

NET CONTROL STATIONS

1st Tuesday; Jeff KG7HZT

2nd Tuesday; Mihai W4MHI

3rd Tuesday; Duff WA7BFN

4th Tuesday Craig W7CDP



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RV Travelers Net

Tuesdays 7PM PNW/Digital WA-2

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WA in a Name

Jim-San WA7VFAQ

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Hi, My name is Jim and I'm a Trailerite, a Travel Trailer owner, more specifically, I own a R-Pod. Yes, it does seem that I'm now part of the Cult of the R-Pod. I've drank the Kool-Aid and joined the Dark Side. However, we didn't have to sacrifice the blood of a virgin or wear any strange vestments, we just said, "add us to the group" and now we be Trailerites.

Seems that all the R-Podders have a name for their Pod and it seems like most folks work really hard to mix in "pod" into their trailer's name.

Let's see there is the Moose Pod, the Monkey Pod, Once O'Pod a Time, Podilicious, Peas in a Pod, Fur Pod, Hairy Podder, and the list goes on and on. . .

If I have missed your Pod's name here, just add it to the comments and have a nice day - that way you will be recognized. So how do people come up with their R-Pod's name? Seems like for some there was a large quantity of alcohol involved, and for others it just took time. But most folks usually say that their pod will name its self in time.

We had lots of ideas and half-baked names that just never stuck. Since we are Pacific Northwesters we thought about using a local theme and go with Orca Pod (Orcas travel in pods), or Lighthouse Pod, or Crab Pod, but our pod disagreed. We are officially listed on the Google Maps R-Pod map as "TBNL" - to be named later. So, some clever person/cult member referred to our pod as "PodWA" in a jokingly manner since we are located in Washington State. We saw that and realized that our Pod has just received her name.

Yes, we do live in Washington State, and WA is the official Post Office abbreviation for our state, but WA has had a different meaning to us for about 26 years. Sometime in 1988, we had our first Japanese exchange student stay with us. That started a lifelong attachment with Japan that exists to this very day and will continue to for years to come. WA is a Japanese term that is used to describe "harmony", "peace", and "team unity". In Japan, Baseball teams that have Wa are the ones who are most likely to win and have the best seasons.

And, then there is Baseball, one of our favorite pastimes. I coached baseball for years and even have a Bellevue City Championship win under my belt. Ask to see my ear-ring, my promise to the team if we won the City Championship was to get an ear pierced.

In 1979, Robert Whiting, wrote the book, [You Gotta Have Wa](#), about baseball in Japan and how teams use Wa to make sure they solidify as a team. The book has vivid accounts of East meeting West, involving Babe Ruth, Ichiro Suzuki, Bobby Valentine, Japanese home run king Sadaharu Oh, and many others, this lively and completely unique book is an utter gem and baseball classic.



WA in a Name continued



We hereby named our R-Pod - PodWa - A pod with harmony, peace and team unity, that is from Washington State! If you look closely at the kanji, you will notice the word picture enclosed in every kanji – there is a tree on the left and a “home” on the right. Nuff said – it’s perfect for our little home in the forest.

Lore has it that, if you do not listen to your trailer when you name her, your experience may be fraught with problems – blowouts, burned cinnamon rolls, dead batteries, undetermined causes of sway, etc. So far we are 7 years into this trailerite life and all is going well, but best of all PodWa has named herself!

The Journey is our home.....

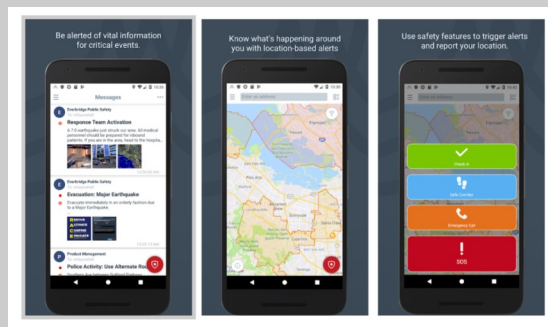
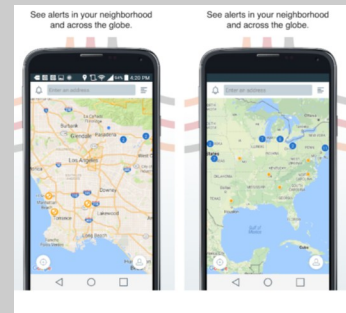
Emergency Preparedness' Tip

