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August 2014

## **NO MEETING THIS MONTH**

So make plans to attend the Annual WWDXC Picnic

Date & Time: August 16, 2014—4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Nile Country Club  
6601 244 St SW  
Mountlake Terrace, WA

(The main entrance is on 205th just barely West of I-5 on the North side of 205<sup>th</sup>--it's the first property West of I-5)

This is a CATERED event--all you need to do is show up! Spouses or significant others and kids are also welcome. The club is subsidizing the cost of the event, so your cost is just \$12.00 per person.

The food will start at 5:00 pm. There will be a no-host bar at our picnic area from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Drinks will also be available at the club house before and after this time.

Menu:

Pulled Pork or Pulled Beef Sandwiches served on Buns  
Beef Hot Dogs and 1/4lb Burgers with all the Condiments  
Chips, Watermelon, Red Potato Salad, Home Style Macaroni  
Salad, Boston Baked Beans

You MUST RSVP by August 7th with your head count. Email your  
RSVP to Adam at [k7edx@arrl.net](mailto:k7edx@arrl.net)

## **RANDOM COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR**

It appears that the Totem Tabloid has not been published in August, perhaps because there is no regular meeting. I decided to go ahead and publish a Tabloid, if for no other reason than to publicize the annual picnic. It's a catered event this year so you have no good excuse for not showing up. I look forward to meeting everyone at the picnic, as I continue my goal as the newcomer to meet as many members as possible.

I've also decided to rearrange the Tabloid so that the "repeating" items are at the end of each issue. So if you're looking for DX Info Sources, etc. you'll find them after the "new" stuff each month.

Last month I reprinted an article from the Yankee Clipper Contest Club newsletter about a no-radials antenna system for 80 and 160. The Honorable President, Adam, K7EDX, traded emails with the author of this article and discovered that the author had published an update of his article. You can find the updated article at [http://yccc.org/Scuttlebutt/2011/butt2011\\_06.pdf](http://yccc.org/Scuttlebutt/2011/butt2011_06.pdf) and, again, thanks to YCCC. As I write this, Adam is out on the tower finishing up the installation of the 80/160 antennas so maybe next month I'll be able to report on how they work.

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST DX CONVENTION 2015

Rich Stempien, W6RS

Our irrepressible President Adam, K7EDX, approached me with his usual contagious optimism and asked if I would accept the chairmanship of next year's DX convention. I have accepted the challenge and can only hope I am up to the task. I know I have a substantial pair of shoes to fill as Denny, W7SNH, who was the chairman for the last several conventions, had done an exemplary job. I have been offered assistance from Mel, N7GCO, who once again volunteered to chair the audio/visual requirements, and Kip, W6SZN, who has volunteered to be the program chairman. Denny has given me his notes from the last convention so I may be looking to some of the folks who helped in 2011 to give us some assistance and help with "lessons learned" for the 2015 convention.

The first thing I tried, unsuccessfully, was to explore a different venue. I spoke to the Tulalip Hotel and Casino folks with the hope that if we could make the venue more spouse/non-ham friendly we might entice more non-hams into attending. Unfortunately, the monetary requirements for Tulalip were, to say the least, outrageous. So we'll stay with the Holiday Inn in Everett, which has proved to be quite adequate for our needs. I will give you some updates on how things progress as we get closer to "our" convention, so stay tuned.

## TOTEM TREASURES

In last month's Tabloid, I described the idea of Danny, K7SS, of having a regular column that would feature stories, QSLs and photos that carried great sentimental or other value to the club's members. My request for contributions was not met with a screaming success—so please take a minute and send along anything of a ham radio nature that brings back happy memories to you, along with a few words that describe what it is and why it's important to you.

This month we have two—and since it was Danny's idea, I'll start with his:



Danny writes: “This is a HOME MADE hand key, and I can’t recall where I got it, or when..... but it sits in my shack on a shelf, and I marvel at it and wonder about the guy that made it.”

