



May 2007

Mystery!

Join us for an excellent program on Tuesday evening!

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2007
Dinner at 6:30 – Program at 7:30

Lake City Elks
145th and Lake City Way
Seattle, WA

7QP!

By Jack Fleming, K7ED/m

*I*t's time to turn on your mobile rig and hit the road! The 7th Area QSO Party takes place Saturday, May 5th from 6:00am to midnight West Coast Time. The exchange is a signal report and WAKNG for King County, WASNO for Snohomish County, and WAPIE for Pierce County. This was a very popular contest last year in it's inaugural event and I expect it to be even more frenzied this year.

Complete details are available at www.7qp.org

Quito and Galapagos Islands

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

*B*ack in the late 1950's when I discovered radio one of the first DX broadcast stations I heard on my Knight Kit Ocean Hopper receiver was HCJB, Voice of the Andes, in Quito, Ecuador. Last month Sharon and I had the opportunity to visit Quito on our way to the Galapagos Islands. Quito, at 10,000 ft. elevation high in the Andes, is the capitol of Ecuador and a city with history going back to the Incas and Spanish. Now, it is a busy city of 2 million residents with government offices and corporate headquarters along with more traditional businesses and agricultural activities. We spent three days in Quito, touring the city and surrounding area. One of the highlights for me was a visit to "the center of the world", a roadside attraction located on the equator, where our host, Ivan, had many scientific and wacko demonstrations of weird affects occurring at this unique location. Yes, water does swirl in opposite directions in the northern and southern hemispheres, and straight down the drain on the equator itself! Ivan demonstrated this phenomenon, and only had to move the sink and drain about six feet on either side of the line! Maybe we should dispatch Dr. Beldar to check Ivan out! Another experiment I did was to cap an empty plastic water bottle while we were hiking at 13,000 ft. elevation near the volcano Cotopaxi. When we returned to sea level in the Galapagos Islands, the bottle was virtually flat!

From Quito we flew out to the Galapagos and joined our group of 16 for a seven-day cruise on the yacht Spondylus. There is a \$100 US fee to enter the Galapagos National Park, and each group is required to have a guide at all times. We joined our ship on Santa Cruz Island, home to about



20,000 residents. From there, we traveled each night to a new island, usually with different and terrain, plants, and animals. The Galapagos struck me as a place where human beings are completely unnecessary – the islands fish, birds, reptiles, and sea lions get along just fine without us. Most of the islands have no fresh water source and attempts at human settlement over the years have been largely unsuccessful. In the 1800's whalers and other seafarers decimated the tortoise population to have fresh meat on their ships. Introduced animals, such as rats, goats, and cats have also caused much destruction to native species.

In a sense, the Islands are being loved to death by well meaning tourists – we were limited to 2 hours ashore on each island, and our group was often one of four or five groups walking the well marked and well worn paths. Nevertheless, it was a great experience to visit such a place! The animals have no fear of people and go about their business as if we weren't there. In addition to

walking the islands, we usually had swimming and snorkeling time every day where we joined the turtles, sea lions, and other sea creatures.

The Galapagos Islands are very accessible, with many tours to choose from. I really enjoyed the small group experience and recommend it! Our ship was “middle end” of what’s available and was adequate. Check the websites (below) for other opportunities.

A few words about ham radio – I looked everywhere for antennas and didn’t see many. Quito is a very crowded city and most people live in apartments. I saw a couple of beams and a few dipoles as we drove around the area. Before leaving on the trip I had talked with Trey, N5KO, one of the owners of HC8N – he said they would not be active while we were there. We did visit San Cristobal Island, where HC8N is located but the station location is a taxi or bus ride out of town. I did pass a guy with a t-shirt reading: “HC2X Second to None”, would have liked to stop for a chat but we were going opposite directions. Maybe next time!

References:

www.hc8n.info

www.eactours.com

www.galapagos-travel-advisor.com

LOTW – Step 2

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY

I hope that you didn’t toss that postcard from the ARRL out with the rest of the junk mail – it’s important! Look on the address side of the envelope (right above your name and address) and you should see a number.

