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March 2010

Software Defined Radio!

Dan Quigley, N7HQ will present a program on software defined radio, the newest technology that is redefining ham radio.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Dinner at 6:30pm – Program at 7:30

Marie Callendar's Restaurant
9538 1st Avenue North (just south of Northgate Mall)

Contest Activity for February 2010

by Mike Dinkelman, N7WA

There Contest Activity, March 2010

I don't know if anybody else has noticed but then it's my job to do so. Our friends to the south have become very serious about contesting this year. All year, I have noticed a serious uptick in WVDXC submission to 3830. This month I decided to actually perform a count. In the WPX RTTY there were 11 WVDX submissions compare to 7 for the WWDXC. In the ARRL DX, there were 16WVDXC submissions compared to 12 for the WWDXC. In the past, I could count WVDXC submissions on one hand. Now, numbers used to be the advantage of the WWDXC. Even if the scores were smaller, we had more members getting on the air and submitting scores. Seems that trend is no longer true. On top of that, it looks like there has been a greater tendency for the top gun stations (i.e K7ZSD) to be loaned out to visiting ops if the owner was not going to get on the air. All of this bodes well for the WVDXC and I see a resurgence in contesting interest from the region. It doesn't bode so well for us.

This month's activity:

2010 RTTY WPX

Call	QSOs	Pts	Prfxs	hr	Score
~~~~~					
M/S HP					
W7WHY	38	101	32	1.5	3,232
SOAB HP					
K7HC	502	1122	291	30	326,502
SOAB LP					
W7IJ			189	11:50	129,276
W7NNN	285	610	197		120,170
K7HBN	225	453	166	12	75,198
K6KR	181	322	136		43,792
SOSB/15 LP					
KX7L	61	111	54	4	5,994
SOSB/40 LP					
NN7SS(K6UFO)	276	980	199	12	195,020

WPX Soapbox

**Call: W7WHY** Hadda work Saturday. Stuff going on Sunday with the XYL. From the looks of the scores, looks like I missed a good one.

**Call: K7HC** First RTTY contest for me (age 75) and lots of fun. Difficulty with RTTY programs and logging programs, but much better as I continued along. Can't wait for another RTTY contest.

**Call: W7NNN** Not too much time spent on this one but a blast as usual !! Family and friends were over all weekend. 73- see you next year..

**Call: K7HBN** K3 @ 5 watts AFSK-A mode, no interface. Very simple set up worked without a hitch with N1MM software. I am going through another dedicated QRP phase, and was quite pleased with the K3.

**Call: KX7L** Decided to work on my 15m DXCC and have some fun. High point was working 6W2SC for a new one. Go Sunspots!

**Call: NN7SS** As always, I wish there was a QRP category. I missed the first couple hours, and had some other plans for the weekend, so I decided to do a Single Band effort to free up some time. Hopefully the sunspots attracted all the other single-banders to 15m - leaving 40m to me!

I started the contest by going to sleep, so I could get up at 1AM local (09z) and work JA's and Pacific. This worked well, with 50 in the log in my first hour. I stayed up another hour, then caught another nap until a hour before sunrise for some more 40m contacts. Then I had to sit out daylight until an hour before sunset (00z) when I could start working Europeans and USA. I finally ran out of new workable stations at 05z, so did the 1AM and sunrise shifts again. Finally the last hour brought a few more USA. I operated a total about 12 Hrs. I was pleased to make a score above last year's USA SB40m LP winner, but we'll see how others did.

A few problems with people who call and call and never listen, and a couple who said we "WORKED B4" - Huh?, I'd call again and say "not in log, qso pse" but they'd ignore me, say DUPE, or move off. Shucks, why not just work me again! Overall, the high level of activity was pleasing, and made this a fun RTTY contest. Thanks!

2010 ARRL DX CW

Call	QSOs	Mults	hr	Score
~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~
USA M/S HP				
N7WA	1608	273	48	1,313,676
USA SOAB HP				
K7RL	2143	305	38	1,960,845
K7LAZ	756	205	30	464,940
USA SOAB LP				
W7QN	356	113	18.4	120,345
USA SOAB QRP				
K7HBN	355	129	20	137,385
USA SOAB(A) HP				
K7ZA	922	253	24	699,798
K7HC	631	238	22:20	450,534
KT7G	236	110		77,880
USA SOAB(A) LP				
W7IJ	638	207	24:35	396,198
NG7Z	24	8	1.5	576

USA SOSB/15 LP KX7L	69	20	2.5	4,140
USA SOSB/40 LP K7WA	50	25	4.5	3,750

