

The Prez Sez



HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!! It's 2011 already and it seems like yesterday when the big Y2K snafu was a buzz.....11 years ago.

We had 18 folks brave the cold weather and attend our Christmas dinner at Taters.

You may recall the Board decided last summer to have a drawing for \$50 at this dinner--all you had to do was be there.

The winner was Joette Toews, Nate's wife. Congratulations !!

We also learned that Taters is open until 8:30pm every evening except Sundays, so we were about two-thirds of the crowd there and the other one-third were customers coming and going. We might want to re think that next year.

We have VE testing scheduled for Saturday January 8 again. Contact Ron W7HO or any of his crew for more details.

The Hamfair is coming next month in Rickreall so we will have more discussion/ planning on that with the four tables the club is getting this time. We'll see how well this works for us and the 10 -- 10 group who is getting one table through us.

I haven't heard from Jim, our resident Lame Turkey and big winner of the Turkey contest, about the January program, so you'll have to come see what it is. Our meeting will be Thursday, January 20, 7 pm at the Courthouse--see you there !!!

Station Of The Month

K7QXG



K7QXG was born in 1934 in Hillsboro, OR and after high school spent four years in the USMC, serving with the 1st Marine Division in Korea. He married Shirley, whom he met on a blind date in San Diego, CA, in 1956. He attended Portland State College (it wasn't a University yet) and majored in Electrical Engineering. He left college and began work with the City Of Portland Police Bureau in 1958 but continued his education at night classes. He changed his major to Speech with a minor in Management and later obtained an AA degree in Management.

Along the way he completed studies in electronics repair, which led to an interest in ham radio. He obtained his first license in 1961 as KN7QXG. Within a year he had moved up to General Class, and later took the Advanced Class test at the FCC office in Portland and passed. He held that license for 17 years, and then took the Extra Class license. He scored 100% on the written and missed only one word on the 5 minute code test given at 20 words per minute.

He retired as a Lieutenant from the Portland Police Detective Division in 1988 after 30 years of service. Since then he has been very active in volunteer work for many different organizations, including Jensen Arctic Museum, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and presently as an Assistant Director with Oregon Good Sam, an RV organization.

A quick note about his professional life: Mr. Peschka was assigned to the lab in the Police Bureau for 10 years as a Forensic Document Examiner, using many scientific tools to detect fraudulent documents of all kinds, from forgery to counterfeit items. After retirement from the city he had his own private practice for 7 years, and has testified in State and Federal court as an expert witness more than 130 times in Oregon, Washington and Alaska. His most famous case was the Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan criminal case.

He has served as a President or Chairman in many organizations over

the years and is a past member of the Board of Directors of 10-10 International. He has held several other posts within that organization, including a four year stint as manager of their QSL Bureau.

Bob has varied ham radio interests, ranging from chasing DX to 10-10 activities, to rag chewing on PSK. He has 311 DXCC countries confirmed, and is just one QSO shy of finishing 5BWAS. He is a VE and has taught theory at license classes.

His station features the FT-2000, a THP amp at 600 to 700 watts, and assorted other essentials like tuners, digital interface, etc. His antennas include a Cushcraft A4S yagi at 30 feet, the Cushcraft HF-2V for 40 and 80 meters, and two ground plane verticals that he designed and built – one for 17 meters and one for 12 meters. He recently worked Kermadec Island with the 12 meter vertical and has worked numerous countries with the 17 meter vertical.

It goes without saying that he likes to write (and read when he has time), and he has been published in QST, World Radio, Random Radiation, and other lesser publications. He is the past Editor of two different newsletters and once maintained three different web sites.

And now that you have read all this stuff, doesn't it sound like an **obituary?**



How's DX by KX5W

There's a good article in the January CQ Magazine, page 96 called Improving Your Contest Operating and of course you pick up a lot of DX during one of these contests. Note the reminder to stay 3 kHzs away from the band edges to be legal.

Page 87 of the same magazine shows photos of the two biggest DX Peditions that went to the former Netherland Antilles and more info on that whole subject. Some are getting QSL cards back already.

Some of the upcoming announced DX Peditions include:

DX0DX Spratly–January 6 to 24; see a lot more detail on their webpage at www.dxOdx.net/ ;

5R8PR Madagascar–Jan 17 – 25;

D2SG Angola–thru Feb;

4S7KKG Sri Lanka–now thru Mar 13;

H44DA Solomon Is–Jan 6 to 16;

DT8A South Shetlands–thru January;

VP8ORK South Orkney–thru January;

6W7SK Senegal–Jan 8 to 21;

CY0 Sable has been rescheduled for March of this year.

