

NET CONTROL STATIONS

1st Tuesday; Jeff KG7HZT

2nd Tuesday; Mihai W4MHI

3rd Tuesday; Duff WA7BFN

4th Tuesday Craig W7CDP



RV-Travelers Net

Tuesdays 7PM PNW/Digital WA-2

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Boondock Radio

Jeff KG7HZT

The fact that I'm writing for this newsletter probably tells you two things—I enjoy the amateur radio hobby and I like to get into the outdoors. The vast majority of my camping trips with the Sherpa Yeti are into the mountains surrounding Spokane, WA. I truly love the Coeur d'Alene River with all it has to offer. Beautiful scenery, remote camping opportunities, and a chance to chase cutthroat trout on a fly rod.



Remote camping for me usually means completely self-contained. Some call it "boondocking". With my tiny trailer and Ranger pickup, I can get into some pretty out-of-the-way places!

The Yeti is fully equipped to "play radio" in the woods. As I mentioned in last month's article, electricity is provided by a 75AH sealed lead acid battery. Presently, I charge it from the mains prior to leaving on a trip. It seems to do just fine for 5-6 days as long as I don't push-to-talk too much! My goal is to charge it in the field with the sun via a 100W solar panel.

I have been electrifying my home shack for several years with a 100W panel on the roof and a 55AH sealed lead acid battery under the desk.



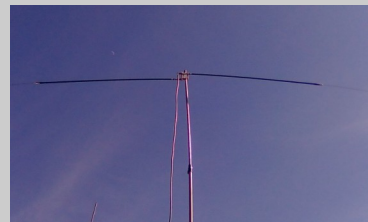
I bring the power into the cabin of the Yeti to a RigRunner panel that has 6 Anderson PowerPole outlets, a USB outlet and a volts/amps read-out. In the trailer, I have mounted a Yaesu FTM-100DR 2m/70cm transceiver and an Icom IC-7100 for HF/VHF/UHF/D-Star.

While camping, we often are deploying somewhat compromised antennas for HF, so I use an LDG-100 autotuner with the IC-7100 to improve the impedance match.

The IC-7100 is a good fit for this little trailer because most of the radio work is done outside under the awning. Because it has a moveable control head, the main transceiver unit is permanently mounted in the trailer and the only thing that comes outside is the control head with its mic connection and built in speaker. I can move it all inside if the weather gets a little chilly and work HF into the wee hours of the morning from my sleeping bag!

I have two antennas—A vertical VHF/UHF mobile antenna mounted

on the trailer and a ham-stick-style horizontal dipole on a 18ft pushup pole on a tripod for HF. Cable for the HF antenna connects to the radio through a port in the side of the trailer. I can rotate the antenna mast from the ground (manually) to get at least a little gain.



The set up works pretty well, but the hamsticks are a compromise and have to be changed for a move to another band.

All in all, the trailer provides me the opportunity to do two things I love to do in the woods. Play radio and fish. What could be better? If you have any comments or questions, I can be reached at kg7hzt@centurylink.net.

Safe travels! 73!



Checkeriners

RV Travelers Net

April 28, 2020

W7CDP	Craig
KG7BPX	Gerald
W4MHI	Mihai
WA7HAA	Steve
W7HLO	Dale
N7JAG	Craig
N7ER	Brad
K7AMF	Jim
NX7O	Benton
WA7DUH	Steve
KG7HZT	Jeff
NO7RF	Mike
WA7BFN	Duff



Questions, comments or ideas
for the net or newsletter,
drop em off to: Duff
WA7BFN@msn.com



Cooking in a small RV kitchen certainly has its challenges, but can be much less frustrating with the addition of the very handy **Instant Pot.**

This appliance has more gadgets than a Swiss army knife. How about a slow cooker, pressure cooker, rice cooker, egg cooker, Slow Cooker, DMR Radio (just checkin if you're reading) and believe it or not, bake a cake in it. There are many field tested recipes out there and with its minimal power consumption it's possible to set it up for on the road operation and have dinner ready when you pull into camp. My kind of cookin'

