October 2014

NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 14
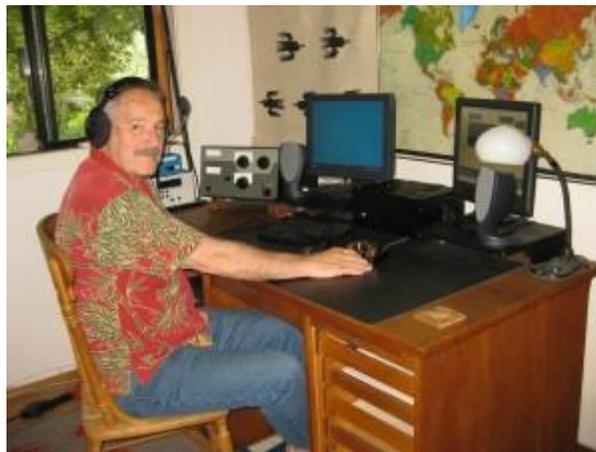
Ham Friendly DSP – The "Radio" in SDRs

Presentation by John Petrich, W7FU

Rob's 125th Street Grill, located at 125th and Aurora Avenue North

Dinner at 6:30 p.m., program starts at 7:30 p.m. Dinner is $ 20 including tax and tip

Please RSVP your dinner plans to Adam, K7EDX k7edx@arrl.net

Random Comments From the Editor

I was first licensed 56 years ago. It is therefore difficult even for me to realize that I have never made a QSO on RTTY. While that remains true, at least now I have some idea of how it all works.

Carl, AI6V/P40V, and his wife Sue, AI6YL/P40YL, were visitors in my home for four days last week. It was the weekend of CQWW RTTY so Sue used my station to do a Single Band 20 Meters High Power Unassisted effort. She operated for about 32 of the 48 hours and did quite well—according to the 3830.com scores, her claimed score is 2nd in the world. If you're crazy like Ed Muns, K0YK/P49X, and operate Single Op Three radios (and monitors), it can be pretty stressful. But Sue used only one radio/monitor and to this observer it looked like a pretty relaxed mode of contesting—no headphones, no CW to decipher and no SSB QRM.

The DXpedition season is now in full swing. Western Kiribati (T30D) and Vanuatu (YJ0X) are all over the bands. The 5R8M operation from Madagascar is scheduled to show up on October 20. See http://www.mdxc.org/5r8m/ for complete info. And the **big** one shows up just 10 days later: Tromelin Island (FT4A) is scheduled for October 30-November 10, 2014. Details can be found at http://www.tromelin2014.com/en/ Tromelin, like Glorioso, Juan de Nova and Europa, are owned and strictly controlled by the French and access is strictly controlled for ecological reasons. If you miss Tromelin this time, you may have a long wait for the next operation—Tromelin was last on 14 years ago, in 2000.

This issue of the Tabloid has several articles about the recently-concluded Salmon Run. Conditions were not the best but there was plenty of activity. This was my first time in the event from Washington and I thought the pileups were just as big as for the California QSO Party, now going on as I write. I did discover one thing that perhaps has been going on for a long time: groups of folks on 40 SSB hanging around on frequency to work the Washington counties. It wasn't a net but close to it—and that's why I was on 40 meters at noon local time.

There is plenty of new stuff in the Totem Trader so be sure to check it out. And if anyone has a three-element tribander that will handle legal power that you'd like to sell, please let me know.

Finally, the SSB version of CQWW is October 25-26 (starts Friday the 24th at 5:00 p.m. PDT.

2014 Washington Salmon Run
Jim Hadlock, K7WA

This year I went back to the backroads of Eastern Washington - it sure is beautiful over there, but HOT! I had hoped to put on eight counties but ran out of time at the Sherman Pass overlook on Hwy 20 (Ferry County) and skipped Okanogan on the way home. I drove from county to county and operated fixed/portable. I was going more for out-of-state QSOs than counties so I didn't come close to a sweep--I even missed four of the seven counties I was in! Lots of activity, DX, and driving! I was surprised to have A65CA answer my CQ on 20 CW from Stevens County. Here are the numbers:

 QSO's by County:

