

June 2017

NEXT MEETING IS JUNE 13



How do you like this aerial view of my new QTH? Dream on. It's actually an aerial view of the contest mega-station owned by Frank Donovan, W3LPL. As you might suspect, Frank knows a lot about antennas. At the meeting this month we'll hear Frank speak about antennas for 80 and 160 in a widely-acclaimed video.

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

I hope you had a great May. Lucky for me, I had a chance to go to Xenia, Ohio to experience the “new” Dayton. I went along with SteppIR Antennas to help in their booth.

You may have already read some commentaries about the new fairground venue. I think it was a positive change. Overall the facilities were much better. They could use another building or two instead of the tents that some vendors had to endure. Also, some parts of the flea market were very muddy after a couple of big rains. But having a central courtyard with the buildings around it seemed to bring things much closer together. It seemed like I didn’t have to walk as far. The food was a huge improvement. After smelling pork chops for days, I finally had a pork chop sandwich on Sunday afternoon. It was amazing!

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association deserves a round of applause for pulling off a huge change without missing a year. I am sure that next year will be even better and more refined.

On Saturday, July15 our club will be hosting our annual picnic. It will be hosted at Rob Fanfant, N7QT’s house on Union Hill in Redmond. Dickey’s BBQ will be providing most of the food for the event. The picnic will start around 4:00 p.m. and taper off around 7 p.m. We’ll be having pulled pork, chopped brisket with side dishes of creamy coleslaw, BBQ beans and baked potato casserole. The club will provide pop, beer and water and some bottles of wine. The main food will show up around 5 p.m. This is a family event so bring your kids and significant other.

Since we had too much food last year we are going to make some changes in what we’d like you to bring, as follows:

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

For calls ending (last letter of call) in I-P bring a bottle of wine

For calls ending (last letter of call) in Q-Z bring an appetizer

Example: W7DX would bring an appetizer and W7PI would bring a bottle of wine.

Rob's address is:
21422 NE 79th Street
Redmond, WA

Please RSVP to me by June 30.

To help promote the club picnic and the PNW DX Convention we will NOT be holding monthly club meetings in July or August. We will resume regular club meetings in September.

I hope to see many of you next week at the June 13 club meeting.

Random Comments From the Editor

The headline in an article in the ARRL Letter was ominous: "Our Sun's 11-Year Magnetic Cycle Destined to Disappear." My daily observation of the bands over the last month would have suggested that the cycle was already gone—but the article says that we'll have to wait between 800 million and 2.4 billion years from now to learn whether the scientists making this prediction were right. I hope someone will send an email and let me know how it turns out.

I came across a website that you'll definitely want to know about: www.k8zt.com Click on "Contesting" and "Operating" and you'll be amazed at the wealth of information available. I don't know who K8ZT is but he has done a tremendous amount of work to make available for free a ton of sources and information.

I also found another article about common mode chokes. Those more technically experienced than me (i.e., everyone) may already know all about common mode chokes but this is the first article I've seen that explains what common mode is and how to make chokes that defeat it in a way that even I can understand. And it has photos of what you're supposed to end up with. See <http://www.yccc.org/Articles/W1HIS/CommonModeChokesW1HIS2006Apr06.pdf>

The Pacific Northwest DX Convention is less than two months away. The sponsoring clubs have put together a first-rate set of speakers and a bunch of great prizes, including an ICOM IV-7300, a Yaesu FT-1200, an ACOM 1010, a SteppIR

Crank antenna, etc. There's a spouse's "excursion" with lunch and plenty of shopping. Go to <http://pacificnwdxconvention.com/> and register

And don't forget the club picnic on July 15. It will again be held at N7QT's place in Redmond. It was a grand time last year and I'm sure it will be again this year. I hope to see you there.

