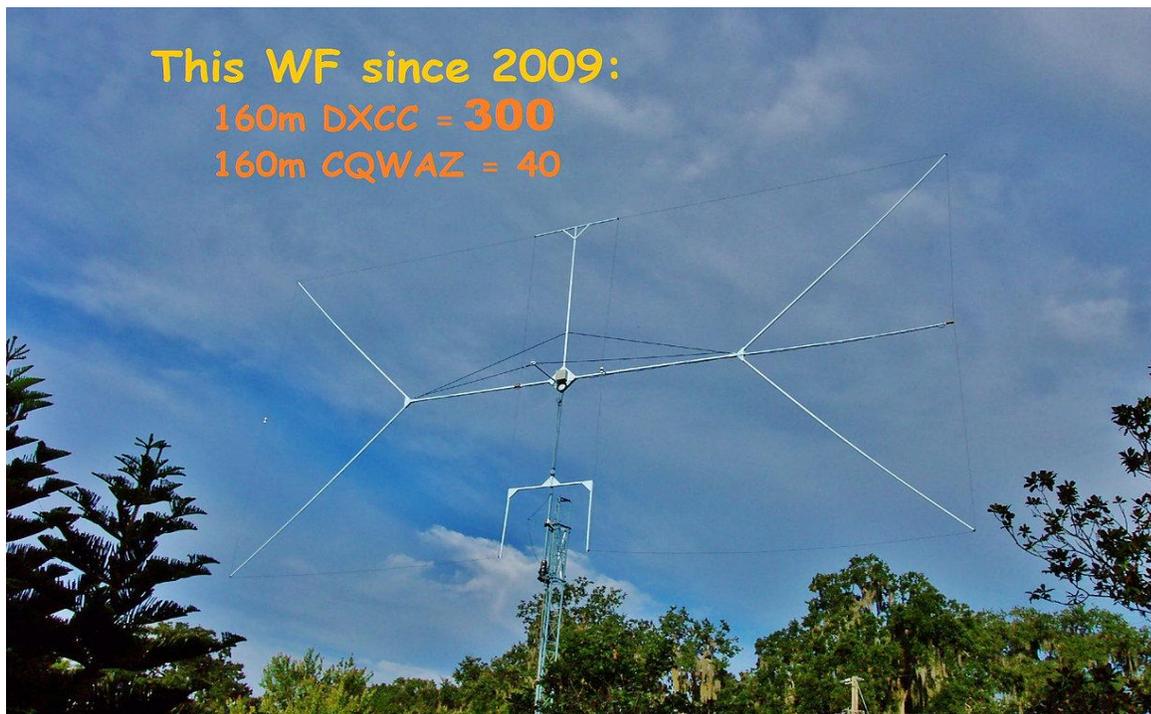


June 2016

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 14



The photo above is NX4D's Waller Flag receiving antenna for 160. He used this on a small city lot to produce the results shown on the photo. Interested? Come to the June meeting where we'll show the second half of the webinar "High Performance RX Antennas for a Small Lot." Sponsored by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation, the webinar has received rave reviews.

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

Greetings everyone! Well, I just got back from SeaPac. I hope you all survived the extreme heat we had this last weekend. It was very hot inside the convention center in Seaside, Oregon but I made it through. I know I've said this in the past, but Seaside is the nicest ham radio convention venue I have been to yet. This little town is truly fantastic. I really enjoyed seeing a bunch of you there. There are always great seminars. If you've never been or it's been a long time, you need to get down to Seaside next year.

I don't think this will come as much of a surprise: the Western Washington DX club is primarily a social club. The true value of our club is all the relationships that have been built and are being built. Like any relationship, staying connected is a two way street. My hope is that everyone in the club has a closer group of friends that they've helped establish within the club. Inevitably life happens and people move, have health issues and so on. As we know, it's these close friends that come to our aid. This being said, if someone within the club is struggling it's appreciated for that individual or that closer group of friends to let the club know. We definitely are not a welfare agency but since we are friends there are many things friends do for each other. So what's the ultimate point here? Stay connected to your friends!

