



May 2009

## **A Kiwi Trip!**

Bill Waters, W7GKF

Bill will give a presentation of his March 09 trip to NZ and Tahiti which includes photos and narration of interesting places and ham shacks down under.

Western Washington DX Club meeting will start with dinner at 6:30pm and the program at 7:30pm on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Lake City Elks Club (145th and Lake City Way).

### **May Meeting**

Tuesday, May 12, 2009  
Dinner at 6:30pm – Program at 7:30pm

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

# W7PHO Scholarship Awarded for 2009

by Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The following was received from Mary Hobart K1MMH, Secretary, ARRL Foundation:

“Dear Friends:

We wanted to personally let you know the name of the student who is the recipient of your generous scholarship, the William Bennett, W7PHO, Memorial Scholarship.

Elizabeth Alpert, KG6JDH of Los Angeles, CA will receive the \$ 500 scholarship award for 2009.

Thank you for your support of this fine educational award.”

Additional contributions to the W7PHO Memorial Scholarship fund can be made via the ARRL Foundation.

## PNW DX Convention 2009

Webpage: <http://mysite.verizon.net/rbfoltz/sdxa/index.htm>

The Pacific Northwest DX Convention has been held every summer since 1955 with the sponsorship rotating between the Willamette Valley DX Club (WVDXC), British Columbia DX Club (BCDXC), and the Western Washington DX Club (WWDXC). The Spokane DX Association (SDXA) was added to the rotation in 2007. The privilege of hosting the 54th annual DX Convention rests with the Spokane DX Association.

The convention will be held the weekend of August 7-9, 2009 in Spokane Valley, WA at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center. The convention has been approved as an ARRL Operating Specialty Convention under the sponsorship of the the Spokane DX Association.

### \*\*\*\*Banquet Speaker Announced\*\*\*\*

The speaker at the 54th Annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention Saturday evening banquet will be Mike Mraz, N6MZ. Mike will discuss the [K5D DXpedition](#) to Desecheo Island, 2009.



**Long time Pacific Northwest DX Convention attendees will remember Mike's excellent presentation on BS7H, Scarborough Reef, at the 2007 PNW DX Convention in Seattle. Be sure to join us in Spokane to hear Mike's latest adventures and enjoy his unique story telling ability.**

The Pacific Northwest DX Convention normally has an attendance of 150 to 180 DXers/Contesters and we are looking forward to an interesting and entertaining Ham Radio weekend.

The registration desk will be open from 3 pm to 7 pm on Friday evening and from 8 am to 2 pm on

Saturday. Raffle tickets are on sale throughout the convention. You must attend the convention to buy a ticket,

**PNW DX Convention – August 7-9**

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

but do not have to be present to win. Prizes for the raffle have been donated by SteppIR, Icom, and Yaseu.

DX and Technical Presentations including some surprise speakers and topics. Stay tuned.

We have a nice set of door prizes. You are entered in the door prize drawing simply by registering. There will be a separate door prize drawing for those who register before July 1. The list of door prize donors is shown at the left. "Mouse over" the name to see what they have donated, then click the link to learn more about the donor.

Yaesu will bring an assortment of HF radios to the Convention. We have arranged with the Mirebeau to have a vertical antenna connected during the Hospitality Room after the Saturday Banquet.

The YL Tour to sites of interest in the Spokane Valley. Details will follow. Don't be left out of the fun!

## WWDXC Membership News

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

**WWDXC** welcomes the following new members this month:

JD Wallace N8JD, Seattle

Tim Kuhlman KD7RUS, Battle Ground

Annual Dues statements will be mailed at the end of May. Dues are \$25 per year and support WWDXC programs and activities such as Field Day, the Annual Picnic, speakers at monthly meetings, contributions to DXpeditions, Washington Salmon Run, DX contest plaques, W7DX Repeater, etc. Thank you for your support of the Western Washington DX Club.

## The CW Skimmer Reverse Beacon Network

By Patrick Dayshaw, W7TMT

**J**ack, WAØRJY, our esteemed and log suffering Tabloid Editor, heard a few comments I made at a recent WWDXC meeting and asked if I'd write some words about my experience in setting up a CW Skimmer Reverse Beacon Network station. I am far from an expert on the technology but I can offer the following observations based on my limited experience. In this short article I will describe my system and most importantly, provide links to more information available on the Internet. It is there you will find everything you need to know.

