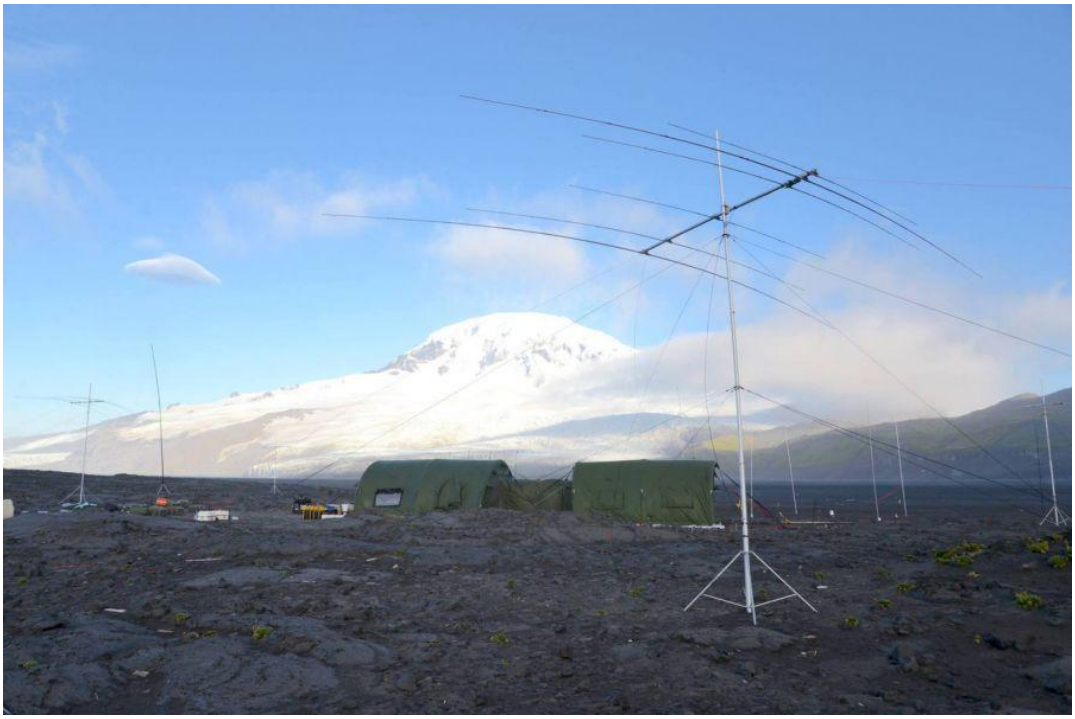
WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB, INC.

TotemTabloid

April 2016

NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 12



The 2016 Heard Island DXpedition will have just ended by the time of the meeting and hopefully we can all smile with at least one QSO in the log and confirmed real-time by the innovative DXA used by the team. Now see what the operators experienced and, in an unusual way, what a spectacular place Heard Island is. The 1997 VKØIR video, produced by James Brooks, 9V1YC, will be shown. There should be plenty of time for war stories, complaints and bragging about the 2016 operation.

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

It was great to see many of you at the Mike and Key Swap Meet. A special thanks to the Mike and Key Club for all of their hard work hosting it. Hopefully you came home with a few needed items or perhaps a treasure or two.

As you all know, the Heard Island VKØEK and Juan de Nova/Europa FT4JA DXpeditions are in full swing. There's still plenty of time to work them both. You will have to be patient as some of the on-the-air behavior has been atrocious.

Over the past few weeks I've contemplated many things. Some of these things include human behavior, in particular what leads people to do the right thing or the wrong thing? I tend to believe that people act in a certain way or do certain things because they've been rewarded or punished in some way for those actions. What one person may consider a reward the rest of us may not, and vice-versa.

Following these thoughts I've come to these conclusions:

(1) If you want good behavior, then you need to reward good behavior.
(2) If you don't want bad behavior, then you need to punish bad behavior.

I'm sure you can see where I am heading with this. Some of you will most likely disagree with some of the statements I am about to make. That's OK but what's not OK is not doing something about the current state of pileup behavior.

I've only been a ham since 2001 so I don't have the history in the hobby that many of you do. But since 2001 I've noticed a continuous increase in bad on-the-air pileup behavior. Although tuning up by accident on the DX transmit frequency and not going split are both frustrating, that is not what I am writing about. What I am writing about is deliberate QRM (DQRM) and continuous calling without regard for the DX station's instructions and the complete disregard for who he is coming back to.

One thing **not** to do is to transmit on the DX transmit frequency and tell the DQRMer to stop! I heard this so many times this weekend that I had to walk away more than once. I wanted to yell at the DQRMer too but then I thought about it. They want the attention and I would be giving it to them. **Please ignore them!** All you do is add to the QRM. Don't feed their deranged way of thinking!

It also seems like there is a correlation between the bad on-the-air behavior and Riley Hollingsworth's retirement from the FCC. I think we need to bring pressure to bear on the FCC. More than once this weekend I heard the following statement: "Amateur radio is becoming like CB." I'd like to think this is not the case. Although the FCC does little to

enforce the Citizen Band rules, I think we need further discussion on how we can help the FCC stop these bad operators. They don't deserve to have a license.

Now about those who continuously call out-of-turn: notice the word continuously. These operators are not breaking any FCC rules. However, they are violating the DX Code of Conduct. This weekend I listened to the FT4JA operator ask the pileup to quit calling when he was coming back to someone else. He said this multiple times to the pileup. Just imagine how many more QSOs could have been made before propagation went out!

