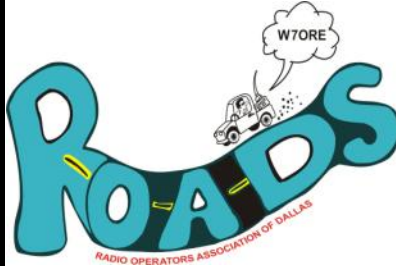


The ROAD Report

Volume 9, Issue 2

September 2011



Editor: Michael Fuller, K7CIE
k7cie@arrl.org

RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION of DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez
by
Bob Peschka, K7QXG

Backyard DX
by
Bob Peschka, K7QXG

The Editor's Notes
By
Mike—K7CIE



It is supposed to be the dog days of summer, but mid August has had some bright spots to liven up the ham bands. This column is going to give a brief recap of what happened at the last meeting so those who did not attend may get a sense of our direction.

The meeting opened promptly at 7 PM and

Continued on page 2

The Spring evenings were filled with many exciting DX chases across 20 meters on SSB, CW and digital. It wasn't even necessary to pursue them because they usually called you. Well folks, it's over with now. The bands are in their usual summer doldrums posture, but a brief peek at what is to come popped up on August 18th in mid-day with a few very strong signals from Europe on 20 CW. ON4UN was his usual S9 plus, and HA3FTA was close behind. LZ stations were strong, and on 15 meters a couple of DX stations livened things up.

All this activity will become commonplace

Continued on page 3

QRR

This evening, the editor received a call from Steve Pickering - KW7DSP. One of the local food banks - H2O (Help and Hope to Others) has suspended their food box operations due to lack of protein items. There is an urgent immediate need for protein items like canned turkey, chicken, tuna, salmon, chili, spaghetti, ravioli, etc. If this organization is like other local groups - there is a shortage for all other types of food stuffs too. These are very hard times for people in our community that depend upon these food boxes. Could we please show what the

Continued on page 2

The Prez Sez

Continued from page 1

was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Everyone learned the "DX Greeting Of The Month", which was *Zdrastvuitye*, a common Russian greeting. Next time I will have something a little more exotic.

After a recap of the Treasurer's report, we moved on to discussions about Swaptoberfest. KW7DSP, Steve, volunteered to take charge of our involvement and will have more information at the October meeting.

It was mentioned that for September we dine out at Abbey's Pizza and there will be no business meeting.

After a few other minor items we moved on to the "Program", which was the Mystery Challenge. Those in attendance were divided into three teams, and each team was given a sealed paper bag. The contents were as follows: Orange twine to simulate #14 copper wire; a short piece of coax, which was to simulate a 100 foot length of RG-8X; a tape measure; and a scrap of paper with a frequency on it. When the teams were told to begin, they were to open the bag and then construct a half wave dipole for that frequency.

All frequencies were for the 10 meter band, and all were fairly close to each other.

Of course, none were given the formula

Continued on page 3

The Editor's Notes

Continued from Page 1

ROADS club can do to help people in need in our community? Your fully tax deductible contributions can be delivered to: Help and Hope to Others, 451 SE Maple Street, Dallas, OR 97338 or Phone (503) 831-4736 Or if it is more convenient for you to bring foodstuffs to the next meeting,

This last month I was very busy planning for a new house. It is our plan to live in it as long as we can. One of the important areas in this house is "Michael's Room" which has provision for my main hobby of amateur radio. Part of this over-all house plan is a grounding system for my station and a base for a new tower.

It has very interesting to me to explain to various contractors about what is amateur radio, what do amateur radio operators do and why do we need this "stuff". I have found quite a few misconception and confusion. It appears that most people confuse amateur radio operators with Citizens' Band radio operators. I try to explain that we are licensed radio operators who have to pass progressively harder government tests to earn rights and privileges to operate on different frequencies or bands. Below are some of the

Continued on page 6

The Prez Sez
Continued from page 2

for determining the correct length of the dipole. Because twine stretches, the length was allowed to be plus or minus one inch.

Team 1 finished first by a minute and they and team 3 had the correct dimensions.

Of interest, the lengths should have all been 16 feet 6 inches, plus or minus an inch.

Just so no one forgets, when you make a half wave dipole you get the correct wire length by dividing 468 by the frequency, i.e., $468/28.330$, which equaled 16.51959 ft. on my TI calculator. Everyone gets a pat on the back for a job well done.

The meeting was then adjourned. Coming dinner events are September, December, and April.

de K7QXG, President

More Fun Stuff....

Don't forget October 10th if you are a member of 10-10. That is a one day QSO Party, and there is always a lot of fun with these. We should see some propagation on 10 meters during that part of October.

Another reminder for the CW buffs: The 10-10 Winter QSO Party, which is CW, will take place in November.

Backyard DX
Continued from page 1

when October arrives, and that's only a month away.

KE7JNT received a big fat envelope from the DX bureau with a great collection of cards inside. Most were very colorful, as is typical of European cards, and he even sported one from a 5V7 station (Togo).

K7QXG missed out on Benin, which he needs, because he was camped out at Diamond lake. Oh well, after you have more than 300 confirmed a lot of the excitement and luster fades, but it still would have been a good catch.

