



WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB, INC.

# TotemTabloid

February 2017

**NEXT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 14**



This is the Expert Electronics ColibriDDC SDR receiver. Come to the meeting and see Yuri, N3QQ, explain and demonstrate the operation of the remote SDR receiver synchronized with the VFO of your analog radio and N1MM+/CW skimmer integration.

**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

We just had a beautiful week of nice sunny weather. As I write this, I am looking out the window at about 4" of snow with more still coming down. What a change in just a few days. It may be inconvenient but it's still gorgeous.

I couldn't help but have a big smile on my face after reading Bengt-Eric, K7ADD's posts on our Club Yahoo Group this past weekend. Through the efforts started by Rob, N7QT and Bob, N7XY, Bengt-Eric was able to get "Papa Pia" E51PT back on the air from Manihiki in the North Cook Islands. I look forward to hearing K7ADD's stories about his trip. Thanks to another one of our club members, Vlad UA6JD/W7, you can see a few pictures of "Papa Pia" on QRZ.com. I find positive news like this refreshing, especially given our current social climate. I hope you do, too.

Congratulations to Ward Silver, NØAX for being named the 2016 recipient of the Bill Orr Technical Writing Award. Ward was instrumental in my joining the club. The same charisma and hospitality that pulled me into this club pulls us readers into his articles. His ability to explain the technical in layman's terms is a unique gift. He has enriched this club and the Amateur Radio Community. Thank you for all you do, Ward!

Have a great month and I hope to see many of you next week at the club meeting.

## **Random Comments From the Editor**

I hate to beat a dead horse but band conditions are really bad. Having lived here now for over three years, I'm used to seeing spots on the cluster and being unable to hear either the station spotted or the pileup. But now I'm seeing spots from friends in California claiming that some station is booming in—and I can't hear a thing. It happened last evening with the TL8TT DXpedition on 40 CW. The big controversy on the Northern California Contest Club reflector is whether current conditions are the worst ever. These complaints, however, seem to take on a different perspective when you consider a ham who has been on the air for 7 sunspot cycles (see the article immediately below). Things will get better.

In the meantime, activity on 160 has been really good. The CQWW 160 contest saw many U.S. stations with over 1,000 QSOs (with a 30 hour limit) and it was nearly impossible to find a slot to call CQ (just crank the filters down until you no longer hear your neighbor). John Miller, K6MM, described a simple 160 antenna in QST eight years ago that he called the “No Excuses 160 Meter Vertical.” It is ideal for those who are property-constrained and use that as an excuse for not getting on 160. If you’re interested, you can find John’s article in the June 2009 issue of QST and he has an updated version on his website at <https://k6mm.com/antennas/160M-QST.pdf> A different but equally simple 160 antenna called “The Lazy Sloper” is described at <https://dxnews.com/ua9ba-160m/>

Speaking of 160, at a club meeting a few months back a program was shown about the Waller Flag receive antenna. If you missed the meeting, or had trouble understanding the speaker’s accent, you can watch the webinar on the same subject on Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. PST. The topics to be covered include all aspects of the Waller Flag. If interested, you need to register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7735767269616129539>

For those of us who always fantasized about being a spy, a number of CIA reports about amateur radio in the former Soviet Union have recently been declassified and made available for perusal online. There are assessments of amateur radio clubs, including DOSAAF, training, monitoring sputniks, technology and equipment and even QSL cards. I read a few and the spy business is not as glamorous as the movies make it seem. If you’re interested, go to <https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/search/site/amateur%20ham%20radio>

Any one need Prince Edward and Marion Islands? Paul, N6PSE, posted the following on the Northern California DX Club reflector recently: “For those of you who need Marion Island, David- ZS8Z has been active the past two days at sunrise and sunset on 40 meters SSB. Yesterday morning [Feb 4], at 1630 UTC he was working West Coast stations via the Long Path. Last night at 0400 UTC he was QRV on 40 meters short path. QSL via ZS1LS.” Unfortunately the operator does not do CW.

## 80 Years in Ham Radio

[Editor's Note: I monitor the Topband Reflector and the post below showed up one day recently. I thought it was something that should be shared with and celebrated by hams all around the world so I'm re-printing it here. The ARRL published an abbreviated version of excerpts from the original email but, like many things, the original is the best.]

“Made it! 19 January 2017 is the 80th anniversary of my first ham license, Class C operating privileges with W5GGV as my call. Was 14 years old at the time. A little over a year later I upgraded to Class A. Many years later the Extra Class (with no added privileges) came along. Upgraded. Some years later the FCC announced that hams with an Extra Class license who had been licensed 25 years could apply for a two -letter call, no place on the application to request of a specific call. Was assigned W5DM.

