Department of Commerce, under budget pressure from Congress, announced it was terminating the 18-minute-after-the-hour WWV propagation reports. Many amateurs, including myself, wrote letters urging that this order be rescinded, citing the many worldwide users of this valuable information. I do not know how many letters were received, but the order to terminate was cancelled. Grass roots voices do make a difference.

In August 1979, I received WAZ #251 for 20 meter Single Band Phone. This same award for 20 meter Single Band RTTY had to wait another decade.

Ham Hospitality

In late 1974, I wrote to the SRAL, the Finnish Amateur Radio League, that I would be visiting Finland to see my new first grandson (in later years he would become OH2LKI). I said that I was interested in operating /OH2, but preferred to rent equipment, if possible. I received an answer from a twenty-something ham named Martti Laine, OH2BH. Martti told me it was unnecessary to rent equipment if I wished to operate. Upon my arrival the following summer, Martti gave me the shack keys for unlimited access to the Nokia club station, OH2AW. This was my first experience operating as DX and it was like a dream station. The transceiver consisted of the Drake Twins and a home brew amplifier feeding a tribander on a sixty-six meter (210 feet) tower. The station was located on a rural peninsula jutting into the Gulf of Finland with water on three sides; a perfect radio location. On my trip to Finland in 1996, I learned, much to my sadness, that the station is no longer in existence. The 1975 trip, however, taught me the true nature of ham hospitality. I met many wonderful Finnish hams who remain my friends to this day. I fondly remember spending a day at the home of the legendary Armas Valste, OH2NB. My second trip to Finland in 1977 gave me the opportunity to participate in the SRAL Summer Camp, a nationwide field day-type gathering held every year. That experience was docu-

mented in the January 1979 CQ Magazine in my article entitled "Report from Finland". Since that time, I have been to Finland many times, always enjoying the hospitality of the OH guys. My last trip report was published in the Digital Journal of May 1996. Oddly enough, it was titled "Report from Finland"!

More Ham Hospitality

In 1947, soon after the war, I had worked Les, G8NY, for the first time. His QSL card hung on my wall for the next thirty years. Sometime in 1975, I again ran across him on 20 meters. I astounded him when I called him by name. Subsequently, we kept weekly schedules which continued for several years. In 1977 Les and his XYL visited the states for a three month tour of the U.S.A. All during their trip, they never had a hotel bill, as hams all over the country welcomed them as guests. My XYL and I hosted them on arrival over Memorial Day weekend, and on their Labor Day departure weekend. Upon Les' return home, we continued our weekly schedules. My logbook contains their written notes of appreciation. Pretty hard to have such a personalized notation these days in a computerized log!

During a business trip to Egypt in 1980, I had a nice chat on 15 meters with Ken, VS6IC. When I told him my QTH, he said he was K2MTC, and had lived only a few blocks from my home in Malverne! You have read of such coincidences many times, I am sure.

The Eighties

November 27, 1983 was a day to be noted, because I had my first RTTY QSO. It was with my good friend Art, K2ENT. I used a TI-99/4A computer with a Kantronics Hamsoft plug-in module and an AEA CP-1. By April 1985 I had RTTY DXCC Certificate No. 101 on the wall. By October 1989 I had WAZ No. 26 for 20 meter Single Band RTTY.

RTTY became an all consuming passion with me. My logbooks during this decade, and now, show about 96 percent RTTY operation, 3 percent SSB, and 1 percent CW. CW is generally reserved for working new new countries. SSB contacts are generally for schedules with old friends. In 1986 I replaced my K-2000 amplifier with a Kenwood TL-922, which I kept until I moved to Minneapolis in 1991, where it was subsequently replaced by an Ameritron AL-80A.

Central/South America Contesting

Around 1985 or 1986 I met John Troost, TG9VT, at a dinner meeting of the Long Island DX Association. John was already a RTTYer of some note. His oldest son, Lawrence, was a freshman at Columbia College and John needed an inexpensive reliable communications link with him. I agreed to handle messages to/from Guatemala, and did so all through Lawrence's freshman year. As an act of appreciation, John invited me to spend a week at his home in the highlands outside Guatemala City, and to operate with him in the CQWW RTTY contests in 1987 and 1988. This was my first taste of RTTY contesting and was great fun. John was a legend in his own time. His message handling exploits during the Persian Gulf War were documented in the RTTY Journal of April 1992, and in the award winning commercial video called "Last Voice From Kuwait" by Frank Moore, WA1URA. I have saved a ream of recorded RTTY messages from those days, which to this day still make fascinating reading of conditions inside Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation. John became a Silent Key in November 1992.

