

ROADs REPORT*

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Newsletter of ROADs

OCTOBER 2008

PRESIDENT'S SCREED...

It's raining...we must be in Oregon.

Thanks to Don KX5W and Bob K7QXG for contributions this month. Contributions are always welcome.

W7LOU will be sending around a sign up sheet at the meeting for volunteers to hold down the fort at Swaptoberfest. It is just a few hours of your time...a great opportunity to see people you know without having to exert any energy. Just sit at the booth and wait for them to wander by.

The Swaptoberfest booths have been assigned and ROADs will be located just inside the front door on the wall to the left as you go into the hall. I was told that this is a good site. Good exposure I would imagine.

See you at the meeting.

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

R.O.A.D.s ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2008-2009

OCT 9, 2008	Swaptoberfest Committee Report C.E.R.T. Update
NOV 13, 2008	Auction & Social Meeting
DEC 11, 2008	Dinner Meeting @ Bert's
JAN 8, 2009	2 Meter Antenna Presentation (Abe)
FEB 12, 2009	Program (?)
MAR 12, 2009	Create Field Day Committee CERT Communication Training
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

A note from the Coast:

One of the charter members of ROADS , Steve Pickering KW7DSP is running for a public office. KW7DSP is well into a campaign to win one of four available seats on the Coos Bay City Council. This will be an interesting race as there are three candidates for Mayor and nine candidates vying for the four city council seats. One of the tasks KW7DSP will tackle is increasing the level of amateur radio involvement in the city.

Cheap Waveguide Antennas for VHF and WI_FI Made from Coffee Cans

By: K7QXG, Bob Peschka

Credit: KD7RCG, Greg Rehm www.turnpoint.net/wireless)

For the "Smile Of The Day", I suggest you look up Greg's call, KD7RCG, on QRZ.com. The photo is worth a dozen smiles.

So what lunatic idea have I come up with for this winter's construction project? It's a waveguide antenna that you can build from coffee cans, among other things. There are several ideas floating around the internet for constructing waveguide antennas for WiFi, using Pringles Potato Chip cans, coffee cans, and beef stew cans. I found

the most useful and interesting information at Greg's web site which is listed above.

Yes, I know that only one or two members of ROADS use WiFi, besides myself, but you can use the formula to build some nifty waveguides for 440 and higher... it just requires a slightly larger can. Maybe even a 5 gallon steel paint can, but what -the-hey, when you're building something like this, size doesn't matter - right?

For a first hand review, visit the web site:

www.turnpoint.net/wireless/antennas/mycoffeecan.html

Now follow the links to some of the other web pages that provide extensive formulas.

If you prefer to start with a WiFi waveguide, and, later in the year, work your way up to one for 20 meter DXing, you can use these figures:

Diameter of can: 6.05"

Length of can: 6.67"

Distance from back of can to driven element: 1.37"

These figures are for WiFi, not for 20 meter DXing. For that one you need a 10 foot piece of galvanized steel culvert tubing that is 4 feet in diameter and a lid to weld on one end.

Greg built one for WiFi using the Flickenger design, which uses a Folgers "Classic Roast" can. Greg then built one of his own design using an MJB "Premium Coffee" can. He says Premium is better than Classic. He mentions that MJB probably stands for some cool wireless technology like "MoJo Bandwidth".

Greg did some extensive comparison testing using a Pringles can, coffee cans, and a Nalley "Big Chunk " Beef Stew can, among others. The Nalley's can won the comparison test hands down. You need the Nalley's 40 oz. can, which will have a diameter of 3.87" and a length of 6". The driven element should be installed 1.78" from the back of the can.

The aforementioned dimensions will produce an excellent WiFi waveguide antenna, but all the principles can be adapted to 440 MHz. I am sure this would make a most interesting club project for this winter's building season.

As many of you know, last winter season I homebrewed a 2 el yagi for 17 meters, and worked Spain with it on the first try. It was on an 11 foot mast. It proved too cumbersome so I dismantled it and built a Mini Moxon for 17 meters. Performance was not all that great. So, I then tore it apart and built a full size Moxon for 17 meters, but it was too cumbersome and performance was only so-so. I then dismantled it and built a ground plane vertical, which has proven to be a red hot performer. The base is mounted on a mast at 28 feet and it uses just 4 radials. All dimensions available upon request.

So, with that I'm going to sign off and adjourn to my work bench where two projects await me. One of them is a waveguide antenna for WiFi. Stop by...your advice is always unwelcome, as usual.

My thanks to Greg Rehm for use of portions of his web pages

DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W

If you tune the band and find a pileup for a DX station or find it listed on a dx cluster you must find the DX station itself. Once that is accomplished you then must discover the operator's pattern or it will be a very long day trying to get a QSO.

Typically one pattern on phone is the DX station works one or two stations, then moves his listening frequency up one or two kilohertz and works one or two more. If you can anticipate this and put your transmit frequency on the next increment up and call once or twice just after he signs, then you have a good chance of working him even in a big pileup. Otherwise you have the proverbial chance like the snowball in the hot place. (On cw, they usually move 200 or 300 cycles up or down, less than on phone). Get the pattern and work him ASAP as the pileup size grows exponentially to an enormous size, reducing your chances.

Whatever tactics you use, be sure to not tick off the DX station--like calling too long or interfering with the station he is working repeatedly (heard that a lot on the air). If you do, the DX station has 2 possible penalties for you: 1) Ignore you--not work you even though he hears you; or worse, 2) work you and not put you in the log (ouch !) Even in a pileup it's better to be nice and operate correctly.

Now as for reported DX Peditions reported for October 2008, some of them are as follows:

S79TF	Seychelles	Oct 2 to 14
6W7SPACE	Senegal	Oct 4 to 10
T6EE	Afghanistan	Oct 5 to 31
5Z4/G4OHX	Kenya	Oct 6 to 20
VK9DWX	Willis Is	Oct 9 to 27
C56YK	The Gambia	Oct 13 to Nov 9
ZK2DF	Niue	Oct 14 to 31
3B8's	Mauritius	Oct 12 to about 22 (Group of YL ops)

Good DXing and see you at our next meeting !!

There are many methods for predicting the future. For example, you can read horoscopes, tea leaves, tarot cards, or crystal balls. Collectively, these methods are known as "nutty methods." Or you can put well-researched facts into sophisticated computer models, more commonly referred to as "a complete waste of time."

Scott Adams