



June 2008

K3 Designer

*E*lecraft's K3, launched just over a year ago, has received great attention and fanfare. It seems to appeal to "traditionalists" yearning for the sound and experience of classic rigs, while giving up nothing in features and performance against today's computerized radios.

Lyle Johnson, KK7P, one of the designers of the Elecraft K3, and the driving force behind their DSP design, will be joining us to talk about his experiences working on the K3 project, the "ham radio design process", and to answer your questions.

Don't miss this meeting!

June Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Dinner at 6:30pm – Program at 7:30pm

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

Field Day 2008

By Denny Bowman, W7SNH, 2008 Field Day Chairman

Field Day 2008! The Western Washington DX Club will be activating a Field Day station at the N9ADG QTH near Preston. There will be three active stations.....SSB, CW, and RTTY/digital modes, so come on out and enjoy the fun! Operators are needed to get on the air and make contacts. Also needed are folks to help get the equipment going on Friday afternoon, June 27th. Field Day operations officially begin at 11AM local time on Saturday, June 28th and end 24 hours later on Sunday.

This will be a FUN event for all ages of hams and non-hams. Curious about the new digital modes of keyboard communication? Come on out and see it work, then grab the controls and make some contacts! There will be some excellent modern radios, great antennas, at a QTH 1,100 feet above sea level with a clear shot to the east. There will even be food and other refreshments available on site, so see you there!

For more information, contact Herb, W7ZF; Denny, W7SNH; Dick, K7BTW; Brian, N9ADG; or Adam, K7EDX.

2008 CQ WPX CW Contest at 6Y1V

By Guy Molinari, N7ZG

It all started with an e-mail posting to the CQ-Contest reflector. David Kopacz, KY1V was looking for operators to assist him with the 2008 CQ WPX CW contest at his station in Jamaica. Just days before I was sending e-mail inquiries to various station owners on the west coast to see if a station was available for the upcoming contest. This was because mine was unavailable for various reasons. I had always wanted to operate from the Caribbean and had already accepted an invitation from Roger, W7VV to be part of the VP5W team for CQWW CW in November. I found an airfare to Jamaica for \$630 and had some vacation time on the books, so why not? I dropped David a note saying I was interested and later in the evening I received a response inviting me to be part of the team. Woohoo! Weeks passed and I procrastinated getting my passport receiving it only days before the contest. Also, David informed me that since 6Y is not a CEPT country I would need to obtain a alien operators permit. I sent an overnight envelope to Jamaica with the \$20 USD fee along with the completed application, a photocopy of my passport, and a photocopy of my US amateur license. Normally this process takes about 60 days, but David assured me that he would get verbal permission from the SMA (Jamaican equivalent of the FCC). If you are planning to operate from 6Y, make sure you leave plenty of time for this process.



I flew to Jamaica leaving early on a Wednesday morning arriving at about 10 pm local time. I was warmly greeted by David 6Y1V (KY1V) and Ismael 6Y1AY (XE1AY) wearing callsign emblazoned apparel. Ismael had arrived just an hour or so before me. David and John 6Y5/K4BAI had arrived earlier in the day and John was at the 6Y1V QTH operating in a QRP contest. Those who know John also know that he is an avid contester, sometimes operating multiple contests simultaneously almost every weekend. David was kind enough to personally greet us and transport us to the station. David, Ismael and I stopped at a Jerky's restaurant (Jamaican equivalent of McDonalds) and picked up some Jamaican Jerk chicken and headed up the hill to the 6Y1V QTH. John K4BAI and I had met briefly a few years ago at an impromptu Western Washington DX Club dinner held while he was in Seattle on business, but I had never met David or Ismael prior to this trip. The brotherhood of testers is truly a wonderful aspect of this great hobby. One of these years I will get to Dayton to experience this on an even greater scale. The 6Y1V team was finally gathered as we enjoyed a meal

of chicken and cold pop. We shared some small talk (including lies) as well as plans for the upcoming contest. David gave Ismael and myself a quick tour of the shack. The setup consists of three ICOM 7800s and ACOM 2000 series amplifiers along with the usual complement of rotators, computers, bandpass filters, stack matches, switchboxes, etc. It was about midnight local time and we were all tired from the long day's travels, so it was



time to get some rest. The house has only two bedrooms so David rented a villa at the Tryall golf and beach club. John and Ismael stayed at the house while David and I went to the Tryall.