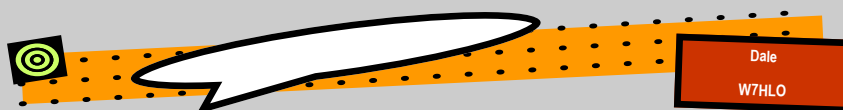
If you find yourself camping or traveling during wildfire season, you may wish to download an app called Everbridge to your phone.

Over Labor Day weekend, the camp hosts at the Dorabelle Campground on the shores of Camp Edison in Shaver Lake California were faced with a rapidly advancing wildfire. They downloaded the Everbridge app and it was instrumen-

tal in allowing them to coordinate an effective evacuation of the campground.

The app is free and allow the user to connect with various agencies and public safety officials to obtain vital information during critical events. The app also has a provision to allow users to send an SOS out to those agencies and is designed to function with less than stellar network connections.





On The Level

I just installed a Levelmate Pro 2 in our Airstream and thought I'd write a quick article about this device. The Levelmate is a Bluetooth device that communicates with your smart phone that will assist one in leveling a travel trailer or motorhome. At first I was hesitant to spend the money on this device as an old fashioned level placed on the floor of the trailer seems to work just fine. Then I spoke with a couple folks who had done this installation and decided it might make sense for two reasons. First of all, the leveling from side to side with a level on the floor tends to be an iterative process. Back up onto your ramp or blocks, check the level, back up some more or go forward a little, check it again, etc. Even when you have a spotter watching the level it still usually takes a time or two to get it right. With the Levelmate installed it's a one step process. While you move the trailer or motorhome onto the blocks you observe the diagrams shown on your smart phone. When the trailer is level side to side you stop. Done! The front to back process for a trailer is equally easy. Simply adjust your tongue jack while watching your smart phone and when the diagram shows you are level front to back you're done.

An added benefit is that it allows you to evaluate your site prior to leveling your camper. Perhaps simply moving a few inches in one direction or another might simplify the leveling process. The device shows you how many inches one needs to adjust in order to achieve level. This not only helps to evaluate the side but lets you know ahead of time how much material you can expect to place under the wheel.

Where this device really shines is on a motorhome or pickup camper as it shows the adjustment necessary for each of the 4 wheels to achieve a level stance. And finally, with a trailer, once you raise the tongue high enough to move the tow vehicle away the device will remember that height. When it is time to hitch back up you simply raise the tongue to the height memorized by the device and your hitch will have sufficient clearance.

Here is an article that compares the Levelmate Pro 2 to other systems on the market: <https://rv-roadtrips.thefuntimesguide.com/levelmatepro-rv-leveling-system/>

Towable Screen



Motorhome Screen



Total installation time and calibration was approximately 20 minutes. There is no wiring involved and the unit can be installed on just about any vertical surface available within the camper.



We were once travelers

Mike NO7RF

My now spouse and I made many bi-mothly runs up and down the I-5 between SoCal to Mazama. We made every effort to get through Portland, Tacoma and Seattle without a stop and between commuter peak traffic. But we always tried to drive through the North Cascades Hwy via Arlington/Darrington/Newhalem.



Cascadian Farms

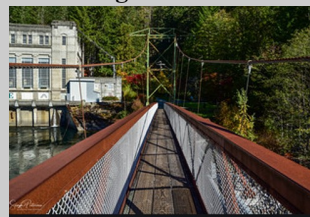
The North Cascades Hwy is an official gobbermont of WA declared Scenic Byway. It didn't open until 1974 after decades of efforts and false starts. It closes for 5 months of the year for winter traveler safety. It is a gorgeous scenic route, chock full of great things to see and do. It is certainly worth taking the 2 to 4 day lazy trip for the complete loop down the Columbia River valley and back west on Hwy 2 through Leavenworth, another mock theme town competing for tourists same as Winthrop. For this ramble though, I want to touch on just a few points along the NCH from Hwy 530 and east over the passes and into Winthrop more for the day tripper's interest.

