

December 2017

NEXT MEETING IS DECEMBER 12



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No program this month but even better: election of officers and directors, presentation of club awards, a super raffle and unrestrained celebration of the holidays. Be there.

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@arri.net

The President Speaks

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

We enter this Holiday Season on another somber note...the loss of our friend and longtime club member Pat Shinnars, W7GTO. Pat had served in many positions in the club over the years, including President. He was always there to help and, as many of you will recall, ran our hospitality suite during the years the club hosted the NW DX Convention. I think Danny, K7SS put it well: "Pat was always there...with a big smile". Regardless of his health struggles over the last few years, he just kept coming. I'll miss him and his witty comments. Rest in Peace, Pat.

Losing friends and family hopefully makes us more appreciative of those that are still with us. I know I will be this season.

Welcome home from Mellish Reef Rob, N7QT and Brian, N9ADG! These guys and the rest of the VK9MA team worked their tails off under very challenging conditions. I know we all look forward to hearing them share about their experience. Thank you guys!

Next week, Tuesday, December 12, we will have our annual Christmas party at the 125th Street Bar and Grill. Just like in the last few years, we will have an upgraded prime rib dinner. Your price is still just \$20 and the club is picking up the rest of the tab. We will do a little club business with officer and board of director elections and club awards. Then we'll be holding a bigger raffle than normal. Make sure to bring some extra cash for raffle tickets! If you plan on having the buffet dinner you must RSVP to me by 5 p.m. this Saturday, December 9. Email your RSVP to me at: k7edx@arrl.net.

I always look forward to our Christmas party. The Holiday Season just wouldn't be complete without socializing with my ham radio friends. I look forward to seeing you next week!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Random Comments From the Editor

[If you have no interest in contesting, you can skip to the 4th paragraph]

When I was younger, I was very active in contests. At one point I fancied myself pretty good—not world class or even close, God knows, but still pretty good. Back in the 1980s, I was part of the team that finished 1st in the world multi-multi phone in the CQWW contest and by myself finished 8th in the world single op CW and 10th in the world single op

phone. But non-radio events transpired that got in the way of serious contesting, and the inevitable aging process and more than a decade of inactivity left me firmly in the dust. It is truly incredible to see how things have changed.

This was forcefully brought home to me when I took a look at the effort by Dan Craig, N6MJ, in the recent CQWW CW contest. Dan was operating from the Caymans, signing ZF2MJ. He was using a technique that goes by several names but is a big step up from single op, two radio operation. He essentially has two pileups going at all times on two different bands, with some means of making sure that he never is transmitting more than one signal at any given moment. With split headphones, he works stations in both pileups at the same time—and he did this for 48 hours (i.e., no off time). Using this technique, Dan’s QSO rate for the first three hours of the contest was **306, 313 and 310**. Remember that this is CW—he’s making over 5 QSOs each minute for three hours in a row! The rate naturally declined as the contest wore on but he ended the contest with over 9,000 QSOs. If you want to see the full details, go to www.3830scores.com, click on “CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW”, scroll down to “SOAB HP” and then click on “ZF2MJ (N6MJ)”

Based on the claimed scores, Dan finished 3rd, beaten by his WRTC 2014 first place teammate Chris, KL9A at TI7W with over 10,000 QSOS and CT1BOH in first place. If you want to see Dan in action during the contest, go to <https://dxnews.com/video-zf2mj-n6mj-cqwwdxcw2016/> and watch the video. Maybe I’ll take up EME or something.

Are there any IRC collectors out there? I don’t mean someone who “collects” IRCs just long enough to send them off with a QSL request but instead someone who collects them for a collection, like coins or stamps. If you do, you might be interested in this: I was looking through my 1950s QSL cards the other day and found between two cards an old IRC. It’s stamped “Dec 24 1959” at the Bellevue, Wash. Post Office and cost 13 cents. I have no recollection of buying IRCs back when I was a Novice and we had just moved to Washington—but I must have done so because we lived in Bellevue back then. In any event, if you are a collector and would like to have it, send me an email and I’ll bring it to the meeting or send it in the mail. If there’s more than one request, it will go to the email with the earliest date/time.

