



January 2005

# Summer in the Sun!

Rod Roderique, WAØQII will provide us with a presentation of his impromptu 2003 IOTA contest mini-expedition to AS-004, "Summer in the Sun". (Yes, you guessed it – AS-004 *is* Cyprus!)

The January meeting will be held at: Angelo's Ristorante, 601 SW 153<sup>rd</sup> - Burien - (206) 244-3555.

Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> - Dinner at 6:30 PM, Program at 7:30 PM.

## 2005 WWDXC Officers

President: Denny Bowman W7SNH  
Vice President: Roger Huntley W7VV  
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## JA Award Hunting

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

*T*he sunspot cycle is approaching minimum, the high bands are quiet and the low bands are crowded and noisy. What's a low power DX'er with basic antennas to do? One alternative to talk-radio and TV stick and ball games for the next few years is chasing JA awards. Chasing JA's? Sure, they're not that hard to work and they're pretty good QSL'ers.

A while back I was browsing through old magazines and came across a description of the KCJ (Keymen's Club of Japan) Award for working Japanese Prefectures (the equivalent of our states). Going through my JA QSL's, I found I qualified for the KCJA with endorsement for 200 Prefectures. Now I'm hunting for more Prefectures on the 30, 17, and 12 meter bands. Even with current conditions JA's are workable most days on 30 and 17 meters.

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601 SW 153<sup>rd</sup> - Burien, WA 98166  
(206) 244-3555

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Program at 7:30 PM

The JARL (Japan Amateur Radio League) offers four awards for working JA stations. All the JARL awards are can be issued for single bands, modes, Satellite, and QRP. They require a certified list of QSL's for each application. The JARL awards are as follows:

AJD (All JA Districts) for contacts with the ten JA districts 0 through 9. This could be a real challenge on 160 or 6 meters!

WAJA (Worked All JA) for contacts with all 47 JA Prefectures. This is the JA equivalent to the ARRL Worked All States Award. Japan stretches from mountainous Hokkaido (JA8) in the north to California-like Okinawa (JR6) in the south. There are some easy ones (Tokyo, Osaka) and tougher ones (Tottori, Saga) away from population centers. Working all 47 is harder than you might think!

JCC (Japan Century Cities) for contacts with 100 Cities per the JARL City List. There are approximately 660 cities in Japan. This award can be endorsed for 200, 300, etc. beyond the basic 100 level.

JCG (Japan Century Guns) for contacts with 100 Guns (pronounced "GOON") per the JARL Gun List. Guns are like our counties, except that the cities are not included in Guns. There are about 570 Guns in Japan and, since they are primarily rural areas, much harder to work than the cities. This award can be endorsed for 200, 300, etc. beyond the basic 100 level.

JARL website: <http://jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm>

The basic KCJ Award is for contacts with 100 Prefectures on CW (sorry, but that's the rule). Since there are only 47 Prefectures it is only offered as a mixed-band award. but the sky is the limit! If you can work JA's on 2 meter moonbounce, they count! As I said above, this is leading me to branch out onto the WARC bands to add to my total. This award is issued by the Keymen's Club of Japan, separate from the JARL.

KCJ website: [http://www2u.biglobe.ne.jp/~kcj/e\\_index.htm](http://www2u.biglobe.ne.jp/~kcj/e_index.htm)

The years of low sunspots don't have to be the DX doldrums! The JA Awards described above can give you something to work on, you'll meet some interesting JA's along the way and learn a lot about a very fascinating country!

## Contest Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

As of the New Year, we have completed 2 of the 7 contests for the NW Traveling Trophy Competition and the unofficial Club totals are indicated below. It's interesting to note that DXpeditions seem to be a big part of this year's early totals; reflecting 37% of the WWDXC total, 71% of the WVDXC total, and 87% of the BCDXC totals. The next two contests in the series will be the ARRL SSB and CW competitions.

### NW Trophy totals

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| WWDXC | 28,130,329 |
| WVDXC | 47,786,478 |
| BCDXC | 36,093,966 |

### 2004 ARRL 160 (not part of the NW Trophy Competition)

| Call                    | QSOs | Sec | Cntry | hr  | Score  |
|-------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----|--------|
| <u>All Single Op HP</u> |      |     |       |     |        |
| N7BF                    | 188  | 43  | 3     |     | 16,426 |
| <u>All Single Op LP</u> |      |     |       |     |        |
| W7TMT                   | 480  | 72  | 0     |     | 69,120 |
| N9ADG                   | 310  | 71  | 2     | 15  | 45,085 |
| N0AX                    | 131  | 44  | 2     | 4   | 12,052 |
| N7WA                    | 100  | 33  |       |     | 6,600  |
| W7QN                    | 87   | 26  | 0     | 7.1 | 4,524  |