The CQ WPX at JT5DX

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

[Editor's Note: If you have paid any attention to 160 meters, you have no doubt heard about Jeff Briggs, K1ZM. Jeff is the author of "DXing on the Edge—The Thrill of 160 Meters," first published in 1997 with a 2016 edition released last year. He has 339 confirmed on 160 (current and deleted). Earlier this year Jeff travelled to Mongolia to operate in a multiple operator environment from JT5DX, the super-station being constructed by JT1CO. Jeff posted a lengthy message on the Topband Reflector describing his trip and I'm reproducing it here with Jeff's permission. His description of what the contest multi-single category has become is truly mind-boggling.]

"While it is still fresh in my mind and while I have a few moments this morning, I thought I might pass along a few OPERATING OBSERVATIONS that I made while over at JT5DX this past week. I will organize these into GENERAL OBSERVATIONS, TOPBAND THOUGHTS and HF THOUGHTS.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS - & What it was like getting there.....

First let me note that this was NOT a Topband DXpedition. From a timing perspective, with no overlapping darkness to NA on either coast, the timing could not have been worse for NA. What it WAS was an invitation to join a talented International team of old friends to operate the CQ WPX CW contest and to visit Hong Kong, China and Mongolia and JT1CO. Despite the downside of SPRING conditions, there was still enough of an attraction there to say - "HELL YES - I want to go!!!!" Plus it was a chance to visit Chak [JT1CO] and see his station up close and personal. And, even more important, it was a chance to help build some updated capability into the JT1CO lowband station for the upcoming Winter

months. While I was out at the farm, my wife and daughter accompanied K1LZ's wife on a wonderful tour of the Southern Gobi desert so they were totally cool with my going off on my own thing with the boys.... In some respects their experiences and what they got to see and do was as equally exciting to THEM as was my experience out on the farming steppes to the NW of Ulan Bator.

Getting there...

The farm is around 220 miles to the NW of the capital city. That is about the distance from New York to Boston - but there are few paved roads in JT land. And what exists could HARDLY equate to the I-95 corridor along the East coast of the US. There are two PRINCIPAL roads in Mongolia - one North South and one East west.

Our route was on one of them for the first part of the trip - perhaps the first 4 hours of what was about a 6.5 hour drive in total. At about the 4 hour point, Chak headed LEFT out into the mountainous steppes along a dirt road and, from that point onwards, it was total dead-reckoning using "this hill" and "that hill over there" - plus many rock outcroppings which served as guideposts along the way. THERE ARE NO ROAD SIGNS!! There were MANY dirt roads and Chak knew exactly which one was the road that would lead the last 45 miles or so out to the farm. (Honestly - if you did not know where this place was located, you nor I would NEVER find it. There was no GPS system I was told - I did not understand that - but I did understand that only Chak's expertise got us there!)

There are also few treed regions in JT. We did pass through a few clusters of BIRCH - some evergreens now and then along the hillsides - but mainly sheep, goats, cows and the occasional hairy YAK.

I kept looking out for the station and finally we dropped down out of the hills into a valley below and there in the distance I could see 6 tall towers way off in the distance. There were wheat fields everywhere - many of which Chak owns as that is what he does for a living. There are 3 million people in JT and Chak likes to say "I feed 300,000 of them every year!"

The farm is enormous with quite a few LARGE buildings about the size of aircraft hangers. He employs a large number of staff - most of whom work the farm. He works his tail off on the farm, and remember - he does NOT live there -

and, with no home station back in Ulan Bator any more, operating timeframes are hardly a top priority for him - he gets on when he has time. He is hardly retired....

Some years ago, he bought the land and then built a compound on it - the MAIN structure has 4 main connected components:

The family residence

The business side of the operation where his accountants and office are located

The station component which has 4 rooms (one which is a HUGE workshop), two operating rooms, a full bathroom and a lounge at the rear.

The last connected component is what he calls the HOTEL - which has 4 upstairs guest bedrooms, a kitchen and a dining room where we took our meals. Three ladies looked after us - and if you came into the dining room, within 30 seconds you were handed a cup of coffee or tea and two minutes later a plate of food. So we were well taken care of - that's for sure.