Life is fleeting and unfortunately we get reminders from time to time. It’s currently Tuesday morning, about 4:30 a.m. I am listening for Ken, K4ZW, who is signing XW4ZW and is right now on 160 trying to work North America. Watching the posts on the ON4KST chat room, I see that Rino, IK7JTF, has posted a brief note that John, 9M6XRO had become a Silent Key. I ask for his source and it turns out to be Facebook. Going there, I find a photo of John at his station and nothing more than “SK, RIP.” I’m sure there will be more news as the day goes by. Having worked John many times in contests and otherwise, I finally met him when I was invited by Jacky, ZL3CW, to join the DXpedition to American Samoa and Samoa for the 2013 CQWW CW. John, as many of you know, is a superb CW operator. As I was to learn during the two weeks we lived and operated together, he was the nicest person

I think I've ever met. He was first GM300K starting in 1960 but has lived in Borneo for many years. He told me uncomplainingly about the difficulty of putting up good antennas in his apartment QTH. If you ever worked him from home, you know he succeeded, as he always had a superb signal and operated much like his personality: efficient but friendly and somehow always remembered you from past QSOs. He was often out on the DXpedition trail and during our off time in Samoa he regaled me with stories about operating from Spratly. I'm sad to learn of his passing but happy and honored that our lives intersected, albeit briefly. R.I.P., John.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all. I hope the New Year brings you whatever you wish for.

How to Work Bouvet

From the West Coast DX Bulletin

As mentioned in a prior Tabloid, the West Coast DX Bulletin is now available on the website of the Northern California DX Club. See <http://ncdxc.org/pages/wcdxb.html> For anyone who may be unfamiliar with this publication, Hugh "Cass" Cassidy, WA6AUD (SK) published the WCDXB from 1968 to 1979. Each issue contained DX news about currently active stations, rumors of upcoming DXpeditions and other subjects broadly related to DX. As time rolled by, Cass introduced various characters such as "The Old Timer," "The QRPer," "Red Eyed Louie" and his cousin "Sun Spot Louie" and my favorite "The Palos Verdes Sun Dancers." In the days before spotting clusters, when we used "one-ringers" and 2 meter repeaters, the arrival of each issue of the WCDXB was eagerly anticipated.

With Bouvet set to come on the air at the end of next month, the Editor thought it was timely to reproduce Cass's advice on how to work this rarest of countries:

It was raining last week and one of the local QRPers was up the hill and in out of the rain. This one came with the indescribable look of fulfillment. "Bet you worked Bouvet," we ventured and the QRPer smiled. We expected more, but all we got was the enigmatic smile. Finally we had to ask questions. "Oh, it was not hard," the QRPer expounded grandly and somewhat in contradiction to what others were saying, "all you really need is a plan. That does the trick." This was telling nothing and we were getting a bit anxious.

"But what did you do?" we demanded, "use that group plan where the bunch would spread out one kilocycle apart from two-ninety to three-ten and call simultaneously until someone caught the Bouvet station, then throw in the list and everyone would coast home easily? Is that what you did?"

The QRPer laughed, a bit condescendingly we were thinking and a bit irritating we were sure. But then again, how does one treat a station that has worked Bouvet? And with low power to boot? We had to know more. But there was the QRPer, all nonchalance, carefully flicking a bit of dust off his knee. “Oh, that was not it at all,” he said, “not that at all.” We had to bring in another supply of patience, finally lapsing into a silence that we knew the QRPer could not endure, he wanting to enjoy the luxury of the moment. Finally, he got to the point. “Actually it only took two of us,” he explained. “Only two. One went up above three hundred, acknowledged the 3Y5DQ, gave a signal report and asked for his in return. With the instant QRM on the frequency, he kept saying he could only get part of it and kept asking for a fill. Naturally, within a matter of seconds everyone just about was on the frequency, calling and yelling and hollering and things like that, all of it non-stop. The normal setup that came every time the Bouvet station came back. You know how it is.” Of course we did, any DXer that was awake in recent weeks knows how it is.

