

The Road Report

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RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

In Memoriam: W7LOU SK

W7LOU, Bob Boswell, finally succumbed to COPD and became a Silent Key on April 11, 2016. Bob was the founder of ROADS, and the driving force in its early days. In his later years, when his health deteriorated, he still managed friendly banter on the air and lucid conversation with visitors. Bob envisioned ROADS as more of a social and practical club, rather than an organization with a focus on training, technology and absence of family participation.

Early on, Bob spearheaded a movement to acquire a club house for ROADS that would serve as a meeting facility and house a small club station. To that end, Bob joined with several of us as we explored the use of a large construction site mobile office, with the intent to obtain permission to install it at the Polk County fairgrounds for use by ROADS and by the general public. Bob joined with me in making a presentation to the Fairgrounds Board, but they rejected our proposal. Next, we negotiated with then-Fire Chief Hahn to gain use of the Dallas Fire training site. It already had a two room building and we had the funds to remodel and turn it into a nifty station



and class room. After two years of negotiating, that also went by the wayside. During the past few years Bob was pretty much confined to his home, but that never limited his sage advice to members. Bob will also be remembered as one of the Net Control stations for the Oregon Trail chapter of 10-10 International. In that role he always welcomed everyone with friendly banter, and was very knowledgeable about 10-10 when inquiries were made by visiting stations. In accordance with 10-10 rules, Bob's 10-10 number will now be permanently retired and never be reissued.

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L-R: Bonnie Altus, Bob Boswell, Irene Boswell



Thank you Bob K7QXG for the photos
and write up

- Editors



Robert is survived by his wife, Irene daughters, Marjory, Connie, Lori, Tamara and step-daughter Kimberly. Sons, Gary, David, Zachary, and step-son Timothy. He is also survived by 18 grand-children and 12 great grand-children.

Funeral services will be held Sat, May 14th at 11 am at the Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center with Interment to follow at the Dallas Cemetery. There will be a gathering to follow at the Majestic. Memorial Contributions are suggested to the American Lung Association or the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers. To leave a message or a memory for the family please go to www.dallastrIBUTE.com.

The Prez Sez
by
Jack Schult, W7SCT



Maybe it's the time of the year or perhaps a plethora of other reasons that make getting back on the air attractive in the spring. Sometimes hours go by as the different wavelengths are sampled, worked and explored. The fact that conditions change on a daily basis provide new challenges and opportunities like Mr. Gump's metaphoric box of chocolates. You never know what your going to find when you fire up your station. The unknown add to the variety that the hobby offers. Its different for each of us. For me ,the time spent waiting for the tubes to warm up adds a dimension of anticipation to the experience, much like a pilot in the run up area waiting for clearance for take off from the tower.

I am happy to report that the Mighty Moxon is once again at 61' AGL and

properly arresting the DX that has been fruitful on 20 meters in the afternoon. While rebuilding the spreaders I added a 6 meter section. I have included a photo of the rebuilt antenna array to contrast with last month's documentation of wind damaged remains. If the restoration lasts an additional four years I will be a Happy Hamster.

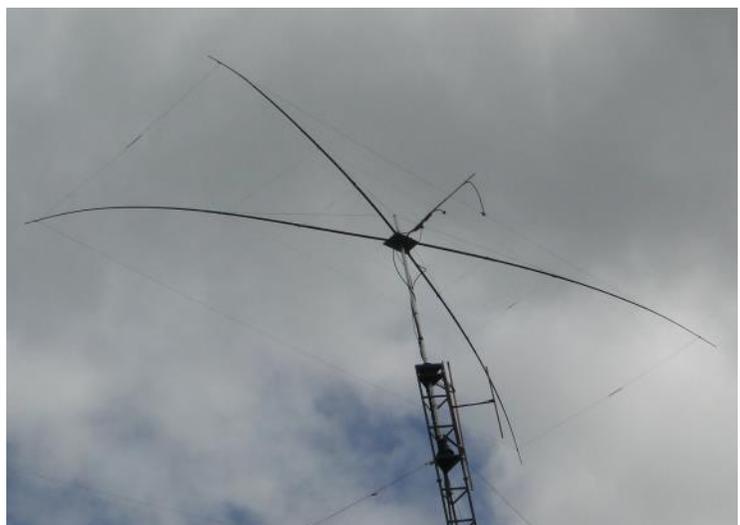
Sunday morning at noon the 10-10 net has QSY'd to 28.330 to benefit some of the newer Technicians that could gain experience and knowledge from the group. Spread the word.

