

# ROADs REPORT©

Newsletter of ROADs  
(Radio Operators Association of Dallas)

OCTOBER 2009

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

I guess autumn is really here...at least for the next couple of days anyway. As I sit here writing this month's rant, it is about 45 degrees outside...but my wood for the year, at least as much as I am going put up, is cut, split and stacked under cover near the house and out by the shop. I am ready...I hope.

At this next meeting, we will need to finalize planning for Swaptoberfest and the Tech class in November.

I understand we won't know for sure what tables we will have at the fairgrounds until we show up on Friday night. Doc KX5W will want to discuss timing and who will be helping to setup that night and who will be taking care of the table on Saturday.

The class in November should be pretty well organized since ROADs has done this a couple times before.

Finally this month...a little gem suggested by Doc KX5W to help the new students at the next class to gain an insight into the nature of radio:

Albert Einstein, when asked to describe radio, replied:

"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

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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**

- OCT 8 Swaptoberfest Committee Report  
Technician Class Plans  
DVD titled A Tour of ARRL Headquarters
  - OCT 24 Swaptoberfest
  - NOV 6-7 Technician Class
  - NOV 12 Antenna Workshop/Fund Raiser
  - 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**

The bands have been better lately. Heard John KE7JNT and Bob W7LOU waiting on 20 meters for Glorioso to appear. I haven't been able to work the FT5GA--can't hear them. Also heard Ron W7HO

working on 9/15 Paraguay, Brazil & Aruba on 20 phone about the same time I did. Glad to see some club activity !!

Have worked:

Timor-Leste, 4W6AL; South Africa; Malaysia; Nigeria 5N/LZ1QK; Tuvalu T2V ; VU2RMS in India; 7X4AN in Algeria; 92GR Bahrain on 18.122 and a few other more common ones.

DXers with less than 200 countries under their belt should be able to pick up a few new countries on the CQ WorldWide DX SSB contest on October 24 to 25 with it running for 48 hours straight all weekend. Of course it's always the same weekend as our Swaptoberfest-- obviously those planning Swaptoberfest weren't DXers or contesters ! But there's plenty of time after Swaptoberfest to get on for about 27 to 30 hours depending when you leave Rickreall, plus the evening before.

Some announced DX Peditions coming in October include:

Conway Reef 3D2 as 3D20CR

Mayotte FH as TLO7RJ thru 10/22;

Malawi 7Q 7Q7CE and also 7Q7BJ;

Austral FO as TX5SPA;

Midway KH4 as K4M--probably the rarest for this month for most;

Bhutan A5 as A52FJJ thru Oct 20;

Mozambique C9 as C91VM thru Oct 23;

So Georgia VP8 as VP8DIF; and

Easter Island CE0 as XR0Y at the end of Oct to mid November, plus even more.

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## **REPORT FROM RECENT VE TESTING SESSION: Sep 12**

We had four great folks show up for the testing session on September 12th, we even had one person who came all the way from Medford (drove up this morning) to take the Tech test and ended up leaving with a new General License.

We now have four new Ham Radio Operators within our ranks. They were:

Ted Claremont, Philomath - New Tech License <KF7EOZ>

Ken Eshelby, Salem - New Tech License <KF7EOX>

Monte Lauer, Sheridan - New Tech License  
Dan Bell, Medford - New General License

<KF7EOY>  
<KF7EPA>

I want to thank the VE Team for a great morning and a smooth session. Those in attendance were Alesa KA7UGQ, Trent W7TDN and Bob W7LOU.

We should have a busy session at our next session which is scheduled for November 14th as we will also have the folks from the Tech Class from the weekend before joining us.

Ron W7HO  
ROADS VE Team Liasion

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Dan Bell KF7EPA sent a nice note to Ron W7HO:

Ron

It did feel good to pass both tests. I was pretty confident I could pass the technician, but was really not sure about the general. As for equipment, I didn't make it to HRO. I brought my wife and 3 children up with me thinking we would find something fun to do along the way. I suggested we find something fun in Tigard, but we ended up at the aquarium in Newport. We took the long way home and had a nice drive along the coast. I am sure I will get back up to HRO sometime soon.

I sure appreciate your support in getting me into this testing session.

Thanks

Dan KF7EPA

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### **This month's HWWW is from Abe K7ABE...**

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

In 1965 or 66 I inherited an 8'x10' room when my dad built a 4 car shop off of it (I think it was supposed to be the office). In this room I built all of my early equipment from parts dad's friends "gave" me.

\$20 was the most I paid for any one piece of equipment, and that is a lot when \$\$ come from a Grit Paper route.

