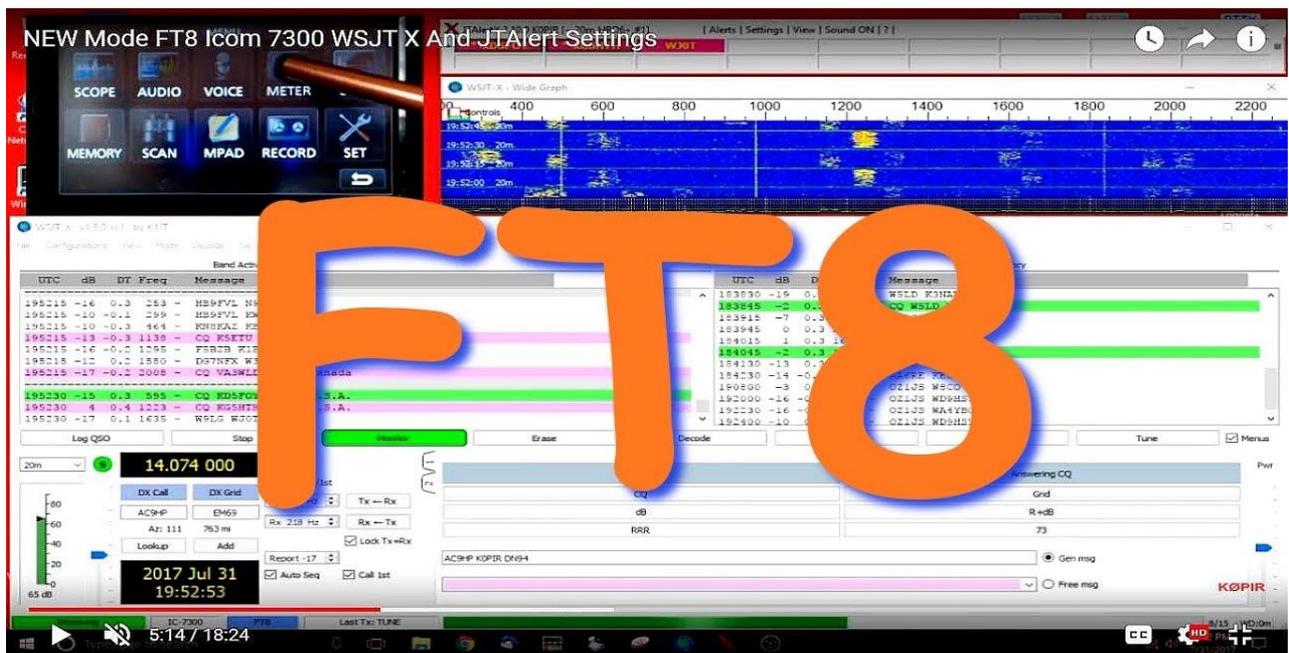




May 2018

NEXT MEETING IS MAY 8



The May meeting will feature “FT-8 for DXers,” a presentation by John Zantek, KE7B. The newest star in the digital constellation, FT8 has taken the bands by storm since its debut last July. You may not care for digital but it could be what you need to work some of the rare ones during Solar Minimus. John intends to include a live demonstration.

Rob’s 125th Street Grill, 125th and Aurora Avenue North Dinner at 6:30 p.m., program at 7:00 p.m. Dinner is \$ 25 including tax and tip.

Please RSVP your dinner plans to Adam, K7EDX at k7edx@arrl.net

The President Speaks

Rob Fanfant, N7QT

Glad to be back home after a few weeks away, traveling down to California for a short vacation as well as attending the Visalia convention. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip with its accompanying sunshine and warm weather and the rekindling of old friendships during the convention. As always, the Visalia DX convention is a great time to meet up with old friends who I normally see once a year and only at this event. For all of those who attended, it provides an opportunity to catch up on what's been going in the lives of others who also share our love of the hobby. This year was also memorable for me in that I was asked to speak about last year's VK9MA Mellish Reef operation. It was quite an honor, to say the least, to share the VK9MA team's experiences with other DXers and contesters.

For those of you who think Visalia it just a DX convention, you would be wrong. There were great presentations on contesting, antenna designs & discussions, the history of amateur radio and station remote control. I found the following presentations the most memorable - Dennis, N6KI, had a very interesting historical presentation on how he ran Mars traffic during the Vietnam War; Ward, NØAX, as always had an excellent presentation on grounding and bonding; and one of my favorite presentations was done by Adrian, KO8SCA, and Ken, LA7GIA, covering the 6O6O Somalia expedition. I can't tell you how many people spoke about how cool it was standing at the playing of the Kosovo national anthem during the Saturday night presentation. If you have never attended, plan on attending next year's convention, scheduled for April 12-14, 2019.