“But how did you get to work Bouvet?” we demanded and again the QRPer was all smiles. “Well,” he continued, “while everyone was up above three hundred trying to tail-end or something like that, the other one of us would drop below ninety-five and call. With our low power, no one would pay any attention to us, not while things were being torn apart up the band. Of course they could not hear anything, neither could Bouvet. We figured he’d come looking for something he could read. And we were right. It was easy.”

There was something in this that did not seem right and we were not going to let things go unnoticed. “Do you think it fair to give those signal reports and Bouvet not being on frequency?” The QRPer shook his head. “Certainly not,” he said earnestly, “and we are not going to do it again. That’s for sure.” We gave up at this point for there are a lot of things about Bouvet that makes one wonder and especially how the Island station can hear anything with everyone on the same frequency non-stop.

We will have to consider this DX “bait and switch” routine before giving a measured judgment. DX is for the strong and belligerent....isn’t it? And as many true blue DXers often say, “Operating ability and DX techniques are directly proportional to the height of your tower and the excess of your power.”

A Spectacular Aerial View of Bouvet

You really must see this. The Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition of 2017 did a six minute helicopter tour around Bouvet. While it was a cloudy day, you get a clean view of the island. As I watched this, I couldn’t help wondering who or what will be used to pack down the snow/ice to permit helicopter landings and the erection of shelters, antennas, etc.

See it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=zirAkuCK8Jw Once you've watched the video, ponder the idea of living there for three weeks, after 10-12 days on a boat to get there, and paying tens of thousands of dollars for the privilege. The DX community really owes the 20 DXpedition operators big time. Make your thanks known by going to <http://www.bouvetdx.org/> and making a contribution.

Pat Shinnners W7GTO Silent Key

As noted elsewhere, club member Pat Shinnners, W7GTO, became a Silent Key late last month. For those like me who missed out knowing him, here are some remembrances posted on the reflector by long-time members who knew Pat.

Rod, W7OM: "We have lost another of our long term lunch attendees, Pat W7GTO. He attended almost all the lunches since we started with Ed Lutz K7DZ, also a SK in 1993. Pat was so reliable that no one wanted to order lunch until he arrived. He will be sorely missed for his humor and contribution. Now Pat will be having lunch with Bob Preston W7TSQ and Bob Hudson K7LAY both Silent Keys from earlier this year. RIP PAT!"

Mike, N7WA: "I first remember Pat Shiners (W7GTO) from his days as an active member of the Mike & Key ARC, though when I first met him he was W7VIH. (He requested the GTO call when his father became Silent Key.) While Pat chose to leave the M&K quite a number of years ago, I would see Pat when I attended WWDXC meetings and at the Flea Market. He was always a pleasant friend. I'll miss him."

Another Year-Long Test

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

Speculation has been rampant about whether the ARRL could come up with another successful event like NPOTA. I know several WWDXC members made an effort to go out and put some rare National Park properties on the air. Well, get prepared for the International Grid Square Chase (IGSC?). You'll find the initial details at <http://www.arrl.org/news/announcing-the-arrl-international-grid-chase> .

It's important to note that you don't have to exchange grid squares so regular test operation will not be affected. The ARRL is relying on Logbook of the World to make those connections. That could be good or bad. If you are operating from home, no problem, your grid square is what you say it is on LOTW. If you are running mobile or putting grid squares on the air, you'll have to indicate those contacts that are a different grid square somehow. I

find it a pain already when I go out mobile for 7QP or Salmon Run. I have to break up my log by counties. Will I have to do that with counties AND grid squares? [Editor's question: can't you use the date brackets on LOTW to link your call with a non-home QTH grid square?]