A fridge was stocked with BEER, COKE, COLD WATER and the coffee mess was ALWAYS there with a full pot of coffee. I do not care if you came in at 0200 a.m. local - someone had made a full pot of coffee - which I personally took full advantage of as I was up each night from about 0300 local until grayline sunrise.

So much for the PROLOGUE....

TOPBAND HIGHLIGHTS

All of us dedicated topband afficiandos know what 160M is like - usually there is a well-defined peak in signals as SR approaches - sometimes it is not there - but it USUALLY works that way.

I would get on at about 0300 local - which was 1900z - and start listening on 160M. It was an interesting time to be on the air as JA SR was occurring at about the same time as SS was moving from RW2F westward towards Central EU and towards the UK.

Of course UA9/UA0 and the JAs were pretty loud. Then came the UA4 and UA6 boys. You had to work the 8 circle array all the time because after each CQ, JAs might be calling and/or EU stations and depending on where your RX antenna was aimed, you would not hear both. The JAs would ultimately disappear and then it would be all EU as one reached 2000z. and beyond

Here's what it was like:

Scandinavia was pee-weak. I did work a few OH and SM stations. OH1RX was one. I do not remember working an LA.

Clearly, the LOUDEST EU signals were from SOUTHERN EU - mostly IK7JTF, I2TAO and the well-known SV stations which had the front door into JT for sure.

Eastern EU was copiable - usually 559/569 or so but with a lot of QSB. I did work some SP's, OM/OK stations, some S5 and 9A and one loud EA6.

I recall working a handful of DL - but probably less than 10 total.

I did not work a single FRENCH station. I worked ONE G station on sked - G3XHZ I think who called me on ON4KST chat and had I not sent him to 1829 outside the pile, I never would have worked him - he was in the noise but we did manage a difficult QSO.

It is clear to me that the UK on 160M suffers greatly into JT land - & unless it gets better in DEC/JAN/FEB - (maybe it does) - hard for me to tell in late May - these guys seem to struggle on this path. Signals were really weak and more than a few were trying.

Via CHAT I learned that ZL3IX was hearing me both nights and VK4MA asked for a try - and I made it with Paul who had a 579 signal - I worked nothing else down into the Pacific.

At 0500 (one hour before local SR) the band peaked into EU and then it dropped like a rock for the last hour as SR occurred. There was no traditional SR bump. The I and SV stations did hang in there to the end but the rest of EU was totally just not there - I did manage a QSO with 4X4DK five minutes into daylight - the last night I was on before the contest.

HF THOUGHTS and OBSERVATIONS

One of the things I wanted to check was what NA signals sounded like over in JT and 20M was really the only place that I knew would likely be open. I also knew 1130-1230z might be a good time for over the pole prop into W1.

On Wed evening before the contest I had made a sked with VY2GF, George Dewar, who has a modest station and low power on PEI and we had planned to work at 1230z.

But around 1115z I found W1MK CQing with a LOUD signal around 14015 and worked Rob. He was pretty surprised when I told him who I was. A few minutes later I found Nate N4YDU who was just playing around with the remote EASTPORT, ME RHR stacks - using his laptop in his kitchen. He was so loud I could not believe it - and I do not remember anyone louder either - but I did not have too much time to check either. I also worked K1RM a few mins later with a good signal. KP2M with KT3Y operating was a good signal as well a few mins earlier. I did work VY2GF on sked which was a new one for George - so I am sure he was delighted.

On 20M I tried to see who had the front door - K3LR was in there the longest - but not that much louder than the best E Coast stations. VY2TT held up for quite a long time as well - he has some SUPERB 20M stacks and it showed. These guys, again, were not what I would call DOMINANT - they just held up longer as the prop waned into the East Coast during the contest.

