

# Loose Gravel

Newsletter of ROADS

Volume 2, Number 7

AB7X – KD7VLP

Co-editors

Hello all, I hope to see all of you at Amador's Alley Thursday evening for a fine Mexican style dinner. The dinner meeting starts at 1830, so bring an appetite. Our agenda this month is simple; we will introduce new officers and move right on to enjoying our food.

One of our regular contributors, Bob, K7QXG, sent us this offering...

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## WHY DO WE EXIST?

I am making direct reference to the amateur radio service. Note the use of the word "service", because that is the basis for our existence.

Yes, I know...some like DX, some are confined to 2 meters because they have never upgraded their license, some pursue other aspects of the amateur radio field, and some never use their license once they get it. All of these activities are available to us, but they are NOT the prime reason why the amateur radio service exists.

So, what is this service we are to provide, and who do we provide it to? It is communications - the transfer of a message from one point to another. It may be routine, or priority or an Emergency message. The need may arise in day to day on-the-air activities, or during special events. It always exists during a disaster, whether

the disaster is natural or man made.

Since "service" is the primary reason for the existence of amateur radio, why do so many hams cringe at a simple request to pass a message along or make a phone call? It is our very hobby that you are endangering. Don't point your finger at other hams and say, "Well there are ham organizations for that purpose!" Yep, there sure are, but if you receive a direct request over the air to make a phone call and deliver a message, and you decline -out of fear or laziness - you are hurting our service.

Some hams have never seen an NTS message form, and others don't want to see it. That is okay. It still does not excuse you from making that simple phone call to a local number and passing the message along.

It is no secret that commercial and corporate interests are always looking at many of our bands with envious eyes... especially 2 meters. Some day they may be able to convince the FCC that we amateurs no longer need "all those frequencies."

I am not advocating that you surrender your current on-the-air activities and take up Traffic Handling and spend your time filling out NTS forms. However, I am strongly urging all of you to remember that the basis for our existence is SERVICE, and its not really that hard to pick up the phone and make a local phone call.

The license you save may be your own.

Bob K7QXG

K7QXG, Bob Peschka  
Dallas, Oregon, USA  
Extra Class. Licensed 1961.  
Web Site: <http://www.dsl-only.net/~k7qyg>

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Thank you, Bob, for your much-anticipated 'Thoughts from an Active HAM'!

I will introduce some ideas along these lines during the course of the next few meetings -- some ways for us to be more involved and actively pursuing our common interest: HAM Radio and its many facets.

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I need to interject here a reflection on two of my friends who have recently become Silent Keys...

Gene, N7EIF, from Corvallis was an avid HF fan who came into the radio service early on, built amplifiers, antennas, tuners, and passed his knowledge of HAM Radio on to newcomers. He was married to Mary, N7LTQ, and they enjoyed many years together and were very involved in their community. Gene taught radio classes several years ago, and managed to bring many new HAMs into the service.

Jim, KE7BCT, spent many years as a Short Wave Listener while employed at PGE. His goal was to one day be able to talk to some of the places and people he had heard on the HF bands. He achieved that by diligent study and code practice, and successfully tested for Code for his General upgrade at our Dallas VE session less than a year ago. Another of his life-long goals was to climb South Sister on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 10<sup>th</sup>. That didn't happen, as he had become very ill and under Hospice care.

These two exceptional Gentlemen and wonderful HAMs will be missed by this humble person. We should never forget where we came from, and those along the way who helped us become who we are today.

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Irene, K7IJK, now has a C.E.R.T. update for us....

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**DALLAS C.E.R.T.**

Since my last update, Dallas C.E.R.T. has 9 new certified members and what a great group of people they are. The C.E.R.T. team has 26 active members now and a number of inactive members. The C.E.R.T. trainers are gearing up to start another training session this coming September.

In July the group has been invited to assist the Dallas Police Department with traffic and crowd control at Summerfest. They will also share a booth with D.P.D. to recruit new members for the upcoming training. At the July 27<sup>th</sup> maintenance meeting the guest speaker will be Charlie Tate from Pacific Power & Light. Mr. Tate will inform the members on how to shut off utilities correctly.

