

Roads Report



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December



The Prez Sez

Christmas is in the air and in the malls, and Thanksgiving has come and gone. Our last meeting was good thanks to Mike Fuller and Jim Campbell acquiring a program on a DX Pediton down near Antartica (Peter 1 Island); thanks guys !!

The ROADS and 10 -- 10 Turkey Parts contest on 10 meters went well but could have been even better with good propagation. Thanks to Bob K7QXG for putting that together. He said there were 40 + Germans participating but we were unable to work any of them, and also a Texas group of 10 -- 10 members.

It's not too early to start planning for the Hamfair in February. At our last meeting it was decided to obtain 4 tables, two for ROADS, one for the Oregon Trail chapter of 10 -- 10, which a lot of us are members of too, and one more table to let out. We may hear more discussion on that in our January meeting.

Our next meeting is our Annual Christmas dinner at Tater's, 6 pm, Thursday evening, December 16. I was there yesterday (12/30) and Tater's had us down for Friday the 17th for some odd reason, so I told them & re- reserved it for

the 16th, our usual third Thursday of the month. It would have been awful if we showed up and they were closed that evening with our guests/spouses/significant others, who are of course invited to attend. Hope to see you all there THUR 16th at 6 pm.

A Tower Goes Up:

A Picture Story



Into the sky so high, it waits for Roger and crew to place an antenna atop it.

Of course someone must supervise. Meet supervisor W7LOU.



Here W7KVT is putting a little torque on one of the nuts. Note the safety belt. The bucket holds needed tools, bolts, nuts, and assorted tools. Look closely and you can see that this extension ladder is

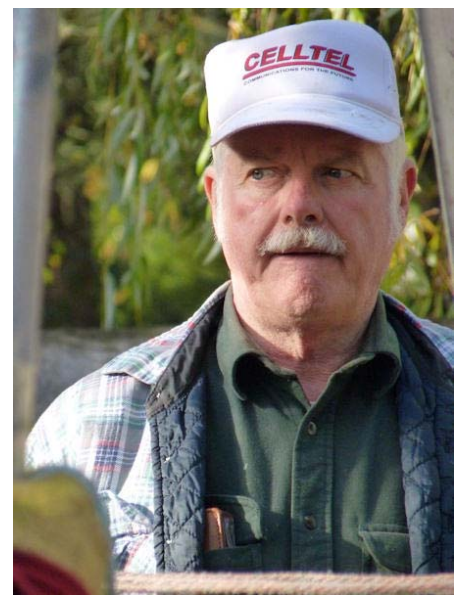
tied to the tower to avoid a sudden slip that would give Roger a very fast descent to the ground.

The antenna is an older Hygain that uses a hairpin match.



The "crew". W7TDN is giving an earful of advice to W7KVT, while W7LOU continues to supervise from the background. Scott is staring skyward... no doubt looking for aliens, and John is waiting for Trent to finish giving advice to Roger. K7QXG was busy taking the picture.

KE7JNT, John isn't sure that any of these bozos know what they are doing. In fact, he is warily eyeing the tower base, waiting for the first creak that signals a collapse.



John's wait was in vain. All went well and the tower remained standing. The ladder was used because this tower is not suitable for climbing.



W7TDN, Trent, inspects Roger's work from the ground to make sure it is done right.

The only injury prone accident for the entire day did not involve the tower at all. It happened when Trent leaned too far back in the chair and it toppled over. No injuries were reported, although the plant behind Trent looked like it needed a little tender loving care. Trent still denies that he fell asleep!



There she is folks! A thing of joy and beauty as John would say. Roger is in the last phase, which involved fastening the coax and rotor cable to the tower leg.

We now await a report from Roger on all the rare and exotic DX he has worked with this big signal producer.

