

Two sunrises and two sunsets at our Club Station

22° JARTS RTTY - 2013 -

IW1AYD @IQ1RY

Salvo

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Two sunrises and two sunsets

- **JARTS WW RTTY 2013**
 - 0000UTC Saturday, Oct. 19 thru
2400UTC Sunday, Oct.20
 - You can operate whole 48 hours.
- **Two sunrises and two sunsets at ours club home: IQ1RY**
- Operations class: Single Operator All Band HP
- Setup radio: K3 x2, MK2R+, I7 PC N1MM Logger + II PC backup, monitor da 24", one PA is owned by myself, the second PA is on loan, several other things from the IQ1RY facilities



Two sunrises and two sunsets

- The logistic support, out of food and drinks, is coming as each time from ours Club Station facilities.
- That's the IQ1RY home for all of us
 - This wouldn't be workable time after time without the IQ1RY Team friendship
 - This wouldn't be possible without ours all friendship



How it all started, with Bra and IQ1RY

- From far away
 - When the OMs from Bra and the neighbors ...
- No, not that far away, that's not because we never mind ... but just because this paper is about today and us:

... when Bruno, Alberto, Eugenio, Marco, Edoardo, Giorgio, Mario, Eugenio, Flavio & Flavio and all others that time by time come in to say «Hello» and smile looking to me, but I still continue to work on the radios, grinding QSO after QSO ... as I am the last one it's emotional for me, but I have to thanks all those friends as that place is the one where I could treat my radio disease



How it start

- It start Friday at around, 22:00 local time, and I come into the room upstairs where the Club Station is
 - Ciao Salvo, what's going on?
 - The JARTS RTTY (But I know that they know!)
 - So you have stuffs downstairs in yours parked car, isn't? Hurry up, we will help you.
 - Yes , thank you, I have the radios and some technical and non technical stuff, nevertheless some food and drinks ... two sunrises and two sunsets
- Some more things like statics and informative papers, my work starts weeks before each contest, isn't so heavy to be lifted after all!



All is upstairs

- With the helping aid of everybody all the boxes and bags are now upstairs
 - How do you workout that contest
 - SO2R, I say
 - But you have also a PC monitor, why?
 - I need it, big, to have all my focusing in one place
 - Would you use the MKR2+? So you need that special cable I made two years ago to drive the two band pass filters
 - Oh, yes, but wait a minute, I have to place and hold down the K3s and all theirs cabling, the PC and the big display, after all that ...
 - Yes, Salvo, but do it in a hurry or you will be late
- Time passes ... now it's 23 local time ... just 3 hours before the start



It's time to tie up all

- Tie that switch cable for the band pass filter
- Which audio channel should be connected to each decoder?
- Where I place the PA control panel?
- How about the monitor position?
- Which is Radio 1 and which is Radio 2
- Checking the auto band switch over doesn't work – I must have it working – I will never do 40 hours changing bands overs bands by hands on four if not six different place together: it could be a disaster each time



It's time to tie up all

- Move that accessories power cable
- Place here the third power supply
- Have you paper and pencils on hands?
- What about those nifty add-on keys on the mouse
- Test the whole thing TX'ing, test also the Dueling CQ over all the bands
- Now it more late, almost 01, even the die-hard supporting friends leave and then I rest all alone with all IQ1RY



But it's everything well working ...?

- It seems yes and quite flawless, the Dueling CQ is like a charm, the K3 false TX offer a nice way to test all it
- Check the macros, check also the second PC ... it's just a backup ... but you never know ...
- Now place everything is on foot paths well apart and found a place for everything wouldn't be of first usage
- Switch off that big over ceiling light
- How are the bands, somebody, somewhere
- May I have made the proper time zone setup, yes NTP is working and connected



So we go ...

- Steam and noise, a coal train, the two radios jumps inordinately over the table – 80m and 40m – the 20m show just 3 weak to nothing signals, all the others bands are died
- 80m EU e 40m EU, the RX aerial is on 80m
 - The 40m are going in a hurry toward US, a QSO after another
 - Too early to have a look at the numbers but the statistical indicators of the logger are going up, up and up
 - The 80m, toward everywhere but mostly EU, are not that bad and pump out theirs numbers
- That's the first hour SO2R after one year since the last JARTS and WAE RTTY, out of hours and hours of simulations inside my shack – it's somehow hard to get into the rhythm, hard and heavy, but all is working in great condition – simulate it is paying – and all those little coins are clicking and counting



I am not alone

- In a contest you are never alone
- You make yours best all alone
- But there out are thousands and thousands of OM that are on the same playground, nobody is hiding anything if all of us want to play well
- Not counting on who is winning or loosing – each of us run for the pleasure to run everything will pay
- Each time anybody of us would learn something more and have something to try out, time after time as we are all into Hamradio



One hour is gone ...

