



November 2007

Hellschreiber – one of the “fuzzy” modes

Alan Burgstahler, N7BF, will present a program on one of the more obscure modes that is used on HF radio, including DX operations. History and background of the mode will be presented, along with some off-the-air recordings of Hellschreiber QSOs in at least two of the Hellschreiber operating configurations, displayed on software programs available for operating this mode.

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

November Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Dinner at 6:30pm – Program at 7:30pm

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

2007 Salmon Run

K7WA/m

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

*T*hanks again to all who participated in the 2007 Washington Salmon Run! We have received over 160 logs and are beginning to assemble the results. It looks like a banner year, with several entries working all 39 Washington Counties - thanks to the efforts of the Mobiles, Expeditions, and home stations who made it a success. Watch the website www.wwdxc.org/salmonrun for updates.

Membership News

By Jim Hadlock, K7WA

*P*lease welcome the following new WWDXC members:

Yuri RW3GA (Honorary Member)
Jason NN7L
Don W7VXS
Larry W7DGP
Chuck W7AUM
Clay K7HC
Marty KDØGT

A new edition of the WWDXC Roster will be coming out in December. The 2007 Roster is on the YAHOO Group website in the FILES section, or contact Jim K7WA for a PDF version.

WWDXC Elections

By Alan Burgstahler, N7BF

Once again it is time for the WWDXC to elect new officers and two directors. Nominations are now open and will remain open until the December Tabloid goes to press at the end of November. The following positions are open for nominations:

President: (currently Brian Moran, N9ADG)
Vice President: (currently Harry Hudson, K7LAZ)
Secretary: (currently Alan Burgstahler, N7BF)
Treasurer: (currently Marina Zuetell, N7LSL)
Director: (currently Elsie Raamat, N7YX)
Director: (currently Joe Gregory, W7QN)

The current officer or director for any of these positions can be re-nominated. That doesn't necessarily mean they'll accept the re-nomination, and that goes for anyone who may be nominated. However, if you know of someone you'd like to see serving in one of the above listed positions, or if you yourself want to serve in one of

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these positions, please put forward a nomination. *In other words, you can nominate yourself.* The Club Director positions are for a three year term, the positions are staggered in their terms, and with six directors, that means that each year two director positions come up for election. The four officer positions come up for election yearly.

The Club Director positions which are not up for election this year are Herb Holeman, W7ZF, and Kirk Bellar, N7UK, whose positions expire at the end of 2008, and Jim Hadlock, K7WA, and Dick Swanson, K7BTW, whose positions expire at the end of 2009. So don't nominate those people for Club Director positions.

Please send your nominations to the nominating committee via e-mail (nominations@wwdxc.org), or by mail to WWDXC-Nominations, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040. If you mail it, please make sure your nomination arrives before the Board meeting on November, 26th.

Technical Assistance Program

By Jim Pace K7CEX
Section Manager
Western Washington Section

The Western Washington Section has available to all hams, a Technical Assistance Program (TAP) lead by Tom Herman N1BEC and the Technical Specialists in Western Washington. This program is designed to help with various technical problems that arise in our pursuit of Amateur Radio. Problems may include but are not limited to: TVI/RFI, problems with transceivers, repeater problems, antenna problems and/or design and a host of other subjects that may be of interest to all.

For assistance, contact Tom at: n1bec@msn.com or visit the Technical Assistance Forum at:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/WWA-SectionTS-Technical-Forum/>

If you are interested in becoming a Technical Specialist (we are recruiting from all WWa Districts) please contact Tom at n1bec@msn.com

Contest Corner

By Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

Looks like a big turnout by the Club for CQWW SSB. Hopefully, next year, the sun will have a case of the measles. Thanks to all, every little bit helps. Here's how it looks.

WWDXC CQ WW SSB	Call	QSOs	Zones	Cntry	hr	Score
USA M/2 HP						
N7BV		855	98	218		715,740
(N7BV N7ZG N0AX WA0RJY KE7LKA K6MBY KQ7W)						
USA M/S HP						
NN7SS		461	78	201	21	340,101
(K6UFO WA7KYI N7LKL)						

