

ROADS Report

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In This Issue: Prez Sez, DX Scene, 10-10 Thanksgiving Special, Have You Winterized Your Antennas?, Station Of the Month, and much more.



Prez Sez....

I can't believe it's November already.....guess I'm getting old as the time is flying by.

We have VE Testing scheduled for Sat Nov 13th at 9 am at the Court House. Contact Ron W7HO, Bob W7LOU or any of the other usual VE examiners.

I just talked to Jim N7WWH, our Vice-President, and he has a program "in the works," so we'll have to show up and see what it is this time. He said he has one but it's not finalized yet.

I haven't heard from Irene, K7IJK our Sec-Treasurer, whether she has the Christmas Dinner location booked, but will probably find out at our next meeting, a month ahead anyway.

If you haven't heard we will be giving a \$50 gift certificate or card out on the club by a drawing at the dinner. All you have to do is show up and put your name in the hat, without buying a ticket or anything, and maybe be \$50 richer. That ought to bring some folks out in this economy.

I'm sure I've left something out so come to the meeting and let me know what it is.....**next meeting, Thursday, November 18 at 7pm at the Court House.** Hope to see our full membership there.

Promising Band Condition Dates

According to scientific forecasts, you can expect some very good band conditions on November 28th and again on December 3rd. I don't know what the basis is for making that kind of prediction, but there has been lots of activity on 15 meters lately to support that contention. The activity covered SSB, CW, and PSK.

Station Of The Month

KG7G



KG7G, Kelly Wilson, of Independence, is our featured Station Of The Month for November. Kelly is an Extra Class licensee who has been licensed since 1958 when he held the Novice call of KN7KJI. Kelly was operational from Portland, OR at that time.

Kelly joined the US Air force and later retired from that branch of service, but continued with his flying skills by becoming a pilot for Eastern Air Lines. Later, he changed course and became a pilot for Airborne Express. He is currently building a RV9A aircraft, which is a two seat home built plane that could probably be parked in anyone's backyard because of its small size. It is about 75% complete and the craftsmanship is superb. Kelly has already been considering ways to be able to operate aeronautical mobile once it is airborne.

Kelly runs an Icom 706 into an Icom 2KL, a small "brick " type linear, that produces about 500 watts output. He uses a Hex Beam and a GAP vertical, and says the vertical is his workhorse for 40 and 80 meters. Kelly's favorite band is 20 meters, although he will operate on any band where he can find DX. He favors SSB, but also uses CW and digital modes. He presently has about 140 countries confirmed out of about 180 worked.

Kelly is the EC for Polk County ARES and is involved with the MidValley Swaptoberfest event. He is one of the few ROADS members who is not a member of 10-10 International as well.

Photo below is of his Hex Beam antenna.



Note: This is a 5 band antenna. If you look real close at the photo you can see the wires for each band as they encircle the spreaders. Although it looks like an up-side-down umbrella frame, its appearance belies its effectiveness.

The antenna is supported on a telescoping steel mast mounted in a rotor that is mounted on the roof of his shop.

These antennas prove cumbersome to install, but they are very quiet and provide a good receiving platform. The gain is about the same as a 2 element monoband yagi on each band.

EQSL AWARD PROGRAM

Many of you are familiar with eQSL, which is a web site that allows you to confirm your QSOs electronically. There are now more than 2 million users of eQSL, and that includes several members of ROADS. What most of you don't know is that eQSL has a broad award program that mirrors some of the ARRL awards, like WAS, etc.

Some of the more popular awards include eWAS (Worked All States and getting the confirmations through eQSL), including eWAS for each band, and each mode, and a mixed category, etc. I recently obtained my certificate for eWAS using PSK.

Once you complete an award category, you simply check a box on the web page indicating that you want your completion verified. That occurs within 24 hours in most instances. You can then download your certificate and print it out. How simple can it get? Even better, eQSL has available some terrific hardwood plaques that you can order to dress up your shack with a glamorous verification of your achievement. These plaques cost between \$60 and \$85, depending on the particular award you have achieved.

Even if you forgo the fancy wall decoration, and don't even download the certificate for printing, it is still a great program to track your progress as you work towards a WAS or DXCC goal.

The program costs you nothing.