- One hour is gone – no way to change bands by now – its 3 o'clock CET in the night, a dark, cold and deep night
- The numbers are good, IQ1RY is a lucky place to be
- The setup is working properly or it seems so
- The macros sets are enough tight, I could survive and make easily two QSO, one on each alternate radio/band relying on the whole SO2R I made – not jumping nor cricketing as I would not too much happy to do



The sunrise, the first

- Some more W coming on 80m ... still not a spot
- Out there is fog, is cold, may be it's because the two PA inside are making the place comfortably warm?
- How are others bands ... it's time to move away from 80m?
- SMS messaging from a good friend, Federico IW1QN: when we would sleep a little bit, 90 minutes at least. He says after ... after what I say ... no answer, well, anyway, everything is going quite good also at his site. Him is in Genova, on the sea, I am here at IQ1RY
- I feel all the responsibilities to make something more than my own, one thing that many of other may envy and now under the command I'm there



The sunrise

- The 40m band works alone, full steam, but the 80m are tailing down and down
- Just let me do some multipliers before to leave
- The cluster have some spots on 20m, have a look ...
- OK, RUN on 20m and 40m, but let me look also at 15m ... it's a JA contest after all, I will take more than just a look to what seems one of their preferred band



The first day

- Now is plain daylight, 40m is just for EU
- 20m running is a lot also with exotics call sign – at least for me
- One more thing, since the start of the contest the RTTY skimmers are working fast and delivering mine spots after seconds of each move I have done WOW! IQ1RY is also steaming out and fast as a train
- The 20m still are coming up and up, indeed the 40m are tearing down
- Let me do some more multipliers and I will leave that thing for 15m, quite in a hurry now ...



The first day

- And what about the 10m ... yes, exotics spots, but I don't listen anyone of those, just some weak traces and East EU OMs
- So, now 20m and 15m and a loud silence eat me, not bad as a loud bang ... but silence is anyway bad ...
- Everything die suddenly, each CQ on 15m put literally OFF the SO2R thing, not the power supply but the box! Damned thing!
- All is stopped, I wouldn't do it RUNning just in 20m



The first setup problem

- Troubleshooting RFI is not an easy thing, troubleshooting RFI after more than 24 hours awake is one of the worst thing ... nonetheless ...
 - Reroute that cable, then the other, get rid of anything that seems a preferred way to enrooted RF to the MK2R+ ... move away that power supply ... try any simple remedy but still troubleshoot all it with some method and not dangerously for all those boxes ... well, I have some snap on ferrites in my miracle bag, have those pieced tied on the bands change signal cables to the low pass filters ... it works
 - Now it works, no more MK2R+ shutdown on 15m CQ full power, but it was there also barefoot ...
- I loose 30 minutes of time but one year of my life, I could not believe
- Try to RUN give back great results, the skimmer already spotted me again on the two bands, time to get onto and restart as nothing had happened



The first day is on

- The 10m are still as before, not that much, just weak traces from East – but I will often check
- So now 20m and 15m non stop to up the next change, when and if
- Numbers are pretty good, I am well before myself last years, tens of QSOs before last year
 - But this itself would not mean nothing
 - No numbering against others to check
 - But I am going pretty well, just do it better, I should try



Half of a day, the first day

- With Federico, IW1QN, we had the idea that it would be the best to stop around 10 in the morning, but after the 15m bad experience I would like to better and frantically RUN
- Now it's noon, the 20m are going but slowly numerically, the 10m still doesn't grow up, the 15m work is still steaming but ... but is time to recover myself having some rest
- Eat, sleep: almost 120 minutes, 90 for sleeping.
- On the road again, the 10m are now well open: great!



Slowly ...