I'll be watching how this event progresses - some of those eastern Washington grid squares have no native Ham population. If interest is low, then I expect there will be no impact. If it becomes popular, I hope the ARRL has a process in place to make it easier or possibly I have to modify my logs by hand to provide grid square info. Just something to think about I guess.

Complete details are in the December QST at page 92.

The 2017 Salmon Run Wrapup—Part 2

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

Kirk, N7UK, has provided the following list of the plaque winners from the 2017 Salmon Run:

Out of WA High Power, Mixed Mode, sponsored by Kip, W6SZN: **WA6KHK**

Out of WA low power, sponsored by Kirk, N7UK: **WN6K**

Top DX score, sponsored by Adam, K7EDX: **JA1YNE (JR1KKN Op)**

WA Single-Operator, sponsored by Dennis, K7DSE: **W7ZZ**

WA Expedition Single-Operator, sponsored by Walt, K7ZQ: **WS7L**

EWA Single-Op Low Power Mixed Mode, sponsored by the Spokane DX Association: **K7GS**

Congratulations to all! And if you feel like sponsoring a plaque for next year, come up with a category that's not already taken (that should be easy) and contact Kirk, N7UK.

Contest Activity Report—December 2017

Mike “Dink” Dinkelman, N7WA

This was a busy month...

ARRL Sweeps CW

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score
Multi-Op HP				
K7RI	968	80	23	154,880
Single Op HP				
WC7Q	611	78	10.75	95,316
Single Op LP				
N7WA	764	77		117,656
K7WA (@W6SZN)	732	79	23	115,656
K7SS	318	76	7.5	48,336
W7VXS	208	67	8	27,872
KX7L	217	62	8	26,908
Single Op QRP				
K7HBN	216	70		30,240
NN7SS (K6UFO)	68	33	1	4,488
SO Unlimited HP				
K7RL	850	81	12	137,700

ARRL Sweeps CW Soapbox

KX7L: Obligations on Sunday meant this was a Saturday-only SS for me. Pleased to find 15m open in the afternoon, although still fairly long. 20m was more productive, but gave out fairly early. 40m was pretty noisy early on, and QSOs were a struggle. 80m was much better as the night went on. Decided to try a different approach to low power this time - left the HR50 off, and drove the SB-200 direct with the KX3 for 100-130W out. Every dB counts! Thanks for all the QSOs!

NN7SS (K6UFO): Only on for the next-to-last hour. Nice to be wanted as fresh meat. I had problems with my keying, but will fix later...

K7RL: This is my entry for the non-existent "12 hour leisurely contester" category. Get a contest fix and have a weekend too. I like it. Conditions were good and participation was solid. This contest always brings out the best ops. Fun to be a part of it.

Missed VI and PR for the official sweep. Looks like some found all 83 mults. Nice job. Got WTX and AB towards the end for my personal sweep. Had some hardware issues that prevented a SO2R effort. Hope to have it fixed by CQ WW CW. Thanks to all for the Qs!

K7WA (@W6SZN): Was glad to see so many VE3 stations and missed the KP4s and KP2s - there are more important things than ham radio contests! First full-time effort in several years and enjoyed the activity. Thanks for all the contacts! Many thanks to Kip, W6SZN, for allowing me to enjoy his excellent station!

WC7Q: Power failure during the Saturday snowstorm during which the power came back on. Knocked out N1MM as well but the reflector group got me back on line after 3 hours. Conditions tough to maintain any kind of run throughout the time I was on. Lots of search and pounce.

K7RI: Thanks to everyone who worked us.

