



The Road Report

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RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez
by
Warren, W7KBR

Hi Roads Members!

We had a great meeting in July, and we are looking forward to our August 18th social in the park. It will start at 6pm at the old gazebo off of Academy St. in Dallas. The Roads membership has decided to supply hot dogs, hamburgers and buns, ketchup, mustard, relish, mayo and rotisserie chicken. We will also be providing the charcoal for the BBQ. Unfortunately, I will need someone to step up and do the BBQ'ing since I had back surgery this month. Everyone needs to bring their own drinks and one potluck dish. Remember to bring your own plates, utensils, and serving utensil for your dish. Barb and I will provide tomatoes, lettuce, and onions for our potluck dish for all to share.

I would like thank all who attended the Dallas Hobby Night on July 12th in Dallas. Those who helped were Jim N7WWH with his generator, Mike K7CIE for all of his radios and antenna's, Jack W7SCT for his display of tubes and oscilloscope, and Dennis WB7VAO for set up, Nate W7NAT and Joette KE7DRW for their set up, Richard K7LWV for set up, Bonnie AB7ZQ for supplying ARRL info, and Warren Sr. for setup. We had several other members drop by, and we appreciate your support.

Thank you to all members who have paid their dues

for 2017, and those who have updated your phone and email. I'm sure Dennis WB7VAO appreciates your efforts. Please let him know if you need a replacement name tag or any info changed. His email address is, dynotime2@gmail.com.

At our meeting in July, we discussed some different contest ideas to help raise enthusiasm, and funds for the club. Please email me with any of your ideas or bring them to the next meeting in September.

At last months meeting I discussed the interest of having a chair person for field day, and a Quarter Master position to help keep track of the club's present and future items. Please consider one of these positions. They won't take much time, and we need more club members involved, not just the club officers.

We are now just 10 months away from our June 2017 field day.

I have had some people interested in getting a Roads Club T-shirt that could be worn at our events. It would help advertise the club. Please let me know what your feelings are about this. We would want to purchase a high quality T-shirt.

In September, we will start gathering items for our Swaptoberfest, which will be held on October 15, 2016. This would be an excellent place for our members to wear the Roads T-shirts.

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I would personally like to thank all of those who helped me put up my tower and antennae on July 23rd. They included KF7SEY, N7WWH, KE7JNT, WB7VAO, and Warren Sr. I tried it out on the 10-10 Net on Sunday, July 31st, and it performed perfectly. It is a 52' HyGain, 3 stage crank up tower with a Thunderbird TH6 antenna.

Remember our meeting in September. We will start at 6:30-7pm show, tell and touch, bring something. Business starts at 7 and goes until 7:30pm. Tech session starts at 7:30 and goes until 8:15pm. The meeting will conclude between 8:15 and 8:30pm.

Have a great month, see you at the BBQ on August 18th at 6pm.

Warren W7KBR

The Prez

Here 'n There

By K7QXG

So You're Bored!

Well, what have you done about it? In the past few issues, the decline in propagation has been lamented time and again, and some solutions have been offered. *So, I'll say it again.* Time to think of ham radio building projects, antenna improvements, learning CW, trying digital, or trying some of the lower bands. *Once in awhile there is something else you can do, if you are so inclined.* Example: To celebrate Independence Day, a station in each of the 13 original colonies was on the air for several days. All used K2 calls followed by a single letter, i.e., K2E, etc. and they were predominantly on SSB with a few on CW and PSK from time to time. The goal was to find and work all 13. The difficult part was finding some of the rare ones, like those in NH, DE and RI. Even so, it feels very rewarding when you search for 13 needles in a hay stack and you find them all. A final note

about the 13 Colonies Event – the QSL cards from those stations are terrific! Of course this is just one example of a ham radio activity that can occupy your time and it gives you a most interesting log page, not to mention exciting QSL cards. So, if you're bored, think outside the box.

