



The Road Report

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RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez

by

Jack Schult, W7SCT



And The Beat Goes On.....

“QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 8 ARLB008
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 24, 2016
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB008
FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur
Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760 – available on the web at, <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=RM-11760> that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise Part 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder’s lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC’s workload.”

Without getting too far into the political weeds I will limit my comments to two issues.

1) I hold a lifetime General Radiotelephone Operator License. It is a symbolic representation of a First Class License. I worked very hard to obtain the highest communications license the government issued. In the eighties the First Class License was reduced to a lifetime “GROL”, it now hangs on my wall with little merit or legal tender. Next to it is my Amateur License with an expiration date, a reminder that I better have a clean record come renewal time.

2) Do we really want to “lighten the FCC's workload?”

I hope everyone came through the wind storm with towers and antennas intact. My dual band Moxon took a major hit, two of the fiberglass spreaders just snapped.

N7WWH, Jim reports a profit was made along with good will and visual club representation at the Rickreall Ham Fair. Jim, Troy along with all who helped deserves a big thank you for their continuing efforts. KE7AAJ, Rick found a Henry Radio 2KD-2 (circa 1965-1967) amplifier that he brought home. Nothing quite like the glow of a pair of 3-400Zs to make a shack feel like home.

I have noticed EMP has been mentioned more frequently in the news lately...

As they say in the westerns, Keep your powder dry.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

-Jack W7SCT

Here 'n There by Bob K7QXG

Undercover Ham Radio continued

As I gazed at all those flashing lights and the big computer monitors, I realized that there were some things that needed to be taken care of in order to cover my ass.

I told Mr. Hyde that I would handle the case, but there were some legal aspects that must be taken care of first. I needed to meet with the Board Of Directors of the repeater group, if there was one, and I wanted a letter from them stating that I was working for them as their agent. That put the liability on them in case something went wrong. Mr. Hyde agreed and a date was set. The meeting would take place in this building in the big conference room down stairs late one evening...well, after it was dark outside!

Meanwhile, I began my investigation and soon learned that a repeater club in San Diego had taken a novel approach to solving a similar problem. They amassed the evidence, and instead of taking it to the FCC, they sued the culprit in civil court for damages, alleging the culprit had deprived them of a harmonious experience during net operations. The judge in California Superior court agreed, and awarded several thousand dollars in damages to the club. After that happened, all vicious interference with nets in Southern California came to an end for many months.

With more than a little trepidation, I met with the Board Of Directors. I advised them that the best course of action was a civil suit if the culprit did

not cease his interference activities. Leave the FCC out of it entirely. The Board agreed, and I thought this would lead to an easy resolution. Well, you know what they say about "best laid plans" etc.

A day or so later I received a call from Mr. Hyde. He had two men in his office that he wanted me to meet and he thought that 2 in the afternoon would be just fine.

When I arrived, Miss Twenty Questions buzzed me right in without a single question – and without a smile. I did notice that the see-through blouse she was wearing really was a see-through blouse. After ogling her for a minute I entered the inner sanctum and made my way to Mr. Hyde's office. I was introduced to two suits who said they were FCC engineers from Washington. They had something they wanted to show me. Mr. Hyde led the way down a very long hallway and into a warehouse. I saw lots of boxes, but none were labeled Photo Supplies. In one corner was parked a large black van. "This is for your use if you need it," said one of the suits as he swung open the rear door. Inside were shelves lined with lots and lots of electronic equipment. A small DF antenna graced the ceiling, and a comfy chair was propped near the big panel that looked like a receiver. I was so stunned I didn't utter a single word.

Next, we discussed the situation at some length and the two suits agreed that a civil law suit, as opposed to criminal action, would be the best way to go. In a civil suit you do not need to disclose all your evidence like you must in a criminal trial.

I left the building and decided the next best step was to make contact with an informant who had agreed to get me into a meeting that would take place in a week or two. A lot of hams would be there I was told, including our suspect. I intended to cozy up to the suspect and tell

him I'd been having fun cutting into a repeater net, and I thought that Mr. Dumbo would instantly mark me as a friend with the same ambitions as his.