Even If You Don't Belong.....

**You Can Still Participate As A ROADS
Member in the following:**

Coming This November - the great

Thanksgiving Turkey Special

Sponsored by the Oregon Trail Chapter

Of 10-10 International

The Program

Obtain a Special "designation", i.e., Fat Turkey, Skinny Turkey, etc. from K7QXG via email (k7qxcg@arrl.net), or in person, or via snail mail, or over the land line, or on the air. Exchange yours with other participants over Thanksgiving weekend. Then submit your list of turkeys that you collected, including the call of the station who gave the designation to you, and K7QXG will calculate your score. Winners in each call area and VE Province will receive a certificate. The top 5 DX entries will receive a certificate.

The Rules

1. The Special begins at 0000 UTC Nov 25th (4 PM PST on the day before Thanksgiving) and ends at 2359 UTC on Nov 28th (4 PM PST on the Sunday following Thanksgiving).
2. Event is open to members of the Oregon Trail Chapter of 10-10 world wide and to members of ROADS.
3. Obtain a designation from K7QXG at any time between now and the end of the Special. The actual point value of each designation is known only to K7QXG. The point values will be revealed after the Special ends.
4. **You must exchange the "turkeys" on the 10 meter band**, using SSB, CW, FM, AM, or digital. No other band is acceptable.
5. Send your list of turkeys, and the call letters of the stations that gave you the turkeys, to K7QXG by December 15th, 2010.
6. You may work a station only once, regardless of mode, but you may collect several of the same kind of turkeys, i.e., W7LOU – Tall Turkey, K7QXG – Tall Turkey, KE7JNT – Tall Turkey, etc. (This is only an example, and no designations have been assigned at this time.)
7. Certificates (cheaply made with a PC printer) will be awarded to the stations with the top scores in each Call Area and VE Province, and to the top 5 DX stations.
8. Members of the Oregon Trail Chapter of 10-10 will have their collected points added to their on-air point values, if they are qualified.

There you have it gang! Enjoy!

WINTERIZE THOSE ANTENNAS!

How's that? Winterize what? Antennas? Yes indeed! Save yourself a lot of grief and frustration when the rains and freezing weather arrives...like right now. Propagation is improving on all bands, and will continue to do so during our winter months. That means antenna and feedline problems are sure to maximize your frustration if they occur.

1. Check the point of entry where coax enters your station. Is the entry point properly sealed against the weather?
2. Check all outside coax connections, and especially those that use barrel connectors. When is the last time you cleaned the contact points in the connectors? Are they properly sheltered against the weather, or wrapped with tape? And, if the tape is more than 2 years old, it should be replaced.
3. Have you checked guy wires and guy ropes for towers, verticals, ground planes and other antenna configurations? Clean up the rust on metal fittings, and replace any rope that is slightly frayed.
4. What is the condition of any ground rods and the wires that connect to them? Clean 'em up. Now get out there and "Git 'er done".

These four simple tasks may save you hours of grief and misery later in December and January.

AMATEUR RADIO STATION

RECOGNIZES

NRA'S 139TH BIRTHDAY

The Yavapai ARC of Prescott, AZ will operate a Special Event station on November 17, 2010 in celebration of the NRA's 139th birthday. The station will operate from Gunsite Academy's 2000 acre campus north of Prescott. The event call sign will be K7NRA and the station will be found on 7.250, 14.250, and 21.335 between 1500 and 2300 UTC on the above date. More information can be found at the website: www.w7yrc.org

To obtain a certificate, following a QSO with the Special Event station, send a SASE to K7NRA, 404 Lampliter Village, Clarkdale, AZ 86324.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

ROADS will hold its annual Christmas Dinner in lieu of a regular meeting on December 16th. A \$50 gift card will be a door prize (no, you don't need to buy tickets for a drawing). Two restaurants under consideration are Taters and Farrells. If these are not acceptable to you, contact our Vice President, Jim, N7WWH.

On The Air

Can you answer the following two questions, which were gleaned from conversations heard on the air:

1. Where is Sand Deer Island located?
2. Check out KI7VR and F6KHM on QRZ.com. Which one is using the 40 meter Quad antenna? FYI, F6KHM was 58 on SSB using 5 watts from his FT-2000.
3. While on QRZ.com, check out AC7QO. Very interesting.....