ARRL Sweeps SSB

Call	QSOs	Sections	Op Time	Score
Single Op HP				
W7WA	2032	83		337,312
K7RI	1200	82	18	196,800
N7RVD	405	78	12:46	63,180
Single Op QRP				
NN7SS (K6UFO)	42	29	2	2,436
SO Unlimited HP				
K7SS	451	81	8	73,062
K7IDX	204	78	12	31,824

SO Unlimited LP

KB7HDX	285	75	12	42,750
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ARRL Sweeps SSB Soapbox

NN7SS (K6UFO): Got on briefly on Sunday around 22z. Once I remembered to unplug the AFSK/FT8 cable and plug in the Mic it started working. 15m was fading fast, but a few loud signals could hear me. 40m was a noisy mess and hard to be heard from the sunlit west coast, so I waded into 20m, turned on the Attenuator, and worked the loud, begging Sunday afternoon CQ machines :) Not too bad, I could enjoy it for an hour.

K7SS: Great running into old friends, in a fun casual SS weekend... and at the same time stopping to chat w/ check "17"s..... newly-licensed folks. Congratulations to them. Had one fellow send me something other than the standard "Please Copy..." with "Please Log..." Nice. Fun as always.

K7IDX: Goal was to work all the states and provinces (which we did). Late Sunday we filled in the sections....missing SFL, WPA, ONE, GTA, and KP4 however heard them all. Many CQ artists and very loud signals.

W7WA: Struggled out of the gate due to the heavy QRM and difficult propagation. Things went smoother on Sunday.

CQWW CW

Call	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score
SOAB HP					
N7ZG	1514	119	260	46	1,522,384
SOAB (A) HP					
K7ZA	311	82	179		220,806
W7VXS	296	60	102	13:51	127,656
K7SS	242	68	105	8:45	111,931
K7DSE	222	25	53	6	50,154
KT7G	127	32	66		34,594
SOAB (A) LP					
W7OM	445	81	161		291,852
KK7PW	71	44	58		18,564

SOAB Classic HP

K7RL	1703	100	242	24	1,623,132
N7RVD	400	58	110		187,992
K7EG	113	32	53	8	26,690
KX7L	115	29	40	6	22,770
K7BTW	174	39	56		46,360

SOAB Classic QRP

K7HBN	180	44	72	17	56,956
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SOSB (A)/20 HP

N6KW (@K7RI)	731	33	103	31	264,792
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SOSB (A)/20 LP

K7IDX	37	28	28		5,544
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SOSB/160 HP

K7CW	67	11	21	11	4,128
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SOSB/20 HP

N5CR	969	34	92	23	336,798
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SOSB/20 LP

KD7H	179	24	49		36,719
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SOSB/20Classic LP

K7WA	130	22	31		19,451
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SOSB/40 HP

W7WA	1160	34	118		504,032
N7WA	736	27	84		222,888

CQWW CW Soapbox

K7CW: Still need to work on improving lossy radial system, but managed to work CN2AA. Their op had good ears. Heard JT5DX on my un-terminated BOG. Wow. Didn't stay up all night both nights, but I don't think I missed many JAs. Didn't work BY, but heard BI4WXD CQing with no results long after sunrise. He didn't hear me. Frustrating.

K7EG: 160M was dead. 20M and 40M had some excellent brief openings.

K7HBN: Not the best conditions, but enjoyed my new SunSDR2qrp 5watt DDC/DUC rig from Expert Electronics.

K7IDX: part time... mostly Sunday....heard no Z 30... was a minnow among BIG sharks lots of tuning around for zones....couldn't raise LZ9W for 20.

KD7H: I lost my wire and vertical antennas in a recent storm so in order to get back on the air, I set up my Buddipole in the front yard as a 20 meter ground plane with one elevated, resonant radial. Band changing would have meant changing the coil taps and radial length so I decided to remain on 20 meters. My rig is an IC-756PROII. Thanks to all the DX with great ears!

KX7L: Circumstances kept BIC time even less than usual. And S9 power line noise on Saturday night didn't help either. Still, had some fun, glad to see 15 open.