ARRL Sopabox

Call: N7WA The ARRL DX CW always falls on the weekend when the Mike & Key ARC has it's big planning session prior to hosting the largest hamfest in the Sate of Washington. Being a part of the organizing committee, I gotta be there. That makes any serious Single-Op attempt at this test a lost cause because the meeting occurs during the important morning run into Europe (if there is one). Fortunately, this is Guy/N7ZG's second favorite test (after CQWW) so he is plenty willing to do a 2-man Multi-Single (especially since I have his two K3's sitting in my shack). He handles Saturday morning when I'm gone and I handle Sunday when he's committed to other activities. Last year, we used his call, this year was my turn so I get stuck with the summary. :>)

For me, there was a lot of anticipation built into this one simply because there had been sunspots showing all year except for two days. While I wasn't really expecting much out of ten meters at this time, I did fully expect some good activity on 15m as well as extended activity on 20M.

Friday started out good with steady runs into JA and Asia on 20M. We regularly worked JA's down into the 5W level. (Shout-out to my buddy Atsushi JR1NKN/W7KN who I worked on three bands with 5 watts!) With a second antenna pointed SE, it was easy to catch the occasional South American or Caribbean as they popped up. After about 3 hours, it was clear that 40M was going to open into Europe. It wasn't a huge opening but provided plenty of multipliers over the course of a couple hours. After about 0600 UTC, things slowed down a lot and you get into a regular rhythm of going up and down the bands (40/80/160) picking off whatever shows up. 20-30 Q's an hour is pretty good for us from about local midnight until just prior to daylight (about 6AM) when the JA's started showing in sufficient numbers on 80 and 40.

I had to leave at 7:30AM local Saturday. At that time Guy was running Asia on 40 but you could see packet spots for 20M popping up and, as I was leaving, even some for 15. After setting up the club meeting site, I popped my laptop on and brought up GetScores. (It was tough - it's still not working right.) What little I could see between the server timeouts showed Guy was screaming on 20M (which I verified when I got back). I even saw when he jumped to 15 but according to Guy, he started way too late and should have hit 15 earlier. Even then, he had added substantially to the totals in just a few hours. By the time I arrived back home, I knew this was going to be an excellent year.

I won't go through the whole 48 hours except to say Sunday morning was a repeat of Saturday except I was in the chair and headed to 15M as soon as I could hear the stations being spotted. It started out S&Ping only the Kw stations but when I heard the 100watters, I knew I could start start running myself. In fact, I think 15M was better Sunday then Saturday as I was hopping between 15 and 20 all day long with the occasion foray to 10m. It's been a long lean solar minimum and it was fun remember just exactly why I contest. (I tried to share that excitement with the Club by using GetScores but the server problems really put a damper on that.)

When it was all done we has 1.3M points in the bag which is a "best " for this station as well as the 1600 Q's. My pride was deflated (deservingly so) when I saw the score of W7VJ just a few miles away in Gig Harbor. He had bested us running as a single op for only 30 hours (versus our 48) with almost 1.4M points. Good job Andy! Still waiting to see how Mitch K7RL did - rumor has it he was doing well. Many thanks to my buddy Guy for coming over to play - it was fun. Looking forward to a continuing rise in solar activity.

Call: K7RL Congratulations to all the big numbers around the country, especially K7GK at K7ZSD with what looks like the top west coast score. Great job Denis! After reading many of the comments, I sure felt like this was a different contest from my QTH. Both Q and mult count are lower than they should be - although operating SO1R doesn't help when so many bands are open all at once. 160m was very good both nights, and it was exciting to work so many loud EUs. I wasn't sure what to expect with solar activity on the rise, but was pleasantly surprised. I really struggled on 80m to work EU. It took multiple calls and many repeats to complete the QSO. My mult total on 160m almost equaled 80m!