Just east of Hwy 530 on the NCH is Cascadian Farms and worth a leg stretch, open or not. They have coffee, homemade ice cream and their locally grown stuff and one sit around at the tables which are surrounded by their organic grows. They were bought out by General Mills I think years ago but somehow the family has maintained control of their long time local operation.

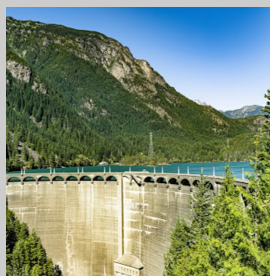
The NCNP Visitor's Center is 3/4 of a mile South off the highway, just west of Newhalem. One must cross over the Skagit River on a 1 lane bridge (signal lights to control directional traffic) and pass the campground to get to the Visitor's Center. Very nice stop with restrooms, theatre, bookstore, etc. Handy short trails and pull through parking for trailers and house's with wheels.



Gorge Powerhouse



Suspension Bridge



Diablo Dam

Just a mile east of the visitors center, Newhalem is a company town for Seattle City Light. Nice folks at the general store (now modernized next door to the train) and reasonable prices for hot or quick food, brew and day trip supplies. SCL has an interesting visitor's center and is just nice to explore around town center. This company town has the best public restrooms in the West, open 7/24/365, 2 locations both heated in the winter. Great stop if you need a break if going from "wetside" to Eastside, especially if you skipped Cascadian Farms. But there is much to keep you busy in Newhalem if chose not to drive on by.

Many walking or hiking trails are also in this town or walk around the powerhouse, over the suspension bridge above the Skagit, lighted in the evenings too! The powerhouse tour is also the best in the west, honestly better than Hoover as they let the public traipse around the generators. We once got to walk around inside of one and touch the armature while one was offline and being rebuilt.



Blue Lake

Heading on Eastward from the Gorge Powerhouse is the Gorge overlook, Diablo Dam and many great stops to gawk at Mother Nature's delights including several tunnels on your way to Diablo, the old town and the dam. If you have the time, check out old and rundown Diablo, the old incline railway and on eastward to Diablo Dam, one of the few dams left that allow the public to drive over to the far side. Worth the visit to drive to the end of the line to see the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center (wheeled houses not recommended).

Continuing on are many sites, campgrounds, waterfalls, overlooks and various stops worth spending a few minutes at least as you make your way eastward. The Diablo Lake Vista Point provides a stretch, sites and restrooms. That is it for any services until you reach Mazama but there so much to see or hike along the way to the East side of the Cascades. The Pacific Crest trail, last checkpoint before going North to Canada, near Rainy Pass is along your way and also are many short hikes to scenic spots. Blue Lake is gorgeous though several hours for the round trip with moderate elevations. Washington Pass overlook is a short walk, with ample long rig parking and with some most impressive views and several GeoCaches too.



Cell service ends just East of Newhalem and doesn't pick up until around Early Winters, about 55 miles of peace. Ham radio is almost nil as well. Mike, N7NHY has a repeater in Darrington that is hit/miss to just East of the Diablo Dam overlook and then there is a DMR repeater in Mazama that reaches back west to almost Washington Pass or about 15 miles into the no cell zone if you have a decent mobile install.

Mazama has a nice country store, though they have dropped the country part, but still, it is a bakery, deli and has plenty of organic stuff, great coffee, beers on tap, outside tables (inside is C-19 restricted currently). It is a pricey tourist and locals place, local family owned and most kids in the valley have worked there one time or another. It is one of our favorite locations in the north Methow Valley and worth a stop on your way to Winthrop and Twisp.

Winthrop is a tourist town, western themed, friendly and pricey too. Gas, food, lodging and a nice downtown boardwalk strip with 2 suspension bridges that span the Methow and Chewach rivers. There is handy RV parking just outside of town at the local park (Red Barn) and then a short walk into town proper. The Schaffer Museum is worth the visit and is a short walk from downtown.

