

## WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB, INC.

### A Brief History

An informal meeting of Dx'ers, held at the home of George Wise, W7GBW (changed later to W7MB) in 1955, sparked the first discussion of forming a local DX club.

The first formal meeting was held at the home of Lee Bates, W7HXG, and it was at this meeting the Willamette Valley DX Club, Inc. was formed. Drawing on a set of by-laws from the Northern California DX Club, the club was officially formed and incorporated as the Willamette Valley DX Club Inc. in 1955.

All of the Charter Members were required to have achieved DXCC status as confirmed by the American Radio Relay League.

The following is a list of the Charter Members, together with their call then and now, where known:

Lee Bates W7HXG	Milt Rice W7FB
George Wise W7GBW (W7MB)	Art Berteleit W7GJ
Dick Crane W7AC	Tony Renfro W7MVC (N7OTT)
Art Bean W7AMX	Tony Carlson W7QON (W7TC)
Johnny Watson W7GHB (W7MI)	Stan Griffiths W7TML (W7NI)
Wally Hagstadt W7ENW	Herb Gilbaugh W7HIA (W7LJ)
Joe Vogt W7ASG	Lloyd Street W7DJY (KR7X)
Mac McNeil W7FMX	Bill Sanders W7DAA
Lloyd Beverely W7FR	

The club received official ARRL affiliation on May 29, 1960, and became the Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) Call Area QSL Bureau in 1962. The Seventh Call Area QSL Bureau had previously been handled by the following clubs or individuals:

Frank Praat, W7DXZ, in Tacoma, Washington  
Mary Ann Tatro, W7FWR, in Olympia, Washington  
Joe Vogt, W7ASG in Salem, Oregon  
Salem Amateur Radio Club in Salem, Oregon

George Wise, W7MB, and Bob Wiscoff, K7VCH, went to Salem in 1962 and picked up the Seventh Call Area QSL Bureau and the Willamette Valley DX Club has taken care of the bureau ever since.

The first club overall QSL Bureau Manager was Bob Wiscoff, K7VCH. Since then, the following Members have been QSL Managers:

Bob Wiscoff, K7VCH (1962)  
Bob Wruble W7TDK (AI7B) (W7GG)

Don Tucker W7WLL (1967-1969)  
Tom Renfro, W7MCH (N7OT)  
Phil Anderson, W7GN  
Stan Griffiths, W7TML (W7NI)  
Jim Sullivan, WA7PMI (W7EJ)  
Jim Boland, W7GUR

The club call W7AC was issued to the Willamette Valley DX Club in 1970. Dick Crane, an avid Dxr and charter member of the club became a silent key and the club decided that Dick's call would be a good club call. One by Two calls were rapidly being re-issued as they became available and George Wise, W7MB, personally took the application and proof of the call being available to the FCC in Washington, D.C.

The trustees of the Club Call have been:

George Wise, W7MB, 1970 to 1975  
Bud Fontaine, W7RS, 1975 to Silent Key  
Stan Griffiths W7NI 1975 to date

During 1976, in celebration of our National Bi-Centennial, the club operated on field day, using the unusual call of AC7AC.

The original post office box number for the Willamette Valley DX Club was P. O. Box 55, Portland Oregon. The was originally obtained so members would have a post office box to put on their QSL cards. Later, due to postal regulations, the number was changed to P. O. Box 555, and has the remained the same since that time.

The Willamette Valley DX Club logo and artwork for its certificates, Stationery and QSL cards was designed by Bill Sanders, W7DAA.

The following members of the Willamette Valley DX Club have been appointed to the DXAC (DX Advisory Committee) by the American Radio Relay League:

Al Bishop, W7WW (1982-1983)  
Phil Anderson, W7GN (1983 to present )

The first Willamette Valley DX Club Bulletin was published in 1956, with Lee Bates, W7HXG, editing the first two issues. The third issue and the following twelve issues were edited by Stan Griffiths, W7TML (W7NI). Stan was still a high school student at the time he became a charter member of the club. The next several issues were edited by Johnny Watson, W7GHB (W7MI). George Wise W7GBW (W7MB), also spent some time as editor of the bulletin, and the final bulletin was edited by Bob Wiscoff K7VCH.

The club repeater was on the air for the first time on March 26, 1976, using the call WR7AIB. The repeater is located at the KATU, Channel 2, Television Transmitter Building, with the antenna located on the KATU tower on Sylvan Heights, with an elevation of approximately 1400 feet above sea level. The repeater call was changed to the Club Call W7AC in 1953.

The trustees of the repeater have been Bill Vandermay W7ZZ, for the WR7AIB call from 1976 to 1983. The repeater call is now the same as the Club Call W7AC, and Stan Griffiths, W7NI, is trustee for this call.

Over the years, club members have been near the top of the DXCC Honor Roll, and several have been among the first to achieve ARRL Awards. Included among those are the following:

The first DXCC award issued to an operator in the Seventh Area was issued to Charter Member Art Bean, W7AMX.