Among the many recipes we've tried here's a starter and it's a family pleaser

A "Dump and Go" Taco Soup

Ingredients

1 cup **pre-cooked** Ground Beef
Half cup diced onion
1/2 teaspoon Salt
1/2 teaspoon Black Pepper
3 teaspoon Ranch Dressing Mix
2 teaspoons Taco Seasoning
5 1/2 ounces Whole Kernel Corn,
Canned
5 1/2 ounces Diced Tomatoes,
Canned
3 1/2 ounces Diced Tomatoes with
Green Chiles
15 ounces Pinto Beans, Canned
1 cup Water



Place all ingredients into inner pot.
Lock cover into place and seal steam nozzle.
Cook on high pressure for 10 minutes.
Let pressure release naturally for 10 minutes, then release any remaining pressure. Enjoy!!

Consult the owners manual for adjustments. Pressure cooking always has a variable consistency. The times given here are based on 4 servings. If you are using more servings you may need to increase your cooking time.

Huge Bang For The Buck

Dale W7HLO



We have made a few modifications to our RV since we bought her but this one was probably one of the most gratifying.

Our 2018 Airstream came equipped with LED lighting. While we have come to appreciate how energy efficient the lights are, we hated the sterile surgical room look that they gave off. The color temperature was most unpleasant.

I ordered some theatrical lighting gel film from B&H photo. A 20" X 24" sheet was under \$7 and ended up enough to do 3 Airstream trailers and I still have enough left over to do a couple more. The entire modification took me less than an hour.

The LED lights in our trailer are little round "Puck" style lights. I figured out how to pop the lens out, cut little round disks out of the film with scissors, and put two in each light fixture. With a cost per trailer in the neighborhood of under \$2 and an hour's worth of labor this was probably the most cost efficient modification we have made to our RV.

Here are a couple of before and after pictures:



Here is a link to the film that we purchased. Because the LED lights don't put out much heat, and because this film is intended to be placed in rather hot theatrical lighting, there is little danger of it ever melting.

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/166181-REG/Gam_GC1543_GCA1543_Full_CTO.html



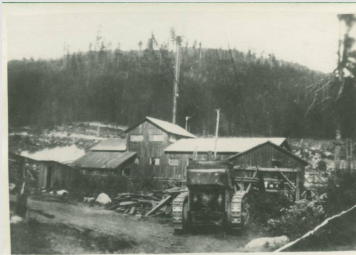
BOONDOCKING

IN N. PEND OREILLE COUNTY WA

SCOTT KA7FVY

I was introduced to the north Pend Oreille County area as a kid. My step-dad would find these locations for us to explore. In this case it was an old logging camp called Diamond City. In the 1920 the Diamond Match company logged this area. According to a history write up for the county, matches were in high demand at the time and 80% of the white pine logged was used for wooden matches.

Diamond City is located about 15 miles SSE of Lone, WA in the Colville National Forest. There was a sawmill at the location which was along the West Branch LeClerc Creek and at least one dwelling. The only signs left today are a chimney and foundation of the sawmill. The entire area was devastated by fire in 1924.



Getting to the area you will have to cross the Pend Oreille river at Usk if you are coming from the south. If you are on the north end of the county you can cross at Lone. Take the LeClerc Road that runs along the east side of the Pend Oreille river to the LeClerc Creek Road. As a kid we camped at the location in the truck camper that my folks had. Years later I have tent camped a couple times at the location. More recently my wife and I boon docked at a forest service campground that is located on the road to Diamond City, Le Clerc Creek Campground. This campground is marked on Google maps right near the intersection of the West Branch Le Clerc Cr Road and Hanlon Cutoff Road.

It has nice large open areas to camp. We had regular visits from the forest ranger when we were camping there.

Google maps does not show Diamond City but most topo maps do.



There are two more dispersed campgrounds that we discovered when exploring the areas that are southeast of the Le Clerc Creek Campground. I have not found any of these three campgrounds listed on any boon docking site. Not even the Colville National Forest site. I have not camped at the two dispersed sites that we found but plan to soon.

