

The Road Report

Volume 12, Issue 17
November 2015

Editors:
Troy Greenberg, KF7SEY
kf7sey@gmail.com
Emily Greenberg, KG7ITR
kg7itr@gmail.com



RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez

by

Jack Schult, W7SCT



John Matherson is a professor of history at the local [Montreat Christian College](#). A retired [U.S. Army Colonel](#), he had moved to Black Mountain with his late wife, a native of the town, when she was dying from cancer.

At 4:50 pm. (16:50) [Eastern Standard Time](#) the second Tuesday of May, the phone lines in the town suddenly go dead, along with all the electrical appliances. Just a second before, everything worked; but now, just one second after, virtually nothing does.

Within hours it becomes clear to the residents of Black Mountain that this is no ordinary blackout, and they come to the realization that the power may remain off for a very long time. Every modern electrical device is disabled, destroyed by what Matherson is beginning to suspect is an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack on the United States by unknown attackers.

There are hundreds of stranded motorists whose cars and trucks have simply rolled to a halt on the nearby Interstate highway. Those people make their way into town, where some of them are clearly unwanted by the locals. There is an immediate growing concern about food; the leaders of the community soon begin wondering how these several thousand people are going to be fed for any appreciable length of time. No refrigerators or freezers are running. No trucks are bringing in fresh supplies every day.

There are no AM/FM radio broadcasts, no television, no Internet, and thus, no communication with anyone outside the town is possible. However, two months later, a working antique telephone is set up to connect Black Mountain with the nearby town of [Swannanoa, North Carolina](#).

One year later, the U.S. military arrives to rebuild and aid the town. It is revealed that the EMP that devastated the contiguous United States was generated by three nuclear missiles launched from offshore [container ships](#). One was launched from the [Gulf of Mexico](#) and detonated in the upper atmosphere over Utah, Kansas, and Ohio. The container

ship was sunk by an explosion immediately after the missile launch; no indication remained of who was directly responsible for the attacks. Another missile was fired from off the Icelandic coast and detonated over Russia. Another nuclear missile was detonated over Japan and South Korea. The U.S. government is said to have believed that an alliance between Iran and North Korea was responsible for the attacks, and that the United States attacked Iran and North Korea with nuclear weapons in retaliation. It was also mentioned that the U.S. withdrew all of its overseas military forces back to the United States to aid in rebuilding and humanitarian work. It is also revealed that the EMP attack brought down Air Force One, killing the President.

News from Associated Press? Mercury Theater presentation of the writings of H.G. Wells? Or an all too possible scenario from William R. Forstchen author, One Second After.

Those who attended the last meeting of ROADS know the answer and exchanged information about this along with other topics seldom discussed, even among those who might provide communication when it is needed most.

I have read *One Second After* and with trepidation will be ordering Mr. Forstchen's latest offering *One Year After*. Not for the faint of heart, the subject is real, horrific, essential for planning.

Perhaps Laurance J. Peter had it right "*A man doesn't know what he knows until he knows what he doesn't know.*"

-30-

- Jack W7SCT

Here 'n There

By K7QXG

I've learned that the October ROADS meeting was a great success! Sad to say, I was en-route home from Phoenix, AZ and arrived in Dallas too late for the meeting, but would not have been able to attend the festivities anyway – I came back from AZ with an aggravated case of Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis) and serious upper respiratory infection. I have my great-grandson to thank for this miserable crud. It is highly contagious, and that ended my plans to attend Swaptoberfest and find a bargain or two.

SWAPTOBERFEST

I hoped to have a short recap of ROADS success at the event, but unable to get the info I wanted.

New Projects, Antennas, Rigs

K7LWV has completed his tower installation and topped it off with a very effective beam. To balance his station system he has added a FT-2000D. After that he put an AL-811 amp on line!

How's Your Voice Quality?

It goes without saying that no one in the valley can match the studio quality of **W7SCT, Jack**, when he takes to the airwaves. A quick listen to the Oregon Trail net on Sunday reveals many levels of audio quality, with most falling in the Good to Very Good category. Very clearly Jack's is at the top of the SSB excellence list. If you're not getting the number of replies to your SSB CQs that you think you should, stop by the net on 28.803, any Sunday at noon, and let our group of "experts" tell you how your audio measures

up compared to everyone else.

November Meeting Program

W7RIS will have a presentation on the "Care & Feeding Of Amplifiers"....a lot of tips about what to do when your amplifier decides to quit.

