

# ROADS Rep0Rt

Editor: K7QXG Bob Peschka

Vol 4 No. 6



## The Prez Sez.....

Well this is my last installment of this column for the R0ADS REPORT as your club president. It's been both work and fun serving. Thanks for the verbal support at the meetings.

I have learned that your President should live in or close to Dallas for improved communication. I feel like I've been operating in a vacuum with almost no communication from the members while in Corvallis six days a week. Not even email communication has been utilized, so I planned ahead, attempting to anticipate problems so things went smoothly at the meetings.

I know we obtained our 501 (C) 3 status, tax exempt group, when we planned on getting funds or equipment for a clubhouse. But the clubhouse and equipment never came to be. So why do we need to keep giving the government money each year for that status if we aren't going to use it? And, if we ever disband our club with that status we are required to give our treasury away to another group with that same tax exempt status. Maybe we need to rethink this again.

Thanks to Jim for a good program on Sporadic - E !! We all learned something there.

In our last meeting the club voted to drop the dues to \$5 a year. I hope we did the right thing as that amount won't sustain our annual expenses but we do have a \$4,600 balance in the bank presently.

We have a good slate of officers to vote on at our June meeting. Nominations will also be open from the floor before we vote, as it was at our last meeting, after we presented the proposed slate. So be sure to come out and vote.

It's been my pleasure serving the club as Director, then VP and then President twice; and Bob caught me and informed me the outgoing Prez is to be a Director the next year. Guess that will help with continuity.

I hope you will support our incoming President and newly elected officers who take office July 1. Our next meeting is Thursday June 16, 7 pm at the courthouse in Dallas. See you there !!!

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# Me Oh My!

As you know, ROADS eats out 3 times a year instead of having a formal meeting. This has been a success nearly all the time, and some eating places are more popular than others.

Everyone's favorite – judging by the turn out – was Abbey's Pizza in Dallas.

So, some dining establishments that we will be considering include, but are not limited to:

- Abbey's Pizza
- Murphy's
- Almost Home (in NE Salem)

The Inauguration Barbecue will likely count as one – to be held July 31<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon, weather permitting.

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**KE7ZAG** missed the May meeting because of illness. We hope he is recovered and feeling fit.

**W7NAT** is President of a club and publishes a newsletter as well... but he is a youngster and can burn that candle at both ends.

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## Antenna For Sale

Cushcraft 103CD, 10 meter mono-band beam, 10 ft. boom, 3 elements. Weighs just 11 pounds, good F/B and gain. Used to work over 100 countries on 10 meters. Includes manual. \$50. Contact K7QXG by phone or email.

If you have an item you would like to sell or swap, let the Editor know and we will list it in the ROADS Report.

## On the road.....

I am writing this while in Westfir, OR located on the North Fork of the Willamette river near Oakridge. My XYL is in Idaho visiting her sister on a "Girls Holiday" with a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter, and I took advantage of the free time to spend a week here at Casey's RV Park. The setting is perfect for a little soul searching. The RV Park is on the Middle Fork of the Willamette and my site is just a few feet away from the river bank.



The photo above is the view from my RV site. The Middle Fork of the Willamette flows from right to left and parallel to the "street". The river in the center of the photo, flowing toward the RV site, is the North Fork of the

Willamette. Just to the left and out of sight is one of the premier fishing holes on this part of the river.

Fishing in the river is not very good because of the snow melt, which has raised the river level a couple of feet, although the water color remains excellent. Not far from here is one of the state's largest fish hatcheries with many interesting exhibits, but I've been there three times and I don't plan to stop by this time.

Today I'll visit Salt Creek Falls, which is about 20 or 25 miles from here towards Willamette Pass on Highway 58. Last summer I operated mobile on 10 meters from that location with great success. My primary reason for the visit today is to do a lot of digital photography because of the many Spring waterfalls in the area.

Tomorrow I'll visit some of the back country scenery along the upper North Fork that most folks never see.

