

Loose Gravel

Newsletter of ROADS Volume 2, Number 10

AB7X + KD7VLP
Co-editors

Good Harvest to all...I trust your rewards are plentiful this season? Our crops consisted of only tomatoes and sweet, seedless grapes. Table grapes only, ladies and gentlemen, table grapes....and not a sour one in the bunch!

This month's edition is a rather sparse one, and I will not bore you with tedious preface. Enter our first offering, a delightful "Who We Are" from W7LOU, our illustrious Past President...

Who We Are...Bob Boswell W7LOU

WHERE-WHEN-WHY-HOW did you get involved in Ham Radio? Did you have an Elmer to get you started?

I was in high school and at that time there was a commercial radio station being built right down the street from the school. I couldn't resist the temptation to go in there and see what it was all about; I was 17 at the time. The chief engineer was John Hutton, W6BKS. He was nice enough to show me around the powerful 250 watt, what a kick that was. John took me under his wing and showed me a lot of radio equipment, some of it in his car. He is the cause for me becoming an Amateur Radio Operator.

What is your current license?

Currently I hold an Amateur Extra Class License,

Did you, or do you, use radio(s), in some form or another in your work life?

As a result of that visit I got a job with that station KWIK in Burbank, Ca. I have been in broadcasting, in one way or another, ever since. Worked for KABC, KMPC, and several other stations, off and on over the years.

I retired as an Air traffic Controller in 1978 with 31 years total government time. In that position all controllers used radios as means of talking to pilots of the different aircraft. Being a Ham Radio Operator was a big help.

Are you active in Ham Radio now? What and how?

I am, currently, working on DXCC and I have about 200 confirmed countries

What does your shack look like? Is it in your garage, the back bedroom or maybe the cab of your pickup?

I have a separate building that is used as my Ham Shack. Neat? No way! It is always in disarray. If it were cleaned up, I would not be able to find anything.

What kind of equipment and antennas...etc?

I have a Kenwood TS-870 as an exciter, it, in turn, drives an Alpha 76 that runs about 1KW. The antennas are very simple. The beam is a Cushcraft A4S Tri-bander, works very well. On the low frequencies I am using Windom, 256 ft. long and up about 70-75 feet. It works very well.

Other hobbies or past-times?

Just for the hell of it I volunteer at our local radio station, KPJE (94.3), an LPFM here in the county. After retiring I had an opportunity to work with the State of Oregon as an Agricultural Inspector, I did this for the fun of it. During this period, and after, I was a Reserve Deputy in the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Interestingly there were only 17 total personnel at that time, plus the reserves. Since that time I have been cutting weeds, plowing the ground, planting trees, among other things, like hiding from work. I enjoy living in Polk County there are a lot of things that can be done, and lots to hide from.

Thank you, Bob, and Dave too. It took only 1½ years to convince Bob to sit still long enough to let go of some of his not-so-secret stuff! That wasn't so bad...was it?

From Jim Perkins, W6SVP, we have this bit of wisdom...

A Contribution from Jim Perkins W6SVP...

Flying Truths

Credit to Cle Cox #3536

Both optimists and pessimists contribute to the society. The optimist invents the aeroplane, the pessimist the parachute.

If helicopters are so safe, how come there are no vintage/classic helicopter fly-ins?

As a pilot only two bad things can happen to you and one of them will:

- a. One day you will walk out to the aircraft knowing that it is your last flight.**
- b. One day you will walk out to the aircraft not knowing that it is your last flight.**

There are Rules and there are Laws. The Rules are made by men who think that they know better how to fly your airplane than you. Laws (of Physics) were made by the Great One. You can, and sometimes should, suspend the Rules but you can never suspend the Laws.

About Rules:

- a. The rules are a good place to hide if you don't have a better idea and the talent to execute it.
- b. If you deviate from a rule, it must be a flawless performance (e.g., If you fly under a bridge, don't hit the bridge).

Flying is a great way of life for men who want to feel like boys, but not for those who still are.

Flying is a hard way to earn an easy living.

Forget all that stuff about lift, gravity, thrust and drag. An airplane flies because of money. If God had meant man to fly, He'd have given him more money.

If black boxes survive air crashes -- why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

"If the Wright brothers were alive today Wilber would have to fire Orville to reduce costs."

---President DELTA Airlines

I've flown in both pilot seats; can someone tell me why the other one is always occupied by an idiot?

You define a good flight by negatives: you didn't get hijacked, you didn't crash, you didn't throw up, you weren't late, you weren't nauseated by the food. So you're grateful.

Thanks, Jim, and we look forward to your version of "Who We Are" in another issue of "Loose Gravel" in the very near future!

There are no reports from any of our other officers, so don't look for any. The CT-12 Annual Report to the state is yet forthcoming, as is the Request for Funding from Grande Ronde Council. Other than that, ROADS has a powered table reserved at Swaptoberfest on the 21st of this month, and it will be staffed by Dave, Bob, myself and others who have been so kind to donate some minutes of their time that day. There is also a VE session, hosted by Bob, K7QXG, and our club, starting at 0900 that morning in the 4-H Building for anyone

desiring an UPGRADE or an initial Element 2 examination for Technician. Pass the word! All those who volunteered to staff the table should be aware that Bob and I will be administering at the VE session and will need the table attendance adjusted a bit.

There you have it from Coyoteville and Dave's Hacienda, the shortest issue in a long time. If you enjoyed it, tell your friends, and they too can receive a copy!

Suggestions and additions are always welcome, as are your comments. No names were changed to protect the Innocent.

I hope that all of you can attend the meeting tomorrow. See you there!

A very 73 from the desk of AB7X

Coyote

Your friendly President

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