If you have a few QSL cards that you want checked officially but don't want to go thru the hassle and wait time of sending them to ARRL, you can use a local DXCC card checker. Go to www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-search.....then click on US and then enter your zip code to find the closest one to you. These card checkers are authorized to approve QSLs for DXCC, WAS, VUCC and WAC. Best of DX and fun to you on the bands !!!!

Official Results: Thanksgiving Special

It's official! The great Thanksgiving Special had a good turnout despite terrible propagation conditions on 10 meters (remember the QSOs all had to be on 10 meters?). A brief opening to the SE offered those of us who checked into the Oregon Trail Net an opportunity to collect a few valuable Turkeys from Georgia stations.

1st Place W4 Call Area: W4GA

1st Place W5 Call Area: K5FBS

1st Place W7 Call Area: N7WWH (Member of ROADS and Oregon Trail)

TOP FIVE DX STATIONS:

DL8LAC

DJ9OI

DL1KBQ/DH3KAT

DL8YBM

DL5HCN/DL5HAN

Award certificates have been mailed to all stations listed above. Of note, N7WWH of Falls City, OR had the top point total in the U.S.A.

Congratulations to all the entrants!



At the ROADS annual Christmas Dinner **K7QXG** presented **N7WWH** with the 1st Place certificate for the W7 Call Area.



Quiz Time Again

Are you ready? This is an intelligence test, and it will show how well you handle operating instructions; manual instructions; and FCC rules.

In a far away tropical country there is a very tall coconut tree. There are four animals gathered around it and each is trying to get to the bananas at the top. A lion, a giraffe, a chimpanzee, and a grey squirrel are very hungry. Which one will get to the bananas the fastest? You now have 20 seconds to analyze the problem.

OK. Time is up.

If you said Lion, you are not very smart at all and you screw up the knobs on your transmitter all the time.

If you said giraffe, you are less smart than the lion and can't find the on/off switch part of the time.

If you said chimpanzee, you don't know the difference between a code key and a microphone.

If you said squirrel, you don't even know where your station is located in the house!

CORRECT ANSWER: A coconut tree doesn't have bananas dummy!

Odds and ends

The above intelligence test shows the Editor has been seriously affected by the holiday season. I trust that Santa was good to all of you and that you were equally good to your significant other.

The following are odds and ends of information gleaned from conversations heard on the air; snippets from emails I receive; publications I read; and conversations I have engaged in at the Monday coffee or on the telephone.

KE7JNT did it! John has worked more than 200 countries on SSB...he isn't a CW operator... but he recently worked his first New DXCC Entity using RTTY! His software was MixW, and the Macro Buttons had been programmed so he could make a contact using just two mouse clicks. He had not been able to work Norfolk Island, **VK9NN**, because they were not using SSB. John received a tip that they were on 17 meters using RTTY, and with much encouragement from other members of the "Dallas Gang", John gave them a call. Bingo! John got them and is in the **VK9NN** online log for a RTTY contact on 17 meters. Congratulations John. It is a

very painless way to get a new country, although John says he would rather make a visit to the dentist.

A brief opening on 10 meters on Sunday, December 19th, produced a check in to a local 10-10 chapter net by the President of 10-10, **KD5DE**, in LA.

K7QXG is presently designing a vertical for 30 meters to be used in limited space. It will be made of old aluminum tent poles and will feature a scavenged copper loading coil at the base. The antenna will be ground mounted with two radials.

Looking ahead Yes, it's only January, and June is a long way off, but time slips by so quickly that we are often forced into hasty decisions. So what should we be thinking about? First off: Dues. Next: Club elections. And then: Field Day. All three occur within a brief time frame, and now is the time to spend a moment or two in reflection so we can make some solid decisions in May and June.

About **Elections**: It's not fair to expect the same folks to step up to the plate every year. Ask yourself what you have contributed in the last three or four years to the good of the order and the health of the club.

Google Your Call: Well, I've never tried that before.... Checking out your call with Google or Yahoo (or any other search engine). Wow, I was amazed! I had 160 hits on my call in Google! It seems my call appears in Russian and Japanese publications. I also found numerous other fascinating hits that brought back old memories from my early ham radio days in the 60s and 70s. Try it some time. It's a hoot, and you may even find yourself in places you would never suspect.

10 Meters Opening On December 28th: Wow! would be an understatement. The opening lasted two hours and then the door slammed shut. In that two hour period it was not uncommon to have one huge pile up after another as QSOs were completed. Several of the Midwest stations reported that they had an excellent opening to Europe just an hour earlier. Catching these openings is difficult. When I find one I call KE7JNT, or he calls me. Perhaps a telephone tree is in order – for those who are interested – so we can all take advantage of the activities.