K7RL: First time entering the Classic category. Even though operating is limited to a 24 hour period, it's still a weekend long event. That said, it is nice to cherry pick the best operating times! Conditions overall were pretty good. 40m was better the second night with a nice opening to JA and EU well after 19Z. 80m was excellent into JA.

15m was perhaps the biggest disappointment. The short daylight hours, coupled with low sunspots, really hurt working into EU and JA. 10m opened Sunday morning into zones 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Nice to get those mults.

It's a bummer waiting for ops to sign when you're unassisted and using one radio. I suppose it's fair to ask if not signing really helps rate or pile-up management? N6MJ and others have recorded amazing records while signing after every call. Just sayin'. The debate goes on. Thanks to all for the Qs and another fun CQ WW contest!

K7ZA: Well, look who finally got back into contesting after a few years away. I decided to see how many mults I could get rather than CQing. Operated between football and normal old person chores but enough to get a back ache from sitting.

K7SS: Started out LP, but after awhile it was much more fun HP. Part time effort. EU was sparse, JA plentiful, and thanks to all the expeditions to the CA/SA/Carib that became the bulk of the action for many. Phenomenal scores, especially from TI7W and ZF2MJ... a great horse race...congratulations! The single op bar has been raised once again.

N6KW (@K7RI): I operated this contest at K7RI. Thanks to Tom for hosting me at his remarkable station.

N5CR: Low flux, but A&K indexes were also low, which made for a good weekend. Enjoyed the contest!

N7ZG: I've been monitoring solar index predictions so I knew it was going to be good especially for the low bands. Openings to EU not as strong on 20M as SSB and the opening windows very short as to be expected with no sunspots. Running on SSB was better due to stronger signals (SSN about 20 then) and more daylight but the QRM was horrendous on phone. Spent too much time on 40M on Sat morning chasing LP EU and unsuccessfully trying to work A44A. Spend more time on Sunday but was trying to stay awake to copy CW. EU ops were not nearly as patient as JA when I was running or maybe the window was just too short.

Very strong openings on 40 to EU and JA. Not sure what my JA totals are but they should be tremendous on 15 through 80, especially 40. 40 was actually somewhat runnable to EU on Sat night as now I have a 2 over 2 with the lower antenna on EU while running JA (still working through stack match switching issues).

80M was really interesting. Geomagnetically things were a bit more active than forecasts led me to believe. I worked my normal CA mults on Friday evenings. Also easily worked zones 12 and 13 as well as zone 28 even with longer daylight in the southern hemisphere. On Sat. 80M was super quiet and I started hearing EU very loud at about 7 pm. Especially zone 33. But was really surprising that I was able to hear zones 15, 16 and even 20! Managed to work YT9A easily for a new country. He must have a much lower noise floor than the rest of EU. Everyone seemed so loud to me (even though only S3 at best). Having said that it was a record year for me on EU as well as Asia with almost 200 Qs without really trying. Of note, I worked HS0ZAR and HS0ZIA on 80 at 8 am almost 1 hour after sunrise and in full daylight! Zone 26 is really hard on 80. Solid openings still on 15 to JA. Many thanks to all JA ops.

Found out about the new spectrum bandmap in N1MM+ last minute and thought I needed to get with the newer technology program. The N1MM team has done an awesome job and I really need to pony up a donation. The spectrum display is fairly stable but I'm wondering if Microsoft Windows 10 updates are causing problems with my COM ports. Steve N2IC has contributed a nice bridge to LP-Pan that is very straightforward to set up. Overall this technology could be a boon to spotting 10M activity during contests with the absence of sunspots.

This was my first "balls to the wall" 48 hour effort and was a record year. Still need to work on operating skills.

W7WA: At my QTH band conditions seemed about average, much improved from the SSB weekend. I think 40 could use more sunspots to keep the polar path open longer into the night.