Adams: 40 CW: 3; 20 CW: 26

Lincoln: 40 CW: 6; 40 Phone: 6; 20 CW: 30; 20 Phone: 20

Whitman: 40 CW: 5; 40 Phone: 15; 20 CW: 26; 20 Phone: 2

Spokane: 40 Phone: 9; 20 CW: 6; 20 Phone: 4

Pend Oreille: 40 CW: 42; 40 Phone: 17; 20 CW: 17; 20 Phone: 6

Stevens: 20 CW: 35; 20 Phone: 5

Ferry: 40 Phone: 9; 20 CW: 29; 20 Phone: 2

Total QSO's: 225 CW and 95 Phone

Mults: Ctys: 27; States/Prov: 42; DX: 13

IC-706MkIIG, Hamsticks and Dipoles

2014 Salmon Run
Roger Odorizzi, W7CH

To all my ham friends, a good story should never go untold. This just happened to me last weekend in the contest. I participate in this contest annually and it is one of my favorites. If you have not participated in the Salmon Run, give it a try next year; it is so much fun.

This is the annual Washington State QSO party with a little added kick to make it interesting to the participants. It has an added challenge trying to work every county in the state during the contest. Washington has 39 counties so it is quite a challenge, as it seems there are always a few counties that are not represented. This makes them very rare, for at least 24 hours anyway! Each county receives a high score award from the sponsoring club which happens to be the "Western Washington DX Club"--W7DX.

I had a late start this year so it was obvious to me I had no chance to win Chelan County from my home QTH. Accordingly, I changed my plans for Sunday, the final day of the contest. It just so happened that no one was representing Douglas County, making it, as mentioned above, RARE.

Douglas County is my neighboring county and I decided to "activate Douglas county" and boost my contest score and maybe win the county high score award.

On with the story: late Saturday evening, I downloaded my logging program to my small laptop, packed a sandwich and a couple bottles of water and some ham gear necessities and took off to Douglas County. Sunday morning arrived with me thinking this is really going to be fun and I would cram my logs with contacts. Little did I know that the ham radio gremlin (aka Murphy) was riding along with me. I arrived high on the plateau above the Columbia River on the Douglas County side.

After changing the whip on my screwdriver to a 17 foot telescopic, I strung out a couple of ground wires, turned on the radio and found a good frequency. I started the laptop and now I'm ready to go! This funny little beep came from the laptop and after a few minutes messing with the laptop I realized that it just was not going to work, no matter what I did, and I was losing valuable operating time. OK-- I dug around in the truck and came up with enough paper and a pen to hand log--then the pen would not work. I found another pen and I was ready to go. The second I said my call followed by "Douglas County" the frequency exploded. Everyone wanted Douglas County. All contests have their protocol that everyone knows. For this contest the exchange of contact information is Counties: I give you my county and you give me your county along with the date and time and we have a completed logable contact.

Well, Mr. Gremlin was not finished. I had no computer or anything else to tell me the time of the contact and the contact is not good without the time. I had to ask every contact for the time and explain that my computer crashed and I was paper logging with no time-telling device on the mountain top. I have gone on long enough but you get the dilemma and story of my not-so-smooth operation

activating Douglas County for the masses. I had a great time and I know I made many hams happy on Salmon Run Sunday 2014.

One would think that this is the end of the story, but thanks to a smart, crafty fellow Ham (Rob, KD7H) the story continues.

The following Tuesday morning, on the way to coffee, I checked my mail box at the end of my driveway. There was the usual junk mail and also a small package. I was thinking I didn't order anything--possibly my wife had-- but No! It was addressed to me. Opening the package, I found a QSL card, thanking me for activating a rare much-needed county for him and others. And there was also a watch with a 10 year battery and instructions to take it with me next time I go mobile!

I hope everyone appreciates this as much as I do.

Thanks Rob and thanks to all the other hams participating in making this the most fun (and timely) contest going.

2014 Salmon Run
Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

This is my fourth year. Every year is different. Some things are just a surprise, which can be good or bad. When they are bad, I try to make improvements for the next year. I tried several improvements in the truck this year.