It seems so basic that a 4 is not a 7, and a 3 is not a 6. Does the offending station actually think he will get a contact? Here's where rewarding bad behavior comes in. In the past this operator most likely has been rewarded for this poor operating practice. Otherwise why else would he do it? DX stations must not work these operators out of turn and we should do what we can to make sure DXpedition leaders adopt and enforce the rule that no out-of-turn callers will be worked.

Rob, N7QT took it a step further on his last few DXpeditions. Frustrated by the continuous out-of-turn calling, he issued a warning: If you keep calling out-of-turn after he'd warned you multiple times to stop, you risked having your QSO(s) thrown out of the log. Wow! Now that sounds harsh, right? However, when you think about it, the DX station has very few options. He could go QRT, but if he's on a DXpedition, a serious amount of money has been spent to activate the entity. The last thing I want to have happen is that guys will no longer go on DXpeditions.

From a local level, clubs can help police their area. We are so concerned about offending someone these days is it possible to constructively criticize someone's operating behavior/technique? I think it is, and it must be done.

I look forward to continuing this discussion as the problem seems to be growing and not shrinking. We all play a part in this game. As I've said in previous articles, I really do think our members are fantastic operators. Let's think about what we can do and not sit idly by while a small group of people ruin it for everyone else.

The club picnic will be July 16 in Redmond at the beautiful QTH of Rob, N7QT and Melanie, N7BX. More details will coming in the next few months, so save the date!

I hope you are able to work both the VKØEK and FT4JA stations if you need them. Good luck and good DX!

Random Comments From the Editor

We are again fortunate to be able to publish this month another article by Rob, KD7H, inspired by the amateur radio career of John Dack, W7KH. This one, dealing in part with

Clipperton Island, has special significance to your editor as I was part of the 1986 DXpedition to Clipperton, along with W6OAT, N7NG, W6RGG and AI6V (SK). It's hard to believe that 30 years ago exactly we were sitting in tents with 100 degree-plus weather outside, trying to work Europe.

As you all know far better than I do, DXing and contesting from the Pacific Northwest presents special challenges. With those in mind, the April 2016 issue of CQ Magazine shows that three club members deserve special recognition for their efforts in the 2015 CQWW SSB contest: Dan, W7WA, achieved the high score for the U.S. in the 40 Meters High Power category and Conrad, N5CR, did the same for the 20 Meters High Power category. Mitch, K7RL, was the winner of the All Band High Power Zone 3 plaque. Great job guys!

The VKØEK and FT4JA DXpeditions are drawing to a close, and once again the advice to work them early if you can has proved to be sound advice. Fortunately neither group has experienced equipment or transportation problems that could cut short their time on the air and both look like they will continue to operate as scheduled--but propagation has seriously declined since both groups started. I tuned across the bands this morning, starting on 10 meters, and couldn't find a signal until I got to 30 meters. I'm told that things are expected to improve before both groups go QRT so don't give up if you still need a QSO. They are both over 50,000 QSOs and will be there for another six days (Heard) or seven (Juan de Nova). The frequency plan agreed to by both groups has worked very well (the good news) but the DQRM and non-stop calling may have set a new "record" (the bad news). Just imagine how many more QSOs could have been made if the DXpedition operator could work each station without asking for repeats caused by the non-stop calling.

I've mentioned a few times the DX World website as a very useful place to find out what's going on in the DX world. www.dx-world.net Somehow the folks who run the site seem to get information before everyone else. They also have an innovative feature called the DXpedition Timeline" that you can find on the homepage by scrolling down on the left hand side and clicking on "Expand the Timeline." In addition to showing visually the schedules for the upcoming DXpeditions, clicking on a call will take you to the DXpedition's website or to previous DX World articles. Pretty slick, I think. Coming up later this month are DXpeditions to Iran (EP2A) and Spratly (9MØO)—not exactly vacation spots.

Good DX and see you at the meeting.

The W7KH QSL Card Collection: Part 5
Birth of the DXpedition

Robert Gregory KD7H

In my nearly seventy years on the Earth, I have come to realize that many people often make assumptions about all sorts of things and, at times, don't know the facts. I can sometimes include myself in that group. For example, I believe many people probably take for granted the idea that was and is the basis for commercial radio broadcasting: transmitting one signal, *e.g.*, with music and news, to many receivers. This idea was not obvious in the early days of radio when the only idea that prevailed was to have one two-way transmitting and receiving station send private, commercial, or military traffic to another two-way transmitting and receiving station. Some people, listeners or early radio amateurs who tinkered and experimented with primitive receiving equipment, crystal radios or otherwise, may have listened to the traffic but, of course, just as it is with scanner enthusiasts of today the traffic was not intended for those early enthusiasts.

The first "broadcast" is attributed to Reginald A. Fessenden on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1906, when he transmitted amplitude modulated music on equipment of his own design. It was reported that a number of "Sparks," shipboard radio operators receiving the "broadcast," were pleasantly surprised to hear Fessenden's own violin music emitting from their headphones. Today, radio broadcasting is an idea that seems so simple and obvious, but in 1906 it was a major, exciting and powerful breakthrough. The term broadcasting was borrowed from the term used in farming, meaning to scatter seeds across a field, and those early radio seeds have borne fruit indeed.

