West Mountain Radio

April 2012 Newsletter

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West Mountain Radio wants to thank to everyone who stopped by our most recent shows. We are excited as we prep for the Dayton Hamvention which will be here in just a few weeks. We encourage everyone to stop by and check out all of our new demos. We can't wait to see everyone!

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Airlink Express

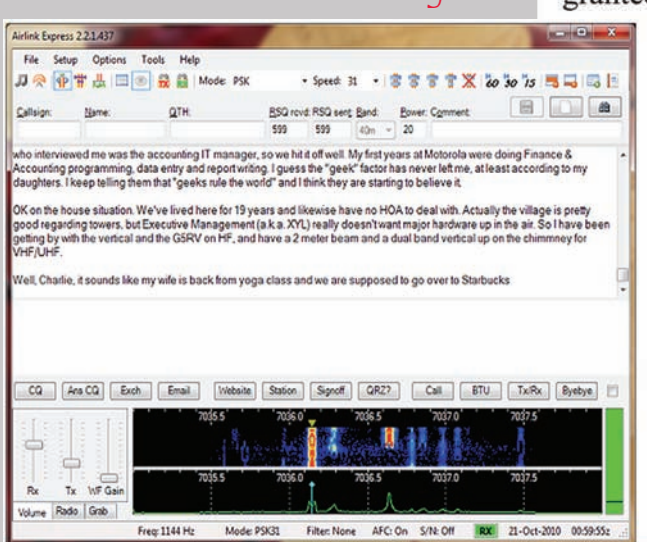
For many years, Digipan (by Skip Teller, KH6TY) has proved to be a very popular PSK31 program for hams, especially those new to digital modes.

Its clean interface and multi-channel decoder were greatly appreciated. The software reached its final release in 2004. While Digipan still proves useful, another software program which was inspired by Digipan has been recently released.

Airlink Express by Alex Krist, KR1ST combines many of the original features of Digipan but also adds many of its own. Again, there is a multichannel decoder, but in Airlink Express it can be used for PSK31, RTTY and even MFSK-16.

Airlink Express can be configured for true RTTY FSK, either by using USART serial communication or toggling a serial port line. Many RTTY operators prefer to use true FSK. If your radio support sit, then Airlink Express can take advantage of it.

Since the introduction of Windows 7, many of the audio features we took for granted with either versions of Windows are simply missing. One of these is the sound-card mixer control, but Airlink Express has its own volume sliders which makes level control of both receive and transmit much easier than trying to navigate through the Windows control panel!



In addition to the audio controls, there are also adjustable bandpass filters, implemented in DSP, which can be set as narrow as 100Hz. Unlike many other programs, you can see the result of a narrow DSP filter directly on the waterfall.

Rig control, including PTT by CAT command is standard and the program has good logging facilities with QRZ.com and ADIF support. PSK reporter is also implemented. For those wanting a simple, clean interface to try the most popular digital modes, Airlink Express is definitely worth trying out.

Independent Review of the RIGrunner 4005i

Kevin K Custer WJ8G

Wouxun-KWD HT Cables & Instant Set-up Connector:

Turn a Wouxun or Kenwood HT into a portable EMCOMM digital-mode station. This set-up allows for hooking up a high quality hand-mic and external speaker to the HT. The Instant Set-up Connector (ISC) included is ready to use in RIGblaster Advantage, Pro and Plus II models. The ISC is also wired to provide easy RIGblaster hook up to Icom HM-103 (IC-706) microphone. The RIGblaster Advantage and Pro speaker out jack may be used for HT RX audio with any external speaker.

#58119-1374 $39.95

While looking for a device which could remotely manage 12 Volt DC power to several radios and other devices at one of my busier repeater sites, I ran across the RIGrunner 4005i. The availability of Internet (or other IP networks) at repeater sites is becoming more common. Network connectivity allows you to remotely access the 4005i to monitor and control a 12 Volt power source, and five independent loads. Using a web browers on a PC, Smart Phone, or other Internet ready reading device, you can simply log in to the 4005i and see what's happening with the source and equipment loads being powered.

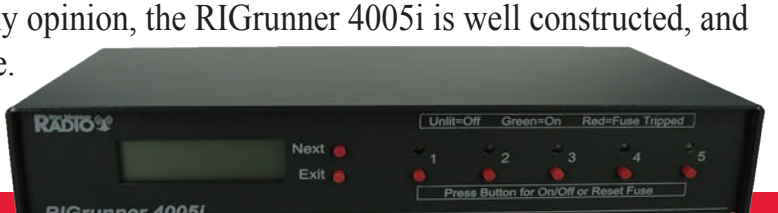
Whether the source is a battery bank or a power supply, the 4005i allows you to see the supply voltage and current consumption. Loads, called Nodes, are managed locally from the front panel, and remotely via a web browser, allowing you to turn them on and off. In addition, you can see the amount of current draw each of the loads in consuming from the front panel display or web browser. The ON/OFF state of each Node is held in memory. If power is lost, the unit will restore power to the Nodes that were ON prior to the loss of power.

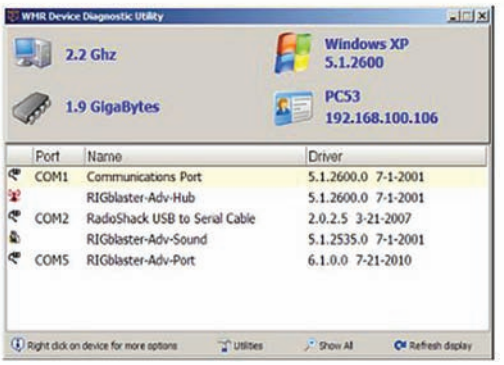
Set up is a snap. The unit comes ready to connect to any device that can automatically issue an IP address. Commonly, this would be a router with DHCP enabled. If you are network savvy and would rather statically address your 4005i, that's easy too. The detailed instruction manual is easy to follow so you can get your 4005i up and on the network quickly. The unit can be secured by a unique username and password.

