



April 2008

## 1A4A

***T***he Sovereign Order of Malta dates back to around 1048. Its unique DX location (in the heart of Rome) and scarcity of operators makes it a special counter when contesting or piling up your DXCC totals. Come to the club meeting to see a video about this unusual radio destination.

### **April Meeting**

Tuesday, April 8, 2008  
Dinner at 6:30pm – Program at 7:30pm

Lake City Elks Club  
N.E. 145<sup>th</sup> and Lake City Way

# Tired of scratching up your paint?

By Chuck Greeno, WA7BRL

After years of using a VHF/UHF mag. mounted antenna on my old 79 Cheve Lov, the paint on the cab was getting pretty unsightly by the time it was donated to charity. After buying our new 2000 Explorer, I vowed to protect the roof top paint by using the paint renewer on a regular basis and washing and wiping off pollen and muddy cat tracks first before ever putting up a mag. mount.



I even put a small piece of felt under the magnet to prevent the sharp edges from digging in when it was removed. It worked, but the loss of capacitance from the thick felt required a re-tune of the antenna. Then came along the HF portable/mobile operations and the purchase of an MFJ Triple Magnet. Have you ever tried to remove a triple magnet antenna mount up on an SUV? How about quad magnets? It's a tough go. It has to be pried off at an angle to get it loose. That will do a lot of paint damage to any car roof!

My XYL Judy, who is a quilter, came to the rescue and made me a nice magnet cover. But first, a couple tests using different material thicknesses had to be done. To prevent the loss of that capacitive

coupling, I needed to keep the material as thin as possible. I tried some thin muslin and using an MFJ analyzer, tuned the Hustlers were I needed them for our next portable operation. The Hustlers tuned up with no noticeable common mode currents on 20 Meters but found a small amount while using the 40 and 80 Meter resonators. This test was accomplished by just touching the MFJ analyzer connector and watching for a change in SWR.

After our successful portable operation was over, I wanted to make a nicer looking cover for the mag. mount with a color that matched our SUV.. so a trip to the fabric store (A quilters candy store) was in order and out we came with a "Fat Quarter" (Ask your XYL) of cotton material with a near match for color. I immediately noticed that it was just a "little" thicker material then the muslin cloth. So, another test, and I had reasoned that the thicker material would reduce the capacitance of the magnets to the roof and increase the resonant frequency of the Hustlers. It did. Using the MFJ analyzer showed a 20 Meter rise in frequency of 7 kHz, 40 Meters was 5 kHz and 80 Meters was only 2 kHz. That easily tuned out by changing the stinger just slightly on each



resonator.

So, if you want to protect your car from damage with a cloth magnet cover..keep in mind it needs to be as thin as possible, yet thick enough to keep the magnet edge from gouging your paint. Wash and wipe down the area first before installing the mount. Even pollen will cause damage under the magnets.

The photos show the general design of the cover. Photo. 1 shows the general shape and the position of the small Velcro strips to hold it together. Photo. 2 after material is folded over and Velcro latched. The Red line is just to be sure I orientated it back the same should it need to be removed for washing.

## WWDXC Annual DX Award

**T**he WWDXC Annual DX Award is available to WWDXC members who contact 100 DXCC entities in one calendar year. No QSLs are required for this award.

Alan, N7BF, has received a WWDXC Annual DX Award for 2007 for 158 Mixed Mode, 124 CW, and 143 20 Meters.

To apply for the Annual DX Award send a list of DXCC entities worked in 2007 to K7WA.

## Membership News:

**E**ric, W7NNN, joined the WWDXC at the Puyallup Fleamarket. Eric has been active in the Washington Salmon Run and does his DXing from the Gig Harbor - Welcome Eric!

Annual Membership Renewal notices for 2008-2009 will be going out next month.

## STANWOOD CAMANO ARC Flea Market and Hamfest, May 10, 2008

**T**he Stanwood Camano ARC will be hosting their 17th annual Electronic Flea Market and Hamfest from 9 AM to 3 PM on May 10th, 2008, at the Stanwood Middle School, 9405 - 271st St. N.W., Stanwood, WA (off Interstate 5 Exit 212). Free parking, VE Testing, Computers, Ham and Antique Radios - everyone is welcome. Talk-In is on the Skagit Repeater (145.190), admission is \$5.00 at the gate. For more information, contact Vic N7KRE ([nwecop@tgi.net](mailto:nwecop@tgi.net)) or Lowell KF7RC ([lowell.jenkins4@verizon.net](mailto:lowell.jenkins4@verizon.net)).

## Is the QSL Card or the Confirmation More Important?

By Scot Herrick, K9JY

**W**ith the end of the TX5C DXpedition, QSL cards will be flying through the air to confirm the contact. But do you really want the card? Or do you really want the confirmation to be part of your DXCC total?

It's an important question. There is a tremendous amount of post DXpedition operator time spent on the QSL function. The QSLing, in fact, goes on for years after the event (I still get VP9 cards from my DXpedition there in 2005).

To be perfectly honest, QSLing is not what I came into the hobby to do. I came in to operate. But, if you operate, especially in DXpeditions and contests, you will get QSL cards — thousands of them.

It's not so much the cost of the cards, but the TIME. Finding time to go through the log, write out the card

(almost as fast as creating a label), getting the card into the envelope, putting on the right number of stamps, and getting them into the mailbox or bureau pile (in country order...) is just a real pain.

On the other hand, confirming contacts via Logbook of The World is a piece of cake. After uploading the LoTW file for VP9, some 89 countries were confirmed and a total of some 300 contacts were confirmed for DXCC credit — two days after I came home from the DXpedition.