In 1989, Ted, HC5K, invited me to operate the CQWW RTTY contest as Single Operator, All Band, from his QTH in Cuenca, while he went off to the Galapagos to a winning Multi-Op effort. Before the contest I operated SSB and RTTY as HC5/W2JGR. For the contest I was assigned the call HD5Z. This was the only contest in which I ever won a plaque! I placed first in South America and third in the world with 776,195 points.

After the contest, the Galapagos group convened back at Ted's QTH. This included Jay, WS7I, and Hal, WA7EGA (now K7IRA), both of whom chided me on my novice type contest operating style. Their comments were taken to heart, as my later contesting has demonstrated. However, I have not come near to winning a plaque in any RTTY contests since, but I love the excitement of contest participation.

RTTY From the United Nations

In the spring of 1988, five of us, Victor, KD2HE; Allen, N2KW; Eddie, NT2X; Lou, NN2G; and myself, had the good fortune to be able to do the spring BARTG RTTY contest from 4U1UN on the 40th floor of the United Nations Secretariat building in New York. It was not a record winning score (475,300 points), but with a vertical antenna, we were able to give out a new RTTY coun-

try to many stations. I described the operation in an article published in CQ magazine in September 1988.

The Nineties

Ah, what a decade this was! Lots of RTTY operating with a roller coaster ride on the sunspot cycle. It seemed that the digital modes really took off in the '90s.

It started out just right on January 6, 1990 when I worked Roman, UA1OT, on Franz Josef Land for a new RTTY country. For January 20, my log contains a note "SOS distress traffic on 28085 voice indicating a ship is sinking at 48N 10E." The Coast Guard was on frequency and appeared to have things under control. I moved off. On 28 January I gave Sombat, HS1BV, in Bangkok, one of his first RTTY QSOs. I then turned him over to KB2VO and K6WZ. In the fall, Valery, UA9YD, with wife, and Yuri, UA9YE, visited Long Island. We were all hosted at a nice lunch by Art, K2ENT, and his wife Roslyn. In July I gave Andy, RW3AH (also recently 9X0A) the first DX AMTOR QSO outside the Soviet Union. I again worked him in September when he was using the call

4K0ADS in memory of famed Russian scientist Andrej Sakharov. The logs for the '90s are full of such special reminders.

In March 1991 the RTTY Journal published my article on a "Lightweight RTTY TU for DXpeditions." It describes a compact lightweight inexpensive rig consisting of a Tandy 102 laptop, riding piggyback on a CP-1 using terminal software written by K8TT. I had checked it out on the air in 1990 and knew it worked. In 1997, when reading Bill Gates' book "The Road Ahead", I discovered that he, in conjunction with a Japanese named Kazuhiko Nishi, had actually designed that little laptop, the first one of its kind, for Radio Shack in the early '80s. How close one can come to greatness without knowing it! I still have my 102.

In September 1992 I became the DX News columnist for the RTTY Journal, succeeding TG9VT, who had to quit because of ill health. Writing the regular monthly column continued until December 1995, after which it was picked up by Don, AA5AU.

RTTY DXCC Honor Roll

One achievement, of which I am most satisfied during this period, was my successful petition to the ARRL for establishment of the RTTY Honor Roll. RTTY had been finally recognized as a legitimate DXCC mode some years before. When Gin, JA1ACB, one of the world's foremost RTTYers, reached Honor Roll level, the ARRL had recognized it under "Mixed" category. This disappointment drove Gin off the air for several years. The first vote on my petition by the DX Advisory Committee failed because it was tied into another unrelated item which clearly needed to be defeated. Subsequently the petition was voted on in its own right and passed. DXAC ballots were returned to the committee chairman Charlie, KY0A, on November 29, 1993 (my 76th birthday!), who advised me of the favorable result. RTTY Honor Roll finally came into its own. I tried to convince JA1ACB to reapply but he chose not to. My good friend Luciano, I5FLN, became the first to qualify.

Hams Helping Hams

In mid-1991 my wife and I left the wonderful propagation I enjoyed on Long Island, and moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. I knew a few fellows here but none was more interested in my getting on the air than RTTY enthusiast Bob Stanek, W0HAH. Bob, by the way, owned neither key nor microphone.

Early on, Bob rounded up a crew of local hams, without whose help and knowledge I would never have gotten back on the air. I decided on a big antenna, a Sommer eight element seven band Yagi on a fifteen foot boom. Larry, N0CIB (now N0XB) recommended a guyed forty foot Rohn 45 tower on the roof of the fifteen story building (the shack is on the fourteenth floor). Together we designed the structural mounting of the tower, and ordered the steel and necessary fittings.

