

# Loose Gravel

Newsletter of ROADS

Volume 2, Number 2

AB7X~Editor

As I begin this issue, I do so with anticipation of tomorrow's ROADS meeting, and Chris', AD7GT, Rally presentation. It should prove to be quite interesting and lively. We will also be undertaking a bit more 'Elmering' on behalf of Bob, K7QXG, who so graciously took on the task at the request of our President.

I need some input for this newsletter. So far, there have been few contributions. How about something from each of you. It is easy enough to do...

Here's some suggestions:

Tell us about back in the days of steam powered radios...before electricity or batteries when it took a real radio man to operate the rig and when logs were really logs and were used to burn and provide power.

How about that Elmer that was a turning point in your radio life?

What was your first rig? How does it compare to your present equipment?

Fred KXJ needs to let us know how he is dealing with his new home and the antenna restrictions.

Trent TDN could describe his antenna setup that he flings over the sage rat mounds when he goes down to the ends of Oregon each summer.

A lot of the members are X-service and operated radios as their duty or as a ham...tell us about the equipment and the fantastic contacts.

These are some things we all would like to hear about. It can just be long paragraph, or maybe I can provide some Q&A for something to put in the newsletter. Please lend a hand here, eh?

On with the Show! From Dave, KD7VLP, we have this offering....

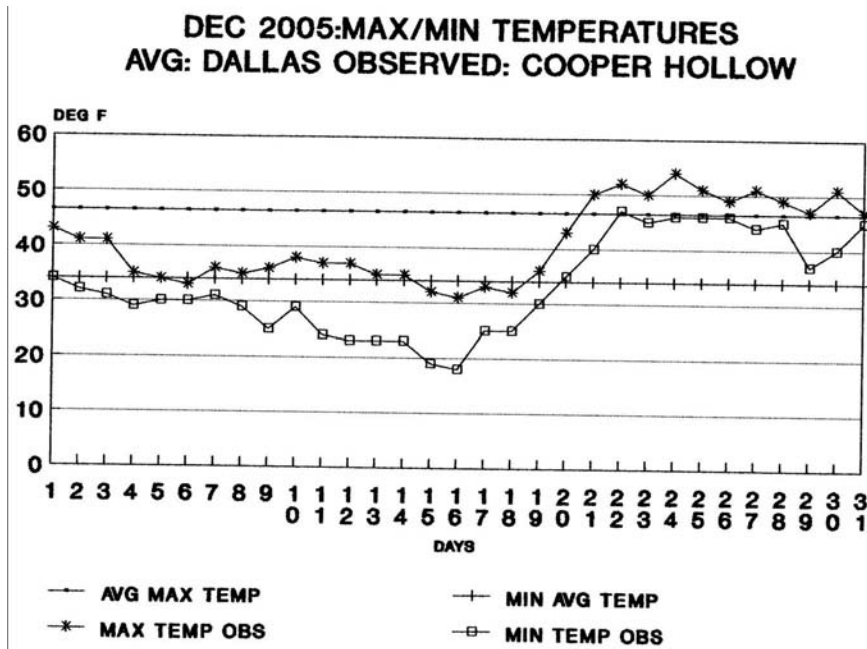
How Cold Did it Get in Cooper Hollow in Last December?

You may wonder, I am sure, just who cares how cold it got in Cooper Hollow in December. I care very much, I live there, at least I live on one of the hills that overlooks Cooper Hollow, at least I could overlook it if the trees did not get in my way. Anyway, I got very cold and I am sure you did too.

While doing some research for a little climate study I have been puttering around with, I put together a graph of Long Term Monthly Average Maximum (AVG MAX) and Minimum (MIN AVG) temperatures. These temperatures were recorded at the Oregon Department of Forestry office (ODF) located a couple miles north of Dallas for the month of December 2005. Average monthly "high" temperatures for December are approximately 47 degrees F. Average monthly "Lows" for December are 34 degrees.