40m was the biggest disappoint. As the MUF plummeted, the band died both nights to EU and JA between 07:00z and 08:00z. From 08:00z to 14:30z, I could not run if my life depended on it - fortunately, it didn't! I heard guys in K6 running stuff I could barely hear. As the MUF rose near sunrise, the band came alive, but by then it was too late. I had better JA runs on 80m!

20m proved to be my money band, but heavy flutter coupled with some occasional echoing on EU signals slowed me down. The pile-ups just made the problem worse as when I finally got the correct call, many were still calling over the QSO. I could always tell when a spot hit and my frequency suddenly exploded with callers!

My biggest mistake was not spending enough time on 15m - a bad habit picked-up from the long solar minimum. I neglected to try running in the morning, and instead, opted to concentrate on 20m. As a result, my mult and Q count are seriously deficient. Okay, lessons learned! But hey, nice to hear life on 10m!

Thank you to all for the Qs. It is a pleasure to work so many great operators around the world and I appreciate each and every Q!

Call: K7HBN Getting better!!

Call: K7ZA Tried assisted category for the first time in all my years of contesting. Really felt guilty at first with the website open next to my log! Amazing how many assisted stations there were. A rare DX posted like on 14.118 was quickly populated by my fellow assisters. Rig IC-756PROII plus Tentec Centurion amp. Antennas: 4 el Steppir at 55 ft, 40m rotary dipole at 65 ft, slopers for 80m and inverted L for 160m

Call: K7HC Not much for me on 160 or 80. Need to improve antennas and experience on those bands. Very little opening for me on 10 meters as well. Normal family crisis also cost a lot of operating time. Still interesting for me.

Call: NG7Z I knew I was going to have very limited time available for the contest. Besides, with the great weather here, I couldn't justify sitting in front of my radio. It has been great to get outside on the property and gather up the fallen tree limbs, rake leaves and generally be outdoors. Got the chipper out and made piles of chips for the trails we built last summer. So I decided to go single band 10M QRP just to see if I could. With such short openings, I could justify an hour and a half to make 24/8 for 576 points. And most were 1000 miles per watt or greater. What a hoot!

Call: KX7L I had to balance really nice wx and a list of honey do's vs. the ever increasing sunspots and a desire to try out 15m: the result being a very limited effort, but a lot of fun anyway.

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), N7XY sysop.

Telnet to n7xy.net, port 7300

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

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

Telnet to w7dx.net

AR Cluster user documentation is available at <http://www.ab5k.net>

DX Spider user documentation is available at http://wiki.dxcluster.org/index.php/DXSpider_User_Manual

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>

Totem Trader

Yaesu FL-2100A 500/1000 W HF (80-10) Linear Amplifier, good working condition, with manual, clean. Now wired for 117AC. \$425 Contact John, K7HV @ 206-947-0545 or jparnell@igc.org

40ft of Rohn 25 tower. Includes adjustable house bracket, hinged tilt over, top section, galvanized hardware and guy brackets. It also has hand winch and homemade, reinforced steel "gin pole"; the previous owner used this to tilt over the top two sections. \$325 Contact John, K7HV @ 206-947-0545 or jparnell@igc.org

I have a **Kenwood TL-922** linear amplifier for sale. The unit has just been completely gone through by Kuni of ComTech in Poulsbo. Additionally, it comes with a spare final tube. If interested, please give me a call at 253-891-8000 Scott Douglas, w7xc (253) 891-8000 w7xc@arrl.net scott_douglas@comcast.net

I have for sale an Ameritron AL-1500 Linear Amplifier. I just installed a new tube from RF Parts, 3CX1500A7 power triode. The amp easily puts out 1500 Watts with 45 watts drive and is in excellent condition. I am asking \$2000 and will ship at users expense if desired. Otherwise I will meet halfway in Washington state. K6ZF@comcast.net or 425-885-7900

A complete DX Engineering **DXE-RFS-TS2P** 4 square receiving system. Rather than try to describe the many components of this antenna system, please see the DXE web site.

