

ROADs REPORT©

Newsletter of ROADs
(Radio Operators Association of Dallas)

DECEMBER 2009

There comes a time when one should assess what has been promised and to determine if those commitments are too many. I have recently done this and have decided that my commitments take too much of my life and I need to retrench.

Some of my time and energy conflicts include: I am still heavily involved with research and volunteering at the Polk County History Museum; my work down south has increased this fall and will not slack off for the foreseeable future. I am a member and volunteer with ARES. I am way behind with maintaining my home and property. And more importantly, my wife's health, at times, places additional burdens on the both of us.

I have enjoyed much of my time as a member of ROADs but feel it is time to step back and to step down. Therefore, I am resigning from the presidency of ROADs, effective immediately.

I am sure that you will support Doc KX5W when he reluctantly takes over as President.

Thank you
KD7VLP

PRESIDENT	DAVID	KD7VLP
VICE PRESIDENT	DON	KX5W
SEC/TREASURER	IRENE	K7IJK
DIRECTOR (1yr)	ABE	W7ABE
DIRECTOR (2yr)	KELLY	KG7G

Check out our web page WWW.W7ORE.COM

ROADS CALENDAR

DEC 10 Christmas Party - 6pm
JAN 9 V.E. Testing
JAN 14 Appoint Hamfair Committee
FEB 11 Hamfair Committee
General Class Plans
FEB 13 Hamfair
MAR 5-6 General Class
MAR 11 Appoint Field Day Committee
MAR 13 V.E. Testing
APR 8 Appoint Election Nomination Committee
Field Day Committee Report
MAY 8 V.E. Testing
MAY 13 Election Nomination Committee Report
Update Field Day Committee
JUN 10 Elections & Field Day Final Plans
JUN 25-26 Field Day

VE TESTING NOVEMBER 2009 by Ron W7HO

We had a great session the November 14th session. While we only had two individuals show up for the session both left having passed their exams. We now have a new Extra License and also a New General License. Randolph Well KE7ZAG from Silverton passed his Extra Exam. Tom Newton from Salem passed both his Tech and General Exams, he is now KF7GBS new General.

I want to thank the VE team Trent W7TDN, John KE7JNT, Alesa KA7UGQ and Bob K7QXG.

We are not sure what happened to the students from our Tech Class last week but we did not see any of them at the VE session.

But again Congrats to the two individuals that passed their tests.

Ron W7HO
ROADS Team Liaison

DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W

AI ZM1AMD is on Pitcairn Is from now til May 2010. Tom and Betty Christian are in New Zealand so AI is it for now. He is on a 6 month contract as the medical officer there in P.

D68F Comoros--Sam who is F6AML was to activate Comoros but the political powers that be confiscated all his radio gear so he went back to France gearless, sad but true.

TO callsigns are somewhat confusing:

TO4D is Serge, F6AUS in Guadeloupe;
TO5A is AI, F5VHU in Martinique
TX3A is Chesterfield Is.

Ron W7HO reports he worked Hong Kong and S Africa on 20M; W Samoa, Canary Is, Guyana, Montserrat, Niue; and Galapagos on 15M. The Galapagos station is Rick HC8A who is NE8Z an MD friend I've worked many times over the years and his wife is a native Ecuadorian so they go there and to the Galapagos Islands, owned by Ecuador, several times a year. Ron also worked the Dominican Republic on 17 meters--congrats !!

I had a nice contact with Bob 9M6BOB in north Borneo and Len KH0AC in Saipan both on 20M phone this weekend (rag chewing) while the cw ers were knocking their heads together on very crowded bands during the CQ WW DX cw contest. I picked up a few good ones on cw: Galapagos, Guam, Martinique, Canary Is, Madagascar; Tonga on mostly 15 M and my favorite T6AG on 7.016 which is Afghanistan, a new one for me, the first in over two years !!

