

ROADs REPORT©

Newsletter of ROADs
(Radio Operators Association of Dallas)

FEBRUARY 2009

PRESIDENT'S SCREED...

ROADs will be meeting on Thursday February 12th. Our program will be about Radio Controlled airplanes, boats and helicopters. With any luck, there may be flying objects flitting around our heads.

On a more serious note, we will putting together a roster of who will be manning the ROADs table at Rickreall. Hopefully we will have better participation this year.

Make a note to go to Rickreall on the 14th for Hamfest. Even if you don't buy anything, you can look at all the stuff and be glad you don't have it cluttering up your shack.

On the way home be sure and stop somewhere for a bouquet of flowers (or maybe just a six pack) for your significant other. Remember it's Valentine's day.

While you are at Rickreall, you might want to meander across the parking lot (at about 1:30 or so) to the Polk County Museum for the Oregon Sesquicentennial...One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary program. There will be cookies.

Remember that I am always looking for material for the newsletter. Maybe you upgraded your license or obtained some neat radio gear. It does not have to be specifically about radio. Maybe something that is going on in your life you might want to share. Maybe not everything in your life, but happy things are always welcome.

PRESIDENT	DAVID	KD7VLP
VICE PRESIDENT	BOB	W7LOU
SEC/TREASURER	IRENE	K7IJK
DIRECTOR (1yr)	ABE	W7ABE
DIRECTOR (2yr)	DON	KX5W

Check out our web page WWW.W7ORE.COM

ROADS CALENDAR

FEB 12	Meeting--RC Controlled planes, boats...
FEB 14	Ham Fest Rickreall
MAR 6-7	General Class
MAR 12	Meeting-- Field Day Committee CERT Communication Training
MAR 14	VE SESSION
APR 9	Meeting--Field Day Committee Report Appoint Nomination Committee (Don Bowers)
MAY 14	Meeting--Field Day Committee Report, Nomination Committee Report
JUN 11	Meeting--Field Day Final Plans, Elections
JUL 9	Meeting--Dinner Meeting – Murphy’s Grill

VE Session 2009 de Ron W7HO

The first Exam 2009 session for the ROADS VE team turned out to be a great day. We had four folks come in to take exams and earn their new licenses or upgrades. We even had one individual what was done in less than 10 minutes and aced the test. We now have three new hams and one new Extra class. They were:

Stacey Slocum - Corvallis, OR - New Tech (our ace)
Michael Downard - Corvallis, OR - New Tech
Michael Burns - Corvallis, OR - New Tech (his Dad got his license with us last year)
Michael Shelby - Keizer, OR - Extra Upgrade

We had a great time as all three of the individuals that took and passed their Tech exams we talked into also taking the *General* test. While they did not pass them two of them got very close and with a little more study we should have two new General Operators in our ranks.

I want to thank the VE team for their help. They were Bob W7LOU, Trent W7TDN and John KE7JNT (who got his first chance at doing all the paper work).

Our next VE session will be on Saturday, March 14th, 2009 starting at 9:00 am at the Polk County Courthouse. If you know someone that is interested in getting their license or upgrading please send them our way. This is a great way to promote your club.

DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W

Early morning and sundown and later on the low bands continue to be the hottest for dx locally, at least at my station. Some good ones worked in Jan were 9K2MU; 4U1UN on 10 MHz; 7X4AN; OX3KQ; VP8YLG and YLB in the Falklands; FW5RE; V85SS on 40 YB4IR and a few more.

Announced DXPeditions for February are:

5X4X in Uganda

TA7/KI6TIU in Turkey;

3B7FQ Agelega & St Brandon through Feb 12

5H1DF Tanzania from Zanzibar Is

7Q7HB Malawi for the next 2 months

FR/OE3GEA Reunion Is Feb 1-13

HS0SGQ Thailand 40-10M

J20SE Djibouti

VP8DIF So Georgia Is

XT2WC Burkina Faso

ZS8T from Marion Is on 20 M only

CQ Magazine will now accept contact confirmations made on the eQSL (remember Bob K7QXG talked about that in our last meeting?) This is the first time CQ has accepted anything other than paper QSLs for their awards. For more info on eQSL, visit <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

The prefix VP9400 this year is being used in celebration of Bermuda's 400th anniversary. Hope you snag them and at least some of the above.