KF7SEY, Troy, and daughter **Mollie's,** built some really neat 40 meter kits...one was small enough to stick in your shirt pocket. All were in clear plastic cases, although Molly had encased hers in a plastic case with a beautiful pink tint to it. These are inexpensive kits and are found online (one found on eBay cost only \$8.00).

Dallas had another of its annual Hobby Night events and this time it was held on the courthouse lawn. ROADS put in an appearance with an information booth and radio display.

PLEASE NOTE: K7QXG had to remove all coax and his moxon antenna in preparation for the house painters. As a result, he is only able to operate mobile and the base station will not be QRV again until late August.

ROADS Meeting had a very good turnout and **W7RIS, Mike,** gave us an interesting program on 2 meter HTs...well, he did mention 440 and 220 once or twice. It was most informative and Mike encourages everyone to have a 2 meter HT for emergency preparedness purposes.

- Bob K7QXG



Hobby Days Dallas Oregon 2016



W7KBR Tower Raising Party July 2016



CW Adventure

By Troy KF7SEY

As some of you may know I have been on this CW adventure for a couple of years now. Trying to learn it off and on with my busy schedule. Well I can say now I have arrived. I have as of this writing, made 4x CW contacts. About two months ago I decided I needed to either forget about CW or once and for all learn it. I stopped reading how to learn it and look for ways that would work for me. Slow and steady was the approach for me. I tried over and over Koch method and Farnsworth and I wasn't getting it. I came across a website that had MP3 files. Here is the link. <http://www.pdarrl.org/K6RAU/>

This was a speed I could handle. I started listening to it everyday. Morning and in the evening. After a few weeks of it, I started picking it up. I was shocking myself that I could understand what I was hearing. (You can ask Emily. I was like a little kid excited about achieving something new). After a while I started needing more to increase my speed. I came across a YouTube video where it was demonstrated with a piece of software called Morse Runner, it can be downloaded here. <http://www.dxatlas.com/morserunner/> This software is free and simulates a contest. After using this for a week or so, my speed increased. I would recommend this to anyone trying to increase there skills. Its fun also.

Another learning aid I have been using is the ARRL code practice files which can be downloaded from there website.

The biggest thing that has helped me was from one of our Roads members. Mike K7CIE got on 40m with me one evening and we had a nice QSO for almost an hour. We used 2m to talk when I had a question. Or just communicating when needed. He provided me with a novice rubber stamp QSO to follow and I would suggest anyone wanting to learn CW to ask him for a copy. It was a game changer for me. I have even used it on a the air to make my 4th contact. So with that Thanks Agn Mike.

I'm continuing my endeavor into this new language and enjoying it now.

I can now say I can copy almost 100% 10 to 12 wpm. Never thought I could get there ,but even I can surprise myself once in a while. Next adventure is to put it to use for SOTA activations. I feel confidant by next summer I will be calling CQ from some mountain.

- Troy KF7SEY

Product Review

By Troy KF7SEY

This month I thought I would do a review on the MFJ-564 Iambic duel paddle. I needed an entry level key that would not brake my pocket book. I made a trip to HRO (the new store). I looked at the bencher



and the MFJ. The MFJ sells for \$69.95, I figure this would be a good starter for my beginning stages. After I got home, I then decided to see what everyone else thinks of these keys. I looked on eham.net and it had a low score. 3.4 out of 5. Some went to the point that they were junk and would explode during a QSO. There were also good reviews. It was not that easy following instructions that came with it to set it up. I think if you are mechanically inclined then you will understand how it functions and can get things to work without the paperwork. It was not set up from the factory as it is mentioned in the paperwork. After I dialed everything in to my liking, it was smooth for me. I did get on the air with Jack W7SCT on 10m Sunday afternoon and it ran fine. I would recommend this to a new ham starting out with CW as it is a fair price and if you decided its not for you ,then it didn't cost you an arm and a leg. If you are interested in the reviews here is a link. <http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/1276>

Oh and I have yet to have mine explode.