There's a number of announced DX Peditions coming up: The more interesting ones include:

Afghanistan T6YA thru December
T88CI in Palau
XU7UFT in Cambodia;
TJ3SL in the Cameroons.

It will be interesting to see what DX might come thru on the 10 meter Contest on Dec 12 - 13.

ROADS Members New Custodian of 10-10 Chapter

As many of you know, W7ORE, the ROADS club station holds a membership number in 10-10 International. 10-10 is an international organization with more than 6,000 dues paying members who support the use and retention of the 28 MHz band.

Effective December 1st, 2009, a group of ROADS members, who are members of 10-10, were granted permission to move the Oregon Trailblazers chapter from Wyoming to Dallas, Oregon. The name will be changed slightly to Oregon Trail Chapter. This has been done to avoid any potential conflict with the nearby NBA franchise in Portland - the Trailblazers.

The new Chapter Head is K7QXG, Bob, 10-10 member number 5956, who is a Life member of the organization, and the Certificate Manager is W7HO, Ron, 10-10 member number 10934. Other 10-10 members in ROADS who have committed their support to the chapter are W7LOU, W7TDN, KE7JNT, N7WWH, and WA7MZM. KX5W has indicated an interest (he is a 10-10 member) and it is hoped that W7NAT will come on board.

The group meets weekly in a 10-10 net on 28.450 MHz, on Sunday at 2000Z in the Winter and 1900Z in the Summer (PDST). Everyone is invited to check in, whether they have a 10-10 number or not. You will find this net is not like the ARES nets. You will be given an opportunity to make contact with all other net participants when it comes your turn.

For more information about the chapter's activities, or about becoming a member of 10-10, please contact K7QXG via email or in person.

This month we will examine Dean Trask WA7IBW

WHEN-WHERE-WHAT-HOW did you get involved in Ham Radio?

I was encouraged to take a Radio/Electronics class in junior high school. It was taught by Mr. Hoffman, a WWII US Navy radioman, who also taught 7th grade geography. Mr. Hoffman had set up an elaborate station in the back of his classroom, and I seem to recall it was then the only ham station in a junior high school in the country -- WA7ERX, McLoughlin Junior High School, Medford, Oregon. He had the full line of Heathkit SB-series, including the linear amp, plus test equipment, etc.

At the end of the semester we were given the option of taking our Novice exam. I did, and in May of 1967 at age 12 I became WN7HZW -- for about a month, that is. I then received a letter from the FCC that there had been an error, and that I was assigned WN7IBW, and would I please send back the first license I received. I did, but later regretted it -- should have kept it as a souvenir! Who ever heard of getting two different Novice licenses?

Did you have an Elmer to get you started? Or were you a lone wolf?

Mr. Hoffman had a reputation as a stern teacher, but he really believed in ham radio, and was a real promoter to us students. I'm not sure how many years he was there, but in my class alone there must have been five or six students who got their Novice license. Over several years there must have been dozens of kids getting a start in ham radio.

What is your current license? Since when?

Since I returned to McLoughlin the following year for eighth grade, Mr. Hoffman was available to mentor us young Novices to get our Conditional Class licenses. I was hooked on the hobby, so I was eager to upgrade my license. For those of you who do not remember the Conditional Class license, it was essentially identical to the General Class, except that the exam was taken at a location other than an FCC location, and monitored by someone with an Advanced

or Extra Class license (I believe that was how it went ...). In May of 1968 I received my Conditional Class license.

Several years ago the Conditional Class was discontinued, and all existing Conditional Class licenses were converted to General Class - hence, I am presently a General Class license holder.

Did you, or do you, use radio(s), in some form or another in your work life?

I have never used radios at work, other than business band 2-way radios.

Are you active in Ham Radio now? What and how?

I was active through college, when I set up a station in my dorm room at Oregon State University. The last year of college, I could not get any replies to my CQs. When I graduated and took down my station to move, I discovered a broken wire on my coax where it met the antenna. My entire rig has been in storage ever since. I have wanted to get back on the air a number of times over the last 31 years, but too many other things have always gotten in the way, although I have always kept my license renewed.

