



January 2015

NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 13

REMOTE HAM RADIO



DXpeditioner Rob Fanfant, N7QT, will speak about remote ham radio operating, including remote station control concepts and implementation details. A few of the station control concepts introduced will be demonstrated with live on-air QSOs.

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

The President Speaks

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

It was great to see so many of you at the club Christmas party. I'm sure that those of you who attended had an enjoyable evening. I also hope that you had a great Christmas time with family and friends!

At the party we presented the annual club awards.

The Rookie of the Year award went to Alex Banbury, KE7WUD. Alex is in high school at Mercer Island, where he started an amateur radio club. During the summer, Alex presented at the Friedrichshafen Ham Radio Convention about getting youth involved in amateur radio and even passed his Extra Class exam at the same time. Nice job Alex! We are proud that you're in our club!

The Most Valuable Player award went to Mitch Mason, K7RL. Mitch participated in WRTC 2014 this last summer and did an excellent job. As a very competitive contester he has consistently represented the club. He enthusiastically agreed to give a presentation about his experience and that meeting was very well attended. I won't be surprised if we see Mitch at another WRTC in the future. Thank you Mitch!

The Member of the Year award went to Kip Edwards, W6SZN. The club members and board have been extremely grateful to Kip for getting heavily involved in the club. Taking over as the Tabloid Editor and agreeing to help chair the 2015 DX Convention are no small tasks. Kip is already highly involved in the Amateur Radio community with both the Yasme Foundation and the NCDXF. Thank you for your humble service Kip!

The newly-renamed Johnny Dack, W7KH Life Time Achievement Award went to Jack Fleming, WA0RJY. For over 20 years Jack was the Tabloid editor, an incredible feat! The club is forever indebted to him. Thank you Jack!

For 2015 the officers and board remain relatively unchanged.

Thankfully Kirk Bellar, N7UK is staying on as a board member and Rich Stempien, W6RS has come on to fill the vacated board position. As most of you know by now, Rich is the chairman of the 2015 PNW DX Convention. It has been great working with him on the convention already so I look forward to working with him on the board.

The big change in officer position that occurred was the stepping down of Marina Zuetell, N7LSL, as treasurer. Marina has unselfishly served as our club treasurer for 22 years. She is an

unsung hero of our club. The good financial position of the club is strongly related to her sound management. She remains highly active in the emergency communications side of the hobby. Thank you Marina!

Brian Wingert, N7RVD, is now in the process of taking over as treasurer. Brian has served on the board for the last few years and has a thorough understanding of how the club runs. He has years of financial management experience so I know he'll do well.

In a few weeks the glorious K1N Navassa Island DXpedition should be on the air! I know at least one of us needs them for an all time new one. Ha ha!! Similar to the FT4TA Tromelin expedition, the pileups will be huge. Follow the DX Code of Conduct and remember that you represent your club to the rest of the world! Make us proud and go work'em!

Now back to the ARRL RTTY Roundup contest.

Happy New Year and good DX!

Random Comments From the Editor

Happy New Year, DXers! Let's hope 2015 brings plenty of new countries, lots of DXpeditions and, most importantly, decent propagation to the Pacific Northwest.

Speaking of Pacific Northwest propagation, it's been almost a year since I put up a decent antenna system here at my Indianola QTH and started chasing new band countries. Having retired in 2013, I've had a lot more time to be on or around the radio and all of the DX clusters make working DX easy—sometimes. I chased DX for over three decades from Northern California and regularly joined in the gripe sessions about how easy the East Coast has it over California. Well, no more. California has a **huge** advantage over the Pacific Northwest, something that those of you who have lived here for awhile know well.

The ongoing operation from SMOM, 1A0C, finally confirmed it. Needing it on 10 and 12, I've been up early every morning since they started up and have spent hours listening. I see spots from the East Coast on 10 and 12 and how loud they are—and all I hear is hiss and sometimes I can't even hear the pileup. Meanwhile, my California friends are working them on two and sometimes three modes and boasting about how loud they are. Coincidentally, this month's issue has the annual DXCC Ladder and, with my newly-found appreciation for DXing from the Pacific Northwest, I gaze admiringly at the band totals achieved by club members. As the Dread Pirate Robert (Westley) remarked in the Princess Bride, "Get used to disappointment."

DX World today (January 2) announced the results of its 2014 DXpedition of the Year poll. Nearly 10,000 votes were cast, but that's a bit misleading as each voter got five votes to cast for

the 27 DXpeditions on the list. No surprise: FT5ZM Amsterdam Island won with about 76%. A close second was FT4TA Tromelin Island with 66%. The rest of the top five were VK9DLX Lord Howe Island (38%), VK9MT Mellish Reef (28%) and Nigel's solo operation as ZD9XF Tristan de Cunha (23%).