THE CONTEST and JT5DX's configuration

As primarily a 160M specialist and a SINGLE OP/ALL BAND guy most of my life - the state of Multi Single that exists today is truly mind-boggling.

K3JO and 9A5K had configured the station for either a M2 or a M/S entry. We all decided that WHATEVEVER P33W did ***not do** would determine what WE WOULD DO. Easy choice....really - a no brainer. P33W had overlapping prop in NA on all bands and we had only 20M to shoot for towards NA - also they were at EUROPE's back door - & we were a whole hemisphere away to the East.

They went M2 - so we went M/S. Again - this was an EASY DECISION and the right one - they made 40 Meg or so - we managed 15 MEG or so - being in Asia on our side is clearly not the place to make a TOP WORLD SCORE with P33W in the game!

Again, the scope of the state of the art in M/S today is mind-boggling to an old fart 160m op like me. After reading this you will better understand the INCREDIBLE results of P33W, CN2AA, EF8R and ED8X (and others).

Chris 9A5K and Velimir K3JO (who works for K1LZ in MASS) - designed a switching/interlock system that can accommodate up to 12 stations and 36 antennas - with the whole system is totally interlocked and running like a fine SWISS timepiece.

In the most competitive M/S stations like P33W, and now JT5DX, here is how one approaches a M/S operation:

1) Two stations handle the RUN on the RUN BAND - with a power divider splitting the power into stacked yagis aimed in different directions at the same time. Each CQ goes out in two directions at the same time and each operator listens in his direction for callers. In our case we had 7/7 OWA long boom 20M yagis at something like 150/75 feet aimed at EU. The second RUN operator at his station had another pair of 20M stacks aimed at JA. Good operators like K1LZ and 9A5K work together to maintain huge RUN rates - as they know how to do this. Whichever operator grabs the INTELOCK first answers what he hears - then the SECOND station can call what he has heard calling from the other direction.

2) In a M/S operation like this - there are usually two OTHER stations on the same band - using DIFFERENT antennas and DIFFERENT amps etc. These are called IN BAND stations. I was on one of these - K3JO, S52M often were on the other in-band station.

This means that 4 stations are all on the RUN band - with each station SIMULTANEOUSLY putting points up on the scoreboard.

At each position Chris 9A5K's DX Logger logging program has 2 windows on the computer - one window has choices of XMIT antennas and the other WINDOW has choices of RX antennas.

On every band we usually had as many as 5 to 6 antennas to choose from. The RUN guys had the BEST antennas - but what we had left to choose from were not TOO SHABBY either - just lesser stacks and/or two 125 foot high STEPPIR 40-10m yagis, for example.

Available antennas not in use were GREEN shaded - antennas in USE were RED shaded - and could not be selected. One merely needed to POINT and CLICK on the screen to switch antennas. Also there was a 3rd window which indicated RED or GREEN which indicated the status of the interlock. If it was GREEN (and with the RUN guys going at 200 per hour) that meant that you as an IN BAND op needed to be really CLEVER AND FAST to be able to grab the interlock to call what you were after. It was usually RED so you had to wait for your chance. If you dallied too long calling a mult - you might occasionally hear a STOP STOP shouted out at you from the RUN guys - especially if you were taking down their rate - HI. So this required TEAMWORK and the guys at P33W and CN2AA are probably the best teams in the world who attempt this. We are still learning at ED8X - so were are "TEAM AVIS" - but we are getting better - HI.

It took some patience to learn how to optimize this - but for each hour, the IN BAND guys on these two other stations would usually manage to add from 60-80 additional QSOs to the RUN guys' total - elevating an hourly total to well over 200 per hour during optimal hours. We would go after prefix mults FIRST and then LATER anything regardless of where it was for QSO points. The second day as things wound down there was NOT much left to work. Certain stations were really hard to work too - especially Z37M and CN8KD whom I called for hours on end over both days!