Station Of The Month

W7KVT



W7KVT, Roger Gates, is a prolific builder with some outstanding projects to his credit. In the center of his desk is a home brew solid state receiver with remarkable performance. Your Editor tested it out on 15 and 20 meters while doing

this photo-op, and its performance was superb. On a nearby work bench is a nearly completed homebrew transmitter that will complement the receiver. On the right side of the photo are two grey cabinets that house an amplifier and its power supply. On the far right side of the photo is a tall cabinet that houses a pair of amplifiers that are under construction. One amp will take care of 40 & 80 meters, and the other will handle 10, 15, and 20 meters.

Roger uses a Hygain HighTower vertical at present, but will soon have his 10-20 meter triband beam in operation. The vertical covers 5 bands – 80 to 10 meters.

Roger was first licensed as K6GOC in 1954. He served in the Army and the Air Force, and attended several electronic schools. His career after the service took him to the employment of many companies in the electronics industry, including Motorola Semi Conductors. Later, he worked for the state of Oregon in the Transportation Department taking care of communications equipment. He has been retired for many years now and operates on CW about 99% of the time. Roger said that during his first 5 to 10 years as a ham he operated AM (Remember AM?). He still has a microphone in the radio room, but it is well hidden on a shelf.



This is Roger's workbench and test equipment. Most of us wish we had a neat and clean work station like this one.

On the pad is the transmitter for CW that Roger designed and has nearly completed. This unit will be placed alongside the receiver he designed and built and will form the basic CW transceiver.

I did not ask Roger what each individual test unit was, but I am sure that many of you can identify them with ease.

I do wish to call your attention to one very sophisticated test instrument atop the cabinet. Do you see it??? It is the light bulb in a ceramic base. Now, do you know what it is used for? Us old

timers know.

VE Session - November 13th

We had a great turn out for today's VE Testing Session with one new Ham Licensee and a the owner of a new General License. They are:

Mike Adams from Canby - New General License (only missed one)
Dan Exstrom from Independence - New Tech License (aced the test)
Adam Hicks from Salem - Tried for his Extra and only missed it by two.

I had a great team of VEs helping with the session today and want to thank them all for their help. They included Bob - W7LOU, Mike - K7CIE, Trent - W7TDN, Alesa - KA7UGQ and Allen - W7SHF.

Our next VE Session will be on January 8th, 2011 (Where did the year go) starting at 9:00 AM at the Polk County Courthouse (same location as the ROADS meeting). So if you know of anyone that is looking at getting their license or wants to upgrade send them our direction. They can contact me at W7HO@arrl.net.

Thanks
Ron W7HO
ROADS VE Team Liaison

Some Interesting DX By Our Members

November 4: Well I did it this afternoon. Got 9U0A on 20 meter CW.
The real funny thing was after I made contact I found out that I was working off the vertical (had the wrong button pushed). But guess will not bitch. Have also worked YB9/WK1S, XV2RZ, 3D2A and JW5E this week. Ron W7HO

KE7JNT reports he has more than 200 countries confirmed in just two years of trying. Outstanding!

KE7JNT visited K7QXG at Bob's station on November 17th. While listening to C50C (Gambia) on 15 meter SSB, John said, "Call him." Bob did, but no luck. Pile up was too big. About an hour later they revisit the frequency just in time to hear a quiet spell.... Bob called and the Gambia station came back on the first call. This is being in the right place at the right time. Everyone is still trying for Tristan de Cunha and Marion Island, but no report of success has been received.

At the November ROADS meeting K7CIE, Mike, was showing everyone his QSL from Egypt while K7QXG turned green with envy. The meeting featured an outstanding film of the 2006 DXpedition to Peter 1 Island. The movie was nearly an hour long but I don't think anyone was bored. Only three members in the room have Peter 1 Island confirmed: W7LOU, KX5W and K7QXG.

10 meters sprung open on November 18th with many good signals from all around the USA. KE7JNT and N7WWH took all comers on 28.415 and logged dozens of contacts. But, while they worked the USA, K7QXG skipped up to 28.483 and had a 20 minute rag chew with VP8LP in the Falkland Islands. Everyone to their own!

