



October 2007

ARRL Antenna Book: The Software

Just back from the bright lights of the TV Studio – Jim Hadlock, K7WA, will review a variety of computer programs included on the CD that's part of the recently released 19th edition of the *ARRL Antenna Book*. These include Propagation Prediction, Antenna Modeling, Terrain Analysis, Yagi Design, and more! There's something for everyone!

The October club meeting will take place at the Lake City Elks Club. Dinner at 6:30 and the program will start at 7:30 on Tuesday, October 9th.

Remember that the price of dinner has increased to \$15 starting in October.

October Meeting

Tuesday, October 9, 2007
Dinner at 6:30 – Program at 7:30

Lake City Elks Club
145th and Lake City Way

Salmon Tales

K7WA/m

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA



Call: K7WA/M

Operator(s): K7WA, KD7PTG

Class: Multi-Op Mobile LP

Club: Western Washington DX Club

Went out this year with my cousin Bill KD7PTG from Walla Walla on Saturday, then continued home Sunday for a total of 10 counties - appreciated all the activity! Hope we had some Clean Sweeps of all 39 Counties this year!!

Saturday:

Asotin/Garfield: South and east of Pomeroy at 3900 ft in the rolling wheat fields - 15 miles in on a rough gravel road

(we found the paved road on the way out). First QSO was W7AML (who was with the N7PP gang) on 6 meters with the 20 meter Force12 vertical!

Columbia/Walla Walla: Near Waitsburg - nice quiet site with a great sunset and crescent moon over the wheat fields. Our 80 meter dipole held up with PVC mast was a killer antenna! Each end of the dipole was in a different county! We shut down (too) early due to darkness and low battery voltage - plus we were dirty, tired, and hungry!

Sunday:

Adams/Franklin: On Hwy 24 south of Othello near a bridge over an irrigation canal - great swallow nests under the bridge! Found this spot in the 2006 7QP.

Grant: A few miles further west on Hwy 24 in the Hanford Reach Ntl Monument - grass and sagebrush on one side and charred vegetation and ash on the other - saw several large burns on this trip.

Benton/Yakima: Continuing west on Hwy 24, Dead End road near the junction to Sunnyside west of the Vernita Bridge over the Columbia River - more farm country, but with noisy power line. Another 7QP discovery.

Kittitas: Public Fishing site south of Ellensburg - had a high wind warning (40 mph) for Sunday afternoon; the van was rocking while I was keying and talking!

2008 SALMON RUN – September 20 and 21 – 2008 SALMON RUN

Used the IC-706MkIIG with Force12 40XK vertical (20 meters) and 80 meter dipole Saturday, Hamstick mobile whips (with radials) Sunday. Lesson learned: carry an extra antenna tuner - when the old Matchbox wouldn't match the dipole, the little MFJ (with balun) did! Drove about 800 miles for the trip and saw some really beautiful country.

Thanks everyone for making the 2007 Salmon Run a success!!

K7ED/m

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY

I hit the road with a non-ham buddy, Martin, for a weekend of geology and ham radio. It was a great combination!

We had stops in 10 counties along the way, drove 775 miles, and had a perfect alibi...

Actually, we did more geology than radio during the weekend with stops at Dry Falls, Grand Coulee, Steamboat Rock, and the Stonerose fossil site, but still piled up a couple hundred QSOs. In the end I activated the 10 counties that I planned on (we arrived at the Skagit/Whatcom line with 15 minutes to go in the contest!).

As you can see, the K7ED/m mobile superstation uses a hamstick on top of the car – not an especially big signal producer, but



adequate – especially on cw. And I did have a fine time with a couple Europeans answering my CQ - along with Tonga. I tried to join the 75 meter shenanigans, but we arrived late and I had a tough time making my presence known (and when I did, it seemed that few could hear me). The hamstick on 75 meters doesn't work especially well and down on 80 meter cw it's worse (even with the extra bits of solder hanging from it to tune it lower – the swr would be fine, then the wind would twist the solder around and my swr would jump and my power output would drop to near nothing...). It sounded like my Stevens/Ferry contacts weren't really needed by the multitudes, so I went to bed.

Rumor has it that at least one contestant had a full stringer (a sweep of all 39 counties) – on 75 SSB only!

2008 SALMON RUN – September 20 and 21 – 2008 SALMON RUN

Here's a big thank you to the mobile and expedition operators that activated all the counties this year. We'll need some "Full Stringer" certificates printed up!

Our first geology stop was at dry falls (check out that photo) – where water from the [Missoula Floods](#) (monstrously huge floods that poured across Washington 15,000 years ago and covered much of the eastern part of our state with up to 2,000 feet of water that eventually drained through the Columbia River basin to the Pacific Ocean – and did this every few decades for maybe 100 times!). At the height of the Missoula flood outpouring the amount of water issuing from Montana was equal to 10 times the water currently flowing out of all the rivers in the world combined. It's an amazing story and if you haven't read about it, I would encourage you to check it out.

Dry Falls is 400 feet tall and 4 miles wide and when the Missoula floods were greatest it presented only a small ripple in the floodwaters – not even a waterfall! Wow!

We then drove up the Grand Coulee – an amazing canyon that doesn't have a river running through it – only some lakes that were formed by water crashing over waterfalls and making depressions that turned into lakes as the waterfalls destroyed the rock and the waterfalls moved up the canyon. Now there are just a string of lakes

with no outlets.

At Steamboat Rock State Park we got out to look at the massive island that remained in the midst of all the water flowing past.