Some other notes:

As an East Coast op, I am not used to hearing BY and YB stations all over the band - for example, on 10M and 15M that is about all we could hear - plus a smattering of JA stations. I did work a ZL/KH6 and 5W1SA on 15 as I recall - & the RUN guys did manage some decent RUN openings into EU.

The first night we did almost no operating on 80M and 160m - as the rates were far higher on 20M and 40M all night long.

We had planned to hit 80 HARD the second night and an hour or so on 160M - but the FLARE - wiped 160M completely and hurt our chances even on

80m - but we did have a few decent hours after midnight into EU on 80M. I spent some time operating with JT1CO on the RUN and boy - Chak is a great CW operator. He can hear a pin crop, busted almost ZERO call signs that I heard and handled the pile at 38-40 WPM CW rate for hours. Every now and then he would stretch and say - "I am getting old...." I really enjoyed listening to him as he ran the lowband pileup. HE KNOWS HIS TOMATOES - as one might say!!!!

One other comment to add is how CHAK ran out his feedlines. He had constructed elevated channels on 14" high posts - think of them as aqueducts - into which were placed up to as many as 12 runs of 2" diameter hardline. These ran all over the farm out to the towers. At the base of each tower was a LOCKED panel - and from there LMR400 smaller coax would run up the tower to the yagis.

Some towers were as LARGE as cell towers - and on these towers 10m and 15m yagis just could not be placed - unless they were mounted vertically into stacks on masts spaced way out away from the tower face - the tower diameter was just too fat for these small yagis - which is something K3ZO once told me about down at his station. The vertical polarization did not seem to matter though - EVERYTHING worked. We only suffered one failure - one of the STEPPIR's had some kind of problem - but everything else worked without fail.

As the contest ended, we on the IN BAND stations really struggled to find something to work - we did not miss much we thought.

One other point - Chris and Velimir finished the station wiring at MIDNIGHT on Friday night. Lucky for us the contest started and ended at 0800 local time (0000z) - thus we all managed about 6 hours of much needed sleep - then a shower and breakfast SATURDAY morning- and we were all hunched over our radios promptly at 0800 local as the contest started.

For me - this was a thrilling experience - I am grateful to K1LZ and JT1CO for allowing me to be a part of it all. I personally am starting to enjoy 12 hour runs on the HF bands at 200 per hour LESS and LESS in favor of more relaxed rates on 80m and 160M - so the BETTER OPS did most of the HEAVY LIFTING on the HF bands - and asked me to do some nighttime running on 40M and 80M - which suited me just fine - HI HI.

Pity that 160M was a total washout the second night - I only managed to work HG8R in the noise and absorption from the flare made and runs there a total impossibility.

Guess that is all to say here - hope it was fun reading - and thanks for all the QSOs from the JT5DX team.

Cu down the road in the next one I hope.

73 JEFF K1ZM/VY2ZM”

2017 Pacific Northwest DX Convention

This year’s PNWDXC will be hosted by the Spokane DX Association and the Idaho DX Association. The dates are August 4-6, 2017. For those who attended the last convention in Spokane, the location has changed and it’s now to be held downtown at the Red Lion Spokane at the Park.

The website is at <http://pacificnwdxconvention.com/> It’s less than two months away so go to the website and register now. There are lots of prizes listed on the website, including the new IC-7300. Elecraft will be showing off its new 1500 watt solid state amplifier. The Saturday banquet speaker is Tom Taormina, K5RC/W7RN, owner of the Comstock Memorial mega-station near Virginia City, NV. The Sunday morning breakfast speaker is Ed Muns, WØYK/P49X, contester extraordinaire from Aruba and proprietor of Muns Vineyard. Rick Roderick, K5UR, the ARRL President, is on the attendee list.

I attended the convention the last time it was in Spokane and I had a great time—they do a fantastic job of organizing the convention. I hope to see you there.

