
WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB, INC.
TotemTabloid

October 2016

NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 11



Did you work the guys at Tromelin, signing FT4TA? They made over 70,000 QSOs, a quarter of them with North American stations. The same group followed up earlier this year with a successful operation from Juan de Nova as FT4JA. Come to the meeting and see the Tromelin video, followed by a passing of the hat for an operation from Glorioso.

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@arri.net

The President Speaks

Adam Blackmer, K7EDX

The 2016 Salmon Run looks to be another great success. Thank you to all who got on the air! It's always better when it's possible to get a clean sweep. Thanks to the rovers and everyone who lives in the rarer counties.

I spent the weekend with the K7BTW team in the CQWW RTTY contest. You can definitely tell we are on the way down the solar cycle. Surprisingly, though, 15 was open to Europe on Saturday and we had strong runs to Japan. This helped save us from having a lower score compared to previous years. We still couldn't make up missing all the 10 meter multipliers from 2014. Low bands here we come.

If you are an ARRL member and you get the section ARRL emails, you probably already saw this but I wanted to make special mention of our club members who have been long-time ARRL members. I hope I didn't miss anyone--I used the current membership list. I was really impressed with the length of time some of you have supported the league. I have been a long-time supporter of the ARRL but my "long-time" seems pretty short in comparison to these guys. Norm Ray, W7LFA, is one of two of the longest term members in the Western Washington Section--over 70 years! Jerry Block, K4LAP, has been a member for over 60 years. Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, and Joe Gregory, W7QN, have been members for over 50 years. Dennis Ashworth, K7FL, Thomas Powell, WB7NDO, Sam Rubin, WC7Q, Edward Saftich, AK7H, and Doug Smith, W7ZZ, have all been members for over 40 years. I think this shows a huge commitment to amateur radio in general. Thank you guys!

I am glad to see conditions improving some and I hope this continues through the fall and winter contest season. CQWW SSB is just a few weeks away so let's hope we have some more 15 meter openings and maybe even some 10 meter openings.

See you in the pileups! Take care and 73!

Random Comments From the Editor

Well, the contest season has begun and it appears that so has the DX season. The bands have not cooperated all of the time but there is plenty of DX out there to be worked—if you're willing to listen intently for guys that don't always move the meter. Stan, LZ1GC, made over 16,000 QSOs as H44GC and today (October 4) started up as H4ØGC with a big signal on 17 CW. He promises lots of low band activity so if you need Temotu on 16Ø, now's the time. The VK9NZ group will be around for a bit more and they are doing a good

job of covering the bands, so long as you don't need a lot of sleep. Uli, VP6AH, continues to show up on phone from Pitcairn Island and always seems to have a great signal. Nob, JF2MBF, and Ken, JA2FJP, continue their trip around the Pacific—VP6J, E51Q, E6AC and today they started up as T2J. No 80 and 160 from T2—apparently the place they're staying has plenty of decorative lamps between the hotel and the water that render those bands unusable. Fellow NCCC member Steve, W1SRD, is on from Lord Howe as VK9LX and has been worked on 30 and 40, all modes.

This year's Salmon Run was a lot of fun (I did CW only) and the out-of-state activity seemed great. From what I can tell from the QSO totals and number of logs submitted, I think the Salmon Run may be second only to the California QSO Party in terms of popularity. There were some efforts that deserve special recognition: Doug, W7ZZ, made 1,677 QSOs in a phone-only effort, more than double the second place claimed score; Dick, N7RO, and Sam, WC7Q, battled it out in the CW-only category and it looks like Dick's higher multiplier count will make him the winner; the gang at K7BTW (signing N7PP) came close to a half-million points with 119 multipliers; and, as you will read elsewhere in this issue, Dink, N7WA, braved it out for another rover trip around the state. Congratulations to all.

