

# Loose Gravel

Newsletter of ROADs

Volume 2, Number 11

AB7X + KD7VLP

Editors

Hello All! What a week of Rain, eh? I hear that up to 15 inches, mostly in the Coast Range, fell in Western Oregon and Washington. We received over 7 inches here in Coyoteville in just one 24 hour period. Welcome to Autumn in the Pacific Northwest!

Last month at Swaptoberfest our club had a table. The table was full of items for sale and give-away. The event was fun, the building was full of activity, and was, for the most part, quite successful. We will most likely be hearing from Bob, W7LOU, as to what the proceeds from the table were. Bob, K7QXG, and ROADs sponsored a VE Test Session there in the 4H Building, and there were 9 applicants. We will perhaps have a tally of results at dinner tomorrow evening from Bob or Ron, KK7UU. We have a table reserved at the Mid Valley hamfair at Rickreall next February on the third Saturday, the 17th.

Last week ended on a somber note: Michael Thomas, K8EGL, became a Silent Key. He passed on Friday afternoon at ~1730 hrs, after a short illness. He is survived by his wife Pat, K8PIT. Michael and Pat have

attended several of our meetings in the past. Michael was noted for his active role in the NTS and his passing of traffic on the various VHF Nets in the local area. Services are tomorrow, Thursday at 1100 hrs. 862 45th Ave. in Salem (at the LDS church between State and Center Sts.). All HAMs are welcome to attend. Michael will be missed by many.

One never knows when one's time is 'up', and it behoves all of us to be thankful of our every waking day.

Our faithful President of Vice, Dave, KD7VLP, has this installment of QRK for us....

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QRK de KD7VLP

This month's QRK is a somewhat more disjointed than usual...been very busy with this and that at the museum. And I am wet...

Last Friday was an anniversary of note for radio:

SOS is the commonly used description for the International Morse code distress signal (· · · - - - · · ·). This distress signal was first adopted by the German government in radio regulations effective April 1, 1905, and became the worldwide standard when it was included in the second International Radiotelegraphic Convention, which was signed on November 3, 1906, and became effective on July 1, 1908.

From the beginning, the SOS distress signal has actually consisted of a continuous sequence of three-dots/three-dashes/three-dots, all run together without letter spacing. In International Morse Code, three dots form the letter S, and three dashes make the letter O, so "SOS" became an easy way to remember the correct order of the dots and dashes. In modern terminology, SOS is a "procedural signal" or "prosign", and the formal way to show that there are no internal spaces when it is sent is to write it with a bar above the letters, i.e. SOS.

Wikipedia

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This month, I am including two items taken from newspapers published in 1928 that are related to early radio in a manner of speaking.

From the early days of commercial radio...

## DISCONTINUE SILENT PERIOD

### Fans Unmoved By Order to Utilize Space

By Ben G. Kline

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12.—A step taken by radio broadcasting stations in the San Francisco bay district recently without unfavorable reaction indicates that the majority of 1928 radio listeners are not distance fans, but place most of their reliance for radio enjoyment upon good, dependable local programs.

The step was discontinuance of the local silent period from 7:30 to 8 o'clock, during which stations here and across the bay by informal agreement have remained off the air nightly almost since broadcasting had its inception. This half hour of silence has become so traditional locally that it was feared that distance fans, disturbed in their nightly pursuit of far away signals, would arise with a chorus of protests and howls, but broadcasting station managers as well as the local headquarters of the federal radio commission report there have been virtually no complaints.

The local silent period is believed to have been a concession to distance fans unique throughout the country. During winter months especially this half hour of local quietude has enabled listeners within a hundred miles or so of San Francisco to fill up pages of their log books with the call letters of stations in other parts of the nation. Listeners from the Rocky mountains east could wait until their local stations shut down for the night and then "try for the coast," but coast fans after midnight have nothing left but Honolulu, Japan or Australia, and tuning on on those points has not been satisfactory.

The silent period was discontinued because the half hour between 7:30 and 8 was considered as too valuable to waste. Stations with good advertising accounts did not wish to lose the time, and those in chain hook-ups did not want longer to lose good programs. This time of year was decided for the change because with the beginning of summer, distance becomes less and less satisfactory.

Not only have fans failed to register protests against utilization of the period previously reserved, but stations report that they have received favorable comments, indicating that the novelty of fishing for distance has about worn off with the majority of listeners.

From the viewpoint of federal regulation of radio broadcasting two comments are heard locally regarding this demonstrated lack of interest in distance dialing. One is that there are so many stations on the air that distance reception is very unsatisfactory, the other that there is no necessity of clearing channels throughout the country when fans want good local programs and not distant stations.

From the viewpoint of radio set manufacturers the fading of interest in distance opens a big field, local persons interested in the industry feel, for the exploitation of sets designed for excellent performance as to selectivity and tone, but making no claims to distance getting ability.

A cynical observer notes that the period allotted to fishing for distance was discontinued May 1, date of the opening of the fishing season in California lakes and streams. His idea is that members of the local Ananias club are satisfied because they still have something to lie about.