Oh yeah...The why. Dad's carbon torch tore up my radio listening and I read about spark gap, I was hooked! The carbon rods from carbon/zinc batteries and a nearly dead 12v car battery caused me many burns and much joy. When the battery got low the rod fused to what I was rubbing it on (maybe the metal post on a very short carbon rod?) and the 12V started to boil. The pain from bad burns when the wire I pulled off, after several pulls, and the fear I felt expecting the 12V to explode any time has never been matched. Bad dogs and even gunfire in my direction have never matched the adrenaline rush of my first spark gap radio transmitter.

I learned Ohms Law by committing many violations as resistors smoked and capacitors exploded. By 12 years old I could walk into a room and warn some one to expect a transformer failure (I was used to the smell of overloaded transformers).

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

My first Elmer was Sheldon Cleaver, Sparkly to friends, W3?? (maybe W3SA but I can't remember). This was in 1990 and we both ran radio shops repairing CBs and Ham equipment.. He wanted to know why I had so much business and why the fire, business band, and constables were having me set up their equipment. His main interest was in my electronics training.

Since I was self-taught we had little or no common vocabulary references to electronics. I knew a cap stored electric and a coil changed properties and performance but I did not know what an L/C circuit was (by name). By trial and error using variable caps (and some coils) to improve performance I created filters and tuned circuits without knowing what they were called.

Sheldon would watch me and tell me what it was I was doing. Some times he would ask what I was doing and tell me why it wouldn't work. I would show him how well it worked and tell him "...someone should have told me it wouldn't work before I learned it would..."

[Like many AM radios can be used for sideband by adding a BFO and suppressing the carrier, DSB with reduced or suppressed carrier is what I called it).

### **3. What is your current license? Since when?**

I hold a General Class License that I upgraded to within a week or two of getting my tech ticket back in Feb 2007. The code caused me to lose interest in the 1980s and I let my first ticket expire. A couple VE "friends" offered to help me memorize a "fill in the blanks" test so I could join them as an Advanced or Extra (I worked on their radios) but I don't play that way. I had a hard enough time copying even five words a minute to let someone know I earned my ticket.

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

I have had nine radio shops (well maybe 11 or 12 but I call it a hobby now).

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

Six of my radio shops were before getting a ham license so I would say my radio work helped me get a ham license.

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

I have some activity on 2m FM & SSB but almost all is on HF and most of that close to 4 MHz. A little PSK 31 on HF and some SSTV on 2m. I have never used 70cm, that I can remember.

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

I have five shacks, they are very functional, not pretty. The one with the license on the wall is in my living room in, on, and around the roll top desk. There is one in my shop where the bulk of my electronic equipment is located. And the Grumman has two stations. The station in the metro is the smallest with 2m to 160m capabilities (70cm if I wanted it) but still QRO, if 1.1 KW counts as QRO. My Texas station will be the largest once it is active with a full wave 160m loop and 75m log periodic (pointed this way).

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

With over 80 radios it is too hard to list every thing. My TS-520S gets the most hours spring, summer, and fall. And one of the FT-100Ds gets most of the winter action as I snowbird mobile. The Grumman has the 2nd FT-100D without a separation kit at one station and the IC-738 is at the other station (Think Field Day but also a mobile Special event station). I also have too many antennas to count easy but all I run now are homebrews and Hustlers. And the Hustlers are all getting replaced with homebrews.

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

In the late 80s I enjoyed rag chewing with the same Russians, Spaniards, French, and other friends on 10m most every night. A lot of folks seeking exotic contacts would interrupt us, if they were able (stateside wanting them and Japan, Australia, Asia and Pacific Isles wanting me), but we enjoyed the easy paperwork and each other's company after long days (same time, same station, and same frequency so it was easy to fill in a neglected log the next day). I have never asked for nor received a QSL Card and it annoys me to be interrupted while talking to friends to be asked for one, but I have sent some.

**9. Other hobbies or past-times?**

There are other hobbies??? I like American motorcycles and trucks. I still have 5 Harleys (4 with titles and one bill of sale) and a Gold Wing. Seemed like I kept 7 trucks for years but I am forcing myself to get rid of some. I'm down to 3 and one of them is under the torch getting transformed into a V-8 motorcycle trike.

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

I am a registered voter in Polk County, Texas, but you must mean here. I showed up at the first NO CODE testing session in Feb, 2007 and ya'll haven't figured out how to get rid of me yet. See what happens when you're nice to folks? We, my wife and I, drive, or ride, over from Lebanon. The one hundred-mile round trip is worth it to be around folks we like.