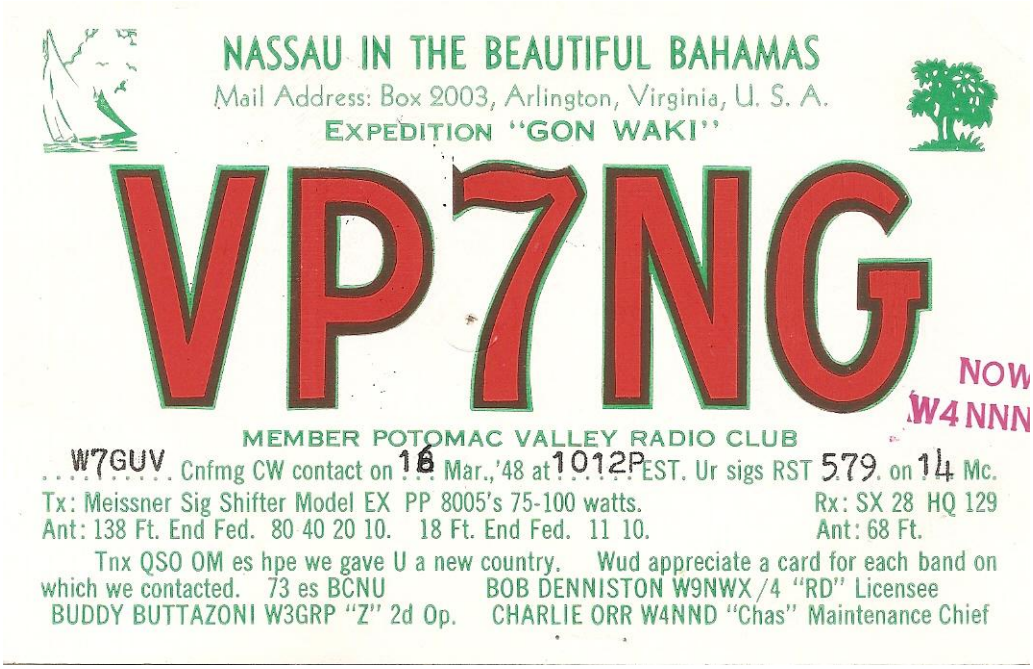
Regarding amateur radio, I believe that there may be ham operators who take the idea of the DXpedition for granted. Perhaps they may think that the idea of the DXpedition is so simple and obvious and that it has always existed. But that is not the case. Just as Reginald Fessenden had to conceive of the idea of radio broadcasting, someone had to conceive of the idea of the DXpedition.

For the purpose of this article, I will define an amateur radio "DXpedition" to be a specially-arranged trip, solely to activate a geographic or political entity recognized by the DX Century Club (DXCC), or any other DX-related award program, *e.g.*, Islands on the Air (IOTA). As such, the "DXpeditions" may use private, commercial or chartered means of conveyance to transport amateur radio operators and equipment to the DX location for the purpose of activating a DX entity. The amateur radio DXpedition operation may take place within commercially available quarters, using commercially available electrical power, or the DXpedition may be camped at the DX entity, using power provided by portable generators or batteries, etc. I will not consider amateur radio operations from DX entities to be considered as a "DXpedition" if activating the DX entity was not the primary reason for the operation, *i.e.*, amateur radio operations that happened to be part of a scientific or geographic expedition.

On April 28, 1947, Norwegian adventurer and ethnographer Thor Heyerdahl and crew set out on the *Kon Tiki* expedition across the Pacific Ocean. Heyerdahl had hypothesized that pre-Columbian people from coastal South America had settled Polynesia by sailing across the Pacific Ocean on wooden rafts. In an attempt to prove his hypothesis, he and a group of fellow adventurers built a large raft using natural materials, including balsa, found in the coastal forests of South America. In an effort to duplicate what early Polynesian settlers would have used on such a trip, hardly any modern equipment was taken along on the voyage. However, for emergency communication, amateur radio gear *was* onboard the raft and a Norwegian amateur radio call sign, LI2B, was assigned to the expedition.

Although Mr. Heyerdahl's hypothesis, results and methods were called into question by scientists and anthropologists, the *Kon Tiki* expedition captured the imagination of many people, including several ham radio operators. It may have planted the seed for an idea that reached fruition a bit later in 1948. Bob Denniston, a future ARRL president, who at the time was W9NWX, later W4NNN, and would eventually become WØDX, along with his two friends, Buddy Buttazoni, W3GRP, and Charlie Orr, W4NND, came up with the idea to travel to a DX entity specifically to activate it during the CW weekend of the 14th Annual ARRL DX Competition in March 1948. Denniston's non-ham friends thought the idea to transport heavy ham radio equipment to another country just to get on the air for a contest weekend was so crazy that they thought their friend had "gone wacky." Denniston and company apparently loved the expression so much that, inspired by Kon Tiki, they christened the adventure "Expedition Gon Waki."