<http://www.dxengineering.com/Products.asp?ID=250&SecID=117&DeptID=12> I still have a couple hundred feet of the direct-bury F6, 75 Ohm CATV Coax on a spool. It is currently setup for 80M but can be easily changed to 160M. Asking \$1000. - Paul Beringer, ng7z@arrl.net

Although not ham radio related, I have a Mirra Personal server Model ST3500841ET-RK 500GB capacity backup device. It is not currently in use due to an upgrade to Windows personal server. It runs Linux but is totally compatible with XP. I have the original install CD with registration code. Asking \$200 - Paul Beringer, ng7z@arrl.net

For Sale:

PK-232 \$50

MFJ 1278 \$40

PK-88 \$15

ICE TVI 430 series filters

Rod W7OM@AOL.COM

I have decided to reduce the number of radios on my desktop so I'm offering my spare **MARK-V** for sale. Here is a link to the page that I've posted describing the radio:

http://www.bcdxc.org/ve7bz_yaesu_ft1000mp_mark_v_radio2.htm

I actually have two of these radios and the only difference between the two is one has all 8 filter slots loaded and the other is missing the 250Hz CW filters. Both radios have the Inrad Roofing Filter kit installed and the key-click mod. Price for each is \$1500 USD.

Please pass this message to anyone in the WW Club or locally that you think might (or could be) seriously interested in the radio. I'd actually like to sell both MARK-V's, but getting one of the desk would be great.

73 de Paul, VE7BZ

For sale **3el 40m KLM.**, \$250. Like new. Three sections of Rohn BX series tower \$15ea Call Andy, K7GEX, 206-364-3997

Interested in a used **IC-2KL, IC-970H, IC-765 IC-735, Bird 43 Wattmeter, RS-335A, SA-2040, MFJ-931, MFJ-784, MFJ-1026, MFJ-259B?** Contact Adam Blackmer 425-754-6799

40 ft of Rohn 25, includes house bracket, guy clamps and tilt-over hinge. \$300

Yaesu FL-2100A 80-10 500/1000W linear, wired for 117AC. In good operation condition

Call John Parnell, K7HV at 206-947-0545

I'M COLLECTING **OLD (pre 1960) QSL CARDS**. Glad to purchase any quantity of old cards. Prefer DX, and this being a DX club, my guess is that's what might be around. **OLDER THE BETTER...** got some from the 1920s this week ...quite a few 7?? call signs. ... still looking for an old 7SS card for myself. going to post what other 1920s 7 cards I get, and offer scans to current call holders. Found 7WA and 7DZ in this group of cards so far. 73 K7SS Dan 206 679 5777 desk@nwlink.com

I have a excellent condition **Force12 model 5BA** (5-band Yagi, 3 feed lines 15ele, 33' boom, 20-17/15-12/10) DX Machine that comes with three optional 5KW F12 baluns. Current price is \$2500 shipped (Antenna \$2,055.00 + Baluns \$300 + \$145 Shipping from Texas.). Antenna configuration is 3 interlaced full size monbanders with no traps: total windload is 11 sq. ft. & weighs about 75 lbs. ftI will sell for \$1000 **FIRM** picked up at my home in Spokane. rgds & 73, Mike N7KR Contact: Mike Stephens email mikestephens-milkeycorp@comcast.net Verizon Cell (509) 710-8146

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

I also have a **Kenwood Model SM-220 Station Monitor** in new condx that has the BS-8 Panadapter. It works with Kenwood xcvr's that have the 8.83 MHz IF. (eg TS-850, etc.) that I would like to sell for \$350. John Owens - N7TK jcowens1@comcast.net

Palstar AT1500BAL Dual Roller-Balanced Line Antenna Tuner. Balanced double L network configuration. Dual precision edgewound silver plated coils with vernier drive. 1500 watts PEP. 160M to 10M band coverage. Like new. Excess to me needs since I no longer try to operate 160 from my tiny city lot. \$300. Patrick, W7TMT@dayshaw.net

Cushcraft A3S beam with 40 meter kit. Excellent shape. Was just taken down. Factory manuals. (Local sale only. Local delivery possible.) \$250 Patrick, W7TMT@dayshaw.net

Rohn Tower Sections/Masts and Parts (Local sale only. Local delivery possible.) All parts purchased from ARS in Georgetown in the mid-90's. Patrick, W7TMT@dayshaw.net

One 10' section, Rohn 25G. Excellent condition. \$75

One 9' section, Rohn 25G, Pipe Top includes rotor plate. Excellent condition. \$100

One Rohn House Bracket, HG25HB. Excellent condition. \$100

One Rohn 25G flat roof base mount. Excellent condition. \$50

One Rohn 10' section of 2" thick walled mast. \$50

Three 10' sections, 1" heavy walled TV mast with heavy swaged ends. Excellent condition. \$30 for the three. Patrick, W7TMT@dayshaw.net