Is Your Glass Half Full?

Lately, with the decline in band conditions that has cut back on those multi-contacts that we would like, I am hearing voices on the air and at coffee saying the bands are "crappy." Hmm, someone's glass is half empty, but mine is half full! There are QSOs waiting for us, but it is now necessary to dig for them; check DX Summit; watch propagation charts; and generally just tune around the bands. While I've been home sick with the Arizona Crud, I've managed some nice contacts each day, using RTTY, CW, and even SSB on occasion. **Of interest, KE7JNT has been making contacts on 10 meter SSB on a regular basis and he had a great time on the 29th when he was called by G4RRA and then by EC7WR.** Following that, USA stations kept him busy. However, if you expect an answer every time you call CQ, it's time to turn off the radio and use your cell phone.

Oregon Trail Net still meets every Sunday at noon on 28.803. With the improving propagation we have had out of area visitors, so stop by if you have time. This IS NOT A FORMAL NET like the traditional ARES 2 meter net. The BS session starts at 11:30 before net time at noon, and the net itself is very relaxed.

FM News ! I have learned that

there have been some nice openings to Japan on **10 meter FM!** Give it a listen between 2 and 4 PM local time.

QSL Anyone?

Next month I'll address the issue of QSL cards – what to do if you don't have any but suddenly need one; how to pry them loose from reluctant stations; and, is it worth it today with LOTW and eQSL available.

- Bob K7QXG



NRA Birthday

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) of Prescott, AZ, will operate a special event station November 17, 2015, from 1500Z to 2400Z in celebration of the NRA's 144th birthday. The special event station will operate from Gunsite Academy's 2,000-acre campus in Paulden, AZ, north of Prescott. The special event call sign will be K7NRA. Operations will be conducted on the following frequencies: 7.250, 14.040, 14.250 and 21.335 MHz. All amateur stations, especially those operated by NRA members and Gunsite alumni, are urged to participate. A special certificate will be awarded to those stations making contact during the event. QSL with a 9 x 12 SASE to:

YARC
P.O. Box 1199
Prescott, AZ 86304

For more information, contact
John Broughton, WB9VGJ
wb9vgj@arrl.net
[928-775-2259](tel:928-775-2259)

thank you Dave WA7MZM for the Email

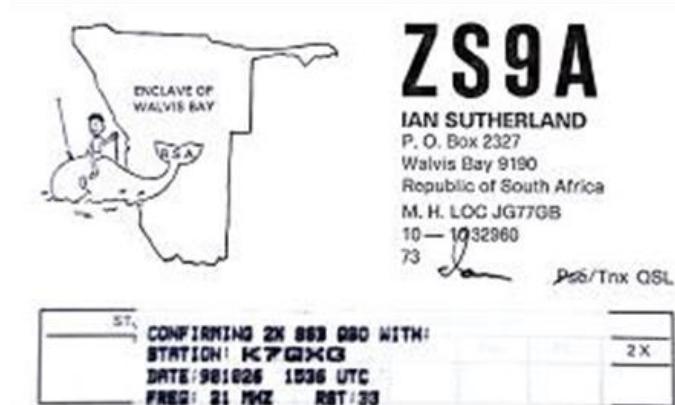
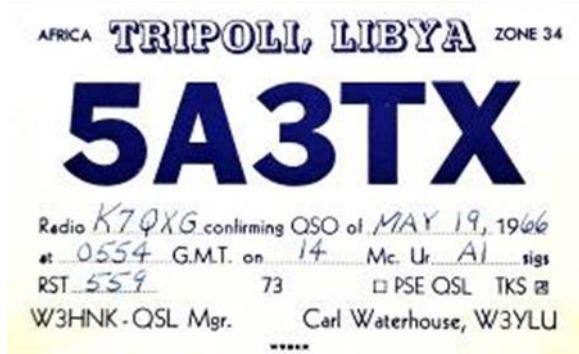
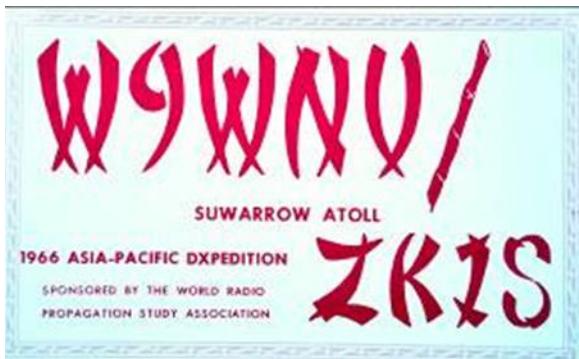
- Troy KF7SEY

