

PSK 31

I enjoyed the PSK31 demo put on by Wayne, LLT, assisted by Gordon, TZV on 19 June put on at short notice. Many thanks to all those who helped in the setting up of the necessary equipment, which made the evening very successful.

I recall that there had been a magazine article on this subject within the last 12 months, which I have now found and the following notes may be useful to anyone who wishes to try this mode out.

The article was in the August 1999 issue of Radio Today and was written by Chris Lorek, G4HCL. PSK31 has now been around for about 4 years and was "invented" by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, being based on an idea by SP9VRC.

As mentioned, PSK is "Phase Shift Keying", which has been in use for many years, the 31 is from the rate of change of the binary "1"s and "0"s of the signal, 31 baud (actually its 31.25), and gives a very narrow bandwidth of 62.5Hz. The article quotes Lower Sideband, but I am told either will work. Like Morse, PSK31 uses variable length coding (varicode for short) which gives a speed of about 50 word per min.

Frequencies for PSK31 activity have concentrated on the lower edge of the IARU RTTY bandplan, moving up as activity increases and it is now usually centred 150kHz higher as follow:

1838.150kHz	3580.150kHz	7035.150kHz
10140.150kHz	14070.150kHz	18100.150kHz
21080.150kHz	24920.150kHz	28120.150kHz **

(** this may be a printing error as the bandplan shows 28050kHz as the lower edge)

If you have Internet access, then www.psk31.com is a good starting point with lots of links for software.

Richard G0EWH

For Sale

Icom U16, 16 channel handheld transceiver, 12.5kHz, 70cms, 0.5W/3W (5W on 13.2V), CTCSS encode/decode, easy to reprogram from keypad. Limited quantity, includes charger, spare battery while stocks last. Proceeds to StARS - £15. Please contact Richard, G0EWH, 01384 396800.