As many of you already know, my love for the hobby has led me to remote my station, allowing me the ability to operate my shack from anywhere in the world as long as I have internet access. I really enjoy remotely running my home station to chase DX whenever the opportunity arises. Therefore, I was a bit surprised that a few days before my return home from Visalia I found I was unable to remotely access my shack computer. One of the first things I did after getting home was to inspect the shack in order to find out what had gone wrong. Turns out that my shack PC was completely unresponsive, and upon further investigation it appears that the computer's main SSD (Solid State Drive) had failed and was not recoverable. This drive contains not only the Windows operating system but also ALL of my files, documents and radio/contesting logs. Luckily for me, I had set up the shack computer to do automatic weekly backup of all my files, data and documents to an external hard drive, so the damage was kept to a minimum. All of you should use this as an extremely important reminder to run backups of all your important files and directories. Imagine losing ALL of your radio logs with no paper backups? While I am happy that I didn't lose any of my important files/documents, I honestly wish I had done weekly system image backups, which would have allowed me to restore the entire computer including the ability to also restore ALL my applications. What I now have to do is reinstall every application such as Word and Office, as well as every one of my computer

logging applications. Truly a royal pain, as I have to remember how I had configured each application and COM port, let alone know what were all the Product Keys used to activate every application, particularly my suite of radio/office applications. We should all consider the fact that computers will all fail at some point in our lives, so plan accordingly. Once I restore this computer, I will spend the time and effort necessary to make sure this never happens to me again, so that if I lose another computer in the future it will only be a matter of a couple of hours to restore the system, not days.

A couple of final notes - please remember to sign up for the DX convention in Vancouver (<http://pacificnwdxconvention.com>) The Orca group reached out to me today asking that I encourage WWDXC members to sign up. It appears our club is under-represented in the current roster of those planning to attend. The other reminder is the upcoming 7th call area QSO party from May 5th 1300Z to May 6th 0700Z. If you do operate in this contest, please remember to submit your log statistics to either the reflector or 3830scores.com, with a reference to our club (WWDXC).

Random Comments From the Editor

I've been attending the IDXC for many years, first in Fresno and then as the crowd outgrew the Holiday Inn when it moved to Visalia. Something this year seemed different and it took me awhile to finally figure out what it was: the crowd is getting old. I looked in vain for any "kids" roaming the halls. As one wit put it, "I looked all weekend for my long-time friends and all I could find was their aging parents."

Perhaps related, attendance was down this year. I did not hear the final registration number that is usually announced at the Saturday banquet. But it was easy to tell: the noise at the banquet is usually so loud that you have to shout to be heard by your tablemates. This year the noise level was quite hospitable and you could actually have a conversation while waiting for the rubber chicken (or salmon) to arrive.

The banquet program was truly unforgettable. Martti, OH2BH, Jim, K9JF and Vjollca, Z61VB, each spoke about Kosovo and the recent Z60A operation. When they were introduced the Kosovo national anthem was played and the crowd rose to its feet. It was enough to give you the chills, especially when you consider all that the Kosovo people have been through since 1989. As most know, Martti had worked for over 10 years to get Kosovo on the DXCC country list and here he was, appearing before the DX community to describe all that had happened. I've known and worked with Martti for many years and I've never seen him so emotional as he talked about the obstacles placed in his way and the efforts to overcome them. Martti has been responsible for many new ones but I suspect Kosovo holds a special place in his heart.

Vjollca, Z61VB, is the president of the Kosovo Amateur Radio Association (SHRAK) and was the instructor at a series of licensing classes for new hams in Kosovo. The Yasme Foundation has been supporting SHRAK for the last five years or so and Vjollca came our Board of Directors meeting at Visalia to provide an update and status report. She quite proudly reported that there were 60-70 new licensees in Kosovo. But the bad news is that virtually none of them has a station to get on the air and they are therefore required to wait their turn at a club station. Please let me know if you have a radio that you'd be willing to donate to SHRAK. It's not easy to get radios into the country but there are ways to do it.

For the first time in my steel trap memory, I did not hear any rumors about DXpeditions at Visalia. The Baker and Ducie groups each had a table in the hall, passing out information and seeking contributions. The Baker operation promises to have a heavy dose of FT8 activity. I hope they keep that promise and all the callers that would otherwise be in the CW pileups are up the band, clicking away.

The Bouvet team has finally broken its silence. They have announced that while some of the team intends to try again, they will make pro-rata refunds of all contributions and close the books on the 2018 effort. The announcement was not made in a press release for some reason but instead appeared in an April 26 post on their QRZ.com page. Search using the call 3YØZ and read all about it.

As announced in the article immediately below, the club reflector will undergo a much-needed upgrade beginning May 9. I for one have been thoroughly frustrated with the way the reflector works (or more accurately doesn't work). A posting I made last Friday morning got a failure notice after four hours; when I re-posted it nothing happened until Monday afternoon when it finally appeared. Congratulations and kudos to the Board and to John, KE7B, and Bengt, K7ADD, for their prompt action in fixing the problems. I belong to the Northern California Contest Club and it moved its reflector to Groups.io two months ago. It was trivial for the individual user to make the change and it works flawlessly.