Please see this link for maps of the area and information about Diamond City. Note some road and access information I have shown on the maps.

<http://www.ka7fvv.net/DiamondCity/>

Pend Oreille County History: <https://www.historylink.org/File/7618>
Scroll down to Gotta Match?

PNW Member Favorites.

*Steamboat Rock St Prk
Jump Off Joe Lake Restort, Ft Casey
Cascade Meadows, Valley Camp, Lk Chelan,
Winthrop WA KOA, Little Diamond KOA,
Riley creek LaClede Id, Woodland WA RV.*



Rolling Along

With Craig

W7CDP

Well another week of sequestration. RV's are parked but there is hope that soon it will be time to fire up the that old tin box and head to your favorite camping spot.

In my travels, I have stayed in great locations and some not so good as I am sure many of you have. When I first started RVing, there were not the accommodations as plentiful as there are now. Our first family camping started in the late 50's as we would go to Campbell River, BC. We would camp on the 'Spit', only electricity was available, but you park within 30' of the Ocean, which is part of the inside passage to Alaska. We would see all kinds of ships pass by; freighters, military, cruise liners, log carriers. We had the opportunity to see John Wayne with his converted WWII mine sweeper docked at the town ore dock.

Camping is what you make it. Again, some good, some bad. Parked one night in a rodeo ground because the campground at the fairgrounds was full and we were too tired to look further. Being a farmer, I was use to the smells and the corrals. Played high school football at the Republic Rodeo grounds, yes, no grass but that is another story.

The best campground would have to be Desert Trails RV Park Campground in El Centro, CA. We spend nearly 10 years there as snowbirds in our 5th wheel. Big pool, 9-hole golf course, baseball field, happy hour every Friday night but many activities throughout each week. Many of the RVers are from southern BC and Saskatoon. There were 4 couples from here in the Spokane area and from just over the Canadian border, like we have never left our home.

It always amazes me the friends you make

along the way. As most of you have experienced you meet some of the most extraordinary folks from all walks of life. People from NASA, lawyers, Doctors, pilots, all the way to laborers who are some of the most interesting people. Met one fellow who worked on a container ship that sailed the world. Some of the stories he told were amazing.

We have stayed in many campgrounds in my life. Some had drive threw some you had to fit the unit in with a shoehorn. Some dry camping some full hookups and everything in between. But the best thing of all, you are among friends who would come to help if needed. Broke bread with many and helped those in need. You meet all kinds along the way, some reserved, snooty or outgoing. Bottom-line we all shared the same goal, having great experiences.

Above all, as most of you know, make sure you pack some toys with you as you travel. Radio's, knitting, puzzles, etc. because you do not always have the best weather. Have a great time and help others to have an outstanding time in the great outdoors.

Until next time; 73's

Craig Phillips
W7CDP



[https://
www.thriftynorthwestm
om.com/free-camping-
washington-and-
oregon/](https://www.thriftynorthwestmom.com/free-camping-washington-and-oregon/)

From the End of the Road

Mazama Mike N07RF

As of May 2nd, DMRX, the organization that hosts the DMRX Talkgroup Server and various support services, has closed its doors. Why is that of interest to travelers or our members you might wonder? It is a bit of good DMR history that goes back to the early days of the c-Bridge and the lack of a good way to handle talkgroup traffic among the many and growing base of c-Bridges.

Their website is still up but now with a closing opinion from the co-owner. Worth a read IMHO before it departs this world. This is a backend story of DMR operation and I will try to keep it brief (har) and less boring. It is a side of Ham DMR that users and even most repeater owners do not know exists, but honestly, they do not need to. Maybe some day we can explore the c-Bridge lawsuit, an interesting but extremely disappointing bit of Amateur Radio history.

In 2013 there were no Chinese DMR radios, no Brandmeister, no Hotspots...only Motorola TRBO repeaters, mobile and HT's...and the c-Bridges to tie all of the worldwide Ham DMR activity together.

