



The Gavel:

I hope the New Year brings good tidings to all. Hope Santa brought some goodies that had everything to do with the radio hobby.

The club renewed its RAC affiliation for the year, and I hope that you are a member of RAC as well. More than just a magazine, RAC is our face to Industry Canada and the rest of the world. We also support DARF, the Defense of Amateur Radio Fund. Their singular goal is to assist a Canadian Amateur delegate with travel expenses in order to have representation at the regular ITU World Radio Conferences. It is at the WRC conferences where global radio coordination occurs, and amateur attendance is vital to both defend our current spectrum allocation and advance our future interests.

The Advanced classes are underway. The first session was kicked off on Jan 13th. If you still have an inclination to get that coveted higher certification, contact Barry or Basil. It's not too late.

The first 2014 field-day meeting will happen shortly with David VE3MDX and his colour-coded folders working alongside Tom VE3TWG. If there is anybody working at the city that Tom doesn't know, they must have been hired recently. Keep an eye on the club schedule on our web page for announcements.

The MIS 2m repeater has once again displayed some odd behavior. Hopefully it's something temporary, likely related to weather, and will clear up as the season's change. However, Jim is on top of things and has a watchful eye on it.

The SDR project has made some headway. Of the four kits that were acquired over the holiday period, three are being built as we speak. Thomas VE3ETG, is leading this project. Contact him if interested in participating.

I have heard rumblings about restarting the HSMM project. Anthony VE3IDL has indicated that he will be doing a presentation on this aspect of the hobby. It will be an interesting introduction for those that are left scratching their heads about High Speed Multi-Media (HSMM). Check the web site schedule on when Anthony is scheduled to present. Don't miss this.

Preparations for HamEx 2014 are in place. Rick VE3IMG, our co-chair for the event, will be compiling a list of volunteers to assist in the event management. Contact him if you re available March 22nd to assist in the event. Here is an opportunity to be part of one of the larger hamfest in this region. At this time we also suggest an early cleanup of your basement/ shack, of radio equipment that may be considered obsolete, less useful and ready for the land fill. We can use some of this 'not so useful' equipment to decorate the 'club table' at Hamex. You may contact Rick or myself if you have anything to donate to the club table sales.

Our long time member Ed, VE3TKN, passed away recently. Ed was a great supported of the club. Having retired from Hydro, he was running his own contracting firm. His contributions to the club station, both at the Scout hall and the present locations will be remembered. He will be missed.

Till next time,

Asim VE3XAP

“The Communicator”



This is the January 2014 edition
of the Editors Column

I first must apologize for the lateness of this newsletter, As some of you know there was an unexpected death in my family. And not to dwell on an already sad time, my dad never made it to his 90th birthday by a couple of months, but he lived a good life and he passed without suffering.

Meanwhile back at the home newsroom, I am glad to see that people have been experimenting with digital communications, and despite the extremely frigid cold the repeater is up and working even after the the roof work at the repeater site, perfect, maybe not but, at 19 floor up its even colder than on the ground and quite honestly its been far too cold far to long.

This months newsletter content comes to you via 1, and email sent though out reflector, and 2, a website suggested by **Michael Brickell**. If there are any other ideas that you would like to see in the newsletter let me know. As winter drags on, it might be a good idea to work on that home brew project, and while your at it do a little write up of the whole adventure.

Valentine Stubbs, **VE3VVS**.
Editor in Chief of the “Communicator”

Regular club meetings , all times and events are posted on the club website:

➔ WWW.MARC.ON.CA ←

FLDIGI User Guide

Issue: 1.0 VE3FOX

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to be a concise guide to using FLDIGI to send and receive files in various forms and file types. More in-depth user guides and additional programs are available at <http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html> but are not described here. Various YouTube videos are also available.

OVERVIEW

FLDIGI provides a simple way to send and receive digital files in a variety of modes. This is done using audio tones that can be sent over a radio, over a phone or simply from computer to computer in the same room. Note that no TNC is required and no wired connections are needed. Using the computer mike to copy from the radio speaker and using the radio mike to copy from the computer speaker is sufficient.

COMPONENTS

FLDIGI - The main program used for the transmission and reception of digital files.

FLMSG - Used for entering data into message forms to be sent or saved. Also used to view received messages.

FLWRAP – This program allows you to transmit a text message, image, or binary file and allows the receiving station to verify that the transmission was received without error.

INSTALLATION

Go to the following web site to download and install the three files listed above at <http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html> Make sure to choose the appropriate Operating System.

These executable files will be installed in the following folder: C:\Program Files (x86)

Operational FLDIGI folders will also be installed at: C:\Users\ (User Name) \NBEMS.files

FLDIGI CONFIGURATION

Start the FLDIGI program and click on CONFIGURE | OPERATOR. Fill in the appropriate data in the FLDIGI Configuration window and close the window.

