

ROADs REPORT©

Newsletter of ROADs
(Radio Operators Association of Dallas)

APRIL 2009

PRESIDENT'S SCREED...

Saw a bunch of finches at the feeder today. My outdoor weather station indicated a max temperature of 63F It did not rain today. Dare I say it? SPRING! This means that when my wife drives me outside to work in the yard and the woods I can wear a tee shirt. Hooray!

Back to the newsletter...

This month we have a serious subject that has been communicated to us by Bonnie AB7ZQ and Kevin KA7KYQ. It concerns possible legislation that could affect hams that transmit from their vehicles. Check it out and contact your local state representative and tell them of your concerns. The second attachment to this email is more information on this matter.

We have another Technician class coming up in May. If you know of anyone that is interested in getting a license let him or her know. We are becoming a popular and effective training club. Let's keep it up. I will do my part by getting the coffee there on time.

I want to thank our regular contributor to this newsletter, Doc KX5W and a semi-regular contributor Bob K7QXG for their efforts this month.

Finally, it is a sad commentary on our membership that, I had to use a non-member contribution for the WWW segment of this newsletter. Bob W6VIB has been involved with ham radio for a long time and I hope to persuade him to become a member soon. Thank you Bob.

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

Check out our web page WWW.W7ORE.COM

ROADs CALENDAR

APR 9	Meeting—K7ABE on antennas Appoint Nomination Committee (Don Bowers)
MAY 1-2	Technician Class
MAY 9	VE Session
MAY 14	Meeting—Batteries Field Day Committee Report, Nomination Committee Report
JUN 11	Meeting--Field Day Final Plans, Elections
JUL 9	Meeting--Dinner Meeting

A communication from Bonnie AB7ZQ and Kevin KA7KYQ,

Five pieces of legislation have been introduced in the Oregon Legislature which have the potential to prohibit operating a two-way radio device while driving an automobile. The three pieces are very similar in how they are written and seek to expand the prohibition passed in 2007, which was limited to drivers under the age of 18. these bills would expand it to all drivers.

Specifically, HB 2377 and SB 319 appear identical, HB 2526 includes a specific fine amount, HB 2038 includes a suspension of their license upon repeat violations, and SB 329 would allow cell phone use if a hands free device is used, like in Washington. Here is specific information on the current status of each bill

Amateur radio operators should send an email or letter to the committee members educating them on the important role Hams play in emergencies etc. Explain why operating an amateur radio is different than a cell phone, and suggest that the legislation be

amended to exempt amateur radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.

***I have attached the full text of her message to this email to help you to follow up on her information. The attachment has a fuller explanation of the legislation and the appropriate members that should receive letters.

DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W

Some of the better upcoming announced DX Peditions in April 2009 are as follows:

Cook Islands E51XBG

Christmas Island VK9XGI

Cambodia XU7MDY

Western Sahara S04R

Guantanamo Bay KG4CN (Work Gitmo while you can--the current administration under Pres Obama plans to shut down KG4.)

Rodriguez Island 3B9/SP2JMR

Angola D2QMN cw, ssb and rtty for you digital buffs

St Barthelemy FJ/EB1HF

Seychelles S79UCX

On the local front, Bob K7QXG reports the purchase of a new linear--Tokyo HyPower and he worked this past week or two mostly barefoot the following: 6Y8; VC3, HK0, P43, TO2; YU1; UA3; S52; SM5; OE3; RN3 and LY1 all in just over 2 hours one morning. He also designed a ground plane vertical for 17 meters with a flat SWR across the band. He also reports working all but one continent on RTTY including J5UAP in Guinea-Bissau. Tnx Bob and I hope to hear from other DXers for future installments in this newsletter. I did hear John KE7JNT in a few pileups the last couple weeks.

If you have ever worked Norfolk Is out in the Pacific, you worked the avid DXer , Jim Smith, VK9NS. Unfortunately Jim passed away a few days ago. I have him in my log about 10 times over the last 50 years on the air. He was a rag chewer besides DXer. He will be missed.

Send any DX related info to me at BDocBowers@cs.com/
CU at the meeting !