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~~~~~  
 USA SOAB HP

|        |      |     |     |     |           |
|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| K7RL   | 1793 | 128 | 283 | ~39 | 1,771,400 |
| AA7PM  | 308  | 68  | 126 |     | 160,438   |
| N7BF   | 213  | 43  | 82  |     | 68,625    |
| WA7PRC | 30   | 14  | 22  |     | 2,520     |
| N7XY   | 14   | 6   | 9   |     | 624       |

~~~~~  
 USA SOAB LP

N7BK	381	58	123	28	183,534
K7HBN	276	46	104	20	110,250
N7WI	121	42	57		32,076
W7QN	146	34	54	16	30,976
K7LAZ	110	32	45		22,330
W7TMT	67	21	22		8,041

~~~~~  
 USA SOAB(A) HP

|      |     |    |     |  |         |
|------|-----|----|-----|--|---------|
| W7OM | 400 | 73 | 166 |  | 252,862 |
| KT7G | 163 | 42 | 73  |  | 50,945  |

**Soapbox:**

**K7RL** That was tough. A high K index and a low solar flux spelled disaster for my score this year. Overall, I am down almost 1 meg from 2006. In hindsight, the low bands just did not produce; which made for two very long and frustrating nights! Mult totals are significantly lower as poor EU paths and mediocre JA runs added to the frustration. On the high bands, 15m was all S&P until a late (but most welcomed) Sunday afternoon JA run. And the reliable 20m band sputtered as typically long and robust EU runs did not materialize. This is the bottom, right?

**KT7G** sometimes propagation was there and sometimes it just was dead....

**K7LAZ** Started out 80 Single band and that was worthless and a mistake on my part. Lost desire real quick on this mode....Work us as VP5W in the CQ WW coming up next month...

**NN7SS** Multi-op with some friends on Vashon Island, WA. Just a single radio and time-out for sleep and projects around the house and shack. Managed to break a footswitch and the 80W west sloper, but otherwise things held together. Here in the Pacific Northwest of the USA, not a peep heard on 10m until Sunday noon, and then a good short opening. 15m was quite good considering zero sunspots. 20m was usual reliable, but we just fell short of 100 countries there, mostly due to difficulty working Europe in the mornings. 40m was tough going, but Dave N7LKL mastered the 40m split. 80m had loud Broadcast noise that I'll have to track down and fix. Didn't even listen on 160m. Jim WA7KYI diligently searched for new stations on Sunday afternoon, but it got pretty slow and quiet toward the end. The calculator says we worked most often JA's, then PY's and LU's. Some notable DX here in the Pacific Northwest of USA was the 1A, HV for Europe; the JT and ZK1 to the west. Thanks to everybody for the contacts!

**AA7PM** In spite of some unusual person difficulties which included: 1) moving my laptop cursor out of sight several times because my hand would brush across the static cursor plate 2) the entry window contest bar changed from SSB to CW and locked up N1MM (interesting fix) 3) rotator cable grabbing top of tower in 30 - 60 degree direction (ran antenna backwards) but otherwise, worked some nice dx....hope the rest of you had as much fun...

**WA7PRC** With mediocre equipment, and a poor propagation prognostication, I didn't expect to work past the Americas and I wasn't surprised to hear up to 20m jammed. I \*was\* surprised to hear (and work) Europe AND Africa... on my favorite DX band, 15m -- it was REALLY rockin':

**N7XY** I only made a few contacts in 1-1/2 hours spread among Friday evening and Saturday morning (40,

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20, 15 meters, SOAB, HP). No AF or SA (I called but the QRM got me). I saw spots for a couple of countries I need but couldn't copy them. I could sure use a few sunspots.

N7BV Conditions were soooo good we decided to go for Multi-two, so we wouldn't fall asleep on the S&P Multi-one! We did have a great time and some got to show-off their culinary skills. Don't think I have ever eaten so well during a contest! Next year - we have to find some microphones that work.....plus some sunspots and a low A-index.....

## CQWW Phone

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY

The best DX contest of the year – CQWW Phone – well, maybe the second best DX contest of the year after CQWW CW – well, actually maybe the third best DX contest of the year behind CQWW CW and ARRL DX CW – took place on the weekend of October 27-28. I had weaseled an invite to join the multi-op effort at N7BV's superstation over south of Pt. Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula - and the thought of running DX stations (even on phone) was met with great anticipation on my part.



The legendary Fat Smitty Burger

likely, “Freedom Fries” since Smitty is a former marine and the slogans and bumper stickers around Smitty’s gives you a clear understanding of the politics of the proprietor...). Fat Smitty’s is definitely worth the stop if you have a huge hunger or an appreciation of the bizarre...