We awoke well rested and headed to the local market in the town of Hopewell to buy some fresh fruit for breakfast. We then began the ascent up Watford hill to the QTH. The station is near the end of a road that winds up a hill to about 850 feet above sea level. It is a beautiful drive past quaint local homes, some of them modest by US standards, but quite clean and tidy nevertheless. The views of the Caribbean were marvelous. Since we arrived in darkness the night before, I was now able to enjoy the beautiful Jamaican countryside. When we arrived at the station the awe and wonder of the towers came into view. The 6Y1V

QTH has a 140 foot Rohn 45 tower supporting a two stack of SteppIR MonstIR yagis for 40 through 6 meters. They are turned by KØXG rotators. This tower is star guyed at two levels due to the tremendous torque exerted by turning these huge antennas. The second tower, also Rohn 45 is 110 feet tall although the top of this tower is even with the 140 foot tower due to its position on the hillside. This entire tower rotates and supports 6 yagis from M squared. There is a 6/6 stack for 20M on a 59 foot boom! Also sharing this tower is a 6/6 on 15M and finally a 7/7 for 10M. Further up the hillside an 80M four square consists of HyGain HyTowers. From the antenna farm, a beautiful unobstructed view of the Caribbean from Japan sweeps thorough to South America. This is truly a ham's dream come true.

We spent some of the morning running two stations with our Jamaican callsigns. David had confirmed with the SMA in Kingston that we were indeed good to go. I settled into the chair and pointed the rotating tower at Europe and within minutes was working a pile. I would find that after I worked though the stronger signals there was a layer of dozens of weaker stations calling. I was able to work a number of stateside stations off of the side of the stack as well. As lunchtime approached, we decided to take a trip into Montego Bay to have lunch at one of David's favorite restaurants and to stock the refrigerator for the contest weekend. Then it was back to the shack to put 6Y5/N7ZG back on the air and rack up some more Q's.

I find that working pileups involves managing multiple variables. On one hand it is good to establish a rhythm so that callers are not sending on top of an in-progress exchange. The downside is that it is much harder to get full callsigns when everyone is calling at the same time. By occasionally breaking rhythm or taking a tailend contact, chances are increased that a calling operator will get his full call in "under the wire". I was operating simplex to practice for the upcoming contest, given that running split during a contest is generally not a good idea. The 6Y1V station is potent enough so that if the pileup gets unruly the signal will still be heard from under the mess of callers. One concept reinforced during this experience is that calling ops trying to work DX in simplex mode should avoid zero beating the DX station. I found that picking out callers who were a little off frequency was a much easier task. This is an important



pileup breaking technique. The next step for me is learning to pick out calls when the signals are much closer in frequency and weaker. Another difficult skill is to pull weaker but more desirable multipliers out of the pileup first. These stations may only call a few times and will tune away if they are not confident they will be worked. If you are lucky they will try again later. Bottom line is that pulling out full calls will greatly improve QSO rate.