For contesting, I've always entered the Unassisted category. I never use spotting networks, even in contests where there is no Unassisted category. I prefer to find the contacts on my own - "Just a boy and his radio" as Hans, KØHB likes to say. I also rarely use spots during DXing, or other operating but that's just me and my personal preference. That said, I must admit that when I first took a look at CW Skimmer, I was intrigued by the potential that CW Skimmer had for providing automated spots by tirelessly scanning the bands and posting what it found to the Internet. This seemed especially interesting during our current HF propagation challenged times. Yes, I fully recognize that there is a conflict in thinking here. For someone who doesn't use spotting networks, to turn around and host an automated spotting station, is indeed a paradox. None the less, that's what I'm doing.

If you'd like to see what the Reverse Beacon Network is all about just steer your Web browser to <http://www.reversebeacon.net/>.

I've been participating on the network for several months now. At the present time I seem to be the only West coast US station doing so. I would expect that others will join eventually. A station located in the lower left-

hand corner of the country would be a nice addition.

Getting setup was easy. As often is the case in our hobby-service, other operators generously shared their time and knowledge and I found everything I needed on the Internet.

I have setup a dedicated SDR (software defined radio) for receiving. I happened to have an RFSPACE SDRIQ (<http://www.rfspace.com/SDR-IQ.html>). This 1" x 5" x 4" magic little box is a complete HF receiver that covers 500Hz to 30MHz and allows the monitoring of up to 196 KHz of spectrum at one time. In addition to monitoring a slice of spectrum, one can also record everything that appears there and play it back after the fact. In other words, by loading the recorded file into software you can tune around the 196KHz section of the band as if it was in real time. It brings to mind the image of a time machine that would allow us to journey into the past.

CW Skimmer seamlessly interfaces with the SDRIQ. Note that there are many SDR receivers that can be used and you do not need to spend much money to participate. Links to articles that describe the various options can be found at the end of this article.

There are only three connectors on the back of the SDRIQ; an antenna connector (BNC), a USB connector (the unit is powered via the USB buss) and a serial connector that could also be used for control. I use the USB interface.

At the present time I am using a full-sized, 40 meter ground plane with its base 35' high for the antenna. While a beam or other directional antenna could be used, I elected to take the omni-directional approach to provide wider coverage.

Operation is very simple. Connect your antenna of choice to the receiver, connect the USB cable between the SDRIQ and your PC, start the CW Skimmer application, and configure CW Skimmer for the type of receiver you are using. All instructions are contained within the CW Skimmer Help files.

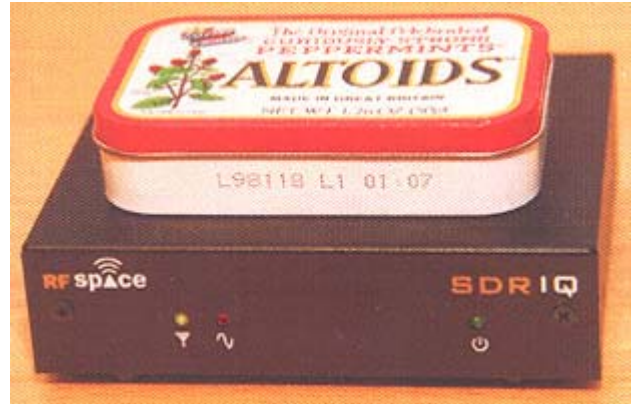
In order to transmit the data your receiver hears to the network, you need an active Internet connection and a small piece of free software known as the *Aggregator*. The Aggregator provides the interface to the remote Reverse Beacon Network server.

Within the CW Skimmer interface there are a number of options that control how Skimmer behaves including the width of the band segment it scans, how aggressive it is with call sign validation etc. Rather than try and document all of the options here please see the links below.

It is possible to configure the CW Skimmer receiver so that people can connect to it remotely and the spots generated by the receiver appear on the screen of their logging program just like other spotting networks. At present I have a restriction in my home network configuration that prevents that. I hope to resolve that problem in the future.

If you are using a receiver capable of multiband operation, you can set CW Skimmer up to monitor a single band at a time and post what it hears to the network. You would manually change bands via the interface when desired. I was interested in providing an unattended, multiband operation, and in so doing provide more useful information for those using the system so I chose to automate my installation. Once again I turned to the Internet and through the generosity of Steven, WD5EAE I was able to easily automate the process. Among the excellent applications and utilities WD5EAE makes available for free, is a tool called *CW Skimmer Scheduler*. The Scheduler interfaces with CW Skimmer and your receiver and allows Skimmer to scan one band at the time for as long as you desire and then switches to the next band automatically.

