

March 2016

NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 8



Don, W7NG, will narrate a video presentation of a recent four week journey to northern India with a side trip to neighboring - and rarely visited - Bhutan. A short Q&A session will follow. The side trip to Bhutan provides a look at a people with one foot in the 21st century and the other foot in the 15th century. The flight into and out of Bhutan is dramatic and indeed, breathtaking - and on the video.

Rob's 125th Street Grill, 125th 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@arrrl.net

The President Speaks

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

Mike and Key is less than one week away and I am getting more excited by the day! As most of you know, my ham radio adventure began at the Swap Meet. Make sure to come by and say “Hi” to whoever is at the club information booth. The booth is located on the 2nd floor down by the “Country Store”. Even if you don’t “need” anything, going to the Swap Meet is just plain fun. It’s surprising who you run into. We also can still use another helper or two to help man the booth. If you’re interested, please email me. You’ll get in free and ahead of the crowds.

Although summer seems a long way off, there are a couple of event dates that you need to be aware of. The Pacific Northwest DX Convention will be hosted by the Willamette Valley DX Club on August 5 through August 7. There’s not much information on the website yet, but you can begin booking rooms at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas. Since we are not hosting the Convention this year, we will be having our annual summer picnic. The plan is to host the picnic on Saturday, July 16. So block out those dates on your calendar.

As I type this, the first of the Heard Island team members are beginning their journey to Cape Town. It’s an exciting time to be a DXer! If you haven’t checked it out yet they have a great website, www.heardisland.org. I am sure the pileups will be challenging. Let’s hope they have good weather and no more Big Ben volcanic eruptions. Good luck!

See you this Saturday in Puyallup!

Random Comments From the Editor

This month I want to use my allotted space to introduce club members to the Italian DXpedition Team (or “IDT” as they use to refer to the group). Who is the IDT, you ask? Well, if you worked 3XY1T in the past two weeks, it was a member of the IDT that you worked.

The IDT is headed up by Silvano Borsa, I2YSB. I had the good fortune to speak with Silvano a few years ago when he and several members of the IDT attended the International DX Convention at Visalia. Silvano is a great guy—almost shy and a polar opposite from many of the current crop of DXpedition leaders—and his enthusiasm for ham radio, DXing and DXpeditions is contagious. Silvano was awarded the Intrepid DX Group’s Spirit Award at the Saturday night banquet for his leadership of the IDT’s DXpeditions. Check your log and see how many of the IDT’s DXpeditions since 2007 are there: J20MM/J20RR, 9L1X, 9G5TT/9G5XX, 5V7TT, 5M2TT (Liberia), TU2T, 6O0CW, TT8TT, XT2TT, TO2TT (Mayotte), 9J2T, TY1AA, 9Q0HQ, 5Z0L and the current operation, 3XY1T. Silvano and his

team quietly go about conducting two DXpeditions each year, they go to semi-rare countries in Africa, they stay long enough to satisfy the demand—and they are great operators.

A unique aspect of the IDT's operations is its near-real-time online log. No more waiting for the upload of the logs to ClubLog or some other website. You work them and by the time you click your way to the online log and type in your call, your QSO shows up! I've not seen any statistics about the number of dupes they suffer from, but it should be zero. With this unique online log, there's really no excuse for working them again on the same band and mode.

The IDT operates under the radar and does very little to publicize what they're doing or, more importantly, to solicit contributions. But the group does accept contributions, and anyone who donates \$ 50 or more automatically receives a DVD of the DXpedition. I have made modest contributions to the IDT for several years and send the DVD to the NCDXF Lending Library. If you've worked them (and it would have been difficult not to), please consider including a contribution with your OQRS request. Either way, spend a few minutes on Silvano's website at i2ysb.com.

March 2016 Contest Activity

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

ARRL DX CW

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score
------	------	-------	---------	-------

M/S HP

K7RI	1427	320	39	1,369,920
------	------	-----	----	-----------

SO Unlimited HP

K7BTW	661	213	13.19	422,379
WC7Q	454	149	11	202,938
KX7L	57	34	2	5,814

SO Unlimited LP

W7VXS	47	15	1:20	2,115
-------	----	----	------	-------

SOAB HP

K7EG	158	91		43,134
------	-----	----	--	--------

SOAB LP

W7OM	701	212		445,836
K7HBN	450	165	20	222,750
N7RVD	318	84	9.66	79,380
N7XY	182	94	8.1	50,760

SOSB/15 LP

KD7H	161	46	9:46	22,356
------	-----	----	------	--------

SOSB/160 HP

K7CW	43	23		2,967
------	----	----	--	-------

ARRL DX CW Soapbox

K7CW: Farthest signal heard was D4C, but couldn't reach him. Great to work CU2KG for my only EU. Got RT0C and RU0LAX right at the sunrise peak. Also got HL5IVL. Had to wait till early morning hours to work most Caribbean and South American stations. I could hear them, but they couldn't hear me. 600 watts to inverted-L with 7 quarter-wave radials.

