

WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB, INC.

# Totem Tabloid

December 2016

**NEXT MEETING IS DECEMBER 13**



No formal program this month—elections, awards presentation and old-fashioned ham radio camaraderie. Come prepared with your best story from the CQWW CW weekend. If you weren't on, make up one.

**Rob's 125<sup>th</sup> Street Grill, 125<sup>th</sup> and Aurora Avenue North Dinner at 6:30 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is \$ 20 including tax and tip.**

**Please RSVP your dinner plans to Adam, K7EDX at [k7edx@arrl.net](mailto:k7edx@arrl.net)**

# **The President Speaks**

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving! Although I might not always enjoy our December weather, I most certainly enjoy my time with family and friends this time of year.

Our next meeting is our annual Christmas party. Instead of a program we do a little club business, present some club awards and have a great raffle. Most importantly, we hang out and socialize with our radio friends.

Some of the items in this year's raffle include:

Brand new Elecraft K1 with 20m and 40m modules

Brand new Sark 110

Russian ElectroInstrument Key-8 paddle

Heil HM-12 microphone with Icom cable

New old-stock never built Kent single paddle key

Bencher BY-1 paddle

Every year, two board of director positions and all officer positions are up for election. The director positions are three-year terms and the officer positions are one-year. Both directors whose terms are up have agreed to run again. Also, most officers have agreed to run again. Bill W7VP is currently our V.P., but has very limited time availability. It would be great to fill this position with someone who has more time.

If you are interested in running for any position please email me.

I hope to see many of you next week at the party! Oh, did I forget to mention prime rib? The club will be kicking in some extra money to upgrade our normal dinner.

Have a great rest of the Holiday Season, and Merry Christmas!

## Random Comments From the Editor

Have you ever wondered about the origin of “Slim” to refer to a pirate station? Someone asked on the NCCC reflector and the question produced a number of replies. The most interesting, and probably the one that comes closest to the truth, was this: Sometime in the mid-1960s an operator showed up on 20 CW, identifying himself as 8X8A and claiming he was located on "Cray Island," an island that had just emerged from the ocean floor following a major undersea volcanic event. The operator said his name was "Slim." Huge pileups endured for a few days, then "Slim" was exposed as a pirate and he disappeared from the bands. Ever since, pirates have been called "Slim." What made "Slim's" claim even partly credible in the first place was the emergence of Surtsey, an island near Iceland that rose from the floor of the Atlantic in 1963 as a result of undersea volcanic activity. It was a major news event at the time. (thanks to VE2ZP). Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD (SK), the Editor and Publisher of the West Coast DX Bulletin, often referred to “Slim” and the name caught on among DXers.

Speaking of the West Coast DX Bulletin, if you haven't ever read it you really should. I started subscribing in 1976 and it was a must-read back in the days before spotting clusters, computers, etc. It got to be so successful that Cass had to stop publishing it in 1979. Thanks to the Northern California DX Club and the efforts of Ross Forbes, K6GFJ (currently NCDXC President), you can find a complete set of the WCDXB on the NCDXC website. Go to [www.ncdxc.org](http://www.ncdxc.org) and click on the green “Archives” rectangle on the right-hand side. It is well worth the time.

Passage of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (H.R. 1301 and S. 253) is coming down to the wire. If it doesn't get passed during the current lame duck session of Congress, the whole process will have to start over. If you support this, go to <https://arrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-us-senate-to-pass-amateur-radio-parity-act> and spend a minute or two to urge our Senators to vote in favor passage when the bill gets to the Senate floor. Even if you currently have 6 over 6 on a 100 foot tower and think this doesn't affect you, time keeps passing by—and one of these future days you may find yourself in a condo with a HOA that frowns on any antennas.