See you at our next meeting.....good hunting and enjoy our great hobby !!!

This month the HOW-WHY-WHERE-WHEN will focus on Bob K7QXG

1. HOW-WHY-WHERE-WHEN did you get involved in Ham Radio?

I graduated from a well known electronics school in 1960 in radio and TV repair, but wanted to know more about transmitting the signals to begin with. I told a friend who introduced me to a ham and by Jan. 1961 I had a novice license and by Jan. 1962 I had my General class license. That test had to be taken at a FCC office and you were tested on sending and receiving morse code.

2. Did you have an Elmer or were you a lone wolf?

I had one person who gave me materials, but had no Elmer as such.

3. What is your current license? Since when?

Extra Class. Since 1990. Held Advance Class for 17 years before that. Took that exam at the FCC office in Portland.

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

Well, sort of...in Police work we used radios all the time, but that was more akin to CB or a cell phone.

4a.If you used radios at work...did your background as a ham give you an advantage?

No.

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

Yes. Very much so. VE; Instructor; former Director, Board of Directors of 10-10 International; former QSL Bureau Manager of 10-10 International; DXCC at 302 countries confirmed; only 8 states short of 5BWAS; member ROADS, former member ARES (resigned Jan. 2, 2009), FEMA certification; graduate ARRL HF Digital Course; active in digital contests; designed and built 4 antennas in 2008... Moxons to yagis to verticals. Does not include the Hex Beam I assembled and tested.

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

See a photo of the shack on QRZ.com. I built an enclosed room in the garage and this small 5 x 8 space houses the station and a computer. I also have an IC-706 in the pickup with Ham Sticks for all major HF bands. I did have a 10-meter rig in the family car but never reinstalled when we bought another car. I use 3 verticals for HF: ground mounted HF-2V for 40 & 80; ground plane mount with radials HF-6V for 10 through 80; home brew 17 meter vertical mounted on a mast with ground plane radials. I have an 11 element yagi for 2 meters on a mast at 30 feet.

7. What kind of equipment and antennas...etc?

Antennas described above. Rig is Yaesu FT-2000 running 100 watts barefoot and just 50 watts on digital. Palstar tuner; Bencher key; MixW software for PSK; MMTTY for RTTY; Write Log for RTTY contests; three other logging programs to track things; WIN 10-10 for 10-10 contests; Heil boom mike; two 2 meter rigs, and lots of assorted JUNK.

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

DXCC at 307 worked/ 302 confirmed. 8 contacts short of 5 BWAS (6 on 80 and 2 on 15). WAS via the RS-12 satellite and published author on that feat in QST. I have published several articles on other topics in various ham radio and electronic magazines and journals.

I hold numerous awards and certificates from my serious contesting days. Winner of the 7QP contest, for Polk county, for the last three years in a row.

9. Other hobbies or past-times?

Extensive interest and experience in photography with the focus on digital photography these days. I also tinker with computers a lot and have assisted many senior citizens with computer set up or problem resolution. I enjoy hiking - with my camera of course - and just traveling around the Pacific Northwest. My wife and I have hiked in some rather famous spots around the USA, including Bryce Canyon, UT and the Na Pali Cliffs in Hawaii.

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

We had lived in Aloha Oregon for 34 years (I was born in Hillsboro in 1934) and my wife and I worked in Portland for 30 years. After retirement we wanted to get away from Portland, even though 4 of our 5 children lived there... with the grand kids. So, we began a search of communities within Oregon and SW Washington. In 2001 we found Dallas. Sold our home in Aloha and moved to Dallas.