The Reverse Beacon Network has been up and running for several years now and is a great way to see where and how well you're being heard. Just get on and call CQ and then check the results at <http://www.reversebeacon.net/> Thanks to Brian, N9ADG and the latest Contest Update, I found out that DJ1YFK has compiled all of the CW and RTTY spots on the RBN back to the start of 2015. Go to <https://foc.dj1yfk.de/activity/> Simply by inserting your call in the box and hitting 'Enter,' you can see all sorts of statistics about your station, including total hours on each band. Great fun.

Last year was my first serious season on 160 because it was the first time I had enough room to get up some decent antennas for that band. I've heard all of my ham radio life how 160 is the "Gentlemen's Band," where all of the nonsense that goes on in pileups on the other bands is noticeably absent and where implied peer pressure keeps folks from acting like jerks. Well, I hate to say it but a lot of listening on 160 suggests that the gentlemen (and ladies) have gone elsewhere. The latest example was this week, when VK9NZ went back to "W2?" and at least six other stations kept calling. The operator at VK9NZ persisted for 5-6 times but finally gave up—and meanwhile the W2 that kept sending his call sign but was drowned out by the others went away empty-handed. These weren't newbies doing the calling: I know three of the non-stop callers. I stayed around and partial justice prevailed as only one of the six finally got a QSO with VK9NZ. I don't have a solution (other than coax pins) but it sure is disappointing.

Good DX to all and remember: it's supposed to be fun.

2016 Washington Salmon Run Update

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

The 2016 Washington Salmon Run was held September 17th and 18th - the emails and logs I've seen report good activity again this year. As of October 1, we have received nearly 300 logs from Washington State, U.S., Canada, Japan and Europe. K7WA and N7WA are working on the Log Analysis and will have results out by mid-October. Watch the Reflector for an announcement and the website for the results.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Salmon Run this year! It's a great activity, still popular and growing after 25 years!

Salmon Run 2016 - N7WA/M

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

The preparation for this Salmon Run started right after I got home from the 7QP in May. The first thing I did was to ask the owner of the KX3/KXPA100 I had borrowed if he was willing to sell. Nope! So I had to decide between a KX2 (which had just been announced) and my own KX3. I was still in the throes of making that decision, on the verge of going to SEAPAC to look at one, when a KX3 came up on Eham that was too good of a deal to pass up. Alas, the KXPA100 also offered was already sold but I was half way to my goal. I played with the KX3 QRP style until August when I couldn't wait any longer and finally ordered one from Elecraft. (Since then, used ones have popped up all over... sigh!)

Those who read my 7QP article will remember the heat issue I had, so I built a cooling fan for the KXPA100 using two 12V muffin fans that I could drive at 6V or 12V (low and high speed). They are very quiet on low speed and sit right on the amp's cooling fins. I also decided it was time to get a separate (sealed) battery and a device to charge it. Finally, the KXPA100 really likes 13.8 volts or higher so I got a boost regulator. I'm really glad I have the *Access* cab for the Tacoma - I need all that room behind the seats. Completing the setup was a spare bug-catcher antenna to complement my Hi-Q. With two antennas, I figured I would be switching back and forth between 40M and 20M.

Last year, I went solo but Jim, K7ND, volunteered to drive again this year. Jim doesn't want to operate (wish he would) and just enjoys the trip. My plan was to activate all 20 counties in eastern Washington. Usually we have to skip one but I have finally figured out a route that makes it possible. It does involve some backtracking and skipping most of

Spokane and Whitman but those are well-populated counties anyway. My main concern was propagation - would it be a bust this year?

This test starts at 9 a.m. We left Kent at 6 a.m. on a wet morning, stopping at Cle Elum for breakfast. We would start just short of the county line at Blewitt Pass to activate Kittitas. It didn't start well. After 20 minutes, there were only 6 Qs in the log when we started through Chelan County. Getting out of the hills, things slowly improved. Still, signals were weak and when a couple Europeans checked in it was tough in the noisy environment of Wenatchee. As we crossed into Douglas, we had another 20Qs in the log and things continued to improve. Maybe this wouldn't be so bad after all. The trip across Douglas is about an hour but once you are up on the plateau it's a quiet drive. The long stretch allowed me to put in another 40+ Qs but we were now entering Grant County which is problematic on the route I had chosen.