BACKYARD DX

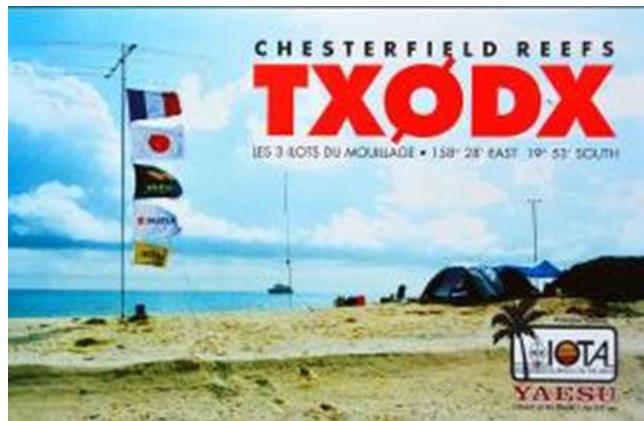
BY K7QXG

This month we will take a peek at some great DX that no one can work because the entities have been deleted or the world political scene makes their capture Impossible!

Again, a little show of QSL cards says it all.



OK, now that we have taken a look at some of the impossible ones, let's take a look at an entity that was on during October.



Next, look for Myanmar to come up during 2016.



Continue Page 5

Finally, we have two interesting deleted entities to close out this presentation.



Now that we have taken a peek at some “collectors’ items”, it is time to move on to current opportunities by reviewing the *Announced Expeditions*. Are there any that you need? Big months will be December, January and March. So here we go, but keep in mind that new ones may appear at any time, and some that are posted may disappear at any time.

Oct 31 – Nov 10: 3W3MD

Vietnam; 20 ops

Nov 4 – Nov 18: 5Z4HW

Kenya; German team

Nov 12 – Nov 23: 3C7GIA

One op; slim chance

Nov 24 – Dec 3: T2TT

Big USA team

Jan 11 – Jan 26: K5P

Palmyra Island, Big team

OK gang, there you have some choice ones. Now, last month I posted five interesting ones along with a comment to notify me if you were able to work all 5 and I would put your call in this column. Sadly, I had a big “oops” moment because 3W3MD doesn’t begin operation until the 31st of October and that is the deadline for getting this column to the Editor/publisher. So, if you worked the remaining four, drop me a note. They were: TX3X, V73D, PY0F and T42US.

DX Worked During October...

It was a “Plus & Minus” month. I was gone to AZ for 9 days (Minus), but found 15 M open nearly every day from the 18th to the 31st (Plus). QSOs: TX3, 7X3, 9K2, V73, PY0F, D4D, FG4, FW5, ZF2, E51 (North), UE25, and of course lots of Europe. V73D was worked using RTTY, SSB, and CW on everything from 10 meters to 80 meters, including 30, 17 and 12 meters.

AE7OA, Mike, caught some of the great openings we are getting and his entities total shot upward and is now at 174 DXCC entities worked.

3W3MD heard on RTTY on Oct. 31, and also Europe stations.

- Bob K7QXG

Tidbit By KF7SEY

A friend of mine sent me a great website for vacuum tubes. As I put it when I forward it to our president being the vintage tube guy he is. “It’s a Gold Mine” here is the link for those of you who are interested. <http://www.tubebooks.org/>

I have already download several to my iPad and am cluttering my brain with technology from the 20’s and 30’s

Enjoy

–Troy KF7SEY

KF7SEY Corner

By Troy KF7SEY

Do you wonder what the bands are capable of when you hear nothing? Are you curious what your antenna can do if there was someone listening across the world? Or maybe you are curious what your new antenna you just built can do. These are things hams would like to know especially DX'ers. Have you heard of WSPR or "whisper"? I could try and give a detail as to what it is but I will leave it to Wikipedia for a better description.

"WSPR (pronounced "whisper") stands for "Weak Signal Propagation Reporter". It is a computer program used for weak-signal radio communication between amateur radio operators. The program was initially written by Joe Taylor, K1JT, but is now open source and is developed by a small team. The program is designed for sending and receiving low-power transmissions to test propagation paths on the MF and HF bands.