When the time came for installation, a group of strangers showed up and the tower and antenna were installed. I can thank John, NJ0M; Ron, N0AT; Doug, W0BKS; Bob, KG0GII; Larry and W0HAH for getting me back on the air before the ice storms came.

And come they did, but my RTTY DXing slowly added up the counters to a respectable level. The Sommer antenna survived the first winter but successive winters took their toll and it was replaced in 1996 by a Tennadyne T-8 Log periodic which has successfully weathered the Minneapolis winters. I think that the effects of Minnesota ice storms are not among the design parameters of many amateur antenna manufacturers. I attribute the success of the Tennadyne in withstanding the ice storms to its lightweight aircraft type construction. Sadly, W0HAH became a Silent Key in late 1996.

Nice RTTY DX

1992 was a good year for RTTY DX. It included such new ones as VK9XM (February), VP8SSI (March), AP/WA2WYR and S2/HA5BUS (April), VQ9YA (May), 4J1FS and VP8CKB, So. Georgia (June), and 9A1BHI (July).

In January 1993, the Sommer antenna lost a few element ends in a severe ice storm. However the SWR never exceeded 3:1 on any band, so repair waited until summertime. In spite of this, new RTTY counters such as 5R8DG and AH1A (January), N9NS/KH5K (March), new Balkan countries in April, ET3YU (June), and 9U5DX (November) contributed to making this a good year.

1994 started off with a bang with 3Y0PI in January, but things moved very slowly after that until October, when I snagged V63AS.

Things picked up a bit in 1995 with TN4U (February), and 3V8BB (June). Two new ones were captured in 1995 with XU95HA and VP8CQS South Shetlands (April). ZL8RI was logged in May 1996. VK0IR in January

of 1997 was an auspicious start for the year in which I was to reach four score years. September brought 5A28 and VK9WY into my log. Since then I have gradually reduced the list of needed ones. If anyone copies the following prefixes on RTTY, you are invited to call me collect at (612) 377-7269 any time of the day or night: 7O, BS7, FT5W, FTX, P5, and SV/A. Current totals are 334/328.

Modes/Equipment

In March of 1988 I had my first AMTOR QSO using a PK-232. I marveled at the perfect copy, though I was somewhat dismayed at the slow throughput. I subsequently progressed from the toy-like TI-99/4A computer through three generations of PCs to a Pentium II, and several modems. I obtained a HAL PCI-3000 which today is still my controller of choice. I also have the PCI-4000/M, which I have used on all the digital modes with which it is equipped. But the old reliable PCI-3000, with its 'scope output for tuning, is the digital equipment of choice. It can also be used for chasing high speed CW 'new ones'. My antennas have ranged from the lowly dipole and vertical to a Hy-Gain TH3Mk3, a KLM KT-34A, the 8 element 7 band Sommer yagi previously mentioned, to the currently used Tennadyne 8 element log periodic on an 18 foot boom. Wires for 40 and 80 meters do just fine, since my antennas are favorably located over some of the highest ground in the Minneapolis-St.Paul area. A Ten-Tec OMNI VI Plus generates my FSK signal, and an Ameritron AL-80A helps me push up to 500 RTTY watts into the antennas. In December of 2000 I discovered PSK31 and MFSK16, but RTTY FOREVER!!

Jules L. Freundlich W2JGR
February, 2001
Minneapolis, Minnesota

— 73, Jules W2JGR

Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, and Bill Henry, K9GWT, at the Charlotte Hamfest.

Don Hill

My name is Don Hill, born Donald Allen Hill on June 27, 1957 to George Jr. and Betty Lou Hill in Indianapolis, Indiana. I grew up in Ravenswood, a small community on the north side of Indianapolis. My parents still live in the same house I grew up in on Ruth Drive. I have a sister, Patty, and a brother George III, both older.

I went to White River Elementary School, Northview Junior High School and North Central High School where I graduated in 1975. My only claim to fame in high school was lettering in swimming. My specialty was the 50 yard freestyle and I also swam butter-fly on the medley relay team.

At the young age of 14 , I earned my Amateur Radio license in January 1972. My father is WB9FAD and was instrumental in getting me started in this wonderful hobby. My first call-sign was WN9IVC. Two years later I passed my General exam and became WB9IVC.

A local contest club, the Indy DX'ers, kind of adopted me and I soon became an avid con-tester. I took to CW more than SSB and at the age of 16 was sending morse code with either fist and wowing the other club members. My first trophy came in 1975 when I placed 10th in the USA and first in W9 land in that year's WAEDC CW contest.