The "Expedition Gon Waki" of 1948, as far as my research has discovered, was the very first time ham radio operators traveled to a DX entity specifically to activate it so that they could give out contest contacts and a "new one" to the deserving. Although no one referred to such an undertaking as a "DXpedition" at the time, it has since been considered to be the first-ever "DXpedition." The "Gon Waki" team decided on Nassau, New Providence Island, in the "Bahama Islands" (DXCC designation at the time) as their destination for the DX competition. With a fair degree of luck and diplomacy, Denniston had been able to negotiate for an amateur radio license for the operation in the Bahamas. Upon arrival in Nassau, the team was able to obtain the license and call VP7NG, issued by the Bahamas Islands Telecommunications Commission, even though generally at the time it was only possible for British subjects to be issued amateur radio licenses. Bob, Buddy, and Charlie had flown to Nassau carrying a Hallicrafters SX-28 receiver, a Hammarlund HQ-129X receiver, and a Meissner Signal Shifter Model EX transmitter. The transmitter used 8005 vacuum tubes in push-pull as the "finals" and ran between 75 and 100 Watts input. They also brought a supply of wire and, once settled in a "vintage 1800" three-story mansion in Nassau, they erected three antennas strung over to palm trees: one for receiving that was 68 feet long; a 138 foot end-fed wire for 80, 40, 20 and 10 meters; and an 18 foot end-fed wire for 11 and 10 meters (11 meters, at the time, was a ham band and 15 meters was not yet assigned).



With their modest station, before, during and after the CW contest the VP7NG crew made a little over two thousand contacts. Here are some points they learned from their experience and decided to share (with the deserving and with some of the undeserving, I think):

> -"Don't work the rare ones a second and third time except in contests. Remember every time you do it you are keeping somebody from working a new country. …There are a lot of stations with small signals chasing DX and their only chance to work it is when the rock-crushers are silent."
>
> -"Make your QSOs short."
>
> -"Don't call when the station is busy."
>
> -"Don't feel that just because you have a big signal you can get away with anything."
>
> -"If you are a gentleman off the air, be one on the air."

It is interesting to discover that many of the challenges and problems permeating the DX pile-ups today happened in the very beginning of DXpeditioning. Little did they know, but the VP7NG team had started a ham radio trend and a possible affliction. Credit for coining the term "DXpedition" goes to Phil Richard CM9AA who, in 1950, worked at the American Consulate in Havana, Cuba (please see his QSL card).

Prior to the "Gon Waki" expedition, amateur radio operators and equipment *had* been part of a number of scientific and geographic expeditions and was even included in oil prospecting expeditions going back to the 1920s and 1930s. For example, the Admiral Byrd Antarctic expeditions included an amateur radio station that regularly sent traffic back to hams in North America.

A very early contact with a station on Clipperton Island, also known as the "Ile de La Passion" ("the isle of passion") in 1938 (not yet a separate entity but originally part of "French Oceania") was recorded in *QST Magazine*. A station identified as FC8AA, possibly part of a French geographic expedition, was only reported being worked by W6OJO. In 1939, Clipperton obtained separate DXCC status, but other activations and contacts are sketchy. For example, in August 1952, it was reported that a station signing FO7AW—possibly operated by Swiss amateur HB9AW—was worked by W5FXN and W1FH. No other mention of this operation was made.

About five years after the Bahamas adventure, the DX affliction, "DXpeditionitis," struck Bob Denniston (now W0NWX), and he decided to put together a new DXpedition that would target an entity that had seen little activity. Because of its separate entity status, its lack of activity and its relative proximity to the North American mainland, Denniston settled on Clipperton Island. Researching Clipperton, he obtained valuable information from hams who had been on the island during WWII and from tuna fisherman who happened to be ham radio operators and had fished the waters around the island. Denniston was issued the following warnings:

-"There's no harbor and a terrific surf sometimes covers the whole island."

-“Beware of the wild pigs with tusks that drive men into the surf.”

-“Clipperton is surrounded by coral reefs that slash men’s shoes.”

-“Man-eating sharks abound about the atoll.”

-“Be prepared to swim the last 50 feet and climb the 4-foot precipice with your equipment as a boat cannot be run up to the shore---others who tried lost their gear.

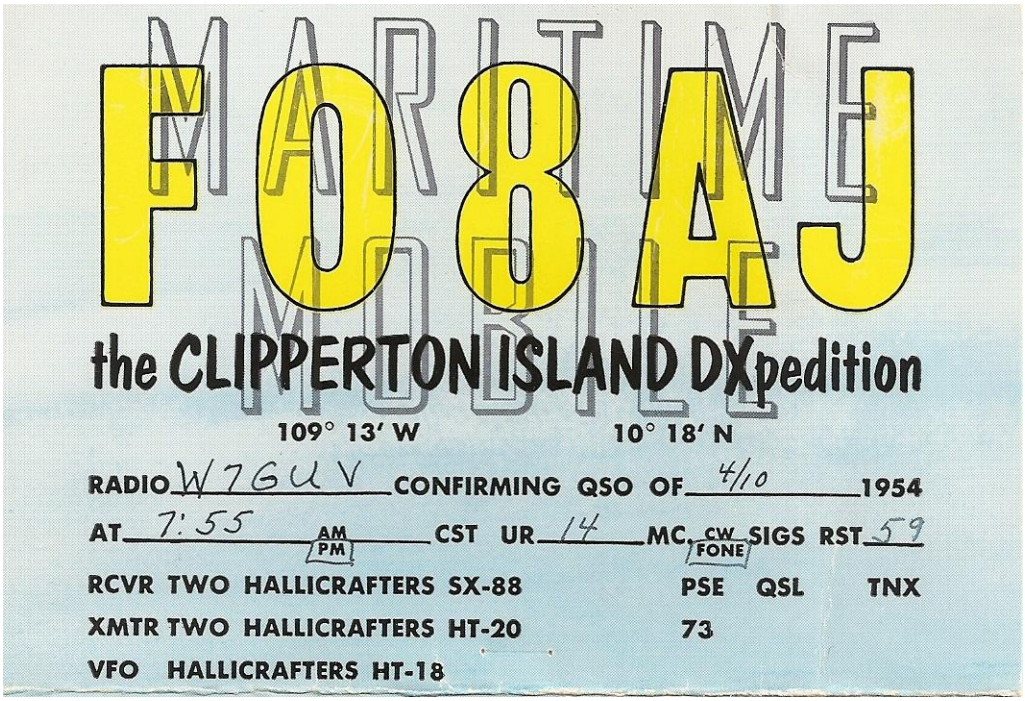
Apparently, these warnings did not dissuade Denniston and his pals, including SWL friends Vern Hedman and Tom Partridge, and hams Leo Olney W0NUC, and Gene O’Leary W0VDQ. In late 1953, an assault on Clipperton was formulated and travel arrangements, including a boat charter, were made. With the help of F9AA, president of the French amateur radio organization *REF*, authorization was obtained to operate on the French Oceanic Territory of Clipperton, and the license and call FO8AJ was secured. Equipment was donated by the Hallicrafters Company, including HT-18 and HT-20 transmitters, along with an SX-88 receiver.