First rig made from junked Atwater Kent radio parts. First antenna was a wire going out a hole in the window screen to a tree. First DX was VK2SS on 40 m CW, September 1937. (An aside. There were no phone privileges on 40 m for USA hams). The VK2SS QSL card is hung on my wall. My card to him was written on a postcard (Great Depression=no money to buy QSL cards).

Been fairly active over the years, except, of course, for WW II. If interested in WW II, you can do a web search on DD 792 for a small part of my history.

The first 20 or 30 years I built my transmitters (all low powered) and receivers. Operated CW only until SSB came along. Then I built a low powered phasing rig. A BC-348H receiver was made dual conversion using 85 kcs (kcs then= kHz now) IF transformers from a BC 453 receiver. Had a blast working the world with a homebuilt "cubical quad" on 20 meters. Since then mostly CW.

I may have made one small contribution to ham radio. In the April 1958 issue of QST, in Technical Correspondence there was a letter from me that, I think, was the first mention in a ham publication that the formula for determining the length of a "cubical quad" antenna was not correct. Since my measurements were made using a BC 348, a grid dip oscillator, and a 100 kcs crystal oscillator. I don't know whether I was just lucky to get as close as I did or did a fairly good job with what I had.

In the early 1990s started out to get 160 m WAS from a 120 x 120 foot electrically noisy city lot (SE NM) with a long ( ~3/8 wavelength) but low semi-inverted L antenna. Ground radials of varying length in one 90 degree segment. Made 160 m WAS. Then started chasing DX. Now have 189 countries confirmed on 160 m, 324 on all bands.

Age, not surprisingly, has taken its toll. CW now down to 20-25 wpm-at one time it was 35-40 wpm. Finger dexterity way down-has taken me over 3 hours to type this email. Physical realities remain physical realities--I am now a disabled, crippled old man. But---

No complaints-many people are worse off than I am.

Thanks to all who have had the knowledge and the kindness to help me over the years.

73 Paul W5DM”

## **Puyallup Fleamarket--March 11**

Mike “Dink” Dinkelman, N7WA

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Puyallup Fleamarket coming up on March 11th. This event kicks off the Hamfest season for most of the Pacific Northwest (unless you want to travel to Rickreall, OR in mid-February). This is an ARRL-sanctioned event and the WWDXC will have a table too. This is a chance to see old friends and maybe make a few new ones. You never know, you might find a piece of gear you really want or you could sell something at the Country Store. (If you want a table, you'd better be quick- there are only about 20 left.)

If you want to get in early and are willing to work, I do have positions open for workers on Friday and Saturday. That worker badge allows you to get in all day, both days, and have access to our worker hospitality room (yes, food and drink) and workers can sell commission-free at the Country Store. All we ask is that you put in at least four hours over the course of the event. We have a wide variety of positions, some physical, most not. It can be a lot of fun. If interested, please email me at [n7wa@arrl.net](mailto:n7wa@arrl.net) (Of course, we'll be happy to take your \$9 at the gate too.) Hope to see you there.

## **2017 Pacific Northwest DX Convention**

This year's PNWDXC will be hosted by the Spokane DX Association and the Idaho DX Association. The dates are August 4-6, 2017. For those who attended the last convention in Spokane, the location has changed and it's now to be held downtown at the Red Lion Spokane at the Park. This is the third time the convention has been sponsored by the Eastern Washington group.

The website is at <http://pacificnwdxconvention.com/> I know it's still a few months away but you can now make hotel reservations and also register for the convention. There are lots of prizes already listed on the website, including the new IC-7300. I attended the convention the last time it was in Spokane and I had a great time—they do a fantastic job of organizing the convention.

## **February Membership Update**

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

It's not too soon to start planning for the 2017 Mike & Key Fleamarket in Puyallup. It's on March 11th this year and the doors open at 9:00 am. The Western Washington DX Club will have an Information Table on the second floor, so come by and say "hello" when you have a chance.

Renewal notices went out to those members with a December 2016 renewal date, and to those who did not renew in June 2016 or December 2015. Member dues support our Club activities and enable the WWDXC to contribute to major DXpeditions. If you haven't renewed yet, please consider sending in a check or renewing by PayPal on the WWDXC website.

The January 2017 edition of the WWDXC Roster is available by request from Jim K7WA (k7wa (at) arrl.net) Active Members are those who have paid dues in the past two years.