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(Oregon Journal 5/13/28)  
Which leads to the following item:

Here's an early QSL the hard way...

## Identify Station Heard Here Last Winter, Siberian

Dr. George Dulin has received verification from radio station RFM, Khabarovsk, Siberia, of programs heard by him on 70.2 meters for about three months last winter.

On several occasions Dr. Dulin thought he had the station identified as in Spain, but efforts to verify the broadcast were without result. People of different nationalities who heard the programs, could not aid, and even dictaphone records failed to help.

Clues narrowed down somewhat after a month or so of fruitless search, and Dr. Dulin wrote the postmaster of Vladivostock, Siberia, who forwarded his letter to RFM officials.

A return letter reveals that RFM is a crystal controlled short wave telegraph and broadcasting station operating daily "from 11 o'clock" Greenwich time and from 8 o'clock Sunday.

The programs Dr. Dulin heard included the opera "Faust," and other high class music. He continues to hear their programs.

### INTERFERENCE CHECK

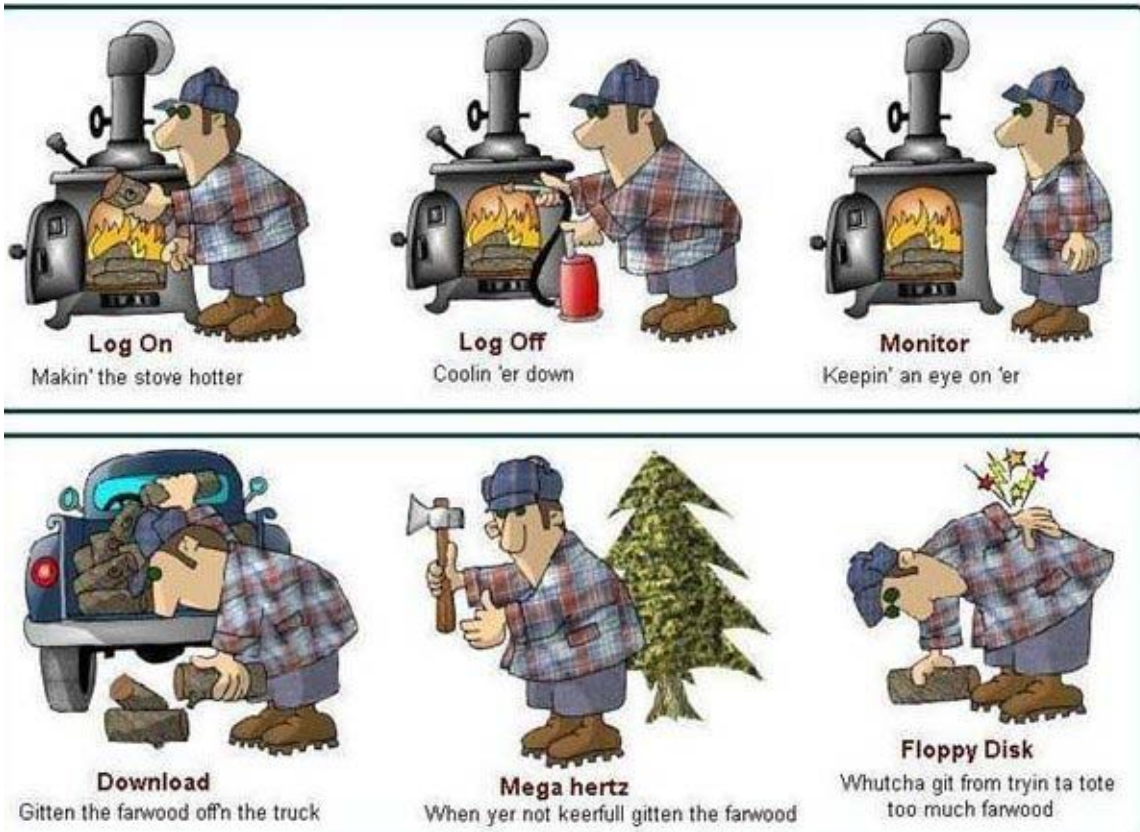
When troubled with cross-talk between the higher wave stations, try an .001 mfd. fixed condenser in series with the lead-in. If this does not make the set more selective, shorten the antenna, or remove several turns of wire from the primary coil.

(Oregon Journal 5/13/28)

And now for something completely different...to finish off this month's stuff.

# TECHNOLOGY

For Country Folk



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Thanks to Dave, we are kept well-entertained every month...even if he gets soaked to the bone down on the farm, he still comes thru with the good stuff!

From Bob, K7QXG, here is some information you may wish to take into consideration when contemplating our support for an international effort: 10-10 International....

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## **You Too Can Operate W7ORE**

I doubt that most of you know that members of ROADS can operate their own station while using the call W7ORE, provided you have permission from the custodian of W7ORE. This common practice among clubs and operators has threaded its way into all sectors of this country, and is especially true when an individual holds a "club" call besides his own. One of our members, KK7UU, can certainly affirm that, since he is also the custodian for W7PIR.