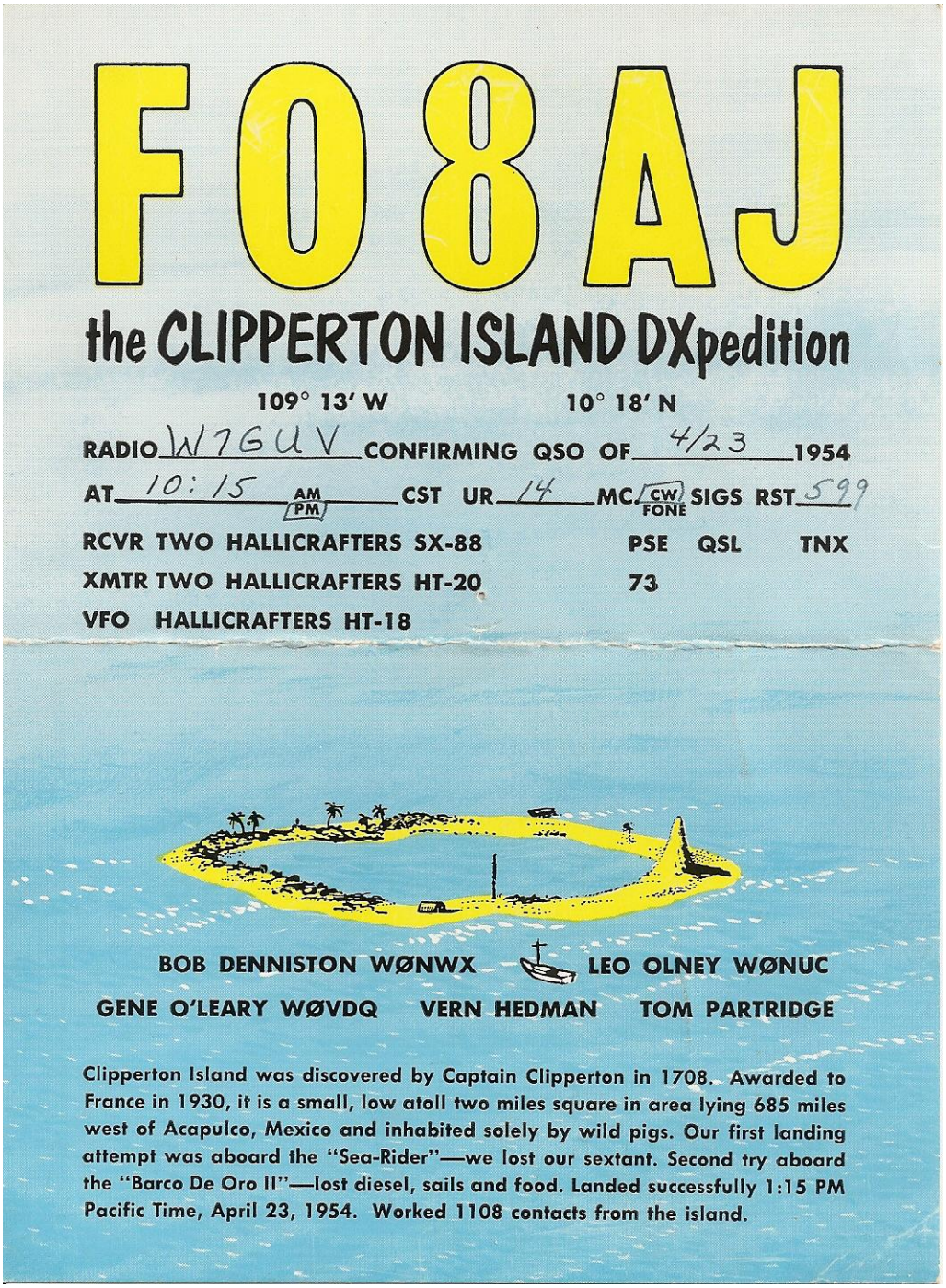
HT-18

SX-88

Originally, the FO8AJ Clipperton operation was to have taken place to coincide with the last weekend of the ARRL's 20th International DX Competition, plus an extra day after the contest, but that wasn't to be. Besides the hazards on and around the island, the operation faced some unfortunate surprises, which included car trouble and a delay while travelling to Mexico with all the gear, and rough seas, which caused a sextant to be dropped and damaged on the first trip out of Acapulco, Mexico. Unable to navigate to Clipperton, combined with running low on fuel as they attempted to find the island with the aid of radio-location (using FO8AJ/mm transmissions so mainland stations could get a "fix" on them), they were forced to return to the mainland. When DXers heard about these trials and tribulations, and that the FO8AJ team was passionate (true to the island's original name) about wanting to try again while they were still in Mexico, additional funds were raised so that the activation could be realized.

