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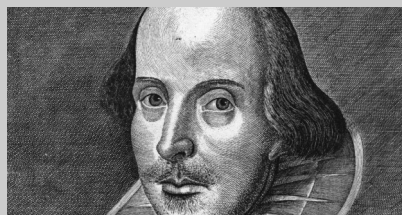


RV—Travelers net news.

Tuesdays 7PM PNW/Digital WA-2

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

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To RV or Not to RV

Mrs NO7RF-AKA KI6WLC

In April 2019 we were planning a trip to Minneapolis/St. Paul to meet up with relatives. The relatives who live near us, and who take care of our dog when we are gone, were also going. We'd just lost a beloved 16-year-old dog the previous December. Our remaining dog was a faithful border collie mix. He was 11 years old and he'd just been diagnosed with Cushing's disease. Google gave him a lifespan of two years. (He's still plugging along, proving Google doesn't have all the answers.) All things considered we decided not to fly and to take our old guy with us.

We thought we wanted to get a trailer, RV or camper. In the end we decided against any of those options. I thought the analysis we went through might be helpful and/or interesting to others.

The obstacles we faced included the need for a new vehicle, and storage of the trailer, RV or camper. But really what convinced us not to purchase was some serious soul-searching as to how often we would travel and use whatever we purchased.

Storage was the easiest to address and was the least influential. We live on a dirt road in a pine forest. We fight a never-ending battle with mice in our cars. We've heard horror stories about pack rats in vehicles but we have escaped that disaster so far through a combination of

luck and vigilance. NO7RF wanted to store any vehicle we purchased in our yard so he could keep an eye on it and keep it varmint-free. Mrs. NO7RF did not want an RV or trailer in the yard. Impasse.

There was no getting around the need for us to purchase another vehicle. We already have a Forester and a Civic (NO7RF's winter and summer cars) and an Impreza (Mrs. NO7RF's car). None of those vehicles is capable of transporting a trailer that has a bathroom (a non-negotiable condition imposed by Mrs. NO7RF). Obviously none of those can support a camper. That meant buying a truck for towing or camper placement. That meant another vehicle in the yard or getting rid of a vehicle. NO7RF was not willing to part with either of his vehicles. Mrs. NO7RF was not willing to trade driving her Impreza for driving a truck large enough to tow a trailer. Another impasse.

Our thoughts turned to an RV. But to really be practical we would need to tow a car to use when the RV was parked. We already have a Civic and an Impreza. Perfect, right? Not so fast. Both are front-wheel drive so they can't be towed without a special dolly, which NO7RF did not want to buy or tow. Trading in the Impreza for a rear-wheel-drive car meant trading in a great winter car for another car that will become a summer-only car. That

was just not practical.

Faced with the impracticalities, we did some soul-searching. How much would we really use an RV or trailer or camper? We lived in Southern California for most of our lives and having an RV option would make trips to SoCal both enjoyable and practical. We could enjoy traveling through Washington, Oregon and California and seeing the sights, and then have our own little home when we got there. We could take whatever dogs we had. We could cook our own meals. No nasty public bathrooms for Mrs. NO7RF. We would meet great people and hang out around campfires with our new friends. It would be wonderful. But then there are those other relatives. The ones who live in Martha's Vineyard and Baltimore. There are grandkids in those far-flung locations. You know the ones. They seem to grow a foot since you've last seen them. You try to FaceTime with them but they see something on TV or in the backyard and off they go. Or they wear their Zoom faces that say Mom made me do this but I'd really rather be playing with my toys. Seeing them on video reminds you of how long it has been since you hugged them, held them on your lap, read them a book.

Continued on page 10



Have you ever been on a long trip and wished you had some way to contact and chat with fellow hams along the way but found the idea of programming in a bunch of analog repeaters, switching/scanning them as you drive along, and announcing your presence on a repeater only to hear crickets, less than optimal. Wouldn't it be nice if there were a way for you to learn about another station interested in a quick chat who is close enough for a simplex QSO? That's where APRS – Voice Alert comes in.

As you probably know, many hams set their transmitters to send analog APRS data out on 144.39 at regular intervals as they travel along. If that person wishes to encourage someone to contact them they can simply encode their data with a CTCSS tone of 100.0. This code will not prevent the data from being received by the APRS system but will allow others to filter their receipt of APRS data.