# February Contest Activity Report

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

I finally managed to fulfill my 2016 (continued into 2017) resolution. I got my FSK interface completed, then proceeded to embarrass myself by getting on for the RTTY Roundup. More on that below in the comments. I was also Jonzing for some NAQP action, not having done an individual effort in a while. That was a blast.

The next Northwest Trophy events are the ARRL DX Test, February 18 and March 4. The CW edition is always tough for me because it falls on the final planning for the Puyallup Fleamarket. I'll find a way to get on but probably as a single band effort. (Seems to me that the club used to sponsor an award for the ARRL DX CW. Is that still true?) The SSB edition will be the weekend before the fleamarket so you serious SSB ops will have a clear field to both events.

January (and some December) contesting efforts for WWDXC members:

## STEW PERRY

Call	QSOs	Op Time	Score
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### Single Op HP

N7QT	382	9.3	2,264
N5CR	235	8	1,501
K7CW	235	8.3	1,335
K7EG	31		147
W6SZN	10		63

### Single Op LP

K7SS	161	7	1,115
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### Single Op QRP

KX7L	46	3	435
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## **STEW PERRY Soapbox**

**K7EG:** Submitted Checklog - ran assisted. IC-7851 with amp; Alpha 9500. Inverted L. Two 200ft RBOGs for RX. Vy low noise here. No DX except for a few JAs. Shut down.

**KX7L:** These pre-Christmas Stews make it a little tougher to get BIC time in, but I still managed to beat my score from last year, even with less time. Conditions seemed better than during the ARRL 160 - lots of east coast stations heard, most of them merrily working the Europeans I couldn't hear. Thanks for digging my signal out!

**K7SS:** Good fun in the Stew ! A nice opening to the Northeast US and Maritimes. Worked the band til 0730z, and after tuning and not hearing anything new, called it a nite.... and got up for the sunrise opening. Amp is in the shop, so 100w effort here. The inverted L with 2 radials performed very well... and was able to strike a nice balance of being usually able to work what I can hear thru the city QRN.

A nice chance to say howdy to lots of great radio pals. Thanks to all for the good contest fun all through 2016 and here is to continued QSOs in the new year.  
73 de Danny K7SS

## **ARRL RTTY Roundup**

<b>Call</b>	<b>QSOs</b>	<b>State/Prov</b>	<b>Countries</b>	<b>Op Time</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>M/S HP</b>					
K7BTW	1355	55	50	23:50	142,275
<b>Single Op HP</b>					
N7QT	966	54	26	16.75	77,280

### Single Op LP

W7TSQ	169	38	11	7	8,281
N7WA	154	41	6		7,238

### SO Unlimited HP

W7VXS	748	52	18	14	52,360
WC7Q	547	53	25	10.5	42,666
N7BV	339	50	25	13:39	25,425

### ARRL RTTY Roundup Soapbox

**N7WA:** Just call me a RTTY noob [newbie?]. I think it was only my 3rd foray into RTTY and my second contest. It's been ten years, at least, since my last attempt. I got the FSK interface built for my K3 during the week and tested it out during the Friday night practice. Started playing Saturday afternoon, getting on here and there doing S&P. Finally got enough nerve to do a bit of running too. I even worked some DX. Hadn't even considered that possibility. Made many boo-boo's using the N1MM/MMTTY combination. Spent lots of time looking at on-line documentation each time I thought "there has to be an easier way to...". Sorry to those I confused. Cheers dink

**K7BTW:** Not a lot of DX, but conditions seemed better than last year. While down from peak sun spot years, our score was up 25% over 2016. It would have been slim pickings without all the stateside stations. Tnx to everybody who worked us.

**N7BV:** An enjoyable part-time operation.

## NAQP CW

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Team
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### Single Op LP

N7WA	839	149	10	125,011	Brass Pounding Salmon
N7BV	389	126	9:44	49,014	Brass Pounding Salmon
K7SS	361	124	4:50	44,764	
W9PL	338	131	9.5	44,278	Radio Club of Redmond
K5TRI	344	118	9.63	40,592	Brass Pounding Salmon

### Single Op QRP

NN7SS (K6UFO)	405	130	10	52,650	Brass Pounding Salmon
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## NAQP CW Soapbox

**NN7SS(K6UFO):** Crazy QRP outing. I operated remote from SF to WA, so only one radio, no panadapter, and when the local Netflix watchers start, the internet dropouts begin. I would also lose rig control, and the keying would go crazy - sorry if you had the crazy CW sent to you. Otherwise it went well-- nuttin ever heard on 10m, I marched up 15m through 160m with hourly rates from 60 gradually down to 30. Lots of fast, efficient ops, a couple alligators, and lots of noise on 80 and 160.

