

# Loose Gravel

Newsletter of ROADS

Volume 3, Number 4

AB7X + KD7VLP -- Editors

11 April, 2007

Good evening to all. I apologize for the confusion concerning the meeting place for our group. There apparently was some ex-communication between 'someone' whose occupation concerns county security, and someone who innocently relayed the information to us. An unfortunate series of events eventually leads us back to where we met last month. To explain this mishapenstance, we will hear tomorrow evening from Tom Ritchey, KA5PUT, who will put our questions to the test, and hopefully to rest. I believe he has a county position somewhere in the Courthouse.

Don't forget to bring your OTA Easter Egg Hunt log sheets to the meeting; Dave and someone else will be collating the information to see who is the big winner of the Huge Chocolate Easter Bunny! It was a fun event, and I want to thank Bob, K7QXG, for bringing the idea to our attention! We all need to get On The Air more often, if for no other reason than to keep in touch with our friends....and make new ones!

Moving right along....

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## QRK de KD7VLP

Well...you apparently did not learn anything from last month and here you are again wasting your time reading the April QRK. Still no input from you so you are stuck with what I come up with.

As always, we begin by delving into the dim reaches of the past to find something related (no matter how vague) to radio communications in some manner or the other. I came across this article at the museum from the Camp Adair Sentry. It illustrates a novel way to encourage learning CW.

### *MORSE CODE REPLACES 1ST SARGE'S WHISTLE*

*No more bugles! No more whistles! No more shouting by the first sergeant, "All right, youse guys, let's get outa here on da double!"*

*Regimental Hq. Co. 363<sup>rd</sup> Inf. has done away with all that "Old Army stuff". They do it by bell now.*

*In 60 seconds flat the CQ can receive a request for an enlisted man and produce him. He simply reaches over his desk, taps out the EM's name and presto the EM is there.*

*One long = "Fall Out"*

*If the CO wants to turn out the entire company he does so by bell too, simply by holding down the key on his Morse telegraph set and sending the signal for "fall out".*

### *Just a Doorbell*

*The key in the orderly room is hooked up to a regular doorbell at the head of the stairway in the Regimental Hq. Co. barracks. When a name is tapped out in the orderly room every man in the barracks freezes in his position, intent upon the code.*

*It may be his name, meaning that he is to report at once to the first sergeant, or it may be a warning signal five minutes before time to fall out.*

*It may be the "fall out" signal itself, or if around chow time, the mess The entire company is "bell-conscious" and the CQ and the first sergeant both are "bell happy", because they no longer have to chase out after a man, wasting time searching in barracks, mess hall or day room.*

*It is estimated that the CQ saves four minutes per man each time he has to call one to the orderly room. Sometimes, he has to call as many as 12 men an hour which means he has saved 48 minutes right there toward greater efficiency.*

*The bell system was worked out by Capt. Joseph P. Steig, communications officer, and S/Sgt Roy Anderson, radio chief. It has two purposes. It provides practice for the men in the Morse code, and it is a time saver.*

*sergeant may signal that "chow is on the table" by sounding one very long bell. The signal is also hooked up to the kitchen.*

*Every man in the company is now familiar with the Morse code*

*---Camp Adair Sentry, Friday, February 4, 1944*

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To fill up this large void in the newsletter, I have decided to include recommendations for reading in order to raise the common knowledge of our brothers and sisters in ROADS. The Solomon Islands have been in the news recently. For you folk who are unfamiliar with the area, here is a book that may be a bit dated perhaps, but may be of use even today. If you hurry, it may be available from Amazon...a used copy at least.

**Life and Laughter 'midst the Cannibals**

**Clifford Whitely Collinson**

**Hurst and Blackett, 1926**

**"Relates the hilarious story of a sailor visiting the Soloman Islands who avoided being eaten by cannibals but whose false teeth fell overboard; in attempting to retrieve them, he was eaten alive by a shark."**

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Some of you may know I worked in many aspects of weather for over 40 years...Back when I took Weather 1A in school, this the first bit of knowledge they required us to memorize...I have lived by these words ever since and they have never failed me when I was in doubt:

***WHAT THE CROWS KNOW***

***Crow on the fence,***

***rain will go hence.***

***Crow on the ground,***

***rain will come down.***

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## **VE TESTING REPORT FOR MARCH 10, 2007**

**Ron W7HO**

Today was another great session for the ROADS VE testing Team. We had 12 individuals attend the March 10th session with 2 new Techs, 8 new Generals and 1 new Extra Licensees.

Those attending were:

Jeff Burger

Ken Schneider

Ricky Davis

Scott Nielson

John Minehan the new Extra

Stephen Gibbel (he aced his General test - He also aced his Tech test in January)

Christopher Bellany

David Gibbel

Richard Holcombe

Steven Gray

David Gesner

Raymond Mitchell

We had folks from Coloma, MI., Salem, Keiser, Florence, Corvallis and Lebanon.

We had a father and son team both get their General Licenses David and Stephen Gibbel

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At the ROADS meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the members approved offering to new licensees a free one-year membership. I printed out some rudimentary cards and took them to the VE Session of the 10<sup>th</sup> where they were given out. There appeared to be some interest in the offer. (KD7VLP)

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You really should take David up on his invitation to have your own ideas and work published in this space [        ]. Then you would know great joy and fulfillment of some of your greatest hopes and dreams: you would have an audience. Of sorts. Seriously, folks, this is our club newsletter....it is built for you and it should be by you as well. Please let David or me know if you have something you would like to see in print in this publication and we will make sure it has a place [ here ]!

On schedule is the 2007 7<sup>th</sup> Area QSO Party (7QP) on 5 May. Most of have already been notified by Bob, K7QXG, so this is merely a reminder for you to check your calendar to be sure you marked the date and event. Contact Bob or me for details if you lost your email.

There will be an announcement at the meeting tomorrow evening to remind you that new club officers will be nominated and elected *very soon*, so be thinking about who you would like to see in which office. Since our club's inception three years ago, I have been honored with board positions which have given me much pleasure, and much frustration as well. The service I can provide is a part of why I became an Amateur Operator in the first place. The frustration comes from living so far away from the core group and community that our club serves. Whenever we travel to Dallas and the surrounding area I feel at home in a friendly atmosphere. Would that Shadow and I lived closer. We don't, however, and in that light I am going to step down from the presidency, even though that office has a possibility of two years running. I will stay connected as best I can with the club, but I feel that someone who lives in the immediate area would be better suited to serve the needs of ROADS and the Dallas community. Thank you all for putting up with me as I ad lib through the meetings. You are very kind, and I am privileged to have you as friends.

We are currently engaged in a photographic journey among the birds and bonsai and it is always an adventure in wonderland! Below are a few examples of our work done recently....



*Twins...Coyoteville – Shadow*



*Tulip...Coyoteville – Shadow*



*Willow catkin...downtown Eugene -- Coyote*



*Rake at Folsang Farm -- Coyote*

Of course, these photos have nothing to do with birds or bonsai, and that is the way of the Coyote....

A very 73 to all, and we'll see you at the meeting, providing my current headache situation allows me to drive after dark. If you need details....just ask LOUBob.

Coyote  
AB7X  
ROADz Prez