May Assignment

- Go to the LOTW webpage and enter the secret password from your postcard

Well, maybe “number” isn’t the right word – a password might be better. It’s a combination of numbers and letters – something like B4KV8KJH. That’s your secret password to the LOTW.

On the LOTW site (www.arrl.org/lotw/) select “Enter a password from a post card” at the bottom of the menu on the right hand side of the page (in the bright yellow box that says, “LoTW Links” at the top). You might be tempted to select “Logbook Users LOG IN” (at the bottom of the list in the middle of the

page) but this would be wrong! So don’t do it. Go to the yellow box!

After you’ve selected the “Enter a password from a post card” option, you’ll go to a new page. Here you enter your callsign and your secret password and click on “Submit password”.

That’s it for another month. Time to sit back and open yet another cold one!

In a few days you’ll be getting an email from the ARRL with an attachment. This is a “TQ6 certificate” and I’ll tell you what to do with it next month. Until then, relax and enjoy that cold one...

Totem Trader

Wanted: 1) Heath SB-200 type small linear (572 tubes), preferably working but doesn't have to be.
2) Any kind of a cheap multiband vertical.

Hillar N6HR hraamat@whidbey.net

Wanted:

Slugs for Bird wattmeter: 100H, 250H, 1000H, 2500H.

New/unused sockets for 3-500Z, etc (Johnson 275 or similar).

Bryan WA7PRC bswadener-at-yahoo-dot-com

FOR SALE by Tom, K7RI 206 935-0457

4 Element SteppIR Yagi

One assembled and stacked 4 element SteppIR yagis system with N-connector upgrade; computer interface unit in the controller; accessory Y-cable for computer and radio control; an N8LP SteppIR tuning relay to prevent an amplifier from keying and thereby damaging the antenna when it is adjusting element lengths; and, additional boom guy truss enhancements. 100 feet of the 16 conductor control cable.

Must be picked up in West Seattle. Delivery to your local QTH a possibility WITHOUT having to disassemble the boom. In such case, simply reinstall the fiberglass element support tubes and an antenna will be ready to install on your tower. Furthermore, an inexpensive tower person is available to install the antenna(s) at your QTH if desired.

Price for antenna if purchased new, including WA state sales tax: \$2,622.08. Asking \$1,775. Represents a discount of over 32% off new price.

Antenna is in the air and fully operational. Serious prospective purchasers with funds available may make appointment to come and test antenna, if desired.

Also ...

MFJ-434 Voice Keyer \$100 (~\$190 New)

Industrial Communications Engineers (ICE) Model 421 8KWPEP/4KWDC ICS Low Pass Filter \$20 (~\$65 New)

Two element 40 meter Yagi (Cushcraft 40-2CD). \$650 (New price ~\$1,000)

Tom, K7RI
206 935-0457

CasualDX – Another Adventure Antarctica, S. Georgia, Falklands

By Marc,

As the name implies, CasualDX is about more than remote radio operations. It's about adventure, often to remote locations, but it's also focused on family and friends as much as being on the air. It's about enjoying the excitement of travel, photographing special things, sharing the experience of being there and creating time to connect with the world via radio.

My wife, Marion and I traveled from Seattle to Atlanta on Feb. 8, 2007 for the first leg of our journey. We spent the night there and visited with my cousins the next day before being met by Jane and David, W3WKP. That night we boarded our overnight flight to Santiago, 4720 miles south and two time zones further east. David and I compared the weight of our carry on luggage which carried all the important radio items which we dared not put in check in luggage. We'd rather sacrifice our "long Johns" than our favorite radio toy. We were looking forward to joining



Joan and Jim W3ASA in Santiago. They were traveling via Miami with a large group of Lindblad Expedition travelers. Lindblad was our host for this adventure, as they had been when we ventured to the Arctic, Svalbard '04 and the coast of Chile in '05. I should also mention that CasualDX and Lindblad had supported Larry NØUU on his Pacific Odyssey in October, 2006 from Tahiti to Easter Island.