We were going up Banks Lake towards the Coulee Dam. This puts us right along the Coulee walls that line the road. My rate dropped to nearly zero until we reached Electric City and boom... I was talking to people again. We stopped at the Safeway for provisions and then found a quiet location where I could make up some Qs before crossing the river into Okanogan. We headed north to Nespelem on the Colville reservation before turning east again. We only netted 16 Qs in that county. Not sure what happened - it's usually one of my more popular. What was notable was my first ever Q with W7DX. In all the years I have been doing Salmon Run as a mobile that has never happened--but Jim, K9JF, found me quite a few times this run.

Ferry County is another long trip through a mountainous pass. Because this was a rainy weekend, we actually ended up in the clouds before dropping down to the Columbia and the Inchelum/Gifford ferry. I always enjoy that crossing and marvel at the difference in the water levels between Spring and Fall. I had been telling Jim, K7ND, about my near collision with a turkey in Inchelum in 2015. I don't think we had gone more than five miles into Stevens County before we nearly had the main course for this year's Thanksgiving dinner. We ended up encountering several turkey flocks as we went through Stevens County. It was hard concentrating on the computer instead of watching the road for wayward fowl.

We continued through to Pend Oreille, then finally south towards Spokane. Spokane has been an issue for me in the past. It takes a long time to get through and isn't the rarest of counties. This year, I decided to cut through just the northwest corner of Spokane, backtracking into Stevens, and then dropping into Lincoln for a long drive south towards I-5. It worked out well and we got to spend a fair amount of time in Lincoln as opposed to past years. When we hit I-5, we headed west towards a setting sun and a meal and bed in Ritzville. After getting settled at the motel, I left Jim at the room and headed out for a quiet

spot to do some 80M work. I would have liked a county line but they were too far away so I just went a couple miles out of town and parked beside the road. It was quiet and it was dark.

Remember that cooling fan? I had no issues with heat all day. In fact, I was starting to wonder if I even needed that fan. However, out there in the dark, I sort of forgot to turn it on. I was 10 Qs into the middle of my 80M run when the sending stopped. At first, I thought I had locked up the computer by being on 80M. I was just about ready to reboot it when I looked over at the radio... HIGH TEMP FAULT. Arghh!!! I turned on the fan, reset the radio and watched the temperature drop like a rock even on slow speed. When I was done, I had put over 30 Qs on 80M in the log for Adams. I went back to the motel and dropped off like a rock.

The original plan had been to start out Sunday morning about 8:30 and continue working Adams halfway to Whitman. Instead, I decided that we had worked Adams well enough and we should start off on the Whitman line at 9 a.m. That would make it easier to make our goal of hitting all 20 counties. In the past we would go all the way through Whitman to Asotin before working back westward. It's a long trip for a not-so-rare county. This time we headed straight to Garfield, then to Asotin, and then backtracked through Garfield to Columbia County. Garfield is a tougher county to work as the route travels along hills and canyons. When done we had 20 Whitman Qs, 40 in Garfield, over 30 in Asotin, and over 20 in Columbia when we stopped for lunch.

We hit Walla Walla about 1 p.m. local and we only had four hours for the next five counties. We stopped in a quiet park in Franklin because you can zip through that county in 15 minutes. Then it was on through Benton, climbing up into the Horse Heaven Hills towards a corner of Klickitat where we sat in a vineyard for 30 minutes. Finally, we headed home through Yakima with only 15 minutes left on the clock.