Eventually we waddled out of the restaurant and when Ward managed to wipe enough grease off his hands to get a good grip on the steering wheel – we headed west.

We arrived at Chuck’s palatial QTH to find him and Bob (K6MBY) working on getting a 75 meter half square up in the trees. Ward and I helped pull ropes and wires through the trees and bushes and eventually everything

Ward, NØAX, was also part of the multi-op effort and he picked me up for a mid-morning ferry ride across Puget Sound on Friday. We drove until we reached Fat Smitty’s south of Pt. Townsend and stopped there for an early lunch. A couple Fat Smitty’s Specials (one for each of us!) fueled us for the rest of the drive to N7BV’s – and pretty much through the rest of the weekend. The Fat Smitty Burger is something special – working your way from the counter to the sky it’s - bun, mayo, tomatoes, onions, pickles, 5-ounce beef patty, cheese, *another* bun, *another* 5-ounce beef patty, *more* cheese, tomato, bacon, lettuce, pickles, mayo, and finally the top bun. It measures 6 inches in height and comes with a pile of french fries (or more



Bob (K6MBY) and Chuck (N7BV) tune the 75 meter half square

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**Bob (K6MBY) and Guy (N7ZG) manage pileups**

the tower up. It went up with just a minimum of grumbling and a vow not to go to the gym for a week or two after that exertion...

Eventually, to everyone's relief, the contest started.

We had two operating positions both with their own sets of antennas (Steppir™, quad, and various wires) and amplifiers. The main station started out on 20 meters and the other station started tuning round 15 and then 40. We were entered in the Multi-2 class – so both radios could go flat out and didn't need to worry about only working mults or any other limitations. We didn't enter this class because we thought we would be especially competitive against the Big Guns™ – but because it would

was in place to everyone's satisfaction. The tuning box was brought out and the antenna tuned up to the 75 meter phone band. Next up was the erection of four aluminum poles that were part of a two element 40 meter half square pointed at Europe. Again we measured and adjusted, pushed and pulled, cursed and whined until we eventually had things up to everyone's satisfaction. Another big tuning box was brought out and the antenna tuned up reasonably well.

Finally the crankup tower with the triband quad had to be raised to its 60 foot contest altitude. Being the QCAO (Quarter Century Appliance Operator) member of the contingent – I got the honor of doing the manual labor – climbing the step ladder and cranking



**Mat (KQ7W), Jody (KE7LKA), and Ward (NØAX) running DX**



**Guy (N7ZG), Ward (NØAX), and Chuck (N7BV) exchange lies, errr... stories in the kitchen**

DX in the log. We also all had visions of future contests with real sunspots and multiple bands open at the same time...

provide the maximum amount of enjoyment for the operators. Being able to run stations on both rigs has a certain charm for the contester...

As it turned out, there were very few times that we were actually running stations simultaneously at any fantastic rate. But not due to any problems with the station - there was nary a sunspot and the solar flux was a puny 67. But we had a fine time just the same.

Operators included Chuck N7BV, Guy N7ZG, Ward NØAX, Jody KE7LKA, Bob K6MBY, Mat KQ7W, and myself. Jody is just a teenager – but showed some real skills at the mic and a flair as a contester. The rest of us showed more skills at sitting around the kitchen telling tales and watching the Husky football game as the Huskies grabbed defeat from the jaws of victory.

In the end we had 855 QSOs and some interesting

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# CW Sweepstakes

By Jack Fleming, WAØRJY

The best domestic contest of the year (bar none) – CW Sweepstakes took place last weekend. Mike, N7WA had invited Ward, NØAX and myself to join him in a multi-op effort from the N7WA Superstation to attempt to put another plaque on the wall of his shack. A couple years ago we managed to be the top Northwest Division Multi-op score in this same contest and our goal was a repeat of that effort.



Ward with balky buddy box

the run radio simultaneously (one radio in each ear). This would come in handy when trying to work a mult around the run station's activities or when the run station might need an additional set of ears (or in this case "ear" since it would only be in one side of the stereo earphones). Ward proudly brought out the small box that he had put together that same morning and we hooked it up.

It didn't work. Throwing the switch didn't give the "one radio – or two radios" selection that we expected. It was



Ward sits back and thinks things over...