News Flash! Information has seeped out of Redmond, WA about Windows 8 that will arrive in about 2 years. It has a feature you are going to love. If your computer crashes because the OS is corrupt or damaged, you just push a reset button and it restores Windows 8 to its pristine condition. It will retain all files, applications and settings. It's about time!

Recommended PC Logging Program: We now have several members of ROADS using AC 3.0 for general logging purposes: K7CIE, N7WWH, W7LOU and KE7JNT. It was easy to install and easy to use. It's a program that I highly recommend.

Highly Sought DX Countries By Members of ROADS

3B9 Rodriguez Is;
3Y Bouvet;
7O Yemen;
A5 Bhutan;
E3 Eritrea;
E4 Palestine;
EP Iran;
ET Ethiopia;
FR Glorioso;
FR Juan de Nova;
KH1 Baker & Howland;
P5 N Korea;
S2 Bangladesh;
VK0 Heard;
VK0 Macquarie;
YA Afghanistan;
ZS8 Marion Is

Yep! The Editor could use many of these, but he does have the following in his collection of QSL cards: E4, KH1, VK0 (Heard Island), and YA. Worked but no QSL from 3B9. Heard but not worked ET, FR (Glorioso).

2011 Challenge: Lets see which ROADS member is the first to work 10 of the 17 in 2011.

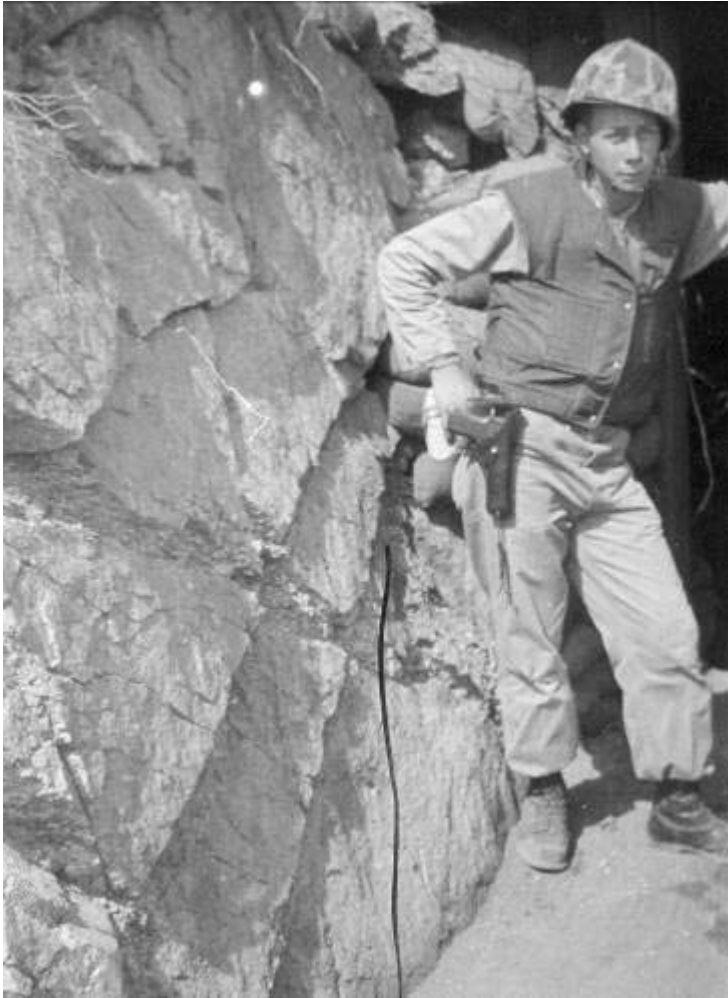
Coming Events

Don't forget the ROADS meeting on Thursday January 20th at 7 PM at the courthouse.

February 5 & 6 is the 10-10 Winter QSO Party on SSB. Starts Friday evening at 4 PM Local Time and ends Sunday at 4 PM Local Time. If 10 meters is open, and it was again today, January 1st, it will prove to be a lot of fun.

Check These Out

Next time you are using QRZ.com, check out: W4PHS and ZL50VK. The New Zealand Special Event station was worked today using the home brew vertical.



Your Editor, K7QXG

Taken 1954, Korea

I was 19 and in the 7th Marines near the Musani valley when the photo was taken. This is the entrance to our machine gun bunker.

I am thankful every single day for all the freedoms I enjoy in this wonderful country. This holiday season seemed no more special than any other, yet when my wife Shirley found this old photo while going through a forgotten shoe box of pictures, it made Christmas 2010 something very special for me.

The next time I complain about poor propagation, or my modest station, or my wimpy right eye and achy left toe, I hope someone will say, "Remember Korea Bob?" I am so, so lucky.

Freedom is not free.