N7XY: Very high local noise level on 20 meters kept number of QSOs down (same thing occurred during CQWW).

K7EG: Minimal effort. Antenna / Tower work party was here all day Saturday. Only contest time was Friday PM and Sunday part time.

N7RVD: Conditions were surprisingly good. I used this contest to test a 100 watt amp. It failed the test. RF kept getting in and turning the amp off, usually right in the middle of a pile up. Back to the soldering iron. Thanks for the Qs everybody.

K7HBN: Best indications it would be a good contest were dropping A and K indices and no "grow" noise from a local indoor enterprise. I could actually copy weak signals on 10 and 15 without the S9+ noise generated by the neighbor's "indoor agricultural activity." Thank you

FCC. Very smooth operation of my "new to me" TS-590SG with TR4W software. Enjoyed it and thanks for all the Qs.

K7RI: Wish the bands had been better but everyone else in the Pacific Northwest had the same conditions as us. Saw a lot of spotted stations we simply could not hear. Thanks to Dennis, Walt and Chuck. For all practical purposes, they did all the operating. And thanks to everyone who worked or tried to work us. One tower and one radio (no mult radio).

WDXC DXCC Ladder

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WDXC DXCC Ladder is now on the website. You can find it by clicking on "DXCC Ladder" on the homepage or by going to <http://www.wdxc.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.

DX Info Sources

John Owens, N7TK (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 and I'll include it in future issues.

Useful DX Sites

The Daily DX (www.dailydx.com) (subscription service but can't be beat for timely info)

The DX Zone (www.dxzone.com/catalog/)

Internet Ham Atlas (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)

DXing Info (www.dxing.info/dxpeditions)

Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin (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)

K3WWP QSL Routes (http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/dx_ss_qsling.html)

HamQTH Callbook (www.hamqth.com/)_

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

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

Announced DXpeditions

Here are the DXpeditions and dates I have in my calendar as of March 1, 2016 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Wake Island (K6W)	Postponed
Equatorial Guinea—3C7GIA	March 2016
North Korea (P5)	Postponed to “late Summer” 2016
Guinea—3XY1T	February 18-March 4, 2016
Palestine (E44Y)	Cancelled
Uganda (5X1XA)	March 4-16, 2016
Heard Island (VK0EK)	March 20-April 10, 2016
Juan de Nova--FT4JA	March 31-April 14, 2016
Cocos (Keeling)--VK9CK	March 15-26, 2016

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

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

March 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)

Current DX Node telnet addresses:

W7JD-1 - w7jd.ddns.net, PORT 9000

K7EK-1 - k7ek.ddns.net, PORT 9000

W7PKT- w7pkt.net, PORT 7300

Totem Trader

FOR SALE: Icom PW-1 amplifier. Excellent condition - performance & cosmetics (non-smoker etc). KW on 160M - 6M. Seamless operation with Icom radio - like having a KW radio. Operates semi-automatic with other radios. Currently own three amps. Time to cut the herd back. \$2,900. Jim, K7EG 253-939-6107.

FOR SALE: I have a nearly- new Steppir DB-18 for sale. Used once for a Special event and then taken down and stored. Has 3 elements on 20m-6m, 2 elements on 30/40m on a 19 ft boom. Includes optional boom and element truss kits. New SDA100 controller includes optional Transceiver Interface and Tuning Relay. New, this costs over \$3,800. My price used, but nearly-new condition, is \$2,200. It's on the ground and disassembled to 19 ft lengths for transport by pickup, roof rack, etc. Pick-up in Vashon, WA, or I can bring it to the Mike and Key swap meet in Puyallup, WA on March 5, or we can arrange to meet in Seattle/Tacoma/Olympia area. K6UFO Mark Aaker, (408)857-4329, k6ufo at arrl dot net

FOR SALE: Ameritron AL-80B Linear Amplifier, 160m - 10m. 1000 W on SSB, 800 W on 10m. Spare 3-500Z Tube. Wired for 240V. Good condition. Pickup in Edmonds, WA. \$650.

MFJ-4716 Six position antenna switch. Good for 160m - 10m, 1500 W. Good condition. \$45.

Icom IC-2300H 2m FM Mobile. Like New. \$120.

Contact: Neil, W7IU at 425-775-6140.

FOR SALE: Have a mint condition **Heathkit SB-221** that is fully modified and on-air checked that I want to sell locally. If interested, I can provide additional information if you contact me at 425-745-0577. John Owens, N7TK

TOTEM TABLOID
Western Washington DX Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 395
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.

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@lto.com

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

Material from the *Totem Tabloid* may be reproduced in whole or in part, in any form, provided credit is given to the *Totem Tabloid*, the author or source (if noted) and the WWDXC (except for author copyrighted works bearing the author's copyright notice).

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