Alas, not all goes well with these situations. I dug through some old records here and there and learned that my trusty informant was a buddy of the suspect! A little thought on the matter told me that a better plan now would be to call the informant and tell him that I was going to crucify his buddy in Federal court on criminal charges and Mr. Hyde was also going to sue Mr. Dumbo for thousands. I hooked up my tape recorder to the phone line and made the call.

The informant was absolutely stunned when I laid the story on him, and immediately began pleading for his buddy – asking for mercy and making lots of promises. I told him that if there was another peep out of his friend on any repeater I was going to come hunting for both of them with two sets of handcuffs.

To make a long story short, Mr. Dumbo was never heard on the air again. A couple of months later I was at the swapfest at Rickreall and I spotted the culprit. He had sold his equipment.

About two years later I made my way over to the old warehouse. It was boarded up and a For Sale sign peered out of the weed patch out front. I never saw Mr. Hyde again. I did get a phone call from the judge thanking me for my service.

So why tell the story now? Well, I was cleaning out one of my filing cabinets and getting rid of some old sensitive information before going to the hospital for a serious surgery, when I stumbled upon some interesting investigations from my younger days. I decided it was time to share this adventure. A really big investigation still lies

hidden in the filing cabinet collecting dust with photos fading. Do you remember the Olympic Figure skating case involving Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan? I was the Forensic Document Examiner of record on the case. Some really strange things happened to me on that one. But that is a story for another day - and a different venue, because it doesn't have anything to do with ham radio.

Next month I promise to get back to ham radio stuff and ROADS activities.

My sincere thanks to all the ROADS members who were so kind and generous of their time in those days following my lung surgery. A special thanks to AE7OA who drove Shirley and me to a clinic in Portland for a bandage change. To the many others who gave me a big morale boost with a phone call, or who baby sat me while Shirley went out for medicine or groceries, you really demonstrated the true spirit of ham radio.

Along a different topic, another thanks and Gold Star to an old friend from my RVing days, Clyde, WB6VHY, who donated three boxes of electronic and ham radio components to ROADS for the Swapfest. Clyde is inactive and cleaned out his garage. Among the donated items was a D 104 mike, an old Bird Wattmeter, test instruments, and loads of solid state parts. Thanks also go to KE7JNT who helped me sort it out and box it and to N7WWH & W7KBR who took care of delivery for the Swapfest.

I have been told that the club made \$250 at the Swapfest! Thanks to everyone who helped out.

73, K7QXG

Backyard DX by

Bob K7QXG

It is time for our DX chasing membership to have a serious discussion about the airwave mayhem that now occurs every time a DXpedition appears on the bands. No, we can't cure it, but we can develop a strategy for our members that will help under these conditions. Give me your suggestions and I'll post them here and everyone can expand on them and develop an approach to this problem.

What does it take these days to bust through the mayhem and snag a QSO with the rare one? A typical station should consist of the following MINIMUM equipment: A 1 KW amp; a quality Xcvr; better than average triband beam or big quad; a 50 to 80 foot tower; and, lots and lots of patience. Anything less than the above and you are spitting into the wind. Yes, I know that some of our little pistols get through from time to time in spite of the obstacles, like KX5W, and they deserve our admiration.

Announced DXpeditions

Mar 2 - Mar 18 Sri Lanka 4S7 10 ops

Mar 20 - Apr 10 Heard Island VK0EK
13 ops

Mar 31 - Apr 14 Juan De Nova FT4JA 9
ops

Lots of one man expeditions, mostly holiday style, to some very nice locations. Keep your eye on DX Summit.

KX5W DX Activity

January was good--worked **K5P** Palmyra on 8 band slots; South Sandwich **VP8STI** on 20 phone and cw: South Georgia **VP8SGI** on 5 band slots and a few non rare stations. Just worked the **3XY1T** station in Guinea on 2/21 and 2/23 on 17 and 20M. Worked **Tonga, Micronesia** and **Guam** after our 10-10 net of 2/21 on 10 meter cw.

