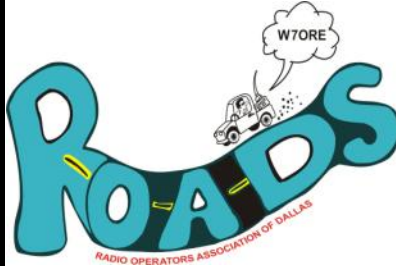


The ROAD Report

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RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION of DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez
by
Bob Peschka, K7QXG

The Editor's Notes
By
Mike—K7CIE



Neighbors can be a real pain if they don't like the sight of antennas in their neighborhood. It is often the appearance of the antenna, rather than actual interference, that generates the complaint. Such is the case with one of our members. It is interesting to note that the neighbor complained about an interference problem while our member was in bed sound asleep. For our next ROADS Report it would be nice to hear from our members about similar situations and how they eventually resolved the issue.

When I lived in Aloha, a nearby ham, W7NI, put up three towers on his lot. He obtained all the proper permits from Washington County first. All three towers were over 100 feet high. He added antennas, including

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As many of you know, Jim Campbell N7WWH and Michael Fuller K7CIE are pursuing the fulfillment of a once-in-a-life time dream of a tower for a beam antenna.

Jim we understand, has selected a spot and has hand dug a hole using just a shovel and other hand instruments. This hole is about 5 foot square by about 8 foot deep. This is a herculean effort undertaken by only a few hams.



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a beam for 80 and another for 40, but he never hooked up a transmitter for more than a month. The complaints came fast and furious. It was a humorous situation because there was no rig connected to any of them, but even more so because the property of W7NI is not in a typical residential neighborhood. He was one block off the Tualatin Valley Highway, right behind Les Scwab Tires! Other industrial businesses abutted W7NI. Of interest, the neighbors never complained about all the industrial noise and smells – just about the three towers. W7NI won out and the towers were there for many, many years. Eventually W7NI drifted away from ham radio contesting and at least two of the towers were removed.

On a more upbeat topic, the propagation continues to improve. Today, Sept. 25th, was the seventh consecutive day with activity on 10 meters. You can read more about it in the Backyard DX column.

Some members are racing against time to get antennas finished and towers installed before the Fall rains arrive. Both N7WWH and K7CIE will be punching holes in the clouds with the tops of their towers. Meanwhile, W7KVT is installing a hex beam as I write this and maybe we can get a report for the November ROADS Report.

Your President has some plans for our members for the months ahead, and the November issue of the Report will contain a summary of most of them.

Don't forget Swaptoberfest.

VE Liaison News
By Ron—W7HO

We started a little later than usual this morning as two of the individuals that were coming to take Tests ended up on at the wrong side of the building trying to get in.

I want to thank the following VE for helping out with the session Trent – W7TDN, Alesa – KA7UGG and John – KE7JNT.

We had the following folks show up for the test:

Gary Halleen from Salem got his Tech License

William Hedlund from Salem got his General License

Barry Swatman from Albany went from no license to being the holder of an Extra.

We were amazed as this is the first time in all the years that I have been doing this that all three Of the individuals got 100% on their first test.

And Gary said he did not think that he was ready.

Barry then went on to take his General test and again aced it with 100%. We then talked him into going for his Extra license and he passed. All three of the folks walked out of there with Big smiles on their faces but no more than Barry.

Ron Schlitzkus, W7HO—VE Liaison for ROADS of Dallas, OR

Backyard DX
by
Bob Peschka, K7QXG

Wow, ten meters sure opened with a bang! Sunday, Sept. 18th, the band opened early and was still active at 7 PM in the evening. Most of the activity came from USA stations, but a CU2 was heard with a strong signal on 28.493. The next day, Monday, found Hawaii booming in on 28.460. Several postings on DX Summit indicated the East coast was working many stations in Europe and Africa on 10 meters.

KE7JNT worked the 4W6A expedition on SSB and got them with the first call on 20 meters, thanks to a tip from KX5W who had just worked them and then called John on the landline.

Sometimes it's a matter of being in the right place at the right time. This afternoon I was sitting at the operating position mulling over my inability to work the 4W6A for a new country. My efforts on 15, 20, and 80 had gone unrewarded. I had just tuned up to 28.495. There was a whisper of a voice, and a quick check of DX Summit on the Internet confirmed that it was the highly prized 4W6A! He was operating split and listening up. He was still weak as KE7JNT called me on the phone at this time. As I whined to John about my plight, the 4W6A sig-

nal began building and building. John could hear him on my speaker over the phone line and told me to call him. So, I fired up the THP amp to 600 watts and joined the chase. About 6 to 7 minutes into the chase the 4W6 came back to WK7QXG. He had my call wrong! It was time for panic! I told him he had the call incorrect and I repeated the correct version twice. He got it right and confirmed it. Of course, John heard all this action. Not long after that the signal began fading ever so slightly and it wasn't long and he was gone. This clearly was a case of being in the right place at the right time.

15 meters has been hot to Europe for the last seven days now, and many of the signals are 58 to 59 on SSB and equally strong on CW and PSK.

WA7MZM has returned to Oregon and perhaps he can punch a few holes in the propagation very soon. W7HO reports working 4W6A on 12 meters, and he said they were loud and clear.

Still no word from the following about whether they worked the expedition: K7CIE (editor note—Mike has worked them on 4 bands—all CW), N7WWH, or W7LOU.

