Skyview Radio Society
2016 Digital Communication Challenge – Mode for April

The mode of operation for April will be **Olivia.**   Olivia is a fairly common digital mode, and you will usually be able to find some Olivia activity somewhere.   The Rules remain the same.

The Olivia Digital Mode supports rag chewing. Some will rag chew – some will just exchange some basic information and be on their way. There is not as much DX on Olivia as there is on JT65, but it is out there if you look for it.

Assuming that you now have your digital interface all setup and you have been using BPSK31, then you are all ready to use Olivia.   There are different 'Flavors' of Olivia.   You can use any of them. The most commonly used flavors are **500/8**, **500/16**, **250/8**, **1000/32**, and **1000/16**.   The difference is in the bandwidth and number of tones used. See more info here: http://www.oliviamode.com/ Googling on "most common Olivia mode" obtained a whole lot of other Olivia Mode web sites to consider.

You will generally find Olivia the same places that you found BPSK31: **3.580, 7.040, 7.070, 14.070, 18.099, 21.070, 24.920** and **28.120**.   Once again, you will set your transceiver to one of those frequencies and leave it there.   You will pick a spot to use from within the waterfall.   You will find other types of digital modes in use at these frequencies.   It is a little trickier to recognize the pattern of the various Olivia signals on the Waterfall.   fldigi has an option that you can set to announce the presence of various modes with a popup window.   Clicking on that popup window switches you to that particular mode and takes you to that frequency. That is useful. Or, you can just do a lot of Calling CQ using whichever flavor of Olivia you want to use, and let the other guy figure it out what mode/flavor it is.

If you like to type, and can type at a reasonable speed, then you can do it all by simply typing everything in. Most Olivia flavors are a little slower than BPSK31, so you might be able to stay ahead of it.   But, if you are like me, you will still take advantage of the Macro support that the software packages provide to transmit your repetitious 'basic information', and save the typing for the rag chewing.   With a fldigi install, you get a standard set of Macros. Most everybody soon learns how to customize these Macros to suit their style. When you are working US stations, the Macros can be pretty verbose. When you are working DX stations, they need to be briefer.   DX contacts are mostly Hello-Goodbye type of contacts as conditions can change rapidly.

Post any questions on the K3MJW reflector.   Or you may email me at: k3jzd@nelis.net   (please put "Digital Challenge" in the Subject). Tuesday nights at the Skyview Clubhouse is also a great place for discussion, comparing notes, and demonstrations.   Good Luck !!!!

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