Click on CONFIGURE | MISC and then on the NBEMS tab in the FLDIGI Configuration window. Check the ENABLE, OPEN WITH FLMSG and OPEN IN BROWSER boxes.

In the FLMSG field, click on the BROWSE button and navigate to the FLMSG executable to enter the path C:\Program Files (x86)\flmsg-1.1.33\flmsg.exe

Click on the AUDIO tab and make sure that PORTAUDIO is enabled and that the CAPTURE and PLAYBACK fields are correct for your PC. All else can be left at the default values.

Click on SAVE.

DESKTOP SETUP

An easy way to access various FLDIGI files and folders is to put shortcuts into a folder on your desktop. For clarity, name the folder FLDIGI.

Shortcuts to executable files are already created during installation and can simply be dragged into the desktop folder

Shortcuts to any of the operational folders, such as NBEMS, can be manually created and placed to the desktop folder

A short cut to the download page at <http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html> is also handy

CREATING A FILE

Start FLDIGI and FLMSG.

Click on FORM | RADIOGRAM in the FLMSG window and fill in the various fields. After all fields are filled in, click on the buttons beside the CK, TIME FILED and MON DY boxes to insert the appropriate data. If the text is changed or this message is to be sent later, these buttons should be clicked again just before sending to update the information.

Click on FILE | SAVE to save this radiogram in the folder C:\Users\ (User Name) \NBEMS.files\ ICS\messages with a file type of .m2s eg: VE3FOX-1.m2s

WINDOWS CONFIGURATION

In order to have .m2s type files open in the FLMSG window it is necessary to set a default program for this file type.

In the Windows Control Panel, go to DEFAULT PROGRAMS and click on ASSOCIATE A FILE TYPE OR PROTOCOL WITH A SPECIFIC PROGRAM.

Scroll to the .m2s file type then click on CHANGE PROGRAM. Browse to C:\Program Files (x86)\flmsg-1.1.33\flmsg.exe and click OK.

SENDING A FILE

Start FLDIGI and FLMSG.

Sending a message:

To use an existing message, in FLDIGI click on FILE | FOLDERS | NBEMS.FILES | ICS | MESSAGES. Double click on the file to be sent. It will appear in the FLMSG form.

To create a new message, click on FORM | RADIOGRAM in the FLMSG window and enter data in the blank form. Click on FILE | SAVE to save the file in the MESSAGES folder.

Click on AUTOSEND and tones will be heard as the file is sent. The data being sent will also be seen in the top portion of the FLDIGI window.

RECEIVING A FILE

Start FLDIGI and FLMSG

Make sure both computers are in the same Op Mode. This is set in the FLDIGI window under OP MODE. A common mode is MT632000L which shows as MT63-2KL at the bottom left of the screen.

When your computer starts to hear the incoming file, the waterfall will display the tones and the data being sent will also be seen in the top portion of the FLDIGI window. There is a slight delay between the audio appearing in the waterfall and the text appearing on the screen.

When done, the FLMSG window will display the message and the file will be saved in the FILE | FOLDERS | NBEMS.FILES | ICS | MESSAGES folder.

This file will be saved with the same file name as the sent file. If a file of the same name already exists, it will be overwritten with the new file.

Your browser will also open, displaying the message which can be saved in several file formats or printed.

PRINTING A FILE

To open an existing message, in FLDIGI click on FILE | FOLDERS | NBEMS.FILES | ICS | MESSAGES, double click on the file to be sent. It will appear in the FLMSG form.

In the FLMSG window, click on FILE | VIEW | HTML DELIVERY. The message will appear in your browser window, from where it can be printed.

SENDING OTHER FILE FORMATS

In addition to the standard file forms, files can also be sent in several file formats, including txt, jpg, jpeg, png, gif, bmp, ico, zip, gz, tgz, and bz2

In the FLMSG window, click on FORM | TRANSFER

Beside the TRANSMIT FILE field, click on SELECT and select the path to the file to be transmitted.

Click on AUTSEND to send the file

RECEIVING OTHER FILE FORMATS

After receiving one of the file formats above, the FLMSG window will open

In the RECEIVED FILE field will be the name of the file received and where it will be saved

Click on the SAVE button, then on SAVE again to save the file in the TRANSFER folder as follows: C:\Users\ (User Name) \NBEMS.files\ Transfers \ (file name)

To view the file, go to the same folder and click on the file name, which will open using its default program.

