

# ROADs REPORT©

Newsletter of ROADs  
(Radio Operators Association of Dallas)

NOVEMBER 2009

## **PRESIDENT'S SCREED...**

I guess winter has stopped playing with us...it has arrived. As I sit here writing this, nearly an inch of rain has fallen since this time yesterday. At least I got my gutters cleaned out before it hit.

Another meeting coming up on the twelfth. ABE K7ABE will be demonstrating some construction techniques using materials that most of us have around the shack or in the garage. Should be interesting...especially for those of us who are less than gifted in the mechanical department.

On the fourteenth, RON W7HO will be putting on another VE testing session...hopefully students from this latest TECH class will show up and pass the exam. Know of anyone who might be interested in getting their license or upgrading their current license. Or how about someone who has let a license lapse...they can come to the VE session for some assistance on re-instating their license.

Now for something different...What do you want from the club? Any suggestions for future programs? An activity that we might want to get into? *e.g.* Fox hunts...construction projects...volunteering our services... Or do you want to come to the meeting to socialize for an hour or so?

Which brings up another subject...Last month when we were discussing ABE's demonstration, we thought it would be wise to bring some tarps in and throw them over the tables in the meeting room. This would prevent the tables from being damaged by scratching or maybe soldering that might be going on. We don't want the county to

be upset with us about how we treat the privilege of using the Commissioner's room.

I think we need our own venue to be able to do things that might not be appropriate in the courthouse, such as construction projects, setting up a club station or maybe a barbecue on a balmy warm summer evening.

So I was thinking that it might be a good time to re-examine the clubhouse project that we more or less dropped a couple of years ago. There does not seem to be any progress working with the Fire Department to obtain the use of the old building at the training facility.

Should we continue to work with the FD and hope that one of these years the voters will approve the bonds that are needed for us to get the building?

Should we approach the FD to see if we might pay a nominal rent to use the building now...rather than later?

Should we look to another alternative? I know that our resources are a bit limited.

Any suggestions are welcome...

We need to at least begin to discuss the matter at future meetings.

How about it?

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<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>DAVID</b>	<b>KD7VLP</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>DON</b>	<b>KX5W</b>
<b>SEC/TREASURER</b>	<b>IRENE</b>	<b>K7IJK</b>
<b>DIRECTOR (1yr)</b>	<b>ABE</b>	<b>W7ABE</b>
<b>DIRECTOR (2yr)</b>	<b>KELLY</b>	<b>KG7G</b>

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Check out our web page [WWW.W7ORE.COM](http://WWW.W7ORE.COM)

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## ROADs CALENDAR

NOV 6-7 Technician Class  
NOV 12 November meeting: Antenna Workshop  
NOV 14 V.E. Testing  
DEC 10 Christmas Party - 6pm  
JAN 9 V.E. Testing  
JAN 14 Appoint Hamfair Committee  
FEB 11 Hamfair Committee  
General Class Plans  
FEB 13 Hamfair  
MAR 5-6 General Class  
MAR 11 Appoint Field Day Committee  
MAR 13 V.E. Testing  
APR 8 Appoint Election Nomination Committee  
Field Day Committee Report  
MAY 8 V.E. Testing  
MAY 13 Election Nomination Committee Report  
Update Field Day Committee  
JUN 10 Elections & Field Day Final Plans  
JUN 25-26 Field Day

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### **DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W**

On a sad note, the whole team of the Bahamas station C6APR of 4 ham operators were killed in a plane crash shortly after taking off in South Carolina. They were going to the Bahamas to work the CQWW SSB contest. The four were Pete W2GJ; Ed K3IXD; Jim K4QQ and Dallas W3PP, all great DXers and Contesters.

Lee KH6BZF (Blumin' Zippper Flipper--from his call sign, as he's known) reports that sunspot 1029 has class B and C solar flares. He says, "the active region's magnetic polarity identifies it as a member of new Solar Cycle 24. If it's growth continues apace, sunspot 1029 could soon become the biggest sunspot of 2009." Of course we all are hoping for increased propagation.

Some of the announced DX Peditions for roughly November include the following:

C9 Mozambique C91BA;

5H Tanzania 5H1NS also on RTTY for you digital ops;

FP Miguelon Nov 7 - 15 (Know K7QXG is looking for that one);

CE0 Easter Island XR0Y thru Nov 15;

TZ Mali TZ6JA thru Nov 23;

XV Vietnam XV4D thru 11/17.

