

Loose Gravel

Newsletter of ROADS

Volume 3, Number 6

AB7X + KD7VLP -- Editors

10 June 2007

Hello all! This is our election month, and I expect to see all of you present to offer your votes in representation of your membership in our fine club! I have been your president for the last year, and it has been an interesting tenure for me. My son and I live nearly 25 miles south of Dallas, and I have felt more than inadequate at those times I have not been present at various meetings throughout the year. That won't be happening this time, as I will no longer be the president. This office needs to be held by someone who lives closer to the core area served by our club, and who is more familiar with official protocol than I obviously am! Thank you for having the patience to put up with me....I appreciate it more than you know!

Getting on with the schedule....this month is Field Day month. FD happens on the weekend of the 23rd, and there will be folks who already know who they are setting things up the Friday before. This will be the first time we have come together as a club to do FD as a group, and I can see this as a very fun time for

all who are going to participate. If any of you wish to participate in some way, be it however small or large, please contact Bob, K7QXG, for more details. Our monthly meeting is this next week on Thursday the 14th at 1900 hrs. in the usual place in Dallas. Elections happen then. There, I said it twice! If there is a program, I know not what it is at this time. Contact Dave, VLP, or Bob, LOU for more information.

Here is a bit more info from Bob, W7LOU.....

Greetings, it has been a long time since I did an article for "Loose Gravel". This is a basic bit of information on "Field Days". They were an emergency drill suggested by the ARRL. The plan was to call the people involved and tell them field day was on. This was, or should have, been the statement that got all these folks to gathering up all their equipment, antennas, tools, soldering irons, and anything else needed to get on the air from some place out in the wilderness. That was the original plan, now the way it's done is plan ahead, get all the towers, rotators, amplifiers, cellfones, or what ever is deemed necessary to make a BIG noise come the first day of operation. Let me tell you this is the most hectic time period, everyone has something to put up so they can be heard, mainly some fancy antennas like a BEAM, 4 Square, Vertical, or what ever there is handy that will radiate RF.

The idea is to talk to as many stations as you can in the 24 hours that you can use. There is a formula for determining how many points you have after the event is over. The calculation is done by the total number of contacts you make and with whom. If there are some DX stations, stations far away, these are , what we call, multipliers, and they can bring your count up big time if your in the contest. Field Days are a lot of fun for all the family, licensed or not. Pack them all up and go to your local clubs event and have a lot of fun. All of this takes place on June 23rd and 24th, u'all come now, you here.

This Club Event is for Club Members, and their guests, we have also asked the boys and girls of the Dallas Fire Dept. to come and see what we do at a Field Day site. If there are any friends of yours that would be interested in coming to the site, we would be very happy to see them. Right now the plan is to, maybe, stay over night. I think Chuck, AC7RF,

said something about staying all night at the site, this would be good, so lets see what happens. If there are any of you that might like to stay and work some of the real good DX, the night watch is the time to do that, that's when a lot of the good shows up. So grab up your sweat shirts, or overcoats and plan having a very good time at FIELD DAY.

73, Bob, W7LOU

It's good to see some words by Bob in print, and now you can quote him! Here are some more words to quote, from Dave, KD7VLP....

QRK de KD7VLP

Here it is another month gone by and no input from our brothers and sisters of ROADS. You know what that means...

Not too much this month, I have been busy working outside and getting caught up on the spring that passed by too fast in the rains.

Here is something somewhat different from what we usually have here... I came across a couple items from the 1943 I-O, which you may find interesting. It involves a local lady who participated in WWII, for at least a little while, as a radio person. I would imagine that a big part of her training involved CW.