... the afternoon come in and faded out

- Nothing to comment, if not all, nice come in and strong RUN times for each high band, some hundred/s QSO more than in 2012 ... but a lot of dupe!
- Now the dinner time is approaching, at 19 local time, after changing bands now 15m and 20m, waiting for the 40m. 10m went very well
- Then some half a hours after dinner come the time to work on 20m and 40m
- Some hours later, when the 20m switch quite suddenly off, at 22 local it's time to change again
- Now the well known 80m e 40m – time to bed is approaching but still not then



The first sunset went and gone

- The machinery is all the way pretty well working quite alone
- But I should, I must, stay on command, it's a must for any single operator contest – like a one man band
- Checks are a way to maintain consciousness of to be aware of what's going on. Being in control of actions, tactics , strategy, moves and standups is a must even when alone
- The easy one is to have timely the eyes focused also on the cluster – any new spot > may I listen it, from where it was originated ...
 - Try to move on or simply carry on here
- Be easy, but strong and precise, don't leave all to the counter, breath and take care



Not only evening, now it's night

- Here in 80m it's not that easy to receive ... for several reasons ... but it's better than at home where I live, there is no antenna for 80m, not enough real estate even for a shortened dipole
- Some US and a sea full of EU ...
- Now a 4 x 90 minutes of sleep is my main target
- Anyway, 40m W land QSO are counting on one hand, several more JAs but now they are gone ... the worst is the absence of the W land ... where are they all gone? Usually from 00 to 02 AM is a W land festival here ... not this time, well: bed.



The second sunrise

- Awake since 6 AM, great time!
- 80m and 40m, come on, but the 80m went off a little bit early not giving any real grey zone advantage today ...
- This would mean that the 40m will lost DX QSOs also early, EU only since then. But the 20m are coming, hey move on RUN there
- After half a hour also 15m are coming on and up pretty well, the RUN there is crazy, JA's as it was raining, some sporadic EU and more exotic near Asian R/U
- Out there is still foggy, seems darky, and cold
- But, wait a moment, look at the 10m ... if 20m & 15m ...



Sunrise, Sunrise, Sunrise

- The 10m band doesn't keep on track with other ... it seems ... but nonetheless signals are strong and coming from my far East, no EU at all, noise isn't bad and a RUN try should be done
- I move the 20m in 10m and start RUNning
- Suddently I RUN like the hell, I'd never seen this before from East
- 10m fully of JA and R/U
- 15m fully of JA and more exotic Far East calls
- What a party! Unfortunately it's hard, even if High Power to keep onto the QRG rails ... bad signals are approaching up and down my QRGs on both bands
- The K3 *isn't a good radio*, it transmit a too much tight FSK signal, a too much tight signal since the last 2013 firmware change
- I have a 350 Hz filter but I perceive peoples running 500 Hz to 1 KHz around me and sputtering theirs large signals all over me
- AGN AGN, CALL? JA1?? CALL??, QRZ QRZ, macros are used too much often just because the QRM in afflicting me at all ... damn



The second morning

- The 10m just RUNning & jumping from an incoming splatter to the next where the next splattering and sputtering signal will arrive in minutes – all those sputters are in between me and JA, grinding
- 20m and 15m almost the same, several peoples come on with theirs not so anemic and well warmed bottles and push whatever they have on air
- But I try to don't loose my pace and keep on track, I am still hundreds QSO well before 2012: TU IQ1RY!
- Never loose the pace, all those warmed bottles doesn't know you and just pursue their own scopes, move and carry on, forget about it's just another things as no prop or some other not repairable fault ... isn't it?



The end is slowly coming

- Big numbers, but I leave the 10m: too much grinding
- 20m and 15m are now simplest and more effective to be there on RUN
- It's noon, lunch, pills and a short walk around the building
- Time to go, I restart all on 20 and 15, leaving one of the two for 10m to shoot over some multipliers
- My walk showed to me also the aerals direction, that's something you could loose when tired
- Now in the afternoon aerals are:
 - 20> The big to West with the lowest splitted to EU and JA: almost EU and some JA, slow slow slow W land
 - 15> & some 10> The small North East & tries to N-W also, but no W land at all ... where are they?



