



The Road Report

Volume 12, Issue 18
December 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



The First Broadcast - Christmas Eve 1906

For their entire careers, the **"Sparks"**, the **ship wireless operators** for the United Fruit Company, along with the US Navy, had only heard Morse code "dit - dahs" coming through their headphones. They had been alerted a few days earlier for a special message to come at 9 PM Eastern Time on Christmas Eve. Suddenly they

heard something that made some think they were dreaming, a human voice coming from those headphones. Then they heard singing. There was a violin solo. Then a man made a speech. Some called their captain and ship's officers to come and listen.

The genius responsible was Reginald Fessenden. He had succeeded in transmitting voice and music over the air. Fessenden himself played a violin solo of **"O Holy Night"** accompanying himself as he sang the last verse (below). He also read the Biblical account of the birth of Christ from Luke chapter 2 over the air. The text of the angels' song **"Glory to God in the Highest - and on Earth - Peace to Men of Goodwill "** was heard as if by miracle.

At the conclusion, Fessenden wished all a Merry Christmas and invited the Sparks to write him at Brant Rock, Massachusetts with reception reports. Reports were received from ships along the Atlantic northeast coast and from shore stations as far south as Norfolk, Virginia. A repeat broadcast on New Year's Eve was heard as far south as the West Indies.

A moment of reflection, a snapshot of our herit-

age, provides an emotion that only those few that share this hobby can appreciate. The common wavelength of the sprit of Christmas.

And the Beat Goes On.

Merry Christmas ROADS.

-30-

- Jack W7SCT

Here 'n There

By K7QXG

The Magic Antenna.... Once upon a time there was an old ham who lived on a big ranch outside of Dallas... Oregon that is. He had a magic antenna. Not even a big DXer like W7LOU with his 70 foot tower and 4 element beam could hear some of the stations that the old timer was hearing. This old timer would get so excited when 10 meters was open that his left eye would twitch and his lips would quiver as he called CQ.

Well, one foggy day, when I found the bands in bad shape and mostly dead, I decided to tune across 10 meters to see if any wayward soul was hanging out there. Lo and behold, there was the old timer chatting with someone! At first I thought he was talking to himself, given his age and all, but then I heard a feeble voice reply to the old timer and in short order they exchanged signal reports. The feeble voice cried out "59", "59", which of course astounded me! Even more astonishing was the report the old tim-

er gave the feeble voice: "57", "57"! Now folks, I pondered on this for some time. I was using my very sensitive FT-2000, with all knobs to the right and the preamp set so high it was chattering! My wonder worker A4S beam was pointed right at Mr. Feeble Voice, and I could barely hear him. My S meter did not even flicker and looked like it had been frozen in time. So how was the old timer able to give Mr. Feeble Voice a "57"? He had to have a Magic Antenna! I'm sure that was it. It couldn't be anything else. So, what I want to know now is, where can the rest of us buy one of those Magic Antennas?

Notes From Our Nov Meeting

The November meeting was well attended and the program, presented by **W7RIS** on amplifiers, was excellent. Tuning today's tube type amp requires many of the same skills we all used in the 60's and 70's to tune our transmitters (transceivers were few and far between in those days). Thanks Mike for an outstanding presentation. **December Meeting** is dine out time again in lieu of the usual business meeting and with the Christmas season just around the corner this is my favorite of the year. Our members voted to have the Executive Board select the restaurant and take care of the reservations. It was a solid yes vote, **except** for the E-Board members who voted no. Sorry guys..just be a good sport and do your job. There was some interesting information on the Edison battery, and we also had questions about Field Day. The E-Board will address that issue. The **Treasurer's Report** was most illuminating and **N7WWH** deserves a pat on the back for an excellent report. We have \$895.24 in the checking account and \$3,510.09 in our savings account. ROADS made \$195.85 from sales at Swaptoberfest. It has been proposed that we use some of the savings to set up a station at a retirement home for the elderly hams who live there and have no access to ham equipment. The Dallas Retirement village was specifically mentioned and **N7WWH** will contact **K7AA** to research this idea.

ROADS presently has **33** paid up members.

