



June 2006

# VHF & Higher Operating and Contesting

Mike Lewis, K7MDL will provide a look into VHF and higher weak signal operation and contesting. More and more hams are discovering the VHF and Microwave opportunities. Program coverage includes location selection, equipment, rover operation, digital modes, satellites, where to find the activity, and home station setup.

There will be an equipment demo showing an Elecraft based transverter system, tripod mounted 10GHz system, and simple sturdy home-brew antennas.

## June Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2006  
Dinner at 6:30 – Program at 7:30  
Lake City Elks Club  
14540 Lake City Way NE  
Seattle, Washington  
206-364-1800

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Dinner at 6:30 PM  
Program at 7:30 PM**

# 7<sup>th</sup> Call Area QSO Party

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY (K7ED/m in the 7QP)

**T**he first running of the 7th Call Area QSO Party (7QP) took place in May and was a great success from all accounts that reached this reporter.

I took the K7ED Superstation out on the road "Salmon Run Style" and cruised through 11 counties on the Olympic Peninsula and over on this side of Puget Sound. Activity was plentiful and the bands, while not too exciting, were generally alive. I managed to work a couple Europeans on 20 meters. This contest should definitely have a place on your operating calendar next year – May 5, 2007.

Here's the K7ED/m trip report:

*The K7ED/m superstation (mobile edition) was on the first Edmonds -Kingston, WA ferry of the day at 5:50am and once on the far side of Puget Sound I found a high spot in Kingston at about 6:20am. With the 40 meter hamstick on the car, I managed about 20 QSOs in half an hour. Feeling like I had done my duty in activating Kitsap County, I bundled up the antenna and headed off to my next stop. Along the way I passed a deer munching her breakfast.*

*At the Clallam/Jefferson county line just east of Sequim I decided to switch over to 20 meters and see how that band might be. For some reason I've never had much luck at the Clallam/Jefferson county line on US101. In past Salmon Runs I've stopped there a couple times and always got the feeling I just wasn't very loud on the bands. It could be that the early hour means that 20 meters just isn't really open yet. Or it could be some sort of radio black hole. Whatever it is, I had the same feeling on Saturday. 17 QSOs in 45 minutes was enough. I headed to my next stop.*

*I headed back south on US101 and stopped for breakfast in a roadside cafe. After a couple hours of travel I found the Mason/Grays Harbor county line just north of McCleary. I put up the 20 meter hamstick and started out on phone. After an excruciating 4 QSOs, I went back to my preferred cw. The band was much more open than at my previous stop (for whatever reason) and I managed almost 50 QSOs in an hour of calling CQ (including GM3POI). Remember - each county line QSO is really two QSOs - one from each county - so this added about 100 contacts to the contest log.*

*It being just after noon, I was ready for lunch. This was one of the main goals for the day's trip. A barbecue joint just east of McCleary (and just west of Olympia) had been featured on the Food TV Network and I stopped there (Ranch House BBQ) for lunch. It was no disappointment. The pork sandwich was delicious. The cup of chili fantastic. The side orders of cole slaw and potato salad acceptable. And the desert of pecan pie was (while not as good as mine) very tasty. It was an excellent stop and will definitely be on the route in upcoming Salmon Run and 7QP expeditions.*

*I headed south to my next destination and along the way a bald eagle floated across my path - a good sign I assumed. At the Pacific/Lewis county line just west of the oddly named Pe Ell, I pulled over to the side of the road on the forested hillside. This time I spent all of my time on 20 meters cw. A good stop and I put 40 QSOs into the log in the next hour. Included were GM3POI (again) and I4IKW (both answered my CQ). The little hamstick really did seem to work.*

*That was enough for me. I decided not to head further south to the Wahkiakum/Cowlitz county line. I had an email from N7EIE/m last week and he was confident of reaching Wahkiakum county. So I headed back to I5 and turned the Celica north. A stop at a rest stop in Thurston county put 28 QSOs in the log. Another in Tacoma added 8 Pierce County contacts. And a final stop on a side street northeast of my home QTH (where the road actually has a line across it where the King County road surface ends and the Snohomish County blacktop starts...) added another 9 QSOs (enough to "activate" these rare counties).*