Several large flights arrived in Santiago when we did and gathering luggage and clearing in took a long time as one might expect. Finding our Lindblad representative was a real challenge, but comforting once we jumped on the pre-arranged bus to the Grand Hyatt Hotel where we joined the others who had arrived earlier via Miami. We were now a group of 110 chatting adventurers exchanging our histories of past expedition travel.

Five AM arrived early the next morning, but signaled the beginning of the last leg and another 5 hours of flying to Ushuaia with one brief stop in Punta Arenas for Argentine immigrations. In all, we had spent 18 hours in the air, over 3 days and covered 8,370 miles.

As we entered the airport terminal in Ushuaia we passed those who had disembarked our ship that day to make room for us. It was so much fun to wave through the glass partitions to friends we had sailed with on other trips.

We departed Ushuaia the evening of March 11th and our crossing of the Drake Passage was respectably calm compared to what might have been a miserable introduction to the 'roaring forties.' We got some fine photos of humpback whales and the mighty albatross before arriving at our first stop, the South Shetlands Archipelago and a landing on Aitcho Island. The following days took us to Cuverville Island and Neko Harbor.

Next was Petermann Island at 65. degrees south which was to have been our southern most venture until we sighted an "enormous" arched ice berg across the bay and 'begged' our Captain to alter plans to take us there. That 'berg' was located at 65.13 degs.South and was about the size of a 15 story build occupying a New York City block---Wow!

Radio contacts were far and few between, but supporters continued to update and encourage us via email in spite of the solar minimums. I had emails from Hawaii, Japan, Europe, Russia and South America as well as the states. For a few days sunspots were reported at "0." During the early days, thirty and forty meters were our only source of success on CW. Twenty, which we expected to be our best band was silent. Contacts include Asiatic Russia, Czech Republic and surrounding area and a scattering of South American countries. After 4 days and of course "Casual" operating we had only 45 in the log. These were almost all from late afternoon and evening operations on board National Geographic Endeavour and therefore /MM -- not exactly what we or our many listeners had hoped for.

Since two shore side attempts during this period yielded nothing, our rules of engagement changed to-----we wouldn't setup on shore unless we had made 'day time' contacts from the ship. This eliminated needless effort on the part of the crew who was so willing to accommodate by taking our table, chairs, two batteries and our SteppIR antenna ashore.

A summary of success with CasualDX is measured by different standards than the traditional DXpedition of shear numbers. It's clear this trip rewarded us beyond our expectations. One person hoping for a contact wrote us via email and said, "It would be great to have a contact, but don't despair if we don't make it. Just realize how fortunate you are to be there and how few people ever get to see the part of the world you are exploring and enjoy every minute of it." This was indeed comforting, since announcing our trip generates both interest in the world and an obligation--on our part to perform.

Now several weeks after returning home, my mind is still a blaze with the colors, the mirrored images, the enormity and scale of ice bergs (some 200-300 feet above the water and the length of a city block) with seven eighths of it still hidden below the surface. It is only with the help of the more than 4000 photos, the 'Daily Expedition Reports,' the video chronicle of the journey, and careful reflections that I can begin to keep track of not only what we saw and did, but where certain memories were actually generated. Without these





“helpers” my recollection would spin from one highlight to the next. Since everyday on shore resulted in beautiful hikes/walks among the animal inhabitants, I found it easier to remember the weather feature or terrain. We walked/hiked uphill through newly fallen snow listening to the crunch of our boots as we were in search of a penguin colony. The birds toes gripped more firmly than our boots could during our ascent. When we carefully felt our way down, they merely slid on their bellies.

On two occasions we visited albatross nesting sites. Although we had no audible contact with them, we stood on the edge of their life on very windy hillsides where just for a moment, if I could have communicated with them, I might have felt like the air traffic controller at the world’s busiest airport. They powered themselves through figure eight flight patterns circling their prospective landing places until the moment was right. Then they lowered their large feet, altered the angle of attack of their wings and



gracefully touched down. These are enormous birds with wing spans to 11 feet. Nesting on windy hillsides and cliffs is necessary to aide them in landings and takeoffs.