Moving on into August, the C.E.R.T. members will get some hands on practice using fire extinguishers while putting out some small fires.

Well that's it for now. Hope you all have a safe and happy summer!

Irene Koubek, K7IJK

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Irene is our new Secretary, and has already proven herself to be a worthy officer. Thank you Irene! We look forward to your input and experience. I will be working with Irene to develop a program of training and information that will prove to be of interest to most of you...I hope.

Please welcome Dave, KD7VLP, as your new President of Vice! He brings to our newsletter one of his unusually informative pieces of little-known HAM trivia...

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QRK de KD7VLP

My contribution is a bit thin this month...have been busy clearing downed trees on the back 40 and have not had time to delve further into the depths of radio history. But here are a couple of items for you.

### The Missing Q signals

by John Queen, KA0SEY & Mike Colyar, K7ITL

Additions by Thom LaCosta K3HRN and members of QRP-L

Some Q signals have never made it to the ARRL's official list. Here are some that you may agree would be useful in appropriate situations. As with regular Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark follows it.

\* QBA - My antenna is BIG!

\* QBA? - How big is your antenna?

\* QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.

\* QBO? - Buddy, can you spare some soap?

\* QBS - It's getting deep in here.

\* QBS? - Did I tell you about the one that got away?

Alternate suggested by ken cubilo w8ob

\* QBS - Clean the bird sh\*t off your antenna so you can hear me

\* QBS? - Should I clean the bird sh\*t off my antenna so I can hear

you

\* QDR? - Do you have a Receiver?} In response to QRL

\* QET - Phone home.

\* QET? - Has anyone called me from another planet?

\* QFH - This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.

\* QFH? - Is this frequency hogged?

\* QHI - I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.

\* QHI? - Are you leaving after only one transmission?

\* QOF Yes, I am an Old Fart.

\* QOF? Are you an old Fart?

Contributed by Jim W7RY

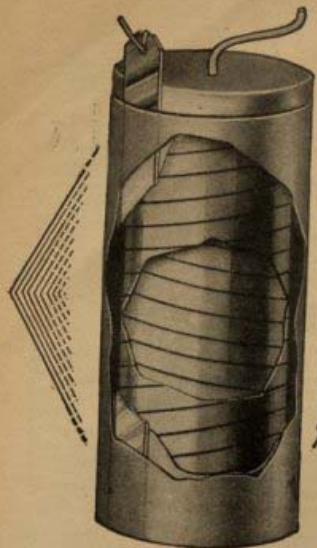
- \* QOK - Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.
- \* QOK? - Was my last transmission OK?
- \* QRC - Warning, rag chewer on frequency.
- \* QRC? - Are you a rag chewer?
- \* QRG - You are transmitting in or near the ... (wave length or frequency) amateur band.
- \* QRG? - Am I transmitting in or near an amateur band, and if so which one?
- \* QRW - Means Qrp - Really Weak
- \* QRW? - Qrp, you are Really Weak?

Contributed by w0rw

- \* QWC? - Who cares? } Courtesy of
- \* QWC - I don't care } Fred Bonavita, K5QLF
- \* QZZ - I fell asleep at the mike.
- \* QZZ? - Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?

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Finally...here is the ultimate accessory to enhance your listening pleasure...



# NEW

## ANTENNA and GROUND

*Combined in one convenient Unit*

A wonderful thing has happened in radio! Convenience never before dreamed of! Clearer, sweeter-toned reception! Radio pleasure with less interruption! These things are brought to you by the amazing, tested, approved, EARTHANTENNA.

Many set owners have come to realize the importance of using a dependable antenna, also the value of perfect grounding in getting good reception. Now science has gone a step further; it says that the LOCATION of the antenna is an equally important factor in getting best results. Because the radio wave goes right into the earth—where obviously there is less atmospheric disturbance and interference—it is claimed the logical place for the antenna should be the EARTH, not the air. This important conclusion allowed Radio Engineers to work out the EARTHANTENNA.

