



The Road Report

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RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez
by
Jack Schult, W7SCT



Curtain going up. Like it or not here comes 2016! Hopefully for the Amateur Radio community it will find us better prepared for the inevitable need for our ability to provide emergency communications. If your shack loses grid power can you get back on the air? *A life saving New Year's resolution suggestion.*

I haven't logged many contacts in the last month. The shack has been cold and the desire to fire up the rig, like QSB, varies in intensity.

Christmas Eve would be a good time to make a few end of the year contacts I thought as I checked the Band Scope for telltale peaks. A few KHZ away I found OF9X. QRZ.com provided the bearing of 013° and the trusty Moxon tracked the signal as if from the station of Santa and Father Frost. A huge pile up awaited my contribution and presented a challenge. After the fourth try I was tempted to switch in my optional Bob Heil HC-4 "Dream Machine" mic cartridge. I prefer to do DX with full fidelity audio, especially during a large pile up with voices resembling a cat having its tail stepped on. I found a calm delivery with alternative sounding audio works most of the time. It did for me on try number 5.

Liking a screeching train coming to a rapid stop the frequency became quiet sans the voice responding "W7SCT this is Marty from the land of Father Christmas at the Arctic Circle, go ahead" I gave a report on the vitals with a quick plug for our hometown. The voice returned "Merry

Christmas Jack, a very strong signal in North Finland, **30 Over!!**” With a smile on my face I returned the wish of Merry Christmas and the gift of 30 Over. The fact that I made the contact on a vintage 55 year old Henry Radio Amplifier that I restored added to the satisfaction, perhaps only those of us in this hobby can appreciate. I talked to the Radio Club of the Arctic this day and just maybe, Santa.....

- Jack W7SCT

KF7SEY Corner

A few months back I did an article on WSPR (whisper). There were a lot of positive response to that and I thank all of you who gave feedback. This month we are going to talk about another new mode that has caught my attention. In the September 2015 QST there is an article on FSQ (Fast Simple QSO). This is a new mode developed by ZL2AFP and ZL1BPU. This new mode works well on HF with 40m and 80m being most popular as it is mostly a local mode due to it working well as a NVIS setup. Will also work with VHF. After reading the QST (and yes I'm that far behind on my reading) I decided I wanted to try this new mode. Now this new mode is not like most digital modes. The one key feature is it is designed to be easy and fast. If you have read the article you probably already know the features and if you haven't, then hopefully this will get you enticed. FSQ is basically a keyboard to keyboard chat, similar to text messaging on a cell phone in which you type

your sentence and then send. The other key features is FSQCALL and is also the name of the software. The software can be downloaded here [FSQCALL](#). It is recommended to use the US version. After I downloaded the software I wanted to setup and try it out. I decided to setup two 2m stations to play. After setting up two radios and two computers. I begin to play with the features. Now when in FSQCALL Mode, it is somewhat an automatic mode or ALE System (Automatic Link Establishment). This allows you to communicate with other stations without there need to do anything. For example if I wanted to know a stations QTH, I would just enter in the window where you type, Callsign@ and their station would automatically transmit QTH back to you. This can be done for several different needs. Signal Report, and QTC are others that can be done. You also can send images. Now you may be asking yourself this doesn't sound fun, "I'm a DX'er". Well if that is you and you are content with the 59, 59, 59 and done, then this mode might not be for you. If you are the kind that like to chat with local 7 area hams then I would suggest giving it a go. After I played with the software I turned on the HF band I started with 40m (7.104 Mhz). First thing I had trouble with is getting the software to work with my FT-950. Something I seemed to always have trouble with. I finally gave up with trying to get it to key via software and setup the VOX, which work flawless. I listened for a moment and heard nothing so I called CQ. After a few moments a gentlemen came back to me. Now I want to point out one thing my Ft-950 was set to 5 Watts and is fed to a 40m inverted V. So we had roughly a 15 min QSO we talked mostly about the mode and that there would be many more locals on in the evening (this QSO was around noon local time) He also welcomed me to the Mode. We exchanged locations and station info. He was located in Beavercreek near Oregon City. I plan on spending more time on this mode as it is something different to do outside the normal modes. It is just another tool to see what propagation is up too.

-Troy KF7SEY

Here 'n There by

Bob K7QXG

ROADS members braved a very stormy night with a torrential downpour of rain to attend the annual Christmas dinner. I counted 19 of us in attendance, including some that had to drive quite a distance in miserable night time conditions. Our ARRL representative was there and I want to thank Bonnie for making the trip. We also had a brand new **ROADS** member present – Warren Gookin – who drove in with his xyl from Kick Back Ridge. I did miss seeing our Founder, W7LOU, Bob Boswell, whose health limits his travel these days. Of course our big DXer, KX5W was present, along with our President W7SCT. Up the table from me was WA7MZM and xyl, while behind me at another table I found W7RIS and KT7H chatting with our new member. And what would one of these dinners be without Nate, W7NAT, and xyl from Salem. I sat next to Hollis, WB7IEO, and his wife Elaine was across the table and not far from AE7OA, Mike and his xyl Barbara. Absent were a few faces that are normally present at these events: KE7JNT, KF7SEY, N7WWH, K7CIE, and Shirley Peschka who was sick and could not attend. KW7DSP is spending the winter in Arizona so it was too far to travel. I think everyone had a good time – I know I sure did – and I look forward to our summer picnic or ice cream social in the park.