Hope to see you at the next meeting on Nov 12. The program will be on an antenna. Come see and possibly learn something !!

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## **This month we delve into the dark past of Jack Shult W7SCT**

### **1. WHAT-WHY-WHERE-WHEN did you get involved in Ham Radio?**

I was five years old when my Dad gave me a Christmas present of a dry cell battery, 50 feet of wire, a small knife switch, light bulb on a base, and a door bell. I made many circuits and learned basic electricity with a lot of trial and error.

The following year dad brought home a crystal set kit that we put together on the kitchen table. I fell asleep many nights listening to AM radio stations pulled out of the air by when seemed at the time to be magic. One night while listening to Tonight you belong to me a booming voice came in over the music, "W7FCQ Calling CQ" I waited for it to return and sure enough back it came with a report on equipment being used. The following night the same thing happened, I found by tuning around the band I could hear this W7FCQ guy clear of any other station. I spent many nights listening to one side of a conversation that I found out was called Ham Radio. Eight years old in Las Vegas listening to Ham radio on my crystal set, life was good.

About three years later, a friend in the fifth grade was given a ham band radio receiver and we would listen to both sides of the conversations, I wanted to be part of this Ham thing. I started learning code and theory and we both passed our novice test when we were twelve.

I had a paper route that provided funds for the Heathkit DX-60 Transmitter that I built, my parents bought the Hallicrafter receiver, and KN7QAP was on the air! My Ham radio interests turned to Commercial Radio when I helped put a new station on the air, volunteering to help with with the ground system and later a paid position, I was 14.

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

W7FCQ, Although he never knew it until years later. When I work 80 Meter AM I can't help but wonder if I am being received on a Crystal set somewhere in Dallas and the cycle would repeat.

**What is your current license? Since when?**

General Amateur Radio-General Radiotelephone License  
(commercial)

After a long absence I returned to Amateur radio at the beginning of the year as a Technician, then General. I was first assigned the call sign Kilo Echo Seven Zulu Alpha Juliet (yuck). It was worth the price to change to W7SCT.

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

Many commercial radio, AM /FM/TV transmitters

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

Amateur radio was my foundation, it opened the way for Commercial Broadcasting.

**Are you active in Ham Radio now? What and how?**

I am on the air almost every day 160, 80, 20, 2 meters. I am looking forward to the winter months working AM and helping with the Maritime Mobile Service Network on 20 meters

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

At the end of a long workbench in my garage. Easy access for coax and ground strap connections (can be seen on QRZ.COM)

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

Audio is a Yaesu MD-200 followed by EQ-Plus processing using compression and downward expander, efx only. Transceiver Yaesu FT 767GX w/2M module monitored by a Kenwood SM 220 Scope mainly used for AM, Ameritron AL 80-B Amplifier, MFJ 989D Antenna Tuner, and a Diawa CN-801 Power Meter. A 50' Push up mast with Mono band 20, 80, and 160 1/2 wave Inverted Vees, 160 meter full wave loop, and a 2 meter homebrew gama match plumber's delight.

This winter If I can find the right DX-100B or Viking it will have a place in the shack.

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

I worked 30 countries on 20 meters this summer, It made me very happy to be able to push an electron around the world !

**Other hobbies or past-times?**

Living in the country, taking care of five acres with Chickens, ducks, rabbits, and Three Dogs. Minor hobbies, Photography and stained glass.

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

I wanted my Daughter who was 6 when we moved here, to grow up in a place she would be proud to call her home town.

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**A Personal memory by K7QXG**

My how time flies! I just turned 75 the other day and found this old photo while digging through QSL records.

The photo was taken in 1964 in Fossil, Oregon. I had gone there with two other hams on the first Oregon Counties Expedition. K7UXK in Hood River had made arrangements for us to stay with a family in Fossil for the weekend.

We had two stations: I operated 80 meter AM ... remember AM? And did a little 40 meter AM as well. The other two hams, WA7ABW and W7FKF, operated CW only and hung out on 20 meters. An equipment problem forced them to use a chicken wire fence around the chicken pen for a receiving antenna, while transmitting with a vertical.

Things sure have changed...and my body lets me know it all the time.