After a dinner of leftover Jerky's chicken it was back to the radio room and some more operating. At about midnight I tried some 75M SSB. I was working a fairly steady stream of stations in the UK at over 2 hours past their local sunrise! Maybe this was a good omen for 80M during the contest. Anyway, it was getting into the early morning hours so it was time for bed. The next morning David and I went back to the market for some more of the locally grown fresh fruit and it was back to the station. We operated some more using our individual call signs while John, K4BAI napped in preparation for the contest kickoff later in the evening. It was decided that John would lead off on the 40/15 station starting on 40M beaming Europe, and I would start off on the 20/80M station with 20M beaming stateside. At around 4 pm we shut down the casual operation to make final preparations for the contest. We were using WinTest because it is known to have reliable networking capability, as the last thing we wanted was our computer logs to get out of sync. Once the final preparations were made, we had a good meal of roasted breadfruit and vegetables prepared local Jamaican style. The cook placed the breadfruit (slightly larger than a coconut) directly on the stove's gas burner.

We assumed our positions in the operating chairs and established run QRGs. When 0000Z rolled around we where off and running metaphorically speaking. Within the first few callers was Rod W7OM with a big signal into 6Y. The combined QSO rate was above 350/hr at the outset. This rarely dropped below 200. The basic strategy for the contest was to run 40M as hard as possible to Europe. In the WPX contest, low band contacts count for double the points as compared to the high bands. Given that we had the best 40/80 antenna systems in that part of the world, we would try to maximize this advantage given that we only get half of the points to the US compared to P40 or PJ2, and stations in the western parts of Africa (EA8/CT3/D44) who are much closer to EU. At about 10 pm local time it was sunrise in Europe. David took my place to work 80M. We found that 80M was a little disappointing to EU. Other stations in the Caribbean seemed to echo those observations. At about 1 am local time I took over for John at the 40M position and Ismael took 80M while John and David got some sleep. I managed to work some JA's but it was not nearly as good as expected. The second night turned out to be much better to JA on 40 and I was able to work many more Qs to that part of the world. At local sunrise John started off on 20M to Europe and I worked 40M till the rate dropped and then went to 15M. 15M was surprisingly good to Europe with strong signals. My guess is that many ops avoided this band to get better rate on 20M. I'm sure things will be quite different for the CQ WW contests this fall. Given the fact that multipliers only count once for all bands in WPX, there was little incentive to try 160M so we didn't even bother. David also got a little run going on 10M into stateside for novelties sake. There were no contacts to Europe on 10M though. Later in the day 40M again opened to Europe and John was at the helm. We alternated between 15 and 20M to Europe trying to get as many three pointers as possible. At about 7 pm local time we again tried 80M. This time it was even worse as signals were very weak. Even stateside runs did not materialize. So we spent most of the time working 20M as hard as we could. By about midnight local time on Sunday, we had surpassed the North American M/2 record with smiles and high five's all around. We started an over/under bet too see what our final score would be. David bet that it would be 22.5 million with the winner taking a pot of \$1000 cash Jamaican (about \$14 USD). He would ultimately win this bet. We finished up the last leg of the contest with John on 40M and myself on 20M. When 0000Z rolled around we

shook hands and David congratulated us for a job well done. We went to the Tryall to take hot showers and then went out for a post contest dinner at the resort restaurant. The restaurant staff snapped a team photo with us exhausted but smiling. The final score was 22,207,200 and a total of 5,330 QSOs. 392 on 80M, 1987 on 40M, 2043 on 20M, 830 on 15M, and 78 on 10M.

I always get a melancholy feeling when a contest ends and this time was no different. As we sat around enjoying a good meal I felt that I had forged a memory that would last a lifetime with three new found friends. This to me is what the radiosport is all about.

One postscript to this operation was an e-mail received from David. He stayed one additional day in Jamaica and decided to see if 10M would open. He indicated in his note that he was able to run Europe at about a 300/hr rate with big signals. This was the first time he has seen 10M open to Europe in years. Maybe this is a sign of good things to come!

2008 W7PHO Scholarship Awarded

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The William Bennett, W7PHO, Memorial Scholarship was founded in memory of one of our founding members. When Bill became a silent key many of his friends, both local and DX, contributed to a fund to support this scholarship. The fund is managed and the scholarship is awarded by the ARRL Foundation.