With the advent of Global QSL, bureau cards became just as easy to do. Take the bureau card, tag the file, export the file and upload it to Global QSL and the rest is done by them. I can't tell you how much time has been saved using these two methods of confirming the contact.

Now, some people really want a card they can hang on the wall. Mine are all in files by country — and I haven't looked at them for years and am seriously considering throwing them all out.

The saying goes that the final courtesy of a QSO is a QSL. But is the final courtesy the card? Or the confirmation of the contact?

## Contest Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

A slow month. Just a few updates from the previously reported ARRL DX SSB.

### 2008 ARRLDX SSB (update)

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score
~~~~~				
All SOAB HP				
K7RL	1114	213	35	711,846
K7EG	254	100	20	76,200
N7BF	51	28	2	4,284
All SOAB LP				
K7HBN	214	78	12	50,076
W7QN	139	49	12.8	20,433
All SOAB(A) HP				
W7OM	342	125		128,250
All SOSB/20 HP				
W7WA	970	110		319,770

### ARRL SSB Soapbox

**K7RL:** Whoa, that was really tough. Worst conditions I've ever experienced. My raw score is less than half of last year's score, and only slightly more than half of my CW score just two weeks ago. A rotator problem Saturday morning burned 1.5 hours, which didn't help matters. On a positive note, I did get more sleep than in previous years!

With so much time for S&P, I periodically ran out of new stations to work and had to take short breaks to let the bands repopulate. That was especially true on the low bands, which were very poor the entire weekend. Even the usually reliable 20m band was a roller coaster ride with runs starting and stopping, and signals rising and falling from hour-to-hour.

An unexpected surprise was running JA on 15m both days. Until today, it had been so long that I almost forgot what it was like to run anything on 15m. Nice to hear some life on 10m too.

Thank you to all of the great operators that made it into the log. Especially you folks working LP or QRP! And a special thanks to those that make the trek to exotic locations to work us stateside and Canadian ops.

Congratulations to KH7X, KH6LC, and HC8A for all six bands! Not an easy thing to do this weekend.

**W7QN:** No EU Saturday and only a few on Sunday my QTH.

**W7WA:** Other west coast stations have remarked about the disturbed polar path to Europe on 20 meters. On Saturday I noticed Europeans could not be heard from east of a line starting from the UK extending southeast to France and to Italy. The only exceptions heard were a few OH, SM and UA1's north of the auroral oval. On Sunday, conditions improved somewhat and I was able to finally work my first DL at 1727Z for mult #96 and an OE about an hour after that for #103. Beacon station RW2F called in around that time and was a mere whisper requiring several repeats for me to pull out his callsign and exchange.

### WPX SSB

Call	QSOs	Prfxs	hr	Score
USA SO(A)AB HP KT7G	111	92	6	23,644
USA SOAB HP K7EG N7BF	303 211	757 162	12	174,110 59,940
USA SOAB LP NG7Z	66	49	2	4,949
USA SOSB20 HP W7WA	2612	876		4,142,604

### WPX SSB Soapbox

**K7EG:** Conditions improved Sunday - short eu opening - gud N/S, Asia.

**NG7Z:** Just on for a couple of hours to hand out the NG7 multiplier.

## **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>

## Totem Trader

FOR SALE: **Icom -761** in excellent condition, thoroughly checked by Icom factory service (for which I just spent \$100 February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008).

This xcvr was used by the original owner to make No. 1 DXCC Honor Roll, and I, the 2<sup>nd</sup> owner, currently have 332 countries using this rig with a Cushcraft R-7 trapped vertical. We are both non-smokers.

I have only used this rig to chase DX—no contests (except to cherry-pick DX), no ragchewing, no RTTY. I don't do much SSB, but it gets excellent audio reports, and the keying is clean.

It has both the 250 and 500 Hz narrow CW filters installed, and I've had the following components (amongst others) replaced to maintain the xcvr and keep it refreshed: PLL and BFO trimmer caps; the AT coupling cap; antenna, AT and RF unit attenuator relays; plus 5 diodes and 2 transistors on the RF unit (all of which cost \$750).

Included are all papers, maintenance/refresh history and original shipping carton (with big Styrofoam blocks).

Reason for selling: a friend just made me an offer I couldn't refuse on another rig.

\$895 **OBO** and you ship (from the Seattle area). Personal cheques or money orders. Sorry, no PayPal.

Lee Trousdale, K7VL

206.232.7636

[lee@trousdale.us](mailto:lee@trousdale.us)

ICE Model 421 Lowpass RF Filter (Rated at 8KW PEP/4KW DC ICS DC-30MHz) \$35

MFJ -434 Deluxe Contest Voice Keyer \$100

Telex Headset (mono) \$5

Yaesu YH-55 (stereo) \$20

Tom, K7RI

206 935-0457

For Sale:

Force 12 EF-180C Rotatable Dipole antenna with 2 relay control box and balun - 83Ft long (Full 80M band coverage). New condition. Very similar to Current Top of Line Version (Sigma 180 Magnum from Force 12) which sells for around \$1500 without shipping. Asking \$600 and prefer local pick up in Seattle, WA area.

Shipping is not practical. Works very well on 30M also. Bagged me 120 countries on both bands in less than 3 years. John Owens - N7TK [jcowens1@comcast.net](mailto:jcowens1@comcast.net)

TOTEM TABLOID  
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***The Totem Tabloid***

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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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To join the WWDXC or sponsor a new member, please send an SASE for a member ship 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).