If our visit to the many fur seal breeding areas had occurred during the mating season we would have had to exercise extreme caution as the frenzy to mate and assure their future would not have tolerated our presence in such close proximity. However, we learned to walk almost freely near the hundreds of “pups” and “juveniles” and paced our picture taking to capture their mood and methods of exploring us. It’s clear how the term “pup” evolved, for the youngsters learn their pursuit skills by practicing on each other and us. They charged and groaned and pretended to attack us. Of course, if we ran, they would follow. I learned that the best way to get close was kneel down and wait or sit on a rock. Soon I could be surrounded by a dozen or more taking the challenge to sniff my feet or gently touch their teeth to the toe of my rubber boot. This was, indeed, one of the thrills that is now etched in my mind.

On S. Georgia, even though our landings were on the lee (North/East) side, the dominant impression beyond the creatures was the ‘wind.’ It was impossible to avoid and it was a major player in creating the mood of the rugged, mountainous terrain usually capped with ever changing clouds. It was this gale force with 40+ knots that hindered our ability to setup our antenna or keep our table in place. This was disappointing because we knew many were waiting to hear from us. It was this same wind that required us to always wear our winter gear even when the sun provided some warmth. We frequently compared our efforts walking on the gentle slopes with Shackleton’s historic story of survival and strength, knowing full well that what he accomplished was truly amazing. How could they have done it with tattered clothes of wool after months of struggle against the seas and ice? Our only answers are great leadership, a will to survive, profound determination, and a universal bond to help each other through the ordeal.

During the five days on S. Georgia, radio conditions did improve and our VP8 call signs elicited a wild response of enthusiasm from EU, US and JA as well as SA and Africa. During one qso we met Bob VP8LP in Stanley. He asked if he could meet us when we arrived there. Through emails we made the necessary arrangements and Bob arrived at the dock our first morning. He graciously drove us around his home town showing us the sights, just as the others on board did on buses. After visiting the highlights, Jim, W3ASA and I left our wives in the town to shop while we went to Bob’s to check out his shack. We used his FT1000MP and 3 el SteppIR yagi to make a call. In seconds we were bombarded with replies on SSB; the clearest and loudest indication that the world was truly there. We returned to the ship for lunch as Bob had an appointment. We promised to return at 3PM.

At the prescribed time Dave W3WKP (VP8DKG), Jim and I (VP8DJU) knocked on Bob’s door. For the next two hours we took turns on the air. The chorus of replies never stopped. We returned to our ship with boyish grins from having the kind of fun we had hoped for all along. Bob explained that for him, living there with a VP8 call was not the fun we had experienced, since it was impossible for him to have a friendly DX rag

chew without the same barrage of interest that we had seen. None-the-less, it was our best day on the air and a CasualDX to remember.

To those who have voyaged with us, thanks for being on board. To those who have waited at home for a contact, thank you for your patience and dedication to our 'flexible operating hours.' You can learn more at www.casualdx.com or by contacting me at k9pet@arrl.net 206 546-8952.

April Contesting Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

Two The following are the scores I have for the Traveling Trophy. Many thanks to all of you, big and small (but especially big) for your contributions. If anything is missing, please let me know and I'll happily add it to the total. You'll see the BCDX and WVDXC totals at the end. So far, it's looking good but now is not the time to rest on one's laurels. We have two more tests to go, the WPX CW and IARU. 73 dink, n7wa