Rumor has it that N7WWH and K7CIE have sketched out plans for the installation of 70 foot crankup towers at their QTHs. I supposed they will add the BIG amps after that. In fact, I heard Jim say he is looking for a Henry 5K!!! With a 5 element monobander yagi on 20, at 70 feet, I'm not sure why you need that kind of power, but after surviving a couple of nasty pile ups recently I can understand Jim's ambition.

I completed a rebuild of my home brew 30 meter vertical on Saturday. I added 6 more radials to test it and the SWR was a perfect 1:1. As I write this column, I have not transmitted on it yet, but a brief listening session last night allowed me to hear a few stations through loud atmospherics, in-

Continued on page 4

Backyard DX

Continued from page 3

cluding a R6. The next test requires a few contacts so I can evaluate the signal reports. As all of you know, 30 meters is limited to CW or digital and power is limited to 200 watts.

Much sought after Leste-Timor, 4W, will be on multiple bands from September 16th to September 26th. I need that one for #323 and will be after them on nearly every band they operate on until I get a contact.

About DX Summit – anyone who works DX follows DX Summit on the internet. Few persons know how to use it. If Iraq is posted on 20 meter SSB, and the posting is by a DX station, you most likely won't hear them. You must take a look at the posting station's location. Numerous times a posting by an East coast station means you won't hear the Middle East or Africa here in the Pacific Northwest – especially if you have a modest station like mine.

Remember the Turkey Special?

Its returning this Thanksgiving! There will be one change this year: when you work someone, they will know their point value AND there will be no *minus* points this time. Just like last year, the event requires all contacts to be on 10 meters, any mode. The event begins at 4 PM local time the day before Thanksgiving and ends at 4 PM on the Sunday following Thanksgiving (it is a 4 day event).

Full details will be published in the November newsletter.

Pledge Of Allegiance

Although I am opening our meetings with the Pledge to our flag, it will not be used when we dine out, nor is our VP W7RIS required to use it when he opens ROADS meetings. Since my reasons for using it are based in patriot values, some may interpret my reasons as political. Therefore I won't discuss them in this publication. If you want to know why I open meetings with the Pledge, send me an email asking for an explanation.

K7QXG, President

Your 2011-2012 ROAD's Calendar

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 10 September 2011 | V.E. Testing @ Polk County Courthouse |
| 15 September 2011 | Club Dinner Meeting—6 pm @ Abby's Pizza in Dallas |
| 8-9 October 2011 | Pacific NW VHF Society @ Bend, OR |
| 20 October 2011 | Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House |
| 22 October 2011 | Swap-Tober Fest @ Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall |
| November 2011 | Turkey Ham Radio Contest (tentative) |
| 12 November 2011 | V.E. Testing @ Polk County Courthouse |
| 17 November 2011 | Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House |
| 15 December 2011 | Club Dinner Meeting—6 pm Murphy's in Dallas |
| 14 January 2012 | V.E. Testing @ Polk County Courthouse |
| 19 January 2012 | Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House |
| February 2012 | ZIP Code Ham Radio Contest (tentative) |
| 16 February 2012 | Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House |
| 10 March 2012 | V.E. Testing @ Polk County Courthouse |
| 15 March 2012 | Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House |
| 19 April 2012 | Club Meeting - 6 pm @ Café 22 (Highway 22 in Salem) |
| 12 May 2012 | V.E. Testing @ Polk County Courthouse |
| 17 May 2012 | Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House |
| 1-3 June 2012 | Sea-Pac—NW Division ARRL Convention @ Seaside, OR |
| 21 June 2012 | Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House |
| 23-24 June 2012 | Field Day |

Be sure to mark your calendars so you will not miss any meetings. We will try to keep you advised of any changes or additions to this year calendar. If you have something that should be added to the calendar—please drop a note to your fearless editor—k7cie@arrl.org. This calendar will be published again only when there has been significant changes to the ROAD's Calendar. Please keep this copy !

The Editor's Notes

Continued from Page 2

questions, comments, and advice that I have received.

I was asked about "how many channels my radio could operate on?" This person then confided to me that his brother-in-law can work 40 channels. He had a "handle" (name) that he used on the air of "nightfall". **And** didn't I know that you are never supposed to use your real name on the air. I was told you really don't need any tests or anything. Would I like his brother-in-law name and phone number? He can really tell me how it is done. (He kind of laughed at me for taking tests when you really don't need too.)

I explained to another person that with being an amateur radio operator, my antenna and tower help me talk to other people and countries. He confided with me that he had a friend who talked with Australia and he knew that was illegal too. He asked me if I am hiding my antenna up here so I won't get caught.

To another person I explained that I used Morse code (sending dots and dashes) to talk to other people. This person knew of a guy in Dallas that was really into amateur radio and could fix me up. He could sell me a rig that I could "talk" other people on. These radio didn't even cost that much and I could put one

in my car if I wanted. I would not have to use many of these "codes" any more – I just could talk to people.

Another person asked about how much I power I used. I responded that I used sometime 1,000 watts. He told me a long story about his uncle who was a truck driver that was fined for using too much power on his radio and I should be careful or I could be caught.

I could go on, but I think I made my point. Some people are very knowledgeable about our hobby. But it appears to me that people have more misinformation about Citizens' Band radio than they have factual information about Amateur Radio. Maybe this next year I will try to educate more people about this wonderful hobby of Amateur Radio. But every time I try too, I instantly bore the crap out of them and they avoid meeting me on the street or anywhere else thereafter. SIGH!



Preview of the Next Club Project
 (sent to me via a mass internet mailing—unknown source)