The first Seventh Area operator to achieve DXCC Honor Roll status was also Art Bean, W7AMX.

The first Seventh Area operator to achieve DXCC status on phone only was Herb Gilbaugh, W7HIA (W7LJ).

The first Five Band DXCC award for the Seventh Call Area was issued to Charter Member George Wise W7MB.

Every third year the Willamette Valley DX Club hosted the Northwest DX Convention. The first Northwest DX Convention, which was really nothing more than an informal gathering of Dxers, was hosted by the Western Washington DX Club in 1955 in Centralia, Washington.

The first official Northwest DX Convention was hosted by the Western Washington DX Club in 1957, and held in Seattle, Washington. The following year the convention was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, and hosted by the Vancouver BC Radio Club.

In 1959 the Willamette Valley DX Club had its first opportunity to host the convention and it was held at the Mallory Hotel in downtown Portland. Since that time, the Northwest DX Convention has been an annual affair, alternating between the three DX Clubs.

The Club has issued Honorary Membership Certificates to any foreign operators who works and confirms contacts with ten club members. The club has now issued 339 honorary certificates to amateurs in 121 different countries.

Three club members who have gone on DX Expeditions have also achieved Honorary Membership status:

Stan Griffiths, W7NI/KH6  
Dick Zalewski, W7ZR/KC6ZR  
Jim Sullivan, W7EJ/KC6

Over the years, the club has met at several different locations. Following are a list of some of these:

Hung Far Low Restaurant  
Pagoda Chinese Restaurant  
Flower Drum Restaurant  
Lani Louie's Restaurant  
KATU Annex

Additionally, some special meetings have been held at other [laces due to the remodeling of the KATU Annex.

The club has been blessed over the years with visits from many operators from other countries: the following is a partial list:

Father Moran, 9N1MM, Nepal	Marty Laine, OZ2BH, Finland
John Devoldore, ON4UN	Vic Crawford, HZ3TQY, Saudi Arabia
Ahmed Ebrahim, AP2AD	Ken Gibson, G2WYN, Great Britain
Bud Whitney, 9V1OI Singapore	Robert Cleret, FW8RC, Wallace Island
Jean Brunner, F6VU, France	Javad Mesbahee, EP6DM Iran
Roy Sharland, ZL2LH New Zealand	Max, VK4DR, Australia
William Porter, 7Z3AB, Saudi Arabia	Raoul Ortigas, CE3RY, Chile
M. Farrell, ZL1WE, New Zealand	Masa Tada, JH1WDN, Japan
Klaus Goertner, DF1KG, West Germany	Carlos Malaga, OA4RB, Peru
Michael Downs, A35MJ, Tonga (now KS7D)	
Christian Conrad, FB8XV (F6FTB), Kerguelen Island	

The first president of the Willamette Valley DX Club was Lee Bates, elected in September, 1955.

He following is a list of past presidents and the year in which they served:

1955 Lee Bates W7HXG	1969
1956 George Wise W7GBW	1970
1957 Dick Crane W7AC	1971
1958 Herb Schoepflin W7FZA	1972
1959 Herb Gilbaugh K7GIE	1973
1960 Doc Dockhorn K7GIE	1973

1961 Wally Hagstadt W7ENW	1975 Mick Watson K7AVZ (W7UZ)
1962 Bob Wiscoff K7EVH	1976 Stan Griffiths W7NI
1963	1977 Dick Zalewski W7ZR
1964	1978 Bob Herndon W7XN
1965	1979 Stu Hoar N7ZZ
1966 Bill Bevan K7ADL	1980 Jim Sullivan W7EJ
1967	1981 Everett Helm WA7CYF
1968	1982 Jerry C. Jewell KW7M

The following individuals were also past presidents, but we are not sure of the year:

Phil Anderson W7GN  
 Johnny Watson W7GHB (W7MI)  
 Lloyd Byerely W7FB  
 Charley Meador K7BFY (W7FY)  
 Brick Sargent K7BCX

As of August 25, 1983, the following club members or former club members were silent keys:

Dick Crane W7AC	Joe Vogt W7ASG
Ermund Zochert Jr. W7ECI	Lloyd Byerely W7FB
Cecil McNeal W7FMX	Dick Schoepflin W7FZA
John Holmes W7MGT	Bud Fontaine W7RS
Doc Dockhorn K7GIE	Gregory Healthman WA7GHK
Art Bertulite W7GJ	Bob Stephenson W7OCL
Milt Rice W7PB	Floyd E. French W7RPH
Doc Pearce K7PBM	Lee Hunter W7MBW (W7MBX)
Dave Williams K7KD	

The authors would like to acknowledge the contribution of information made by the following individuals:

Stan Griffiths W7NI	Wally Hagstadt W7ENW
George Wise W7MB	Charley Meador W7FY
Helen Wise W7RNV	Mort Toussaint N7AKQ
Johnny Watson W7GHB	Phil Anderson W7GN
Bill Vandermay W7ZZ	

Researched and written by Jerry C. Jewell, KW7M  
 Edited by Bob Herndon, W7XN  
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