



The Road Report

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RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez

by

Jack Schult, W7SCT



As this will be my last Prez Sez and I don't like long good byes I will keep this succinct.

As a young broadcaster my mentor was Johnny Carson, his departing words on his final sign off seem appropriate.

I bid you a heartfelt good night.

-30-

Here 'n There by K7QXG

Thanks for the memories

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President the last three years. The future of ROADS will depend on members willing to help keep the club together.

Thank you to the officers and board members who gave their knowledge, time and support, it made my job easier.

Officers Nominated For 2016/2017

W7KBR, Warren, will step into the President's shoes, while W7RIS, Mike, returns for another year as Vice President. The new Secretary will be KT7H, Dave, and WB7VAO, Dennis, takes over as Treasurer. Meanwhile W7SCT, Jack, becomes one of the Directors in accordance with the Bylaws and K7QXG, Bob, will run for one of the Director's slots. Troy and Emily have agreed to stay on as publishers of the ROADS Report.

Continue Page 2

Field Day is a sad story for ROADS. It was decided to forego it because of the late start getting organized. I hope it returns in 2017 with the same great enthusiasm that we have had in the past.

Summer Social In The Park remains an unknown at this point. Two years ago we reserved the pavilion and had a barbecue. It was GREAT! Last year we tried something different and had an ice cream social. It drew a good turn out and W7NAT treated us to some yummy home made ice cream. So what will it be this year? Barbecue? Ice Cream social? Or nothing? What say you?

The Great Debate. Don't read any further if you are under 18, thin skinned, or don't have an open mind.

The May meeting of ROADS was called to order on May 19th at 7 PM and adjourned at 9:15 pm following considerable debate and commentary on issues facing ROADS. There were 14 members present at the meeting.

Dave, KT7H, opened the discussion with a passionate salvo. He had some strong points to make, and I thought he did a very good job. I only disagreed with him on his final point – “ To keep ROADS or dissolve it.” I see no reason whatsoever for dissolving the club and will fight that idea any time it is suggested by anyone. Dave spoke about our leaders, the spectator members, the elections, etc. He was right on target.

There was some great comparative insight provided by Chris, KI7CMX, who is the Exalted Ruler of the Independence Elks Lodge. It was very easy for him to see the parallel between ROADS election problems and the Elks election problems. He summed up his comments rather nicely.

One issue was mentioned at the meeting, but not rebutted, so I'm going to address it here. Several times during the evening one member said ROADS had become a DX club; often referred to us as a DX club; and said others viewed us as DX club. Huh? *Well, I thought, maybe he is right, so I decided to separate Fact from Fiction.*

First, when is the last time we have had any program on DX at a club meeting? *Fact:* Only once in the past years when W7RIS described his participation with a group on an expedition to the Caribbean, so it can't be program content. Well then, what about *our newsletter*? Does it strongly favor DX content? *Fact:* I did a statistical analysis of the newsletter covering the past 12 months. Only 13.7% of the content was about DX, and since the Backyard DX column has been eliminated, that makes it 0% for this issue and future issues. That means 86.3% of the newsletter was about anything but DX during the past 12 months and beginning with this issue it will be 100% anything but DX. Hmm? And we were called a DX club? I then looked at technical articles, i.e., WSPR, ECHO, construction, etc. *Fact:* Wow, a total of 10 great tech articles over a 12 month period! Maybe we are really a technology club!

So, do we discuss DX elsewhere to such an extent we would be considered a DX club? *Fact:* Several of us meet every Monday for coffee and what do we talk about? GUNS, BULLETS, HEALTH, FLYING, HELPING EACH OTHER WITH ANTENNA PROJECTS, NEW CARS WE BOUGHT, AND ANSWERING TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. Seldom does the topic of DX come up. Besides, the complaining member has never attended one of these coffee sessions!

I certainly don't know where this member got the idea we were a DX club, but the foregoing reality check tells me that we are *not!* I hope that clears things up for our misinformed member. Maybe our alleged tainted reputation will fare better now that the DX column doesn't appear in the newsletter anymore – all 13.7% of it!

The best dissertation of the night came from K7CIE. Mike pointed out that each of us has our own little area of interest that we are passionate about. There is nothing wrong with favoring CW, chasing SOTA stations, or building things. He really summed it up well, and his comments were right on the mark. Mike gets a Gold Star for his insight.

But enough about the great ROADS debate.

Continue Page 3

Brick For W7LOU

The members voted to buy a memorial brick for W7LOU to be installed at the Polk fairgrounds. Cost is \$150. This is a one time event for the club because W7LOU was the founder of ROADS.

Time to renew your dues!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please join me in renewing your ROADS membership. We have a great newsletter, a very diversified membership with a broad scope of interest and talent, and energetic leadership. We lost some members this renewal time, but now have some new ones to replace them. Let's make sure we welcome them to all of ROADS activities. Send your check to N7WWH before July 1st, or pay at the June ROADS meeting.

Outstanding Job! W7TVC – “Tualatin Valley Contesters” were **section winners** in the ARRL 2015 IARU contest. This group of testers operate from **K7CIE's** station and Michael has been a good host – letting many different individuals use his equipment.

Oregon Trail Chapter of 10-10 has an opening for a Net Control station for their net which is held every Sunday at noon on 28.330. Duties occur once every 6 weeks. No experience necessary. Pay and benefits commensurate with experience....

Poka, K7QXG

KF7SEY Corner

Part 2 (Sort of)

Last month I said I would continue with the 40m CW-transceiver as I was planning on being completed with it. Well guess, what its not done. I have a couple other projects I have been working on and they took more

of my limited time, more to come on that. As Emily calls them “UFO's” a term used in the quilting hobby. UFO or Un-Finished Objects ,which I seem to have all over the shack. I now have my box to put everything in and have decided to change the LCD size. The LCD I had only was capable of 2 lines of info. I purchased a 4 line that has 20 characters Vs. 16 on the other one. Now it will consume a little more energy but not enough I'm going to worry about it.



Top LCD is original 16x2.

Bottom is the new 20x4

With this new screen I can finish with all of the features I am adding. One of the features I plan on is a CW decoder built in, so as I'm refining my skills and I miss something I can look at the screen and hopefully have a full copy. With a little luck, I will be ready to test it out soon. Hopefully I can talk K7CIE and or K7QXG in testing it out. So now what are these other projects you ask? First one is a go box. I am putting a go box together with my Icom 706. I wanted to have the ability to take along a system that I can easily deploy. When I head to eastern Oregon later this summer,(with my dad elk hunting), I can setup and talk back home with little effort. I will update more on this in the months to come. Number two goes along with number one. I needed a system to run the go box off of and so I decided to go Solar. I now have a panel and Battery and so far I'm pleased with the results. Once this system is complete, I may bring it to a meeting for a show and tell.

See you next month for a deeper dive into these projects.

- Troy KF7SEY

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 **June 16th** at the Polk County Court House 7:00PM

VE Testing Polk County Court House

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.