Ward solves mystery and hits the "Easy" button

"one radio – or one radio and a bunch of noise" instead. Definitely not what we wanted. Ward took the box apart and started tracing the wires. He examined the stereo/mono plugs on the earphones. He put mono/stereo adapters on the earphones. That didn't work so he put stereo/mono adapters on. No luck. Eventually he discovered the solution and snipping just one misplaced wire produced a box that worked as advertised – with all of 8 minutes to spare before the Sweepstakes started...

We started with Ward running stations on 20 meters. Our strategy at the start was to run, run, run and not worry about interrupting the run station unless we heard one of the "rare ones" – VO1, VY1, VY2, etc. Things worked fine for about 8 minutes as Ward was piling up the Qs. Then the Winkeyer™

beeped and the keyboard no longer sent cw. The cw paddle worked fine, the computer log worked fine, but hitting the F1 key or any of the other keys produced no cw. A quick reset of the config information in N1MM,

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**Mike, N7WA, in foreground on mult station and Ward (NØAX) in background on run station**

a 15 second wait, and the Winkeyer™ came back online and the keyboard again was alive. Ward was back in business. For about 4 minutes until the ominous beep from the Winkeyer™ announced another breakdown. Resetting the config information in N1MM fixed things again (after a 15 second pause) and Ward was calling CQ. For another 4 or 5 minutes until “BEEP!” and the keyboard was useless for cw.

Ward, being the epitome of resourcefulness, grabbed the key and started sending cw manually. He logged with his left hand on the computer keyboard while sending morse with his right. It was beautiful to watch. But eventually, after about a half hour of fiddling (and multiple attempts to restart the Winkeyer™ in different usb ports) we gave up the effort. A swap of Winkeyers™ - the second station had one that ran off of the serial port – seemed to right things and all went fine. The only problem was that

this left the second station in manual send mode with no keyboard cw.

While I (being the QCAO member) operated (and ran stations at a breakneck pace) Ward and Mike retired to the workbench to put together a parallel port keying circuit that would work for the remainder of the contest. They wanted me nowhere close to that soldering iron. Their efforts were eventually successful (it’s probably best not to mention their confusion over npn vs. pnp transistors, so I won’t...) and we were back in business on both machines again (one with the serial Winkeyer™ and the other keying directly through the parallel port).

All was going fine as we piled up the QSOs. Even with just 100 watts we were able to keep a run frequency on a very crowded 20 meter band and we were rocking and rolling. It seemed like it was time to decide where to put that new plaque.

Then we came across some very bad news. We worked NN7SS. They were also in our multi-op class. They were operating from Ward’s former QTH on Vashon Island. They were using amplifiers (or at least we suspected they were). And, worst of all, they had 400 QSOs when we only had 300... Ouch.

We kept working the pileups, searching for the rare ones, and going through the motions of a successful contest effort – but we knew that there would be no plaque this year.

Eventually we had a small victory when we did something that Mike had never done from his station – a clean sweep. All 80 sections in the log. It was a very successful contest from that aspect (we also had a very respectable 885 QSOs) – and personally, I had a great time (as you’d expect when sharing the shack with guys like Mike and Ward). But there will be no new plaque on N7WA’s wall...



**Ward finds an appreciative audience for his mandolin playing – Gandalf the African Gray parrot...**

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# 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](http://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](http://n7xy.net), port 7300

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

Telnet to [w7dx.net](http://w7dx.net)

W7JD-2 - Spanaway (CC Cluster Node - South Tacoma Contest Club), K7EK sysop

Telnet to [k7ek.dyndns.org](http://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](http://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>

## 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](mailto:n7wi@hotmail.com) or call me at, 360.675.9404, 73- Tom/N7WI

## Totem Tattler

From K7WA - We're off to VP5 a week from Friday - we'll be there for two whole weeks with the CQ WW in the middle - will be on as VP5/K7WA (we'll all be using our own calls) outside the contest, and VP5W in the contest as a Multi-Op/2 Transmitters. Others on the trip are W7VV, VE7XF, and K7LAZ - we'll be at VP5JM, on the web at [www.vp5jm.com](http://www.vp5jm.com) - QSLs for VP5W go to W7TSQ (Thanks Bob!).

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## Bonus article for on-line *Tabloid* subscribers...

### Working Chinese Hams

Fred Laun, K3ZO

*I*n my 55 years as a ham one factor that has stood out for me is the fact that there are so many different ways to get enjoyment out of our wonderful hobby. In recent years I have been engaged in an effort to see how many different Chinese stations I can work.