I was not at Pacificon this year but I've read the reports about the program speakers. One speaker was Laura Smith, FCC Special Counsel. Many in the SRO audience were justifiably concerned about the FCC's lack of enforcement of the rules applicable to us, especially given the announcement that the FCC will be shutting down 11 field offices across the country. Ms. Smith assured the crowd that enforcement of the rules will not be compromised, despite the cutbacks, and that the Official Observer program will be re-vitalized to fill in any gaps in enforcement. Watch your mail for any OO pink slips if you get too close to 7125 LSB (as many did during the CQWW SSB weekend).

That's it for this month. Merry Christmas DXers and the best in 2017.

## **December Membership Update**

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The Western Washington DX Club welcomes two new members this month:

Jim "Hoop" Hooper, K9QJS of Friday Harbor, WA

Edward Gronseth, KI7HUI of Hansville, WA

The ARRL has tightened its rules for the Affiliated Club competition in ARRL Contests (this has nothing to do with the Pacific Northwest Traveling Trophy Competition which is scored separately). The ARRL now requires a list of Eligible Members for the Affiliated Club competition listing Call Signs and Grid Square locations for all eligible members. This information allows the ARRL Contest Administrators to calculate the distance of each Eligible Member from the designated Club Center. The List is maintained on the ARRL website under Contests, Tools, Club Tools. If you have any questions regarding eligibility or grid square locations, contact K7WA.

Membership Renewal Letters will be going out at the end of December to members with a December Renewal Date. Letters will also go out to members who have not renewed their membership in the past year. Your annual dues (\$25.00) support the ongoing activities of the WWDXC including: DXpedition Contributions, Washington Salmon Run, Annual Picnic and Christmas Party, Member Awards, and other expenses of the Club. Thank you for supporting the Western Washington DX Club!

## December Contest Activity Report

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

Contest season is in full-blown mode. Some of the best and challenging tests are November thru December. There are the two major CQWWs, the two ARRL Sweepstakes, the ARRL single banders-- and the Stew Perry wraps it all up at year- end. If you enjoy contests, this is your time.

Here are some highlights for WWDXC members:

### CQWW SSB

Call M/S	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score
K7RI	730	92	204	48	562,992

### SOAB HP

N7RVD	218	41	78	8	69,734
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### SOAB LP

WA7PRC	104	44	65	24	29,103
N7XY	52	20	30	5	5,900
W7QN	106	37	59		
EA3/ K7ADD	16	7	11		

### SOAB Classic HP

N7QT	412	75	161		253,935
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### SOAB(A) HP

K7EG	125	34	79	10	36,838
W6SZN	130	34	61		33,915

**SOAB(A) LP**

W7OM	310	71	116		151,283
KB7HDX	162	41	74	7	42,895

**SOSB(A)/160 QRP**

K7SS	11	2	2	1	24
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**SOSB/20 HP**

N5CR	415	31	90	23	122,210
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**SOSB/20 LP**

K7HBN	137	24	47	16	25,702
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**SOSB/40 HP**

W7WA	845	33	84		272,493
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**CQWW SSB Soapbox**

**K7EG:** Conditions were very poor. 15M was best, 40 & 20 were poor. No EU, AF. Path basically South with some Pacific & a few JAs. Only outlier was a D4 from Cape Verde on 15. Hope this is not the new normal but afraid it may be for the next several years. Few sunspots, low SFI and high A index. Hope CQWW CW is much better.

**K7HBN:** Zero prop on polar paths due to high A and K index equals almost total frustration. It was nice to be able to key the voice recorder in the FT-991 with function keys in N1MM via CAT commands. At least it is more than 27 days until the CW contest, so prop may recover.

**N7XY:** Operating time was limited by other commitments. Conditions were poor, especially for low power and a multiband vertical. No AF contacts, only 2 EU (OH on 20), one AS (JA on 40) and only KH6 for OC. A bummer all around. Hopefully

I will get an amp hooked up for the next one, but when you can't even hear them you certainly can't work them.