To better confront the challenges of the computer age N7WWH has completed the #1 Best seller [Who Moved My Cheese ?](#) Go ahead, Google it!

I hope you can attend the next meeting. I think you will enjoy the program.

73, Happy Trails

- W7SCT Jack



Backyard DX

Final Column

After much soul-searching, I have decided it's time to put this column to bed and close the door on this chapter of my life. Many factors influenced my decision, not the least of which is the mentality of many of today's ham radio operators.

As I listened to the pile-up on Juan De Nova on 20 CW, it became apparent that the FCC has been putting Extra Class licenses in boxes of breakfast cereal.

Then there are those who don't know what the words "split" or "up" mean, despite the best efforts of the frequency police to inform them, which only adds to the mayhem. Next, you have the human vegetable who delights in holding his key down on the DX station's frequency, sending an endless string of dots at 30 wpm. No doubt he is a mentally challenged individual. No brain, no pain.

We also have all this painful, angry chatter about the N6PSE expedition to North Korea that was torpedoed by an American ham. It is apparent that there are some spiteful, shabby DXers among us who have their P5 QSL, but don't want the rest of us to get one. That is the epitome of arrogance!

This is just the beginning of a laundry list of things that have caused me to say, "This isn't fun for me anymore, and I don't need it. For me, there are still many interesting and fun things to do, but *competitive* DXing is not one of them."

The excitement of working rare DX – and only taking 3 or 4 calls to do so – vanished sometime in the late 1990s. Before that, I must have worked nearly 250 DXCC entities using 75/100 watts CW, 65 watts AM, and 100 watts SSB. Today, the A4S beam and 500 watts doesn't get any respect at all. I know many of you helped me out with phone calls to say, "The big one is coming in loud and clear!" For that I am most grateful and appreciative.

Some of you will still pursue *competitive* DXing and find it meets your needs. More power to you. I've already made my memories. Now it's your turn.

De K7QXG 338/339 DXCC

Here 'n There

By K7QXG

What a month! I don't even know where to begin. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find photos and a few brief comments about W7LOU, our founder, who became a Silent Key. As you may know – should know – his funeral service will be May 14th (full details available in other postings).

One of the highlights of April was the dinner for members and spouses that took place at Rockin' Rogers in Rickreall. The turnout was great and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time.



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So, what gives with the last photo – it sure wasn't at the dinner? Well, what does a dedicated ham operator do after dinner? Why, he or she heads for the radio room to see what is on the bands. In this case an RK9 was easy pickings, and Iran, EP2A, was heard on SSB. Shirley takes a much better picture than I do, so she was selected to sit down at the "controls."

Moving right along... Don't forget *election of officers* is just around the corner and *field day* looms in June. Not to mention it will be time to *renew your membership* dues.

Oregon Trail Chapter of 10-10

We still have a very active net on Sunday at noon. There are now only 69 active chapters world wide, down from 200 plus that we had in the early 1990s. We presently have about the third largest net out of the 69.

Coos County Hamfest

The Coos County Radio Club is hosting a hamfest and swapmeet in North Bend on July 16th. Admission is \$4. See K7QXG for full details.

In The Beginning... and now...

ROADS was formed by a handful of

amateurs who were looking for a more social oriented club without the state controlled structure and highly technical programs found in the local ARES group. The club soon gave birth to a newsletter, and *ROADS Report* was deemed a most appropriate name. Over the years we have undergone constant changes as the club has evolved into an organization we can all be proud of and enjoy. Just as ham radio has evolved from tubes to solid state and surface mount technology, so too ROADS progressed to Field Day in a city park, tables at the swapfest, a nice newsletter, good technical presentations by members, and even a tidy little bank account.