I have always been drawn to the challenge of working South and East Asians. Probably that comes from the fact that, both from where I grew up in Wisconsin and from here, it is more of a challenge propagationally-speaking to work that part of the world. Also the DX lore I grew up with, tales of how only a very few were able to get through to legendary DX targets such as AC4YN, AC3PT, CR8AC and AC5PN, undoubtedly whetted my fascination with the idea of contacting that part of the world.

At our college club station W9YT, I was the winner of a six-pack of beer for being the first W9YT operator to work JT1AA, a station which heralded the entry into the world of Amateur Radio for the then-impossibly remote nation of Mongolia. I also fondly recall the time when, while I was at the key of W9YT during the ARRL CW DX Contest, I was called by XZ2TH in the middle of a 10-meter run of JA's.

When I was first licensed in 1952 even JA's were pretty few and far between. Japan had been ravaged by World War II and for a number of years immediately following that war local Japanese operators were outnumbered by the MARS stations operated by the American occupation forces with their KA prefixes with two-letter suffixes. The MARS stations had largely disappeared by the time I started DXing and initially there were only a handful of native Japanese on the air to provide that elusive multiplier in the contests. The most prominent among them was JA1VX who had a massive signal but whose home-made VFO drifted badly each time he came back to you, meaning you had to open up the receiver bandwidth widely in order to keep him in your passband as he handed out reports.

By 1970 the Japanese ham population had exploded, but other countries in the area still lagged behind in exposing ham radio to their masses. India had quite a number of hams but they were hampered by the unavailability of commercial equipment and by poor antennas. Hong Kong under the British always had a handful of available expats but it was difficult for a local national to pass the required "RAE" English-language examination. The Philippines has always had a number of hams but not so many DXers; when in Thailand I get a kick out of listening to the morning Philippine net on 7045; it's unbelievable how many DU's there actually are on the air, something you never realize sitting over here.

One-by-one, the ham populations of several countries in the area blossomed --after Japan , first Indonesia , then Taiwan , then South Korea . As those countries' ham populations flourished I enjoyed concentrating on working as many of them as I could. In all four of those countries I sense that activity has now dropped off as initial fascination with our chosen pastime has tailed off and many of their hams have gotten involved in other pursuits.

That leaves China , which now represents the big ham radio growth area in that part of the world. Working China always fascinated me because when I first got on the air it was impossible to work China . When Mao Tse Tung took over in 1949 what few hams there were shut down. It wasn't until the 1980's that China got back on the air in a major way. First to come on were a few major club stations like BY1PK. Then school clubs flourished as educators came to believe that ham radio was one of a number of ways to get Chinese kids to learn English quickly. Finally the authorities decided that allowing hams to set up individual stations in their homes was not the security threat that they had earlier thought, and the hams who had been licensed in 1949 were the first to be allowed to establish stations in their homes. They were "grandfathered" back into existence without being required to take a new examination.

Chinese authorities, observing how Japan's tremendous ham-radio boom had coincided with Japan's attaining

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world leadership in the manufacture of consumer electronics, decided to "jump-start" ham radio all over the country by distributing free low-powered NBFM transceiver kits, capable of running 3 watts crystal-controlled on 29.6 MHz. It was Larry, N4VA who first called my attention to this phenomenon when we both happened to be in Thailand at the same time (Larry is also HS0ZAX). A CQ on 29.6 NBFM from the HS0AC club station at almost any time of day with the beam north was certain to bring a raft of replies from these low-powered stations, and it was usually all one could do to finally drag a call sign through the mess and exchange bare-minimum info required for a valid QSO. I recall one day when the band was open only to the parts of China which fall into the storied CQ Zone 23, and it was cool to work 15 or 20 Zone 23 stations in a row!

Well the Chinese economy has improved now and many of these fellows and gals have been able to afford a Japanese radio and have now become acquainted with 15 and 20 meters. New licenses are being issued at a rapid pace.

The beginning license, which carries a BG prefix, was initially not valid for 20 meter operation, but the authorities, bowing to the realities of propagation at the low point of the cycle, have now permitted the BG's to use all bands. When a Chinese ham upgrades to the next level, his prefix changes to BD. Finally, if he or she gets to the highest level, they swap that BD prefix for a BA.