WSPR implements a protocol designed for probing potential propagation paths with low-power transmissions.

Transmissions carry a station's callsign, [Maidenhead grid locator](#), and transmitter power in dBm. The program can decode signals with S/N as low as -28 dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth. Stations with internet access can automatically upload their reception reports to a central database called WSPRnet, which includes a mapping facility."

So with that , I will run through how to get setup.

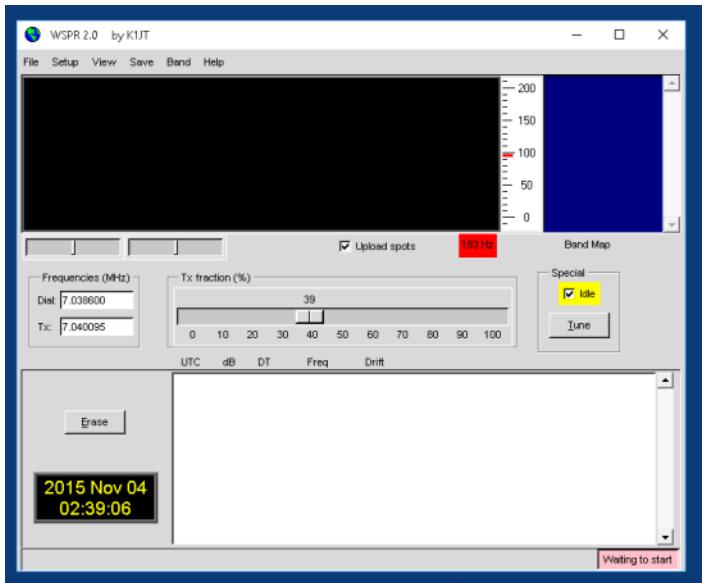
First you will need to download the software.

You will find it here

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wspr.html>

Now this basically works just like any other digital mode, if you have ran JT65 then you will have no problems with this.

After you have got the program setup to work with your radio you are ready to get started.



Set the band you would like to run. Turn off the idle, set TX % to your liking, and watch the magic happen. TX runs for 2 mins and is ok if you are running lower power. I typical set mine to 5 watts.

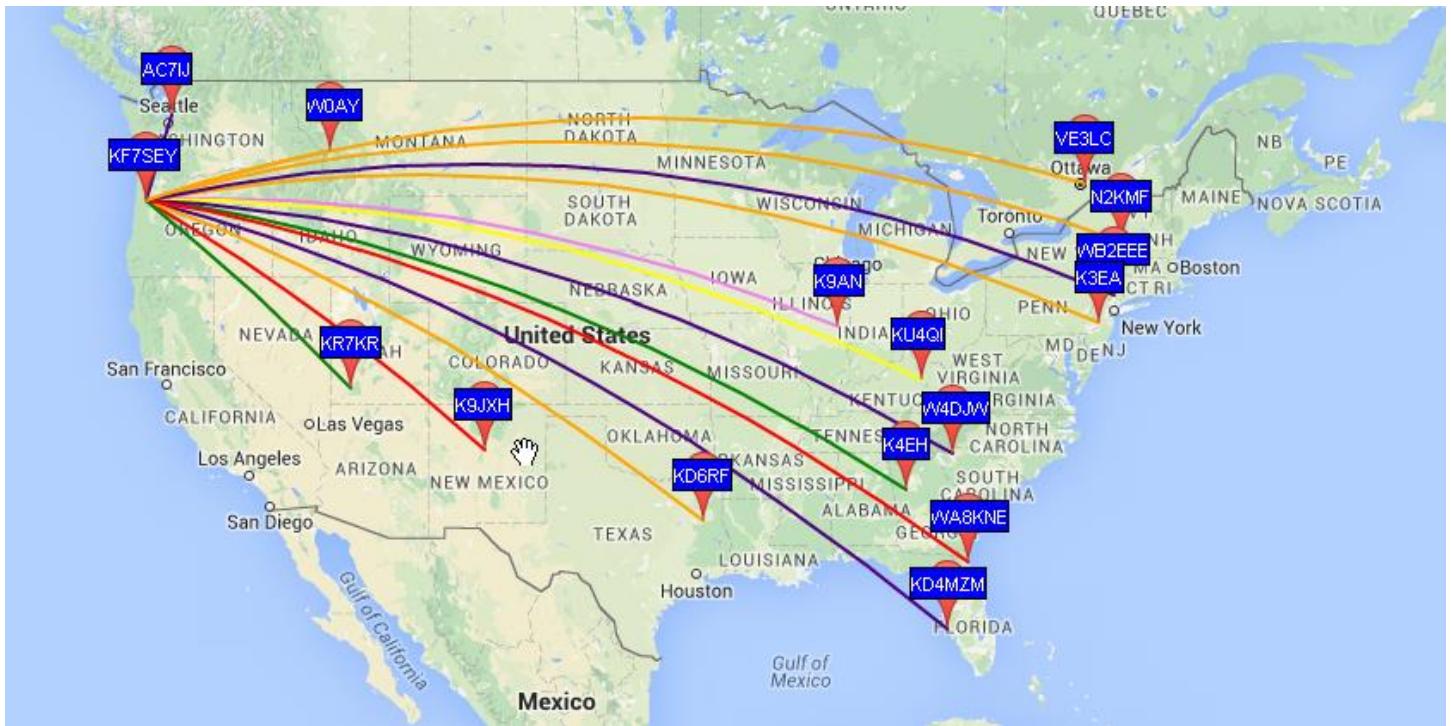
Once you have completed a TX cycle, you will want to head over to the WSPR website.