The second sunset

- The end of the game is slowly coming out ... big numbers are already made
- It's time to carry on for multipliers and to refine those big, at least for me, numbers
- The stop/start hours counts start
 - How much time I have to operated
 - How much time I rested
 - But just to know and to know how to make the next and last dinner time, fast at the radio, slow at another desk as a shiny rest
 - The JARTS have no required timings for stops, I know, but the next will WAE RTTY some intelligence data may apply, be aware
- In the mean time also any look at the ESM, the macros and some other programming aspects – taking notes as before in contest – seems useful to help me to stay awake
- Looking at each correspondent and at any QSO we made before, some “statistical” data easy to calculate keep the brain awake as any automation aspects that give relief for any sequential operations when tired ... but don't hung yourself into numbers that much



It's becoming late

- Dinner time
 - 10m are gone, no W land, pity, just some more multi before to go
- Early moving to 80m & 40m, the 15m died suddenly to early and the 20m went coming on the same route just one hour after ...
- The numbers are good, measuring myself, rates are quite high – if not high as I would have like more
- Anyway all seems better than in the last year, 2012



The JARTS WW RTTY 2013 ends

- The last QSO was on 40m, W land
- Two great days ... not so tiring now that it's gone
- How much I operated: 39 hours & 55 min
- How many QSO: 2400, no dupes 2250
- I already see some errors, well it's life
- All this against 40 hours and some 2000 QSO in 2012
- Make the DB backup out of sight, switch off
- Now it's definitively bed time ...
- TU JARTS, TU IQ1RY by a now dreaming IW1AYD



It's never the same ball

- Each year, any contest, any day, any hour, minute or handful of seconds operating it's never never the same
- Each time everybody need to keep on different tracks using his preparedness, skills and all the better and luckiest hours
- Thanks to God everybody of us is making it great at least doing something or being stubborn as myself that forgot everything every time



The third morning, time to leave

- Breakfast at IQ1RY, every time a good time after that much efforts
- But it's not gone at all!
- Disassemble the whole setup, box each thing, move all the boxes and bags to the car
- Reassemble the original IQ1RY setup and test it, leave it working is a must
- Make the whole room clean, tidy and travel back to home, well into a misty WX
- From 9 to 12, calmly, then at 14 I am at home – what a nice thing a parking place just at the home door ... now move all the boxes and bags upstairs to my flat and ... relax – 73 CUL



Two sunrise and two sunsets with IQ1RY

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The declared

Single Op HP Call	Score	Total s	Mults QSOs	80 Q	Mlt	40 Q	Mlt	20 Q	Mlt	15 Q	Mlt	10 Q	Mlt
UW5M(UT7MA)	2,624,340	2862	382	248	37	551	80	602	86	816	98	645	81
K4GMH	2,413,816	2459	362	107	36	456	66	610	86	787	97	499	77
OF4ØR(OH8WW)	2,321,347	2568	371	213	40	317	65	697	89	806	95	535	82
IW1AYD(@IQ1RY)	2,044,110	2250	366	261	47	555	76	375	74	634	92	425	77
VE7CC(@VE7SV)	1,896,636	2213	337	190	31	568	80	487	79	695	93	273	54
UNØLL(@UN1L)	1,867,632	2149	5987	140	407	394	1155	567	1576	677	1830	371	1018
W7RN(WK6J)	1,800,376	2200	313	145	26	504	70	367	63	715	81	469	73
6Y3M(VE3NZ)	1,747,696	2247	304	100	23	395	64	382	63	602	76	768	78
DKØEE(DL4MDO)	1,286,936	1473	343	62	33	324	68	437	88	413	86	237	68
LZ6K(LZ2PL)	1,254,798	1503	342	91	30	248	64	325	74	439	83	400	91

Which one is the number here that make me happy?

For sure all, but my numbers also counts for IQ1RY, that's better, isn't it?



TU IQ1RY boys!

Two great sunrises and two great sunsets

- TU Bruno, Salvo, Renato, Mario, Flavio, Marco, Alberto, Flavio, Sergio, Piero, Eugenio, Ugo, Michele and all, all, really to all, all the other that I know but I forget to mention now. TU to yours friendship your friendship, your patience, your help, your advices and your smiles.

(I forgot ... Sergio, that you have brought in some good HM grappa, I am abstemious, but I managed to survive a toothache Saturday night and Sunday thanks to that: good, good, yes!

Eugenio also brought me more medical aid, thank you!

Guys, it could be little, but I do not see how to be more happy!)

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