


WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB, INC.

Totem Tabloid

November 2016

NEXT MEETING IS NOVEMBER 8



You're likely to see this if you visit any parks in downtown Tehran. This month we'll be treated to the very well-done video from the EP2A DXpedition earlier this year. We may also be treated with the various networks calling the election once the polls close on the West Coast—or not. Anyone wearing a “Make America Great Again” or “Stronger Together” hat gets into the meeting for free.

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@arrrl.net

The President Speaks

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

Well, let's hope the propagation conditions that prevailed during the CQWW SSB contest this past weekend are not the new norm. There was definitely more going on than just low sunspot and flux numbers. It's time to look at what you're using for antennas on 17M and lower. Even in the bottom of a solar cycle antenna improvements can be incredibly helpful.

In last month's column I recognized some of our club members who are long-time ARRL members. Unfortunately, the list from the ARRL I received was incomplete. Here are some more of our members who've been long-time members of the ARRL: Don Walter, W7NG, has been a member for 67 years! Right behind him is Bob Nielsen, N7XY 60 years; Jim Hadlock, K7WA, 58 years; Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR, over 50 years; Ken Kinyon, W7TS, around 50 years; lastly, Jon Zabel, K7ZA, and Clay Freinwald, K7CR, both over 40 years. Thank you for your support of our valuable group!

Since I've only been a ham since 2001, I don't have the experience of the varying solar cycles like so many of you. But as I was looking back over 2007 to 2009 I remember building up my station. The improvement of going from a vertical to a beam was no doubt large. Still, I remember working hard trying to make DX contacts when conditions weren't favorable. Isn't that part of the thrill? Working? Trying to improve my own operating technique and station? I know we all enjoy working a rare DX station on the first call but if it was always easy wouldn't we lose some of the fun? Enjoy the chase!

As we are starting into the Holiday Season I hope you have a great Thanksgiving! We have a lot to be thankful for. I appreciate you being a member of this club. You add to this great hobby!

Random Comments From the Editor

With advance apologies to W7WA, K7RI and other top notch phone contesters, I really hate phone contests. CQWW SSB is over and I slogged my way around for a few hours of S&P—and found what always seems to be true: 10 kc-wide signals, guys who bellow their calls at least three times and then the never-ending callers who must have duplex capability to make QSOs while transmitting continuously. It was worth it to be able to say “Hi” to a few friends I ran into but you really must have iron will determination to stick with it for 48 hours. Conditions seemed pretty bad here: after checking 10 at the start of the contest and hearing nothing but noise, I started on 15 and it was a full 35 minutes before the first JA went into the log. In the few hours during the weekend I was on, I worked exactly

zero Europeans, not even an EA8 or CT. I could hear the East Coast guys working them but that was it. Let's wake up the Palos Verdes Sundancers to do their thing for the CW weekend.

For those who enjoy the annual Sweepstakes event, the ARRL has now compiled the all-time SS records for both modes, sortable by category, ARRL Division and ARRL Section. The winners by category are also available back to 1930, the first running of SS.

The CW records are here

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Records/2015/2015%20SS%20CW%20Records%20Rev%20B.pdf> and phone records are here

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Records/2015/2015%20SS%20PHONE%20Records%20Rev%20B.pdf> The League has also updated the Operating Guide and you can find it

and the complete rules at

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Operating%20Guides/2016/2016%20ARRL%20November%20Sweepstakes%20Package_05%20Oct%202016.pdf

The comments on the reflector about propagation during the CQWW SSB weekend make clear that things were really bad—but how bad? Most of you know or know of Frank Donovan, W3LPL, the owner and builder of a big multi-multi station in Maryland. Frank's station enters all of the big contests each year and has done so for at least three decades, so he has plenty of comparative experience. Frank was heard to say after the phone weekend that the station's score was the worst since he started building the station in the mid-1980s. And to continue the "good" news, everything I've read indicates that November will be a repeat of October.

See you in the CQWW CW.

Northwest Trophy Competition

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

As you all well know, there is a Northwest Trophy competition among the WWDXC, WVDXC, Orca, BCDXC and SDXA/IDXA and a big trophy is handed out at the annual PNWDX Convention. It's kind of tough for the smaller clubs to win and, frankly, it's tough for the bigger clubs as well these days against the juggernaut that is now Orca. Add in age and other factors and it's tough for me, as the club's competition representative, to generate any excitement among the troops. I have thought long and hard on what could be done to make it more fun.