The club picnic will be on Saturday, July 16, at Rob Fanfant, N7QT's house in Redmond. The main dishes and some side dishes will be catered by Dickie's BBQ. We will be having pulled pork and chopped brisket and side dishes of creamy coleslaw, BBQ beans and baked potato casserole. On top of this the club will provide all of the beverages. Yes, this includes beer and wine. The food will be arriving just before 5 p.m. The picnic will start around 4:00 p.m. and taper off at around 7:30 p.m. This is a family event. Please bring them.

Please RSVP to me by June 24 at : k7edx@arrl.net

Here's what we'd like you to bring (enough to serve 8 persons):

For calls ending (**last** letter of call) in A-H--dessert

For calls ending (**last** letter of call) in I-P--appetizer

For calls ending (**last** letter of call) in Q-Z--side dish

Example: W7DX would bring a side dish, W7AA would bring a dessert, etc.

Rob's address: 21422 NE 79th Street, Redmond, WA. This is on Union Hill. I hope to see you at this month's club meeting. Enjoy the nice weather.

Random Comments From the Editor

I haven't seen much publicity about the Pacific Northwest DX Convention, scheduled for August 5-7 in Portland. The convention website says that the special rate for the convention hotel expires on July 8 so if you think you might attend you should make a reservation. The program looks very interesting: two sessions by Bernie, W3UR, about how he does what he does in putting out The Daily DX and another on the Top 25 DXCC countries. Bob Heil, K9EID, will speak about how to listen—especially important as the low bands start to gain prominence as the sunspots decline and Bob is always an entertaining speaker. Our President Adam and Rob, N7QT, will re-live the Willis Island DXpedition (VK9WA) and you can also see and hear about the DXpeditions to South Sandwich and South Georgia from Paul, N6PSE, and the Palmyra Atoll trip from Craig, K9CT. Paula, NX1P, will speak about IT for DXpeditions. All in all, it looks like a great program. There will also be DXCC card checking, including 160 meter QSOs. Full details and information about hotel reservations and convention registration can be found at <http://pacificnwdxconvention.com/>

You don't need me to tell you that band conditions have been pretty crummy lately. I looked at my log this morning (yes, I still keep a paper log) and I have all of May's QSOs on less than one page. Unfortunately, it looks like it will be this way for some time to come. K7RA's propagation missive for May 27, after summarizing the latest lousy numbers, said the following: "We should continue to see this overall decline in solar activity for at least the next four years. Compared to past cycles, this one is considerably weaker." I wish I had good news to report, but I don't.

Some of you may know Roger Western, G3SXW, and I'm sure you have worked Roger and his VooDoo Contest Group in the CW version of the CQWW. Roger is a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame as well as the CQ Contest Hall of Fame and is also a founding member of the VooDoo Contest Group (<http://voodoocontestgroup.com/>). I have worked him many times in contests but had never met him until maybe 10 years ago, when he and Wayne Mills, N7NG, stopped at my home at Lake Tahoe on their way back to Wayne's QTH in

Wyoming after the Visalia convention. We had a great time together—Roger is a very witty guy with a typical British sense of humor and understatement. There is, however, nothing understated about his latest project: finding and publicly identifying those who create DQRM and thereby disrupt DXpeditions. Roger has written a very interesting article about the successful search for an Italian ham who apparently was quite well-known locally for engaging in DQRM. The article appeared in the latest CDXC Digest and you can find it at www.gmdx.org.uk/resources/Documents/DFing-DQRM.pdf.

We all know about the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301. This is the ARRL's effort to get Congress to pass legislation that would apply PRB-1's mandate of "reasonable accommodation" to the antenna desires of amateurs restricted by covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs). The proposed legislation got a boost earlier this week when the League reached an agreement with the Community Associations Institute (the association that represents home owners associations) that "would allow every amateur living in a deed-restricted community the ability to install an effective outdoor antenna." This, according to the Northwestern Division Newsletter. You can read a summary of the compromise reached and the text of the amended bill at <https://www.caionline.org/Advocacy/GovernmentAffairsBlog/Pages/1301Compromise.aspx> Having read the proposed amended statute, it looks like a full employment act for lawyers who handle these cases for the next decade or so. Happily my State Bar of California card now says "INACTIVE." For those afflicted by CC&Rs, stay tuned—there will be much more to come.

7th District QSO Party

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

The 7th District QSO Party was held May on 7. I don't think it's as much fun as the Salmon Run but it's a close second. (I do like the 6 a.m. start, though.)