Club Reflector Upgrade

John Zantek, KE7B

The Board has agreed to migrate the Club's email list, once known as the *reflector* or *listserv*, from Yahoogroups to the newer and more reliable service at Groups.io. Why? This decision was unanimous by the Board and was not done capriciously. As with many other organizations who used email *listservs*, Yahoo had become unresponsive to problems and its delivery times were, well...untimely. Messages would be hours or even days late. Some messages disappeared into the ether. Others were successfully delivered to only *some* members and not others. Finally, Yahoo announced they were dropping support and

selling the service, along with AOL's service, to Verizon and were changing their business model. That was the final straw, so we intend to solve that with our migration.

We will make this transition as effortless as possible for you. When our intent to change the service was first mentioned, several members announced that they had experienced an easy change to Groups.io with other email reflectors where they were subscribed. We looked at almost a dozen different solutions, including Googlegroups, Gaggle.email, Causeway, Dynu, No-IP, et al. We also considered building our own solution with our wwdxc.org ISP. Groups.io won. It has been designed, from the base up, to be an email listing service. Familiarity by both users and administrators weighed heavily, too. *If you are a user of our Yahoo list, you won't need to be retrained to use Groups.io.*

The word has to be spread beforehand, of course. We don't want to hear that someone was abandoned during the transition or a member saying "No one told me!" You're reading about it here in the Totem Tabloid, and will hear about it again at the monthly Club meeting on May 8. It's already been posted on the Club's web site at www.wwdxc.org and on our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/wwdxc.

But wait...we'll have an easy way to get you moved! E-Day, the day of cutover, will be May 9, starting in the morning after the monthly meeting. Look for an email in your inbox, addressed TO YOU from the wwdxc@groups.io Moderators. Check your junk or spam folder in case you don't see it, or at least by the end of the day on the 9th.

That individualized email will invite you to join the new list. It will provide a hyperlink to accept. Just click on that hyperlink and it will take you to the Groups.io web site where you can set your message delivery preferences: individual emails, a daily digest, or even a mini-digest for every 10 emails. It will support both HTML and Plain-Text emails. You can embed or attach images, too.

We're making it even easier than that, too! You can simply click on Reply to that invitation and send your acceptance.

If you do NOT get your email invitation in your inbox by nightfall on the 9th, don't panic! We still love you. We may have sent it to the wrong place. Some of you have changed your email addresses through the years and we didn't know. Maybe we made a typo. Have you never experienced a Busted Call on a DX QSO? As a final safeguard, you can go to the groups.io/g/wwdxc web page and request to join.

2018 Pacific Northwest DX Convention

The PNWDXC is fast approaching. The website is at <http://pacificnwdxconvention.com/>
The dates are August 3-5, 2018. Ward, NØAX, will be there.

The convention hotel will again be the Inn at the Quay in New Westminster, B.C. The hotel is now accepting reservations—you can call toll-free 1-800-663-2001 and let them know you are coming for the Pacific Northwest DX Convention. Or send an email to info@innatthequay.com, mention you are attending the convention and they will email you a confirmation. I went the email route and got a confirmation about three hours later. The convention room rate on my confirmation is Canadian \$ 165 plus tax. At today's exchange rate, that works out to around \$ 134 per night.

Contest Activity Report—May 2018

Mike “Dink” Dinkelman, N7WA

[Editor's note: Mike, N7WA, reports that there were no Travelling Trophy contests this month.]

Membership Update—May 2018

Jim Hadlock, K7WA

[Editor's note: Jim, K7WA, advises that there was no member news this month.]

May 2018 Contest Calendar

Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, has a website that is truly a one-stop place for all things related to contesting. The link is www.contestcalendar.com or 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

WWDXC DXCC Ladder

Jim Rockey, WA7SRZ

The WWDXC 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.wwdxc.org/dxcc-ladder> and clicking on “current standings.” 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 May 1, 2018 (with no representations that the information is accurate, complete and/or won't change). I have added the DXpedition website information when there is one and I have the information. If no website is listed, check the call sign on QRZ.com.

Mozambique (C8T)	May 2-15, 2018
https://mozambique2018.wordpress.com/	

Lord Howe Island (VK9LI)	May 11-18, 2018
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Rodrigues Island (3B9RUN)	May 11-16, 2018
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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
DX Heat

www.dxscape.com (free)
<https://dxheat.com> (free)

Totem Trader

FOR SALE: MFJ-434 deluxe voice keyer with manual \$80

MFJ-927 200 watt remote antenna tuner. Great for Field Day. Works very well, with manual. \$150

Oscilloscope, 175 MHz, dual channel, dual time base. Phillips PM3286 \$150

Larry, K7EKD k7ekd@frontier.com

WANTED: Unadilla 80 meter trap, KW-80CW. Larry, K7EKD k7ekd@frontier.com

TOTEM TABLOID
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The Totem Tabloid

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Articles and News Items

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Kip Edwards, W6SZN
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Indianola, WA 98342
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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