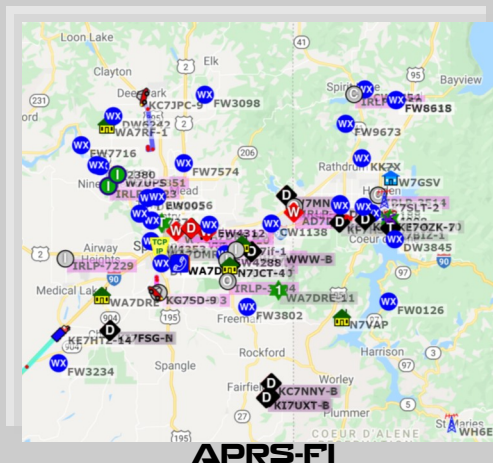
So, if you are looking for someone who would like to QSO you simply monitor the simplex frequency of 144.39 with a “decode” tone of 100.0. Then as you drive along you will **only** hear APRS packet data that is being sent by someone who is

looking for a QSO and who is also within simplex range of your station.

Having heard this set of tones, if you wish to chat with this station simply key up on 144.39 and say something like “This Is WA7123 with a Voice Alert and monitoring on 52”. Then switch to 146.52 and wait for the other station to contact you.

Two “Good Citizen” rules:

1. Don't encode your outgoing analog APRS data with the 100.0 tone unless you are actively monitoring 144.39 and truly interested in a QSO.
2. If you heard an encoded transmission on 144.39 make a brief Voice Alert announcement as described above but conduct your QSO on a different frequency.



APRS Voice Alert cont.

APRS Voice Alert works because all APRS data in N America is transmitted on 144.39 and the PL tone of 100.0 has been agreed upon and standardized for this purpose.

BONUS #1 – If you use the ACB Builder and PNW Digital CSV files to build your code plugs you will find that there is already a channel named 4.39 Alert 100.0 already for your use.

BONUS #2 – If you know you are going to be taking a trip and are looking for folks to chat with you might consider checking into the RV & Travelers net on a Tuesday night on Washington 2 at 7pm. Let everyone know when you are traveling, that you would appreciate some company, and which talk group you will be monitoring.

W7HLO Dale

More APRS Fun



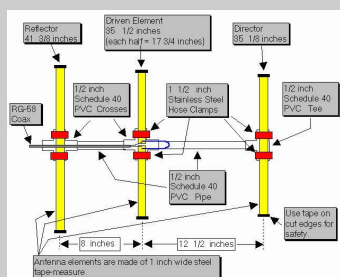
Packet QSO between WD9EWK & WE4B via ISS, 12 October 2020 @ 1635 UTC



With the advent of APRS included in many of today's handheld and mobile transceivers, it's possible to contact the International Space Station's Digipeter and have your transmitted APRS Packets and messages digi-peated to any ground based internet linked station called S-Gates. Then you can

verify your ISS digipeted message was recorded by aprs tracking websites.

I've successfully contacted and verified aprs packet messages using a Kenwood THD-can work and a tape measure antenna, and depending on the ISS's pass elevation, a high gain rubber duck on a HH can work. Yes, you will get strange looks from fellow campers and lots of questions.



I've added some detailed links on "how to get started". All in all just some "off world" fun.

<https://k7kez.com/aprs-settings-for-the-iss-international-space-station/>
https://www.amsat.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/AMSAT_Journal_ISS_Packet.pdf





Local Treasures with Pia: Kettle Falls / Northport Reprinted from Avista News.

Northport, Washington – There is a word for that nagging restless feeling you’ve had for the last couple of weeks. That urge to do something, to run away and as my friend says, blow off the dust. It’s called COVID fatigue, it’s completely normal and also somewhat to be expected after a year of social restrictions.

So gas up the car, pack your favorite snacks and drinkables, add a stash of masks and hand sanitizer, just in case, and you are good to go.

Earlier this month, I aimed my car north – toward Northport – and made a few stops along the way.



The [Kettle Falls Historical Center](#) holds interesting exhibits about the native American heritage that shaped this part of the state, as well as stories of earlier settlers and fur traders.

Do stop at [Meyers Falls Market](#) (160 E Third Avenue, Kettle Falls) an independent natural food store that’s located in The Old Apple Warehouse,

built in 1906. The food market is stocked with mainly whole foods and organic brands sourced from local producers. Next door is a fun gift and coffee shop featuring Kettle Falls’ own [Crandall Coffee Company](#).

On your way out of town, check out the site of [St. Paul’s Mission](#) and [the sharpening stone](#) which has been used by Native Americans for generations. Tribes considered the area where the old mission building still stands one of the best salmon fishing spots on the Columbia. The mission was built in 1847 by Father Peter de Vos and was the baptism site for many Native Americans.