On this same graph I entered the maximum (MAX OBS) and minimum (MIN OBS) temperatures that I recorded at my house above Cooper Hollow for the month of December 2005. I have an automated temperature sensor located in a naturally aspirated shelter that does not require me to go outside to see what is going on. I can remain in the comfort of my warm office and record data...except when the batteries decide to take a dump on me, usually in the middle of a cold rain event. But that is the subject of another rant.

Temperatures measured at my house and those measured at ODF are measured in roughly the same manner and with "similar" equipment.



It was cold in December!

Then it was balmy!

The graph shows that December was divided into roughly two equal periods and each period was very different from the another.

On the first day of December at Cooper Hollow, temperatures were about average...but went downhill from there, literally. As you can see from the graph, it got colder as the days went on. By the 16th of the month, the low temperature at Cooper Hollow was down to 18 degrees...12 degrees below Average...this is cold. If the rate of cooling had continued at that rate, the minimum temperature would have been around 0 degrees by the end of the month.

The maximum temperatures measured at Cooper Hollow generally were cold (am I using the word cold too much?) staying around the level of the Average Minimum temperature...the low thirties. This was around 10-12 degrees below normal.

Enough of this cold stuff...

Just after the middle of the month, there was a week of transition to more normal Oregon conditions. The rains began. It got warmer. Much warmer and wetter. By the 20th, maximum temperatures were at or just above where "they should be", at the approximate level of Average Maximum temperatures. And... wonder of wonders... Minimum temperatures were almost as high...roughly 10-12 degrees above Average Minimum temperatures. Thank goodness for Oregon rain. Cooper Hollow was almost balmy...shirt sleeve weather. I saw people in Salem walking around in shorts!

So...what does this mean?

I don't know. I just thought it made an interesting graph.

However, as I recorded the sliding temperatures here at Cooper Hollow during the first two weeks of the month and as I looked at my rapidly disappearing woodpile, I came to some disturbing conclusions:

1. Our heat pump does not work very efficiently at 18 degrees
2. The electric bill would be going up to keep the house warm.
3. My wife and the cat would probably be a bit chilly when the wood ran out

Of course it could have been worse...

In December 1972, temperatures went down to -2 degrees (yes..below zero) for several days. I asked a long-time resident if he remembered this occasion, and he seemed to recall having to shut down the mill because it was so cold that the lathe blades were shattering on the frozen logs. He also seemed to recall that about four feet of snow fell at his house on the upper end of Oakdale road.

Thank you Dave. Your contributions and observations are most appreciated....

Spring is nearly here, as evidenced by the Crocus which are up and showing their color, maples are budding, and the bird activity has increased. The warm days this week have been very nice here. Don't let it fool you however, we still have some weeks to go before warm nights and longer days are here for the season.

Our wee spot on the Planet here in Coyóteville has undergone some changes. The "tree service" people came in and felled two of the shade 'cedar trees' that covered most of carport/driveway during the hot Summer days. But, that left a nice opportune couple of branches on which I will be able to hang a couple of HF antennas, hopefully in the near future. I keep saying that with optimism...knowing that 'one of these days' I'll be able to get a tree-climber over here to do that! The screwdriver dipole is getting nearer to completion. Only the brass mounting stud for the auxilliary antenna remains to be machined. Then the test!

Mel Woody of Molalla used to make a kit of these, but is no longer manufacturing his screwdrivers, nor does he have any of the parts available. We do what we can with what we have, eh?

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the 'show'. A short one indeed. The lateness of this issue has been due to the waiting process...waiting to hear from folks about what they do with their radio time and other time. No report this month from the treasurer or secretary...sorry...I suppose we'll hear something tomorrow night maybe. VE testing does not occur again until 11 March.... on the second Saturday of every odd-numbered month.

Thanks for being patient readers...

Coyóte  
VP ROADS