The RIGrunner 4005i is laid out nicely and is very intuitive. The buttons for management and control are laid out logically, so you are never second guessing which Node you are controlling. The on board display allows you to view the supply voltage, the current consumption of the five loads, and gives some basic network status. The display can be set up to scroll through, or display only the selected Node. Nodes can be given a customizablename, eliminating confusion on what the unit is powering.

One really nice feature of this unit is the "Soft Fuses". A Soft Fuse is like a real fuse or circuit breaker; it will blow or trip when the circuit is overloaded beyond its Ampere rating. Each Node output of the 4005i allows you to set a trip rating. If something draws more than the trip rating, the Soft Fuse blows. If a Soft Fuse has been blown, it can be reset by pressing the corresponding button twice, either locally or remotely.

The RIGrunner 4005i is a new unit designed for anyone needing to remotely manage and/or monitor 12 Volt devices. This unit is perfect for the repeater owner who has multiple remote bases, link radios, or HF rigs. It's capable of 40 Amps total distribution with a recommended continuous duty rating of 30 Amps. DC connections into and out of the RIGrunner are done through Powerpole connectors. In my opinion, the RIGrunner 4005i is well constructed, and has ability to save the repeater owner untold trips to their site.





WMR Diagnostic Utility

Installing and managing device drivers on the various versions the Windows operating system can be a complex and frustrating task even for expert users. West Mountain Radio has developed a new tool to help perform these operations. The WMR Diagnostics Utility can pre-install all of the West Mountain Radio device drivers so Windows will recognize the device when plugged in. This tool can also download the newest drivers off the web.

As a tool tray application the WMR Diagnostics Utility will show you all the COM port and Soundcard interfaces active in the system. You can easily change the device name or COM port number to help remember what it is for. This utility can also show all device drivers active in the system to help find a lost driver. A device details screen can also be used to see all the device settings. Reports can be saved to a file or emailed to West Mountain Radio to help diagnose tough problems.

A powerful feature of the WMR Diagnostics Utility is that any device (COM port or SoundCard) can be selected to test the device. For COM ports you can set baud rate send/receive data to the device. For the Soundcard output a tone at a set frequency and volume and see the volume of incoming sound.

This new utility can be download now from the West Mountain Radio website and it is being including on the latest RIGblaster and RIGtalk Software Collection CD included with RIGblasters. West Mountain Radio would appreciate your feedback on how the utility works for you and we seek suggestions of new features to add.

Upcoming Ham Shows

Dayton Hamvention 2012

Planning to Attend the Hamvention???

STOP by Booth 579-581 and come check out the **instant rebates** on specific products

Friday, May 18-Sunday, May 20, 2012

Booth hours: Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-1pm

Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Spring Rd Dayton, OH 45415

SEAPAC Ham Convention

Friday, June 1- Sunday, June 3, 2012

Booth Hours: Friday 11am -8pm
Saturday 9am-4:30pm
Sunday 9am-noon

We will have special **Instant Rebates** on a specific digital products.
STOP by and check out our digital product line!!!

Seaside Convention Center, 415 1st Ave, Seaside, Oregon

JT65- HF

by Joe Large W6CQZ

T65-A has become an extremely popular digital mode to use on the HF bands. Try turning to 14.076MHz and you'll hear the slowly changing tones of many low power DX QSOs taking place. If you haven't tried the JT65-HF software (from W6CQZ) then you are missing out.

One of the features which makes DX'ing so much better with this software is its multi-signal decode feature. Use of the "Multi BW" control allows you to split the received audio into sections and activate the JT65-A decoder for each. The greater the number of sections the longer a decode will take so a fast modern PC is recommended.

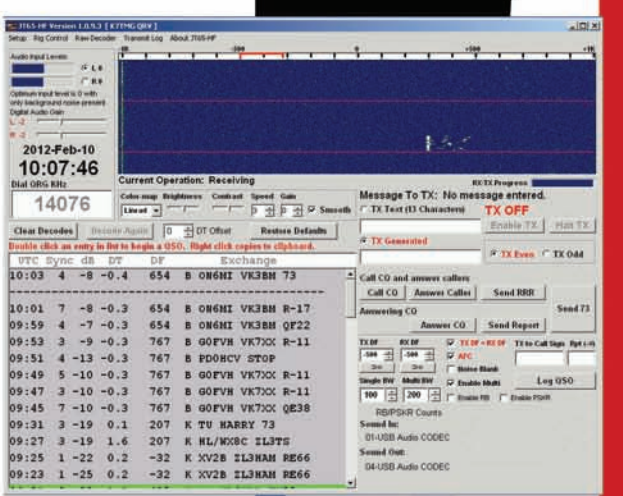
Another very useful feature of JT65-HF is its ability to automatically compensate for sound card sample rate inaccuracies. Many computer sound cards have poor same rate accuracy, even the version of Windows you are running can affect this too. JT65-HF will measure and apply a correction factor while running ensuring you get the best possible decode performance for your particular hardware.

Check out the "Reverse Beacon" feature in the software which gives real time spot infomation displayed at http://jt65.w6cqz.org/receptions.php - this includes station who have heard your transmissions.

You can even download a KML file which can be used with Google Earth on your PC to show the spots graphically.

The world of JT-65A operating is full of working DX on very low power. So for those of us who live in areas of antenna restrictions or just operate QRP this could be an ideal way to start filling the log. If you've never tried JT-65A then I would definitely recommend you try it out using Joe Large's JT65-HF software.

You can download your own copy from http://jt65-hf.sourceforge.net



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