N7WA: It was my best SB/40 effort (but not by much, I did 213,248 in 2015). Still, I was disappointed but more because I wasn't prepared for this test. I did not get my proper sleep Friday and certainly not Saturday. It just left me groggy and frequently "Sleep CQing." I had to take several breaks Saturday night to get some sleep.

Conditions seemed better than last year to Europe. Europe seemed to show up as workable around 2200 each day but I never seem to get past the tier 1 stations. (Maybe you don't get past tier 1 on 40M from the Pac NW?) Long Path in Europe in the morning seemed OK Saturday morning but I ended up sleeping through Sunday morning. Never heard any Middle East short or long path. Nothing heard from continental Africa except for Ghana late Sunday.

Lots of Caribbean on. Continental South America is disappointing and that seems par for the course.

The conditions to the west seemed OK Friday night but Saturday night conditions didn't seem as good. I was getting a lot of static crashes (sounded like lightning in the distance) and I did have a Saturday night period where the whole noise floor came up about 10db (It's pretty evident on the waterfall) before finally going back down to normal after 30 minutes. I know a weather system was incoming so maybe it was related.

K7BTW: Decided to use this contest to see if my new top band T antenna works. Worked 5 new ones on 160, so I guess it does. Only 62 more needed for top band DXCC.

Membership Update—December 2017

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

This month we lost long-time WWDXC member Pat Shinnars, W7GTO. Pat was active in many Seattle area amateur radio activities including the annual Communications Academy and in support of communications for Seafair. He was a Board member of the WWDXC for many years and a regular at club meetings and other events. He will be missed.

Renewal notices will be mailed out to Active Members with December 2017 renewal dates, along with those who did not renew in June 2017 or December 2016. Annual dues are

\$25 and can be mailed to WWDXC, PO Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040 or paid by PayPal on the Club website. If you do not receive a notice you are paid-up at least through June 2018.

Happy Holidays to everyone, and may the DX Force be with you!

December 2017 Contest Calendar

Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, has a website that is truly a one-stop place for all things related to contesting. The link is www.contestcalendar.com or 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:

W7PKT- w7pkt.net, PORT 7300

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

WWDXC DXCC Ladder

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WWDXC DXCC Ladder is maintained 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.

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 December 5 2017 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Galapagos (HC8LU) November 29-December 7, 2017

Laos (XW4ZW) (low bands) December 3-8, 2017

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)

Totem Trader

FOR SALE: Exceptional Drake Classic Station Collection for Sale-- Exclusive opportunity to buy amateur radio icons. The Drake C Line and TR4CW harken back to the days of Amateur Electronic Supply's Ray Grenier, K9KHW, advertising the full Drake line. Collectors and enthusiasts now have a limited opportunity to acquire an exceptional collection of these beautifully preserved classic radios from the W7VJ collection. Owned for more than ten years. Little used and fully functional.

Drake "C Line":

- R4C receiver with filters
- T4XC receiver
- MS-4 Speaker
- Atlas Radio DD8-2 Digital Frequency Display
- All Cables

TR4CW with RIT:

- Rare TR4CW transceiver with receive incremental tuning (RIT)

RV4-C External VFO for TR4CW:

- Allows for split operation with TR4CW
- Independent frequency control from both units

L4B Amplifier:

- 1KW output

C-4 Station Console

- Rare station console powers two stations
- Single mic and key input for use in two stations
- Power meter
- Digital clock added with original analog clock spare
- Rotor control
- Original power receptacles 7 x 110 v, 1x 220v

Shure high impedance microphone

Sold as two separate stations or as package deal. Serious inquiries only, detailed pictures upon request. Contact Andrew, W7VJ at w7vj@arrl.net

FOR SALE: MFJ-927 200 watt remote antenna tuner. Works great. \$150

MFJ-434 deluxe voice keyer, \$100

Hustler 4BTV Vertical Antenna \$90

Time Wave DSP-9+ audio filter \$90

Contact Larry, K7EKD at k7ekd@frontier.com, 425-712-0235

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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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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