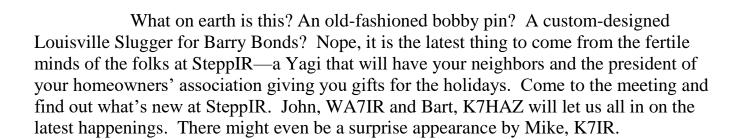


November 2017

NEXT MEETING IS NOVEMBER 14



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@arrl.net

The President Speaks

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

As many of you know by now, we lost our friend and fellow club member Frank Remington, K7GSE to cancer. As a long-time board member, he was always bringing us valuable information on the latest DXpeditions. Many of you have shared nice memories of Frank on the Yahoo Group. I fondly remember being on the radio during the day, in the economic downturn, and hearing K7GSE working one DX station after another. When I worked a new one, Frank was always right there to give me a nice "atta-boy"!

The memorial service for Frank is Tuesday, November 14th at 2:00pm. It will be held in the small chapel at:

Bethany Christian Assembly

2715 Everett Ave

Everett, WA 98201

VK9MA is on the air! Club members Rob, N7QT and Brian, N9ADG are members of the Mellish Reef DXpedition team. I worked Brian on 17m SSB on Sunday; he was doing great and was in good spirits. They are scheduled to be there until November 16. See their website www.vk9ma.com for more details. Let's support our home town guys!

Coming up quickly at our December meeting we have officer and director elections. There are a few director positions that will be open. Officers serve a one-year term and director positions are a three-year commitment. After 10 years as your president, I will not be running for this position. Instead I will be running for vice president (You can't get rid of me that easily). It's been an honor, but it's time to take a different role. This club cannot operate without these positions. It's guys like Frank, K7GSE, that unselfishly give their time to serve you. How about giving back yourself? Please contact me if you're interested in any role. We will be sure to plug you in.

As in years past, we will be having a Christmas party at the December meeting. Instead of a presentation will be having an upgraded dinner and raffle, elections and the annual club award presentations. Most importantly, we will spend the evening socializing with our radio friends to kick off the December Holiday Season.

In the meantime, you won't want to miss the November 14 club meeting! The RSVP time for the buffet dinner has changed again. I will need your RSVP by 5 p.m. Saturday, November 11.

That's it for this month. Go VK9MA!

Random Comments From the Editor

We are collectively the luckiest people on earth. We each won the birth lottery by being born in the U.S.A. or getting here somehow and each of us has someone in the past who got us interested in radio. Now we can sit down each day in front of the rig and enjoy the magic that is amateur radio. Not sure where that thought came from but it occurred to me as I sit here working on this issue and listening to VK9MA on 160 in the background. Somehow those things I was worrying about last night don't seem all that important this morning as the sun comes up.

OK, back to reality. As Adam noted, the Mellish guys are on the air and they seem to be everywhere with great signals. The "almost real time" confirmation of QSOs in ClubLog is pretty neat, but some logs are not making it into ClubLog. I'll be interested to see how many dupes they end up with, as they really shouldn't have any—but they will. They are also using the "see who you worked" feature of ClubLog—put the cursor over the green circle with the check mark and up pops a photo of the operator. I'm at two Robs and two SMs.

It was sad to see the passing of Carl, N4AA last month. If I recall correctly, Carl took over the DX Bulletin when Chod Harris, VP2ML, passed away unexpectedly. The publications were really a labor of love for Carl. I recall talking with him about them at Visalia and his face brightened when I asked him to describe how he got the bulletin and magazine out the door. I hope someone takes over his publications as they serve important functions even with the Daily DX around.

I continue to be amazed at YL2GM and YL3AIW, the two guys that have brought us 3C1L and 3CØL. It seems like they've been on forever. These two guys made over 32,000 QSOs from Annobon and are probably around 25,000 from Equatorial Guinea. Earlier I posted a note on the reflector asking for comments about this operation. The best comment, and winner of the grand prize, came from Dick, K7BTW:

"I have been amazed at the tremendous job these two guys have been doing with the 3C operation. For only 2 people to pull this off so well after all the many problems that they have been forced to endure is something that very few of us could do. And they have done it without much fanfare or requests for donations.

Their operating skills have been of the highest quality. They are fast and work the pileups well. Bandwidth usage is pretty much a function of the need for the entity.

Trying to cram huge pileups into narrow bandwidth would slow down the rate and result in fewer contacts.

Hats off to them for a great job."

I'm reasonably sure that they would welcome a donation, standing alone or with your QSL request. Their website is at http://www.lral.lv/3c0l_3c1l/

Frank Remington, K7GSE (SK)

As Adam noted above, we were all sad to learn that Frank Remington, K7GSE, became a Silent Key last month. Frank was a member of the WWDXC Board of Directors and was very active, especially on 17 meters. Frank had an extensive collection of telegraph keys that will be donated to the Spark Museum in Bellingham.

