



February 2008

Remote System Operation

This month Brian, N9ADG, Dick, K7BTW, and Mike, K7IR will be updating us on the fascinating topic of remote operations - running a radio at point A when you are at point B. Imagine the possibilities!

Be there!

February Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2008
Dinner at 6:30pm – Program at 7:30pm

Lake City Elks Club
N.E. 145th and Lake City Way

Membership News

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

Please welcome the following new WWDXC Members:

Vic Owen KB7GL
Michael Bryan AD7BA

and a return of:

Ken Moak WA2JQW/8 and Karen Moak AA7PJ/8 (ex-KA7GZG)

A new 2008 WWDXC Roster will be out soon - look for an announcement on the Reflector (hard copies available by request).

Moak Update

By Ken Moak, WA2JQW/8

Ken Moak, WA2JQW/8 and Karen Moak, KA7GZG (now AA7PJ/8) are back on the air.

After many years traveling with the USAF, we've finally settled down and planted an antenna farm near Dayton Ohio, home of the Dayton Hamvention.

Since becoming Life Members in 1980, Ken & Karen added two harmonics: William, KC8KEE; and Ken Jr., KD8DIW. Both sons operate "portable zero" from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

We're planting our antenna farm and will operate on all bands from DC to daylight.

You can contact Ken & Karen at:

Ken Moak, WA2JQW/8 kdm@ctcn.net

Karen Moak, AA7PJ/8 (formerly KA7GZG) aa7pj@ctcn.net

3310 Storms Creek Road,
Urbana, OH 43078

WWDXC Annual Membership Awards

By Dick Swanson, K7BTW

At the December meeting, the club gave out its annual membership awards honoring those who have done so much for the the wwdxc and the ham radio community.

Our **MVP Award** was given to **Alan Burgstahler, N7BF**.

The following nominations for Alan were typical of the comments that were made about him:

Alan has served the board well. He drives 2X per month from the South Sound area to the North end for meetings. This is a sacrifice with gas at \$3/gal. However, this is not why I have nominated him. He has been a wonderful contest Elmer to many of us. (look at his reply today to Clay K7HC for a good

example). He loves to help others. He has made trips to my QTH and spent hours teaching me the finer points in N1MM and DXLabSites, BV7 QSL programs etc. He has supported the club as an active contester. He presented a club program in November. His friendly, supportive nature brightens your day. He maintains this positive attitude constantly despite the physical challenges he faces daily.

HATS OFF TO ALAN.

Alan N7BF hands down He attends the meetings both, board and club.

Alan does an outstanding job taking and posting the minutes.

Alan is actively involved with the club activities, participated in the convention preparations.

Alan assists many hams both on line and in person. He is a Ham friend.

We had a tie in the voting for **Member of the Year (MOY)**. The co-winners were **Denny Bowman, W7SNH, and Mel Ming, N7GCO**.

Mel was nominated because of the outstanding job that he did with the Audio-visual at the convention last August. It was a truly professional effort that he did even though he had had a medical emergency just a few days before the convention.

MOY: DENNY W7SNH ABSOLUTELY No question!

Denny for all the preparation of 3 years to organize and have a very successful convention.

He attends and contributes to all the club and board meetings (via phone when necessary)

He stirs up people to get them involved in Ham activities!

He has held position of President for 2 terms.

He is always willing to teach, help or refer when Ham questions arise.

He knows everyone and is well liked and respected.

He knows Ham radio and all the aspects that involve being an Amateur Radio operator.

He makes time and puts in the time

He gets things done

Our **Rookie of the Year (ROY)** award went to **Nick Winter, K7MO**.

One of his nominations said:

Rookie of the Year - Nick Winters K7MO. Nick has been active and, as a member of the Tacoma Radio Club, has worked to open the doors between our two clubs - at Field Day and otherwise. He led the N7PP operation from Asotin County during the WWDXC-sponsored Salmon Run. He drives all the way from Tacoma to attend meetings and is a friendly, engaging presence. I would like to recognize Nick as a valuable new member.

A very special award that we give from time to time is the **Lifetime Achievement Award** which is given to people who have made a large contribution over many years. This year we were very proud to present this award to **Marina Zuetell, N7LSL**.

Marina has served as club treasurer since the mid 90's, has helped with field day, and many other things over the years. She has also provided exceptional leadership of the Communications Academy. This event is gaining national prominence as one of the very best emergency communications events. We are very fortunate to have her in the club and as a regional resource and leader. She is self-effacing and

likes to work behind the scenes, but those of us that pay attention to such things know how hard she works for all of us.

Congratulations to all of the Award winners.