### 2004 ARRL 10 (not part of the NW Trophy Competition)

| Call                   | QSOs | Mults | hr  | Score   |
|------------------------|------|-------|-----|---------|
| <u>All SO CW HP</u>    |      |       |     |         |
| N7BF                   | 76   | 23    |     | 6,992   |
| <u>All SO CW LP</u>    |      |       |     |         |
| N9ADG                  | 62   | 19    | 3   | 4,636   |
| N7WA                   | 52   | 20    |     | 4,160   |
| <u>All SO Mixed HP</u> |      |       |     |         |
| W7IJ                   | 365  | 91    | 16  | 116,844 |
| <u>All SO Mixed LP</u> |      |       |     |         |
| W7QN                   | 230  | 67    | 9.2 | 52,528  |

### 2004 TBDC (Stew Perry 160M contest) (not part of the NW Trophy Competition)

| Call                    | QSOs | hr   | Score |
|-------------------------|------|------|-------|
| <u>All Single Op LP</u> |      |      |       |
| W7TMT                   | 144  | 14   | 512   |
| N9ADG                   | 140  | 11.5 | 280   |
| NG7Z                    | 36   | 1.5  | 79    |
| N7WA                    | 27   |      | 62    |

## Totem Trader

### FOR SALE

FT-1000D - Inrad filters, computer interface unit, Yaesu hand mic --- \$2,400

Heil Pro-Set 4 boom mic headset with adapter cord for Yaesu radios --- \$75

Industrial Communications Engineers (ICE) Model 321

8KWPEP Lowpass RF filter --- \$20

Industrial Communications Engineers (ICE) Model 402X 1.8-30Mhz Broadcast filter --- \$20

KT36XA Tribander --- \$650

Computer perfect for ham shack, includes ZIP and CD drives + Sony Trinitron monitors --- \$50

Tom, K7RI - (206) 935-0457

Looking for at least two large air variable capacitors capable of 5KV (one for 160m "outside in a box" antenna tuner), some big heavy transformers with 240V primary and 2500 or 3600v secondaries. Also, some heavy duty chassis suitable for mounting a 30-60lb transformer and associated rectifiers, caps, bleeders, relays, etc.

If you have some broken amps, or ones for which tubes are unobtainable (for parts), I might be interested in those too.

I \*have\* some type-73 material binocular cores, great for winding beverage transformers (9:1 or the reflection 1:1). If you're really going to use it, free (four would likely be a reasonable upper limit on

this). If you're not going use them, but squirrel them away, \$0.75 each.

If there's enough interest, we can do a "roll your own beverage transformer" session at a club meeting.

- Brian N9ADG [brianmo@yahoo.com](mailto:brianmo@yahoo.com)

Wanted: Collins 30L-1 linear amplifier in good or better condition at a reasonable price. Winged or round emblem. Frank, W7ND. 206-772-1208 [W7ND@earthlink.net](mailto:W7ND@earthlink.net)

For Sale: Collins 51S-1 general coverage "S line" receiver. Winged emblem good condition with original manual. I got this in a trade a couple of years ago and have used it for WWV and SWL. Seems to work fine, I suspect it could use an alignment. Trade for 706 MkIIIG with CW filter or?? Kim Bottles - K7IM 425-702-6628 w 206-780-8204 h [kbottles@rafn.com](mailto:kbottles@rafn.com)

## DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies

W7DX North East Bellevue (DX Node) 145.75 K7UU sysop. TELNET to w7dx.net user documents [www.ab5k.net](http://www.ab5k.net)  
W7PKT Auburn (DX Node) 145.73 KA7CSE sysop. Mike has some hard copy user documents.  
N7XY Bainbridge Is. (DX Spider Node) 145.77 N7XY sysop. TELNET to n7xy.net port 7300. or use <http://n7xy.net/cgi-bin/spider.cgi> user document  
<http://www.dxcluster.org/main/usermanual.html>  
K7JY-2 University of Washington NETROM 145.75  
N6MZ-4 Bellevue Sommerset NETROM 145.75  
N7FSW-6 West Seattle NETROM 145.75  
Call or email K7UU if you need help using the netroms.  
Kurt, K7UU, k7uu@comcast.net, 425-746-5254.