A 1974 issue of the Mike & Key newsletter said the following about Frank:

"K7GSE Frank Remington got started in amateur radio 13 years ago while in the Navy. He was born in Wenatchee and attended Hiline High School there. He served in the Navy from 1960 thru 1963 as a Radioman 2nd Class. His Navy duties took him to Japan and Hawaii....His station consists of a Swan 500 CX, Swan 250 and 2 meter FM gear. He monitors most all VHF and HF bands. He is active in the Air Force MARS program and an ARRL O.V.S. Just to fill whatever spare time he has, he is a part-time fireman [and] emergency medical technician with the King County Fire Department."

Frank was actually licensed earlier than the article says. I know this because I have a QSL card from Frank as KN7GSE for a February 1959 QSO in the 40 meter Novice band.

Services will be held on Tuesday, November 14th at 2 p.m. in the small Chapel at Bethany Christian Assembly, 2715 Everett Ave., Everett, WA 98201.

R.I.P. OM.

Split or Split?

John Zantek, KE7B

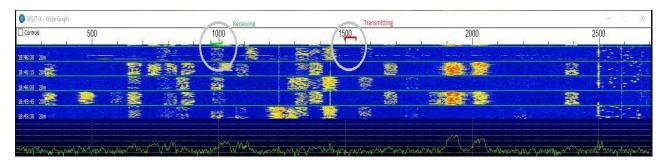
One of the more recent issues in a misunderstood ham radio parlance is SPLIT operation. Legacy DX operators have come to know it as the only sane means to operate DX, particularly when you're the DX station. It reduces the pileup of other stations

attempting to work the DX station by spreading out the number of callers over a slice of nearby frequencies while keeping the DX station's transmit frequency open. In the military, we called it half-duplex and it cut down on interference (QRM) dramatically. All good DXers are quite familiar with classic split operation.

As an FT8 operator, I'm also familiar with the advantages of operating SPLIT. However, this is where the definition may remain the same, but the methodology varies. What I mean when I say SPLIT and what the classic DXer means when he says SPLIT are thought of quite differently. The word and concept are the same, but the scale is hugely different because of the signal bandwidth.

For my example, let's use 20M. This morning, I was finally able to work the 3C1L guys on 20M CW on a huge split. I was listening to them on 14.029. I transmitted at 14.038, a full 9 kHz difference. The entire 10 kHz spectrum above their transmitter was filled with callers, scrambling to be copied. Let's call that a MACRO split, since I think most of our CW splits are usually in the 1 to 2 kHz range.

If that's a MACRO split, then FT8 operation should best be called a MICRO split. Why? Well, because your FT8 transmit and receive VFOs are *visibly the same*. Since FT8 only consumes 60 Hz, and since signals can actually overlap and still be decoded¹ at the other end, the split is subtle. Let's take a look at my FT8 waterfall (spectrum scope).



This is a slice of the 20M band from 14.0740 to 14.0767. When FT8 operators are on 20M, their VFO is set (and stays at) 14.074. Spots for FT8 20M operation are always the same, too: 14.074. That's where you tune.

However, let's assume the DX station is calling with his application's cursor set ~975 Hz. Remember, his VFO is still displaying 14.074. I will see his 14.2 second transmission stream in the left-hand circle above. What do you think it would be like if a few dozen FT8 operators responded 0.8 seconds later on exactly the same 14.074975 frequency? Well, some would decode and others would probably not. Being a smart FT8 operator, I set my transmit cursor on a 60 Hz open slice where I've not seen anyone working: 14.075500. Please note that I did NOT change my transmit VFO. The radio's still displaying 14.074....but I'm operating SPLIT! The difference? My WSJT-X 1.8 software application is making the

changes *internally* and keying the radio accordingly. There's also an option in the software to "fake it" and allow the tones to stay idealized and change the transmit VFO for my 14.2 second transmission by 500 Hz, 1kHz, or even 1.5 kHz if the MICRO split is wide enough, but it's not necessary.

¹Re: Decode. A huge difference in FT8 decoding capability occurred between its inception in July with WSJT-X 1.8 Release Candidate 1 (rc1) and late August with Release Candidate 2 (rc2). Unfortunately, when the workshop lecturers at the NWDX Convention and the ARRL leadership started preaching "the future is FT8", Release Candidate 2 hadn't been released. In September, more changes occurred with Release Candidate 3, and now the full version 1.8 has been posted for download. RC1 suffered from signal adjacency, e.g., the 60 Hz signal needed to be in the clear with no other signals overlapping; for some very, very weak signals (like that rare DX), it even needed a 10 to 20 Hz buffer around it. No more! Release Candidate's decoder allowed overlapping, even duplicating signals to be separately decoded up to -24 dB. Still, a pileup is a pileup and operating MICRO SPLIT is the smart way to operate.