**W6SZN:** A few hours of S&P. Conditions pretty bad from WA but still great fun to say "Hi" to friends.

**W7WA:** Epic crummy band conditions but I still enjoyed the contest. After all the CQWW is THE contest. Sunday morning I did not work a JA until 11:47Z. Did not make a short path European QSO until 35 minutes remaining in the contest. I did work 17 LP Europeans but I called more EU stations than I worked. On LP without success I called three zones I missed, RC9O in 18, 4L0A in 21 and VU2RCT in 22. JT5DX in 23 heard twice below 7125 but was not listening higher.

Speaking of 7125 what's with all the stateside guys calling and working DX between 7125 and 7127KHz? I understand that the FCC rules are not clear cut on this but calling DX stations there on LSB seems to be an ethical lapse.

**N5CR:** I'm looking forward to a CQWW with K=0 all weekend!

**WA7PRC:** Another FB CQWW SSB. There were many VERY loud signals. Not all of them heard my LP signal but I was surprised that some weaker stations heard me.

**K7RI:** Thanks to Walt, Dennis, Jonathan, Curt and Justin for sticking with it during conditions that were among the worse in a CQ WW contest in all the years I can remember. And thanks to everyone who worked or tried to work us.

**EA3/K7ADD:** Wish working conditions here were better. K3 and CrankIR sticking out a window of a 3rd floor of an apartment here in Barcelona. Apartment is in an urban canyon and 3rd floor is very nearly at the bottom of the canyon. Counterpoise hanging down the outside wall was frighteningly useful. Only on the air for about 90 minutes. Will have a rooftop terrace in Lisbon, PT and in back in Valencia, SP.

**W7QN:** The SFI was 76. All bands here were poor except 15.

## ARRL Sweepstakes CW

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score
<b>Multi-Op HP</b>				
K7RI	870	83	24	144,420

### Single Op HP

WC7Q	698	83	15	115,868
N7QT	648	83	14	107,568
N7RVD	510	79	15	80,580
KX7L	359	74	13	53,132

### Single Op LP

N7WA	723	80	22	115,680
W7OM	551	83		91,466
K7SS	441	83	10:45	73,206
K7HBN	313	82		51,332
K7WA	254	77		39,116
W7VXS	156	63	6	19,656
WA7PRC	111	47	24	10,434

## ARRL Sweeps CW Soapbox

**K7HBN:** Can you get a broom for "hearing" all sections? Heard VO1MP on 15 but couldn't crack the mess calling. SS always the best and nice to contact so many familiar calls.

**WC7Q:** Glad the bands improved a bit for this weekend test. Better than I had expected.

**KX7L:** Made more Qs on every band (except 20m) but didn't come close to last year's score. Probably because the sun came out Saturday afternoon and I just had to get of the shack for a bit. Thanks for the fun!

**N7WA:** missed DE, NL, and the notorious EWA.

**K7SS:** Part time LP--10:45 hours. Last section was just a few miles east of here, but took a long time to find. EWA finally landed high up the band on 40--tnx to WV7S. Lots of fun and great nostalgia factor hearing so many calls from so many years of CW SS. Worked almost all the Thursday nite NS boys too.

**K7RI:** Thanks to everyone who worked or tried to work us! And thanks to Walt and Chuck for sticking with it when rates were VERY slow.

**ARRL Sweepstakes SSB**

<b>Call</b>	<b>QSOs</b>	<b>Sections</b>	<b>Op Time</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Multi-Op HP</b>				
K7RI	1216	83	24	201,856
<b>Multi-Op LP</b>				
K7IR	1415	83	24	234,890
<b>Single Op HP</b>				
W7WA	2112	83		350,592
N7WA	135	43	2	11,610
<b>Single Op LP</b>				
WA7PRC	142	50	24	14,200
<b>SO Unlimited HP</b>				
W7ZZ	1009	82	21.5	165,476
<b>SO Unlimited LP</b>				
KB7HDX	357	82	16	58,548

## **ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Soapbox**

**N7WA:** Not my mode but I threw on the amp and ran as fresh meat for a couple hours. Thanks for the contacts.

**K7IR:** Setup for this contest took about twice as long as we anticipated, but in the end we were rewarded by everything prepared and working at the beginning of the contest. Seems like the more we prepare and practice, the luckier we get!