First, in the past I have had issues with my antenna controller. I use a HI-Q antenna which has a sealed coil and a motor inside. It's like a screwdriver but its coil doesn't move, just a motor-driven tap point. If I jam the tap point at full speed into the top of the coil, it sometimes gets stuck and a lot of swearing is involved until it gets unstuck. This year, I modified my controller to use PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) and I never did get stuck. Success.

Second, I get a lot of RF in the truck. So this year I moved the antenna from just behind the cab to the very back of the truck bed. I still got RF but not nearly as much. Last year my WinKey would just change speed randomly and I got bit touching some metal objects. None of that this year but towards the very end of the test, I did get some computer lockups on 15 meters. Partial success.

Lastly, in years past, I have always had a rats nest of cables. Getting out of the trunk was an ordeal. This year, I managed to get the cables all routed to the middle of the truck and accessories (WinKeyer, Antenna Controller, etc) all mounted on the dash. Those new fake velcro (but not velcro) strips that claim to be removable actually work. Another success.

This year, we started out early from home (Kent), stopped in Cle Elum for breakfast (I recommend the Cottage Café), and were on the Kittitas/Chelan line by 1600Z. The test always starts out slow but this year, it was even slower. After 30

minutes, we only had 5 QSOs in the log as we crossed into Chelan County and only 12 QSOs when we reached Douglas County. After that point, things did open up but rates were somewhat down from prior years.

We travelled up to Grand Coulee dam and north to Nespelem on the Colville reservation before turning east again over Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille. Then it was south through Spokane and back west towards Lincoln and Adams. We spent the night in Ritzville this year, meeting up with Randy K7TQ and Jay WA0WWW who were headed back east through Adams and Whitman. Those two are going to be formidable competition in the future. I managed to find a quiet spot (the motel parking lot was S7 noise) to work some 80 meters before heading to bed.

Since I had already worked out Adams pretty well, we headed out early with the intent of being on the Adams/Whitman border by 1600Z. We timed it pretty well but spent 15 minutes at the border just to pick up any last stragglers. Then it was on through Whitman headed for Asotin. Along the way, you could watch the long trains of unhappy Cougar fans travelling back west. Whitman is a long ride and towards the end, I just enjoyed the ride. I probably should have popped up to 10 meters and given it a try (Saturday had been a no-show).

Asotin, Garfield and Columbia were popular stops. By the time we reached Dayton, we were both tired so it was time for a break. We got lunch in a pub and

watched the start of the Seahawks game. It was tough to pull away but we had to hit Yakima by 2330Z. Walla Walla, Franklin, Benton whizzed on by. Somewhere in Franklin County, something changed. On 15 meters, the computer would lock up. Either a connection got lose or something in the configuration changed. I tried a number of times but if you got a 15 meters QSO in the last 90 minutes, it was luck. We did make Yakima at the appointed hour.

Kudos to N6MU who was my first QSO in the log and worked me in every county – sometimes on multiple bands. K9CW was a close second. OM2VL and SP9LJD were the most persistent European DX but there were a lot of others here and there. It was hard to work some but we usually didn't give up. Panama was a surprise. JA1YNE was my only real Japanese follower (when the band opened) and I always tried to find him on 15 meters. I expect that was Atsushi, JR1NKN/W7KN, who many of us know from his time in the Seattle area, but I haven't confirmed it yet.

This year, I made a real effort to spend more time on 40 meters. I think it paid off. I got more regional and Washington stations and when the QSOs are going down, getting more multipliers is the way to prop up the score. I did hear W7DX once but they never heard us. We also made an effort to spend at least 30 minutes in each county and it was usually way more. That helped.

So, what needs improvement for next year? One, I need to lop off some of Spokane County. It's not rare and I'm spending too much time in it. Two, I need to further improve the RF situation. It was better but that last bit with 15 meters acting up indicates things could be better. I think 10 meters might have been even worse if I had tried to use the band more than I did. Finally, there HAS to be a way to reduce computer screen glare. These new shiny laptop displays just reflect too much light.

What's left? Oh... every year we seem to have an animal issue. One year, it was a cow on the road. The next year, it was a moose. This year, it was deer and turkeys. Hey, it's Eastern Washington!