The 2017 Salmon Run Wrapup

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

In 2017, we had 267 logs submitted. While down from 2016, when we had over 300, it lines up pretty well with 2014 and 2015 when we had about 269 logs submitted each year. Probably the most glaring thing about Salmon Run 2017 was the poor propagation and the resulting hit to the scores.

Top scores from out of State this year ran in the high teens--17K-20K--while we saw double that in 2016. In-state top scores ran in the high 200Ks and above--280K-320K--while in 2016 we saw top scores ranging from the mid 300Ks up to 420K.

Propagation was just not kind to us this year. In addition, there was only one clean sweep (N7MZ) this year and it was from in-State. DX was pretty non-existent. There was only one DX submission this year from Atsushi, JR1NKN, running the JA1YNE club station. Last year, we had 12 logs. (At W7DX, we only managed one European in the log.)

Our friends in Redmond took the Club score:

	Entries	Aggregate score
RADIO CLUB OF REDMOND	15	954,433
SOUTH HILL CONTEST CLUB	1	320,712
SPOKANE DX ASSOCATION	4	198,262
MIKE AND KEY ARC	1	150,484
STANWOOD CAMANO ARC	8	149,778

The WWDXC had 13 scores for 912,612 (not including W7DX which was a checklog) but the club is not eligible for the Club Award.

The top in-State scores by category were:

Callsign	County	_	MULTs	Score	
Wu7H	LEW	197	nsmitter (mixed mo 72	37,216	
Washington Exped W7PU	dition - Multi PIE	Op, Single T 676	Transmitter (mixed r 87	mode) 147,573	
Washington Expec K7ATK	dition - Singl FER	eOp, Single 7	Γransmitter Mixed 49	13,799	
Washington Exped WS7L	dition - Singl PAC	eOp, Single 7 269	Fransmitter CW 65	52,955	
Washington Exped N7AME	dition - Singl BEN	eOp, Single 7	Γransmitter SSB 54	13,892	
Washington - Mul	tiOp, Single	Transmitter (mixed mode)		
K7RI	KING	798	75	161,650	
Washington Club N7PP	- MultiOp, 1 THU	wo Transmit 1345	ter (mixed mode) 106	320,712	
Washington SingleOp, High Power, CW					
W7WA	PIE	581	76	132,968	
Washington SingleOp, High Power, Digital					
W7VP	KING	21	15	1,445	
Washington Single W7QC	eOp, High Po KING	ower, Mixed 640	74	123,544	
Washington SingleOp, High Power, SSB					
W7ZZ	KITS	1449	96	278,708	

Washington SingleOp, Low Power, CW

KN7T	SNO	312	59	55,724	
Washington Single K7MM	eOp, Low Po KITS	wer, Digital 1	1	503	
Washington Single K7GS	eOp, Low Po SPO	wer, Mixed 384	58	60,182	
Washington SingleOp, Low Power, SSB					
KG7YJA	SKAM	605	85	102,850	
Washington SingleOp, QRP, Mixed					
K6ZY	ISL	48	30	3,890	
Washington SingleOp, QRP, SSB					
K7JSG	SNO	10	7	640	

You will find the complete 2017 scores posted on the WWDXC website at http://www.wwdxc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Results2017b.pdf

Contest Activity Report—November 2017

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

The 4-5 weeks from the end of October to the end of November are busy-busy when it comes to contesting. Hope you find some good propagation.

CQWW SSB

Call	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Op Time	Score
SOAB(A) HP K7RL	1414	96	273	17	1,459,026

SOAB(A) LP					
KB7HDX	238	41	104		96,135
K7IDX/7	54	21	23	5	8,046
SOABClassic	LP				
W7OM	370	65	136		203,412
SOSB(A)/20 (QRP				
K7HBN	26	6	6		828
	_				
SOSB/160 HF		_		_	-0-
K7CW	23	7	8	7	585
COCD /AA IID					
SOSB/20 HP		•	10.5	•	0 10 77 5
K7RI(K7ZQ)	661	30	106	24	243,576
N5CR	570	31	103	25	214,936
~ ~ ~ ~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
SOSB/40 HP					
W7WA	713	35	100		263,155

CQWW SSB Soapbox

K7CW: Conditions poor here in Washington. I did manage to work a few stations in the Caribbean, LU and KH6. One station in the Carib gets through well to the West Coast but needs to upgrade his receive antenna. I have yet to work him in any contest. Need him for DXCC. VE5PV had a huge signal throughout. I didn't stay up for JA. Next time will be better. 1.5kW, inverted-L w/5 radials, un-terminated BOG.