Back in those early days, the many c-Bridges were sharing talkgroup feeds with abandon and little thought to management, much less efficiency. Groups or clusters of clubs were sharing ad-hoc and the mess quickly escalated into a batch of spaghetti lines that would crash and talkgroup traffic would be lost without knowing the connections were severed. There was an early effort to try to come up with a better widget. It is documented at DCI, our sister group from the very early Ham DMR days.

The TG server was eventually birthed in 2014 after 18 months of work and 4 iterations. The TG server was rolled out and c-Bridge administrators were invited to join the server and drop their pasta mess of feeds. DMRX was up to about 65 c-Bridge members and over 1,100 talkgroup connections at the high water mark. But as the TG server caught on and through the magic of Ham Radio Operators everywhere, the politics began.

It has been said that if 3 hams get together to form a club, that they will walk away with 2 new clubs. DMR, in my experience has politics on steroids. The battles began, feathers ruffled between the major players and well, there were 2 major TG servers in play that first year, 2 more followed and we have 2 others still in operation today.

But in my opinion DMRX was the only TG server that had its only and core mission, to serve talkgroups. Added later were other support services for c-Bridges but the original intent was maintained, no politics, any c-Bridge could join and and there was nothing more than being a good steward of the talkgroups that were donated into their care to be served out to all the other c-Bridges, their repeaters and users of those repeaters.

To bring this back into the Pacific Northwest, this was the primary method that PNWDigital received its outside talkgroups. Brandmeister now handles the bulk of the our old c-Bridge talkgroups and is our goto for additional talkgroups. So we will still have a coordinated approach to moving talkgroups around the world efficiently and with a fair amount of

certainty that if you get on Washington 1 (3153) anywhere in the world, you are very likely to be able talk back home 7/24/365.

It will take a few months for the dust to settle as the politics roars and the Spaghetti lines are re-extruded. Then PNWDigital will look at what has survived and reconnect to what appears to be the most stable and best positioned group that can effectively provide us with these lost talkgroups without the political restrictions.

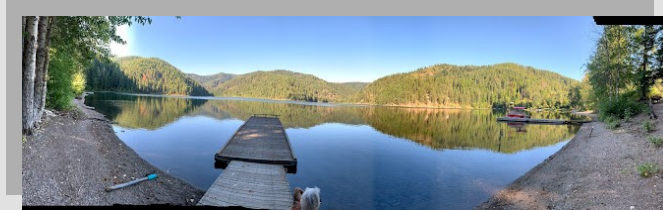
As of today, we are missing some of the statewide talkgroups but our regional statewides are intact and are now connected to Brandmeister. We also have a few specialty talkgroups that are still in limbo but those should resurface in some form soon. All internal connections are fine and this article is a heads-up to the story and with an expectation that it will take several months for these other groups to have a plan and possibly share their new found wealth with PNWDigital.

Now, one more thing. Here's the rest of the story as my friend Paul Harvey would have said some 50 years ago. I am the other half of DMRX. I along with 3 other hams developed the concept, implementation and supported the project for the past 6 years or so. Yup, I'm just a little biased and saddened as I was the one who pressed my partner to shutter the operation.



side Notes

W4LKS Randy has come up with a nifty desk stand for the ANYTONE 878/868. For those of you with a 3D printer, a few hours print will give you a nice addition to the shack. Full Files can be found on Thingiverse;
<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:4336705>



Name the lake above. Correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a Stand. Send your guess to WA7BFN@msn.com. Winner announced in the next Newsletter. Good Luck .



NET DOINGS

The last few nets produced some great conversation on many topics from favorite camping spots around the PNW to how to "Park" that thing!! Last week the topic of macerators came up. I for one never heard of them, so off to google we went and what a great addition to the rig. For those who may have missed it, here's some INFO. <https://www.amazon.com/Flojet-18555000A-18555-000A-Portable-Waste/dp/B001HKZHIW>

Well if and when we get outta lockdown and able to go camping, where you going to go? What's your plan? Join us on the net and share your desires. On we go, stay safe and if you have something to share, please do.. 73 Duff