Additional negotiations were accomplished and another boat was located. Thankfully, the Hallicrafters Company and North American Phillips Company arranged the charter. After nearly a week at sea, which included rough weather, engine trouble, dead batteries, torn sails, more navigation problems and getting a tow from the Mexican Navy, the team finally made it to Clipperton. After erecting a vertical on the beach, the first operation to actually be called a DXpedition started up on 20m phone at 5pm CST on April 23, 1954, continuing until 9:53 am CST on April 26, making a total of 1,108 contacts. John Dack as W7GUV had contacted FO8AJ/mm on April 10 during the DXpedition's attempt to locate and land on Clipperton, and he made contact with FO8AJ on Clipperton about five hours into the very first day of the DXpedition (please see QSL cards.





Although they didn't rack up the number of contacts expected by most modern day, large-scale activations, the VP7NG "DXpedition" and FO8AJ "DXpedition" were inspirational to many DXers and, in my opinion, they laid the foundation for many if not all future DXpeditions. Once again, John Dack as W7GUV was there at important moments in DX history.

In preparing this article, I used the following reference material:

QST Magazine, July, 1948, pp.80-118, "Expedition Gon Waki"
QST Magazine, July, 1954, pp. 10-15, "DXpedition to Clipperton"
QST Magazine, March, 1998, p. 70 "W0DX/VP2VI To Relive Thrill of First DXpedition"
www.radioamateurs-france.org "Ile de La Passion"
Don C. Wallace W6AM Amateur Radio's Pioneer by Jan David Perkins, N6AW
200 Meters & Down, The Story of Amateur Radio by Clinton B. DeSoto, W1CBD

ARRL National Parks On the Air (NPOTA)

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The ARRL has followed its successful 2014 W1AW Centennial Celebration on the air activity with the 2016 National Parks On the Air (NPOTA) activity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Check the ARRL website for the NPOTA pages. The idea is to contact as many of the 400+ National Park Units as possible during 2016. And of course, it depends on hams going out to activate the National Parks Units. Most of the activity has been on 20 meter SSB, with some on CW and the other bands.

NPOTA is linked to Logbook of the World (LoTW) – when you log a NPOTA QSO on LoTW it is automatically added to your NPOTA Score on the NPOTA web page. There are separate scores for Chasers (those who contact the National Park Units) and Activators (those who activate National Park Units).

On Sunday, March 20, I did my first NPOTA activation from the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, behind Grand Coulee Dam in eastern Washington. I operated for two hours from the campground at Spring Canyon about five miles upstream from Grand Coulee. I had pileups on SSB and CW the whole time.

My second NPOTA activation was Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island on April 2; again, lots of activity and QSOs. Future plans include Ross Lake National Recreation Area and maybe some of the Lewis and Clark sites in northwest Oregon.

There are several other National Park Units in Washington state in addition to the big three: Mt Rainier, Olympic, and North Cascades National Parks, check the NPOTA web pages for more information.

NPOTA Activity

Bill, W7VP, announces plans to activate two National Parks on his way to Visalia. Bill will be in Yosemite on April 9-10 and in either Sequoia or Kings Canyon on April 13. Look for him signing W7VP on 14.250 on and after 10 a.m. PDT.

Lessons in SDR

Mike “Dink” Dinkelman, N7WA

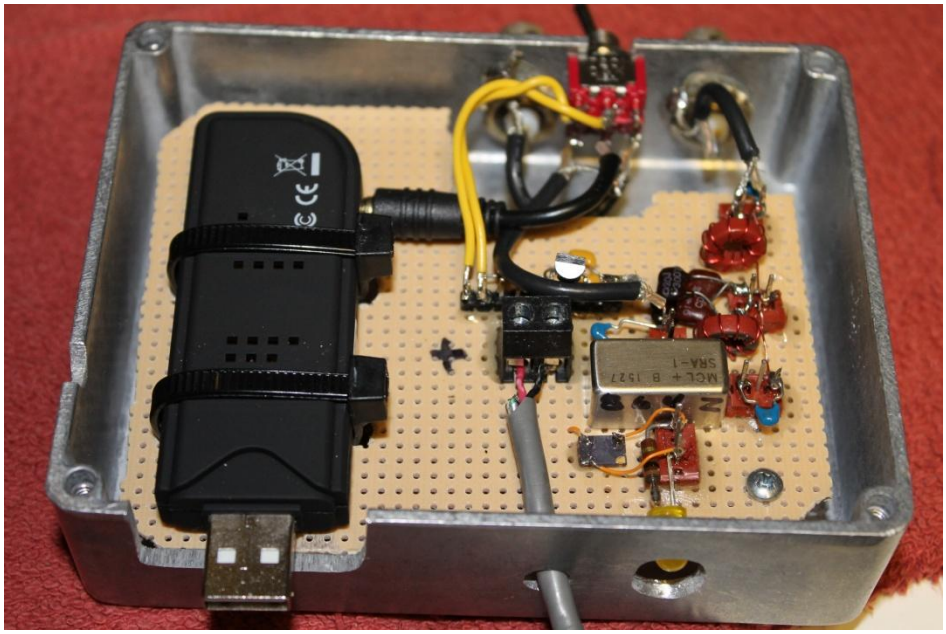
Warning! Members of QCAO in good standing may be excommunicated if found reading the following:

Last January's QST had a DIY article I found interesting. I was interested because it looked like a cost-effective way to get a 100KHz-2GHz receiver that could be used, along with a laptop, to search out noise. Usually, we find noise down in the HF regions and, as we get closer, nail it down with UHF/VHF. This device encompassed all those frequencies.