So while you could make the drive from Arlington to Winthrop in about 3 hours, if you slow down, you could stay for 2 or 3 days or a week. I have touched on only a few of the goodies Mother Nature, with a bit of help from a lot of humans, has provided for you to do along the way as you drive along this northern stretch of the North Cascades Highway. C-19 may have impacted current accesses but thinking ahead, this might spark you for a quick day trip or hopefully make the loop over several days

A Tale of Two Campgrounds

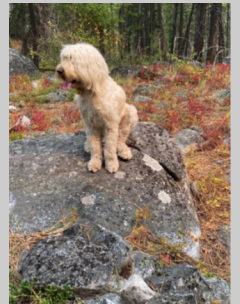
Jane (W7IFT) and I (W7HLO) just returned from two wonderful, yet very different camping experiences. One was very primitive the other full hookups, yet both offered beautiful sights, outdoor explorations, and fun for the pups. About the only things these two campgrounds had in common is that they were both about 4-1/2 hours away and really inexpensive.

BLODGETT CANYON CAMPGROUND –



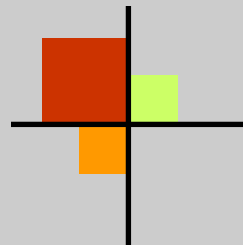
This campground, just a few miles outside of Hamilton, Mt. is a USFS campground that is the smallest we have ever encountered. It had a total of 5 sites, one of which is occupied by Chris, the camp host of the past 10 years. Two of the sites are paved, they all have firepits and picnic tables, and that is the grand total of the amenities. No water, power, or sewer. However the camping fee is an incredible 0\$/night. This is an extremely popular campground so your stay is limited to 5 nights. The campground does not take reservations and the day we arrived it was full but Chris said it was okay to spend the night in the parking lot as someone was checking out the next day and we could have their spot. Apparently this is a fairly common practice.

The views from this campground are breathtaking with rock formations that draw expert climbers from all around the world. There is a trail that goes up the canyon for about 12 miles exposing a rock archway, more incredible rock faces, and an alpine lake. About a mile or so up the trail is a swimming hole that our puppies came to love.



ENTIAT CITY PARK – This campground couldn't have been much different from the previous one. Located about 15 miles north of Wenatchee along the west bank of the Columbia River, the area is warm, dry, and the campground is large with full hookups, the nicest, cleanest bathrooms you will find anywhere, green grass, paved walking trails, and with our Good Sam and Old Folks discount it was only \$10/night. This campground is not one you would probably want to come to in mid-July or August as it can get quite hot, however it is a great place to visit if you live in a colder area and wish to extend your camping into the shoulder seasons.

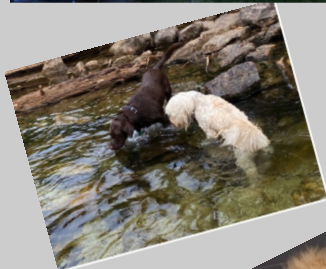
The first weekend we were there the Wenatchee Model Airplane Club was holding their annual fly-in so we got to watch a large variety of planes, both gas powered and electric, and even the occasional crash landing. We very much enjoyed the exhibition and talking to the men flying the planes but our fun really began when Duff (WA7BFN) and his wife Judy arrived the next day and parked their motorhome in the site next to us. The two Golden Doodles, Piper and Jordan, spent time playing in the large grass field, our chocolate lab Jessie tried his best to teach Piper to swim, Jane took all three dogs for a run alongside her bike, and all 4 dogs got to go on some long walks.



There were a couple of embarrassing moments during our stay. The four of us sought out a few geocache sites, the first of which was defined as being a level 4.5 out of 5 in difficulty. After approximately 2 hours of futile effort on the part of Duff and myself, Judy walked right up to it and showed us how a professional geo-cacher operates. As if that wasn't bad enough, Duff and I then spend about 15-20 minutes trying to locate another cache site that was described as being a 1 out of 5 in difficulty. We figured it would offer us an easy opportunity to redeem ourselves but we got skunked yet again. The next day we took Jane to the site and she found it within less than a minute.

Perhaps Duff and I should stick to ham radio.

The difficult geocache site is located within this picture.



