

ROADs REPORT*

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Newsletter of ROADs

JANUARY 2009

PRESIDENT'S SCREED...

Here we go into the new year... Things can only get better?

Can't think of anything else to say...besides we are running out of room in this newsletter.

Don't forget the meeting this Thursday January 8 at 1900.

Check out our web page: WWW.W7ORE.COM

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

**We meet and test at the Polk County Court House in Dallas
Second Thursday of the month 7:00 PM**

ROADs CALENDAR

JAN 8, 2009	2 Meter Antenna Presentation (Abe)
JAN 10, 2009	VE SESSION
FEB 12, 2009	Program (?)
MAR 6-7, 2009	General Class
MAR 12, 2009	Create Field Day Committee CERT Communication Training
MAR 14, 2009	VE SESSION
APR 9, 2009	Field Day Committee Report Appoint Nomination Committee (Don Bowers)
MAY 14, 2009	Field Day Committee Report, Nomination Committee Report
JUN 11, 2009	Field Day Final Plans, Elections
JUL 9, 2009	Dinner Meeting – Murphy's Grill

DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W

Some of the upcoming announced DX Peditions for/in January include:

Bangladesh S21RG

West Malaysia 9M2TI

Chad TT8SK

Morocco CN89NY

Ivory Coast TU8/F4EGS

Bhutan A52RY

Palestine E44M

Guam KH2/K1HP.

There are new Canadian prefixes on the air now from Jan 1 thru Feb 28. It's not DX,so if you hear these it's just Canada. This is in commemoration of Galileo's first use of an optical telescope and other discoveries thru his lifetime.

The temporary prefixes are CG for VE's; CF for VA's; CH for VO's and CI for VY's.

More info on this is at <http://www.hamiya2009.info>.

Some good DX worked recently in December included VK0BP; EL2DX; A71BR; TA1AN; JY5CC A92BND.

Mike K7CIE's Beam Antenna Busted from Ice and Snow

RIP - 6 September to 20 December 2008

Many hams have visited my home on Oakdale Road and saw my G3TXQ designed Broadband Hexagonal Beam Antenna. Many comments centered on the fact that it looks like an upside down umbrella or an old outdoor clothesline. It was the first beam antenna that I had built.

The project to build this antenna was started in June of 2006. At first, the "hexbeam" was the classic "W" type. After the beam was almost ready for assembly, I read an interesting article about a new design for Broadband Hexagonal Beam Antenna by G3TXQ. I decided to modify / change my original design to the new style. The primary modification involved lengthening the

fiberglass spreaders and some “point to point” stringing of antenna wire and spacers. I spent many hours on this project and on 6 September it was installed on the top of my small tower.

I do not really know exactly what happened to the hexbeam antenna. It was apparent that the ice and snow caused multiple failures of the fiberglass structure and spreaders. All but one of the places where I spliced in a section for additional length failed as well as the center post. Where the center post failed it was $\frac{1}{2}$ inch fiberglass (2 each of $\frac{1}{4}$ ” thick fiberglass tubes bonded together with 5200 Marine adhesive). I believe that the strain on the antenna must have been great and the cold temperatures made the fiberglass brittle. It appears like the center post snapped off of my tower and the antenna fell to the ground. I am uncertain if the spreaders failed before or after the antenna’s fall from the tower.



I have not decided if I will rebuild this hexbeam.

WINDOWS 7 IS COMING...K7QXG

The long awaited replacement for the unwanted Vista platform is headed for consumers within the next year. In fact, some Beta testing has already taken place, and there will much more of the same in 2009.

Many see this "new" product as salvation from Vista, which was a program that was ham radio unfriendly...not to mention unfriendly to many printers and other peripherals.

So what can you expect from Windows 7? Well, let me sum it up this way. I have a son who works for Microsoft, and when Vista came out, he said, "Dad, what ever you do, don't ever put Vista on any of your three computers!" He was very emphatic about it. When I last discussed the pending arrival of Windows 7 he had many good things to say about it and did not include a "Don't you do that" warning.

I'm not a computer guru, but I manage to hold my own with them - some of the time. I have built some computers of my own; I have assisted other people with numerous types of computer problems, and I still write my own HTML code for my web site.

I try to stay abreast of the latest good things and the bad things that are in today's machines. To do this I subscribe to certain computer publications, including PC World. This month's issue of that magazine has an extensive article about the forthcoming Windows 7. Every ham who owns a computer should read it. It is a real eye opener. Essentially, Windows 7 is more Vista, but just wearing a different set of clothes. Some Vista problems have been resolved, but others lie just beneath the surface waiting to surprise the unwary ham.

So, what are your options? If you want to stay with two solid systems, instead of switching to Linux or Mac, then stay with XP (or even WIN 98 SE). Or, try Vista. It won't kill you, but you may need to buy a new printer and other software. On the other hand you could give "Vista Two" a try, but make lots of backups.