



September 2005

Field Day Revisited

*T*his month's program of the Western Washington DX Club will be a video presentation of this year's successful Field Day operation. This should be an entertaining program with pictures of the station and antenna installations and operation during the contest at Brian Moran's, N9ADG beautiful mountain top QTH.

September's meeting will be held Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at Angelo's Restaurant, 601 SW 153rd, Burien, Washington 98166. Dinner at 6:30 PM, Program at 7:30 PM.

Plan on staying after the formal meeting is over and enjoy some eyeball QSO's with various club members.

Picnic Big Success!

*T*hanks again to Roger (W7VV) and Sue Huntley for hosting a great picnic at their palatial Echo Lake estate. Attendance was at around 50 and all had a great time. If you missed it this year - be sure to be there next year!

Salmon Run Mobiling!

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY (K7ED/m in the Salmon Run)
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*I*t's getting late - but there's still time to get ready for this Fall's Salmon Run contest if you are thinking about going mobile around the state. Here's a quick rundown on how the K7ED Superstation (Mobile Edition) came together...

I always thought mobile operations were complicated and too much effort. How do I get power to the radio? What about an antenna? Do I have to drill holes everywhere? But then I found that it's really much easier than I thought it would be.

Angelo's Restaurant
601 SW 153rd
Burien, WA

Tuesday, September 13th
Dinner at 6:30 PM
Program at 7:30 PM

My first effort about 5 years ago was pretty rustic. I bought a hunk of romex at Home Depot and soldered (I still have the scars to prove it) a couple lugs onto one end of it to attach to the battery. On the other end I soldered a couple smaller lugs. The romex was run from the battery back along the side of the engine compartment to near the windshield where a gap let me run it out of the engine compartment and through the open driver's side window into the car. As you can see – it was pretty rustic...

My current setup is more sophisticated and not much more difficult to engineer. I bought equal lengths of #8 red wire and #8 black wire (you want thick stuff!) at Home Depot. From the battery I ran the wires around the engine compartment and through a convenient hole near the passenger's floor mat. From there they go underneath the mat and to the radio under the passenger seat. I had to pop out the dust plug that was in the unused hole in the firewall – check out your car and you might find several unused holes in the firewall to choose from. If not and you need to drill – be careful that you don't drill through a gas line or something!



Once the power is inside the car it's time to get it connected to the rig. I use the NØAX Method – plastic film canisters. The cable from the battery is run into the bottom of a empty film canisters (be sure to use plastic canisters – not metal!!!) through a slit that I cut in the canister bottom and the power cable from the rig was run through the lid of the canister through a slit I cut there. The two cables are connected with a bolt and a couple washers and a nut. Then the canister is snapped shut and you have a safe insulated



connection. Do this with both the + (red for you QCAO readers) and – (black) cables (be extra sure you have the right cable connected to the right cable and connected correctly to the battery!!!).

That should get power to your rig. If you have a deep cycle battery for emergency/portable use they you might consider putting it on the floor in the backseat and powering the rig from that battery. That would simplify things even more – as long as the battery held out for the weekend!



Next is the antenna. I use the popular “hamstick” antennas. For this you need a magnetic mount that attaches to the roof of your car. Coax from the magmount runs through the back “liftback” of my old Celica (you can use a door) to the interior of the car and eventually to the radio.

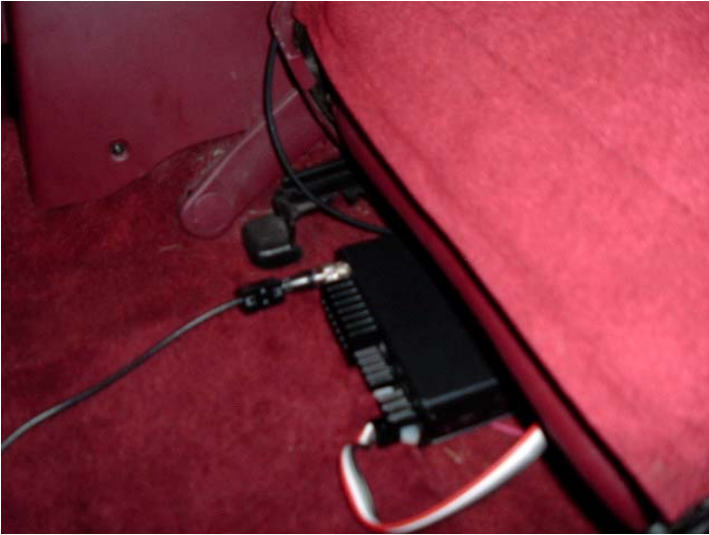


The hamsticks simply screw into the mount. I have several of them put together (one for each band that I think I’ll be using - they consist of a thick black bottom half and a thin whip that slides into them that adjusts for frequency coverage). You need a separate