K6QB Estate Sale

*H*ere is the current list of items the club has for sale from the K6QB estate. We have added a few more items since the last tabloid. There are more items that we will be itemizing and offering to the members in the near future. Some of you have already been calling and emailing, thanks for your interest. The club board wanted to make sure our membership had first crack at the items. I'll be taking THESE items listed below down to the Mike and Key swapmeet on March 6th. So if your interested let me know sooner than later!
73, Adam K7EDX, pipeboy_adam@msn.com

1. Icom IC-2KL Solid State Linear w/power supply(No AT-500) \$800.00
2. Icom IC-970H VHF/UHF Base(w/ux-96 module, built in p/s) \$1,300.00
3. Icom IC-765 HF Base (no extra filters) \$800.00
4. Icom IC-735 HF Base (no extra filters) SOLD
5. Heathkit SA-2040 Antenna Turner (Case rough condition) \$125.00
6. MFJ - 931 Artificial Ground SOLD
7. MFJ - 784 Super DSP Filter \$80.00
8. MFJ - 1026 Noise Canceling Signal Enhancer PENDING
9. Heathkit Monitor Scope model HO-10 \$70.00
10. Heathkit Tri-power supply model IP-2718 \$45.00
11. Heathkit Oscilloscope model IO-103 \$50.00
12. Heathkit Sine-Square Audio Generator model IG-18 \$50.00
13. Heathkit Regulated power supply model IP-18 (1-15V, 500ma) \$20.00

14.Heathkit Frequency Counter model IF-1101 \$45.00
15 MFJ-247 Antenna analyzer \$75.00

Salmon Run Comments

Thanks for the certificate. I always enjoy the Salmon Run even though other events take away some time from it. 73, John, K4BAI.

Thanks for the certificate. I really enjoyed participating in your contest and look forward to do it again . I am running only 100 watts with a G5RV JR hidden in the trees up 25 ft. so I am very happy even to make 3rd place. 73, John Gerstner K4LRP

Thank you! I had a lot of fun. 73, Eric KE7NVA

Thanks for the certificate. It was nice to work a few stations out there. 73, Don VE3HUR

It is very nice of you to do this. My wife liked it. She said, "It is pretty, what a nice design. It is very lovely." That is good considering she is an artist. (www.claudiapettis.com)! She even said she would frame it for me. It is good to have the XYL's support! 73, Chuck Pettis, W7AUM cpettis@brand.com

Thanks much. Certificate is printed and placed with others in my collection. See you next year. 73, Dave N4DW

I am originally from Seattle, licensed in 1960 as k7mby, now retired to Mesa, AZ and participating as best as possible. Thanks for the accolade. 73 Jim Hoggard ; K7MY ex k7mby

Beautiful design on the certificate ... my compliments to the artist (a member of the WW-DXC?). And thanks for hosting the Salmon Run. It was the first contest that I ever entered (in 2004), and have tried to participate each year since. 73, Rich

Thanks for the certificate. I'm going to have to try harder in 2010. :) I couldn't put as much time into it in 2009 as in 2008 but I've enjoyed working the contest for the past two years. Looking forward to later this year! 73 Carl KJ4WD New Hill, NC

Why, thanks! 73, Ward N0AX

Thanks for the certificate Always fun to do the salmon run. Will be there next year 73 RogerO W7ch

Thanks for the nice certificate. Look forward to participating later this year. - 73s John AA5JG

Thank you for the Salmon Run certificate! I've enjoyed participating in your contest over the years, and I've won a fish prize a number of times. It looks like I shall need to work harder this year! - de Drew K9CW

Thank you for the certificate. I'm looking forward to the Salmon Run. 73, Atsushi Sasaki JR1NKN, W7KN

Thank you for the 4th place for Spokane County. I may have to work more out of state contacts next year, but I like to focus on getting as many Washington State counties as I can. I really enjoy working the Salmon Run. I look forward to it each year. I missed the 2008 Salmon Run because of I had some surgery done, and I sure missed working it. Please let me know if you get this e-mail Paul because I have been having some trouble with this computer. If I don't hear from you within a week or so I will sent you my e-mail address again. Thanks again, 73 and good DX. God Bless ! Vern, N7GTW

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The Totem Tabloid

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Information on the Western Washington DX Club is also available on the internet at www.wwdxc.org or by email to info@wwdxc.org.