## Visalia Info

By Hillar Raamat, N6HR

**I** have just received word that George W6YD (W 6 Yankee Doddle) has a web site for the 2005 Visalia International DX convention at [www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention/](http://www.ncdxc.org/Ncdxc/Convention/) the event taking place 15-17 April 2005. Get your hotel reservations in p-r-o-n-t-o! A huge RV park is available right in the hotels parking lot (bring QRM filters!) Or - you can fly in --- the Visalia Airport is next door and has shuttle service while you park your Bonanza or Learjet adjacent to the hotel...

If you are one of the devotees of chasing white golfballs, be sure to partake of the International No-Holds-Barred Golf Tournament! Bring your warclubs as the golf course is right next to the Convention Headquarters! There is even a practice facility to tune up your game before the money bets...

If you are just a regular run-of-the-mill 330+-DXer - well - meet your fellow cronies of the usual pileups and see if your Henry puts out more poop than his Henry... Surely Tom N6BT will have some fancy skyhooks on display overhanging

the pool... Get your motorized towers while chowing down at US Towers...

THIS IS NOT A 2-METER CONVENTION!

## Another Saltwater Vertical Tale

By Patrick Dayshaw, W7TMT

**M**ost of you have read about the various "Team Vertical" adventures. They include stories of record breaking HF radio performances from exotic places, extensive technical explanations, and beautiful color pictures of the manufacturer supported trips that make headlines in print and on Ham Radio Web sites not to mention related presentations at our own NW DX Convention. This story contains NONE of the above. It does however describe one local boy's experience with his own homemade, low-tech, saltwater vertical that set no records but demonstrates (via anecdotal evidence at least) that there is in fact something to this "vertical mixed with saltwater" stuff that all the Big Kids keep talking about. While this story is played out in the backwaters of Eagle Harbor on the south end of Bainbridge Island, rather than in the trade winds of paradise, you may find it interesting none the less.

### A Little Background

My current home QTH is at the north end of the Delridge Valley in West Seattle. The valley runs north/south and is defined by two ridges. The ridge to the east, locally called Pigeon Peak, rises about 200' above the valley floor. The one to the west (more or less the mid-point of the West Seattle peninsula) rises between 300' and 400' above the valley floor. The two ridges are less than 2 miles apart, not what any Ham would consider a good radio location. My lot is not atypical for the middle of the city, 40' X 120'. Obviously there are no 100' towers with stacked monobanders. Rather, an ancient A3S at 35' and an open-wire fed Inverted "V", its peak at 35' or so and its 66' legs bent and contorted to fit the space available comprise the antenna farm. The Inverted "V" is used as-is on 80 and 40 meters. For 160 meters, I short the feed line and feed it as a "long-wire" (or whatever its compromised shape represents.) This 100 watt station is what could be best described as the quintessential "Little Pistol" configuration. (Frankly "Cap Gun" might be more appropriate but I'll stick with "Little Pistol" in deference to those in similar situations who only have the Inverted "V".)

The station described above would certainly not be described as "competitive" especially on 160 meters. To illustrate, in the 2003 ARRL 160 Meter contest, by the end of the first night, I had managed a total of only 40 QSO's. To be honest, I bailed out at about 0400 local time with my 40 Q's because I just couldn't stand it anymore. Having stations that were S7 to S9 CQ in my face endlessly just wasn't that much fun. It's not that I'm not used to "rejection" from this location but this time it just wore me down. During a few hours sleep I did however, have a thought.... "I've got this old wooden sailboat moored in the saltwater of Eagle Harbor, I wonder if things would be better from over there?"

Early in the morning I decided to find out. I threw together a 160 meter, 300 ohm TV line Top-Fed "L", packed up some

gear and jumped on the ferry for Bainbridge. (This option was chosen because 1) I had everything on hand and only a few hours to get it assembled and operational and 2) I had just finished reading an article by W4RNL extolling the virtues of this configuration.) I sweet talked a friend on a boat down the dock into letting me support one end of the "L" from his mast. On one leg I ended up with 50' of vertical wire with the balance bent and supported parallel to the dock via a couple of 8 foot 2 X 2's. The 130' horizontal leg ran off to my friend's mast also 50' above the water. Results the second night were 100 Q's - 2 1/2 times the previous nights effort from the home QTH. I was further buoyed by all the locals reporting what I had observed - conditions were much worse the second night. I knew I was on to something.

A few weeks later in the 2003 Stew Perry I planned to repeat the same arrangement, but alas my friend had the audacity to go sailing for the weekend with his new super-model look alike girl friend. (Makes one wonder about some peoples priorities.) With one end of my antenna support gone I ended up with a rather miserable looking Top-Fed "L" that worked to the tune of 95 claimed Q's in the Stew. Not bad compared to the other local results but I knew I could do better.