From Mary Hobart, K1MMH at the ARRL Foundation:

Chris Renfrow, KD7TDC of Ellensburg, WA will receive the \$500 "William Bennett, W7PHO, Memorial Scholarship award for 2008.

and from Chris Renfrow, KD7TDC:

Thank you very much for awarding me the William Bennett Memorial Scholarship. This will really help me in my educational pursuits at the University of Idaho. I plan to continue participating in ham radio throughout my college career.

Chris Renfrow, KD7TDC

WWDXC Membership Renewal Status

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

As of May 29th 72 members have renewed their annual membership; we also have 24 members already current for a total Active Membership of 96.

Active Membership dues in the Western Washington DX Club are \$25.00 per year which supports the monthly Totem Tabloid newsletter, awards, club repeater, liability insurance and other activities such as monthly meetings, the Club Internet Web site, club-sponsored plaques for 7QP, CQ and ARRL International DX contests and Dxpeditions. This year we will host a club Field Day (June 28-29), Picnic (August 16), and the Washington Salmon Run (Sept. 20-21). Plan to attend the Northwest DX Convention in Portland this year (August 1-2-3). Watch the Club website for up-to-date information on Club activities.

If you haven't renewed your membership please consider doing so soon, and Thank You for supporting the Western Washington DX Club!

Membership correspondence should go to: WWDXC, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island WA 98040-0395

WDXC Picnic – August 16th

By Roger Huntley, W7VV

The annual WDXC picnic will be held on Saturday, August 16th, 2008 at W7VV, Roger Huntley's QTH. Festivities begin around 3:00 pm with the barbecue getting hot around 5:30 pm. The club will furnish beer, wine, soft drinks, hot dogs, and hamburgers with all the trimmings.

We need to borrow a couple of light weight tables for use at the food line for the picnic in August. Also some folding chairs would be nice. Please contact Roger Huntley at snr.huntley@verizon.net or 425-482-6699.

Each club member attending is asked to bring a dish as follows:

Calls ending (last letter of call) in A-H bring appetizers

Calls ending (last letter of call) in I-P bring side dishes

Calls ending (last letter of call) in Q-Z bring desserts (Except for NØAX, who is requested to bring his wonderful pie!!)

Example: W7DX would bring a dessert; W7AA would bring an appetizer, etc.

Please RSVP by August 9th to Roger via email, snr.huntley@verizon.net; or 425-482-6699. Refer to the map for driving directions. Follow the green roadway signs once you leave SR522 on to Echo Lake Road.

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.