In Europe, and elsewhere, there is a tradition of banners as trophies. I thought that maybe if we awarded something to the Club that wins each individual competition that we could generate some excitement. The winning club could use the banner in a trophy case or other suitable location, or even pass it out to a club member who helped it win. Certainly, it would be easier for the smaller clubs to win something like this.

I started researching options and then produced a sample that represents what I was looking for (see picture). Not being a graphic artist, my sample doesn't have much pizzazz but it does incorporate the logos of all participants and the regional nature of our competition and it identifies the contest and winning club. (If we have a graphic artist who would like to come up with something better, please feel free to contact me.) These are iron-on transfers to keep costs reasonable and I am willing to foot that cost for now.

I've run the idea past a few people whose opinion I respect and some of the other coordinators and haven't received any negative feedback. The idea is that these would be awarded at the DX Convention just before the big trophy. At this point, I am going ahead and we'll see how it flies.

In the meantime, I hope to see you in some of the trophy tests.



November Contest Activity Report

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

As I write this, the CQWW SSB is in progress. I don't do much SSB but I have been starved for a bit of contesting so I did get on and play a little bit Friday night and Saturday morning (if you can call making about 25-30 contacts getting on). Mostly I was just testing out the antennas and the new station layout in preparation for the really important stuff next week, the CW Sweeps. I was surprised to make a few contacts on 10 and 15 meters, too--that, despite a pretty blank sun.

I have finished up the Salmon Run log checking. I messed up and thought we were going a full 30 days for logs. No big deal, I just pushed the button when Jim, K7WA, said "done" and the official count was 303 logs in the bag. I just went back and looked at the past couple years. We had 269 in 2014 and 298 in 2015. I guess that's pretty darn good for the back end of a solar cycle. The only real pains processing the logs were self-administered.

First, I started getting computer errors when the bigger logs started coming in. I even involved Dave, W3KM, the author of the log checking program. He convinced me it wasn't anything in the program and I started looking more closely at my system. The breakthrough came when I disconnected my wireless network and I got a warning message from my backup system. Seems the changing files produced by the log checker were coming too fast for the backup system (or vice-versa) but one or the other was locking up files needed by the other. This only happened with bigger files. Simple fix: turn off the backups while doing checking.

Second, reporting clean sweeps. It's easy to report clean sweeps for the non-Washington participants. If they have 39 mults, they have a clean sweep. It's a bit more of a pain for in-state logs because those 39 counties are mixed in with states, DX and provinces and I had to manually count to determine clean sweeps. Naturally I missed one when Jim published the first PDF. I knew, using something like Perl, that the text files could be parsed easily and a count returned but I use Perl about every 3-4 years and would have to crack open the books. So I asked around on the M&K reflector if anybody wanted a challenge. I had three volunteers in short order. The first one, Allen, AE7TG, had it done in a couple hours and actually used AWK. (I haven't used AWK since college.) It found not only my clean sweeps but TWO more. It ran so fast through the 303 logs that I didn't think it had actually done anything but there was a new file with the results. That Clean Sweep application will now be part of the log check process.

The complete Salmon Run results are published on the WWDXC Web Site (<http://www.wwdxc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2016-Results4.pdf>) and Mike, K7SR, is starting the certificate processing.

Here are some highlights from that file:

Top 25 - Washington

Call	County	QSOs	Mults	Score	Category
N7PP	THU	1746	122	471798	WA-CLUB-MO2T
W7ZZ	KITS	1677	108	362732	WA-SOAB HIGH SSB
W7DK	PIE	1199	111	309136	WA-CLUB-MO2T
W7QC	KING	1056	113	276333	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
W7DX	SKAM	867	109	231189	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
KI7DG	OKA	1101	94	207488	WA-SOAB HIGH SSB
W7PU	PIE	740	112	204392	EXP-MOST
W7GKF	SNO	777	102	197758	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
K7ANE	CHE/KITT	994	90	179420	EXP-MOST
KN7T	SNO	540	106	172220	WA-SOAB LOW CW
N7RO	WHA	570	100	171500	WA-SOAB HIGH CW
K7II	SNO	662	105	164300	WA-CLUB-MO2T
WW7D/M	KING	719	77	156656	MOB MIXED
WC7Q	KING	553	89	148151	WA-SOAB HIGH CW
N7BT	WHA	785	91	143370	WA-SOAB HIGH SSB
RN6LHF/W7	CLAL	563	99	141080	MOST-WA
K7LVJ	SKAG	557	83	139193	WA-SOAB LOW CW
N7WA/M	KITT	644	70	135740	MOB CW
AA7MI	JEFF	510	98	123304	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
KB7QPS	GAR	598	89	122697	EXP-SOST SSB
W7OM	KING	528	80	120900	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED
W7VXS	KING	469	91	114523	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
W7PIG	ISL	542	92	113332	MOST-WA
W6SZN/7	KITS	405	90	109850	WA-SOAB HIGH CW
W7UUU	JEFF	433	90	108100	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED

