

ROADs REPORT©

Newsletter of ROADs
(Radio Operators Association of Dallas)

JUNE 2009

PRESIDENT'S SCREED...

The Screed will be a bit light this month...not because I don't have anything to rant about, but because I am tired. Due to the decent weather the past couple of weeks, my wife has me working outside every day... she won't let me come into the house until it is dark---and the days are long. I am pooped. I want ---NEED---more rain.

A personal note...we had a herd(?) of six peacocks/hens pass by the house. They came over to eat lunch then meandered down the drive to somewhere else for supper. I guess.

Don't forget our meeting on Thursday June 11th at the Courthouse...1900 hours.

Elections...time to tar and feather the rascals and vote them out of office.

Don't forget Field Day on the last weekend of the month.

On Saturday, ROADs will be showing the flag (actually our banner) in the Wal-Mart parking lot between 1000-1400...we have been invited to participate in the Safety event that Wal-Mart puts on every year. We will have a booth with radios, and everything. Jim N7WWH is the contact person and will be discussing it at the meeting and looking for volunteers.

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

JUN 11	Meeting--Field Day Final Plans Elections
JUL 9	Meeting--Dinner Meeting – Murphy's Grill

Received a recent communication from Steve KW7DSP, late of Polk County and ROADs...He informs me of his current residence in the slammer. His message is as follows:

I'm Going to Jail for Good...

The good of MDA and Jerry's Kids that is. And I will be wearing my Sheriff Joe Arpaio Autographed Pink Boxers

My bail is \$1,600.00. If you can't make the whole amount, \$100.00, \$50.00 or \$25.00 will help. For what I'm worth even \$1.00 is good. I need bailed out by June 25th of 2009. I'll be at Dave's Pizza in North Bend Oregon until I "Raise My Bail". Cash or Check donations may go to P.O. Box 88 Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

<https://www.joinmda.org/coosbay09/stevepickering>

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DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W

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If you know the MUF (maximum usable frequency) at any given time, you know what bands are actually open even though you don't hear anything. We get used to believing 10 and 12 and 15 meters are not open but they are sometimes, even with these poor conditions. An interesting web site on the subject gives the MUF for the whole world at ***<http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.php>***. I don't pretend to

understand all of it but it could be interesting for some of you out there in radio land.

I saw on page 30 of the newest CQ Magazine that Bob Locher W9KNI who is a very big DXer and author of several DX books including The Complete DXer, now lives in Grants Pass, Oregon. I drove down there to Rogue River to set up my cousin (she is very happy with the rig) with a radio and antenna last weekend and had I known Bob was down there in the vicinity would have looked him up--probably next time. See some of his antennas on page 30 of CQ (drool).

Some DX that I worked in the last couple of weeks include Indonesia YB4IR; 9M6JC Malaysia; some Russians; CN8KD Morocco; ZS6AY So Africa; and Greenland OX3WS. Couldn't hear the SV5 in Dodecanese (really rare) reportedly on the cluster, with my Windom wire antenna or my sick small beam tuned to 13 MHz (as Mike KA7HBB found the other day, instead of 14 MHz).

Some of the announced DXPeditions for June include

S21XR Bangladesh

TZ6EI in Mali, Africa

ZY0F in Fernando de Norona

VP2MRT in Montserrat

3D2YA in Fiji

C21TI in Nauru.

Also, Marti Lane, big DXer OH2BH is in the Azores using the call CU2KG and had a brief conversation with him on May 27 at 2308Z. So there is some DX out there but it's not as easy as when the propagation is better in the winter and higher in the cycle. The experts can't make up their minds if we are at the end of cycle 23 or the beginning of 24--either way, the conditions are crummy. See you at the next meeting and let's do FIELD DAY !!!

This month the WWW is from Roger W7KVT...

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

I grew up in the 30's and was weaned on broadcast radio. My dad was interested in radio from it's beginning so he helped me build a few crystal sets. From there I gravitated to short wave and finally ham radio. A neighbor returned from WW2 in 1948 and immediately

erected a Zepp antenna from his garage to his house. Shortly weird sounds and glows emanated from his garage ham shack. From that point I was hooked. The Korean Conflict interrupted my quest for a ham ticket, but was finally licensed as K6GOC a few months after my discharge in 1954.

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

Guess I was pretty much a lone wolf except for the encouragement of my neighbor, W6WLY.

What is your current license? Since when?

My current license is Extra Class, issued in 2003. When we moved here to Oregon in 1975 I was required to apply for a 7 area call sign and was surprised to receive W7KVT.

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

My military service involved both radio and radar maintenance. The last 20 years of work was with the Oregon DOT Communications Unit servicing radio and microwave communications. I think I've been to every mountain top and remote location in Oregon!

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

Yes it sure did. When I interviewed for the state job my future boss was a ham as were most of the technicians. I have almost always used home brew equipment and the building experience was really a valuable asset.

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

Yes I'm on the air a little most days and at least spend some time copying code. I operate CW almost exclusively. I'm still building ham gear and have a new solid state CW receiver under construction. I actually spend more time with a soldering iron than with a key!

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

I'm very fortunate because as the result of a recent remodel I was able to include a 10X10 room designed for a ham shack/electronics

shop. It's nice to have all my gear in one place. I can monitor the band while I work on equipment.

What kind of equipment and antennas...etc?

I don't have any fancy stuff. At the moment my main transceiver is a 40+ year old Cubic 103. I also have a home brew 3-400Z linear amplifier as well as a WW2 station consisting of a BC-348L and an AN/ARC-5 T-19 transmitter. The antennas are an AV-18HT vertical and a home brew 3 element 20 meter collinear up about 35 ft.

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

No not really. I have worked most of the same DX as everyone else and don't really chase awards. I'm currently the President of the Beaver State Chapter #108 of the QCWA, my only claim to fame and as soon as I can con someone else to take the job I'll retire from that!

Other hobbies or past-times?

I have a 20 ft fishing boat and I do like going out of Newport after salmon and halibut. We also crab whenever we can. The XYL and I used to fish commercially out of Charleston, on the So. Oregon Coast.

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

While I worked for the State, we lived in Salem and I got the bug to grow wine grapes and move to a hill-top site for better antenna coverage. We accomplished both when we bought 10 acres on Richardson Rd, just off Oakdale Rd. in 1990. We moved to Dallas in Jan. of 1991 when our home here was completed.