Using CW Skimmer Scheduler for control, my system scans each of the low bands (160-40) during West coast hours of darkness. Skimmer scans a band for 2 minutes and then switches to the next higher band and does the same. Once it has completed sweeping all bands it starts over again. Around our sunrise it starts scanning the higher bands for 2 minutes each and then at sunset starts the low band cycle again. Since I am not transmitting a signal, I can allow the system to run unattended, and I do so for weeks at a time without having to touch it. The time of day, duration of scan, and bands scanned are all easily edited via a small text file that can



be modified with any text editor. In reviewing the spots my receiver posts I am often pleased to see 10 meter spots pop up now and then. There really is propagation on the band occasionally and the automated scan demonstrates that it exists.

## More Information

The following links will provide you with all the detailed information you need to either understand how the system works or setup your own Reverse Beacon Network station.

### CW Skimmer

<http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/> - CW Skimmer's home. Be sure to read the CW Skimmer tutorial written by Pete, N4ZR which can be found here: <http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/Files/Skimmerintro.pdf>

Note that you can find another excellent article written by Pete, N4ZR that addresses the specifics of the Reverse Beacon Network in far greater detail than I have and was also published in NCJ (The National Contest Journal) here: <http://www.pvrc.org/~n4zr/Articles/Skimmer.pdf>.

### The Reverse Beacon Network

<http://www.reversebeacon.net/> - This is where the "rubber meets the road" as the old saying goes. Access to real-time spots and a searchable spot archive are all linked on the navigation menus at the top of the page. On the Downloads page you'll find the small Aggregator application needed to make the bridge between your system and the Reverse Beacon Network.

### CW Skimmer Scheduler

<http://wd5eae.org/index.html> - Steven, WD5EAE has posted an excellent collection of software for our use. The CW Skimmer Scheduler application can be found on his software page.

## DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies

By Bob Nielsen, N7XY ([n7xy@clearwire.net](mailto:n7xy@clearwire.net))

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

Telnet to: [k7ek.dyndns.org](http://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), N7XY sysop.

Telnet to [n7xy.net](http://n7xy.net), port 7300

W7JD-2 - Spanaway (CC Cluster Node - South Tacoma Contest Club), K7EK sysop

Telnet to [k7ek.dyndns.org](http://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](http://w7pkt.net), port 7300

W7DX Bellevue (AR Cluster node) 145.75 MHz, N6MZ sysop.

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

Telnet to [w7dx.net](http://w7dx.net)

AR Cluster user documentation is available at <http://www.ab5k.net>

DX Spider user documentation is available at [http://wiki.dxcluster.org/index.php/DXSpider\\_User\\_Manual](http://wiki.dxcluster.org/index.php/DXSpider_User_Manual)

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>

## Totem Trader

One Force 12 C4-XL partially disassembled. If interested cal Bob W7TSQ at 425 778 4805

FT-1000MP Mk V ser 406000xx, with INRAD roofing filter, extra IF filters: 1.8Khz-8.2, 1.8Khz-455, 400Hz-8.2, 400Hz-455, 250Hz-455. This is a 'backup' rig, not my main FT-1000MP, so has had little use since I purchased it two? years ago. With FP29 Power supply, manual(s), box, microphone. Prefer not to ship. \$1900.00 – Brian Moran, N9ADG, call 206-390-4376, or [brianmo@yahoo.com](mailto:brianmo@yahoo.com)

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)

I also have a Kenwood Model SM-220 Station Monitor in new condx that has the BS-8 Panadapter. It works with Kenwood xcvr's that have thte 8.83 MHz IF. (eg TS-850, etc.) that I would like to sell for \$350. John Owens - N7TK [jcowens1@comcast.net](mailto:jcowens1@comcast.net)

**Palstar AT1500BAL Dual Roller-Balanced Line Antenna Tuner.** Balanced double L network configuration. Dual precision edgewound silver plated coils with vernier drive. 1500 watts PEP. 160M to 10M band coverage. Like new. Excess to me needs since I no longer try to operate 160 from my tiny city lot. \$500. Patrick, [W7TMT@dayshaw.net](mailto:W7TMT@dayshaw.net)

