



November 2006

CONTESTING THEN - and - NOW

What's changed and what's the same 18 years later

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

In 1988 several WWDXC members (K7WA, K7SS, KE7V, K7XX, K7RIE/W7OO, W7WA, NV6Z) participated in the P40V CQ WW DX Contest expedition to Aruba. This operation set a new world record in the Multi Operator - Multi Transmitter category on Phone and finished a close second on CW.

It was the first time equipment manufacturers (ICOM and ETO/Alpha) provided major support to a contest expedition and one of the last major contest operations done without computers. Take a look back to see how a world-class multi-multi effort goes together and maybe learn some lessons that still apply to DXing and Contesting today.

November Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2006
Dinner at 6:30 – Program at 7:30

Angelo's Restaurant
601 SW 153rd
Burien, Washington 98166
206-244-3555

Officer Nominations

By Ward Silver NØAX
Nominating Committee

Thanks for all the nominations that came rolling in! Even though not everyone accepted, you can bet they were pleased to be nominated. As of 30 October, we have the following nominees for open officer positions:

President - Brian Moran N9ADG
Vice President - Harry Hudson K7LAZ
Secretary - Alan Burgstahler N7BF
Treasurer - Marina Zuetell N7LSL

Two Director positions (3-year terms expiring in 2009)
Dick Swanson K7BTW
Jim Hadlock K7WA

There are six Club Director Positions, formerly known as Trustees. Each position has a three-year term. Two positions are up for election every year so that the Directors have overlapping terms. The nominees for the two positions open for election this year are Dick K7BTW and Jim K7WA. The Director positions whose terms expire in 2007 are filled by Hillar N6HR and Herb W7ZF. The Director positions whose terms expire in 2008 are filled by Joe W7QN and Kirk N7UK.

Nominations were also submitted for Dink N7WA, Roger W7VV, Brian N7RVD, and Matt WM7N but were declined (or in some cases still being considered) by the honored nominees. Your fellow members appreciate you, nevertheless!

Nominations remain open until the December Tabloid goes to press at the end of November.

Eight Days in Paradise (the ZL8R DXpedition to Raoul Island)

By Michael Mraz, N6MZ

It doesn't get much better than this. An island that's closed to all but a very fortunate few; the warmest welcome imaginable from the small Department of Conservation (DOC) staff on the island; nearly perfect



weather, not too warm and not too cool, with low humidity; the most incredibly beautiful scenery you could imagine; and the BEST radio QTH you could ever want. This is what we Microlite Penguins found on Raoul Island in the Kermadecs.

Raoul is essentially a miniature Mount Saint Helens.

It's a stratovolcano that's mostly quiescent, but that "burps" every so often. These are small eruptions as

volcanic eruptions go, but if you're in the wrong place at the wrong time, it doesn't matter how small. The eruption of March 17, 2006 was called a "minor geothermal eruption" by volcanologists, meaning that it involved no magma. Unfortunately, Mark Kearney of the resident 2005-2006 DOC team was at wrong place at the wrong time: he was in the volcano making his weekly temperature measurements at one of the fumarols and was killed, probably instantly.

The Raoul DOC team reported the tragedy to headquarters on the mainland of New Zealand, and they contacted Nigel Jolly, owner of the "DX boat" R/V Braveheart and asked him if he could leave for Raoul on short notice. Not even taking the time to negotiate a price for the charter, Jolly called the skipper, his son Matt, and told him to fuel and provision the boat immediately and head for Raoul. Upon arrival, Matt and another crewman hiked into the volcano to try to find Mark's body, but he was never found.

DOC was deeply indebted to Nigel and Matt for their efforts and they asked if there was anything they could do in return. At that point, Nigel picked up the Iridium satphone in Braveheart's wheelhouse and called 9V1YC in Singapore. "Hey James, Nigel here. You told me once that you wanted to visit Raoul. Well, start packing, I just called in a favor from DOC and you have permission to visit with your Teletubby mates and play radio." The ZL8R DXpedition was born!

If you've never participated in one of these operations, you can't really appreciate how special they are. We're so incredibly fortunate to be able to travel to these wonderful places that most non-DXers could never even find on a world map (indeed, I've seen world maps that don't even show some of these islands!). We always meet fantastic people, and this time it was the 5 remaining DOC staff on Raoul. They let us sleep in their bunk house (with a real toilet and showers and even washing machines for our clothes), they let us occupy one of their little outbuildings they call the "wool shed" for radio operations (I never got an explanation for that name -- it looked like just another bunk house), they gave us a barbecue party and made us feel very welcome.