All of the above came about through the efforts of many different officers and members who had a vision for ROADS and then worked to fulfill the vision.

This leads to my topic – **Club Officers**. We have had some very solid officers during the past few years, and they have all worked to attain a level of excellence that benefits each of us. However, they never agreed to be "President For Life", or whichever office they may hold. *Election time is here*. It is time for members with a fresh vision to step up to the plate and continue our growth as we move onward and upward. Not a single club office requires special training or unique skills. No one will complain if you stub your toe from time to time. The rest of us will be there to help you to your feet and keep our ship on course.

If you have not read the outstanding column in the May QST on page 9 by K1ZZ, David Sumner, you need to make a firm resolve to read it soon. In it K1ZZ points out that half the radio amateurs in the USA are age 55 to

74! (I'm 81). Further, those aged 55 and above make up 45% of the newcomers to ham radio! The vitality of ham radio and its continued existence is going to be up to healthy local clubs. It is the best article I have ever read on this topic.

Now is the time for our members to give serious consideration to filling an officer's spot for just one year. I did my tour as President, as did KX5W, and W7SCT. Now it's your turn. So what about it Rick? Hollis? Mike? John? Dave? Fred?

- K7QXG Bob

Monthly Luncheon

Monthly luncheon's for the past 2 months have been, well lets say small. 1st was a great turnout with at least 10 or more Roads members present. This last one there were three members, Jim N7WWH, Jack W7SCT, & Troy KF7SEY and the one before was around three members. Now when we started this we said we would do a trial run. I think we have gathered enough data to show that this is what members don't want. So with that, I'm canceling the scheduled monthly luncheons. Maybe in the future we will try something new. One suggestion from one of our Falls City members is to meet at the bar in Falls City from time to time.

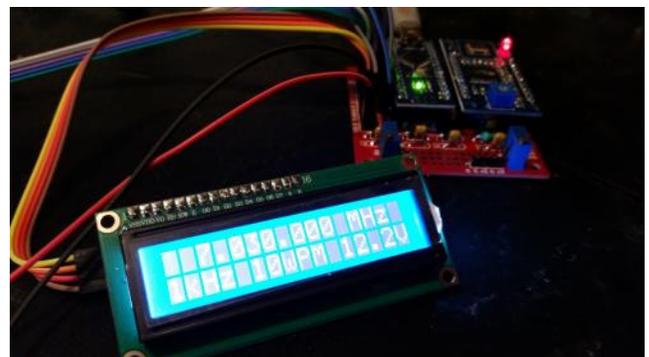
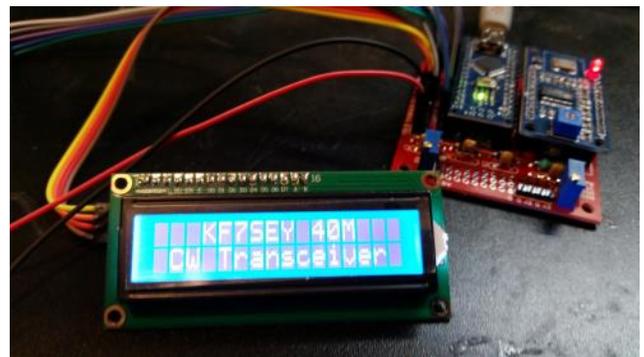
- KF7SEY Troy

KF7SEY Corner

Part 1

March 2016 QST there is an article that caught my eye. 40M CW transceiver with a VFO. After reading this I knew I had to build one. After sourcing parts and ordering the board in the article, I started building. I now have the VFO portion completed. I have added a few changes to the Arduino code to personalize it to my liken. I have also added a Keyer since I don't plan on using it with a straight key as it was designed for. I now have a project box for it and will plan on completing in the next few weeks. Transceiver section is next to be worked on. Look next month for a more in depth look inside this great project.

- KF7SEY Troy



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 **May 19th** at the Polk County Court House 7:00PM

VE Testing Polk County Court House

May 14th 2016 - Has been Canceled due to Funeral Services

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.