Contest Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

The following is some of the contest activity by WWDXC members. The ARRL RTTY was a Northwest Traveling Trophy event.

2008 RTTY Roundup

Call QSOs S/P Cntry hr Score

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All M/S HP

K7BTW(@N9ADG) 1234 56 38 24 115,996

~~~~~

All M/S LP

NN7SS(K6UFO) 555 52 18 11 38,850

~~~~~

All Single Op HP

N7BF 755 54 18 19.8 54,360

K7EG 316 50 17 10 21,172

~~~~~

Call QSOs S/P Cntry hr Score

All Single Op LP

W7TMT 367 50 11 18 22,387

K7HBN 200 49 12 12 12,200

RTTY Roundup Soapbox

K7BTW: From high in the jet stream above beautiful downtown Preston, the crack operating team of N9ADG, K7BTW, and a dog named Jordan, using the call K7BTW, kicked butt in the ARRL RTTY Roundup. Despite high winds on Saturday, snow on Sunday, a killer prototype SteppIR antenna that was mounted in the wrong direction, a computer that keep freezing up, and terrible band conditions, this artful team of crafty ops perfected the technique of doing power S&P in addition to their time proven running abilities to achieve a score unparalleled in modern Eastern King County history.

Thanks to the SteppIR prototype, the stations on 40 meters just kept rolling in. The SteppIR was used on all bands, except 80 where a dipole did the job. And, unlike last year, no amps blew up. The 30 hour contest allows for only 24 hours on the air. The dynamic Trio (counting Jordan), averaged over 50 q's per hour for the entire period of operating. It was wall to wall stations, so if you don't do rtty, you are missing a lot of fun.

K7EG: Operating time was impacted by two playoff games and Presidential Debates. 80M was a bust as my SteppIR BiggIR vertical 80M loading coil failed :(!! Ran balance of contest with SteppIR yagi.

NN7SS: Well, I was stuck at the auto repair place and missed the first 2.5 hrs! Also, I was setup for Multi-op, but it turned out it was only going to be me, so I did my best as a "solo-multi" using a few packet spots, but I was stuck with the limit of 6 band changes per hour. I'd sprint along on two radios until I'd used up my 6 changes, then sit on a single band the rest of the hour. I needed my sleep to recover from travel, auto repairs, and to be rested for upcoming work, so I didn't stay up late. Despite all that, I made four times the QSOs of last years low power Multi winner in NW Division - so maybe I'll get a plaque! North America was 95% of my QSOs. Sure was tough to get a run going with low power, I'd usually have to go back to S&P. Lots of new callsigns, lots of great ops - thanks for the fun!

2008 CQ160 CW

Call QSOs StPrv DX hr Score

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All Multi-Op HP

W7SNH(@N9ADG) 654 54 32 143,190

N7ZG(@N7WA) 602 55 15 27 104,090

~~~~~

All Single Op HP

N7BF 175 44 3 19,458

~~~~~

All Single Op LP

W7TMT 364 52 4 18 48,720

W7QN 131 20 3 10 hr 7,705

~~~~~

All Single Op QRP

KX7L 70 25 2 3.5 3,942

CQ160 Soapbox

W7SNH (@N9ADG): It was great to try this one as a Multi -- W7SNH joined N9ADG for this one. It was his first time using N1MM, or *ANY* electronic logging. If you heard anything amiss with wrong messages being sent, etc. it was him for sure. Really. (Yeah, right!)

I think this was a good 'trainer' on the nature of 160m for him -- On the first night, the conditions from the

PNW to EU and Caribbean were almost magical. I had to explain a bunch of times that it's not usually that easy to HEAR EU during a contest, let alone work any (they seemed to be coming in more easterly than northerly). We worked a handful there, then some South American stations (Op1: "Did you work the 5K?" Op2: "You mean the HK." Op1: "He was 5K when I worked him"). JA's started pounding in (worked a bunch), then we heard 3W3W (Check out the audio on <http://www.n9adg.com/audio/3W3W.mp3>), some whispers of VR2 and 6M, but no Q.

The second night was completely different. Snow squalls, high noise levels, lack of 'new stations' to work, etc. He had a more realistic picture after THAT experience. Those 8 rate hours are character building for sure. I think two teams of two each for a multi might be ideal -- one person to run, one to coordinate mults and 'enforce' goals, with the ability to mix it up. Folks might even get to sleep a little. Sounds like something to put together for next year.

Things we could have done better include: Not completely stopping for dinner (long story) on Saturday night; Having (at least) one more op; More beverage directions, more radials. If not more ops, then maybe just more liquid beverages.