Having the better part of a year to think about the problem, I decided to go all out in 2004. I kept reading about stations with "balloon supported" verticals - most notably K6SE, K7OX, N5OT and G4VGO. K6SE goes to a large desert salt flat where he says "...the ground conductivity is better than saltwater". K7OX flies his balloon from his place in Eastern Washington, N5OT reported in NCJ that he used his to check out a QTH he wanted to buy in Oklahoma, and G4VGO flew his balloons and kites from his place in the UK. All reported great results. Combining all those stories with the "Team Vertical" reports gave me some ideas. While reading about other's balloon exploits however, one cautionary note did emerge. Each and every one mentioned problems related to losing the balloons in high winds. Since I was planning on trying this in our windy NW winter months, I knew I needed to make allowances for that problem.

### The Basic Design

In doing my balloon supported antenna research on the Web, I came across lots of articles; perhaps the most detailed were on the Web site of G4VGO. Bob has a lot of experience flying balloon and kite supported antennas from his urban UK QTH and his site is a great resource for information. The main thing I carried away from his data, however, was the idea of using a "support mast" so that the antenna was partially supported. This has two distinct advantages 1) you can use a smaller balloon since it doesn't have to support all of the antenna wire and 2) the elevated support means that when (not if) the wind blows, the antenna and balloon are less likely to collide with nearby objects.

### Construction

The aluminum mast on my old boat (we sailors often call them "sticks") is 50' tall. It is "stepped" on deck and therefore the top is nearly 55' off the water. I considered a variety of schemes to load the mast by itself but eventually decided against it. I did, however, come up with a scheme that seemed (on paper at least) to be a decent compromise.

I purchased a 25' long heavy-duty telescoping fiberglass/composite mast section. I fabricated a couple of

fittings from light gauge aluminum angle and attached a half-dozen sail slides to them. The sail slides ride on the "T" shaped track that normally supports the leading edge of the main sail. The composite mast was lashed to the aluminum channels. By using one of the sail halyards and adding a down haul line I could effortlessly hoist and retrieve the composite mast to the top of the main mast. This arrangement gave me a nonconductive support point that was about 75' above the water. I cut my antenna wire (the light weight but amazingly strong #26 gauge coated stuff from Wireman) to a length of around 128'. I secured the wire so that the feed point end was right at deck level and led as far away from the main mast as possible. That left me with about 53' hanging down. I now had two options, 1) if the weather was good, I would fly a helium filled balloon (a 36" latex unit from Champion Party Supply in Seattle) or 2) if the weather was bad, I would just lead the upper end away down the dock with a long length of monofilament fishing line and have a bottom fed "L" with a 75' high vertical section. Since all the other balloon fliers mentioned losing balloons and either having to shut down or having to switch to alternate antennas because of bad weather, I thought I had my bases pretty well covered.

Regarding the saltwater aspect... My old boat is moored near the end of a wooden dock that is nearly 500' long. The orientation is such that I have 400' of open water to the north, 5+ miles to the east, a half mile to the south and 1 mile plus to the west. If I wanted I could move the boat to other more open locations, but that would compromise my support options for the "L" if needed.

### 2004 ARRL 160 Results

It was actually rather amazing. The first clue was when I easily worked W9RE in Indiana at 1525 local time. I was able to establish and hold a run frequency using my 100 watts for more than my customary 3 minutes (and that's 3 minutes on the higher bands, it's just not possible on 160.) I worked nearly everyone I heard. I went from S9 stations CQ'ing in my face to having to struggle to pull stations out of the noise who obviously could copy me very well. I don't think I was exactly an alligator with my 100 watts but I sure felt that way a few times. By the end of the first three hours of activity (1830 local time) I had worked three more multipliers and was only 30 Q's short of my total for the entire 2003 contest. Were conditions better than in 2003? Absolutely. However, the difference the antenna made was just astounding. This was the first time in 42 years as a Ham that I have had an antenna on any band that was anything close to "optimum" or the least bit "competitive".

In 2003 my final results were 133 Q's and 27 mult's for a final score of 7,020 points. My 2004 claimed score (strong emphasis on claimed) is based on 480 Q's and 72 mult's for a total of 69,120 points and included 48 states. (As a reference I only managed 486 Q's and 77 sections after a full-time, all band, LP effort in SS from the home QTH this year.) I know I'll lose some points to busted calls etc., but what a difference this antenna made! I guess there is something to this "take one or more verticals, mix with saltwater and shake" recipe.

Highlight of the contest? Oh, no doubt that would be having Jay, VY1JA answer my CQ for the NT mult followed immediately by VY2PX for the MAR mult.