The 2017 Seventh District QSO Party

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

It was February and the Flea Market was my primary focus when Randy K7TQ emailed me out of the blue. "Hey, you want to do the 7QP together?" Huh? Randy and I usually run separate mobile operations for the 7QP. However, he lost his partner (Jay, WAØWWW) due to work. I told him I needed to think about it but I really didn't. I was really trying to figure out the logistics of trying to get two ops together from two sides of the state. I should never have worried. Between his planning and friends on both sides of the state, it all worked out very well.

But where to start? Randy lives in Idaho and I live on the rainy side of Washington. It only made sense to start in the middle, like Moses Lake or Ephrata. We could get a motel but all we really wanted was a place to crash Friday and Saturday night. I started by bugging Mike, K7IR at the Flea Market because he has a place in Moses Lake. His place wasn't available but he knew of one that might be. I also hit up Mark, KB7HDX. As Eastern Washington Section Manager, he surely knew somebody that would let a couple guys crash on the floor for a couple nights. Well, they both zoomed in on the same guy, Bob N7AU in Ephrata. Bob and his wife Diane, KB7JPX live smack in the middle of Eastern Washington, a perfect location to start our route. Google estimated that Randy had to drive two minutes longer than I did to get to Bob's.

Once that was nailed, Randy started planning a route. It was kinda nice letting someone else do that for once. I made a couple suggestions that allowed us to add a few more counties. It was aggressive but doable. Randy had us timed out to the minute and I dare-say it worked out just as he planned (with one minor exception). He even has a cool home-brewed Arduino-based timer that tracks the time. That exception? Well, the road to Ferry county was closed (it's prone to slides) so we had to back track into Lincoln and go around. That meant we spent double the time in Lincoln but we put it to good use and lots of Qs.

We did have to start about 80 minutes early from Bob's (one of my suggestions) to get to the first county so we were on the road even longer than the 18 hours. We would switch between driving and operating about every three hours. Then, Randy unilaterally changed the rules on me and made me operate the last chunk. In hindsight, he knew best because the last part of the route was territory where I had never been and it was very, very dark. I even asked a stupid question about 10:30 p.m. local time.

"Do you know where we are?" "Yes!" was the answer (I figured out later we were somewhere on SR 24 south of Othello). Whew! Back to my key.

We were going to try a KX2 as a second radio for the op to listen on the alternate band. Even with a bandpass filter, there was too much signal from the primary rig (KX3/KXPA100) overloading the KX2. That worked out OK because frequently we were working as a team to decode signals as they came in. As you get tired, the brain gets a bit mushy and a second brain helps even things out.

Otherwise, the equipment worked well. We had some crackling on the 20M antenna early on but it seemed to work itself out. There was some weird very low level background noise on 40M but I think it was the truck. It almost sounded like someone tuning up with a series of dits but the frequency changed with time. I don't think it was an impediment to copy, just irritating sometimes. The 80M antenna was a bit persnickety on tuning but once I found the sweet spot, the KXPA100 was happy. The KX3 likes to jump into Dual Watch mode (turns on the sub-receiver) which can be confusing when unexpected. I had a function programmed to turn it off.

In the end, we worked over a hundred Qs on 80, doubled that for 40M, and doubled that for 20M. 15m was a dog. We tried a couple times. Nothing heard, nothing worked. We said we would try some SSB but it never happened. Neither of us cried any tears about that.

Lots of people followed us. N6MU (23), NX6T (18), WØBH (15), DL5AWI (13) come to mind. There many others. DX was limited to some Europeans, one JA (JA1YNE), and a Columbian. The bands were better than I expected (20-80) and the East Coast was workable on 40/80. That's probably a better testament to their ears than my inefficient antennas. I think Randy had fun. I know I did. Right now, I am trying to figure out how to get Jay sent off to another conference for 2018.



Randy, N7TQ, working a county line

June Contest Activity Report

Mike "Dink" Dinkelman, N7WA

We are rapidly coming to the closing days of the NW Trophy Competition. There remains just one more test, the IARU. If the CW WPX was any indication, it could be challenging.