Bob K7QXG has submitted this notice for your consideration:

On May 2nd, the 7 QP (7 land QSO Party) will begin at 0001Z. This event has taken place annually for about 4 years now, and each year I have been asked to represent Polk county. I was asked again this year, but may not be able to do so.

The event involves all states in 7 land. It is a major event and draws lots of activity - SSB, CW, and this year a specific category for digital. Even if you do not submit a log, it is considerable fun to hand out contacts. Last year 80 and 40 meter SSB was really hopping, and I expect the same again this year. You may operate fixed or mobile in this event.

You simply give out your county and state to the stations you work. This event is very popular across the United States and the activity from other states provides an interesting time. Of note, the New England states hold a New England QP on the same weekend as a rule, and with both of these events on at the same time, there is no lack of activity. We call "CQ 7QP" and they call "CQ NEQP".

I have received my reminder from K4XL in Bend (I have his email address in case you have any questions), who is one of the state reps that organize the event. It is sponsored by the Central Oregon DX Club. His comments follow:

Hey, Oregon guys, it's that time again....

The 5th annual 7QP will run this year on Saturday, May 2. We have better rules, an outstanding record to uphold, and plaques for the winners.

This year we have added a new mode category - Digital. We can help out all those guys looking for Oregon on RTTY or PSK31. Digital provides another way to get more new operators into the activity.

Here's our April Ham WWWW profile... This one is from Bob K6VIB who is not a member but who was gracious enough to provide this information for our perusal.

1. HOW-WHY-WHERE-WHEN did you get involved in Ham Radio?

At age 14 in Delano CA – my dad had been a ham but had let it expire, and he worked as a broadcast engineer for the Voice of America there in Delano. The year was 1956. I turned 15 about a month after receiving my novice ticket, 5 WPM code required, KN6VIB. Good for only one year in those days and non-renewable!

2. Did you have an Elmer to get you started? Or were you a lone wolf?

As above, my dad was my Elmer and he went ahead and got a new General ticket (W6UEL) when I upgraded to General in 1957. There were 14 engineers at the VoA and all were hams! So I had a lot of Elmer's.

3. What is your current license? Since when?

I have never been "driven" to further upgrade, although I still may one day. Still hold the General class 13 WPM code license for over 50 years now. The additional bandwidth never was a big player to me.

4. Did you, or do you, use radio(s), in some form or another in your work life?

Only for communication from one site to another. I was a test engineer for Lockheed and we tested microwave antennas mostly on outdoor ranges, some as far as 5 miles apart. You have to have your antenna under test in the "far field" to obtain correct data.

4a.If you used radios at work...did your background as a ham give you an advantage?

My work at Lockheed seemed like an extension to Ham Radio – what a lucky guy!

5. Are you active in Ham Radio now? What and how?

Yes, I am most active on PSK31 mode chasing DX. I operate a tiny bit on the 145.29 repeater, but in general, HF using SSB, PSK and

CW. 20 meters seems to be about the best for propagation right now, so that's where I am.

6. What does your shack look like? Is it in your garage, the back bedroom or maybe the cab of your pickup?

My shack and associated gear takes up a lot of the bottom floor of my home. A photo is on QRZ.COM of the main operating gear.

7. What kind of equipment and antennas...etc?

I use Yaesu gear; AMP is a FL-7000. XCVRs, FT-1000D, 2 FT-990's and a FT-100D for Mobile. Home antennas are GAP Titan Vertical and a 700-foot long delta loop at 33 feet. I also have HF dipoles that I put up and take down just for the fun of it. The recent ice and snow storm took down my 700' loop so that is a project for spring.

8. Any major awards, achievements, coups or contacts that you want to brag about in order to make others feel insignificant?

I have always been a casual Ham operator and never put in for any of the awards, although I am sure I could dig out 100 DX cards easy enough for DXCC and WAC.

9. Other hobbies or past-times?

I have a small gun collection and a 1991 Corvette ZR-1 that I like to drive around Oregon sightseeing in the better weather days.

10. Unless your family has lived in Polk County since 1846, how did you end up here in, or around, Polk County?

I am now retired since Jan 1, 2002, and moved here from Lancaster CA in Dec. 2003. My late wife and I had intended to move to Oregon after retirement. Met and married my wife Brenda , February 2008, who is now a ham (KE7VWU). She took the exam at the ROADS meeting area.