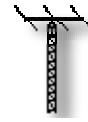




# The ROADS Report



February 2010

Vol 3 Issue 2

## The Prez Sez....



Thanks for your unanimous support in the election of myself as President and Dean as Vice President. We'll do our best for you and the Club.

Also a big thanks again to Bob P for taking on this newsletter with its new format/style; and for the really good program last month.

The Hamfair at Rickreall is coming on February 20th and I reserved two tables and so far our Hamfair Committee is Jim Campbell and Abe M. They could use some more help. We had a few signups to man the tables that I passed around last month. Jim C will bring it and pass it around again at our next meeting on February 11.

It's not too early to start planning our Field Day operations. Jim C, Dudley and Abe are our committee so far. They too, could use more help and input.

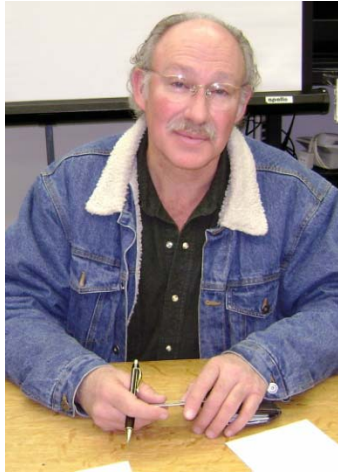
We will be considering having a Public Information Officer who will do our advertising for club meetings, VE testing, Field Day and anything else needed. Could this be you?

Our program is Nate W7NAT, giving a powerpoint presentation on RFI. I'm sure it will be excellent and you'll want to hear it. You might want to invite previous members/attendees and help build up the club more.

We had 25 at our last meeting, not bad for January. Let's see if we can have more. The meeting is Thursday February 11 at 7 pm at the Court House. See you there!!

Doc KX5W

## **Meet ROADS New Vice President**



ROADS new Vice President is Dean Trask, WA7IBW, who fills the position left vacant by KX5W, Don Bowers, when Don was elected President.

### **Dean Sez....**

Greetings to my fellow ROADS members! Thank you for the invitation to serve as your new Vice President. I appreciate your vote of confidence, and will endeavor to enhance our collective radio club experience.

If you read the December ROADS Report you are already familiar with my background, so I will be brief on that account. I was first licensed in May of 1967 as WN7IBW (Novice), and a year later as WA7IBW (Conditional, later grandfathered to General Class). I worked 80 through 10 meters only, both CW and SSB, with probably 40, 20 and 15 being my favorites. I almost had WAS, and always enjoyed hunting DX. My QTH was Medford, Oregon. I say all of this in the past tense, as my last QSO was in the spring of 1977 from my dorm room at Oregon State University. My rig has been in storage ever since, although I have never let my license expire.

I started attending ROADS meetings in January of 2009 after seeing a notice in the Salem newspaper. It has been a lot of fun meeting many of you fellows, and I look forward to getting some sort of rig set up and calling that first CQ in over 32 years!

My club experience has been mostly with numerous old car clubs, but I maintain that the organizational issues would apply to any kind of club. Perhaps one of the more important issues is identifying what you, the membership, want to experience through ROADS. I understand that as VP it is my job to arrange a program for each monthly meeting. I have enjoyed the past programs, and Doc

has the next couple of months covered, but we'll soon need to come up with more ideas. If anyone has any suggestions please let me know. In addition to programs, here I'll list a few of my own ideas for you to ponder:

- > occasional field trip to a place of interest to our group -- monthly, quarterly, or ... -- radio-related, or not -- perhaps to other hams' stations, in our club or some other club in the general area ... or to see an antique radio collection ...
- > annual summer picnic ... set up a mobile station on site ... potluck ... family included ...
- > interaction with clubs in neighboring counties ... annual "friendship meet" ... invite to our club meetings/outings/picnic ...exchange newsletters
- > classified ads in the newsletter (subject to Editor's agreement!)
- > occasional tech workshops -- antennas, building homebrew equipment, etc. -- I am so out of touch here, maybe no one builds their own rigs anymore!
- > Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) -- this is an annual event sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America (I have been active in Scouting most of my life) -- takes place in October -- invite local boy scouts to experience ham radio -- need either our own clubhouse and station, or some member(s) willing to host at their QTH
- > membership drive -- do we want to promote the growth of our club and if so, how do we go about it?