For the first time ever, we had nearly identical radio/computer setups with a K3 and K3S. One station had a DB42 w/80m option on top, with a 4 Element SteppIR 37 feet below it; the other station had a DB32 (2 elements on 40m, 4 elements on the rest). We also had a listening antenna this year for 80m, which helped for California stations.

Conditions seemed quieter than normal, and better than last year, despite forcing us from the high bands earlier. Thanks for getting into our log, see you next year!

**W7ZZ:** Stellar conditions early in the test, but as the sun set on Saturday, conditions turned very sour and the rate plummeted. Never did recover. Still my favorite contest of the year.

**W7WA:** This time the SS did not begin well for me as I could not keep a clear frequency on 20 and 40 until those bands began to empty out. Kudos to George, K5TR, who got off to a great start. The Sunday morning hours were more productive for me than last year but I suspect that may be due to beginning the day with a lower QSO count.

**K7RI:** Thanks to everyone who worked or tried to work us! And thanks to Walt, Curt and Justin for sticking with it when rates were VERY slow.

**KB7HDX:** Missed QC... First miss of a sweep in many years.

## Martti Laine, OH2BH, and the BOTA Celebration

It's difficult to believe but famed DXpeditioner and contester Martti Laine, OH2BH, turns 70 this year. To celebrate the event, Martti has launched the "Birthday on the Air" (BOTA) operation, travelling to many places and, of course, operating from each to give out QSOs to the Deserving.

After a difficult boat ride to Market Reef, OJØB, and a rest & recovery operation from his QTH on the Azores as CU2KG, Martti steered the plane southward for the CQWW weekends. First stop for the phone weekend was V26BH and then on to J7ØBH for the CW version.

During his stay in Dominica, Martti and Brian, K1LI, spearheaded the recent "Haminica 2016" event, sponsored by Dominica's National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission. More than fifty students from local high schools, the Dominica State College and the Ross University Medical School passed formal emergency traffic between "virtual stations" connected via the internet using HamSphere, a realistic simulation of HF radio. The participants clearly enjoyed the challenge and a significant number of new licensees in J7 are expected over the coming year.



The J7ØBH Station—From left OH2BH, K1LI, K1TO



Martti and two future J7 operators



70<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration on Market Reef

# WWDXC DXCC Ladder

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WWDXC DXCC Ladder is on the website. You can find it by clicking on “DXCC Ladder” on the homepage or by going to <http://www.wwdxc.org/dxcc-ladder-2/> and clicking on “click for dxcc ladder” The Ladder is published in the Totem Tabloid once a year in the January issue. Please send your updates to me at [wa7srz@frontier.com](mailto:wa7srz@frontier.com).

## DX Info Sources

John Owens, N7TK ([jcowens1@comcast.net](mailto:jcowens1@comcast.net))

Discovering what countries (sorry, “entities”) are currently operating on the bands and getting a confirmation (QSL or LOTW) once you work them has become easier in one sense with the flood of electronic information and more difficult in another sense, as the amount of available information is almost overwhelming. Below are some very useful websites that will help solve these problems. If you have other sites that you have found helpful and think should be on this list, please send the info to me at [jcowens1@comcast.net](mailto:jcowens1@comcast.net) and I’ll include it in future issues.