Bob, N7XY, sends along the following story about a rare QSO and QSL card: “In 1954 I was a sophomore in high school and had been licensed for two years. I had gotten bit by the DX bug when I entered the 1953 World Wide DX Contest (it’s the same as the CQ Worldwide, but that year CQ was not the sponsor so the name was different). I didn’t do great with just a Viking II and a 40 meter dipole but I had fun and the idea of working DX sunk in. There was a DXpedition announced to Clipperton Island (which I had never heard of). It was led by Bob Denniston, W0NWX (later W0DX), who later became President of the ARRL, and the trip was sponsored by Hallicrafters. The operators were on as /MM from their ship on the way there and it was quite easy to work them from the L.A. area. When they went operational on the island, it was a different story. I tried and tried but just couldn’t break through the wall of stations with more power and bigger antennas than I had. Finally I was able to snag them on 15 CW but that was my only contact.

Imagine my surprise when I received their QSL card (Hallicrafters mailed out cards for all contacts at its expense!) and saw that the team had only made 1,108 contacts from the island and I WAS ONE OF THEM!

Clipperton has shown up several times since but in 1954 it was very rare and this was a contact I shall always remember.”

Here's the FO8AJ QSL card:

**FO8AJ**  
the **CLIPPERTON ISLAND DXpedition**

109° 13' W                      10° 18' N

RADIO WØEHF CONFIRMING QSO OF 4/24 1954  
AT 1:24 AM CST UR 14.0 MC. 579 SIGS RST 579  
PM FONE

RCVR TWO HALLICRAFTERS SX-88                      PSE QSL      TNX  
XMTR TWO HALLICRAFTERS HT-20                      73  
VFO HALLICRAFTERS HT-18



**BOB DENNISTON WØNWX      LEO OLNEY WØNUC**  
**GENE O'LEARY WØVDQ      VERN HEDMAN      TOM PARTRIDGE**

Clipperton Island was discovered by Captain Clipperton in 1708. Awarded to France in 1930, it is a small, low atoll two miles square in area lying 685 miles west of Acapulco, Mexico and inhabited solely by wild pigs. Our first landing attempt was aboard the "Sea-Rider"—we lost our sextant. Second try aboard the "Barco De Oro II"—lost diesel, sails and food. Landed successfully 1:15 PM Pacific Time, April 23, 1954. Worked 1108 contacts from the island.

## MEMBER NEWS

John, AG7N reports in from vacation in Munich: “My son Alex KE7WUD-- age 16 and a WWDXC member-- was written up (including a picture) in the ARRL letter of July 17 in the section on the ham radio convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany at the end of June. He gave a presentation at the Youth Forum on setting up the Ham Radio Club at Mercer Island High School. He also took his Extra Class exam there and passed it with flying colors.” Here’s the photo:



Alex Banbury, KE7WUD, and Gerrit Herzig, DH8GHH. [Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, photo]

## Contest Activity Report July 2014

Mike “Dink” Dinkelman, N7WA

This is the final Contest Activity Report for the 2013-2014 NW Trophy Competition. The final results of the competition will be announced at the PNWDX Convention in Vancouver. Hope to see you there - I am looking forward to the new digs.

### IARU

Call	CW	Ph	Zones	HQ	Time	Score
<b>SO CW HP</b>						
W6SZN	637	0	72	59		260,035
K7EG	176	0	43	39		46,084

**SO CW LP**

K7HBN	155		36	22		28,710
W7QN	150		28	22	8.2	21,400
K7WA	150	0	30	13		18,404
NG7Z	113	0	21	13	4.25	10,778

**SO Mixed HP**

N7RVD	259	156	42	25	11:48	106,337
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**SO Mixed LP**

W7OM	453	48	60	56		165,068
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**SO Mixed QRP**

NN7SS	21	9	7	6	1.0	1,092
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**SO SSB HP**

W7WA	0	2448	121	105		1,869,020
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**IARU SOAPBOX**

**K7EG:** EU finally perked up in mid-afternoon. Worked 22 separate WRTC Teams.

**N7RVD:** Rough Contest. The Saturday afternoon SA/Pacific Rim opening never happened, but EU was open. Never saw that before. Very odd conditions. QSO rate was down from last year. I only worked one Radiosport station.