As most of you know already, Raoul is a wildlife sanctuary and the surrounding waters are New Zealand's largest marine sanctuary. A pair of humpback whales greeted Braveheart when we pulled into the anchorage in the pre-dawn darkness of the 10th of October, and we could see these and other marine mammals almost every day. DOC spent the past decade eradicating all non-indigenous mammals from the island and the rare native birds and other fauna are starting to recover. I wish I could have snapped a photo of the beautiful green parakeets.



Now I don't want to spoil the fun of an upcoming program that I want to do for a WWDXC meeting -- so I'll leave the rest of the story for later. Besides, 9V1YC plans to produce another one of his outstanding videos, so you don't want to hear it all from me. However, I have to tell you what a joy it is when one of you call when I'm at the mic

or key. It's great to tell the pileup to QRX a minute and then have a brief chat. According to my log analysis, we worked over fifty WWDXC members! My apologies to those of you whose callsign I didn't recognize. At the risk of letting out log data that I shouldn't (sorry James), here's the list I compiled:

AB7RW	K7LAZ	K9JF	N9ADG	W7QN	AG7N	K7NK
KD7VJQ	NG7Z	W7SNH	AK7S	K7RX	KT7G	W5DX
W7TS	K6KR	K7SS	N6HR	W7AWA	W7VV	K6MBY
K7VAY	N7BF	W7GTO	W7WA	K7BTW	K7VL	N7BK
W7HUY	W7XC	K7DZ	K7VV	N7BV	W7JEN	W7YTZ
K7EG	K7WA	N7SEJ	W7LFA	W7ZF	K7GEX	K7ZA
N7XY	W7ND	WA7AVL	K7HBN	K7ZQ	N7ZG	W7NP
WA7SRZ	WM7N					

This DXpedition was somewhat unusual in that we team members paid all of the expenses out of our own pockets; we may ask the NCDXF and other organizations for grants after the fact, but at this point the team members have shouldered the total financial burden. So please make a generous donation when you send your QSL cards to VE3XN, we will appreciate it greatly.

So until I get my act together and create a powerpoint show for an upcoming meeting, good DX and VY 73.

CQWW SSB from N7BF

By Alan Burgstahler, N7BF

Since I've only been DXing and contesting since 2003, every contest is new and exciting for me, at least for the most part. In most instances I don't have a strong enough signal to be able to break through the pile-ups, like I hear W7VJ and W7WA doing. (I've been to W7VJ's place and know what kind of antenna and tower setup he has.) In most cases, I have to keep calling until the pile-up goes down a bit (sometimes to almost nothing) and then I seem to be able to get through, for the most part. That doesn't help my rate. Of course, when someone like me from the northwest is trying to contact a station in the Caribbean and most of the callers are in the eastern third of the USA, we in the northwest have a definite disadvantage in signal strength. Of course, all of the above is worse on SSB as compared to the CW and RTTY contests I normally operate. CQing in this type of contest results in almost no responses, a definite waste of time for me.

It seems that every time I get ready to start an international SSB contest, I have mixed feelings. It has to do with some of the above and my fear of not being able to do very well in the contest (I never figure I'll win anything). Once I get going in the contest, things seem to work out fairly well and I almost always do better than the previous year. That happened this year, even though I had to take off for 2-1/2 hours late Saturday afternoon for a family function. Getting a yagi to work along with my ground-mounted vertical seems to have helped somewhat, even though it's only 20-feet off the ground so far (I plan to add another 20-feet of tower in the spring). The most interesting part of the contest for me this year was the stations I contacted on 75-mtrs SSB.

Friday evening about 9:40pm I was tuning around on 75-mtrs and heard a station contact someone who was not terribly strong but coming in fairly well. I heard the DX station give the USA station a "59 38" report, and that got my attention. The USA station confirmed with the other fellow that his call was V51W (Namibia) and then the V51 called CQ again. I called him and he came right back to me. The other station must have spotted him because after my contact and a CQ or two from the V51 station, there appeared a pileup out of nowhere and I would have not gotten through for a long time, if ever. Just timed that one right, I guess. I heard the V51 on other bands, but with the huge pile-ups he was generating there, there was no hope of my getting through them.

On Sunday morning I was tuning around again on 75-mtrs and heard a few people calling BA4RF and most were not getting any answer. The fellow in China must have had a high noise level or something, because he came back to very few people calling him. I called and maybe he asked for a repeat on my call but that was all, and he was in the log. Wow!

Then I went up the band about 7-kHz and heard the same thing for XX9C, with a few people calling him with similar results. He came right back to me and I had him in the log. Macao is a new entity for me, and on 75-mtrs phone!