It was great to hear a bunch of Pacific NW Ops 'stop by' for a Q; Also, Joe, W7QN (see his 3830 posting) is modest beyond belief -- He's in retirement housing, on the 10th floor, using a mobile antenna on his balcony, and RUNNING on 160m. You have to admire that spirit and drive. I can only wonder what the 'real stories' of 160m are that the other 3830 writeups only hint at -- 160m is all about making whatever you have work, and hoping that nature will favor you.

Also, sitting with someone and 'explaining' various things during the contest, I realize that over the last five years (my first 160m Q was 03/29/03) that even though I haven't met many 160m folks in person, I know them through 160m. Hearing only the last two letters of a call going down the band during S&P, using the speed, and loudness of the signal, I can guess with alarming accuracy the letters I've missed. Recognizing those guys with the state-abbreviation call that aren't in that state. Who to look for when I need RI or DC, or even NFL. Muttering "There's George", or "Wonder if Tree's going to get them", or "always good to work Jerry". I must be a little nuts to be doing this (my wife certainly thinks so).

Thanks for 'being' 160m. Thanks for the contacts, and thanks for your "gentleman's band" courtesy.

N7ZG: Nice conditions this year. We did about 150 more Q's this year and almost doubled the country total as well. Last years score was around 64,000 points. Dink says that this years score will be tough to beat in future years. Dink extended his eastward pointing beverage by a few hundred feet this year (don't tell the neighbors - ed) and it worked FB. DX worked included CN2R, CU2A, CU8A, CE1/K7CA. We heard S51TA, HA8DX and other EU's but they could not hear us. Working EU is tough even under the best of circumstances from the PAC NW.

I had to teach Sunday school so I left Dink to finish off the contest at midnight Sat. The second day is always a grind in this one, but he put another 100+ Q's in the log. CU in the ARRL DX as SOAB from my QTH.

W7QN: Used a 160 meter mobile whip for the antenna.

KX7L : This time I decided to get up early rather than staying up late, and enjoyed the "quiet hour" at 4 a.m. local and managed to get some new mults to hear my QRP signal. Thanks for your patience!

DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies

By Bob Nielsen, N7XY (n7xy@clearwire.net)

K7EK-1 - Spanaway (DX Spider Node), K7EK sysop.

Telnet to: k7ek.dyndns.org, port 9000

RF: 144.91 MHz - Connect to network node W7DK-5, then type DXC.

145.01 MHz - Connect to network node SEA, then connect to network node K7EK-5, then type DXC.

N7XY Bainbridge Is. (DX Spider Node) 145.77 MHz, N7XY sysop.

Telnet to n7xy.net, port 7300

W7DX Bellevue (AR Cluster node) 145.75 MHz, N6MZ sysop.
Telnet to w7dx.net

W7JD-2 - Spanaway (CC Cluster Node - South Tacoma Contest Club), K7EK sysop
Telnet to k7ek.dyndns.org, port 7373

RF: 144.91 MHz - Connect to network node W7DK-5, then type DXC2.
145.01 MHz - Connect to network node SEA, then connect to network node K7EK-5, then type DXC2

W7PKT Auburn (DX Spider Node) 145.73 MHz, KA7CSE sysop.
Telnet to w7pkt.net, port 7300

Lee Sawkins, VE7CC has written a versatile Windows user program which works with AR Cluster, CC Cluster or DX Spider nodes. It can be downloaded from <http://www.bcdxc.org/ve7cc/default.htm>

DX Spider user documents at <http://www.dxcluster.org/main/usermanual.html>

AR Cluster user documents at <http://www.ab5k.net>

Tabloid Tattler

Sad news. Brett Graham – our man in Hong Kong – VR2BG – has let his license lapse. He's QRT. He plans to move to south Lantau – on the beach in a remote village - a beautiful long path QTH. Maybe returning sunspots and the new location will mean a return of the radio juices.

CasualDX Update---

By Marc Weinberg, K9PET

Thanks to a recent inquiry, I will be giving my CasualDX presentation of Antarctica, S. Georgia and the Falklands for both Boeing BEARS and BEARONS in April and May. This will be my warm-up for my doing it for MARCO (Medical Amateur Radio Council) annual meeting in Dayton the weekend of the Hamvention.

The largest CasualDX group of guests will depart for St. Petersburg, Russia on August 21. This group (13) consists of four hams, family and friends. We will cruise the Baltic finishing in Copenhagen on Sept 6. From there my wife, Marion and I will visit family in the Netherlands and Germany before returning home. It would be nice to hear some friends here at home.

TOTEM TABLOID
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The Totem Tabloid

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Internet Access

Information on the Western Washington DX Club is also available on the internet at www.wwdxc.org or by email to info@wwdxc.org.