

# ROADs REPORT\*

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## Newsletter of ROADs SEPTEMBER 2008

### PRESIDENT'S SCREED...

Another month has gone by and it is already time to bring up wood for the wood stove. Where did the summer go?

We put on the Technician class last weekend and it appeared to be a success with six students. However, I have one comment to make about the class. Did anyone, that was there, notice that the average age was a bit above 65 years? Why can't we get some young punks, say around 40 or 50 years old to take the class and get a license? Any ideas?

There has been a suggestion to have a general class after the first of the year. Any comments?

No one, except Doc KX5W has contributed anything for the newsletter so will close early for this month.

See you at the meeting.

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Next ROADs Meeting      September, 11 2008 at 7:00PM  
Next VE Session          September 13, 2008 at 9:00AM  
We meet and test at the Polk County Court House in Dallas

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

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

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### Technician class...

The latest Technician class was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September. I want to thank all those who participated in the process.

Bob W7LOU and Irene K7IJK did an outstanding job of organizing the nuts and bolts of the operation. Then there was Nate W7NAT, without whom we could not have presented the class---a special thanks.

Instructors included Chris W7CLP, Abe K7ABE, Nate W7NAT, Bob K7QXG, and Mike KA7HBB. All of you stepped up and did a great job. The ROADS club thanks you for your efforts.

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## **DX COMMENTARY by Doc KX5W**

Dxing and propagation is usually the worst during the summer with skip short. That's about over now and the fall and winter always picks up. I've worked a few Japanese and South American stations this last month on 10 meters and will be glad when 10 comes back full bore, it's less crowded and great for DX when it's up and running. Haven't heard from any other club members this month as to DX worked.

With postage high these days, there are several ways to receive QSLs from DX stations you work. You can use the QSL Bureau and wait from one to five years for a response, which is too slow for most of us; you can send IRC's (International Reply Coupons) obtainable at some of the bigger post offices, not all; you can send green stamps (the US dollar bills) or you can send that DX country's actual postage already stuck on the envelope you send with your QSL card. I use the other country's postage the most through a service by Bill Plum out on the East Coast. He sends me the current postage for a first class envelope to whatever country I ask for. I send him a check and an order for say 10 country's postage and in a few days I get the different stamps in the mail.

This can be speeded up by ordering the next time on the phone or by email so the wait for the stamps is less. I have a high percentage of return using this method from the DX stations. All they do at their end is put a QSL in the return envelope with my name and address and their own postage already on it--easy for them. This saves me \$\$\$. Most DX stations these days want \$3 to \$5 for one little QSL card. If the return postage cost's me \$2.15 then I've not sent cash and saved a dollar or two for EACH one sent out. PLUMDX is the service by William J Plum at 12 Glenn Road, Flemington, NJ 08822 and his phone is 908-788-1020; and email is plumdx@msn.com. I also know that some DX stations keep your cash (green stamps) without sending you a card; the employees of some countries steal green stamps sent to their postal service and IRCs too, so the worst with a self addressed stamped envelope addressed to me is they have to somehow get the postage that's stuck on an envelope and it's a hassle so there is much less theft this way too.

There are a couple of services now over the computer that have started, the ARRL is pushing LOTW, Log of the World. It's not too good according to

some of us local DXers and for me it's impossible to get on, as I'm not computer literate enough to get on it. Bob K7QXG uses another computer service like LOTW he likes better and more details can be obtained from him if you really want it. But you upload your log into the service and match QSO's with the DX stations who have put their logs in too and then you print out yourself QSLs that matched QSOs in the system. I personally like a real QSL card better.

That's it for now.....good DXing and see you at our next meeting !!!!!

## Some more links from Nate W7NAT

DXCC countries:

<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/1641/countries.html>

Coax information calculator: <http://www.timesmicrowave.com/cgi-bin/calculate.pl>

Electronics classes: <http://www.allaboutcircuits.com/>

Math equations (learning): <http://www.equationsheet.com/index-Equations.html>

Math tutorials: <http://www.intmath.com/>

Basic electronic theory with experiments:

[http://books.google.com/books?id=lrN8wLFL3R4C&pg=PA54&lpg=PA54&dq=average+voltage&source=web&ots=SO6JBz\\_D7t&sig=ri5VqjsNx08JG7aNWaI6Ia4kPCM#PPA12,M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=lrN8wLFL3R4C&pg=PA54&lpg=PA54&dq=average+voltage&source=web&ots=SO6JBz_D7t&sig=ri5VqjsNx08JG7aNWaI6Ia4kPCM#PPA12,M1)

Animations of modulation types: [http://www.williamson-labs.com/480\\_am.htm](http://www.williamson-labs.com/480_am.htm)

Oregon Region Relay Council: <http://www.orrc.org/>

Electronic QSLs: <http://www.eqsl.cc>

FCC license search:

<http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchAdvanced.jsp>

Oregon Emergency information:

[http://pebb.das.state.or.us/OMD/OEM/tech\\_resp/amateur\\_radio.shtml](http://pebb.das.state.or.us/OMD/OEM/tech_resp/amateur_radio.shtml)