Remote operation from CA to WA

10, 15, 20m: Force12 C-31XR at 72 ft, 40m: Force 12 2 Element Yagi at 78 ft, 80m: 4-square array

160m: 4-square array, Elecraft K3 set to 5 watts, RemoteRig and K3/0-Mini control head, Writelog

**K5TRI:** Bands were in challenging condition. Lots of QSB which made for a lot of repeats. Slow start with an OK finish at the end on 80m. 15m was disappointing, 10m was a bust. Thanks for all the Qs and hope others had a better time. Well, there's always the next contest ;). On a positive note, I didn't break anything. No

equipment failures or other shenanigans. That's a good thing. Rig: TS-590sg Ant: TH3-JRS; 80m delta loop.

**N7BV:** Fun contest even though the bands seemed weak with lots of QSB. Nothing heard on 10m; 15m went out about an hour earlier than last weekend. Thanks for all the QSOs.

**N7WA:** I have missed this contest for various reasons over the past several years. This year, when buddy N7ZG said he was sick and we couldn't do a planned multi-op, I took that as a sign from above to go all-in with a single op. I even convinced a few locals to form a team (Brass Pounding Salmon).

I enjoy this test and this occurrence did not disappoint (well, 10M wasn't any good but then I didn't expect it to be). Fifteen started out with a bang and my first hour was just short of 100 Qs. That was to be the general range of each hour (above and below) until the last couple hours. I watched ten meters with a bandscope and even called a couple times on the second radio. Three local Qs were the result. I finally decided watching the bandscope was too distracting (I was mostly chasing artifacts from my own CQing on 15M) and shut it down.

When 15M slowed down, I knew there was a party already waiting on 20M and managed to find a space to squeeze in. What a blast and it was solid for several hours. When 20M slowed just a bit, I didn't want to be late for the party on 40M and found it, too, also in full force when I arrived. I had planned on a break about this time but decided at this point that I was going to run the full 10 hours straight through. That may have affected my 80/160M scores but when your rate is going gang-busters, that's what the fun is all about. Plus, 80M is my weakest antenna link in the station and it wasn't going to be pretty anyway.

Forty was strong for three hours but I knew I had to start doing some 80M. I ran out into the cold and switched the 80M antenna to the non-40M radio and looked for stations while running on 40M (though slowing). That helped and with 60 minutes I switched to 80M full time. The rate wasn't fast but I was surprised at the strong signals that heard me on my vertical across the country. Of course, there were no fast runs on 80M so I used my spare time to S&P on 40M and picked up a few more to finally get me past the 300Q mark (a personal goal).

I had allocated 15 minutes to 160M so I ran outside and adjusted the 80M to 160M. I messed up. For some reason, the KX3 (which just happened to end up as

the 160M radio) was at 5 watts and I didn't notice until I realized I had worked Montana at QRP levels (good ears to K7BG). <sigh> I did CQ at a full 100 watts for the remaining 10 minutes for a few more mults (though no WA).

This is a great test. One day, all bands, everybody at the same power and mults on each band. It's fun to work a Q on fifteen and be able to use that info later on 80M when it's tougher copy (I don't use history files). I apologize to the 150YUKON station. My brain just could not wrap around that call sign without multiple repeats even though he was FB copy. Nice to meet up again with locals and not-so-locals. Was amazed that some states did not show up on any band while DX was on most every band.

I can't figure out the SO2R approach for this test. Most of the time, the rate is too high (for me) to be looking elsewhere for Q's. Then my antenna switching isn't flexible enough to put any antenna on either radio. The antenna switching thing will be resolved when I get my 2x6 switch finished (half built on the bench). Lots of fun!

## NAQP SSB

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score
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### Single Op LP

W7ZZ	660	119	9	78,540
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Soapbox: "10 was dead as a stone. On 80, I had a noise level of S9, so quit after only 9 hours of operation. Great to work quite a few YLs this year!"

## February 2017 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

## **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](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 February 7, 2017 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Central African Republic (TL8TT)	February 1-14, 2017
Fernando de Noronha (PYØF/PP1CZ)	February 3-9, 2017
Guinea (3X)	February 5-26, 2017

Iran (EP2C)	February 8-10, 2017
Bhutan (A5A)	February 10-15, 2017
Macao (XX9D)	February 13-26, 2017
Austral Island (TX5T)	February 13-March 3, 2017
Pitcairn (VP6EU)	February 16-March 5, 2017

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)

## **Totem Trader**

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## **The Totem Tabloid**

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## **Advertising**

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## **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:

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## **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)