### Useful DX Sites

The Daily DX ([www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)) (subscription service but can’t be beat for timely info)

The DX Zone ([www.dxzone.com/catalog/](http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/))

Internet Ham Atlas ([www.hamatlas.eu](http://www.hamatlas.eu))

### Announced DX Operations

DX World (<http://dx-world.net>) (look for the “DXW Weekly Bulletin”)

NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page ([www.ng3k.com/Misc.adxo.html](http://www.ng3k.com/Misc.adxo.html))

DXing Info ([www.dxing.info/dxpeditions](http://www.dxing.info/dxpeditions))

Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin ([www.payays.com/opdx1044.html](http://www.payays.com/opdx1044.html))

## QSL and Manager Info

Pathfinder (Pathfinder.exe) (<http://www.dxlabsuite.com>) (Click on QSL Info)

QSL Manager Lookup ([www.IK3QAR.it/manager](http://www.IK3QAR.it/manager))

K3WWP QSL Routes ([http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/dx\\_ss\\_qsling.html](http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/dx_ss_qsling.html))

HamQTH Callbook ([www.hamqth.com/](http://www.hamqth.com/))\_

ORCA DX and Contest Club ([www.orcadxcc.org/index.html](http://www.orcadxcc.org/index.html)) (Good access to QRZ.com)

Global QSL (Card design and bureau QSL service-print and mail) ([www.globalqsl.com/](http://www.globalqsl.com/))

## Announced DXpeditions

Here are the DXpeditions and dates I have in my calendar as of December 6, 2016 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Palestine (E44QX/E44HP)	December 8-12, 2016
Sri Lanka (4S7RS)	December 10-13, 2016
Prince Edward & Marion Islands (ZS8Z)	December 26-31, 2016

Here are the sites and bulletins I look at to find out what's happening on the bands:

The Daily DX	<a href="http://dailydx.com">dailydx.com</a> (subscription and free trial available)
DX World	<a href="http://dx-world.net">dx-world.net</a> (free)
NG3K Page	<a href="http://www.ng3k.com">www.ng3k.com</a> and then click on ADXO at the top (free)
DX Summit	<a href="http://www.dxsummit.fi">www.dxsummit.fi</a> (free)
DXScape	<a href="http://www.dxscape.com">www.dxscape.com</a> (free)
DX Heat	<a href="https://dxheat.com">https://dxheat.com</a> (free)

## December 2016 Contest Calendar

In case anyone reading this is not aware of it, Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, has a website that is truly a one-stop place for all things related to contesting. The link is <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> or just Google “WA7BNM” and the first hit is Bruce’s site. With just a few clicks, you’ll find everything you need to know about every contest, large or small. I find it very useful when I hear a station that I want to work that is obviously exchanging contest reports and I don’t know the exchange.

### DX Alert Nodes

Bob Nielsen, N7XY ([n7xy@n7xy.net](mailto:n7xy@n7xy.net))

#### Current DX Node telnet addresses:

W7PKT- w7pkt.net, PORT 7300

VE7CC-1 145.71 MHz or telnet to dxc.ve7cc.net, port 23

### Totem Trader

**For Sale:** Drake R-4C and T-4XC (includes Power Supply) - late models in excellent condition. Extras include: Sartori solid-state tubes in receiver, Sherwood 250 Hz filter, Magicom RF Speech Processor in transmitter, extra tubes including finals, and rebuilt transmitter power supply.

Asking Price: \$600

Jim Hadlock K7WA [k7wa@arrl.net](mailto:k7wa@arrl.net)

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**For Sale:** TIMEWAVE DSP-9+ AUDIO NOISE FILTER \$ 100.

MFJ VOICE KEYER, MFJ-434, with manual \$ 100.

Larry, K7EKD [k7ekd@frontier.com](mailto:k7ekd@frontier.com)

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TOTEM TABLOID  
Western Washington DX Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 395  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

## **The Totem Tabloid**

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## **Advertising**

The *Totem Tabloid* accepts commercial advertising. For rates and specifications, please direct inquiries to the WWDXC at the address listed above. Totem Trader non-commercial ads are free to WWDXC members.

## **Articles and News Items**

The *Tabloid* depends on submissions of articles and news items from its readers. Send all items of interest to the *Tabloid* editor:

Kip Edwards, W6SZN  
PO Box 178  
Indianola, WA 98342  
Email: [kedwards@ltol.com](mailto:kedwards@ltol.com)

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

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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 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](http://www.wwdxc.org)