As the "new kid on the block" I am not familiar with what you all have done and tried in the past. I am very open to hearing your feedback, so please, please communicate to Doc and me what ideas and thoughts you have. I can be reached by email at [datlat@dishmail.net](mailto:datlat@dishmail.net), or by phone at 503-838-4646. In the meantime, I hope to see you all at the next meeting! 73, Dean

## DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W

On the local scene I got to see Bob W7LOU's tower and beams up there on "the hill." Now I know why he has such a great signal !!

I worked some 10 meter DX, just South Americans again this month. And a good tip from Bob P. K7QXG--don't assume the band is dead. Call CQ a few times to make sure. He did on 10 M and got a mini-pileup. Go figure, on 10M!!

I'd like to hear from you local DXers as to what you have worked monthly so this column has more variety in it. Just email me.

I did work the Falkland Islands and Guadeloupe on 17 meters. And the Falklands again on 30 meters and the Australs, TX3D on 40 meters on the first try and Bosnia and Cuba!!

On 20M SSB there was Uruguay; VP8LP with a SteppIR blowing my rig off the table; Malaysia; Mongolia; plus on CW So Cook; E Kiribati; Israel; China and Senegal.

I'm thinking of figuring out how to get on digital modes and get the appropriate equipment to DX with that too.

Some of the better announced DX Peditions in February are as follows:

3V Tunisia TS8RW (special prefix) thru Feb 14;

5X Uganda 5X1NH thru March 21;

H4 Soloman Islands H44MS from Guadalcanal, which was worked by KE7JNT, KX5W and K7QXG on 15 meter SSB on Feb. 3rd;

T8 Palau T88HS Feb 10 - 16;

VK9 Norfolk Is VK2ACC/9 Feb 4 - 9;

7Q7 Malawi 7Q7HB now thru April;

A6 United Arab Emerites A6/VE6LB;  
J3 Grenada J38XX Feb 10 - 13;

E51 North Cook Island E51WWB Feb 3 - Feb 10? by KE7JNT

And not DX but some Special Event stations are fun to work as was K3HWJ on 1/30/10 thru Ground Hog Day--the Punxsutawney Phil Ground Hog Day station, with a pile up for the certificate they give you with your SASE.

Don't be discouraged on getting DX with the east coast wall getting most of them. With perseverance you can get thru with 100 watts, an average antenna and tons of patience. Gud DXing!!

## **Release of New Technical Class Question Pool**

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators released a new question pool for Element 2 "Technical Class". The old Technical Class question pool will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and the new question pool will become effective for all exams on July 1, 2010 and should remain in effect until June 30, 2014.

The new question pool contains 400 questions and the examination will be made up of 35 questions from this pool. The new Element 2 questions pool contains some graphics and diagrams that are new for this element .

Please make sure you tell anyone who is **currently** studying for the Technical License to make sure they take their exams before the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 date.

**Other information:**

The current General Class questions pool went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 and will be valid through June 30, 2011.

The Amateur Extra Class pools of questions were effective July 1, 2008 and will expire on June 30, 2012.

Ron Schlitzkus

ROADS VE Team Liaison

**VE Test Session on January 9<sup>th</sup> by W7HO, VE Liaison**

After a rocky start , the VE Testing session on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 - the first of the year - got off to a good start. We had a great session with two new Tech Licenses and a new Extra License.

When we got there at shortly before 9 AM, the building was still closed and locked. It appears that the janitor who was supposed to open the building had forgotten about us. After finding his phone number and making a hurried call, we got into the room - about 30 minutes behind schedule.

We had three individuals attend our session to take exams. We now have two new Tech Licenses and one new Extra License.