Keep in mind that all of this was made possible by our club officers who sure

deserve a pat on the back for their service in 2015.

10-10 News & ROADS members

The Oregon Trail chapter, which counts several local **ROADS** members as part of the group, did very well in the 10-10 Fall Digital Contest and was awarded the 2nd Place In The World certificate for clubs. First place went to the Possum Trot chapter from SE USA.

Sad News To Report....

K6VIB, Bob, who lives on the river in Independence, has **suffered damage to his antenna system due to the winter storms** we have been having. The river rose and flooded part of his property and mother nature turned his 60 foot mast that supports his loop into a big arch. It now looks like a 60 foot fishing pole that has snagged a really big fish in the river. Bob sent me some photos of the flooding and it looks like December 2015 will be one to remember by all of us.

10-10 SSB QSO Party

The first weekend in February 10-10 International holds its Winter SSB QSO Party on 10 meters. It is a 48 hour event, beginning Friday at 4 PM local time and ending on Sunday at 4 PM.

VE Test Session Jan 9

Please contact W7HO, Ron, if you have someone in mind who wants to take the test. If you are a VE, check with Ron to see if he can use your help.

Oregon Trail Net Statistics

2015 was a year that saw some great activity on the Net, but also saw one of the smallest turnouts in memory. The largest number of stations logged occurred on Feb. 8th with 22 calls logged. The smallest was on Dec. 20th with only 9 calls logged. The average for 2015 for all Sunday nets was 14 calls logged per net. Please keep in mind that "calls logged" include club stations, which vary from one to three per net, depending upon time of year and Special Event activities. The greatest activity was in February and March. We had a variety of visitors from all over the USA this year which added to the interest in our Net from "Little D".

So, What Is Your Holy Grail?

Recently this question was posed on an internet web site. What is it that you are diligently searching for that would be the "be all- end all" of your life? One of the first respondents to the question was a ham radio operator, and his Holy Grail is to work North Korea. So, that prompts me to ask all of you: What is your Holy Grail? It may not be radio related, and perhaps only a dream situation or strong desire. It may not be attainable! If you would like to share it with me, drop me a note. I think we would get a myriad of answers and not many would pertain to ham radio. ??????????

- Bob K7QXG

December Dinner Photos





Backyard DX by Bob K7QXG

Announced DXpeditions

Want some great news? Read the recent issue of QST magazine, DX column, and you will find that there is the possibility of 4 expeditions to North Korea in 2016! Wouldn't that be something!

There is also a great description of the Palmyra Island expedition, as well as the South Sandwich and South Georgia events.

December DX Worked

SSB

PY, J6, JA7, P49

RTTY

JA, PY, CO, F, I, S57, TZ9A, YW9, ZL

CW

PJ2, PY, P40, TI2, ZZ9, TX9, OH6, F, DH, IK, 4A9, 9M6, EI, YU, HB9, CO9, LU, HC, OA, DK, KH2, JD1

PSK

TI9 (Cocos Island), CM3

Note the great DX captured even though band conditions were mostly poor: TZ9, TX9, and TI9. As I have said before, the more bands and modes you can use, the more and better QSOs you will find as Cycle 24 fades away.

VK9WA, Willis Island

This was a fairly easy one and everyone should have garnered at least one contact, if not two or three.

I received the insiders newsletter and found some very interesting information in it.

They made 61,719 QSOs (think about the logging program required for that!) with CW accounting for 31,110. RTTY accounted for 3,353 QSOs. They did have a good QSO balance: Asia 30.2%, Europe 32.1% and North America 32.8%. Very fair in my estimation! The 61,719 QSOs were with 154 different DXCC entities (hmmmm, where were the other 186 entities?). VA7AAA was the first QSO in their log. 20,000 QSOs were logged on 10 and 12 meters alone, and the band was open to Japan 24 hours a day!

Quite frankly, this is the kind of DX team that I would like to see go to North Korea, Mt. Athos, and a few other very rare ones that I need. They need to be congratulated for a job well done

BTW, their QSL card is beautiful! And, they will have a video available soon...hint, hint...it would be a great program for our ROADS meeting!

- Bob W7SCT

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

JANUARY 2016

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 <i>Roads Meeting 7:00pm</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						