CREATING WRAP FILES

Open the folder at C:\Users\ (User Name) \NBEMS.files\ Wrap \send

Move the file to be sent into this folder

Open the FLDIGI folder on your desktop that contains all the shortcuts created in the DESKTOP SHORTCUTS section above.

Drag and drop the file over the FLWRAP icon in the FLDIGI folder. This will create a file in the same folder with the same name, but with a “.wrap” extension

eg: test message.txt => test message.txt.wrap

Click on CLOSE in the FLWRAP window

SENDING FLWRAP FILES

Open the FLMSG window and click on FORM | TRANSFER

Beside the TRANSMIT FILE field, click on SELECT and select the path to the “.wrap” file to be sent. C:\Users\ (User Name) \NBEMS.files\ Wrap \send

Click on AUTOSEND to send the file

NOTE: The file sent will appear in the top window of FLDIGI but the body of the file will be scrambled.

RECEIVING FLWRAP FILES

Open FLDIGI

After receiving the file, the FLMSG window will open

In the RECEIVED FILE field will be the name of the “.wrap” file received and where it will be saved

Click on the SAVE button, then on SAVE again to save the file in the TRANSFER folder as follows: C:\Users\ (User Name) \NBEMS.files\ Transfers \ (file name)

WINDOWS CONFIGURATION

In order to have “.wrap” type files open in the FLMSG window it is necessary to set a default program for this file type. In the Windows Control Panel, go to DEFAULT PROGRAMS and click on ASSOCIATE A FILE TYPE OR PROTOCOL WITH A SPECIFIC PROGRAM.

Scroll to the “.wrap” file type then click on CHANGE PROGRAM. Browse to C:\Program Files (x86)\flmsg-1.1.33\flmsg.exe and click OK.

VERIFYING FLWRAP FILES

To view the file, go to the TRANSFERS folder and drag the file over the FLWRAP icon. The FLWRAP window will open, indicating whether the transfer was a success, the name of the input and output files and the folder they are saved in.

IMPORTANT: If there is a checksum error, it will be indicated in the FLWRAP window and it should be requested that the file be sent again.

The unwrapped file will be created in the TRANSFERS folder. It will be the same name as the received file but without the “.wrap” extension. Click on CLOSE

PRINTING FLWRAP FILES

In the TRANSFER folder, click on the unwrapped file and it will open in whatever application is set as the default on your computer. From this application, the file can be printed

MARC Members Yahoo Group

The MARC Members Yahoo Group is the primary way to disseminate club information about upcoming events

Join the MARC Members Yahoo Group

To receive club related communications and to contact other club members

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marc_members/

DX Code Of Conduct

#1 I will listen, and listen and then listen again before calling.

This seems so obvious but it is the most vital thing to do. Careful listening rather than rushing to transmit will get the DX into your log. You must listen to find out whether the DX is working split and if so, where is he listening. Then you need to listen to the calling stations in order to determine what the DX station is doing. For example, he may be working gradually up or down the pile-up frequency range – and you need to find the best spot to call. And it may be time to ask yourself: “Do I really need to work this bit of DX, right now? Can I wait a while for the pile-up to subside?”

#2 I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

You also need to listen carefully to determine how well you can hear the DX station to be sure you will hear his reply to your call and to avoid causing interference by transmitting at the wrong time. It is extremely frustrating for a DX station to return a call to a station that is unable to hear him, thereby causing incessant QRM.

#3 I will not trust the Cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.

Cluster spots often show the wrong call sign. Before you log a station, you should hear the station's call sign on the air – don't trust spotting networks. The DX operator should send his call sign at regular intervals. Unfortunately, not all operators do this!

#4 I will not interfere with the DX station or anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.

Sadly, this covers a multitude of operators, employing poor operating practices. We are frequently afflicted with “Policemen,” people who repeatedly jump in to tell callers that “the DX is listening up” – often adding a gratuitous insult. The rule is quite simple: never, ever transmit on the DX frequency for any purpose whatsoever.

I will pay attention to the operator's instructions if he is operating "split" so as to stay in his preferred bandwidth.

#5 I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before calling.

If you transmit before a QSO is over, you are likely to interfere with the exchange of information, lengthening the QSO and slowing the process. It may seem clever to “nip in” as the previous contact is ending but many DX stations don't like it, as such operating may break the pattern of the operator, which is what helps everyone to know when to transmit.

#6 I will always send my full call sign.

This is essential for CW and SSB, because incomplete calls lead to an extra transmission, slowing the operator's progress with the pileup. If the operator is responding to partial call signs, it may appear that you should call with only several letters. Generally, this is not the case. **Always use your full call sign.**

#7 I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.

Continuous calling is selfish and arrogant. With a computer or memory keyer, it is easy to send continuously. Unfortunately, it prevents you from listening and knowing what is taking place. In addition, it raises the QRM floor greatly, making life difficult for the DX station and everyone else.