News Flash! The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming!

Portland, OR will be the site of the 2016 Radiosport Games this summer, and once again an almost unbeatable Russian team will participate. There are several events that span a 1 – 2 week period. Most out-of-country visitors are hosted by amateurs in the Portland area. Such was the case in 1991 when Shirley and I hosted Slava, RW0CD, at our home in Aloha for two weeks. Slava spoke only a few words of English and I spoke very few words of Russian, but those are some of the most memorable days of my life. It would take two pages to tell about all the adventures we had and the close friendship that developed and has endured over the years. Today Slava's health is not good and his wife Tanya has health issues as well, so it is unlikely he will attend. I'll miss seeing him again.

- Bob K7QXG

Monthly Luncheon

Once again we had another great turn out. Saw some new faces that did not attend the first one. I think we might have a winner. I did forget to send a reminder email, so my apologies for that, I almost forgot myself.

Next one will be Saturday Mar 26 1:00 PM at Abby's Pizza in Dallas

See you there

- Troy KF7SEY

Ham radio Humor

By Emily KG7ITR

The life of the Ham-Fam(ily) As you read this, I hope you can relate and find humor in what I am writing. Many of you can appreciate that as a Ham Family, things are a little different. Whether be it terminology or just how things are viewed and I have compiled a list of such examples for some light-hearted entertainment. I am also requesting if anyone reading this have similar observations or stories to share, please send them my way to include in future newsletters. (also it would be great to be able to show my therapist that I'm not "exaggerating" and "things like this really do happen")

Hams are notorious for finding great deals and you can tell when yours has -When your husband and his fellow Ham buddy come back from a supposed "coffee visit " from another Ham's place

and sheepishly hollers to you as they head to the back of the truck " honey, where's the wheel-barrow?" Seriously, this seriously happened. Hams love the outdoors but not necessarily for the reasons you may think for example.. - When you're out for a leisurely country drive and you think you are both admiring the mountainous scenery for the beauty and his response to you saying "isn't this amazing?!" Is " heck ya, a tower would be perfect right up there!" Again, true story. Hams love bad weather and will spring into action, but again not necessarily for the reasons you may think such as... -When it's the middle of winter and it's stormy and nasty and you lose power, your Ham springs up from his chair proclaiming, "AWESOME, now maybe I can track down where the noise is coming from" as he races to his shack. If you know who my husband is, you will also know this story to be true.

Hams rear mini-Hams.... -When your extended family asks your child what she wants to be when she grows up and her answer is "a Ham" and your family proceeds to desperately and gently explain to her where ham comes from and her dream could never be "because...well... Your not a pig" Yup, this happened too.

And this last one is just a harsh reality to those that are mobile hams... -When you can no longer use a drive thru anything or a park aid because your vehicle has an apparent antenna disease and keeps sprouting more. On a side note, I have since learned it's highly contagious and my yard has contracted it to. Be careful with this illness, I fear for our boat.

I'd like to give a special thanks to my husband, keep doing what your doing!, this article just wrote itself. Next month, the importance of buying the right light bulbs to avoid That lecture AGAIN and what happens at ham fair DOES NOT stay at ham fair...remember that!

- Emily KG7ITR

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

Roads monthly meeting **March 17th** Polk County Court House 7:00 PM

Monthly Luncheon **March 26th** Abby's Pizza Dallas 1:00 PM

VE Testing Polk County Court House

March 12th 2016

May 14th 2016

July 9th 2016

Sept 10th 2016

November 12th 2016

If you have any questions on the VE testing sessions, please contact Ron, W7HO at W7HO@arrl.net or 503-585-2136.

News Flash Oregon Trail Net will move Freq. to 28.330 on 4-1-16



After years of faithful service March came in like a lion and took out the mighty Moxon. New spreaders are on order and will be as good as new. The Moxon as it should look is included on my QRZ page.

- Jack W7SCT