### Reduces Static— Gets Clearer, Sweeter Tone

Have you ever listened to reception that almost took your breath away with its faultless reproduction, its pure melodious tone? And then gone home and compared its haunting beauty to YOUR receiver's often unsatisfactory, static-ridden performance? Probably nine out of ten set owners who formerly thought they were getting "pretty good" reception have had this experience.

They accepted the shrieks, whistles, knocking and howls due to atmospheric conditions—the weak, faulty results of sagging, broken, or rust-laden aerial wires—the interference of other aerials or power line noises—the fading often caused by corrosion or imperfect contact in an unscientific ground—all as necessary evils.

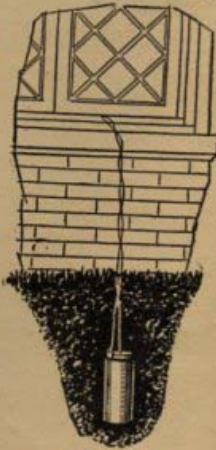
Progressive radio refused to stop there. The new scientific, successful EARTHANTENNA is designed to give you clearer, better, more dependable reception—and it costs no more than the old inefficient aerial—in fact less than many.

EARTHANTENNA is so easy to install that soon people will wonder how they ever put up with the old, dangerous, slow methods. You simply dig a small hole only two feet below the surface of the ground, drop the EARTHANTENNA into it and attach the lead-in wires to your set. Now you are ready to listen to earth-shielded, sweeter-toned ground wave reception. You never need to touch the EARTHANTENNA again.

### Shielded Antenna Gets Better Reception

The antenna is insulated or "shielded" against electro-static disturbances as are the most advanced, expensive receivers and their various parts. Science declares that the earth itself "shorts" the electro-static capacity before it reaches the Antenna. This acts as another shield.

The ground element is constructed of copper, undisputed as the most effective material for obtaining a perfect ground connection. This section of the unit is separated from the Antenna by the insulation which shields the Antenna. So in the EARTHANTENNA you have a scientific ground and an antenna of modern shielded construction combined in one compact unit. You can test it yourself right now at our risk. Hear the wonderful results!



### Test EARTHANTENNA at OUR Risk

Let EARTHANTENNA prove its own value without your risking one cent. Don't remove your old aerial and ground until you've compared the old and modern methods and hear the vast improvement with the new. If possible pick a time when static is bad. Then if you are not convinced that EARTHANTENNA is the greatest discovery you've ever found for your radio—if you are not enthused over the improvement—you don't pay us a cent. The thrilling details of this important development—illustrated—will be sent immediately on receipt of this coupon. Mail it NOW!

**The Modern Antenna Company**  
Dept. 827CE St. Clair Bldg., cor. St. Clair and Erie Streets  
CHICAGO, ILL.

**EARTH ANTENNA**  
THE MODERN  
COMBINED ANTENNA AND GROUND

THE MODERN ANTENNA COMPANY  
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Chicago, Ill.  
Rush literature on EARTHANTENNA and Free Trial Offer.  
No obligation.

Name.....  
Address.....  
City.....  
State.....

Please say you saw it in RADIO NEWS

Leave it to Dave to provide us with never-ending surprises and good HAM Humor! Thanks Dave.

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I have heard that some of you are dissatisfied with the length of 'Loose Gravel' -- that it is too long? Those of you who desire a shorter length of Loose Gravel coax may well be suffering from high Sitting Wave Relapse, so be aware if any symptoms arise, and pass any pertinent information along to me, Dave, Irene, Dudley, Bob, or Chris. We will at that time refer you to the appropriate care facility. The obvious symptoms are: QWC, QZZ, and QBS. If you are too weak to get to a radio, we hereby give you permission to use your other QRP radio, the cellular telephone, that is if the silly thing hasn't already turned your brain into soft-boiled tissue.

With that, I hope to see all of you at Amador's Alley Thursday evening.

73...

Harry  
President of ROADS?  
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