Field Day is coming. Many local clubs could use your support and mentoring, especially on the CW side. If you go to the ARRL website, there is actually a Field Day site finder. Right now, there are 982 sites listed. <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> I remember, as a prospective Novice, watching a promotional FILM (not video) with a bunch of kids going out to Field Day. I really wanted to do that bad. I didn't make it out for 13 years but I haven't missed one since. Sometimes, it's not easy to make the effort but it always seems worthwhile later.

May contesting efforts from WWDXC members:

WPX CW

Call	Score	QSOs	Pref	160	80	40	20	15	10
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M/S HP

WT7S (@K7RI)	2,322,060	1541	687	0	37	312	1029	161	2
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SO(A)AB LP

W7VXS	7,888	73	68				49	24	
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SOAB HP

K7RL	1,355,400	1100	600		34	1002	64		
N7QT	610,785	706	441		88	588	30		
WC7Q	475,640	587	376		88	479	20		

SOAB LP

W7OM	488,961	630	363
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SOSB20 LP

K7HBN	201,888	364	288	364
KD7H	97,185	274	209	274

SOSB40 HP

N7WA	250,776	397	216	397
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WPX CW Soapbox

K7RL: Haven't contested in a while. Tried to blow out the rust and cobwebs from both the operator and the station. Felt good to get on and make some noise with everyone else. Great signals from Europe on 20m the first night. That was fun.

Shortly into the contest I discovered the ants had taken over my 15m Stackmatch. Cleaned it up, but it still keeps faulting my amp. Bummer. Plus, there's a new noise source to my east. Double bummer. Looks like there is some work to do. Thanks to all for the Qs!

K7HBN: First 24 hours fabulous propagation, second half terrible to so-so, and so it goes.

WT7S(@K7RI): Thanks to Tom Helm for letting us use his call. The WT7 prefix was a big help. Conditions were better than expected initially, with 20 open to Europe well after 2 a.m. local time the first night. After the CME struck fun became drudgery. Even close in stations faded in and out rapidly and as often as not were gone completely. Thanks to Dennis, Jim, Walt and Chuck for sticking with it. And thanks to everyone who worked or tried to work us.

N7WA: With the nicest weather predicted for a Memorial Day weekend in 20 years, fat chance that I would be working a daylight band. I had yard work that was woefully behind thanks to the wettest rainy season ever recorded in the Seattle area. (Can you say 4 feet of rain?)

Solution... jump on 40M after dinner and work 2-3 hours. Go to bed. Get up about 0130 local time and work some Asia and South Pacific. It sorta worked. The first night wasn't too bad. QRN was a bit high but not unexpected for the season. It was mostly domestic consumption but a few South America came through. Later, at 0130, the QRN was down and it was decent to the west for a couple hours until I had to pull to plug for more sleep (lots of yard work ahead).

The second night, yuck! Heavy QRN. The only people I could hear during the first shift were mostly stations I had already worked. If you weren't greater than S6, you were noise. I went to bed again hoping for a better run into Asia. At 0130, the QRN was down but not much was happening to the west. A few VKs and ZLs. Almost no JAs. Then I looked at the geomagnetic indices.

Yeah... well, this was never meant to be a BIC effort. I was just playing and Sunday would be another day of work in the sun. Back to bed. My apologies to the ones I couldn't copy. There were a number but I wasn't going to beat my head too hard against the QRN.

7QP

Call	CW Qs	Ph Qs	Dig Qs	Mults	Op Time	Score
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M/S HP

K7RI	800	497	1	70	18	237,510
W7ZZ	0	1294	0	65	18	168,220
N7BV	530	35	0	67	12	108,473

SOCW HP

KX7L	339	0	0	54	4.5	54,918
W6SZN/7	143	0	0	47	1.5	19,740

SOCW LP

K7HBN	422	0	0	56		70,896
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SOMixed HP

K7SS	476	274	0	63	8.5	123,606
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SOMixed LP

W7OM	523	26	2	77		123,424
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M/S MobileCW LP

N7WA/M	822	0	0	59	18	145,494
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7QP Soapbox

K7SS: Great to hear so many familiar calls, and many, many new ones. 8 hrs missed KL7 and MS for USA sweep. A very fun contest! PRO2, 400W AMP, STEPPIR @48'

W7OM: Not as many hours as last year but great fun.