Everything worked like a charm (except for forgetting to turn on the fan once). Propagation was better than expected and I saw rain in eastern Washington for the first time. Europe and Japan (usually Atsushi at JA1YNE) were surprises, though usually as ESP QSOs. We had some stations follow us around for dozens of contacts. I tried 15M a number of times but only managed six contacts. When I got them on 15M, they were strong. I think there were more possibilities for 15M if others had gotten on. Being able to swap antennas back and forth quickly was a joy.

Salmon Run is a lot of fun, and I wholly agree with the soapbox comments in the received log.

October Contest Activity Report

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

Next month we'll bring you the results of the Salmon Run. At this point, about 270 logs have come in two weeks after the test. Despite a lower solar flux, I think the overall results were better than last year because there wasn't a solar flare messing things up on the second day. Many of the soapbox comments would indicate that is a favorite when it comes to a State QSO Party type contest. I have an article on the N7WA/M trip up the river elsewhere in this Tabloid.

This month, we have the results of the RTTY CQWW - the first test in the NW Trophy competition. Reading the comments on 3830, it doesn't sound like propagation was too good but the local soapbox comments seemed more positive. Personally, it was my intent to get on and play a bit but the closest I could get to it was reading some articles on setting up RTTY and book marking them for later. I still have a New Year's resolution to make my station RTTY capable. (I've decided on FSK.) I still have three months to go. At least the home station is now operating on CW and SSB after a complete teardown in August and a slow re-assembly.

CQWW RTTY

Call M/S HP	QSOs	State/Prov	DX	Zones	Op Time	Score
K7BTW	1913	170	203	85	48	1,826,046

SO(A)AB HP

W7VXS	540	105	101	49	20	274,635
W7VP	327	70	61	37	10	119,200
K7EG	46	6	32	22	3	7,380

SOAB HP

N7QT	1190	143	71	24		871,563
KZ1W	862	116	131	64		574,106

SOAB LP

W7OM	591	98	117	62	347,635
W7TSQ	400	77	70	55	153,722
K7HBN	150	35	55	37	43,053

SOSB20 HP

WC7Q	174	29	35	17	5	29,727
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CQWW RTTY Soapbox

K7EG: IC-7851 and Alpha 9500. SteppIR DB-18E. Minimal effort. 100% S&P.

K7BTW: Condx pretty good Friday evening and Saturday, but a solar flare Sunday morning made that day very difficult until the afternoon when 15 opened to JA. Also, with 10 not open we lost all those band mults that we got in prior years so our score was down a bit from last year and way down from 2014. Same conditions for everybody, however. We used the 2nd station for mult hunting only. We thought about doing multi-two, but since much of the time only one band was open, it is good that we stuck with M/S. Everyone had fun, and that's the bottom line.

KZ1W: Operated about 21 hours. I thought conditions were great Friday into Sat, 20m was open everywhere. Some amazing prop on 40 at local midnight Fri. Sat evening conditions were so-so and I didn't operate on Sunday. Some band fill Qs included RI1AND on 40m and ZS1C on 80m.

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 October 5, 2016 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Wake Island (K6W)	Postponed
North Korea (P5)	3Z9DX is now on T31 for two months
Temotu (H4ØGC)	now until October 17
Solomon (H44GC)	Stan, LZ1GC, back on H44 October 18-21
Aland (OHØB)	OH2BH and friends-October 5-10
Central Kiribati (T31T)	October 5—end date uncertain
Nepal (various 9N7 calls)	October 15-29
Viet Nam (3W2R)	October 20-28
Chatham (ZL7G)	October 26-Novmeber 9
CQWW SSB	October 29-30

Here are the sites and bulletins I look at to find out what's happening on the bands:

The Daily DX	dailydx.com (subscription and free trial available)
DX World	dx-world.net (free)
NG3K Page	www.ng3k.com and then click on ADXO at the top (free)
DX Summit	www.dxsummit.fi (free)
DXScape	www.dxscape.com (free)
DX Heat	https://dxheat.com (free)

October 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

Nothing this month

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

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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:

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

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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