Each year for the past 10 years The Daily DX has published a DXCC Year in Review, written by Joe Reiser, W1JR. Bernie, W3UR, owner of The Daily DX, has graciously given me permission to use some of the material in the year-end review. For starters, there were 286 countries active on some mode during 2014—270 on CW. However, there were 54 countries that were not believed to have been on the air during the year. The list of countries that have not been on for at least 10 years: BV9P, CE0X, KH1, KH3, KH5K, KP1, P5, VK0/H and VP8/S. Sandwich. DXpeditions to three of these—KP1, VK0/H and VP8S—are planned for 2015 or early 2016.

There's lots of additional information in the 2014 Year in Review and it's included in the subscription to The Daily DX. If you're not already a subscriber, you should be.

2015 International DX Convention (Visalia)

The 66th International DX Convention, sponsored by the Northern California DX Club, is now open for Registration.

The meeting will be held from April 17-19, 2015 at the beautiful Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia, CA.

IDXC, the premier DX Convention in the United States, is attended by more than 800 attendees looking to improve their skills, their stations and their connection with fellow DXers.

Convention Highlights:

- Full day of training on Friday, April 17, 2015: Contesting and DXing Techniques
- Friday Evening Dinner Options: TopBand, IOTA, and Contesting
- Open DX Forum
- 20 DX and Technical Seminars
- 35-40 Exhibitors in large Exhibit Hall
- QSL Card Checking
- Great Raffle Prizes
- Eyeball QSOs with DX Friends
- Excellent Keynote Speakers

- Access to great California destinations for pre- or post-convention Vacations

Please Register Now: <http://dxconvention.com/pages/registration.html>

We intend to make IDXC 2015 the best DX Convention ever, and hope you'll be able to join us.

Sincerely,

John Miller, K6MM
Kevin Rowett, K6TD
Rich Seifert, KE1B
IDXC 2015 Co-Chairmen

2015 PNW DX Convention Update

Rich Stempien, W6RS

Now that the holidays are behind us, it is time to go into “high gear” planning this year’s convention. As you all know, it is our year to host the annual convention. Here’s a brief update on what’s happened and what’s in the works.

- The Holiday Inn Everett has been secured and booked for August 7-9, 2015.
- I am currently negotiating with the catering department to design the best menu possible.
- We have negotiated a very competitive rate for rooms with the hope that this will inspire more attendance.
- I am looking into wider advertising of the convention through magazines and newsletters, in hopes of getting the word out that this is a world class convention at a great venue.
- Kip, W6SZN, our program chairman, has been hard at work talking with world class DXers and DXpeditioners and has lined up an outstanding Saturday night banquet speaker.
- I have been in contact with the Everett Aqua Sox to arrange giving our attendees the option of attending a game Friday nite.

Many of you have approached me, offering your help with various areas of expertise garnered from prior convention participation. I assure you that I will be in contact with you, now that the convention is getting closer and we will be trying to firm up the nuts and bolts of the convention. I appreciate all your help and look forward to working with you.

As the convention grows closer, I will continue to update you on our plans. Please feel free to offer some free advertising on the air. When having a QSO with a station, make sure you

mention the convention and talk us up, as word-of-mouth is always the most powerful form of advertising.

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”

Pursuant to the Board’s decision, the Tabloid will publish the DXCC Ladder once each year in the January issue. This is the January issue, so here’s the 2015 DXCC Ladder (with apologies for the wide margins):