After graduating from high school I went to ITT Technical Institute for two years, earning an Associated Degree in Electronics

Engineering Technology. Immediately after graduating I went to work overseas in Iceland working as an electronics technician on the North Atlantic Radio System maintaining a troposheric scatter radio site at Naval Base Keflavik starting in September 1977. While in Iceland I was not permitted to operate, so my ham radio activities were put on hold for two years.

After completing my contract in Iceland, I moved to Louisiana to thaw out. I got a job as a communications technician working for the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico installing and maintaining microwave and two-way communications systems.

In Louisiana I immediately got back on the air as WB9IVC/5 in 1979 and continued DX'ing but did very little contesting. On July 23, 1983 I made my first ever RTTY QSO with EA7BBK. I quickly fell in love with this new mode I had found.

On July 8, 1987 I became AA5AU when my extra ticket arrived in the mail. I was very happy with my new call and did my best to be on the radio as much as possible, spending nearly all the time on RTTY. On August 7, 1989 I earned RTTY DXCC with certificate number 249.

My first major RTTY contest was the 1985 BARTG when I made 19 QSOs! The follow-ing year I made 67 QSOs. Later in 1986 I earned my first RTTY contest award by win-

ning 1st place All Band Non-Europe in the WAEDC RTTY contest and my RTTY con-test career was off and running.

I still work in the offshore oil and gas field as Technical Service Manager for the Eastern Region for CapRock Services Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of McLeodUSA. We maintain a large fleet of satellite commu-nications systems worldwide, but my area takes care of the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

I continue to enjoy my favorite hobby of Ham Radio, especially RTTY DX'ing and contest-ing. I currently have 321 DXCC entities con-firmed on RTTY and hold three RTTY con-test World Records. And I owe it all to dear ol' dad, who got me started in all this.

Some of Don's RTTY Achievements:

• RTTY WAZ #96, RTTY DXCC #249
• Eight time Low Power winner of the ARRL RTTY Roundup
• World winner of Low Power Single Op in the 1999 CQWW RTTY Contest
• Three current RTTY World Records (BARTG M/M, NAQP Single Op and RTTY Roundup Single Op Low Power)

Bob Boyd

I became interested in shortwave radio in 1950 while earning Boy Scout merit badges. I built a one tube regenerative receiver using a 1G4 powered by batteries, went to some club meetings at the Amateur Wireless Association in Portland, Maine and the world of ham radio opened up. One of the club members became my "Elmer" and he tutored me on the code and theory. I earned a Novice license in 1952 and was immediately on the air on 80 CW running 35 watts with a 6L6. I got my General class license a year later, and had earned enough money to buy a Hallicrafters SX-71 receiver by mowing lawns and delivering newspapers. In the late '50s I converted several WWII command transmitters and was active on 80 and 40 meter CW with them.

I got married in 1960 (I am still happily married to the same gal who has always supported my hobby), and we moved to our own house where I had more antenna space. I became interested in the Army MARS program because it was disbursing equipment based upon on-the-air participation. I quickly earned a like-new Model 19 Teletype, and shortly thereafter a Model 15 and a spanky-new Model 14 typing reperf. I had my first RTTY QSO in 1962 and was active on 80, 40, 20, and 2 meters. By this time I had built a transmitter running 300 watts out with a pair of 813s, and as the sixties went on I was building all of the Irv Hoff equipment that was described in the RTTY Journal and QST. My shack photo is in the RTTY Journal for October, 1964. Two kids came along in 1964 and 1967, and cash for ham gear and for parts became non-existent. I went to work for a computer company in the Boston area and relocated about ten times in the next ten years. The RTTY and ham gear was in storage most of the time; needless to say I was not on the air very much! In the '80s and early '90s I was on an airplane to somewhere else nearly every week. In 1992 this ceased with a layoff and I began some independent software consulting. Another couple years of work and I may retire.

In 1989 I purchased a Kenwood TS-440S and I became re-enthused about the hobby. I spent the first year and a half on SSB until I had my fill of it. I then bought a PK-232 and once again experienced the fun of RTTY communications. I met Eddie, W6/G0AZT on the air and he urged me onto AMTOR; I subsequently took the TS-440S and PK-232 to Liechtenstein where I operated in the first (and only) SARTG AMTOR contest. Following that I went to Sept Isles, Quebec for two CQWW RTTY contests to provide zone RTTY 2 contacts to the needy.

I now use a Yaesu FT-1000D, a HAL ST-8000 (into a PK-232), and a tri-bander at about fifty feet. A vertical serves well on 80 and 40 meters. I am a computer junky and "must" run the latest and fastest available, but I'm also collecting some of the older terminal units. RTTY is the only mode that I operate and I do sometimes miss the "iron monsters' clattering in the background.