It was a long two days. We drove 950 miles round trip. I couldn't do this without my driver Jim K7ND who has spent his birthday on the road with me the past two years. Thanks to all who followed us. While they say the mobiles and rovers are important, it's just as important to have the folks at home looking for us at each new county.

Contest Activity Report October 2014
Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

We just finished the 2014 edition of the Washington State Salmon Run a couple of weeks ago. So far, I have processed just over 200 hundred logs and it sounds like everybody had fun. (I know I did.) Conditions seemed a bit worse than last year but DX was still plentiful. In fact, the Scandinavian Contest was a bit of a bother at the start of the test because many of those stations were loud, 20M was full, and they weren't looking for me.

Next month we'll have the official results, along with the just-completed CQWW RTTY, but for now here are some club rumors.

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Score
SOCW QRP					
KX7L	199	0	0	57	34,529
K7HBN	212	0	0	65	41,840
SOCW LP					
W7QN	174	0	0	52	27,644

SOMixed HP

W6SZN/7	397	675	0	110	279,960
KZ1W	466			93	87,176

SOMixed LP

W7VXS	340	198	0	104	151,264
W7OM	411	70	36	107	98,136
WA7PRC	127	277	0	75	71,125

Mobile

N7WA	608	0	0	75	136,800
K7WA	225	95	0	82	71,184
K7ED	91	0	0	25	6,825

Unlimited LP

KT7G	61	347	2	84	75,172

Soapbox

KX7L   Family activities limited my butt in chair time this year, but still had lots of fun Saturday afternoon and evening, and a brief sprint during the last half hour on Sunday. Nice to hear all the DX stations participating! Thanks for all the Q's!

KT7G   One W7DX contact. Bands seemed to come and go, noise on 80 a problem. Two IC7000, one IC7200, Hy-tower, KT34a, NVIS long wire for 40. Screwdriver on motorhome for 15.

W6SZN/7   First time from WA after many times from Northern California--a very different contest. It seemed strange to be on 40 at noon and early afternoon local time but that's where the multipliers were. Got the sweep of the 39 WA counties with 17 minutes left in the contest (Ferry County). Conditions seemed just OK but the great activity made up for it. Somehow managed to keep to just two the number of net "leaders" who chased me off "their" frequency. Thanks to all for the QSOs.

K7HBN   I must have been imagining things when I was calling CQ on 40 and was answered by OM2VL. It must be real, he's in the log. Antenna is a low apex (35') inverted vee. Nice contest, and nice to be the hunted for a change.

WA7PRC   Each time I checked, 10m was D-E-A-D. 160m late at night was also NG. This wasn't the best I've done but it's also far from the worst I've done. I note

that I worked more than a few WWDXC members more than once (KZ1W, WQ7C, W6SZN/7, et al), and W7DX twice. WriteLog logger w/ my simple AF mixer + K1EL WinKeyer worked flawlessly.

W7QN With the SFI at 119 there wasn't any 10 meters here. One time I was calling CQ and some one answered NUT. I'd call CQ and he came back with NUT. I asked him "what's the matter?" He said NUT. I kept calling CQ for about 5 minutes and he finally went away.

K7WA This year I went back to the back roads of Eastern WA - it sure is beautiful over there, but HOT this year! Had hoped to put on eight counties but ran out of time at the Sherman Pass overlook on Hwy 20 (Ferry County) and skipped Okanogan on the way home. I drove from county to county and operated fixed/portable. Was going more for out-of-state QSOs than counties so didn't come close to a sweep. I missed four of the seven counties I was in! Lots of activity, DX, and driving! Was surprised to have A65CA answer my CQ on 20 CW from Stevens County.

KZ1W Didn't plan to operate, but got hooked Saturday evening for 3 hours and then 5 more on Sunday. Missed a clean sweep by 1 - Benton. Thanks to club members for organization and Q's.

W7OM Used my new Steppir 18E which performed nicely despite still in a learning mode. Signals were down a bit over 2013 where I had 808 Qs with low power. Dupes were up this year. OM2VL duped me four times alone. It was easier to log him again than to explain dupes. WriteLog just ignored the dupes in the total count. When reporting results it would be nice to see power levels. I admire George K7HBN using QRP. He was especially loud on 40. Great job. Worked Joe W7QN with his low power to a whip mounted on the balcony. Another great job. Thanks to you both for the contacts.