antenna for each band and they can be purchased new for around \$25 each or they are often at hamfests for \$10 or \$15. When I’m driving they rest on the passenger side from the back of the car to the front near the passenger dashboard. I don’t drive with them on top of the car and I don’t operate while moving.

And finally it's time to get the rig set up. I use an old Icom 706 with a detachable faceplate. It's great for this. The radio body sits under the passenger seat.



The faceplate is attached just ahead of the gearshift knob. A cable runs from one to the other. No clutter. This could be your biggest challenge if you don't have a rig with a detachable faceplate. The first year I used my TS140 and had it sitting on the passenger seat – not as ergonomically ideal, but it worked.



When I get to a new operating location (usually a county line), I get out of the car and screw the hamstick into the magmount (which is always on top of the car) for the band I will first be running. Then it's back in the car and time to operate. It takes only 2 minutes from stopping the car to calling CQ.

You also need to plan ahead to make your operating simpler and more comfortable. Get a paddle that will allow you to send code without being a contortionist. This can be much trickier than you think. You need a place to set the key and also a place so that your arm isn't dangling or twisted around trying to reach it. I use a "Paddlette" mini key and it works great. With the leg strap I can sit in the car and send my stumbling brand of cw as well as if I'm at home with the Bencher. This year I'm experimenting with a legal-sized clipboard and a magnet mount for the Paddlette. It should work great.

Other items you should put on your list for the Salmon Run are:

- Clipboard to hold your logging sheets and extra pens or pencils
- Homemade log sheets. My logsheet is available at www.wwdxc.org/salmonlog.pdf
- Folder with operating manuals for your equipment and rules for the contest
- Battery operated portable light for evening work
- State map with county lines clearly marked (the Washington Atlas & Gazetteer is best)
- Travel plan – work out a plan of attack prior to hitting the road

Other non-technical considerations for you include:

- Find a buddy to operate with. Splitting the driving and operating is an excellent idea. It will also allow one person to operate while in motion when the other operator is driving from county to county.
- Focus on county lines. By operating from a county line you are giving out two counties and also two QSOs with each contact. The K7ED/m Method is to operate from a county line for about an hour or until the pileups dry up. Then I drive through one of those counties and then all the way through a new county to another county line that consists of two "new" counties. That way I never duplicate counties (but sometimes it takes a couple hours of driving).

- Don't try to do too much – error on trying to activate fewer counties rather than too many. You can always add some if you have extra time at the end.
- Have fun.

I hope this has helped. Going out mobile during the Salmon Run is fantastic fun and a great way to see the state. Plus you'll be doing a real service to the people hunting counties in the Salmon Run or just hunting counties for the general county awards.

If you would like additional info or have questions – please let me know. My email is oolon@yahoo.com.

Emergency Power Special Event - Salmon Run Weekend!

By Jack "Big Salmon" Fleming, WAØRJY

On September 17, EMCOMM operators are strongly encouraged to participate in a 15-hour special event using only emergency power. They will be calling other EMCOMM stations who are also operating solely on emergency power. This event is designed to promote emergency preparedness and service to the public. "Emergency power" is defined as any power source that is completely separate from commercial mains. (Solar panels, generators, storage batteries, alternators powered by bicycles, battery packs in HTs, and wind power, etc. Operation may be from home or field. Times: 9 AM Eastern (6 AM Pacific) on Saturday, September 17, 2005, until 12 AM Eastern (9 PM Pacific). All bands and modes included. The exchange is up to the individual operators, but can include the traditional signal report, location, and the type of emergency power being used, etc. WIAW in Newington, CT will be QRV on generator power, and a special QSL card will be available to stations also using emergency power that make two-way contact with WIAW. Please include an SASE with your card request, and indicate the power source that was used. -- Source: The ARES E-Letter and The American Radio Relay League.