Gary Amundson – Lebanon – Tech

David Olson – Salem – Tech

Ken Herimon – Independence – KD7BUS – Extra

I want to thank the VE team for all their help at this session. Bob – W7LOU, Bob – K7QXG, John – KE7JNT, Nat – W7NAT and Wendell – AK2OR. Yes, we had more VEs at the session than we had folks taking the test, but that was OK. I think Nat really joined us to help keep this flowing and see if Ken would pass his Extra test.

We also had a new visitor, Wendell – AK2OR, that joined us and I think we will see him at some of our ROADS meetings and future VE sessions.

Ron W7HO

ROADS VE team Liaison

## **A Reminder**

March 5 & 6 a class of instruction for those who are going to take the General Class Exam will be held at the courthouse. Please pass the word to all those Techs that this is a great opportunity to move up one level.. Contact W7NAT for full details.

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## **Another ROADS Station**



Everyone knows this member of ROADS and long time Dallas resident: Trent, W7TDN. While he may look relaxed in this photo, Trent is actually very active in ARES and the MARS program. On any given day you may find him at the home station, or at the ARES station in the courthouse, or on top of Laurel Mountain working on a repeater, or just driving here and there on errands in his bright red pickup that has so many antennas sticking out of it that it looks like a fishing trawler. Trent

is also a member of the new Oregon Trail Chapter of 10-10 International and actively participates in their noon time net on 28.450 every Sunday when he is in town. Although his antenna system is very modest, Trent can hold his own with anyone on 80 and 40 meters and is found checking into the Columbia Basin Net and others on a nearly daily basis. Trent is also an avid shootist, and is a deadeye with a good scope mounted .223 - and any of the other rifles in his arsenal. Like most members of ROADS, Trent is retired and is looked after by his wife Lucille. His only pet is a beaver that lives in the creek behind his house.

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***I need photos of other member's stations for future issues of the ROAD Report. Please contact the Editor and he can arrange to have the photos taken if you don't have a digital camera. A few modest comments about your involvement with amateur radio should accompany the photo. I would like to feature at least two stations in the March issue.***

## And The Winner Is..... W7NAT

The January meeting was well attended with 25 members present. After electing a replacement President and Vice President, the members moved quickly through Old Business and New Business and then moved on to the evening's program.

A presentation on Windows 7 was made by K7QXG, and then the gears were shifted and the members participated in a SSB challenge. A 90 second tape of a pile up on 20 meter SSB was played and members were asked to write down as many call signs as they could make out in the clamor. The tape was then played a second time so that members could fill in missing letters and numbers. Several were able to copy 5 of the 8 station calls signs that could be discerned in the multitude of call signs being shouted.

The winner of the event was Nate, W7NAT, who recognized 7 of the 8 call signs. His prize was a 17 meter ground plane vertical, which had already been DX tested by AA7FK (SK).

More great programs are scheduled for the months ahead, so mark your calendars for the second Thursday of each month and come join in the fun.

## Propagation Is Improving....

Be sure to check the 10, 15, and 17 meter bands from time to time because there have been openings there recently. During the last part of January and early February openings were found on 17 meters almost daily, albeit usually limited to the USA, and 15 meters opened several times, on SSB, CW and PSK for USA and DX.

There are other good signs of slightly improved propagation. On Feb.3rd, the propagation report displayed some rather terrible numbers, yet it was a great day for working Africa and the Pacific. So, tune around even though the numbers tend to indicate the bands are dead.

K7QXG worked two stations in Nigeria on two consecutive days on 20 meter CW, and scooped up Austral Island on 40 meter PSK. Several "garden variety" DX stations in Europe, Africa and Asia were worked over a 15 day period on 40, 20, 17, and 15 meters using SSB, CW, RTTY, and PSK by several members, including W7HO. Don't let the negative comments of others keep you from tuning across the bands when time permits. Propagation does exist, but you must find it on your own. Don't rely just on the propagation charts.

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## Next Month.....

The article on towers and antennas so you can prepare for Spring and Summer installation projects.