

Loose Gravel

Newsletter of ROADs

Volume 1, Number 4

AB7X~Editor

Greetings!

Our newsletter this month is rather sparse, and I will place our Treasurer's Report first in order of input from members, official or otherwise. Submitted by Dudley, N7NLI, ROADs Treasurer:

Treasurer's Report August 2005

Checkbook Balance July 31, 2005	\$3880.64
Deposit	00
Checks	00
Balance as of Aug. 31, 2005	\$3880.64

Petty Cash Balance July 31, 2005	\$ 36.20
2 Memberships	40.00
Door Prize Raffle	00
Transfer to checking	00

Balance as of Aug. 31, 2005	\$ 76.20
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It appears that we are in good financial condition, and we hope to receive our 501-C-3 status in the near future. With this in effect, we will be able to, with a substantial grant, purchase our Club Communications Trailer, which will be placed at the Polk County Fairgrounds. For those of you who haven't yet seen photos of the trailer, please ask Bob, W7LOU, for a look at the photos he has been bringing with him to the meetings every month.

Dudley has had his ups and downs since the unfortunate event that crushed his right lower leg a couple months ago. I think he said he is wearing his seventh (?) cast now, and will no doubt get new ones as the healing process continues. He was at breakfast at the Washington Street Steakhouse a week ago today, and appeared to be in very good spirits. While the distance and timing prevents me from attending that breakfast every week, it is nonetheless a very friendly and informal gathering, and I recommend having a seat at the table there for some good food and equally good company.

From our President...

PREZ SEZ:

Hello to all. I was a bit late getting this message written and turned in to our editor. as most of you know there is a club meeting taking place this Thursday evening at 7 PM at the courthouse in Dallas. We will be

discussing what will be going on at "Swaptoberfest" taking place in October. We will have a table there and all of you can have equipment placed there for sale , or trade. The most important happening will be Greg Milnes, the Northwest Regional Director of the ARRL. Here is the chance you have been waiting for to get some answers to questions you may have about the happenings here in the NW. *hope to see most of you at the gathering on the 8th of September at 7 PM in the conference room in the courthouse in Dallas. Til then 73 to all*
Bob, W7LOU

Our meeting in August was in the form of an informal dinner at 'Murphy's Grill' in Dallas. We reserved a room there which was more than enough to seat all of us, and the menu selections were adequate...however somewhat expensive compared with the service, portions, and intrusion into our 'reservation'. Just my opinion, of course. Our newest member, , and his family were there, and I want to extend a warm welcome to them on behalf of ROADS.

The program for the September meeting, this Thursday, will be speaker Greg Milnes, W7OZ, the Northwest Regional Director. Please make an appearance and make Greg feel like his trip down is successful by having a packed conference room! Have your questions ready, as he will be expecting queries

from all. I hope to see a FULL membership in attendance!

In advance, I have made contact the the National Weather Service, and the Portland Office will be sending Mark O'Malley down to our October meeting to give a Skywarn/Severe Weather Spotter presentation. There was a similar training session last April at the fire station in Dallas, but this one is for our unique group of HAM operators, and hopefully the NWS will be signing up some new Spotters that evening! I had the opportunity to join a Skywarn Net when Shadow and I were visiting my daughter in Bend over the weekend of 20 August, and I felt that the net was conducted well and served as a good resource for the NWS by stations reporting in from a wide range of locations in Central Oregon. Our October meeting will be on the 13th, so please circle that date on your calendars.

W7LOU and his wonderful team of Volunteer Examiners will be offering a testing session this coming Saturday, the 10th. The group starts up at 09:00 and hopes to facilitate the entry of new HAMS and upgrades as well. If you're feeling a need to do a bit more of the spectrum, please feel free to join us for a very simple test...or two...the more you take in one session, the cheaper they become. Pass the word!

A word about preparedness....

As we all have seen during the past week during the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, there is NO substitute for being ready in the event of natural disaster, local or otherwise. If a person is not ready to take action within one hour of notification of evacuation or mobilization, you're not ready at all. There are several very good resource locations on the Internet, and at local agencies, to get a list of items that should be included in any well-organized Ready Kit. I won't go into contents here, as I'm sure that ALL of you have already taken the time to assess your needs and organize a box or two of items which NO HAM, or anyone else, should be without!

While Katrina presented a worst-case scenario in New Orleans, Biloxi, and other locations in the Gulf Coast area, we occasionally DO have some severe weather...every ten years or so, and should not forget that just because we are not there we are not exempt from a local disaster of some kind. On that note, I have heard 'here and there' on the air the innuendos about 'those people down there' and whether they deserve help or not...I must say in some cases I have been embarrassed to hear some of the remarks spoken about the residents of that area. Granted, looters and hooligans are seemingly at the center of attention, and there are some whiners, but over all,

the population there has been devastated, and it would behoove all of us to be a bit more human in our judgement of others, according to how we ourselves would be judged in the same situation. Something to think about when we find ourselves in comfortable positions in comfortable environments, eh?

While this newsletter is no Pulitzer winner, I have looked forward to contributions to it, inputs about it, and have received few. Those who have responded know who they are, and those who haven't aren't required to, but are welcome to do so.....HAM anecdotes, photos, stories, experiences, and other items of interest to our membership are the type of material I am looking for. Every individual has a different viewpoint from the other, and I will consider any and all.

The photo below was taken by Coyóte on our road trip home from Bend for a visit with my daughter. It is a representation of a very close landscape of lichens on rocks amongst the lava flow in the Belnap Crater area along Hwy 242 on the McKenzie Pass at 5325' elevation.



The next photo is of the larger area surrounding the tiny lichen forest...my son, Shadow, took this one.



73 to all...
AB7X