I do have mobile Hamstick antennas for the other bands – 15, 20, 40, and 80 – but probably won't give them a try.

Yesterday afternoon I toured some of the residential areas in Oakridge and did not find a single ham radio antenna. This is a larger area than most would suspect, so it is likely I have missed one.

We can expect sporadic-E propagation to fire up from now until late August. When that happens look for openings on 10 and 6 meters, and sometimes 2 meters, that will occur in the evening. It is not uncommon to have QSOs with

stations in California and Arizona between 7 PM and 10 PM local time.

The sun is coming out and its time to head for Salt Creek Falls. 73, K7QXG

### Continuing on.....

Well, things are good and bad. The snow is still 2 to 3 feet deep on the access road to Salt Creek Falls, so I had to turn around and return to the RV park. It was a nice sunny day so I grabbed my fish pole and walked across the road and made a few casts and got lucky. I guess those trout did not mind the fast, cold water.

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### Here and there .....

I had a report from **W7HO** on his activities in the 7QP contest. He said:

*I did not get much time on the air this year for the 7QP as I did in past years. Only ended up with 131 contacts but I also was only running 100 watts this year.*

*But only had two stations that I called that did not answer me on CW.*

*Both of them were on 10 meters. I did work one station on 10 meters CW but did not send in a log to 10-10.*

I learned that **N7WWH** made 80 contacts and did send in a log. **W7LOU** and **KE7JNT** also participated in the event. It grows each year, and this year the CW operators far outnumbered the SSB operators. **K7QXG** was only able to operate for 5 hours, and 95% of his QSOs were on CW. He had problems with his log because he did not use his N1MM logging program and in the end he had to retype

everything into Notepad. Bob has decided to give up contesting and stick with less stressful activities.

The **Oregon Trail** Chapter of 10-10 is reviewing their net operation frequency and will change it August 1st. One year ago they moved from 28.450 to 28.590, which eliminated the QRM from SA stations, but precluded Techs from joining net activities. The predicted sun spot activity did not materialize, and beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, The Oregon Trail 10-10 net will operate on 28.330 at noon every Sunday. If successful, the formal move to that frequency will take place August 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## Meet Your New Editor



**K7CIE**, Mike, has agreed to take over as Editor and Publisher of the ROADS Report on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mike is a seasoned amateur who likes contests and DXing.

He is a VE and holds the Extra Class license.

Mike is new to publishing, so give him a little help by submitting an article or two to him after July 1<sup>st</sup>. I will assist where possible.

Perhaps in his first issue (August 1<sup>st</sup> or thereabouts) he can give you a more complete bio. Mike is presently one of the Directors of ROADS.

**Don't Forget.....  
June is election month!**

## Election Candidates

The following is a list of the official candidates for office and the positions they are seeking.

Remember that nominations from the floor can still be made at the June ROADS meeting. The vote will take place at the June ROADS meeting.

**President: K7QXG**

**Vice President: W7RIS**

**Secty/ Treas. : K7IJK**

**Director #1** is **K7CIE** who still has one year left on his term. He will also become **Editor and Publisher** of the ROADS Report following the election.

In accordance with our Bylaws, the outgoing President, **KX5W**, becomes a member of the Board Of Directors.

I am sure all candidates will be elected, and the changes in meeting format, as described in the last newsletter, will begin with the August meeting.

I will not be at the June or July meetings. In June I must fulfill long standing obligations with Oregon Good Sam as an Assistant Director and I will be in Madras, Oregon. In July I will be in the Central Washington Cascades on a trip. I plan to return in time to host the **Inauguration Barbecue on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> (weather permitting)**.

## Dues Reduced! Now only \$5 !!!

That should get your attention! At the May meeting, the topic of dues was discussed. Many of those present felt the annual dues of \$20 was not justified, and cited the dues of other clubs in the area as an example. Many felt that \$20 per year was a barrier to new hams who would have otherwise joined the club. Bob Peschka, **K7QXG**, explained the basis for the dues which originated from plans to acquire our own club house. Those plans, and steps taken in that direction, occurred in the very early days of the club. It is clear that we are not going to reach that goal, and meanwhile the dues structure is discouraging renewals and entry of new comers into ROADS.