Local Treasures with Pia: continued

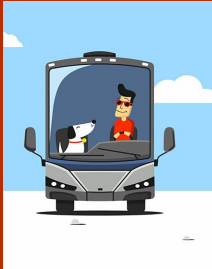


From Kettle Falls, follow the signs to Northport and the Canadian Border on highway 25 and prepare to be dazzled by the views. This is 35 miles of the most beautiful driving you'll ever do in Washington. Mountains on the north shore of the river are reflected in the smoothly flowing water – and the road runs right along the river. It's truly stunning.

The tiny [community of Northport](#) formed around a smelter in the late 1800's. Frequent summer forest fires repeatedly burned the mining camp to the ground, which makes it even more remarkable that one of [Washington's oldest bars](#) is still standing: Kuk's Tavern opened in 1888 and has since operated out of the same building (400 Summit Ave., Northport) but with different names. Remarkably, it never burned down and today remains the hub of the community.



Hitting the road with our “Furry Companions”



RV travel is unlike any other form of travel. Enthusiasts love the freedom to travel from destination to destination without schedule or expectation. The world is theirs.

What's the other thing RV enthusiasts love about this journey to freedom? They can have their pets along for the ride. Always. If you have pets, anywhere you stop can be their backyard, and you get to soak up every destination together. Plus, there's no pet fee or policy, or need to board your furry friends.



Of course, just as you enjoy the comforts of home by bringing along many of those comforts, you also want to pack what's needed so your pets feel just as comfortable and safe on the road.

1. Take a gallon of water from home for each day of travel for the dogs.
2. Always bring extra leashes.
3. A lighted collar for night walks is super helpful.
4. Have a pet first aid kit on hand.
5. Outdoor pet rugs keep them clean and, in turn, keep the motorhome / trailer cleaner.
6. Always have their shot records. Some states and places require it.
7. The Dyson stick vacuum is great for sucking up fur.
8. An outdoor exercise pen is a must. It's fun to hang outside with them, and it's useful for letting them in and out at night. Plus, it keeps your pets safe from other animals. Make sure the campground allows them before you book.
9. Travel with a portable booster bathtub so you don't have to bend over and break your back when bathing them. Find one with removable legs for easy storage.
10. Buy temporary key tags to put on their collars with the campground name and lot number written on them so if they get out, it's easy for someone to return them.
11. Memory foam bath mats work well to place around the motorhome to prevent the dogs from sliding.



Jesse and Jordan courtesy of W7HLO Dale



THE QUINCY PUBLIC MARKET

If you should find yourself traveling from the eastern portion of the state headed toward Wenatchee, Leavenworth, Chelan, etc. you might consider going through the little town of Quincy. We have taken to using this route as it avoids having to go over any mountain passes PLUS if you go to one of the gas stations on the west side of Quincy you will find the cheapest gasoline prices in Central Washington.

About 2 years ago or so a new steel building was erected along the southern side of the road leading out of Quincy going toward Crescent Bar / Wenatchee (on the western edge of town). The building is labeled Quincy Public Market and a couple of trips ago we decided to stop and see what it was all about.



The Quincy Public Market opened unfortunately about the time Covid hit so it got off to a bit of a slow start. However we would highly recommend you stop if you are going through Quincy. The owners put in a Country Fresh Market & Deli and to the extent possible everything they prepare is made from fresh local ingredients. Their fruit smoothies and Rueben sandwiches are especially worth checking out. On our last trip through we purchased several pounds of cherries that had just been picked that morning. Very tasty, obviously fresh, and about a \$1 per pound cheaper than in our local stores.

Also in the market you will find a little boutique store, a coffee shop, a bakery, a restaurant, and a winery AND a line of beautifully restored old cars. If you should stop say hello to Janet Jones in the Deli. She and her husband built this facility I suspect mainly to show off the old cars.



W7HLO Dale



Road Warriors!



Let's Get Ready is your source for Any Tone Full Featured handheld and mobile radios. Complete the installation with a great selection of antennas, connectors and accessories. Check them out at; <https://letsgetreadyinc.com/>

NEW VERSION ANYTONE AT-D878UV II PLUS WITH GPS BLUETOOTH DUAL BAND DMR/ ANALOG RADIO

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More Summer Fun

**Summertime
Approved!**

PNW Side Trip Snippets

Harrison Idaho

The small town of Harrison Idaho less than a 1000 residents, is one of the lesser known gems of the North Idaho area. Accessed by scenic drive, boat, bicycle, or yea motorcycle, is a premier summertime gathering spot. There are tent and RV Spots adjacent to the beautiful town beach. Located on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene's bike path Harrison makes it a great stop to cool off. All in all a great destination however you get there.