K7IDX/7: Portable 7 from Oregon coast near Gold Beach. TS-570 and HI-Q antenna with 8 foot whip, battery powered.

K7RL: My goal this time was to have fun and get some sleep. Check. Didn't operate past about 10 PM local, so no long hours in the middle of the night waiting for the low band openings to JA. After reading N9RV's comments about poor low band conditions all weekend, I'm glad I didn't stick around.

Tried to start on 15m, but the band closed very rapidly once the contest started. Worked a few Asian stations, but no runs. Moved to 20m after about 15 minutes and found the band in excellent shape to Asia. Most JA stations were at least S9, making for a comfortable running experience.

When I moved to 40m, the band was full of loud EU stations and I tried running, with limited success. It was still a bit early, so I took a break and came back two hours later only to find the band dropped into the toilet. Terrible. Worked a few more multipliers and called it a day.

20m was great into EU both days including several loud stations from Africa and the Middle East calling me. Very cool. 15m was a big surprise. A nice, but short, opening into EU both days. Didn't try running (it wasn't that good), but the point and click of assisted keep the rate pretty steady. Did have some nice runs into JA.

After neglecting 10m all weekend, I finally spent some time late Sunday morning and found lots of great signals from South America. Many zone 8 and 9 stations too, although fairly weak. Thought I heard a zone 5 station, but he disappeared. Even missed my own zone 3. Thanks to all for the Qs and another fun CQ WW weekend.

W7WA: Another enjoyable CQ worldwide. My only disappointment was experiencing high absorption to Japan both nights despite fairly low A/K indices. Japanese signals were down 20db the first night and more so on Saturday night. This took out the low power stations the first night and most everyone the next. I am surprised to find I ended up even working 155 JA's, felt like a far lower total. Nothing heard from zones 22 and 34 thru 37.

N5CR: Good conditions, but not my best effort! Bottom antenna in 4 over 4 stack wouldn't work. Discovered after test that the connector on back of the Stackmatch Controller was loose. Computer died twice. Horrendous local noise for last 2 hours, so I quit early.

K7RI(K7ZQ): SSB is not my favorite mode, however, I really enjoyed the contest. Many thanks to the stations that worked me, and to Tom, K7RI, who allowed me to operate his FB station as a single-band single-operator entry.

Membership Update—November 2017

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The WWDXC welcomes two new members this month:

BJ Rollison WA7WJR of Renton, WA - BJ is also active as XV9WJR from Vietnam.

Jo Whitney KA7LJQ of Yakima, WA - Jo is the XYL of Mark Tharp KB7HDX.

Which reminds me - membership for family members is available along with a paid-up Active Membership for no additional dues.

Sad to announce that Frank Remington, K7GSE, became a Silent Key in October. Frank was an active DXer, a Trustee of the WWDXC, a key and bug collector, and active in Emergency Communications in Snohomish County. A service will be held Tuesday, November 14, in Everett - see the article above and the WWDXC Reflector for details.

Thank you for supporting the Western Washington DX Club!

News from Sri Lanka

If you have worked Sri Lanka in the last several years, the guy you probably worked is seated in the photo on the next page: Kamal, 4S7AB. The two folks standing are Martti, OH2BH and Leena, OH2BE. Kamal is on 40 meters most mornings. Sad to learn that long-time stalwart Nelson, 4S7NE, became a silent key several months ago. For a great article about Nelson, see https://dxnews.com/4s7ne-sri-lanka/



November 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 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 (<u>n7xy@n7xy.net</u>)

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 (<u>www.dailydx.com</u>) (subscription service but can't be beat for timely info)

The DX Zone (<u>www.dxzone.com/catalog/</u>)

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 (<u>www.dxing.info/dxpeditions</u>)

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 (<u>www.IK3QAR.it/manager</u>)

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

HamQTH Callbook (www.hamqth.com/)_

ORCA DX and Contest Club (<u>www.orcadxcc.org/index.html</u>) (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 November 7, 2017 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Mellish Reef (VK9MA) November 3-16, 2017

Burundi (9U4M) Now until November 17, 2017

Guinea Bissau (J5T) November 13-26, 2017

CQWW CW November 25-26, 2017

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 <u>www.dxsummit.fi</u> (free)

DXScape <u>www.dxscape.com</u> (free)
DX Heat <u>https://dxheat.com</u> (free)

Totem Trader

[This space intentionally left blank]

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@ltol.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