Membership Update
Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The Western Washington DX Club welcomes two new members:

Vlad Lambrianov, UA6JD/W7, Tukwila WA

Jon Rumsey, K7RMZ, Lynnwood WA

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 them 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/johnsan/dx_ss_routes.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/)

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

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)

October 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.

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
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

Totem Trader

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

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

FOR SALE: **Hygain TH7DXX tribander** in good shape. Replaced it with Steppir. On the ground ready for pickup (West Seattle). All stainless hardware with new stainless truss. $200 obo. Rod W7OM 206- 937-9414 or
w7om@arrl.net

FOR SALE: **Alpha 99 HF Amplifier.** Excellent condition in all respects with new matched finals and a good spare finals set. Bought an Alpha 9500. $3850 with spare finals included. $3500 without spare set. Jim K7EG 253-939-6107 or
57jndenneny@comcast.net

FOR SALE: **Excellent condition Flex 6700** with the GPSDO option is available. Will also include a marine grade GPS antenna, one of Stan's elite radio covers and a bal mic cable (TRS) (3 pin) with a Berringer mic. This is the only Flex 6xxx radio that allows you to work multiple bands using two antennas at the same time. Also required for the new diversity rx and future beam steering features. Package new would cost ~$8300. This package is REDUCED TO $ 6,900 (shipped CONUS). I am downsizing my station. Greg - AB7R--360-320-3436 or ab7r at cablespeed dot com

FOR SALE: Ten Tec Titan 425 2 KW Plus Amplifier. This is a great amp that served me well for many years before a failure caused me to purchase a replacement. I sent the amp and power supply to Ten Tec and they found that the power transformer had shorted. After a VERY pricey repair and complete tune up and alignment, the amp is once again in A-1 shape. It is still in the factory shipping boxes from Ten Tec and is ready for a new home. I have a spare set of 3CX800A7 Eimac tubes that were acquired, but they are pulls and have never been confirmed as good. I will include these tubes with the amp at no extra charge. If you'd like to know more about the amp, read the reviews on E-Ham. Amp is currently wired for 220VAC and I would not try to operate it from 110VAC as it draws too much current. I am asking $2250.00 for the whole package. I can ship at your cost or you can come and pickup at my QTH in Hansville. Contact Rich, W6RS, at 360-881-0720.

FOR SALE: **SteppIR MonsterIR** in great shape (photos available if anyone is interested). All boxed ready to ship. 200 ft. of control cable with the DB25 on one end . New motor control box mounted on the boom for the motor control. New SD 100 controller and 33 volt power supply. New expandable fiberglass tubes. Asking $3300 plus shipping. Bob N7AU 509-787-1965 or n7au@usa.com

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AMATEUR GEAR FOR SALE: I am assisting a friend who is clearing out his shack. All of this gear was very lightly used, stored indoors and is in excellent cosmetic and operational condition. Contact me via email (k7hv@arrl.net) or phone (206-947-0545) if you have questions and/or would like to come by (NE Seattle) and check out.   John, K7HV.

$700   Kenwood TS-480SAT 160-6 M XCVR Like new, in box (add $175 for uninstalled, NIB CW/SSB 2 filters and TCXO)

$350   Alinco DX-70 HF rig, with mike pwr cord, mobile mount and manual

$150   Alinco EDX2 Auto Antenna Tuner for Alinco DX-70, with remote cable

$175   Palstar ZM30 Antenna analyzer, like new, in box

$550   Palstar BT1500A (1.5 KW rated) Balanced (Parallel)Antenna tuner , like new, in box

$60   Kantronics KPC3+ Packet controller

$20   MFJ 1272BYV TNC mike switch

$85   Uniden BC780 Base Trunking scanner, computer controllable via DBP jack

$50   Astron RS-20A 20 Amp Power Supply

FOR SALE: MFJ Antenna Tuner Model 962D like new condition $225.00. Amazon price is $290.00. Sam WC7Q at srubn@yahoo.com

TOTEM TABLOID
Western Washington DX Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 395
Mercer Island, WA 98040