KX7L: Mediocre daytime propagation, blue skies and sunshine outside, and S5 powerline noise limited my activity during the day. But at sundown, the noise lifted and 40m was hopping! Bested my score from last year. Thanks for all the QSOs. KX3 + HR50 + SB-200, wire antennas

W7ZZ: You won't believe this story! In the middle of the contest, while my computer was activating the transmitter and repeatedly calling CQ via the wav file, the wireless keyboard's batteries died. I realized this as I tried to stop the transmitter from being repeatedly keyed, calling endless CQs. Typing didn't stop the CQ, as it should have. The ESCAPE key didn't stop it either. After initial panic, I realized the batteries must have died and that I had no way to communicate with computer other than to power it down. I ran around the house and, fortunately, found a couple AAA batteries, all while I'm calling CQ. I inserted the batteries, hit the "connect" button on the bottom of the keyboard and breathed a sigh of relief as the CQs stopped. Never will I start a contest again without fresh batteries in the keyboard and mouse!

K7RI: Thanks to Walt, Chuck and Curt for a great job! Also, thanks to all who worked or tried to work us. QRN was brutal much of the time and it prevented us from completing QSOs with several stations. Sorry for that to everyone who tried but didn't get into our log.

N7BV: Just the two of us with no time for the evening. We had some SIEP (that is, Self Inflicted Equipment Problems) that took up the 2d operator's time. Propagation was as expected although was surprised at the total lack of 15m props.

All in all had a lot of fun and enjoyed the contest. Thanks for all the QSOs.

Membership Update

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

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

Ray Montelius, KG7WNB and Linda Montelius, KG7WMS of Carlsborg, WA.

Upcoming events include the Annual Picnic July 15th, Pacific NW DX Convention August 4-6 in Spokane, and the Washington Salmon Run September 16-17.

Renewal Notices will be going out later in June to Active Members with a June 2017 Renewal Date along with 2nd Notices to those with December 2016 Renewal Dates and 3rd (and final) Notices to those with June 2016 Renewal Dates. Annual Dues support the ongoing activities of the Club including Club Awards, ARRL and CQ DX Contest Plaques, the Annual Picnic, Washington Salmon Run, and other expenses.

Thank you for supporting the Western Washington DX Club!

June 2017 Contest Calendar

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

WDXC DXCC Ladder

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WDXC DXCC Ladder is maintained on the website. You can find it by clicking on “DXCC Ladder” on the homepage or by going to <http://www.wdxc.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, 2017 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change):

Albania (ZA)	June 10-20, 2017
Sint Maarten (PJ7)	June 14-20, 2017
Market Reef (OJØV)	July 1-7, 2017

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)

Totem Trader

FOR SALE: FT1000MP This was my work horse rig for 15 years. It got moved to the second radio position when I got my K3. Then, when I got my KX3, it simply became surplus. It's amazing how my desk space has cleared out. Lots of filters (CW mostly). Has the roofing filter from Inrad. CW click mod. Asking \$800. Don't be afraid to make an offer. Mike, N7WA mwdink@gmail.com

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The Totem Tabloid

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Kip Edwards, W6SZN
PO Box 178
Indianola, WA 98342
Email: kedwards@ltol.com

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Joining the Western Washington DX Club

To join the WWDXC or sponsor a new member, please send an SASE for a membership application form to the WWDXC, P.O. Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Annual dues, including a subscription to the *Totem Tabloid*, are \$25.00.

Internet Access

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