

# Skyview Radio Society

## 2016 Digital Communication Challenge – Mode For March

The mode of operation for March will be **BPSK31**. This is a pretty common digital mode, and you will usually be able to find some activity somewhere. The Rules remain the same.

The BPSK31 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 BPSK31 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, all you need to do is get some different software setup. Popular software for running this mode includes fldigi, digipan, and Ham Radio Deluxe DM780. There may be others. There are good help files for each of them and lots of on-line support for these software packages, including various Yahoo Groups. I chose to use fldigi.

You will find BPSK31 on **3.580, 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 digital modes in use at these frequencies. You will soon learn to recognize the pattern of the BPSK31 signals on the Waterfall.

If you like to type, and can type at a reasonable speed, then you can do it all by simply typing everything in. If you are like me, you will take advantage of the Macro support that these 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.

As an example, here is my “Exchange Macro’ for working US or DX stations:

```
greetings <NAME>.\n
your RST... <RST> <RST> <INFO1>.\n
my name ... <MYNAME> <MYNAME>.\n
my QTH .... <MYQTH> (Near Pittsburgh, PA).\n
my grid .... <MYLOC>.\n
my EPC .... #24691.\n
my DMC ... #07997.
```

As an example, here is my “Information Macro’ for working US stations:

```
Here is my Story <NAME>.\n
Operator: Created in 1943, Became a ham in 1958.\n
          Retired and becoming more active.\n
Rig is:   Icom IC-756proIII running 25 watts.\n
          with ZLP Digimaster Pro3 Interface / fldigi / Windows 7.\n
Ant is:  <ANTENNA>.\n
QSL Via: eQSL.cc or LOTW.
```

As an example, here is my briefer “Information Macro’ for working DX stations:

```
Operator: Created in 1943, Became a ham in 1958.\n
Rig is:   Icom IC-756proIII running 25 watts.\n
Ant is:  <ANTENNA>.
```

The stuff in the < > brackets uses information from your setup or from the log data for that QSO.

There is an existing Slide Show in the Files section of the K3MJW reflector. It is in the "Digital" folder and it is called [Skyview digital elmer night 97 2003 final.ppt](#) If you do not have Microsoft PowerPoint software, there is a free PowerPoint Viewer that you can download – find it with Google. This Slide Show will also open using the free Libre Office and Open Office packages. This Slide Show might have more than you need to know in it, but it should give you a starting point. There is lots of YouTube stuff out there also. Google on BPSK31 or PSK31 to find it all.

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

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