<http://wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/map>

Type in your call sign and see where your signal went.



Here is an example of one I did just the other day with my Yaesu FT-817 5w with a 40m inverted v
Time was 8:30pm local time



This mode is one of my favorites since I can play even if no one is on the band. The reason it is not required someone to be on the other side is they are just receivers that are setup and listening and are connected to the internet. N7WWH and I have conversations all the time about 10m being open more often than it seems to be. I have listened to ten, found no one there and ran WSPR and signals went out to all over the US. Guess that explains why on a contest weekend 10m magically opens up. So if you are bored or just curious about your propagation, then give it a try. Its fun and easy.

- Troy KF7SEY



Swaptoberfest 2015
Photos taken by Mollie Greenberg



LUCKY ME

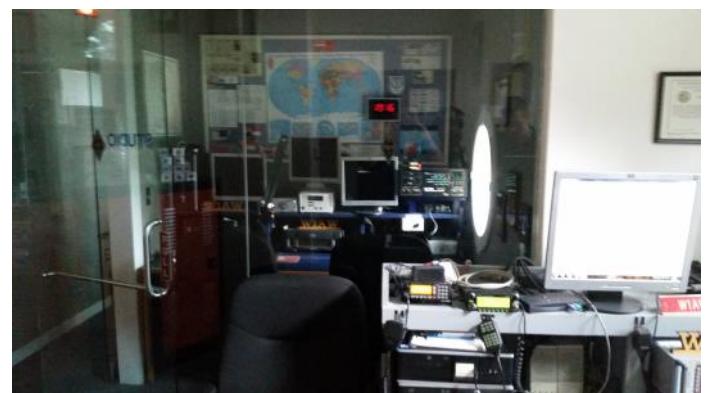
By Troy KF7SEY

A few weeks back I had an opportunity to go back east to East Hartford CT. on business.

This put me about 10 miles away from Newington CT. home of the ARRL headquarters. Unfortunately I was tied up for most of the days and could not make it over there before they closed. Except the final day I had a chance to make it over there just before they closed. I got a chance to tour the W1AW memorial station (did not get a chance to tour the ARRL facility, I was to late. Last tour was over). I got to see all the equipment used for the CW training sessions and CW, Voice, and Digital bulletins. One wall was just Radios and amplifiers. It was a great experience to see. Here are a few photos I snapped along the way.



Of coarse I had to have a lobster dinner while I was out there.



Your 2015 - 2016 Current Club Officers

Position	Name	Callsign	E-Mail	Phone Number
President	Jack Schult	W7SCT	jackschult@msn.com	(503) 831-0756 (503) 881-5836
Vise-President	Mike Shelby	W7RIS	w7ris@arrl.net	(541) 745-7058
Secretary	Troy Greenberg	KF7SEY	kf7sey@gmail.com	(503) 302-5746
Treasurer	Jim Campbell	N7WWH	n7wwh@msn.com	(503) 787-5006
Director 1	Dave Goetz	KT7H	dave@begonias.com	(971) 241-9922
Director 2	Mike Fuller	K7CIE	mfuller@pictishbeast.net	(503) 831-3651

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Roads meeting
7pm