	CQWWRTTY	CQWSSB	CQWWCW	ARRLRTTY	CQWPXRTTY	ARRLCW	ARRLSSB	WPXSSB	
AA7PM	0	205,615	0	0	0	20,358	0	0	225,973
K6UFO	210,740	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	210,740
K7BTW	219,558	229,704	0	96,278	0	0	0	0	545,540
K7EG	40,014	235,040	271,908	26,650	208,715	133,560	178,080	0	1,093,967
K7HBN	0	60,320	93,236	0	0	59,706	0	0	213,262
K7LAZ	0	0	0	0	0	276,051	15,138	0	291,189
K7MBY	0	0	0	0	113,589	0	0	0	113,589
K7RI	0	0	0	0	0	84,672	294,516	1,682,750	2,061,938
K7RL	0	2,801,128	0	0	0	339,228	1,490,016	5,749,803	10,380,175
K7RX	0	0	55,168	0	0	0	0	0	55,168
K7SS	0	0	348	0	0	60,000	24	56	60,428
K7WA	0	0	0	0	0	11,934	0	0	11,934
K7ZA	0	0	0	0	0	502,686	0	0	502,686
KE7MAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	48
KT7G	0	21,484	27,324	2,080	49,446	29,184	0	16,617	146,135
N6MZ	77,775	24,890	0	0	60,828	305,712	0	0	469,205
N7BF	226,304	201,587	325,026	43,946	360,890	180,396	0	147,550	1,485,699
N7BK	0	268,392	0	0	0	0	0	0	268,392
N7BV	0	0	0	0	0	249,444	0	0	249,444
N7GCO	0	42,402	0	0	0	0	0	0	42,402
N7RVD	0	11,880	0	0	0	8,364	0	0	20,244
N7UA	0	0	213,332	0	0	0	0	0	213,332
N7WA	0	0	136,584	0	0	0	0	0	136,584
N7WI	0	124,640	0	0	0	0	0	0	124,640
N7XY	0	36,720	89,775	0	0	38,662	0	0	165,157
N7YX	0	558,360	0	0	0	85,800	0	0	644,160
N7ZG	0	521,040	391,816	0	0	229,311	6,000	0	1,148,167
N9ADG	153,576	0	0	0	0	462	1,716	47,190	202,944
NG7Z	42,486	13,167	0	228	58,362	81,408	0	0	195,651
NN7SS	0	660,240	70,240	0	10,804	692,640	0	0	1,433,924
W7GTO	12,936	18,600	0	0	0	27,105	7,812	0	66,453
W7OM	103,600	250,470	601,640	44,710	377,895	327,420	0	213,640	1,919,375
W7QN	0	66,997	95,120	0	0	0	0	70,192	232,309
W7TAX	0	0	0	30,660	0	0	0	0	30,660
W7TMT	56,938	4,500	0	0	0	594	0	0	62,032
W7TSQ	0	4,320	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,320
W7WA	0	973,522	507,705	0	0	333,000	484,449	3,744,400	6,043,076
WA7AVL	0	0	0	0	0	52,772	0	0	52,772
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1,143,927	7,335,018	2,879,222	244,552	1,240,529	4,130,469	2,477,799	11,672,198	31,123,714

BCDX Club Totals 14,859,960
WVDXC Club Totals 8,703,3987

2007 Pacific Northwest DX Convention

DXing from the LEFT COAST!

August 10-12, 2007

Hosted by the Western Washington DX Club

Holiday Inn Everett (www.tinyurl.com/2dpmppt) [browse to this URL for additional Holiday Inn information], 800-860-7715 or 425-339-2000) - Ask for the "**Pacific North West DX Convention**" rates (\$109 + tax per room). Reserve early since rooms are limited and cut-off date is **17 July 2007**.

I-5 Northbound: Exit #193 – Pacific Ave. Turn left off the exit onto Pacific Ave. Travel one block and turn left on Pine St.

I-5 Southbound: Exit #194 – Everett Ave. Turn right onto Everett Ave, Travel about 3 blocks & turn left on Cedar St. Travel 3 blocks & turn left on Pacific Ave. Turn Right on Pine St.

Friday and Saturday - Hospitality Suite hosted by the WWDXC

Saturday/Sunday Programs/Activities

Scarborough Reef 2007 by N6MZ --- Multi-Multi Shootout by VE7SV, K7ZSD and NK7U
ARRL Forum – DXCC, Contesting and Happenings from HQ
Operating from IRAQ by Mitch YI9TU --- DXCC QSL card checking by K7BTW
Saturday Non-Ham activities by N7SEW

PLUS MANY OTHER PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES TO BE ANNOUNCED

Check www.wwdxc.org for announcements and schedule updates

Remember Early Registrations (**Before July 10th Deadline**) get two extra raffle tickets!