**W6SZN:** It was fun chasing the 59 WRTC stations. It was not fun missing three of them--never heard N1F, N1P or W1A. This contest (and all of them) is sure different from the Pacific Northwest than from California.

**NN7SS (K6UFO):** For me, this weekend was 99 percent setup, and only 1 percent operating. I installed a new remote system at the station. Thursday afternoon I installed an Elecraft K3. It worked well in the Thursday night NCCC Sprints on RTTY and CW.

Friday afternoon I installed a new pair of RemoteRig units. Lots of cables, configuration and waiting for the units or the internet router to restart with new

settings. Then I added the K3/0-Mini control head and got it talking to the remote K3. I got stuck trying to connect to the logging laptop. I finally went to sleep so I could work on it with a clear head on Saturday morning - even though I'd miss the start of the contest.

Saturday morning I finally got the K3 connected through the RemoteRig units to the logging laptop. Then a lot of adjustments to get everything "right" and documenting the settings. By 18Z I was able to make CW contacts and log them. Next, how to get SSB working? Lots of problems and quirks, but finally able to operate remote SSB by 22Z.

My brain was exhausted, so I powered down everything and took some time off. Then I did a full "cold start" and wrote my setup and operating instructions. That took a couple of hours! But it will help every time from now on.

Oops, I also need to create a cable to the band decoder to select proper antennas. I scrounged about for the proper cables and pinout diagrams, and melted a little solder. Finally back on the air with automatic antenna switching. Operated another half-hour both modes and called it a success.

**W7WA:** S&P to Europe during the IARU has been the norm for me the past few years. This year favorable conditions Saturday evening allowed me to run stations over the pole on 20 for a couple of hours. Conversely 160 and 80 suffered this weekend from poor conditions and low activity.

**NG7Z:** This was my golden opportunity to give the new NG7Z superstation (sic) a try. I'm using a K2 and hamsticks and Hustler mobile antennas attached to the top rail of the camper. I found a ground point only 6 inches away from the feed point. Didn't hear any WRTC stations on 20 or 15 during the day but after it got dark 40 meters was hopping. Worked several of them before bedtime around midnight. I was really pleased with the performance of these mobile sticks. It's hard for me to tell if the bands were in good shape given the nature of my setup but it seemed like the high bands were lacking. I checked the solar data and the K index was at 2 with a 60% chance of geomagnetic storms.

I had to balance my time on the radio with duties here at our daughter's home. She is in Denver for 10 days and Marilyn and I are helping out with the two grandkids. In any event, I had a TON of fun getting on the air again with my own equipment after a year off. This ham stuff is in my blood I suppose.

**W7QN:** Was late getting started Saturday morning as CW router icon was not on the Desk Top.

Finally gave up looking in files and made a short cut from the hard drive file.

**K7HBN:** My office/radio room was so hot you would have thought I was running 2 or 3 KW. I actually did increase my normal recent contest power of 5 watts by 10db to 50 watts. I was disappointed in the Saturday AM conditions, but things improved in the late afternoon and evening on 20 meters. The WRTC guys must have had relatively quiet locations and very good ears. I worked 30 of them on 40 meters and I think the sponsors did a good job of setting an equal playing field for the stations, but at my QTH they were quite weak and hard to believe they could copy my 50 watts with minimum repeats. I have a new rig, an IC-7200. It is great for JT-65 due to a standard TCXO which provides excellent stability, but a contest rig it ain't. I can tame it to a degree, but my KX3 was far superior in crowded contest conditions. I was able to squeeze in about 10 hours.

## **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 them 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/johnsan/dx\\_ss\\_routes.html](http://home.windstream.net/johnsan/dx_ss_routes.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/))

## **WWDXC DXCC Ladder**

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WWDXC 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.wwdxc.org/dxcc-ladder-2/> and clicking on “click for dxcc ladder” Accordingly, the Board has decided to discontinue a full listing of the DXCC ladder each month in the Tabloid. The Tabloid will publish the DXCC ladder each year in the January issue, so that each member’s end-of-year totals will appear as the new year begins. So please get your updated totals to me by mid-December.