On SSB I have worked WAS, WAZ, DXCC, and all 3076 US counties. On RTTY I have WAZ, about 230 countries confirmed, and about 237 out of 250 states toward 5 band RTTY WAS (even though ARRL won't yet endorse it as such). I enjoy contesting, DXing, and rag-chewing.

I have tried many of the soundcard programs but I remain happiest with the ST-8000 and PK-232 terminal units, and software like XPWare, WriteLog, and RTTY by WF1B. I am not afraid to admit that I am one of those who prefers "RTTY Forever". I hope to see you in the pileups!

Best regards, Bob Boyd,W1VXV
Kennebunkport, Maine

www.rttyjournal.com/dayton

Your RTTY link to Dayton 2001.

PSK31 is Sticky

...and that's good news.

Jim Mortensen, N2HOS
jem@n2hos.com

'Sticky' is an Internet buzzword relating to the ability of a website or page to hold the eyeballs of the Internet traveler for an extended period of time. And, at the same time, offer sufficient attraction to draw the same person back to the site over and over again. The stickier, the better.

By that definition, PSK31 qualifies 100% as a sticky mode. This 'new' idea in narrow bandwidth communication attracted a crowd in the beginning, continues to expand its following every day, is in use around the clock on all bands in an astonishing number of countries, and offers some totally new ideas as to the physical and monetary dimensions of the typical ham radio station. Such claims are easy to prove.

Way back in June, 2000, I wrote of my entry into the world of PSK31 and posted it on the GAZETTE www.n2hos.com/digital/psk31.html. The first two paragraphs of that article are as follows:

"If you remember, and the memories give you a warm and fuzzy feeling, then you already know what it's like to get on PSK31. This new mode brings back all the fun and pleasure of RTTY as it used to be — the bands filled with stations calling, stations wanting to chat a little or a lot, stations taking the time to type something beside the automated brag sheet, stations that like PSK and want to share the experience. Heck, PSK may even save ham radio from itself and its bad habits!

"If you think I am a fan, you are right as rain. If you think I want to get you up and running in PSK, right again. And here's why! It's inexpensive, requires a minimum level of hardware, most of which you already own, and insists on low power. Yet, it is simple to understand, set up and use. No other mode offers so much for so little."

True then, true and even more so now. It's a killer product! Unless my judgment is madly out of whack (no comments, please), PSK31 will soon become the backbone of the digital radio hobby. Realistically, it may already have assumed that role. Further, it is the product capable of drawing new fans into the digital tent and keeping them there as they learn to expand their knowledge of the product's potential.

What makes this 31hz signal so popular? Well, FREE is the most attractive word in the English language (and I assume in all other languages as well!). But it's much more than the free software. The software, and I refer to DigiPan 1.6 whenever I mention software, is an outstanding piece of work. Once installed, your rig can be programmed in a few minutes. Ten minutes more and the macros are completed, the tuning frequencies outlined, personal data entered, mode selected and a few other minor details accomplished at the click of a mouse. And, if your soundcard is properly cabled and tuned (read further) the rig is ready to hit the airwaves. Figure 1 shows the top part of DigiPan's screen showing the receive portion of the screen.

Open up DigiPan. Magically, the waterfall tuning device unveils itself. Tune, for example, to 28119 upper sideband, and watch the 5-10 traces crawl down the display. Click to each and see the source of the signal... and be amazed at the spectacle. At this time (a March Friday afternoon 1800-1830Z), the waterfall (without touching the tuning knob) is printing QSO's involving SV, GJ, F, G, DL, OK, OZ, LZ, TA, CT, LU and PA, as well as the VE's and W's on the western end! This afternoon, the waterfall will be full of Pacific and North and South American stations until the band drops out late tonight. There is an unending number of CQ's to be answered. Most all of the stations operate within the 20-50 watt power range, the majority at 30 watts or less. And it's a mode made for the QRP crowd.