A Father and Son mini-Dxpedition

By Bob Hudson, K7LAY

Originally published in *Worldradio*

Band conditions have been generally poor here in the Seattle area and many other areas because we are at or near the bottom of the sun spot cycle.

My son, Harry, K7LAZ, and I decided to go on a mini-Dxpedition for a number of reasons:

1. Travel to a warmer climate
2. Gain DX experience
3. Generate DX, if we could
4. Give a new country to new Hams just beginning to work DX
5. Experience what it is like to operate "from the other end"
6. HAVE FUN

We decided to concentrate our effort on the three WARC bands - 12, 17, and 30 meters - since contests are not held on these bands.

A search of the internet was made to seek "Ham Friendly" locations. Western Washington DX Club (WWDXC) members who have been on several Dxpeditions were also asked for their suggestions. Since we had little Dxpedition experience, they suggested that we go to the Hamlet. (www.VP5JM.com)

The Hamlet is a small apartment with a fully equipped kitchen, including microwave and refrigerator. It has a complete antenna farm. Antennas are in place for 6 Meters through 160 Meters; four beams and 80 and 160 Meter wire antennas. It is located approximately three miles from the airport. The rental is quite modest. All one has to bring are transceivers and lots of U.S. dollars. Food and gas prices are high.

The Hamlet is located on Providenciales Island in the Turks/Caicos Islands, British West Indies. The island is 22 miles long and three miles wide. The only town namesake - Providenciales (Provo) sits in the middle of the island. The island is approximately 57 miles S.E. of Miami, Fla. Only 21 inches of rain falls each year so there is almost zero risk of bad weather.

Provo offers all modern conveniences including plenty of scuba and snorkeling shops, car rentals, numerous dining opportunities, a casino, a golf course, and modern full-service grocery and hardware stores. The people are accommodating and welcome tourists with open friendly smiles. The Hamlet is located on the north shore of Providenciales above Turtle Cove and only a short drive from the airport.

The Western half of Provo is mostly barren wilderness, home to the island's best natural attraction, Chalk Sound National Park. The Park is a three-mile-long (5km) bay a few miles southwest of downtown Providenciales. The color of the water is a uniform turquoise and studded with countless mushroom-like tiny islets. Also on the western part of the island is Northwest Point Marine National Park, which extends to nearby reefs and several saline lakes that attract breeding and migrant waterfowl. You'll have to hike to get there.

We weren't sure what the propagation was going to be. We called CQ on bands we thought might be open. And were we surprised by the responses.

We learned many things about going on a Dxpediton to the Caribbean. We found out that we had taken far too much baggage, especially clothes. Cars are subcompact, gas is about \$4.00a gallon. You must drive on the left side rather than right. Obtaining a license is very easy and costs \$35.00.

The owner of the Hamlet is Jody Millspaugh, VP5JM. Since we were not there to contest we were treated royally by her. She invited us to her home where she wined and dined us. Her house was on a hill above the Hamlet. We, in turn took her to the Tiki Hut, a fine restaurant.

She has two elderly Jack Russell terriers. Dandy is the oldest, a typical beggar and very aggressive. Since he became the mail carrier between places, I coined the term "Dandy Grams." Jody would pin a note with a clothespin to his collar and send him down the hill. We would read and answer it and send him back home. Using Dandy Grams saved a lot of walking for Jody.

As a token of appreciation, we went to a local nursery and bought a Turks head cactus and helped her plant it in her yard. This cactus is found only on Turks/Caicos. It is also on their flag.

If you ever visit the Hamlet, look for the cactus as a legacy to the Hudson Mini-Dxpediton.

All of our goals were accomplished and we had fun. We also gained experience which we may use in the future to go to less friendly locations.

Total QSOs were 4,835 - 3,730 CW and 1,105 SSB.

As an unexpected result, Harry, K7LAZ, worked 116 entities for a DXCC. He was also attempting to Work All States, but couldn't get that last state he needed: North Dakota. However, while Harry started to dismantle his station I preparation for departing the island, I was working SSB on 14.260, the IOTA frequency. At the last moment I worked a station in North Dakota, turned the microphone over to K7LAZ for the 50th and last one. We hope all QSL.

