

ROADs REPORT*

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Newsletter of ROADs

AUGUST 2008

PRESIDENT'S SCREED...

Elections are over and done with and we can get on with the next year. However, I would hope that we could get more members involved in the operation of the club.

I am always looking for material to put here in the ROADs REPORT. Let me know what is happening. Something you want to brag about or, perhaps something we should know about. It doesn't have to strictly pertain to radio.

The club was able to put together a Field Day effort this year that went "fairly" smoothly. We set up and operated four stations. Unfortunately not too many people were involved. Same faces as last year. We should do better next year. But we did make a splash in the newspapers.

Speaking of club activities, we will be calling on members to participate in the upcoming Technician Class session in September and Swaptoberfest in October...so be prepared.

Do you see a theme developing here?

Next ROADs Meeting August 14, 2008 at 7:00PM

*****NOTICE*****

NEW MEETING PLACE THIS MONTH ONLY: SECOND FLOOR OF THE FIRE HALL ON COURT STREET IN DALLAS. SOMEONE WILL BE DOWNSTAIRS TO FLAG YOU DOWN AS YOU CIRCLE THE BLOCK.

Next VE Session September 13, 2008 at 9:00AM
We meet and test at the Polk County Court House in Dallas

Check out our web page WWW.W7ORE.COM for details

PRESIDENT	DAVID	KD7VLP
VICE PRESIDENT	BOB	W7LOU
SEC/TREASURER	IRENE	K7IJK
DIRECTOR (1yr)	ABE	W7ABE
DIRECTOR (2yr)	DON	KX5W

DX Commentary by KX5W

A quick way to check what DX is on the bands is to check the DX cluster. There's one on packet and also one on the Internet. Just type in "DX Summit" for a search and click on the first choice that comes up and you see what DX that is currently being heard around the world. The calls on the left are the station reporting the calls on the right are the DX station, with time and frequency also listed. You can use this information to see what part of the world is coming through and to find a new one you may need or want to work.

Not everything is reported on the cluster. The old fashioned way is still better in that when you tune up and down each band, you can only work what you hear, not what they are hearing in Japan. The cluster has created huge pileups on rare DX stations, so if it's listed and rare, there's already a huge pileup. Tuning the band yourself often produces results not listed yet on the cluster.

If you are in a pileup calling a rare DX station, it pays to listen to hear who else is calling and where they are. You may hear many big guns, stations with tall towers and high power on. If you are running 100 watts to a dipole, how can you, a little pistol, compete with them? The answer is outsmart them. Try calling a kc up or down from the frequency--the DX station is hearing so much interference, he may welcome a clearer call up or down a bit. Another technique is call tail ending. Wait until most of the callers stop calling to listen and then give your call sign once. It works sometimes, but don't do it a lot or other DXers will let you know they don't appreciate it. But it's ok once or twice.

Some of the announced upcoming DXPeditions for August '08 are:

Aug 12-29	FK/F5NHJ New Caledonia
Aug 5-25	VP9/IK2RZP Bermuda
Aug 15-16 and Sept 14	ZD8LP Ascension
Aug 6-15	TS1CUBS Tunisia
Aug 8-22	6V7L Senegal
Aug 22-29	VK9CJW Cocos Keeling
Aug 9-23	TK/F5TGR Corsica

See you at our next meeting!!

VE SESSION REPORT BY W7HO

We had a great session on Saturday, While we only had two individuals show up for the testing session they both came ready to take the test.

Martin Winzier - earned his Tech License with a 100% score and even though he had not studied for the General he also took it and missed

having both by two questions. He indicated that he would be back at our next session ready for the General License.

Pat Finger - passed both his Tech and General tests and earned his General License. He also went ahead and took his Extra test and came close. He also indicated that he would attend our next session.

I want to thank the VEs that showed up to help out at the session (Alesa - KA7UGQ, Bob - W7LOU, Trent - W7TDN, and John - KE7JNT).

FOLLOWUP TO THE LAST VE SESSSION:

From: [martin winziers](mailto:martin.winziers@arrl.net)

To: W7HO@arrl.net

Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 7:57 PM

Subject: License Exam

Ron,

I took the technician exam last Saturday and already got my call sign today. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the VEs and other volunteers for donating their time and making the exam possible.

Best regards.

Martin

KE7UYK

Response from W7HO:

Martin,

On behalf of the VE team and ROADS club. I want to be the first to welcome you to the wonderful world of Ham Radio.

Again great job on the test (100%). Hope to hear you on the air in the near future. You will find us on 146.86 2 meter repeater located here in Salem. And there is also a net several of us are part of on 10 meters on 28.350 each Sunday at 11:00 AM local time. You are more than welcome.

By the way the call sign of the VE's at the session were: KA7UGQ, W7LOU, W7TDN, KE7JNT, and W7HO. If you hear any of us on give us a call.

Also the next VE testing session will be September 13th, 2008 again starting at 9:00 AM (same location). Again...great job!

Ron W7HO
ROADS VE Team Liaison

BOB QXG wishes to give away a goodie to the first person to show an interest:

FREE: RigBlaster interface for use with PSK, RTTY, and other digital modes. Very good condition. Has a Yaesu mic plug, but that can be changed to Icom or Kenwood if you have a schematic of your rig's pin out. Contact K7QXG to claim this great item.

Trivia:

There are fourteen states with rainfall greater than Oregon...the difference is that they don't complain about it.

ANON.