For me, this was planned as a multi-op to put all Eastern Washington counties (19) on the air but things fell through and I went solo. That required an adjustment down to only 16 counties. This year I borrowed a KX3 with KPA100A and built a second mobile antenna (bug-catcher type) in order to boost my score. The idea of the KX3 was in anticipation of getting one to replace my venerable IC-706. The KX3 is a good rig but would it do well as a mobile? Where do I put the KPA100A? I had about six weeks to find out before the 7QP and I really put the KX3 through its paces.

My trip started on the Benton/Klickitat county line. I had driven over to Sunnyside to spend the night since the contest starts at 6 a.m. local and driving over from Kent would have been nasty. After I checked in at the motel, I went out looking for a food store to provision up. I pulled into a grocery parking lot. Apparently I attracted the attention of the law because, as I got out of my vehicle, there was a cruiser parked behind me and the two officers had a quizzical look. "It's just a Ham Radio antenna," I said while laughing. My second antenna is the "Bug Catcher" type and it had been getting funny looks for a couple weeks already but this was the first time a cop had taken interest. We chatted a bit and I went on my way.

I had to get up at 4 a.m. in Sunnyside, and get on the road by 5 a.m. to make the county line by 6 a.m. Apparently there are a number of dairy farms around Sunnyside. The air was still and the stench of cows was pervasive in the morning until I got up into the hills above Mabton. There I was greeted by a beautiful sunrise and I had a great view of the Horse Heaven Hills.

The contest started out with a bang on 40 meters. The KX3 and amplifier were working well and WW7D was my first contact for a total of four contacts since we were both on county lines. Then suddenly I was listening to two different frequencies - one in each ear. I quickly surmised that the second receiver had been enabled and I fixed the audio by matching the two VFOs. But why, after six weeks of using this radio, had it decided to turn on the sub-receiver? In between working contacts, I paged through the KX3 manual on my tablet. It seems the KX3 has an AUTO setting for dual receivers. I don't know what triggers the AUTO setting to activate the second receiver but I turned the option off and the sub-receiver went away. After 45 minutes on the Klickitat/Benton line, it was time to move on to the next line--Franklin/Walla Walla--where I spent another 45 minutes on the air and got a bit of attention from a park ranger who thought I was listening to the salmon fishermen out on the Snake River.

And this is the way the day went. Work for 45 minutes, drive 1-2 hours to the next line, and repeat. The Qs were piling up fast because each one was actually two contacts - one for each line. If I worked another station on a county line, we both got credit for four contacts! Then things went badly at the Adams/Whitman line.

It was past noon and it was getting warm. The vehicle was warm, I was warm, and the KPA100A amplifier was getting warm too. The safety thermal

shutoff shut it down. Huh? Bet the owner of the amp will be happy to learn that this feature actually works, huh? I wasn't. After only 30 minutes at the line, I had to move on while the amplifier cooled down. I turned on the truck air conditioner as I headed to the Stevens/Lincoln line. It got positively frosty in the cab and the amplifier was working just fine when I started operating at Fort Spokane State Park in the shade of trees. But you could watch the temperature rise (the KX3 can display the amplifier's temp). I tried turning down the power but no go. I didn't let it go into fault this time (60 degrees C) but I also had to stop operations early at Stevens/Lincoln. Now I was frustrated as I headed for Okanagan/Ferry county line. If I only had a fan or something to move the air on the heat sink! Half way to Grand Coulee dam, I got an idea.

In Grand Coulee, I stopped at the Safeway and bought some freezer Zip-lock bags and some ice. (Yup, you know where this is going.) I double sealed some ice in the bags and wrapped the bags in paper towels to soak up any possible condensation knowing that if I messed this up, I would be buying a new amplifier. Placing it right on top of the heat sink, as I continued to the county line, I watched the temperature on the amplifier dropping to even below the ambient air temperature (the amp had been off since the last county line). When I started at the Okanagan/Ferry line, I again nervously watched the temperature go up but it plateaued below 40 degrees C. Success! When moving to the next line, I removed the bag (it was mostly water by that time). This worked for each succeeding county line and nary a drop was spilled.