Working as many different Chinese stations as possible has become my newest operating fancy of choice. At this writing I have worked 175 different BG stations and have QSLs from 131 of them. I have worked 149 different BD stations and 121 of them have sent their QSLs. Of 63 different BA's, only 10 have failed to send their QSLs. And of the 105 different BY club stations I have worked I have managed to collect 80 QSLs. I have also worked 106 other Chinese stations with B, BI, BL, BS, BT, BW and BZ prefixes. None of this total includes the many stations I have worked in Taiwan, Hong Kong or Macao, and all have been worked from my home here in Temple Hills.

It doesn't hurt to have an 8-el Telrex Yagi for 15 meters at 155 feet and a 6-el Telrex Yagi for 20 meters at 150 feet, but beyond that managing to keep working new Chinese hams all the time requires some care in observing their operating habits and some skill in getting through to them. It is this challenge to hone my skills in this direction that makes the hunt that more satisfying and interesting.

I don't speak a word of Chinese (or to be more specific, Mandarin, Cantonese, Szechuan or any of the other myriad Chinese dialects.) And most of the Chinese hams I work speak little English, frequently only enough to exchange call signs and reports.

April-thru-September is good time of year to work China from here. If the K index is 2 or below the 20 meter band is likely to open over the North Pole around 1100 UTC and can last until 1300 UTC or so. This coincides with early and mid-evening in China when people are likely to be at home. Good markers to check propagation are harmonics of broadcast stations from the area which show up as carriers on 14250 and 14280 KHz. Also Charlie Ho, VR2XMT is always on the band and if his signal is over S9 it pays to look for Chinese hams.

One starts by leaving the receiver on 14270 KHz, the "Chinese Calling Frequency". Most mornings I put the radio there and leave the speaker on while doing QSL bureau work in the next room. When I hear activity I go to the rig. Because call signs cannot be formulated from the Chinese written language, we are fortunate in that, even when Chinese hams talk to each other, they ID in English. They also use a standard format in calling CQ, which ends with "this is [BG4AAV] calling CQ and standing by."

While I don't understand Chinese I have listened to enough QSOs to know their procedures. Often when they finish a QSO they will say "seventy-three" in English and almost always "bye-bye". They also use "OK OK" rather than "Roger", very handy to know when you are trying to verify their call signs or they are trying to verify yours.

In general 14270 is meant to function for the Chinese like 50110 is for 6 meter DXers: You use it to make short contacts and if you wish to engage in a rag-chew, you move off. I can often tell when a pair of Chinese hams has decided to move off to continue a QSO, as they can be heard to say "let's go" or give out what is obviously a string of Chinese numbers. They almost always will QSY in 5 KHz chunks so if I hear a station moving off which would be a new station for me, I can usually find them on 14265 or 14275.

Usually however I work a new Chinese station by answering his/her CQ on 14270, or by calling a station I want after they finish a QSO there. Quite often the station will be confused at first, not really wanting to believe

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that he/she is being called by someone on the other side of the world. A frequent error is to copy my call as "Kilo Three Zulu Alfa" as apparently to the Chinese ear an American-accented "Oscar" sounds a lot like "Alfa". So I use "Ocean" or " Osaka " as alternatives for the "O" to try to get my call through to them. Several of the 14270 regulars who I have worked before will often help after a third or fourth unsuccessful attempt by the station I am calling to get my call straight, and will explain in Chinese what is happening. If conditions are good, after that initial QSO six or seven other Chinese stations will call me, half of them people I have worked before but two or three being new stations.

The final part of the QSO with the new Chinese station is to go to <http://qrz.cn/call/> and get the address of the station so I can send him/her my QSL card. I find this site is very up-to-date and lately they have begun giving the addresses in Roman script as well as Chinese, but I still prefer to print out the Chinese script on a label and paste it on an envelope, writing " China " below.

I try to be polite and not monopolize the frequency so if nobody else is calling me I don't come back and call "CQ" again. After a brief period of silence it is sometimes a gas to listen when they resume talking to each other as they are obviously talking (bragging?) about having worked me as I hear my call being bandied about between them.

There are lots of overseas Chinese in neighboring countries and some of them are interested in having Chinese-language QSOs, so it is not unusual to hear a Malaysian or Indonesian or Singapore station call "CQ Bravo" on 14270, which is the way they call a directional CQ to China .

Bottom line, there are many ways to continue to be fascinated by this hobby of ours, and this has become my latest method of choice for challenging myself to observe and adopt new DXing techniques..

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TOTEM TABLOID  
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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.

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**Deadline for each issue is the last Friday of the preceding month.**

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