Something must be working right with my 80-mtr Inverted-V! Its center is up about 50-feet on a fir tree. The antenna is cut for about 3550-kHz and in the lower portion of the phone band it has a much higher reflected power. In fact, on my peak-reading wattmeter the forward and reflected needles actually crossed tips with the reflected power so high. The Kenwood TL-922A amplifier seemed to be tolerant of the problem however.

One interesting thing I noted was a Japanese station CQing away at 3750-kHz with a fairly strong signal. He called and called and during the time I listened and kept coming back to check on him he only got one contact, and that was from another Asian country. I guess he just doesn't know where the USA phone band ends currently. And yes, he was listening simplex.

Other contacts of note on 75-mtrs SSB were ZM2M (New Zealand) on Saturday morning and AH2R (Guam) on Sunday morning. Add in 9 Japanese, 2 Asiatic Russia, 2 Hawaii and 7 Canadian stations and I was happy

with my contacts on 75-mtrs. I know others will have done better with more contacts, but for me it was a good contest.

Silent Auction

By Pat Shinnars, W7GTO, 206 782 6978 or w7gto@prodigy.net

Here's the current status of the items available in the Silent Auction to benefit the fund for the NW DX Convention sponsored by the WWDXC in Aug 2007:

- 1 ICOM IC -745 in original box 160 - 10 meters 100 watts. high bid now is \$200
- 1 ICOM IC- 229H 50 watt 2 mtr FM high bid is at \$75
- 1 HY-GAIN Beam - 4 el. 20 meter beam now with \$25 bid
- 1 Hy-GAIN beam – 3 element 15 meter beam with no offer yet
(the yagis are at my house and I can deliver them within reason.

Please contact Pat, W7GTO, 206-782-6978 or w7gto@prodigy.net if you would like to make a bid.

Totem Trader

1. Slightly damaged Model HS471 71ft Triex crank-up guyed tower(on the ground) - \$150
2. Telrex Model 20M436 4el Heavy Duty beam (36 ft boom) -\$230

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

November Contesting Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

*C*ontest season 2006-2007 is in full swing. We have had two trophy related events already and Sweepstakes CW was this past weekend. I think there is a major contest scheduled for almost every weekend from now until the New Year (and my wife swears I'm doing them all). Get on and have some fun.

Here is how some of our Club member fared in the CQWW's

CQWW SSB WWDXC Claimed Scores

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Call    QSOs      Zones   Cntry   hr      Score  
USA MUlti HP  
NN7SS   731        107     254     660,240  
N7YX    685        101     196     558,360  
N7ZG @ NK7U (1/7th total score) 521,040  
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Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA SOAB HP					
W7OM	400				250,470
K7BTW	409				229,704
AA7PM	365	67	138		205,615
N7BF	377	68	131		201,587
N7GCO	137		(111)		42,402
N7RVD	87	24	31		11,880

Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA SOAB (A) HP					
N7XY	135	42	60		36,720

Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA SOAB LP					
N7BK	466	67	145	25	268,392
N7WI	325	105		59	124,640
W7QN	208	45	74		66,997
N6MZ	100	36	59		24,890
W7GTO	94	7	44		18,600
NG7Z	81	22	41	3	13,167
W7TMT	43	17	19		4,500

Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA SOAB QRP					
K7HBN	212	37	67	20	60,320

Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA SOAB(A) HP					
K7EG	417	58	150		235,040

Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA SOAB(A) LP					
KT7G	105	32	50		21,484

Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA SOSB/20 HP					
W7WA	1854	38	149		973,522

Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA SOSB/15 LP					
W7TSQ	44	11	29		4,320

CQWW RTTY

~~~~~

| Call        | Q's | Pt   | StP | DX  | Z  | hr | Score   |
|-------------|-----|------|-----|-----|----|----|---------|
| All SOAB HP |     |      |     |     |    |    |         |
| K7QQ        | 968 | 1690 | 154 | 135 | 78 |    | 620,230 |
| N7BF        | 576 | 884  | 124 | 81  | 51 |    | 226,304 |
| W7OM        | 300 | 560  | 38  | 66  | 81 |    | 103,600 |

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Call	Q's	Pt	StP	DX	Z	hr	Score
All SOAB LP							
K6UFO	497	820	112	87	58	23	210,740

If you have any more scores for these events, please pass them along.
The next trophy qualifying contest is CQWW CW, Thanksgiving weekend.

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>

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The Totem Tabloid

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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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20148 6th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98155
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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 or by email to info@wwdxc.org.