*I headed back home and arrived at around 6:30pm. While there was another 5.5 hours remaining in the contest - I had accomplished my goal of activating counties and was done.*

*In the end, the K7ED/m effort totaled almost 300 contacts (counting the county line QSOs as two) and I activated 11 counties (the real goal of the trip). The trip included 350 miles and (more importantly nowadays - about 3/4 tank of gas). It was another great experience. See you all in the Salmon Run in September!*

# Contest Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

**H**ope you were able to participate in the CW WPX. Conditions were better than I expected. That leaves just one more contest in this edition of the Northwest Trophy Competition – the IARU in July. Two weeks after that, at the Northwest DX Convention, the winning Club will be announced. I think our chances are good. I've included a summary of the past year's scores down below. Let me know if I'm missing one of your scores (I do lose them). You may also want to let your Club Officers know how you feel about the rules and contests in this years running of the competition as I am sure there will be some discussion at the DX Convention.

## WPX - CW

	Q's	Pt's	M's	Score
<u>SOAB HP</u>				
W7QN	584		327	349,890
N7BF	460	1016	335	340,360

<u>SO(A)AB HP</u>				
W7OM	786		490	1,004,990
N6HR	525		367	568,340
K7EG	516		373	475,202
N7XY	252	614	214	131,396
W7VV	103	312	97	30,264

<u>SOAB LP</u>				
N7WA	950	2223	495	1,100,385
N7ZG	744		428	729,312
NG7Z	679	1342	342	458,964
W7SNH	43		41	4,551

<u>SO(A)AB LP</u>				
KT7G	43		40	5,160

<u>SOSB20 HP</u>				
W7WA	1890		815	3,618,600
W7VJ	500		351	407,862

<u>SO(A)SB20 HP</u>				
K7RL	1312		604	2,013,736

<u>SOSB20 QRP</u>				
K7HBN	250		225	123,975

## NW Trophy Competition Summary

	CQWRTTY	CQWSSB	CQWVCW	ARRLCW	ARRLSSB	WPXRTTY	WPXSSB	WPXCW
N0AX	0	0	194,028	0	0	0	0	2,977,846
N9ADG	0	0	0	0	0	10,296	0	0
N7BF	254,592	110,768	155,430	117,504	100,035	118,755	0	340,360
K7BTW	203,275	0	216,028	0	0	10,248	0	237,175
N7BV	0	126,276	918,072	36,720	0	0	0	0
KA7CSE	0	14,874	0	0	0	0	0	0
W7DX	0	0	0	74,655	0	0	0	0
K7EG	142,096	185,832	198,306	241,983	181,890	301,074	410,356	475,202
KT7G	4,424	16,892	14,773	144	14,381	26,344	5,160	0

W7GTO	49,439	15,980	11,926	36,270	15,300	49,911	0	0
K7HBN	124,028	150,325	180,294	0	106,227	0	0	123,975
N6HR	0	0	265,582	387,000	0	0	0	568,340
W7IIT	0	0	111,290	0	0	0	0	0
K6KR	0	779,380	0	0	0	0	0	0
KX7L	2,646	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K7LAZ	0	0	155,001	4,200	8,748	0	0	0
K7MBY	0	0	0	0	0	31,920	0	0
N6MZ	135,960	0	0	40,950	18,900	0	0	0
W7NG	0	0	0	0	162	0	0	0
W7OM	175,734	15,260	323,778	384,990	307,230	410,424	0	1,004,990
AA7PM	0	0	53,253	0	0	0	269,327	0
W7QN	0	100,640	108,817	0	74,151	0	170,403	349,890
K7RI	0	0	0	0	584,496	0	3,055,799	0
K7RL	693,445	2,799,503	0	187,245	2,119,326	777,024	2,595,747	2,013,736
K7RX	0	48,789	87,000	0	0	0	0	0
AB7RW	0	0	109,512	0	0	0	0	0
AK7S	0	20,942	0	0	21,960	0	0	0
N7SEJ	0	186,188	612	0	0	0	0	0
W7SNH	0	0	4	17,472	0	0	0	4,551
K7SS	0	100,440	59,400	150,480	0	0	0	0
W7TMT	0	0	75,504	0	0	0	0	0
W7TS	0	0	0	0	31,995	107,250	0	0
W7TSQ	0	0	4,462	0	966	0	0	0
K6UFO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,972
W7VJ	0	0	194,016	58,830	0	0	0	407,862
W7VV	0	47,633	0	0	0	0	0	30,264
N7WA	0	13,482	143,787	566,115	0	0	0	1,100,385
	<b>CQWVRTTY</b>	<b>CQWSSB</b>	<b>CQWWCW</b>	<b>ARRLCW</b>	<b>ARRLSSB</b>	<b>WPXRTTY</b>	<b>WPXSSB</b>	<b>WPXCW</b>
W7WA	0	886,920	528,330	315,489	623,637	0	4,863,580	3,618,600
N7YX	0	533,104	0	0	0	0	0	0
N7XY	0	8,632	31,827	41,124	48	0	0	131,396
NG7Z	33,020	0	0	87,210	7,548	48,360	992	458,964
K7ZA	0	0	674,221	596,853	0	0	0	0
N7ZG	0	158,400	279,123	208,242	0	0	0	729,312
	1,818,659	6,320,260	5,094,376	3,553,332	4,202,763	1,869,347	11,402,844	14,598,980