Command Central—N7WA/M

My last stop was the Chelan/Kittitas line at Blewett Pass. That was about 11 p.m. and I had been on the road for 18 hours already. It wasn't a long stop. Anybody with any sense was in bed and both 40 and 80 were quiet. From the post-contest reviews, it sounds like conditions had deteriorated as well. Few people answered my CQs though Hawaii came back to me on 80. Then it was 90 minutes to home. My wife welcomed me at just after 1 a.m. What a day!

I ended with 549 contacts - not bad for really only about six hours of operating. I left some contacts on the table at two county lines because of the heat issue. The majority were on 20 (365) and 40 (158). I had more than twice as many on 80 (18) than I had on 15 (8). Fifteen meters stunk! I worked 43 states and one DX (JA). So much for this solar cycle.

I have seen the bug-catcher antenna in action now--it catches a lot of bugs but it worked well too. Having two antennas was wonderful and allowed me to do quick band changes. The entire trip was just over 800 miles - it was a long trip but a lot of fun too. As I returned the KX3, I had entertained thoughts of making an offer but the owner nixed that idea. Plus, the KX2 had just been announced. I really worked myself over thinking about that choice until a KX3 with everything I wanted plus more came up for sale at a price a new stripped down version would have cost. Unfortunately, now I need to find the amplifier. Anybody got one for sale? Gotta get ready for the Salmon Run...

Oh, and I would like to talk to someone about the feasibility of doing RTTY with the KX3 while mobile in the Salmon Run. Is that an easy switch from/to CW?



One visible bug?

June 2016 Contest Activity

Mike “Dink” Dinkelman, N7WA

With the conclusion of the CW WPX, there remains only one more contest in the Northwest Trophy Competition—the IARU HF Championship in July. But don’t jump too far ahead and miss all of June. Hopefully, you are planning to support your preferred Field Day activity.

I remember when I was a budding Novice and the teacher showed an ARRL movie (no video back then) of teens going out to do their own Field Day. It captured my imagination as a teenager myself, but I didn’t attend my first Field day until 13 years later. Since that first operation, I have not missed a Field Day and this one will be my 32nd consecutive participation. I admit that sometimes it’s tough to get all the gear together and organized—but once I am on site the spirit lifts.

If you happen to be on the Peninsula on Field Day weekend, stop by for a visit at the Mike & Key site at Fort Flagler. We’ll have four phone stations on a bluff overlooking the entrance to the Sound and two CW station down on the beach where we can watch the surf by day and the cruise ships glide by at night (3 a.m.). I can’t promise you operating time because it does fill up but the five-element 40 meter wire Yagi (or is it six elements?) is a sight to behold and plays very well from the bluff.

CW WPX

Call	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score
SO(A) AB (TS) HP				
KX7L	316	232	11.5	149,176
SO(A) SB80 (TS) QRP				
K7SS	31	27		1,539
SO AB HP				
WC7Q	573	359	14.5	444,442
N7RVD	510	322	16	314,594

SO AB LP

W7OM	600	378		474,390
K7HBN	400	367	17	296,869
KD7H	379	210	23:28	131,670

SO SB20 HP

K5TRI	148	122		30,500
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CW WPX SOAPBOX

KD7H: I enjoyed the challenge of the contest, but I think that there should be a special category for stations operating from postage stamp city lots in CC&R neighborhoods. 'Just kidding! Or, how about a low power category with no-gain antennas? In the past, the RSGB IOTA contest has had that category. Thanks for the activity and contacts from WWDXC members!

K5TRI: Not much time to play. Fooled around mostly to check out my new (to me) FT-1000MP I just picked up on Friday. 500W into a three element tri-bander

KX7L: I didn't come close to my score from last year, but I did have a few hours less to play. 20m dominated even more than last year - just not too much happening on 15 at all here. One aspect of getting older is the need to get up in the middle of the night. I woke up Saturday morning at around 4, and decided to check out 80m. I think I caught the gray line sweet spot, as I worked several JAs with relative ease, and heard, but could not raise, an LU and a VK4. Had a nice run into Eastern Europe Saturday evening. Thanks for all the QSOs! KX3 + HR50 + SB200

K7HBN: 15m better than expected, 40m 6 pointers helped a lot. Conditions were not the best, still a fun test