## **Announced DXpeditions**

Your Editor has considered at length whether publishing each month a list of DXpeditions makes any sense. When I took over as Editor, I spent the time to look at various websites to find out what countries had promised to be operating and then, applying a very subjective and non-scientific approach, listed those that I

thought club members would like to know about. I did not list those countries that one can find and work simply by turning on your radio and listening—or by checking any of the various spotting networks. But it remains true that any country that you don't yet have confirmed is a “rare” one. Any attempt to research and list here every promised operation would take a lot of my time but, more importantly, would simply duplicate what anyone can find with very modest effort on the Internet—even if you don't subscribe to The Daily DX, QRZ DX or look at any of the free bulletins that promise to keep you fully informed about the latest in DX, such as DX World.

So I have decided to list here websites that will tell you far more completely than I can about what's on the air and is claimed to be on the air in the near future, especially in a once-a-month newsletter. Most are listed in John's column above.

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)

## August 2014 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.

There are no “big” contests in August. However, both modes of the North America QSO Party take place this month—the CW version begins at 1800 UTC

on August 2 for 12 hours and the SSB version begins at the same time two weeks later on August 16. Single ops can operate 10 of the 12 hours and the exchange is your name and state. For complete rules, go to <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf> For the weekend in between, the WAE DX CW contest begins at 0000 UTC on August 9 (August 8 local) and runs for 48 hours. Single ops can operate for 36 of the 48 hours and the exchange is signal report and serial number. See the complete rules at <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules>

## **DX Packet Alert Network Frequencies**

Bob Nielsen, N7XY (n7xy@clearwire.net)

K7EK-1 - Spanaway (DX Spider Node), K7EK sysop. Telnet to: k7ek.dyndns.org, port 9000  
RF: 144.91 MHz - Connect to network node W7DK-5, then type DXC.  
145.01 MHz - Connect to network node SEA, then connect to network node K7EK-5, then type DXC.

W7PKT Auburn (DX Spider Node) 145.73 MHz, KA7CSE sysop.  
Telnet to w7pkt.net, port 7300

DX Spider user documentation is available at

[http://wiki.dxcluster.org/index.php/DXSpider\\_User\\_Manual](http://wiki.dxcluster.org/index.php/DXSpider_User_Manual)

Lee Sawkins, VE7CC, has written a versatile Windows user program that works with AR Cluster, CC Cluster or DX Spider nodes. It can be downloaded from <http://www.bcdxc.org/ve7cc/default.html>

## **Ham Radio Vendors and Repair Services**

The listing last month of folks who offer repair services contained a number of errors for Kuni, W7JV, so I'm reproducing below the corrected listing:

COMTEX

Kuni Okuma – W7JV

26611 Hwy 3 NW

Poulsbo, WA 98370

360-779-9730

E-mail = [w7jv@aol.com](mailto:w7jv@aol.com)

Web = No website

## Totem Trader

Used Eimac 3CX1500A7/8877 tube  
\$450 (New ones cost \$1,600 per Richardson Electronics)  
Tom, K7RI  
206-935-0457  
[exk7rsc@yahoo.com](mailto:exk7rsc@yahoo.com)

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**FOR SALE:** SteppIR Big IR Mk IV Vertical—32 foot vertical covering all bands 10-40—Includes optional SDA-100 Controller Transceiver Interface, Icom Transceiver Cable, 1:1 Balun—Was used for just over one year and includes new factory shrink tubing—Current new price is over \$ 1,200—Asking \$ 450—Partially disassembled and ready for pick-up in Hansville or will have professionally packed and shipped at your expense—Contact Rich, W6RS at [W6RS@arrl.net](mailto:W6RS@arrl.net) or 360-881-0720

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Wanted: Steppir DB-36 Antenna – John Owens, N7TK 425-745-0577

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  
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**The Totem Tabloid**

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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:

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

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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)