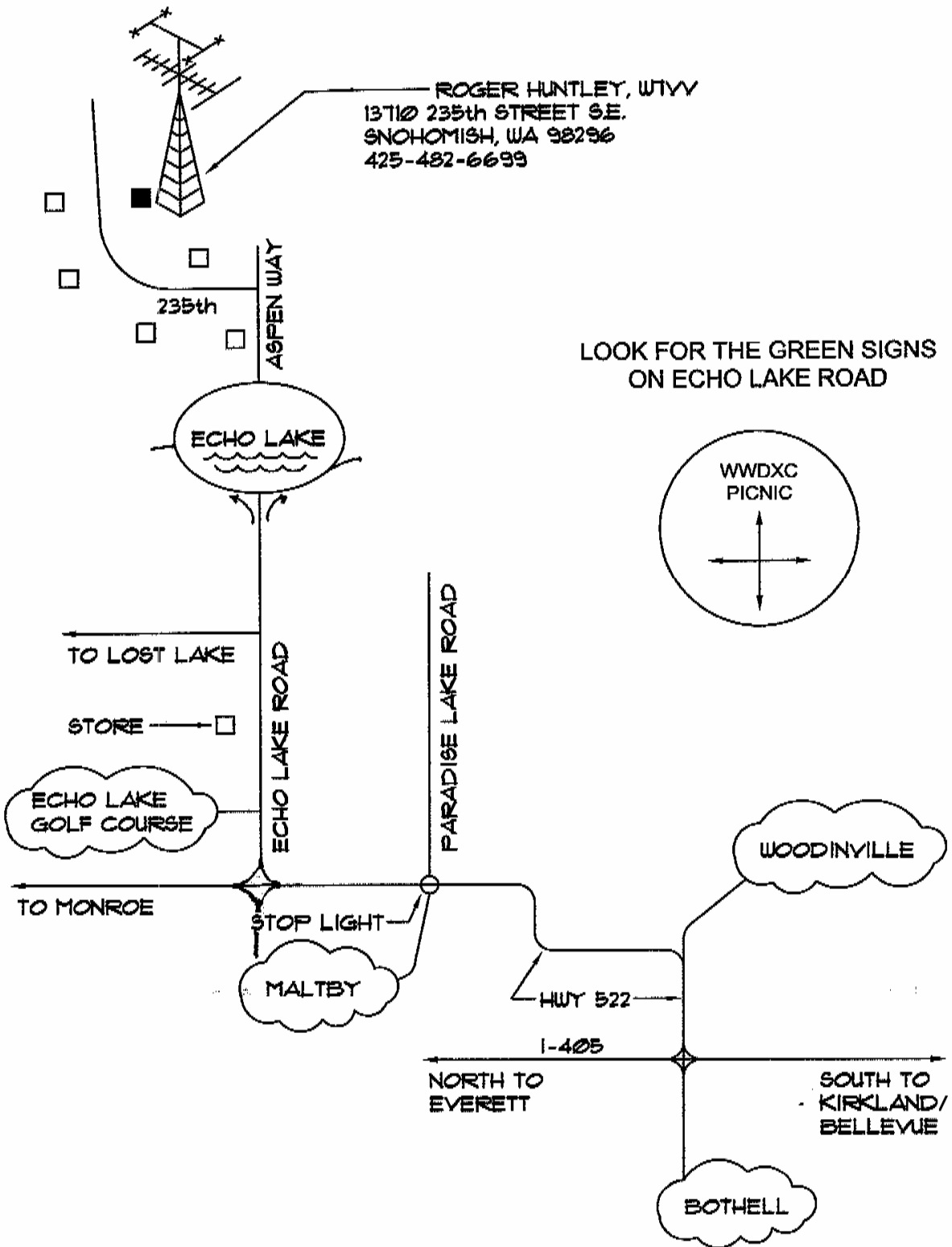
Telnet to w7pkt.net, port 7300

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>

WDXC PICNIC MAP



Totem Trader

FOR SALE: 60 ft Rohn 25 Tower and Accessories: (5) 25G 10 ft, 25AG4 9 ft flat top section, TB3 Thrust Bearing, AS25G Rotor Plate, BPC25G Base Plate, 10 ft Mast and two House Brackets. Price: \$500. Jim K7WA

I also have an SB-220 for sale. It is wrapped in plastic, as it has been for some years. It has a standby switch installed, and it has worked well for me, though I have used it for less than an hour as a temp standby amp. It is quite clean, but I don't know just what mods it has. \$550 in Selah. 509-697-8879 - K7HC at charter.net Clay - K7HC

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

Yaesu HT VX-6R

HRO's and Universal Radio's current price is \$249.95

Used only 5 to 10 times. Includes programming software

Sell for \$175.00

I found I am more comfortable with Icom radios.

The Yaesu VX-6R is a triple band (2M, 220 & 440 MHz) HT with extensive receive coverage. It is both submersible (JIS7: 30 minutes of submersion at depth of 3 feet) and extremely rugged. The VX-6R provides wide receiver coverage at 504 kHz ~ 998.99 MHz (cellular blocked), and puts out 5 Watts of power on the 144 and 430 MHz bands and 1.5 W on 222 MHz. The standard memory has 900 channels with 6-digit alpha numeric tag, and 24 memory banks for channel allocation.