Now, why would you want to use the club call when you have a perfectly good one of your own? There are some events, contests, special challenges, etc., that are sponsored by clubs and which permit the use of your own call as well as the club call. Certain advantages derive from that. Let me give you a good example.

A year ago I sought and applied for membership by W7ORE in the 10-10 International organization. It was not an easy feat, what with the pathetic propagation that we are enduring on the HF bands, but with some effort I managed to acquire the necessary 10 contacts on the 28 MHz band (10 meters) and sent in the application form and required dues for one year. W7ORE was then assigned a 10-10 membership number, 74409, which is valid forever - regardless of whether the club ever pays dues again or not. The same is true for individuals who acquire a 10-10 membership number - it is theirs forever, and is retired when the person becomes a Silent Key or quits amateur radio.

At the last meeting of ROADS, the membership voted to renew and extend our membership in 10-10 International. I'll explain why in just a moment. 10-10 International has members from around the world. The organization was founded in 1960 in Southern California and was dedicated to saving 10 meters from commercial interests. At the time, several corporations were on the prowl and were seeking to convince the FCC to give them the rights to portions, if not all, of

the 10 meter band. The newly formed 10-10 organization began hosting numerous nets on 10 meters and created a deluge of activity on that band. With the passage of time, and the advent of new technology, there was no longer an interest in possession of 10 meters by corporate entities. However, 10-10 International is alive and well today with more than 5,000 dues paying members. It is a financially sound organization that awards five scholarships to young persons each year in the amount of \$1,000 each. The organization also has indirect links to the ARRL.

So, what does all this mean to you, the individual member? Well, 10-10 International sponsors 4 major QSO parties each year, along with a one day Sprint on October 10th of each year, and the only Mobile Contest in the world - which is held each March. Of course all operations must be on 28 MHz.

YOU can operate in any of these events, and be eligible for the certificates and awards, **even though you do not personally possess a 10-10 membership number**. You can enter the Club Category, and with permission of the ROADS Custodian, use the club call W7ORE. When the exchange is given in one of these events, you give out the call (W7ORE) followed by "Club", followed by our state "OR", and finally the membership number 74409. Keep in mind that you can work non member stations as well as member stations in these events.

During the last contest, W7PIR, which was operated by ROADS member KK7UU, Ron, took first place for clubs - world wide! Now how about that!

So what are the rules that you must follow if you use the club call in one of these QSO parties? Basically, you can only use one station, but you can have as many operators as you wish! That means that we could all go up to W7LOU's home and use that powerful station of his and we could have a fresh operator on the air at all times. That is a big advantage!

A full description of 10-10 activities, including the **CONTESTS** are found on the web site located at **www.ten-ten.org**

**You may wonder why ROADS decided to join 10-10 International since there are few members who operate on HF. The reason is very simple. It serves as an incentive to upgrade, obtain the HF privileges, and then be able to use W7ORE in one or more of these events.**

I must mention that two of the four QSO Parties held each year are for SSB operation on 28 MHz. Two others are for CW and/or digital operation. The Sprint in October allows you to use any mode you choose...but you must operate on 28 MHz. In the mobile contest, nearly everyone is on SSB.

If you have additional questions, go to the web site first, and then feel free to call K7QXG or KK7UU or W7TDN. All three have active memberships in the organization.

Finally, the most active group of 10-10 members found in the USA is in Portland, Oregon, and they have their own chapter (City Of Roses).

73,

Bob, K7QXG

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A good piece of history and information for those who tend to let someone else have all the fun....and about whom does most of the work of keeping commercial interests out of our HAM bands! Kudos, Bob, keep up the good work!

I now go back to one of my favorite topics: readiness. It would appear that the only event that gets most of our attention is an emergency. Hold in mind that all true emergencies are of a LOCAL nature, and that locally is where we are anchored. Most of us sit by and watch as the TV scrolls the results of devastation in other parts of the world and other states and other counties. Only when it involves something emergent in our own town, in our 'neighborhood', on our block, or right next door, do we get off our duffs and ask ourselves "Am I really ready for the worst?". I submit: after honest evaluation of our personal resources in our households and in relationship to our community the usual answer will be "No.". Why? Because we tend to let others do the preparedness 'thing', assuming they will come to our rescue, and make the claim that "It can't happen HERE anyway!".

Well...during the last week of rains and winds three people died as a direct result of local emergencies. How many of us actually 'felt' any sense of compassion, responsibility, or involvement concerning any of these tragedies? Probably only those who personally knew or were acquainted with these unfortunate individuals. It is a sad fact that the tendency to change channel to something a bit less depressing is over-whelming in most of us. "It won't happen to me!".

Readiness CAN, and SHOULD happen here! Rather than at a later date, I'll say it now: I told you so.

I remind you all of our dinner meeting tomorrow evening at 1800 at Amador's Alley in Independence. Show up at 1730 and we can get all of our business taken care of and begin dinner by the appointed time! If you get lost, the talk-in frequency is 146.50 (simplex). Bring your wives, girlfriends, boyfriends, hitchhikers, sons, daughters, grandchildren, and whoever else you can think of and enjoy good food and good company!

Best regards from...

Coyote

AB7X

ROADs Prez?

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