“MISS DALTON NOW PETTY OFFICER

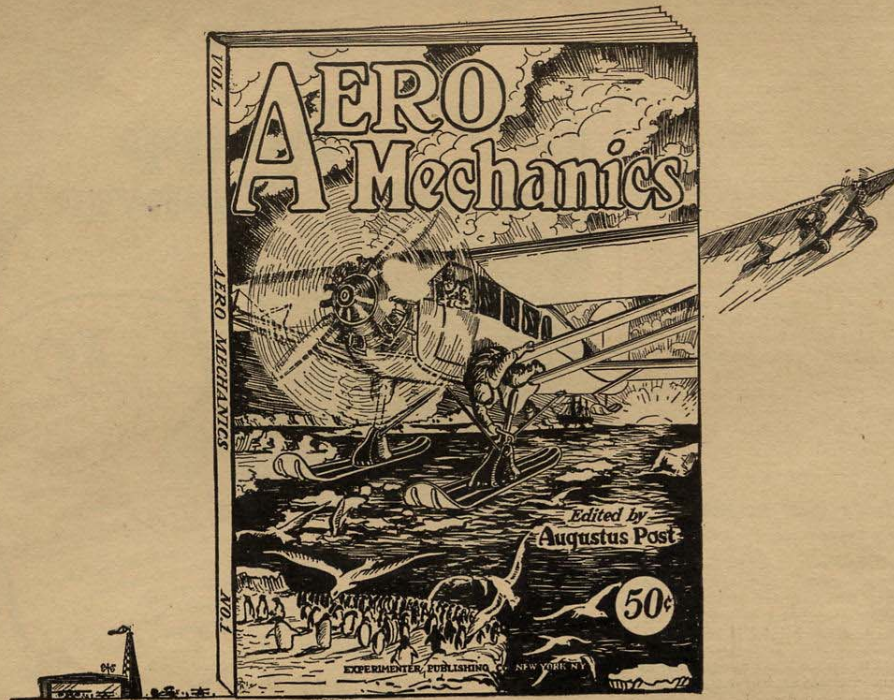
“Miss Mary Ellen Dalton, only Dallas girl in the WAVES, has been promoted to radioman third class, according to word received this week by her parents Mr and Mrs E.V. Dalton. She is stationed at Jacksonville, Fla, but is unable to say much about her work, which is of a confidential nature.

“She is thrilled with her work but so far has not enjoyed the heat and torrential rains of Florida.”

(I-0 no date---probably sometime in the spring of 1943)

A follow-up item in October 1943 indicated that she was accepted into Officer's Training at Smith College in Northampton, MA. and was later transferred to Seattle WA as an ensign.

Since there is not much to this month's QRK, I have decided to do what the cable and satellite channels do to fill the time...so here is some paid programming from one of our



AERO MECHANICS—THE BOOK OF THE AGE

The greatest book on modern aviation ever published. The many ramifications of the aeronautical field that it covers can be better appreciated by a glance at a synopsis of its contents.

CONTENTS IN BRIEF:

- Theory and Fundamental Principles of Flight.*
- Stability—How an Aeroplane Flies.*
- Complete Design, Construction and Assembly.*
- Scale Drawings—Names of Parts.*
- Flying Instructions—How to Become a Flyer.*
- Motors—Latest Inventions—Instruments, Use and Function.*
- Radio Installations.*
- Glanders.*
- Airports and Lighting.*
- Glossary of Aeronautical Terms.*
- The Aeroplane Mechanic.*
- Model Making.*



MR. AUGUSTUS POST
Editor of AERO MECHANICS

Mr. Augustus Post, editor of AERO MECHANICS, has been prominent in aeronautical circles throughout the country for over twenty years, his experience and adventures have made aviation history and placed him in a position to pass on to the readers of AERO MECHANICS honest, accurate and entirely dependable information on every phase of Aviation. Says the *North American Review* of Mr. Post: "No man in America has been more continuously at the centre of aeronautic activities in this country, and in touch with more history-making airmen here and abroad, than has Augustus Post who, besides having the "history of the air" in his head, has personally participated in some of the most thrilling adventures of aviation."

AERO MECHANICS, written by Augustus Post, is the most complete treatise of its kind ever published. It deals with every phase of aeronautical construction and operation, and its entire contents is passed upon by Mr. Post, who is one of the best known pioneers of aviation. Learn all about this great new field. Obtain your copy of AERO MECHANICS today. Over 112 pages. Fully illustrated. Large 9" x 12" size.