Grand Total: 48,860,561

## DXing Near Solar Minimum

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA  
From *WorldRadio*, May 2006

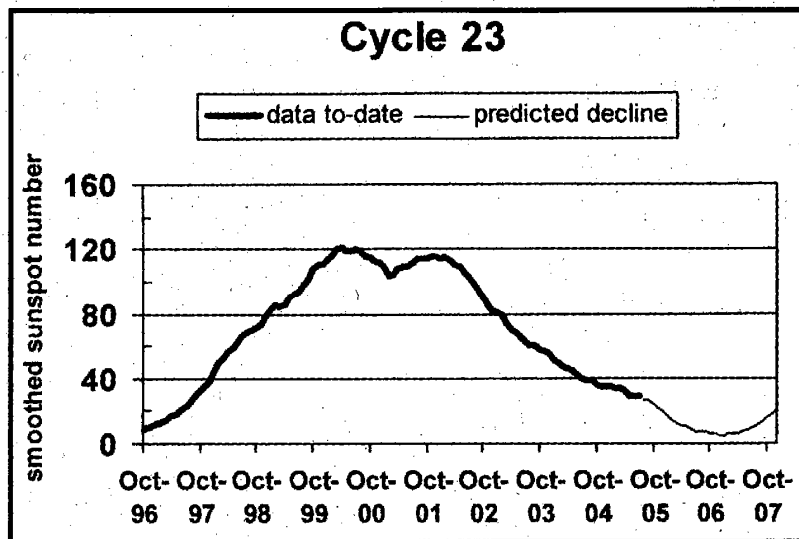


Figure 1 — cycle 23 progress

Cycle 23 continues its march to solar minimum, which is predicted to occur later this year or early next year. Figure 1 shows Cycle 23 from its start in 12996 to the present (thick line) along with its predicted decline (thin line).

Figure 1 shows that the smoothed sunspot number for February 2006 (which is when I'm writing this) will come in at around 15. How is DXing affected near solar minimum? First, we lose reliable and consistent worldwide openings on the higher bands (specifically 12M and 10M, and 15M to a lesser extent). That doesn't say we won't have any openings on these bands — we will still have occasional north-

south openings due to the robust equatorial ionosphere, but worldwide openings will be few and far between (when they occur, it will be when the Sun has a short-term hiccup to give us some decent sunspot activity). Second, more people will be crowded into the 17M, 20M, 30M, and 40M bands (prime DX real estate around solar minimum). Third, the lower bands (80M and 160M will become better and attract many DXers.

An interesting question to ask is “How much DX can I work around solar minimum, and how does it compare to solar maximum?” The second part of that question was addressed in the May 2002 column when I participated in the CW weekend of the ARRL DX contest in February 2002. The smoothed sunspot number for February 2002 was 115, and the higher bands were in very good shape. I ended up working 91 countries on 20M, 15M, and 10M using a modest station: my old TS-180S barefoot to a Hustler 4-BTV trap vertical temporarily mounted on the garage roof.

To answer the first part of the question, I participated in the CW weekend of the 2006 ARRL DX contest (18 and 19 February). I used an FT-747 barefoot (right before the contest I discovered that the TS-180S had a transmitter problem) to the same 4-BTV vertical – but this time I added the 40M section and mounted it on the ground using our Christmas tree stand. I guyed it using yarn tied to appropriate nearby trees.