The VX-6R compact package measures just 2.3 x 3.5 x 1.1 inches WHD and weighs only 9.45 oz (with battery and antenna). The Volume and Squelch knobs are oversized, for easy operation even when wearing gloves. Other features include: black magnesium case, 900 memories, severe weather alert, and multicolor transmit/receive LED.

If interested contact Mel (N7GCO) at leadcoach@verizon.net.

Contest Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

We are coming down to the end of the Northwest Trophy Contest Season. One more test remains, the IARU Radiosport Test in July. I hope to have a summary of the results through the WPX CW in the next Tabloid. In the meantime, here are the WPX CW results.

WPX CW

Call	QSOs	Prfxs	hr	Score
~~~~~				
All M/2 HP				
N7ZG@6Y1V			25%	of 22,207,200
(Note: for the NW trophy, we can include an amount from Guy's score equal to 50% of the WWDXC WPX CW total)				
KQ7W(@N7BV)	1423	593	48	2,060,675
~~~~~				
All SO(A)AB HP				
K7EG	514	362	15	457,930
~~~~~				
All SO(A)AB LP				
W7OM	651	360		496,760
~~~~~				
All SOAB HP				
N7BF	319	180		90,000
WA7PRC	128	86		18,060
~~~~~				
All SOAB LP				
W7QN	414	240	25.2	179,760
NG7Z	436	211	10	152,342
W7VXS	210	140		44,240
~~~~~				
All SOAB(TS) LP				
NE7D	430	226		193,456
~~~~~				
All SOSB20 LP				
N7WA	148	107	3	20,223

## WPX Soapbox

### KQ7W:

Conditions were much better than we expected - 20 was open almost 24 hours a day and 40 was very productive the first night, we ended up with more points on 40 than 20 in spite of 300 fewer QSOs! Spending an hour out in the sticker-bushes Friday afternoon working on the 160 meter radials paid off with one JA QSO Sunday morning! I had bet Chuck that 160 would be more productive than 10, but I had to work at it! Thanks go to Chuck N7BV and Karen for their station and wonderful hospitality, Bob K6MBY (who was unable to join us) for systems support and Matt KQ7W (also unable to join us) for his magnetic callsign.

**K7EG:** Saturday - Europe opened late afternoon. Very little JA activity. Sunday: EUR opened in AM and again in late afternoon. Very limited JA participation.

**NG7Z:** I had planned on doing a quasi serious attempt this weekend. And for me, that would be 24 to 30 hours in the chair. As it turned out, my sister and I spent all day Saturday pressure washing and cleaning our Mom's deck. Sunday was just too nice a day to spend behind the radio and I took advantage of the pleasant weather to do some work outside. So the bottom line was about 10 hours of op time. However, this was by far my best

score in this contest due mostly to vastly improved antennas. Lot's of good ops and ears out there in contest land. Thanks for the Q's and hope to see you in IARU.

**NE7D:** Still new to contesting, but was planning to be a little more serious and a little less casual for my 2nd WPX CW. Unfortunately, I came down with a bad head cold Friday which messed me up and I lost a lot of time Saturday. Tough to figure out the right amount of medication to keep the op operable without getting so dopey that I'd fall asleep -- came to with my head on the keyboard more than once. Still had a lot of fun and enjoyed the activity on 15 - forgot to even check 10. Practically all S&P.

**N7WA:** For the second year in a row, I got ill just before the contest. This time, recovery wasn't as good and then my wife caught it which puts a damper on things as well. Add the lure of sunshine outside (it's been a lousy Spring in the Pacific NW) and that's where I spent most of the weekend. Though weak, the thrill of digging in the dirt far exceeded the grind of trying to call stations in Europe that just couldn't hear me. I did make a few valiant attempts to get excited by the test but band conditions didn't seem to be there when I tried. I've read comments that things were up and down. Maybe I just hit all the downs. :>)

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**

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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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**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 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).