10 Meters Springs To Life

Wow! 10 meters is finally coming to life. On Oct. 27 W7LOU worked a CT1 (Portugal) on 10 meters, and just the day before K7QXG worked Japan on 10 meters PSK. The same day KE7JNT worked stations all over the USA on 10 SSB.

So - want to find out all the scoop on what is happening on 10 meters every day? Visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TenMeters>. The moderator is a well known 10-10 member in Washington, K7PRZ. The use of this information source is open to anyone whether you are a 10-10 member or not. Now, if you do belong to 10-10, you have another excellent forum found at: <http://www.ten-ten.org/phpBB3/index.php?sid=2b47ecbf88addc31be09bda2759b94d4>

Give them a try.

ROADS Booth AT SWAPTOBERFEST



The above two smiling salesmen are N7WWH and K7ABE. ROADS did very well this time during Swaptoberfest, and there has been some discussion about expanding the booth size. Come to the next ROADS meeting and share your views.



So How Is DX?

Before we plunge into Doc's monthly report, let me say that many of the locals have been enjoying some superb times, even though Cycle 24 is barely warming up. October 30 and 31 was the big CQ DX contest, and it seems everybody worked something or the other on 15 meters, while some locals even managed numerous DX QSOs on 10 meters!

Meanwhile, outside of contest time, some DX diehards, like KX5W, KE7JNT, W7LOU, W7HO, K7CIE and K7QXG managed to find a few nice contacts on 10, 15, 17, and 20 meters, on SSB, CW, and PSK. S79K, Seychelles, was snagged by K7QXG and KE7JNT, and later K7QXG picked up Rwanda, 9X0, on 17 meters with his home brew vertical ground plane. Other stations included a ZS2 YL on 15 meter PSK, Vietnam on CW, and all four of the new countries in the Caribbean. South America is found daily on 10 meters.

And now for Doc's monthly report/forecast:

The four "new countries" in the Netherland Antilles have been on the air and some are still on. I have 21 of those stations' QSL routes if any of you need them. I heard on the 10 -- 10 net that W7HO, KE7JNT, K7QXG, W7LOU and KX5W have worked the four entities. It was difficult the first few days with the East coasters getting them but when the dust started clearing we could work them even barefoot with a wire antenna.

The CQ WW SSB contest was on the last weekend of October over Halloween and it was a good one this year. The DX was hot on 15, 20 and 40 meters, not so much on 80 and 10. I was only on a couple hours, mostly on 15, and was able to work two C91s in Mozambique and a lot of the more common countries. I'm sure others have stories to tell of some of their best contacts.

Jim N7WWH reported that he spent several hours operating the CQ WW at Mike, K7CIE's QTH with members of the Tualatin Valley Contesters group and he said it was good, fun and a learning experience with the seasoned contesters.

This is the time of year in the winter months coming that the best DX Peditions are on. Some of the announced ones in November are as follows:

ZD9AH Tristan Da Cunha;

5R8HT and 5R8X Madagascar: the latter group is led by big gun DXer Marti Lane and has several other Finnish operators;

C56FR The Gambia;

5X0CW Uganda;

CY0 Sable Island -- has been postponed;

VK0M Macquarie;

9U0A Burundi;

3Y8XSA Antarctica; and

ZL8X Kermadec plus more.

The strongest solar flare in three months erupted from sunspot 1112 on October 16. You can view movies of this from the Solar Dynamics Observatory by visiting <http://spaceweather.com>.

Remember if you hear a possible rare DX station--wfwl=work `em first and worry later. Good luck Dxing !!

Editor's Note: The Rwanda station, 9X0SP, has moved on to Burundi where they are found using 9U0A. This is a group of German operators. Remember, if you send an SASE to Germany for a QSL, you must enclose THREE green stamps because of postage costs.

Editor's Note: While on the topic of Germany, I can report that 36 German stations have signed up to participate in the Thanksgiving Special sponsored by our local chapter of 10-10. The Thanksgiving Special is confined to operations on the 10 meter band.

See you all on the air... and send me your reports of rare and semi-rare DX worked so I can put the information in the next ROADS Report.