There's nothing quite like this waterfall view anywhere else in ham radio! Figure 2 shows the bottom portion of the same window showing typical activity on any afternoon of the week. Sorry, but it doesn't show up very well in black and white. There are at least ten traces here. The box in the in lower right hand corner is a tuning indicator. When tuned cor-
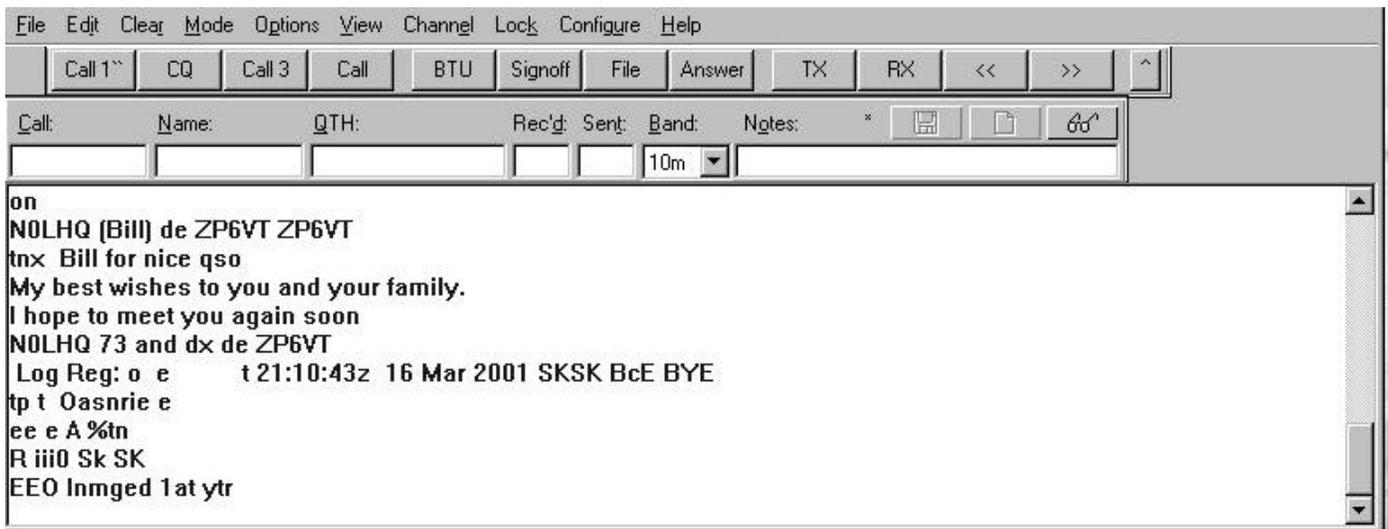

Figure 1: DigiPan's main screen

rectly, the cursor exactly in the center of the 'ladder,' there is but one vertical line in the box.

If your rig is listening well, it's time to tune up for transmission. There are several schools of thought regarding the procedure and many are summarized at www.n2hos.com/digital/psktune.html. I urge you to read through that thread before pressing XMIT for the first time. Before you do make certain you are tuning in upper sideband and in the BPSK mode. Then go!

As you get ready, remember this — no more than 30-40 watts out is needed for any contact anywhere in the world, whatever your antenna. Second, watch and learn about the most serious visible flaw among users. It's those wide traces that result from the soundcard's over driving the transmitter. These flawed signals wipe out the entire waterfall and send spikes from one end of the display to the other. Don't go there!

The best startup advice in a nutshell — set VOX and Mike Gain in the 40-50% range, then keep reducing sound card output until the TX button on DigiPan no longer functions. Then, edge volume up a notch until the TX works again. Start in with your first QSO, but ask each contact to give you a signal evaluation, and an IMD. Most are very helpful.
In my dozen or so years in the digital world, I've used and misused RTTY, AMTOR, PACTOR and CLOVER. RTTY found its home in the contest and DX world, and seems content. Fine, but no longer my cup of tea. AMTOR and PACTOR developed an almost exclusive affair with the MBO's of the world. Fine, but I don't go there anymore. CLOVER, with the potential to be a wonderful mode, lacks the user numbers needed to sustain a significant presence on the bands. It's not a sticky mode! Thus, I've found a home in this new use of old technology called PSK31, and it drew me back to the keyboard to stay.

This hobby owes a great debt to the developers of this phenomenon. Peter G3PLX, who adapted other technologies to ham usage

before (think AMTOR) created this mode, then gave it to the world. Others added variations on the theme and there are now several modes to evaluate, mostly free for the asking. None have wide usage yet. The best place to learn about all of this is http://aintel.bi.ehu.es/psk31.html. Then, Nick UT2UZ and Skip KH6TY developed the blockbuster software we now know as DigiPan. Now in v1.6d, they established entirely new standards in ham software and, in a burst of generosity, offered it to all for free. Go to http://members.home.com/hteller/digipan/ for the whole story and to download the software.

The new dimensions of digital amateur radio introduced by PSK31 represent dramatic change. Compare, for example, the station I once used for RTTY. Not counting the computer, it would be difficult to replace the transceiver, TNC's, tuner, tower and antennas for a cent less than $10,000. And, I had no amplifier, no stacked arrays, no multiple towers and only one FT1000D.