#8 I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.

Perhaps this is intuitively obvious, but it is a common occurrence. If it is clear that the station is not calling you, **do not transmit.**

#9 I will not transmit when the DX Operator queries a call sign, not like mine.

In life outside amateur radio it would simply be considered rude to answer when someone else is asked a question! How do you know if the station is calling you? Perhaps the DX operator has a partial version of your call. Is it me? "The timing is right!" Yes, the timing may seem right, but it may also be "right" for many other stations. If the DX is actually calling you and hears nothing, he will call you again. Then you can call. **Only one letter from your call sign is NOT enough, however.** Calling when not being addressed raises the floor level of QRM and slows progress dramatically.

#10 I will not transmit when the DX operator requests geographic areas other than mine.

You must recognize and accept that when an operator is calling for a specific geographic area (e.g. NA for North America, AS for Asia), you must not call until the operator's instructions change. Even if his choice appears incorrect, you must follow his instructions. The DX operator is in control. Here's an important point: If a DX operator is working, some area, perhaps North America, and he fails to say so between QSOs, do not begin calling immediately. Call only when it is clear that the operator's instructions have changed. To do otherwise is impolite and simply slows the process.

#11 When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.

If you repeat your call sign, the DX station may think that he has your call sign wrong. He might then listen very carefully – again – thus slowing the process. A DX operator will generally log what he has if you say nothing further.

#12 I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.

There should certainly be a pride of accomplishment when you get a QSO with a guy in a far-away entity. But before you start basking in the glow of accomplishment, think about the help you received from your partners, perhaps Mr. Icom, Mr. Alpha, and Mr. Force 12. If your ego still feels a need to take ALL the credit, try again. But this time turn off your amplifier and connect your rig barefoot to a dipole. If you get through the pile up this time, then YOU, as the operator, can take more of the credit. You should also acknowledge that you would not have had the contact without the skill of the operator at the other end who undoubtedly made sacrifices to be there for you. So be thankful for all this help you received.

#13 I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

Respect is about behaving well toward others. DXing is very competitive. If you operate otherwise, you may acquire a bad reputation. DXing will be the most fun for everyone if we all behave with politeness, mutual respect and even a bit of humility!

With thank from:

DX Code Of Conduct

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Club Note's and information:

- 1) Club meetings start 7:30PM at St. Thomas A Becket Church Hall, 3535 South Common Court unless otherwise noted.
- 2) Sunday brunch is held at 8:30AM on the first Sunday of each month at Bobbie's Hideaway Restaurant, 20 Queen St, Streetsville (NW corner of Britannia Rd/Queen St in Streetsville)
- 3) ARES Meetings start at 7:30PM at the Red Cross, Ontario Zone Office (OZONE), 5700 Cancross Court, Mississauga, ON.
- 4) Executive meetings start 7:30PM at the Club Station, Danmax Electronics, 2311 Anderson Drive Unit B, Mississauga.
- 5) The Basic Classes start at 7:00 pm at the Red Cross OZONE, 5700 Cancross Court, Mississauga - Peel Training Room

Visit our website: <http://www.marc.on.ca> for the up to date calendar of events.



RAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/TCA SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

For two- or three-year memberships or renewals please contact the RAC Office given at bottom of this page.

Please enter applicable choice(s) _____ ↓

Please indicate New or Renewal:	
1 year RAC membership; @ \$52.00 plus GST or HST as applicable Total \$54.60 in AB, MB, NT, NU, MB, PE, QC, SK, YT (5%) Total \$58.76 in NB, NL, ON (13%). Total \$59.80 in NS (15%)	
1 year RAC membership only; for a blind person <u>NO MAGAZINE</u> @ \$25.00 plus GST or HST as applicable Total \$26.25 in AB, MB, NT, NU, MB, PE, QC, SK, YT (5%) Total \$28.25 in NB, NL, ON (13%). Total \$28.75 in NS (15%)	
Family membership; price per extra family member @ \$25.00 plus GST or HST as applicable per year (one TCA per family) (Does not apply to simple subscriptions.) Total \$26.25 per person in AB, MB, NT, NU, MB, PE, QC, SK, YT (5%) Total \$28.25 per person in NB, NL, ON (13%). Total \$28.75 per person in NS (15%)..	

Donation to the RAC Foundation enclosed	\$
Donation to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund enclosed	\$
Donation to the Youth Education Programme enclosed	\$
Donation to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Programme enclosed	\$
Grand Total:	\$

Visa/MasterCard No: _____	Card Expiry Date (MM/YY): _____
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Name of person credit card is issued to: _____	

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