Top Scores by Washington County (single County operations)

Call	County	QSOs	Mults	Score	Category
KK7VL	ADA	99	47	9306	WA-SOAB LOW SSB
KD7JB	ASO	157	50	16200	EXP-SOST SSB
WA7DUH	BEN	119	60	14780	WA-SOAB LOW SSB
W7CH	CHE	227	71	32734	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
RN6LHF/W7	CLAL	563	99	141080	MOST-WA
W7SLS	CLAR	45	32	3380	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
N7ZUF	COL	182	48	20228	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED
W7DG	COW	152	63	22046	WA-CLUB MO2T
NR3O	DOU	296	90	59630	EXP-MO2T
WW7LW	FER	189	62	29520	EXP-MOST
N7VPN	FRA	108	39	9782	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED
W5SAB	GAR	105	44	9740	EXP-MOST
W7BJN	GRAN	513	97	100022	WA-SOAB HIGH SSB
KF7PCL	GRAY	65	35	5050	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED

W7PIG	ISL	542	92	113332	MOST-WA
AA7MI	JEFF	510	98	123304	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
W7QC	KING	1056	113	276333	WA-SOAB HIGH MIX
W7ZZ	KITS	1677	108	362732	WA-SOAB HIGH SSB
N7TCO	KLI	101	39	8378	WA-SB80 HIGH SSB
AD7XG	LIN	122	43	12540	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED
KI7DG	OKA	1101	94	207488	WA-SOAB HIGH SSB
KC7YE	PAC	190	57	32990	EXP-SOST CW
KD7ADH	PEND	120	49	12260	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED
W7DK	PIE	1199	111	309136	WA-CLUB-MO2T
K9QJS	SAN	303	75	49475	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
K7LVJ	SKAG	557	83	139193	WA-SOAB LOW CW
W7DX	SKAM	867	109	231189	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
W7GKF	SNO	777	102	197758	WA-SOAB HIGH MIXED
K7GS	SPO	505	72	94244	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED
KC7H	STE	18	12	432	WA-SOAB LOW SSB
N7PP	THU	1746	122	471798	WA-CLUB-MO2T
KD7RUS	WAH	100	36	7200	EXP-SOST SSB
K7UK	WAL	172	65	28645	WA-SOAB LOW MIXED
N7RO	WHA	570	100	171500	WA-SOAB HIGH CW
K7SEL	WHI	328	76	73840	WA-CLUB-MO2T
KB7HDX	YAK	403	84	68204	WA-SOAB LOW SSB

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 November 1, 2016 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Wake Island (K6W)

Postponed

North Korea (P5)

Who knows? 3Z9DX is now back from T31T but there's been no public statements about his P5 operation

Chatham (ZL7G)	Now until November 10
Cambodia (XU7MDC)	November 4-14, 2016 (just 22 operators)
Senegal (6V1IS)	November 6-16, 2016
Central African Republic (TL8AO)	November 10-22, 2016 (by LA7GIA, mostly CW)
Cambodia (XU7AEZ)	November 16-December 5, 2016
Maldives (8Q7SP)	November 20-December 3, 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)

November 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:

W7PKT- w7pkt.net, PORT 7300

VE7CC-1 145.71 MHz or telnet to dxc.ve7cc.net, port 23

Totem Trader

For Sale: Drake R-4C and T-4XC (includes Power Supply) - late models in excellent condition. Extras include: Sartori solid-state tubes in receiver, Sherwood 250 Hz filter, Magicom RF Speech Processor in transmitter, extra tubes including finals, and rebuilt transmitter power supply.

Asking Price: \$600

Jim Hadlock K7WA k7wa@arri.net

For Sale: ICOM IC-765 Transceiver, 250 Hz cw filter, TXCO, late serial number, original manual \$480.

MFJ VOICE KEYER, MFJ-434, with manual \$90.

Larry, K7EKD k7ekd@frontier.com

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The Totem Tabloid

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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.

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:

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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