When the ZL8X expedition (Kermadec Island) came on the air everyone was scurrying to get a contact. A handful of us had worked and confirmed that DXCC entity some years ago, but it is still a rare catch. ROADS members have now worked them on 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40 and 80 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY and may have worked him on 160, but did not report it to the Editor. On Nov. 24th K7QXG managed to work ZL8X on 17 meter RTTY despite a horrendous pile up. Bob used his home brew 17 meter vertical mounted on the roof. W7HO is the only member reporting a contact with ZL8X on 80 meters.

Several members of ROADS have gone to CAT control of their transceivers with installation assistance from Mike, K7CIE. They also are using the AC 30 logging program, which they find very useful.

The Tristan de Cunha station will be gone by the time you read this, as is the ZL7 on Chatham Island, but ZL7A will be QRV from Chatham from early December to December 13th.

There are many rare countries, and some not so rare, that are being sought by ROADS members. Which ones are you actively seeking? Let the Editor know and we can publish a list in the next ROADS Report.

Among those currently being sought are: Egypt, Tristan de Cunha, Chatham Island, Armenia, and the Vatican. Which ones would you like to add to the list?

DX News From KX5W

The DX-Pedition to Kermadec Island has attracted a lot of activity all over the world and in our local club as well. It's an island owned by New Zealand and the latest call sign is ZL8X.

Their website is www.kermadec.de/ and then click on the first choice given. You will see an on line log box where you type in a call sign and see how many QSOs have been logged in. Our big gun Ron, W7HO, has made 19 contacts on 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters, phone, cw and some rtty contacts too, according to the website's log. Bob, K7QXG has 12 contacts as of Dec 1 also, with some on rtty besides phone and cw; while KX5W has 11 on SSB and cw 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. Others found on the website include John KE7JNT with 4; W7LOU with 2; K7CIE with 2; and Jim N7WWH with 1 and maybe others in the club I didn't look up. So we have been busy dxing !!

Some of the DX-Peditions on now or coming up in December include the following:

ZK2AA Niue—on now;

ZD9T Tristan da Cunha—on now til about Dec 10;

ZL7VR Chatham, just finishing up but another group is coming.....

ZL7A Chatham—Dec 2 thru 10;

A71A Qatar—on now;

VK9NN Norfolk—Dec 5 to 19:

3W3B Vietnam—all of December;

CY0 Sable Island—Dec 6 to 13.

There are more but these are the rarer ones for now. Also you might want to look back in the November QST or December one for the rules/exchange for the upcoming ARRL 10 Meter Contest on December 11 and 12 for you 10 meter enthusiasts.

Have fun and remember to work em first and worry later.

Remember ROADS Xmas Dinner

December 16 at 6 PM at Taters

Bring your spouse, friends, Santa Claus

Late Report

Thanksgiving Turkey Special

N7WWH leads the pack in 7 land with 42 points earned. N5DAS is leading 5 land at the moment, but we don't have logs from K5FBS, KA5VVD, or WD5EDR. No logs from 4 land, where W4GA seemed to be leading.

Logs from Germany representing 35 stations/clubs show a great deal of activity with several of the 35 earning over 70 points. Top score so far is 92 points by DL8LAC.

Propagation Really Bad.....

Once again, propagation is really bad, despite the "numbers – which are 87 and 2 at the moment. I am beginning to think our scientists don't know what they are talking about when they make these predictions. I could do better throwing darts at a chart on the wall. I do note, though, that the folks on the East coast are making lots of contacts, and the null in propagation seems confined to the Pacific Northwest. In my 49 years as an amatuer , the past 2 or 3 months have been the most pathetic I have ever encountered. Maunder Minimum looms larger and larger.

What are your thoughts?

That's all folks, until next month.....

May all of you have a merry Christmas, surrounded by friends and family, and may propagation be just around the corner.

73, K7QXG, Bob, Dallas, Oregon December 2010