GEOCACHING

Want to join the FUN? It's Easy

1. *Create an account online at Geocaching.com. Use the app on your phone to find geocaches near you.*
2. *Use the app to find the cache. Don't forget a pencil/pen.*
3. *Once you find the cache, sign the log, replace the cache and share you experiences on line.*



What A Novel Idea – Geocache Site # GC2912

Many, many years ago Jane and I set up a Geocache site in the Redmond Novelty Hill area. The site is still in existence and last found August 31, 2020. Even if you don't live in the Puget Sound area you might get a kick out of the description as it has a CW element to it. Any hams located in or around Redmond who Geocache might enjoy looking for this site. If you go to www.geocaching.com and search on the site number GC2912 you will find the information. This is a traditional sized cache, about 2.5 in terms of difficulty and the coordinates given for the site take you to a parking area. The actual site itself is an short, easy walk from there. Have Fun.....Dale (W7HLO) and Jane (W7IFT)



NO Dah TAH!

Have you ever been cut off from the world? Or it seems!

For our last camping trip, among all the preparations, was checking the cell service for enough DATA, that lifeline thing connecting us to the happenings of our lives. Have enough, not enough? For some, unlimited data is great, but for us, we are on a limited data plan. Having almost a full measure for our plan, and not using it for movies and other big drain items, we figured we would be good for the week. Wrong. On arriving at our end destination for a few days, we got an annoying, alarm ! "You are out of data" Whaaaat? How can this be. What the? We had almost a full plan when we left . Well as some of you know, not me at the time, phone settings make all the difference.

*Mobile data usage has skyrocketed. Apps have become more data-hungry and are constantly pushing new versions for an **update**. Earlier, web surfing used to be mostly text-based as not much development happened in web technologies. Now, video streaming services have gained widespread popularity, and social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram have also integrated video services as a mainstream appeal. It has become increasingly difficult to reduce data usage.. Just open an app i.e. Facebook/Twitter and you'll undoubtedly get a video stream of some sort which of course, drains the plan. So What to do? If you have an unlimited plan, (read the fine print) you're probably ok, but if you're on a budget, as we are, here's some ideas.*

From the boys at CNET:

Restrict iTunes and App Store downloads (can apply to Android as well) from downloading music apps updates and so on when you're away from a wifi signal. See your settings. Turn off "use Cellular data.

Disable background app refresh.. This one can go on with out you knowing it until it's too late.

See which apps are using the most data. Curious to know which apps are consuming the most data? Go to Settings > Cellular and you can see how much data you've used in the current billing period and below that you'll see a list of your apps. Under each app's name is the amount of data it has used for the current billing period. You can toggle off any app that you think is eating more than its fair share.

Disable Wi-Fi Assist

Wi-Fi Assist is a great feature where your iPhone hands off a weak Wi-Fi signal to your cellular network to prevent pages from loading slowly (or not at all) as it clings to the last remnants of a Wi-Fi signal. If you sit on the edge of a Wi-Fi network at work, say, then your cellular network may be assisting more than you'd like and running up data charges.

Download music, don't stream

Streaming music or podcasts for long stretches when you are away from Wi-Fi can quickly add to your data usage. Most music and podcast apps (like Spotify and [Apple Music](#)) let you restrict streaming to Wi-Fi only, which will then force you into the habit of downloading playlists or podcasts before playing them instead of streaming them over cellular data.

Use Safari's Reading List

You can queue up articles while you're using Wi-Fi to read later when you're on a cellular connection or out of range completely. When you add a page to Safari's Reading List, Safari downloads it for offline viewing. To add an article to the Reading List, tap the **Share button** at the center of the bottom navigation bar and then tap **Add to Reading List**. If you use iCloud, then it will share your Reading List with your other iOS devices, but you can stop it from sharing via a cellular connection by going to **Settings > Safari** and scrolling down to the bottom and toggling off **Use Cellular Data** for the Reading List feature.

Just a couple of ideas that can save you that DATA when you'd like it or need it most...ahhh HotSpots anyone!

Another area of interest for internet access when camping is Cell Boosters, WIFI boosters and the like. Found this interesting YouTube article that has some great ideas. <https://youtu.be/VMEcYUyXebY>

Well Onward and may your next trip be full of DATA!

Duff WA7BFN