K7SS: BIG EARS AWARDS TO: NR4M, VC2A, W3BGN, and WH6R for pulling out my 5 watt pipsqueak signal

7th District QSO Party

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score
Mobile CW LP						
N7WA/M	549	0	0	44		72,468
SO CW HP						
W6SZN/7	233	0	0	44	2:55	30,624
SO Mixed HP						
K7BTW	464	12	0	57	8.5	80,712
KX7L	264	32	296	50	6.5	42,800
SO Mixed LP						
WA7PRC	65	204	0	40		24,120
SO SSB HP						
N7KN	0	222	0	48	6	21,312
SO SSB LP						
W7ZZ	0	646	0	53	18	68,476
K7VAP	0	62	0	15	5	1,860

7th District QSO Party Soapbox

K7VAP: Came inside and worked a few stations every time I needed a break from working in the yard. It was very tough working around some of the local noise. But I managed to get the last two states I need for WAS, so now I'm down to getting confirmations for those two states.

I kept checking for RTTY stations, but never found any. No one answered me when I called CQ on RTTY either. That was a little disappointing. However, it's good to waste a bit of time on the radio....where the AC was.

KX7L: As usual 7QP conflicts with two family birthday celebrations, so activity was limited. 20 was the only band during the day, though it seemed like 15 was fairly open, just unoccupied. Nice to be called by a few Europeans! Lots of QRN

made the low bands difficult at night, requiring more fills than usual. Apologies are due to one NEQP participant: My computer keyboard recently died, so I had to switch to a cheap one I had lying around. When I switched to 80m, and tried to call the first guy I heard, calling CQ NEQP, I discovered that RF was getting into the keyboard: it would cause it to generate an "F4" character, which caused another "KX7L", which caused another F4, etc. etc. Took me a bit to un-fluster and pull the plug. He still worked me though, once I sorted it out! :-). Still, all-in-all my best score for 7QP (OK, using the amp helped a bit) Thanks for all the QSOs! Note: actually Single Op, HP, Mixed, but the web app doesn't list that for some reason

K7BTW: First time in this contest.

W7ZZ: Conditions were really poor. Both short term and long term QSB all day. 10 and 15 deader than a stone. It was all 20 meters until after dark, when the static crashes on 40 started to die down enough to hear someone calling.

WA7PRC: As always, it was fun to be the target of everyone.

Membership Update

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

Membership Renewal Notices will be going out at the end of June to Active Members with June 2016 Renewal Dates. Notices will also go out to Active Members who did not send in renewals in December 2015 or June 2015. If you have any questions about your membership status or renewal date, please check with Jim, K7WA--email: k7wa (at) arrl.net.

Some upcoming dates to put on your calendar: the WWDXC Picnic on July 16, the Pacific Northwest DX Convention on August 5-7, and the 25th Anniversary of the Washington Salmon Run on September 17-18. Watch the WWDXC website for information on these events.

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 June 6, 2016 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Wake Island (K6W)	Postponed
North Korea (P5)	Now scheduled for September 2016 and now two operators
Macao (XX9TGM)	June 20-27, 2016
Seychelles (S79V)	July 1-10, 2016
St. Paul--CY9C	August 19-28, 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)

June 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:

ICOM IC-765, Excellent condition, with hand mike and manual. \$ 650 or best offer.

Philips PM-3286, 175 MHz Oscilloscope, two channel and dual time base with manual and probes. \$175

Measurements Corp., model 80, R.F. Signal Generator. 2 MHz to 400 MHz with precision 50 ohm pad. A real boat anchor. \$75 obo.

Larry K7EKD 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

Michael Dinkelman, n7wa [at] arrl [dot] net

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

The Totem Tabloid

The *Totem Tabloid* is published 11 times per year (no August issue) by the Western Washington DX Club, Inc, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Advertising

The *Totem Tabloid* accepts commercial advertising. For rates and specifications, please direct inquiries to the WWDXC at the address listed above. Totem Trader non-commercial ads are free to WWDXC members.

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The *Tabloid* depends on submissions of articles and news items from its readers. Send all items of interest to the *Tabloid* editor:

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PO Box 178
Indianola, WA 98342
Email: kedwards@itol.com

Deadline for each issue is the last Friday of the preceding month.

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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