I used one radial for each band – certainly not optimum to minimize ground losses, but it was sufficient to provide decent SWR readings on 40M, 20M, 15M, and 10M.

This year I started on 20M Friday night, but quickly moved to 40M when it was apparent that 20M wasn’t going to be too productive. After two hours, I only had 11 countries. That sure wasn’t encouraging, and I hoped Saturday would be better.

And it was. I spent a total of about three hours on Saturday bouncing back and forth between 20M and 15M. I worked 41 more countries. I moved to 40M after sunset and picked up another six countries in three hours (lots of calling and lots of getting beat by the big boys).

I couldn’t spend as much time on Sunday as I did on Saturday, but I did manage to put in half-an-hour in the morning and an hour and a half in the afternoon on 20M and 15M, adding 10 more countries.

Overall this year I spent about 10 hours on the air, and worked 68 countries. Table 1 compares the 2006 results to the 2002 results.

**Table 1**

Year	Smoothed Sunspot Number	Hours of Operation	Total Countries	40M	20M	15M	10M
2002	115	18	91	0	31	30	30
2006	15	10	68	16	32	20	0

I was hoping to work more than 68 countries this year, but my 100W to a ground-challenged backyard vertical just wasn’t strong enough to

break some of the pileups. Some of the relatively easy ones that I just couldn’t work were: 3G1X (CE), ZL1BYZ, ZM1A, ZPØR, and ZS4TX. ZPØR was especially frustrating – I’d call him but he’d start another CQ – this occurred multiple times on both Saturday and Sunday. (*editor’s note: from experience being “on the other side” of this situation – local conditions of QRN and general high noise levels are probably to be blamed – WAØRJY*) And there were a couple pile-ups I didn’t even waste my time with – S9SS, for example.

Table 1 also shows the basic difference between solar maximum and solar minimum. At solar maximum I didn’t even have to get on 40M to work 91 countries. But at solar minimum, 40M was a tremendous help. This year I didn’t hear anyone on 10M until late Sunday afternoon, and then it was several Caribbean stations (all of whom I had already worked).

Could I have worked 91 countries like I did in 2002? I would like to think so, but my guess is I would have had to spend many more hours trolling the bands (just like in 2002, I didn’t use PacketCluster this year). If I would have worked those that I couldn’t work and assuming there were some “common” countries on that I simply missed hearing, I think I might have been able to get up to 80 countries or so.

All in all, I’m satisfied having worked 68 countries in 10 hours with my 100W to a trap vertical. That’s a good start towards DXCC. And in our world of “bigger is better,” it is quite refreshing to know that you can still work lots of DX with a very modest station – even around solar minimum.

# Salmon Run Committee – YES! We still need volunteers!

With growth comes additional work to publicize and administer the contest. This is an excellent way for club members to get involved in a program of benefit to the club and to Amateur Radio, as well. To make it easy to understand what needs to be done, the committee has prepared job descriptions for each position. All of these tasks are done now, but the work is getting to be too much for three or four people. By spreading the work to more people, it reduces the load for all. If you would like to take on one of these jobs, please contact any Salmon Run committee member or club officer.

## **Salmon Run Coordinator (unfilled)**

- Makes sure each position is filled and active
- Liaison to the WWDXC Board
  - estimates award and prize budget needs (yearly)
  - short pre-contest status reports in early summer and in August, including rule changes
  - short post-contest status reports right after contest and after log due date
  - final summary report for Tabloid following results publication
- Coordinates any meetings and discussions
- Point of contact for issues and questions

## **Rules Manager (unfilled)**

- Maintain master rules
- Delivers rules and summary sheet for current year for club Webmeister to place on Web site
- Delivers rules and summary sheet to Publicity Manager
- Conducts post-contest review of rules
- Manages review and change process

## **Publicity Manager (unfilled)**

- Get announcements to all major magazines and contest calendar sites by 1 June
- Send email to all WA clubs with announcement and reminders at least twice between 1 June and 1 Sep
- Send announcements and any special notices to cq-contest and County Hunter reflectors between 1 Aug and contest date
- Announce logs-received page updates
- Announce results when ready