Oregon Trail chapter of 10-10 continues to pick up new members and recently added DH8OAK for #516. Among some of the regular check-ins on our Sunday net are **W7SCT, W7LOU, AE7OA, N7WWH, WA7MZM, KE7JNT, K7LWV, K7QXG, KX5W, KD7ZLF, W7HO**, and, when conditions permit, **KA9PCU**. Others who make it when they can include **KW7DSP, WB7IEO, K7CIE, KB7PPM, KF7SEY** and, when conditions permit, **N9AC**, along with a few other distant stations. Last winter **ZL3KR** put in a regular appearance every Sunday. Of interest, the Thanksgiving Turkey Special brought in some new members with **DF1AG #75463 O.T. 518** and his club **DF0ELM #76877 O.T. 519** being the last ones.

W7HO, Ron, reports an interesting situation at the **November VE session** when a highly dyslectic woman attempted to take the test. Her visual impairment presented a severe challenge. She did not pass the exam, but it has raised several issues relative to testing folks with this type of disability.

WSPR After reading Troy's article about WSPR in the last issue, I wondered if I could make use of the program. With some trepidation, I jumped into the program and set it up. This is not the fastest program on the planet if you are looking for instant results, but it does produce. The first day I used it the 10 meter band seemed dead with only the "Georgia Beacon" making any noise at all. After running WSPR at 5 watts for ten minutes I found my wimpy signal was making it to the southern states and the New England states. So, I adjusted the FT2000 for

90 watts and began calling CQ. It wasn't long and I had logged several nice QSOs on an otherwise "dead" band! WSPR has proved to be another intriguing tool for the ham operator, and it is also pretty to look at and interesting to play with. **Some advice...BE SURE TO READ THE MANUAL BEFORE YOU INSTALL THE SOFTWARE!!!** Also, uncheck the "Idle" box when you use it or it will not transmit your signal! **AE7OA** reports great results while running 10 watts – His signal was detected in Australia, even though it was radiating off the back of his beam! *Maybe this would be an interesting topic for a future meeting program.*

ARRL Dues Increase Jan.1st

AE7OA reports that the ARRL dues will increase on January 1st from \$39 per year to \$49 per year. I think that is a significant increase. What do you think?

Turkey Hunt Success....

The local members of the 10-10 Oregon Trail chapter had a great time with their "Turkey hunt on the air". **N9AC** scored big as did some of our German members.

- Bob K7QXG

Backyard DX

By K7QXG

Announced Expeditions

DXpeditions of high interest to ROADS DXers will not be QRV until mid-January, 2016. I'll post their schedule in the January issue of the Report.

Meanwhile, locally...

3W3MD, Vietnam DXpedition, is history, but not before three members of ROADS grabbed a contact. **W7LOU**, Bob, worked them on 80 meters!

KE7JNT, John, reeled them in on 15 and 17 meter SSB. **K7QXG**, Bob, did the hat trick and worked them on SSB, CW, and RTTY, using his home brew moxon antenna for SSB on 12 meters and then RTTY and CW on 17 meters.

Where Some Members Stand...

300 or more...

KX5W
K7QXG
KE7JNT

150 – 299

W7LOU
K7CIE
N7WWH
AE7OA

The above represents stations that are currently active on the air and are interested in working DXCC entities.

VK9WA, Willis Island, drew a huge crowd when they hit the air. This entity is #32 on the "Most Wanted" list and there has not been a DXpedition to Willis since 2008, some seven years ago. As I write this, several members of

ROADS are already in the Willis Island log, including **N7WWH**, **AE7OA**, **W7LOU**, **KE7JNT** and **K7QXG**.

The **Bouvet expedition**, which was scheduled for December, is no longer on the DXpedition list. It is unknown why it was withdrawn.

Top Ten Most Wanted DXCC

1. P5 North Korea
2. 3Y/B Bouvet Island
3. VP8S South Sandwich Island
4. FT5W Crozet
5. VK0H Heard
6. FT/J Juan de Nova
7. KH5K Kingman Reef
8. VP8G Georgia Island
9. KH5 Palmyra Island
10. KH1 Baker/Howland

Which ones do you need?

When The Bands Are Good

In one day, off and on, these fell into my net: 9J2, 9X0, C92, PZ5, PJ7, PJ4, PJ2, T2, ZF2, DU1.

QRZ Station Of The Year

Every member of ROADS who has ever worked any DX needs to look up **KB0EO** on QRZ.com. See numerous photos of his 80 foot tower and a huge crane lifting the top section and antennas into place while he coordinates it at the 70 foot level! See him filling out 2000 QSL cards at a table. He has nice photos of his other interests that he pursues in his backyard, i.e., hunting ducks and pheasants and target shooting with his 9mm pistol.

Good Luck and Merry Christmas

- Bob K7QXG

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

DECEMBER 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
				Roads dinner meeting TBD		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		