*There was extensive conversation and debate on this topic.*

**K7QXG** then made a motion that the dues be reduced from \$20 per year to \$5 per year effective June 1, 2011. Our treasury is sound enough to sustain the club for a few years at the new \$5 level.

The motion was seconded and, after more discussion, it was passed by a unanimous vote. The dues can be raised at any time if there is a need to do so. *This will be a trial period to see if it actually increases our membership. A year from now we will revisit the dues situation.*

## Cycle 24 Is Heating Up

Conditions are improving – on 20 meters, anyway – but one of our favorites, 10 meters, has been strangely quiet. Whether you prefer working the USA or DX, you will find 20 meters open every evening between 8 PM and 11 PM local time. Sometimes it opens as early as 6 PM and remains open well beyond 11 PM.

For the DX aficionado, the following is a sampling of many of the DX prefixes that were copied in the past couple of weeks on 20 meters in the evening. All of these were in abundance on CW and on SSB.

RA, RN, RU, UA1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 0, UR, US, UX, UT, 4Z1, 4X, PJ2, T2 (Tuvalu), 8J1, A65, EW, ES, 4L1, LZ, LY, HA, IK, SV, SE, ST2, XR, SO, SP, YT, OM, SM, DL, F, OK, OE, 6W, VU2, 9K2, TF and 9A2.

USA states included SD, WY, ME, CT, NH, NV, and many other difficult to find states.

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**N7WWH** is QRV from Montana on 7.218 MHz most evenings between 8 PM PDST and 10 PM PDST.

How do you save your QSL cards?

Many hams just throw their QSL cards in a shoe box and forget them. However, several of us save our favorite cards in a photo album. **W7NAT** even prints out many of his eQSL cards and places them in a photo album, which makes for a really nice display. So, next time you get a card or two that you like, just slip them in an album like those shown below.



Another idea for storing QSL cards was offered by Mike, K7CIE. Labeled drawers are available from : <http://www.hamstuff.com/>  
Below are some photos of the pre-labeled storage drawers.



Complaint Department

**Too much DX news in the ROADS Report.** There is a lot of DX news in the report, but it is usually two pages out of ten pages. That is just 20% of the newsletter total material. That means that 80% of the newsletter is on other topics.

**What are the other topics?** Look at the issues for the past 12 months and see what is there. Let's see.... There were articles on a wide variety of topics: Station Of The Month comes to mind. That is no longer featured because we ran out of members who were interested in having their station featured. The series on getting started in Digital is a recent feature, and there was an article that told you how to build ground plane vertical antennas. Another gave the highlights of making your own QSL cards. There were numerous photos of the antenna raising at the home of W7KVT, and many photos from the dinner out at Farrells, Abbey's Pizza, and others. Many photos were featured in a special Field Day issue last year, and then there was the article on CW keys, along with photos.

**Surely you remember all those articles and photos? If you don't, you weren't reading the ROADS Report!**

**What about the Technicians who never want to be more than a Technician?** A valid point. I personally had not considered that view before. If I were continuing on as your Editor, instead of taking the reins as President, I would begin creating articles that would also focus on the Technicians.

**What about articles on vhf and uhf?**

They were already on the drawing board for this winter. Everything you have always wanted to know about repeaters, programming handhelds, etc. Your new editor will need to decide whether that information for the *Report* has merit.

**What about a foxhunt?**

I organized one for Polk County ARES some years back. It was well attended, but there seemed to be no interest in a follow up hunt, except by Dave, **KD7VLP**.

I also organized a VHF event for three years in a row: The **Zip Code Contest**. But, like everything else, interest waned when it became a regular event. Sometimes I think that all of you get bored if we do anything more than once. If that is the case, how about some fresh ideas?