Ride the Hiawatha

There are many great biking trails and paths around Eastern WA and Northern Idaho, but none can compare to the scenic beauty and pure enjoyment than the Hiawatha trail. This 15 mile stretch near Lookout Pass follows an old railroad route. Seven trestles and 10 tunnels including the more than the mile-and-a-half long St. Paul Pass tunnel adds to the excitement of the trip. The route is paved with an occasional stretch of packed gravel and the entire route is "downhill". A Shuttle is available to take you back to the top, making it super friendly for all riders. With views of the Bitterroot mountains and vistas along the way, it just can't be beat. I suggest visiting their website for detailed information and schedules.



Riverside State Park

Just outside Spokane you can feel as if you're miles from civilization exploring the more than 9000 acres that is Riverside State Park. Here you'll find miles of hiking and mountain biking trails. Paddle your way down the Spokane and Little Spokane rivers or throw a line from shore for some grand fishing. There are over 600 designated acres of terrain for off road enthusiasts. 25 miles of trails for horseback and a designated equestrian campsite with 21 spots and corrals. RV'rs and campers can enjoy 3 other great campsites. The most popular being the Bowl and Pitcher. Check for availability.





Camping is so popular for families here in the Northwest and generally a very affordable way to visit new places. If you are looking for something very budget-friendly & affordable, did you know that there are actually a number of places that you can camp for FREE around the Northwest?

Check this site out! A great resource.

<https://www.thriftynorthwestmom.com/free-camping-washington-and-oregon/>

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>

An Offer You Can't Refuse!

Got an Anytone 878 or 868? Need a desk stand? Here's your chance. Submit an article, review, Story or camping Experience to the newsletter, WA7BFN@msn.com. When published it's all yours in Black/Blue/Red your choice.



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

To RV or NOT RV from page 1

How little you know of what they do during the day, what they like to eat, what games they are playing now, what songs they like to sing. These guys remind you of how time is just freighting by.

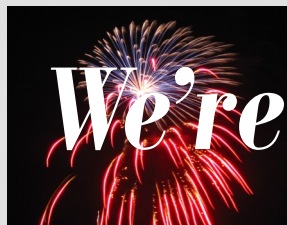
It's not a small thing to drive to Baltimore or Martha's Vineyard. Every day on the road moving toward the little guys means a day you are not spending with them. We have a lot of time to do as we please but we're also at a time in our lives when we wonder how many of those days we have left. Our kids waited longer than we did to have kids. Will we see our grandkids' high school graduations? College graduations? Weddings? Will we live to see our children become grandparents? There's no way of knowing.

If we're honest with ourselves, we don't see ourselves traveling for the joy of traveling. In our lives we've made one huge significant trip and that was the journey from Southern California to a house on a dirt road in a pine forest between two tiny towns snuggled onto a hillside in a fantastically beautiful valley in the majestic Cascades. This house happens to be located about six miles from a house where a delightful little girl lives, a girl who prances into our house like she owns the place, into a house that has books and games and toyboxes overflowing with toys for her, and really, except for those other grandkids so far away, we have everything we could ever need or want here.

So what of the trip to Minneapolis? We took the Forester and stayed in dog-friendly motels. Our old guy tolerated the trip but the motel rooms made him nervous. His big payoff came at the Air BnB house we shared with a bunch of relatives who all spoiled him with games of fetch and pets and walks. It was a great trip.



Since then we've flown to Baltimore and traveled by plane and bus and taxi and ferry to Martha's Vineyard. Sometimes the traveling has been very much no fun ("Don't worry, Dad, they've never cancelled the ferry two days in row"). But the no-fun part of the traveling only lasts for a day or two and then we are there and maybe we haven't seen sunsets in Montana or buffalo in North Dakota or sat around a campfire with our new friends but we've bridged the gap between our cozy little house and those faraway houses full of noise and joy and tired parents and the fantastical little beings who we always fear won't remember us but who jump up and down and grab our hands and want to show us everything and who snuggle in our laps and truly this is the only reason we ever leave.



We're Back!



HAPPY Fourth Folks. It looks like we're on the downhill side of the pandemic. Whew. Time to enjoy once again some social gathering, BBQs and yes CAMPING!

Thanks to our regular contributors we have some nice content for the news letter, this month, but we can always use more. Do you have a story to tell? A campsite review? An adventure? Share your experience. Send them over To Duff/WA7BFN@MSN.COM.

AND BTW, we need a couple of NCS for the RV/Travelers NET Tuesday Evenings 7PM. This is a relaxed round table net that could use your help. Please consider it. Till Next Time, Take Care, Stay Safe and ENJOY!
Duff