**Yaesu FT-1000 Mark V Field** – Purchased new in Oct 2005. Late model serial number (5J330091). Nearly fully loaded with Inrad filters including roofing filter, 2.1K SSB, pair of 1K CW, pair of 400 Hz CW and 500Hz Collins in sub-receiver. Nearly perfect cosmetically (very small paint chip left side of radio) perfect operationally. Includes matching SP-8 speaker. All manuals, quick reference card and original factory boxes. Non-smoker. Selling because SO2R just isn't for me. - \$1500 Contact: [w7tmt@dayshaw.net](mailto:w7tmt@dayshaw.net)

**Icom IC-820H** – all mode 2M/440 transceiver. Original owner purchased new in 1995 (SN 01853). Rarely used in all this time. Nearly perfect cosmetically and perfect operationally. Factory Boxes. Non-smoker. - \$450 Contact: [w7tmt@dayshaw.net](mailto:w7tmt@dayshaw.net)

# Help Wanted

By Adam Blackmer, K7EDX, WWDXC President

**T**he club is looking for a Field Day chairperson and also for a Salmon Run chairperson. We really would like to see some different club members get involved with these events. (As the regulars will still be involved, it'd be nice to have some new blood!)

Thank you!

## 7QP – K7WA/p Style

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

**F**or 7QP this year I did an "Expedition" to Table Mountain north of Ellensburg in Kittitas County. Since I run wire radials for my Hamstick verticals to handy trees, fence posts, rocks, etc. I'm not a true "Mobile". I found a spot about half-way up the mountain with a great shot to the east and south and set up my portable contest station with battery/solar power, IC-706MkIIIG, and verticals for 20 and 40 meters. The solar panel put out power even though the sky was mostly cloudy much of the time. Seven hours operation (mostly 20, mostly CW) netted the following:

230 QSOs, 41 States, 2 VEs, and 4 DX (XE, LY, CU, and HK)

## 7QP – K7ED/m Style

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY (K7ED in contests)

**I**drove over to Blewitt Pass (the Chelan/Kittitas county line) on Saturday morning with my wife Paula and stopped there amid the snow for about an hour. I managed to work 22 stations on 20cw with my IC-706 and a hamstick. I was amazed to have LY5W answer my CQ (I only call CQ on these forays in order to avoid keeping a dupe log...).

After driving north and then through Wanatchee we stopped near the Trinidad Trading Post (on the Grant/Douglas County Line). Here we snacked on junk food and I managed another 22 contacts in 45 minutes. Again LY5W called me – he must have good ears! And one notable QSO was with another mobile station on a county line – so for the contest it counted as 4 (count em! 4!) QSOs. Nice.

Then we drove through the great Eastern Washington scenery (canyons, deserts, sand dunes, farmland, etc.) and stopped at the fascinating Ginko Petrified Forest on the way home. A fun day!



# Registration Form

## 2009 Pacific Northwest DX Convention

**AUGUST 7 – 9, 2009; Mirabeau Park Hotel; Spokane Valley, WA**

**Seminars – Saturday Banquet – Sunday Brunch –  
Commercial Displays – Door Prizes – Raffles –  
Hospitality Room – DXCC Card Checking**

For more information, visit the convention page on the  
Spokane DX Association Website: [www.sdxa.org](http://www.sdxa.org)

**Mail to:**

**SPOKANE DX ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 19358  
Spokane, WA 99219  
USA**

**Hotel Info:**

[www.mirabeauparkhotel.com](http://www.mirabeauparkhotel.com)  
Ask for Special PNWDX Convention Rates  
1100 North Sullivan Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99037-9570  
866-584-4674  
Exit 291B on I-90.

Make Checks payable to: Spokane DX Association.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St/Pr: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Pcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration, before 01 July**	\$85 x _____	\$
Full Late Registration, after 30 June	\$90 x _____	
or individual selections:		
Registration (required)	\$25 x _____	
Banquet Saturday evening *	\$40 x _____	\$
Brunch Sunday Morning	\$20 x _____	\$
Late Registration adder, after 30June	\$ 5 x _____	\$
	total enclosed:	\$
* select Banquet entrée: Chicken Chardonnay _____ "USDA Prime" Top Sirloin _____		

\*\* note: There will be a door prize drawing for all registering before 01 July.

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

***The Totem Tabloid***

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**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:

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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).