Reviewing the design, it used an inexpensive software defined TV converter dongle. You can get these for $20 on eBay or Amazon. They are limited to 24MHz, and up, so the QST project included a 100MHz mixer and 35MHz low pass filter to provide "up-conversion" to the range the dongle covers. All control and display is done through a PC running free software with a USB connection. So when you want to listen to 20 meter CW, you listen at 114.050.000 MHz.

It took me a month to get all the parts together. The toughest and most expensive to get were the two 50 cent toroids in the low pass filter. You just can't order two toroids from Amidon. They have a minimum order of $25. I almost ordered 50 toroids but looked further and found they had an experimenter’s package that included two of the desired parts plus a bunch of others that could be useful in the future. If you ever need a powered iron toroid, see me first; I have quite a variety now.

Later, I learned that Mini Circuits sells a 35MHz low-pass filter in a small package that I could have got for $16. Since I ordered the mixer circuit from Mini Circuits, it would have saved some effort and eliminated the need for the toroids.



I built it all in a reclaimed project box that already had useful holes, though it looks ugly. The big black thing is the TV converter. The big silver can is the mixer, there is a tiny 100MHz oscillator next to it and the low pass filter is in the upper right. You can feed the device from two antenna connections--one for 24 Mhz and up and one for 100KHz through 30MHz. You can see a power cord coming out but I found out that the SDR runs just fine off a 9V battery (it only powers the oscillator/mixer) which eliminates one path for noise.

It worked from the get-go as I went up and first listened to FM broadcast stations. I next worked at getting WWV at 10MHz. That wasn't too bad either. I could copy CW and SSB on 20 and 40 meters. I could also copy FM broadcast stations just below the 40M band (huh?). What stations are those, you ask? How about 107.5. (Remember, to listen to 7MHz, we up convert to 107 MHz. Hmmm, there is a bit of unexpected leakage from strong stations through the low pass. Still, it works fairly well... as long as there isn't a strong FM station in the vicinity of a ham band.

Another issue is the RTL dongle. Not sure what I am doing but sometimes I make adjustments that seem to make it go into either oscillation or other process that creates lots of noise. The only remedy at that point is to shut down the software, disconnect the dongle and start over. It seems happiest if I don't do any RF gain adjustments. I've tried several SDR programs (all free). SDR Console seemed the most stable though it is the hardest to learn. With SDR Console, I don't seem to break into the oscillation/noise issue as much.

All in all, the project works and was a satisfying distraction. You can listen to FM and AM broadcast stations and I found a few shortwave broadcast stations, too. CW and SSB do fine but

it's not a receiver you would want to use on a regular basis. I don't think it'll be my local noise detector because of the instability issue but I have other ideas on how to proceed on that front.

Membership Update

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The Western Washington DX Club welcomes two new members this month:

Bengt-Erik (Ben) Norum, K7ADD, of Duvall, WA

Jerry Block, K4LAP, of Gig Harbor, WA

If you received a Renewal Notice and have not yet renewed, please consider doing so soon. Annual Member Dues enable WWDXC contributions to major DXpeditions and support Club activities. Membership updates and questions should go to Jim, K7WA (email k7wa (at) arrl.net).

April 2016 Contest Activity

Mike “Dink” Dinkelman, N7WA

Hints of better weather are bringing me thoughts of antenna weather. Just brought down the driven element of my 40M beam yesterday. Still can't figure out what’s going on there ever since it failed in the middle of the CW CQWW in November.

Been working on getting ready for the 7th District QSO Party in May. It'll probably be my first contest effort since November and it'll be nice to get out on the road in eastern Washington. For this effort, I have borrowed a KX3 with amplifier and have been reworking the antenna situation - I hope to have two this year. Also beefed up my power cables with some new 8 gauge wire I got at the Puyallup Hamfest. (I was dropping too much voltage between the battery and the rig.) My IC-706 didn't care so much but the K3 I was using for the Salmon Run definitely let me know.

Hope to see some of you down in Visalia. It's been a while and I haven't seen the new convention center location. Should be fun.

ARRL DX Contest, SSB

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score
M/S HP				
K7RI	1961	365	~42	2,147,295
SO Unlimited HP				
K7SS	412	181		223,716
K7IDX	155	97	9	43,905
K7EG	68	43		8,772
SOAB LP				
W7OM	560	193		324,240
K7HBN	400	158		189,600
WA7PRC	339	125		127,125
W7QN	206	104		63,640
K7WA	110	51		16,830
N7XY	13	13	0.5	507
N9ADG	10	10		300
SOSB/15 LP				
N7RVD	268	62	10	49,662
SOSB/160 HP				
K7CW	10	8	2.5	210
SOSB/40 HP				
W7WA	1117	95		318,345

ARRL DX Contest Soapbox

N9ADG: S&P effort; I need more than 8 radials. It was great to be on for just a bit. I hope we win the trophy this year by 300 points.