What about the weather issue? Well I assumed I'd have to take the balloon down and convert to the "L" configuration if the wind blew. I was wrong. The wind did blow the first night and I saw gusts of 20+ knots on the boat's anemometer. However, each time I went out into the rain and wind to check the antenna, the balloon was fine. The composite mast was bending around a lot but it all held together (obviously it wasn't high enough.) The antenna was an "L" during the gusts and a vertical during the lulls. After a few more trips out into the rain, I decided to just carry on. If I lost the balloon I'd set up the "L" support. The balloon stayed up all night and was in fine shape when I pulled it down and secured it on deck in the morning to get some sleep. The second night there was rain but little wind so no problems at all.

#### **2004 Stew Perry**

I ran the same antenna configuration in the Stew Perry. In 2003 I managed only 95 Q's reduced in the log check to a final of 91 Q's and 58 grids with the much compromised Top-Fed "L". In the 2004 event, in what everyone described as poor conditions, my claimed score is based on 144 Q's in 83 grids with my most distant grid being my first JA ever on 160 meters. Not quite as big a difference as in the ARRL 160 tests but "statistically significant" none the less.

In short, this has been a blast! Since I had never before operated from a station with anything close to an efficient antenna, I had no idea what it was like. While mine was nothing more than a hunk of wire and a \$10 balloon, the real-estate (and Team Vertical) mantra of "...location, location, location" rang true. Now, rather than struggling to be heard, I need to figure out how to squeeze a better receive antenna onto the old boat before the next 160 meter contest.

More to follow...

## **CasualDX and K9PET in Chile**

CasualDX will be operating from Chile, both on shore with the BigSteppIR Vertical and from our ship "National Geographic Endeavour" as we depart from Ushuaia, Argentina on March 3 and cruise north to about Concepcion on the 14. Glad to work anyone we can. I'm especially interested to see if we can maximize our efforts by taking advantage of Greyline propagation. If someone has the talents or computer programs to help figure this out please contact me via email or phone. We'd also like to pick some frequencies we think might make it. Thanks. Marc [K9PET@arrl.net](mailto:K9PET@arrl.net) or 206-546-8952. [Adventure-Radio-Travel for Hams & Families---](http://www.casualdx.com) [www.casualdx.com](http://www.casualdx.com) *From The Arctic to Antarctica, and islands along the way.*

## **Your Editor's Suggestions for Tsunami Relief Donations**

#### **American Friends Service Committee**

1501 Cherry St.  
Philadelphia, PA

888-588-2372

[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)

#### **American Red Cross**

P.O. Box 37243  
Washington, DC 20013  
800-HELP-NOW  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

#### **CARE**

151 Ellis St. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
800-521-CARE  
[www.careusa.org](http://www.careusa.org)

#### **Doctors Without Borders**

P.O. Box 2247  
New York, NY 10116-2247  
888-392-0392  
[www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

#### **Habitat for Humanity International: Asia Tsunami Response Fund**

121 Habitat St.  
Americus, GA 31709  
229-924-6935  
[www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

#### **International Rescue Committee**

PO Box 5058  
Hagerstown, MD 21741-9874  
877-REFUGEE  
[www.theIRC.org](http://www.theIRC.org)

#### **Northwest Medical Teams**

P.O. Box 10  
Portland, OR 97207-0010  
800-959-4325  
[www.nwmedicalteams.org](http://www.nwmedicalteams.org)

#### **Oxfam America: Asian Earthquake Fund**

P.O. Box 1211  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-1211  
800-77-OXFAM  
[www.oxfamamerica.org](http://www.oxfamamerica.org)

#### **U.S. Fund for UNICEF: Tsunami crisis**

333 East 38th St.  
New York, NY 10016  
800-4UNICEF  
[www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org)

## **TOTEM TABLOID**

Western Washington DX Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 395  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

### ***The Totem Tabloid***

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### **Articles, News Items and Classified Ads**

The *Tabloid* depends on submissions of articles and news items from its readers. Send all items of interest to the *Tabloid* editor:

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20148 6th Avenue NE  
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### **Deadline for each issue is the last Friday of the preceding month.**

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### **Joining the Western Washington DX Club**

To join the WWDXC or sponsor a new member, please send an SASE for a membership application form to the WWDXC, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Annual dues, including a subscription to the *Totem Tabloid*, are \$25.00.

### **Internet Access**

Information on the Western Washington DX Club is also available on the internet at [www.wwdxc.org](http://www.wwdxc.org) or by email to [info@wwdxc.org](mailto:info@wwdxc.org).