Last January I spotted the ROADS meeting announcement in the Salem newspaper, and decided to attend. I have been encouraged by many of the ROADS members, and am getting closer to finally getting back on the air.

What does your shack look like? Is it in your garage, the back bedroom or maybe the cab of your pickup?

My shack is an upstairs bedroom in my home, devoted almost entirely to my rig. My first shack was a small space in my parents' garage. It was very hot in the summer, and cold in the winter. After I got my Conditional Class license, my dad apparently figured I was serious about this new hobby, so I was allowed to set up a station in my bedroom. What an improvement!

What kind of equipment and antennas...etc?

My original equipment was a Heathkit HW-16 Novice transceiver -- crystal-controlled, of course -- with a simple dipole antenna for 80, 40 and 15. Mr. Hoffman had set up several of these beginner stations

for us new Novices to borrow, much like a library book, for several months at a time. When I had to give mine up, I borrowed an old Heathkit DX-40 (or DX-60 -- ?) and a Hammarlund HQ receiver from an older fellow I met on the air -- Butch Knauber in Medford. There was also an old Viking transmitter.

When I was 14 I mowed lawns until I had saved enough money to buy my own receiver, a Hallicrafters SX-111, from Henry Radio in Los Angeles. The next summer I saved up to buy a Hallicrafters HT-37 transmitter, also from Henry Radio. (I still have these rigs, and they were retrieved from storage this summer and are patiently waiting on the desk in my shack.)

My dad helped me build an inverted vee, with traps given me by a new neighbor, Gordon W7RQN. We later built a three-band, 2-element quad, using discarded materials from Pacific Power & Light (where my dad worked). That antenna sure made that HT-37 reach some great DX! I am currently thinking through what kind of antenna I want to put up here. I have lots of room, no close neighbors, so ... what do you all suggest?

As to the rig, I am considering whether to have the Hallicrafters recapped and made ready, or getting a more modern set. I have always been an HF guy, with about equal parts CW and SSB.

Any major awards, achievements, coups or contacts that you want to brag about in order to make others feel insignificant?

I remember getting Rag Chewers Club (RCC), being just a few states short of WAS, a long ways short of DXCC, but I did get up to 22 WPM on the ARRL code program. "Somewhere" I still have those certificates ... in storage. I'm looking forward to going after some of those awards -- I always enjoyed the "thrill of the hunt".

When I still had my shack in my parents' garage, one hot and humid summer afternoon I heard a 4X4 (Israel) on CW. My 75 watts actually got through to him during a break in the dogpile. The QSO was brief, but that memory will last my lifetime!

Other hobbies or past-times?

Other hobbies -- well, I love to farm, and for the past 20 years I've raised annual ryegrass for seed on 15 acres here. I also garden, have fruit trees, and enjoy improving my landscaping. But I can't make a living at farming this way, so I am a financial advisor by profession.

I am also heavy into old cars, particularly Kaisers, Packards and Oldsmobiles. My first car was a 1954 Kaiser (I still have it). I have also collected antiques, including radios, typewriters, and other items, particularly Victorian era furniture and farm antiques.

Unless your family has lived in Polk County since 1846, how did you end up here in, or around, Polk County?

I am descended from the King family of Kings Valley, which came to Oregon in 1845 on the Oregon Trail. Kings Valley was originally part of Polk County (I believe), but now of course is in Benton County. I was born and raised in Medford, came to Oregon State University in 1975, and stayed in the area after graduation. I have lived in North Albany and Salem, and in 1987 moved to my current home near Monmouth.

***As a final thought, I want to say I have enjoyed meeting and getting acquainted with several of the ROADS members. The meeting programs are great and interesting. I am truly looking forward to getting back on the air. This is really a great hobby!