New dimension: the FT1000D weighed more and took up more room than my entire PSK rig does now, including the laptop computer. New dimension: the Yaesu alone cost about three times the total outlay for my PSK station (not counting the computer, of course). Another dimension: if you have a computer, transceiver of even limited capability, a very modest antenna, and an Internet connection, you can be on the air tomorrow at no cost! And, believe it or not, be reasonably competitive with any other station in the PSK space.

If you have nothing but the computer and an interest in digital radio, the entry-level budget runs between $200 and $1350. At the very low end, you'd need to have the patience to build a 10 meter transceiver kit providing about 2-10 watts out, provide a power supply, cut a 10 meter dipole antenna to 28.12 Mhz, buy some coax, download the software... and get on the air. I say 10 watts, though I've worked several QRP stations operating with a 2 watt kit and a wire antenna.

At the upper end of this budget scenario, you could buy a TenTec Pegasus for $913 delivered, add an MFJ tuner (945E), a RigBlaster and a Cushcraft R6000. All in we could meet the $1350 figure with a few bucks to spare, and decrease that to about $1150 if we substitute a tri-band wire antenna (10-15-20) for the vertical. This setup can operate with 30 watts out around the clock. Yet, the whole thing could, if I chose to travel, fit in a suitcase. For more screenshots than we have room for here, go to the GAZETTE website and browse around. You can find it all in glowing color at www.n2hos.com/digital/dp.html.

To conclude, PSK promises world-class performance with a small budget, low power and a simple antenna and — believe it or not — free software. The promise is fulfilled in spades! In its dimension and simplicity, it is the 'crystal set' of ham radio. Give it a try, but beware! You may never return to your old ways!

CIS DIPLOMA

The Funkner DX Family is now offering the "Radio Amateur's Diploma of the Commonwealth of Independent States" (CIS). The award is available to licensed amateurs and shortwave listeners who have worked/heard stations in all twelve countries of the CIS. Contacts may be made on any band in any mode.

4J-4K: Azerbaijan
4L: Georgia
EK: Armenia
EM-EO, U5, UR-UZ: Ukraine
ER: Moldova
EU-EW: Belarus
EX: Kyrgyzstan
EY: Tajikistan
EZ: Turkmenistan
R, UA-UI, U1-U4, U6-U0: Russia
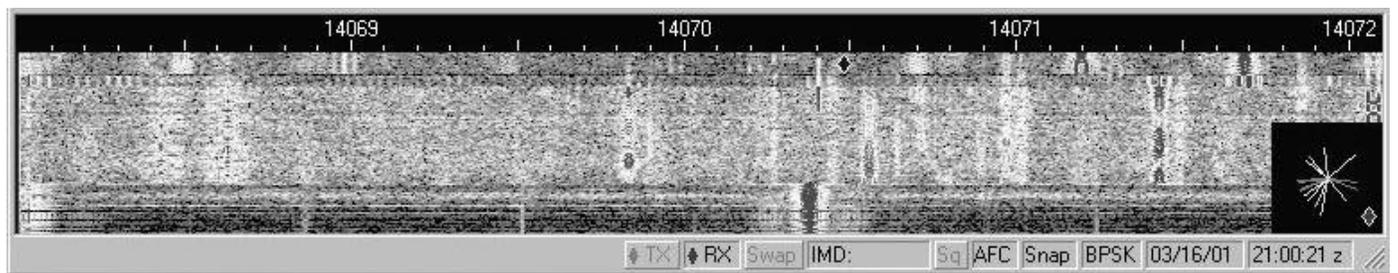UJ-UM: Uzbekistan
UN-UQ: Kazakhstan

Website: http://www.funcap.narod.ru

Figure 2: DigiPan's waterfall display

Dayton 2001
RTTY Gathering

Bill Henry, K9GWT, and Dale Sinner, W6IWO

Here it is spring and time to be planning for our annual gathering in Dayton, Ohio. I believe that this will be my 35th consecutive Dayton Hamvention. That's several generations of cars that know their own way to Hara Arena.

Our RTTY group headquarters is again the Holiday Inn at Dayton Mall (see enclosed map). Dale Sinner, W6IWO, is in the final stages of making room reservations now. If you haven't made your reservations yet, *do it now!* A reservation form is enclosed.

Although the Hamvention does not start until Friday, May 18, a bunch of us die-hards always show up Thursday evening. Look for us in the bar around 5 PM.

Friday morning, the Dayton Hamvention opens at 9 AM — *nine AM!* That's a change from previous years. Dale has arranged bus transportation to and from Hara Arena with the hotel. Make your reservation at the hotel's front desk.