W7KVT, Roger, put up a hex beam with the assistance of KE7JNT,

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WA7MZM, and K7CIE. We will await his report at the next meeting.

4W6A note: Some QSOs are not going into their online log for a couple of days. Most noticeable is the delay of posting CW QSOs. I had worked them on 15 meter CW but it never showed in the log, so after the 10 meter SSB QSO I dropped down to 10 meter CW and worked them there. Once again it did not show in the online log... until today when it and the 15 meter CW QSO both showed! So, after several days of stewing about my inability to work 4W6A on CW, I suddenly find I'm in the log! I guess I forgot that patience is a virtue.

Saturday, September 24th was a landmark day. I was busy putting my homebrew 12 meter ground plane vertical back up when I received a phone call from KE7JNT saying 10 meters had opened up to Europe!!! That was fantastic news. I finished the installation of my 12 meter vertical (it is now 10 feet higher than before) and checked out 10 meters. A quick call snagged ON6IX on 10 SSB, and later was followed with a F4 station. Then the DX disappeared. This was the first opening to Europe on 10 meters for me in 5 years.

I then took time to check out the 12 meter vertical and snagged CO8LY on the first call.

I listened to N7WWH work 7J7ACT on 10 meters on Sunday. Simon wanted Jim's QSL card for the Suffix Award. I had never heard of the Suffix Award so I Googled it. It turns out that there are several different Suffix Awards!

Coming Expeditions

OooooH! There is one in November that I need!!! Nepal. It will feature 13 hams from 3 or 4 countries (Mostly Italy), and 3 stations on the air.

9/25 – 10/10 SV5/LA4GY Dodecanese
 9/26 – 10/4 YJ0ABP Vanuatu
 9/27 – 10/7 3D2R Rotuma
 9/29 – 10/18 A22EW Botswana
 10/19 – 11/9 VK9CX Cocos-Keeling
 11/13 – 11/21 9N0MD Nepal
 11/20 – 12/3 5Z4HW Kenya
 12/14 – 12/31 E44PM Palestine

The E44PM will be a single HB9. Good luck gang. And call me if you hear Nepal.... Day or Night.

De K7QXG



Computer Problem Puzzler....

OK, so I'm not the world's best computer guru who can solve problems with a PC in the wink of an eye. However, I have built a couple of the machines and do nearly all my own trouble shooting.

I am now confronted with a problem at the QTH of KE7JNT and have not been able to resolve it.
THE PROBLEM:

When John goes online, it takes F-O-R-E-V-E-R for the pages to load in the browser and to be able to access links on the pages. They load so slow you could go to the kitchen, make a sandwich and fix a cup of coffee, and come back and still have time to read the morning paper. John's default browser is Internet Explorer, V. 8 running on XP.

All applications that are not internet related load very quickly (as fast as my good work horse that I am typing this column on). WORD opens in a second, and AC 3.0 is super fast at opening. When John clicks on his Dial-up service, it quickly puts him on line. In fact, it's rather fast for a Dial Up. However, the browser takes a long, long time to load and be accessible.

My first step was to clean out old internet files, and that cleansed the PC of about 400 Meg of old history. That helped some, but did

not resolve the problem. Next, a second browser was tried: Mozilla Firefox. Same problem. I wanted to try Google Chrome, but did not think it would offer improvement.

So, the question is whether it's: 1. Phone lines 2. Servers at ATT Dial Up 3. Or the computer. I gave John the computer a couple of years ago and I know what is in it. It was a fast Dell 8100, and still is if you don't open a browser.

I suggested that the next step is to bring the PC to my home and hook it up to DSL again and see how the browsers perform. That would either exclude the PC or focus our attention on it, whichever the case may be. Your thoughts are solicited.

He Said What!????

Recently one of our members was on 10 M SSB in QSO with a ham who had been a Tech for 19 years. Our member gave out the usual station info and the fact that he was running 300 to 400 watts. The Tech promptly chastised our member for violating FCC rules by running more than 200 watts on the Novice/Tech sub band on 10 meters. Our member called me because he did not know if the Tech was right or not. Well, that Tech was **wrong, wrong, wrong!** I pulled out my FCC rule book on Power Limits and read word for word the section that states that **ONLY Techs and Novices are limited to 200 watts between 28.100 and 28.500.** In fact, those

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are the only frequencies they can operate on. Talk about misinformed..... Sigh! K7QXG

Interest in trying the Contesting Experience?

For the fifth year, the Tualatin Valley Contesters (W7TVC) will be meeting at Michael Fullers' residence in Dallas to participate in the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest. It will run from 5:00 pm PST on Friday 28 October 2011 to 4:59:59 pm PST on Sunday 30 October 2011. [0000Z October 29 through 2359Z October 30 2011] For 48 hours (usually in 3 to 4 hours shifts) a logger and an operator will operate an ICOM 756 Pro III and PW-1 using computer logging software (N1MM) trying to bag the most countries on the most bands. We will have a directional Spider-beam which can cover 20-15-10 meters with two wire antennas handling 160-80-40 meters. We can handle two or three people from ROADS who would like to try a serious contesting experience. Please contact mfuller@pictishbeast.net if interested.

Mike has had a different approach. He has borrowed equipment that his contractor is digging his foundation with. That Cat 311 has multiple buckets which allow different sizes of holes for base of his antenna. It is a monster of a digger – We understand that he has dug multiple holes for his antenna and has not created the right one yet. Hi! Hi!

Different techniques for different hams.