<u>CALL</u>	<u>MIXED</u>	<u>MIXED</u>	<u>PH</u>	<u>CW</u>	<u>DIG</u>	<u>CHAL</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>BAND</u>
<u>HONOR ROLL/332</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>															<u>DXCC</u>
<u>1/1/2015</u>																	
N7TT	379	337	357	340	9	2114	90	197	281	157	365	229	333	167	295		8
W7OM	372	340	369	349	311	2694	136	313	349	299	355	329	347	296	340		9
W7LFA	369	340	369														
K9JF	368	340				2327	184	236	296	215	343	284	313	223	255		9
W1YY	364	340	362	353			256	335	352	337		343		327	347		7
K7ZA	361	340		359		2502	107	208	294	325	355	336	337	301	303		8
K7GEX	359	340	359	299		2202	15	154	284	246	353	294	326	233	297		8
K7RI	358	340	349														5
K7LAY	356	340	356	344		818	175	164	176	177	316	215	254	145	218		9
K7EG	356	340	356	352	252	2234	48	255	285	236	350	293	316	241	262		8
K7HC	355	334	346	286	111	1586	16	166	199	150	342	216	250	112	162		8
K7DS	351	336	350	100		906		112	131	22	291	38	163	30	142		5
W7IIT	351	337	187	344		513		5	117	3	151	2	88		147		
N7BK	350	340	350	12			3	54	80		343	61	261	22	199		
W6RS	350	339	336	321	105	1776	1	116	217	201	316	264	269	198	198		8
W7BJN	349	340	349	5		1035	6	113	141		237	132	211	50	145		6
W7TSQ	348	339	344	300	83		52	146	217	102	324	144	250	125	226		5
W7AV	348	337	319	317	129	1853	49	144	218	199	313	261	240	190	221		8
N7TK	346	340	340	298	111	1709	84	119	186	183	335	237	233	163	184		8
W7VV	346	340	287	307	13	1069	20	65	176	41	309	101	205	28	141		5
K6UFO	345	338	329	333	123	920	3	25	101	8	288	26	250	10	209		
KD7H	344	335	301	323	130	1518	4	158	236	258	319	254	279	234	225		8
W7KSK	344		340	333	202	925		137	172	4	252	5	161	4	204		
K7BTW	342	332	330	332	259	1769	25	118	240	202	332	154	291	177	234		8
W7QN	340		331	316													
K6KR	340	333	300	328	50	1391	16	139	260	76	309	97	262	53	206		5
W7NP	328	323	305	206	147	957	3	20	106	28	295	39	188	126	159		
K7MH	328	322	281	239	94	910	7	105	120	20	264	64	177	27	122		5
K7LAZ	324	324	280	317		1732	71	130	221	210	308	244	223	176	164		8

N7YX	324		256	108	1		6	51	90	30	230	48	166	23	139	
W7IU	319	310	285	279	218	1320	5	16	127	108	285	191	243	163	178	7
K7MO	306	300	232	251	6	1081	19	118	167	55	227	111	185	68	130	5
W7ZF	304	303	256	159	131	535	3	17	47	18	181	98	125	54	165	
K7WA	303	293		285				49	183		182	118	183		134	5
N7XY	302		248	257	5	88	2	3	65	18	137	30	96	17	91	
K7DSE	301	299	254	282	30	1233	2	12	171	116	272	203	204	113	142	
WA7SRZ	299	278	286	8	13	688	2	21	21		208	102	128	83	107	
WC7Q	294	263	201	276	75	1311	5	47	137	118	257	206	222	160	158	7
W7VAS	292	290	264	160	106	826	0	2	61	5	237	185	144	93	96	
NG7Z	289	287	128	286	113	1072	22	72	157	108	230	125	187	60	118	
K7JF	287	278	62	128		242			16	20	111	40	36	11	35	
N7RVD	286	279	148	175	36	505	4	26	61	8	157	18	142	10	82	
W7UDH	277	268	9	255	0	281	0	1	12	6	192	8	62	0	0	
W7OLY	257	255	206	226	173	934	18	72	143	20	225	53	189	52	166	
KZ1W	227	227	226	3	33	805	6	55	87	0	180	101	160	73	140	
KX7L	227	225	75	202	110	686	10	35	111	56	143	66	127	26	108	
K7EKD	226	224	188	163		762	13	12	78	33	120	113	158	110	125	
N9ADG	220	218	148	187	78	608	106	49	99	28	154	26	86	6	56	
N7GCO	207	205	205				11	18	89		170	123	172	79	155	
K7ZG	177	174	69	165	1	295	0	11	21	1	84	3	102	3	70	

Contest Activity Report January 2015

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

The New Year is upon us. I hope you all had a safe holiday season and if you were expecting something nice that you received it. December didn't have any trophy-related tests but it was a busy month for contest activity nonetheless. Following is some of that activity.

ARRL 10M Contest

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score
M/S HP				
K7RI	2,034	111	18	451,548

SO CW LP

K7WA	721	89		256,676
K7HBN	270	65	10	70,200

SO CW Unlimited HP

N7BV	921	109	18	401,556
W7OLY	120	60	3	28,800
K7EG	105	67		28,140

SO CW Unlimited LP

KX7L	262	66	7.5	69,168
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SO Mixed HP

WC7Q	1,170	152	18.5	660,288
KD7H	557	147	17.20	278,124

SO Mixed LP

WA7PRC	220	101	6	71,104
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SO Mixed Unlimited HP

K7RL	2,842	269	24.5	2,358,054
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SO SSB LP

W7ZZ	127	51	3.75	12,954
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ARRL 10M Soapbox

K7WA: No Europe but otherwise good conditions. Thanks for all the QSOs!