Friday evening, we have the traditional RTTY DX and RTTY contest banquet — but they let all of us in! Jay Townsend, WS7I, is organizing the Friday night shindig at the hotel, so contact him (or use the enclosed form) to get your name on the list. After the banquet, we will adjourn to the RTTY Journal hospitality room for extended deliberation.

Saturday is a full day. At 11:45 AM on May 19, we will again have our RTTY Forum held in Room #3 at Hara Arena. Frank Fallon, N2FF, our voice at the ARRL, will again chair the forum. Frank is still putting the agenda together as I write, but be assured that it will be an interesting hour for all of us.

Saturday evening, back at the hotel, we have the RTTY Journal Banquet. Joe Wittmer, KB9SIZ, is organizing it this year. Contact him (or use the enclosed form) to make your reservations. Again, after the banquet, the RTTY Journal hospitality room will be open until — whenever.

Sunday, it's time to head back to Hara Arena for that last bargain, see if we have won the "grand prize", and then mosey on home. See you at Dayton on May 17th.

73 — Bill, K9GWT

Dale adds his two cents worth:

We have adopted a theme for this year and we call it the Time Factor. Right now we are at the critical point with the Time Factor in that we need you to send your reservation form in. Time is running out and before you know it, we'll be at Dayton. When we get there, again the Time Factor enters the picture. Everything we do from the Time we arrive until we leave involves Time. Do we have enough Time to go here and there? Are we going to make the dinners on Time? Are we going to buy a new modem this year? Are we going to be on Time for the bus to and from the arena? Time! Time! Time! Everywhere we go and look, we will be faced with Time. In the RTTY Journal booth we have even thought of Time and we have something to give everyone who stops by to visit, renew their subscription, or subscribe for the first time.

I know you are going to say, you are always faced with the Time Factor. I agree, but, you are not at Dayton every week and Time is vital. I'm sure you have already made some plans on what you are going to do with your Time. Let's take a look at just the things I have planned for Dayton. Upon arrival I need to worry about getting to the hotel from the airport. So I have made plans for my friends Jay and Betsy Townsend to pick me up which will save me lots of Time. Then I'll check with the hotel management to see if everything is running smoothly (takes Time). Then I'll rush into the bar and join the gang for a libation or two (rest Time). I'll check with both Joe and Jay on their dinner arrangements (more Time). I will then check to make sure we have the hospitality suite all set up and check the refreshment inventory (gotta be right on this). Then Friday morning off to the arena where I will work the HAL and RTTY

booths all day (there goes Time). Leave the arena early to stop at the local market to pick up last minute articles for the hospitality suite. Then to the hotel and set up everything in the hospitality suite along with the help of some friends. Check on the ice to be sure we have enough and on Time. These are all a must so that I will not be late for the dinner later on (more Time). Get the picture? Then on Saturday, I'll do all the above all over again and correct any mistakes I may have made on Friday. Then Sunday morning, tear it all down and get ready to go home but not until I go back again to the arena one more Time. This day I might even have Time to see some of the swap meet and buy a toy or two.

Next thing I know I'm on the plane heading for San Diego and home. As I sit on the plane, I reflect on where my Time went and did I forget anything I wanted to do or someone I wanted to say hello to. I'll bet I forget something. Why? Because there is just not enough Time. Hey, that's the Time Factor.

73 — Dale, W6IWO

Dayton 2001
RTTY Agenda

Thursday, May 17

1700-?	Traditional RTTY Gathering, Rockies Lounge Area, Holiday Inn Dayton Mall

Friday, May 18

0800-1800	Flea Market
0900-1800	Commercial Exhibits
1800-2100	RTTY DX/ Contestors Dinner
2100-?	RTTY Journal Hospitality Suite

Saturday, May 19

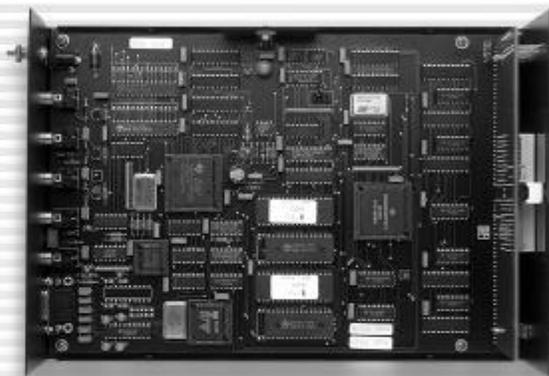|	
0800-1700	Flea Market
0800-1700	Commercial Exhibits
1145-1245	RTTY Forum in Room 3
1800-2100	RTTY Journal Banquet Dinner
2100-?	RTTY Journal Hospitality Suite

Sunday, May 20

0700-1300	Flea Market
0800-1300	Commercial Exhibits