## **Log Manager (currently WAØRJY)**

- Maintain salmonrun@wwdxc.org mailbox and club PO box
- Review and sort all paper/diskette entries for format and summary sheet
- Scan all electronic logs received for format and summary sheet
- Create and maintain a process for entering all log data into the master score spreadsheet
  - Manage checking process (Redmond Top Key Contest Club has volunteered to help)
  - Perform final cross check
- Maintain list of Logs Received for club Webmeister to place on Web site
- Deliver master score spreadsheet to Results Manager

## **Results Manager (currently NØAX)**

- Perform initial cross-check
- Sort scores into WA, US, DX regions
- Sort scores in each region into classes defined by rules
- Assign certificates and awards
- Create breakdowns and analysis for club Webmeister to place on Web site

- Conduct "pre-release" review
- Notify Publicity Manager when results are ready for public review

### **Printing Manager (currently K7LOG)**

- Acquire certificate background photo and text
- Circulate prototype certificate for approval
- Obtain list of certificate titles from Results Manager
- Print certificates
- Deliver certificates to Mailing Manager

### **Awards Manager (unfilled)**

- Solicit and define awards for current year's contest
- Deliver and maintain awards list for club Webmeister to place on Web site
- Obtain smoked salmon and plaques and other physical prizes as required
- Deliver prizes with winners identified to Mailing Manager

### **Mailing Manager (unfilled)**

- Obtain certificates from Printing Manager
- Obtain prizes and other awards from Awards Manager
- Obtain master score spreadsheet from Results Manager
- Print mailing labels
- Mail all certificates and prizes

### **Records Manager (currently N7UK)**

- Maintain database or spreadsheet of current records (past records are optional)
- Obtain results from Results Manager before public posting
- Update Awards Web page or provide club Webmeister with updated results before public posting
- Provide Publicity Manager with records of interest

## **DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies**

By Bob Nielsen, N7XY

[n7xy@oz.net](mailto:n7xy@oz.net)

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

Telnet to w7dx.net

User documents at <http://www.ab5k.net>

W7PKT Auburn (DX Spider Node) 145.73 MHz, KA7CSE sysop.

Telnet to w7pkt.net, port 7300

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

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

Telnet to n7xy.net, port 7300 or <http://n7xy.net/cgi-bin/spider.cgi>

If you need help, email [n7xy@oz.net](mailto:n7xy@oz.net).

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

# Totem Trader

Roger, W7VV is looking for an inexpensive used RF signal generator. Checked E-Bay but have not seen one. Anyone out there have an extra one they want to get rid of?

1. Slightly damaged Model HS471 71ft Triex crank-up guyed tower(on the ground) - \$200
2. Telrex Model 20M436 4el Heavy Duty beam (36 ft boom) -\$230
3. Hy-Gain Discoverer Model 7-2 2el 40M Beam - \$250

John Owens - N7SEJ  
(425)745-0577  
Edmonds, WA

# Pacific Northwest DX Convention

## "DX2006"

July 21 - 23, 2006

### DX2003 Registration

	<u>QTY</u>	<u>\$CDN</u>	<u>\$US</u>
Saturday Programs Only	_____	30.00	<b>26.00</b>
Dinner Saturday Night	_____	45.00	<b>39.00</b>
Brunch Sunday Morning**	_____	20.00	<b>17.00</b>
Full Registration *	_____	<u>95.00</u>	<b><u>82.00</u></b>
Your Total	_____	_____	_____

\*Full Registration - Includes Friday Reception, Saturday Programs, Dinner, Sunday Brunch, DX Chat Room, Prizes etc.

Dinner Choices: Chicken \_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_ Veg. \_\_\_

\*\* Sunday Morning will include breakfast, a DX presentation and separate prize draw for Sunday attendees.

.....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to "DX2006" (US or CDN as appropriate)

**Mail to:**  
DX2006 c/o Dave Shipman VE7CFD  
1013 Sinclair St.  
West Vancouver, BC  
Canada V7V 3W1

#### Hotel Info

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown  
6083 McKay Ave. Burnaby, BC V5H  
2W7

Call direct and ask for the "DX  
Convention" room rate. (604)438-1200  
or 1-800-Hiltons

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:

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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).