Totem Trader

Icom IC-756 Pro II, excellent, non-smoker, all standard accessories, original box, manual. \$1625. I upgraded to a Pro III. Collins 30L-1 linear amplifier, round emblem, new 811As, wired for 120VAC but can be rewired for 220VAC, original manual, very nice. \$700 Frank, W7ND. w7nd@earthlink.net or 206-772-6672

WANTED: HEIL BOOM MIC for ICOM 756. w/ contest element. Danny K7SS, 206 932 6621

WANTED: OLD pre 1960 QSL CARD COLLECTIONS, older the better. I collect 'em. Danny K7SS 206 932 6621

FOR SALE

FT-1000D - Inrad filters, computer interface unit, Yaesu hand mic --- \$1,800

Heil Pro-Set mic headset with adapter cord for Yaesu radios --- \$75

Industrial Communications Engineers (ICE) Model 321 8KW PEP Lowpass RF filter --- \$20

Tom, K7RI - (206) 935-0457

DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies

By Bob Nielsen, N7XY

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/cgibin/spider.cgi>

K7JY-2 University of Washington NETROM 145.75

If you need help, email 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>

Contest Report

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

mwdink@eskimo.com

At the NW DX Convention in Oregon, the final numbers were announced regarding the Traveling Trophy competition. The numbers were WWDXC 38 million, WVDXC 81 million, and the BCDXC 79 million. Following the banquet, a rather lengthy and involved conversation resulted from the fact that a good part of the WVDXC and BCDXC scores came from DXpedition type operations and whether that was truly in the spirit of the trophy. What was really nice was that the Presidents of all three Clubs were in on the discussion.

What came out of the discussion is below. (It's actually the first time since I've held this post that something about the Traveling Trophy competition has actually been written down!) Some people may not like the changes but they will be up for review next year.

PNW Challenge Trophy Rules 2005-2006

FOR CONTACTS MADE BY A PARTICULAR STATION TO COUNT:

1. The station has to be somewhere within the boundaries of British Columbia, Washington State, or Oregon. Example: any points made by XE1KK, who is a member of the BCDXC, won't count unless he's in BC, WA or OR when he makes them.
2. At least one of the ops of a station has to be a member of one of the 3 clubs.

POINTS MADE BY A PARTICULAR STATION ARE ALLOCATED TO THE VARIOUS CLUBS AS FOLLOWS:

1. If the station belongs to a member (not the call used, the physical station) then the ratio of total points made by that station allocated to a particular club is equal to the number of ops belonging to that club divided by the total number of ops at that station who belong to any of the 3 clubs. Ops who are not a member of any of the clubs are ignored in this calculation.

Example 1. VE7FO makes 1M points and is a member of the BCDXC. He has 5 newbie ops who don't belong to any of the 3 clubs, himself, 2 ops from WWDXC and 1 from WVDXC. Then BCDXC gets $1/4 = 250k$ points, WWDXC gets $2/4 = 500k$ and WVDXC gets $1/4 = 250k$.

Example 2. VE7UF makes 2M points. There are 4 ops, 2 of whom are members of BCDXC and 2 are not members of any of the clubs. BCDXC gets $2/2 = 2M$ points.

2. If the station does not belong to a member then the ratio of total points allocated to a particular club is equal to the number of ops belonging to that club divided by the total number of ops at that station.

Example. VE7GL (a non-member) makes 4M points. There are 8 ops. 1 belongs to BCDXC and 2 to WWDXC. The rest are non-members. BCDXC gets $1/8 = 500k$ points. WWDXC gets $2/8 = 1M$ points.

CONTESTS ADDED for 2005-2006

1. CQWDX RTTY
2. CQWPX RTTY

SUNSET CLAUSE

These rules are for the 2005-06 contest season only. At the end of the season they will be reviewed to see if we want to keep them, change them or revert to the previous (unwritten) rules.

The biggest change here is the regional limitation rule. This means that those going on a DXpedition will not be able to count those points towards the Clubs efforts. There is good and bad in that and it was argued many times around the table without resolution until the sunset clause was introduced. At that point, it was decided to try it for a year. The main rationale behind the change was to make the competition for the trophy a means of promoting contest activity in this region. It's up to us to see if that holds up.

Also, Hillar/N6HR will be taking over the reigns as WWDXC Contest Chair starting in January so he will be your representative when the rules come up for review next summer.

TOTEM TABLOID
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The Totem Tabloid

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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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Seattle, WA 98155
206-361-2732
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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.