KX7L: I spent about the same amount of time in the contest this year as in 2011, which was my previous high score, and almost equaled that score - more mults but fewer QSO's this time. No Europe heard at all, but still plenty of DX from this hemisphere. Thanks for the fun!

WC7Q: No Europe to speak of in the log but the bands were wide open elsewhere. A fun contest. First multiop from this station and had a great time doing it. One fatality was the Acom 1000 amp quite a couple hours into the test but the little Elecraft KPA500 carried the ball beautifully. Kudos to the designers of N1MM Plus. It performed wonderfully. WC7Q first attempt at operating SSB in many years. Much rather work cw.

K7RL: This time of year is usually difficult to break away and work the contest. Birthdays and holiday events mean I typically only get a few hours to play, here and there. This year, with my wife's blessing, it was all systems go for the weekend. And I think it was a good weekend to play. Plenty of stations to work and generally pretty good conditions.

The European opening was very short both mornings, and everyone worked was skew path over South America. Signals were generally weak, even from the big gun stations. Had a friend tell me there was a European opening to Washington and Oregon Sunday night, just after local midnight. Of course, I missed it. Nice job to those that didn't. Would have been fun to work that opening.

Rates were excellent the first day on both modes. Finished day one with 1,800+ Q's in the log and thought 3,000+ was a good possibility. Unfortunately, the band took a little longer to get rolling the second day and rates weren't as good.

The only criticism I have is the number of key clicks. Seemed like half the frequencies I occupied had someone nearby clicking away to one degree or another. Other than that, a really fun contest. Thanks to all for the Q's and Happy Holidays!

WA7PRC: I couldn't put much seat time into the contest which is too bad, because the band was in great shape.

K7EG: Disappointing propagation. Boring. Pulled the plug after 105 Q's.

N7BV: Good propagation made for a lot of fun. In the end there were 47 countries in the log. Did the contest in a relaxed mode, testing some of N1MM+'s features and new formats. N1MM worked flawlessly both in SO2V and SO2R modes. Thanks for all the contacts. 73, Chuck

K7RI: Just a part-time effort to introduce Curt to our contest software.

ARRL 160M Contest

Call	QSOs	Sections	Countries	Op Time	Score
Single Op HP					
N5CR	358	76	3	11	57,749
K7ZA	197	69	2	12	29,200
WR5J	98	41	2	8	8,159
Single Op LP					
AB7R	336	74	3	6	52,437
KX7L	84	43	1	3	7,524
WA7PRC	72	34	0	6	4,896
WC7Q	55	17	2	3	1,870
SO Unlimited HP					
K7RL	460	77	6	7	74,320

ARRL 160M Soapbox

KX7L: I had limited ability to put in the late night hours this time, but still managed to work all the US call areas with my 50W. Where was AK? Thanks for the Q's!

WC7Q: Heard lots of stations but could only work a few. Used a 80 meter delta loop which functioned poorly on 160.

K7ZA: Almost entirely S and P. Didn't stay up later than 11PM, getting old! Worked all states except GA, LA and AK.

AB7R: First contest in some time and used new rig...SunSDR2. Very contest friendly and performed great. Wish I could have found a few more multipliers but my inverted L needs work. Some great ops during this contest. Had fun even if only for 6 hours. I was amazed at all the EWA stations coming out of the woodwork. Always hard to find in other contests. :)

WA7PRC: While still modest, my effort was better than last year (even though I didn't have much seat time). IME, adding 1500' of wire in around 24 radials helped a bunch. Propagation was good enough to reach to the other coast a few times. I was hearing MANY stations but not all of those were hearing me. Improvements on my bucket list: bury another 1000' of radials, and buy/build/borrow/steal some QRO.

K7RL: Missed PR, WCF, AK, WTX, NL and NT for the sweep. Thanks to all for the Qs!

WR5J: Thanks, Everyone! First time on that band and first venture into a CW test other than CWT. Operated from a salt-water marina - stretched out a 1/4-wave horizontal wire and a sea-water other side of the balun... Worked great for North America - tougher for the rest of the world. Still working on my copy skills - seemed like too many "AGN?" for me, too... especially that 3-call in MDC that I just seemed to take me forever - thanks for sticking with me. Does seem to be the Gentleman's Band.

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/)

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)

January 2015 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

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: Bencher Butternut HF-9V Vertical Antenna (10M - 80M) with Counterpoise Kit. In excellent condition, but is surplus to my needs now. It is one of the best vertical antennas made. \$325 for both. John Owens, N7TK—425-745-0577.

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@t0l.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