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Name _____ Call _____

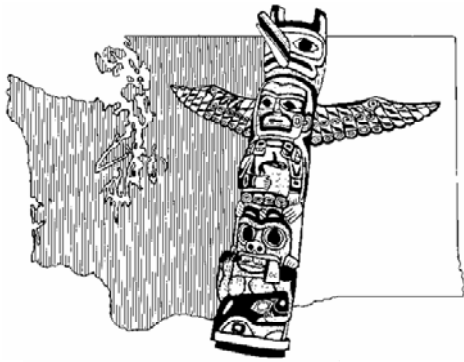
Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City / State / Prov / Zip _____ Phone/ e-mail _____

Program Registration (REQUIRED)	\$24 X _____	= \$ _____
Banquet (PNW Grilled Salmon)	\$36 X _____	= \$ _____
Banquet (Herb Roasted Prime Rib of Beef)	\$36 X _____	= \$ _____
Banquet (Vegetarian Wellington)	\$36 X _____	= \$ _____
Sunday Breakfast Buffet	\$20 X _____	= \$ _____
Late Registration (after 31 JULY 2007)	\$5 X _____	= \$ _____
Complete Deal = Program Registration, Banquet Dinner & Breakfast. Register before 10 JULY 2007 and get 2 free raffle tickets - please mark your menu selection above -	\$80 X _____	= \$ _____
	Total Enclosed:	\$ _____

Make checks out to Western Washington DX Club and send to: Western Washington DX Club
P.O. Box 395
Mercer Island, WA 98040
Cut-off date for Dinner and Breakfast reservations is **7 AUGUST 2007**



Western Washington DX Club

PO Box 395
Mercer Island, WA 98040

<http://www.wwdxc.org>

2007-2008 Annual Membership Dues Statement

Active Membership dues in the Western Washington DX Club are \$25.00 per year which supports the monthly Totem Tabloid newsletter, club repeater, liability insurance, club activities such as monthly meetings, Field Day, Washington State Salmon Run, the Club Internet Web site, annual picnic, club-sponsored plaques for 7QP, CQ and ARRL International DX contests, Dxpeditions, and a variety of other activities. This year we are preparing to host the 2007 Northwest DX Convention August 10th, 11th and 12th. Watch the Club website for up-to-date information on Club activities.

Dues Paid: Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Check #: _____

(Tear off – keep for records)

Annual membership dues 6/1/2007 – 5/31/2008 \$25.00
(Junior members – under the age of 18, pay only \$15.00)

Check Cash (please don't mail cash)

Member Name: _____ Call _____

Mailing Address: _____ or No Change _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code/Zip: _____

Phone # (area code) number: _____ h _____ (other)

E-mail address: _____

Starting in June, 2006 the Totem Tabloid will only be available by e-mail or download (the Tabloid will continue to be mailed to active members who are not able to access it on-line)

Vanity Line for Club Roster up to 36 chars: (Other call signs, DX Awards, etc.)

I am willing to help with: DX Convention, Field Day, Club Programs, Salmon Run, other:

Comments: _____

Please update your personal information above, and mail dues, with this coupon, to the following address or bring to a club meeting. Thanks for your continuing support of the club.

Western Washington DX Club
PO Box 395
Mercer Island, WA 98040

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

The Totem Tabloid

The *Totem Tabloid* is published 11 times per year (no August issue) by the Western Washington DX Club, Inc, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Advertising

The *Totem Tabloid* accepts commercial advertising. For rates and specifications, please direct inquiries to the WWDXC at the address listed above. Totem Trader non-commercial ads are free to WWDXC members.

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:

Jack Fleming, WAØRJY
20148 6th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98155
206-361-2732
oolon@yahoo.com

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 or by email to info@wwdxc.org.