W7QN: SteppIR vertical worked very good. Now I don't have to go out on the porch to change bands. Also worked EU on 40 both nights. (*you are an inspiration Joe –dink*)

K7CW: Only two Qs were easy, the ones with Hawaii. Did manage to get CR2X Friday night for Europe, though. Also heard (but didn't work) ED7P on Saturday night. Pretty good signal,

too, but couldn't get past all the other callers. CR2X got up to S-9 on Saturday night. Didn't stay up for sunrise prop on either night. 600W/inverted-L w/7 radials.

K7EG: Least favorite mode. Conditions were poor. Quit after 68 Q's.

K7IDX: TS-590 KPA 500 4 EL SteppIR pointed East, KT-34XA over North Pole--did not turn antennas...S&P

K7RI: One radio (no mult station). Conditions were quite disturbed during much of the contest. Runs to Japan were TERRIBLE compared to normal. Saw lots of spotted stations we could simply not hear. Thanks to Dennis, Walt and Jonathan (great addition to the team.) Thanks Jonathan! We all had a good time in spite of the conditions. Thanks to everyone who worked or tried to work us.

N7XY: I was able to operate for a short time after returning from the Puyallup hamfest.

WPX Contest, SSB

Call	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score
SOAB HP				
KZ1W	24	20		1,440
SOAB LP				
WA7PRC	307	225	24	166,050
W7QN	228	162		81,810
SOAB(TS) LP				
KB7HDX	238	182		99,008
K7HBN	200	175	8	87,500

WPX Contest Soapbox

WA7PRC: As always, WPX was LOTSA fun**!**

KZ1W: Operated only on Sat evening about 3.5 hrs and only on 80m except one QSY to 160m to fill a mult request. All S&P initially chasing new ones (added 6) for SSB 80, and after mining them a few more for fun. Amazingly, I could hear 9A1A (Croatia club superstation) clearly at 4:30 in the afternoon, but he couldn't hear me. We've worked before LP at the a.m. grey line. I have to wonder what is happening to 80m prop to have him appear during the day, when SFI

and sunspot numbers were relatively high on Sat compared to the trend line. I'll submit as 80m only so one less mult and Q.

W7QN: Sure like the SteppIR vertical. Worked a few EU on 40 with just one call!

WWDXC DXCC Ladder

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WWDXC DXCC Ladder is 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 (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/johnshan/dx_ss_qsling.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 DXpeditions and dates I have in my calendar as of April 5, 2016 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Wake Island (K6W)	Postponed
North Korea (P5)	Scheduled for "late Summer" 2016 and now two operators
Palestine (E44YL)	Ongoing
Juan de Nova (FT4JA)	Ongoing—will end April 14, 2016
Heard Island (VKØEK)	Ongoing—will end April 10, 2016
Spratly (9MØO)	Started today—ends April 9, 2016
Iran (EP2A)	April 16-25, 2016
St. Paul--CY9C	August 19-29, 2016

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)

April 2016 Contest Calendar

In case anyone reading this is not aware of it, Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, has a website that is truly a one-stop place for all things related to contesting. The link is http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/ or just Google "WA7BNM" and the first hit is Bruce's site. With just a few clicks, you'll find everything you need to know about every contest, large or small. I find it very useful when I hear a station that I want to work that is obviously exchanging contest reports and I don't know the exchange.

DX Alert Nodes

Bob Nielsen, N7XY (n7xy@n7xy.net)

Current DX Node telnet addresses:

W7JD-1 - w7jd.ddns.net, PORT 9000

K7EK-1 - k7ek.ddns.net, PORT 9000

W7PKT- w7pkt.net, PORT 7300

Totem Trader

FOR SALE: Super Combo Keyer by ZS4TX. $125. Excellent condition. This is a CW and voice keyer. The CW keyer is the Idiom Press K3 model, integrated with voice keyer. Allows switching between any two radios. Tom, NU7J nu7j@arrl.net telephone: 425-335-3623

FOR SALE: Alpha 9500 amplifier for $5000. Original owner. It's just over 4 years old and in pristine /immaculate condition. It runs full legal limit, all modes, key down, and fully

automatic tuning. It includes the latest factory updates and has been trouble free from the day I purchased it from Alpha. Rob, N7QT rfanfant@hotmail.com telephone: 425-681-7784

FOR SALE: Icom IC-765 Transceiver, in excellent condition, with hand mike and manual, $650

Phillips PM 3286, 175 MHz, dual trace, dual time base, oscilloscope, with memory. $150

Measurements Corporation, Model 80 R.F, signal generator, 2MHz to 400 MHz, with 50 ohm pad. $75

Contact Larry, K7EKD at: k7ekd@frontier.com

FOR SALE: Icom IC-80AD, digital VHF/UHF Handheld, new battery, desktop charger, DSTAR. $250

Yaesu FT411E, 2M Handheld, wall wart charger, new battery. $60
Contact Mike, N7WA n7wa@arrl.net

FOR SALE: Ameritron AL-80B Linear Amplifier, 160m - 10m. 1000 W on SSB, 800 W on 10m. Spare 3-500Z tube. Wired for 240V. Good condition. Pickup in Edmonds, WA. $650

MFJ-4716 Six position antenna switch. Good for 160m - 10m, 1500 W. Good condition. $45

Icom IC-2300H 2m FM Mobile. Like New. $120

Contact: Neil, W7IU at 425-775-6140

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

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Internet Access
Information on the Western Washington DX Club is also available on the internet at www.wwdxc.org