Our next stop was on Sunday when we arrived in Republic and did some fossil hunting at the [Stonerose](#) fossil dig. It's a program sponsored by the Burke Museum here in Seattle. For \$5 you get a permit (and instructions) to dig for fossils. We rented hammers and chisels (\$4) and headed to the rockwall. Here's a picture of Marty chipping away at the rocks. At first we thought maybe the fossil dig was a clever way for the local sand and gravel company to get their rock crushed for free. But eventually, we started finding fossils... Here's a photo of some of the fossils that we found.



These fossils are 15 million years old (far older than the Missoula Floods). Most are the impression of a leaf or pine needles. We found no woolly mammoths or saber tooth tigers... When we finished our dig (after a couple hours) we brought them back to the office and the geologist there identified each. We could keep 3 fossils each and selected our favorites.

After 775 miles on the road the consensus of my buddy Marty (a non ham) and me - Another really fun weekend!

Oh yeah, that perfect alibi was the name of a very good hamburger at the Alibi Bar and Grill in Wilber (one of the reasons that these trips are so much fun – finding good food in towns we've never heard of...).





Sunrise on the Kettle River

California QSO Party

Sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club, 1600Z Oct 6 - 2159Z Oct 7.

Frequencies: 160-2 meters.

Categories: SOAB (HP >200 W, LP, QRP), MS, MM, CA County Expedition, Mobile, Club, School. SO work 24 hours only. CW QSOs in CW subbands, except 160/6/2 meters.

Stations on a county line count as a single contact for QSO points, but both counties may be claimed as multipliers.

Exchange: serial number and state/province (DX send DX) or CA county.

QSO points: CW – 3 pts, Phone – 2 pts. Score: QSO points × CA counties (max 58) or CA stations multiply by states and VE call areas (max 58).

For more information see www.cqp.org or email to info@cqp.org. Logs due by Nov 15 via form on logs.cqp.org (preferred), email to logs@cqp.org, or paper to NCCC c/o Kevin Rowett K6TD, 21906 Monte Ct, Cupertino, CA 95014-1144

2008 SALMON RUN – September 20 and 21 – 2008 SALMON RUN

Contest Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

September brought us the Salmon Run and the first test of this years Traveling Trophy – the CQWW RTTY. Looks like the WVDXC guys might be serious as they turned in a good sized multi score. This is not the year to get complacent.

WVDXC Salmon Run Scores

Call	CWQ	PhQ	DgQ	Mlt	hr	Score
~~~~~						
In State Multi-Op Mobile LP						
K7WA/M	490	100	0	73		150,000
~~~~~						
In State SO Cnty DXpedMixed LP						
N7BF	147	81	18	81	14	68,082
~~~~~						
In State SO MobileMixed HP						
KT7G/M	123	62	0	44		27,604
~~~~~						
In State SO MobileMixed LP						
N0AX	251	42	0	91	15	103,466
~~~~~						
In State SOCW HP						
K7QQ	692	0	6	120		332,160
~~~~~						
In State SOCW QRP						
K7HBN	150	0	0	55		33,500
~~~~~						
In State SOMixed HP						
W7OM	262	373	0	99		178,606
~~~~~						
In State SOMixed LP						
NG7Z	215	108	55	83		116,372

Soapbox:

K7WA: Went out this year with my cousin Bill KD7PTG on Saturday, then continued home on Sunday - appreciated all the activity! Hope we had some Clean Sweeps of all 39 Counties this year!!

N0AX: Mobiling in a state QSO party is definitely THE way to have a LOT of fun!

K7QQ: Sunday was the pits with an S-7 noise on 20 for most of the afternoon. Seemed worse when beaming east for US.

K7HBN: I wish there was a little more activity, F1,F1,F1 gets a little tedious after awhile. It was fun, and was surprised by how well my QRP did considering the low part of the cycle.

NG7Z: Score includes 1500 points for working W7DX on three modes. What a blast this was. Much better than last year. When things got kinda slow, I switched to PSK31 and worked a bunch more. Kudos to the fine mobile ops who provided the rare counties. Worked my friend W7GKF on all bands.

WDXC CQ WW RTTY

Call	Q	Pt	StP	DX	Z	hr	Score
~~~~~							
USA SOAB HP							
N7BF	518	758	115	63	44	26	168,276 WDXC
W7OM	430	741	50	79	87		160,056 WDXC
KT7G	210	370	54	51	41		54,020 WDXC
~~~~~							
USA SOAB LP							
K7HBN	210	345	68	38	32	20	47,610 WDXC
W7MRC (NG7Z)	234	322	75	33	31		44,758 WDXC

Soapbox:

W7OM: Glad this is the bottom of the sun spot cycle.

K7HBN: Got a new radio (IC746PRO) on Wednesday, took a long unused rigblaster out of the bottom drawer, got everything hooked up and working Thursday, and had at it Friday. Ran about 75 watts and was pleased with the results considering the generally poor conditions. I guess all coronal holes are scheduled to become geo-effective on contest week-ends.

W7MRC (NG7Z): Spent most of the time in the FISTS Coast to Coast contest because I'm the manager. During the slow times (there were many) I switched to this contest. RTTY wiped out the FISTS freqs especially on 40M. So it was hard to make CW contacts on that band. Not a bad score for part time I guess.

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/cgi-bin/spider.cgi>

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>

Totem Trader

For Sale: Comet GP-6 for \$75 OBO (4yrs Old) Also some New LMR-400 for \$0.75 per foot.

You can email me at, n7wi@hotmail.com or call me at, 360.675.9404, 73- Tom/N7WI

Clean Kenwood TS-570D HF Transceiver. Includes Instruction Manuals, headphones, and a KU4AB six meter SSM solid rod 6 meter antenna (SQ-50) with 50' of cable. \$650 firm. See Jan 97' QST for review of this rig. Gordy, W9WHX, (206) 782-6839.

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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.