**The ROADS Report is too long!** I have tried to get it down to less than 8 pages, but have not succeeded. This complaint has been raised twice now, and perhaps there is a solution. *A four page newsletter would contain: Prez Sez; Odds and Ends (member news); forthcoming events; a technical article.* If this is what you want – just 4 pages – then let your new Editor K7CIE know. I'm sure he would enjoy the benefit of preparing a condensed bit of news.

**And Now Its My Turn!** I have heard much conversation in the last 60 days about the programs that are presented at the meetings. I personally enjoyed all of them. Apparently some members did not, and they want something of "quality." Well, how much are you willing to spend for that level of program?

We have an opportunity to bring in N5UP, Dave Morris, Web Master and Founder of eQSL, for a presentation in August or September. The presentation will cover everything about eQSL and all present will be granted **AG** status. We will be obligated to provide transportation from and to the Salem or Independence airport (he flies his own plane). We also will need to pay for his lodging at the Best Western in Dallas, and take him out to dinner and then buy his breakfast the next morning.

If this is the level of program you have been talking about, and the club is willing to spend the money to do it, then I can begin making arrangements. On the other hand, if you are satisfied with presentations such as the one on making QSL cards, soldering, DX film, the Dallas R/C plane club demonstration, etc, then that is what we will build our program core around for the coming year. *If I hear only silence from most of you, then I will continue with our current program core for the next year. I must know by June 6<sup>th</sup> what your preference may be.*

## DX News by KX5W

Of some note is that American Samoa (5W) is jumping the International Dateline as they are only an hour or so from Australia. So now they are officially the last to see the sun set.

On a sad note, the T6PSE DX Pediton to Afghanistan was recently cancelled as one of the scheduled operators, Jim McLaughlin WA2EWE/T6AF was one of nine Americans killed in Kabul at the airport, just after the Navy Seals took out Osama Bin Laden. There is another single station active there, see below.

Joe, W5FJG will use his call/KH4 on Midway Island beginning about June 1. He will be there one year and would like to find a QSL manager.

Some of the announced June DX Peditons include Rotuma 3D2R; Afghanistan T6TL thru June with only a dipole and a vertical; Chad TT8PK thru June 15; Djibouti J28RO thru July; and in July Jan Mayen JX5O.

DX usually gets slim in the summer, but if you watch the low bands at night there is usually an opening for awhile. Have a great summer--see you at the June meeting.

**N7WWH** has gone to Montana for a few weeks. That means there are only three or four stations that will be reporting DX news to me. **W7LOU**, **KE7JNT**, and **KX5W**. I get a tidbit from time to time from **W7HO**, but he is busy these days and his only DX is our cell phone chats when he is traveling back and forth between his home and Portland.

There you have it folks. A nice and tidy 9 pages, and I probably could have squeezed it down to 7 with some effort and with elimination of the articles on *Complaints* and on *QSL card storage*. We have about 1.5 pages of DX news in this issue out of the nine

pages published. I deem that to be acceptable for our type of organization. However, if there are still strong feelings about this issue, make your views known to K7CIE, Mike Fuller, who will be publishing the August issue. I will still do the July issue since it is cut and prepared in June before I take office as President.

My thanks to **KX5W** for the timely submission of his monthly columns and for the two years he gave to this club as President....not to mention his time as a Director and as Vice President.

Following some input I received within the past week, with regard to Technicians who prefer to remain Technicians, I will not be following up on my agenda to get everyone to the Extra Class license level during my term as President. Each person must choose their own path in life, and they have chosen theirs. For those who wish to advance to another level of license, we have many members who are willing to assist you.

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So, there you have it for another month. The next issue will be my last one as Editor. In other late, late news, there was a very good turnout at the Monday coffee at the Steak House on Memorial Day. **KD7HLD**, Arnie, came into town from Falls city, and **Mike Nolan** was there to talk about his antenna plans. Arnie filled us in on tower requirements in Falls City, while **KE7JNT** was busy telling us about all the DX he worked on 20 SSB the night before.

Until next month then, 73, Dosvedonya, POKA.

K7QXG Dallas, Oregon

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