THE **50c** COPY
At All Newsstands, or Write Direct
Experimenter Publishing Co., Inc.
230 Fifth Avenue, New York City

EXPERIMENTER PUBLISHING CO., INC.
230 Fifth Ave., New York City, N. Y.

Gentlemen:
Enclosed find 50c, for which please send me a copy of your remarkable new book, AERO MECHANICS.

Name

Address

City..... State.....

We have been recommending some books for your edification and offer these two potential references to you and your family.

Some Background information for current events:

Camel Brands and Graffiti from Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Iran and Arabia

--Henry Field
Baltimore MD. American Oriental Association, 1952

An inspirational book to make you feel good(?):

Fifteen Years a Drunkard, or, the Life of Thomas Doner, Having Lost Both Arms Through Intemperance, He Wrote this Book with His Teeth as a Warning to Others.

---Thomas Doner
Sycamore, IL: Arnold Bros., 1878

Finally, we inserted this photo a couple of months ago and did not discuss it at the meeting. So here it is again. Who is this?



And from Ron, W7HO, we receive this missive:

A report from Ron W7HO

Here are the folks that have new Tech or General licenses from our May 12th session:

Steve O'Brady (KD7YDP) - new General
Tammy Campbell (KE7NJM) - new Tech
Harry Morris (KE7NJL) - new Tech
Bill MacMorris (KD7YVK) - new General

Just a reminder: we have a VE testing session coming up on July 14th.

We continue to have good sized testing sessions. So please tell your friends, family and anyone interested in getting their license or upgrading to please get ahold of me.

Walk-ins are always welcome.

Thank you Ron.

While traveling the Web, I find many things of interest which I do not dare insert into this newsletter, and some reasons why are:

-- As a club, we enjoy a diverse membership, many whom do not enjoy seeing opinions other than their own in print...

-- Thru the 'grapevine', I hear that many of you whom I send this newsletter to do not like to read much more than two or three pages at a time. Therefore, length of any given article is an issue. I consider it to be a very sad statement on behalf of such astute folks in our club that one would fall asleep or get bored after only six to ten pages!

-- I get feedback from only a few *ROADs* members about *Loose Gravel*, which leads me to doubt that this newsletter is either significant or insightful to the majority of the membership.

-- Frustration leads me to the belief that I would do better taking this publication to the Internet for those who have energy enough to 'log on' to one of my blogs. Of the over 400 contacts in my address book, there are but a handful who even bother to compose anything that resembles an complete sentence, let alone an entire paragraph, or even a whole letter! Oh yes, I forgot, Bill Gates gave you the wonderful 'Forward' button so that you don't have to think about anything like original composition! Kudos to Bill! He also gave you the 'Cut', 'Copy' and 'Paste' buttons, so why not use them. In fact...he gave you the 'Delete' button, so go right ahead and make your move! Not that I write anything so profound that it makes anyone's head spin, but I wonder sometimes if anyone 'out there' even remembers how to read anymore!

So...in light of these factors, I have decided, being the originator of *Loose Gravel* more than three years ago, to ask those of you who still know how to read and write to give me your opinions on:

#1: whether or not to continue with group mailing of the newsletter or place it online for you to find on the w7ore.com website or one of my blogs, or both...

#2: whether this publication does, in fact, hold any validity of usefulness as a part of *ROADs*, or not...

#3: if the above items are held to be positive by the majority, what exactly would you like to see in future issues?

I have an interesting article which is a transcript of an interview about building a radio in a POW camp, but due to its length I am reserving it for another time, unless any one of you would like to read it. It is ten pages long, and contains more than 21,000 words, and about a person who was a POW. I would be more than glad to send a copy to you individually. Please inform me of your opinions, decisions, ideas, or even dissent, within thirty days from the date of this publication, because I grow weary of barking into thin air.

Respectfully,

Coyote Marten
AB7X

p.s... I didn't spelchek this stuff, so feel free to do it yourself.....