- Troy KF7SEY

SOTA Adventures

By Emily KG7ITR

After two long days of desperately searching and with the ever present threat of the gates being locked at any moment, I am pleased to announce Peak 1985 will hereby be known as Boswell Peak. On July 4th, KF7SEY activated two unnamed peaks in the coast range west of Falls City for SOTA (Summits on the Air). Sorry, that last sentence made it sound like it was easy, a day in the park. Not true my friends. First of all, this started July 2nd but was accomplished on the 4th. I'll give you a moment to do the math. That's right, the 2nd was nothing more than a lot of frustration, maybe some cursing at a particular device that was supposed to help direct the way (but instead locked up because it needed an update), and lots and lots of "what the heck, lets try this road...nope not this one". So on the 4th we packed up our daughters again and with Troy's amazing ability to find whatever it is he is looking for and never giving up, we set out to conquer said peaks. And this time he did and boy was it worth it. Since he was the first to activate and they were not already named, he had the honor of naming them. I must admit, the first summit was not nearly as majestic as the second, not to mention it was covered in mosquitos (and of course we had no repellent). But the second summit we did, was breathtaking and the views were unbelievable. It was deserving of an amazing and meaningful name. I asked Troy if he had any ideas as to what he would name it and without hesitation he responded that he would like to name it after Bob. So with permission from Irene, Troy submitted for the name request and was approved. Boswell Peak, a fitting name for a place that is too beautiful to be forgotten, just like the person it's now named after.

<http://www.pnwsota.org/blog/kf7sey/2016-july-17/boswell-peak-1985-or-july-4th-2016>

- Emily KG7ITR

Minutes from ROADS general meeting July 21, 2016

Meeting was called to order by the president Warren, W7KBR at 19:00.

Visitors introduced were George Hain, N7GRH, Joan, Deanne Morris, Ed Silvius, KB6MMV, and Paul, N0VLR.

Members in attendance were Warren, W7KBR, Dennis WB7VAO, Joette, KE7DRY, Nathan, W7NAT, Troy, KF7SEY, Mollie, Jim, N7WWH, Doc, KX5W, Rick, KE7AAJ, Dave, KT7H, Jack, W7RIS,

We have no current minutes as Steve, KW7DSP who took minutes last month pro tem, has been in the hospital and is not present.

The Treasurer gave his monthly report. Bills read. Motion by Bob to pay bills, seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

Old Business. Dues are due. Please pay if you have not done so. The treasurer is updating the club roster. Please check with him to verify your information. This will not be distributed to the public.

New Business. New officers were introduced. A request was made for members to step up and submit articles for the newsletter. It was announced that the minutes will be published in the newsletter.

Secretary's note--If the secretary is not present, whoever takes minutes can send them to the newsletter editor and they can be published. This will eliminate the issue of not having current minutes due to sickness and travel. This meeting, July 21, I received the minutes for the February and March meetings. This is the latest minutes that have been presented. That is not acceptable in my opinion.

The president discussed the need for someone to step forward and chair the field day committee and the "mini" field day event. He also asked for someone to volunteer as a quartermaster to inventory and check out equipment as needed. Some discussion was held as to the club needs such a position and does the club have or need to acquire equipment. No volunteer stepped forward. There is a possibility that a small used cargo trailer might be available for the club to acquire for club belongings. The issue of liability insurance was raised. A club sign was asked for by the president for the street and a similar sign for the building entrance and interior showing the way to the club meeting for new people. The city has no objection to the portable sign. The president also floated the ideas of a membership contest and a raffle at each meeting. Issues were raised that the club is a 501.c.3 and raffles could be a violation of rules.

The time being 19:33, the meeting was suspended for the presentation of the program on HT's. The business portion of the meeting resumed following the program.

Show and tell. Troy showed a 40 meter receiver that he had made from a kit and also showed a similar one that Mollie had made and soldered.

The next meeting will be a potluck held at the city park.

A reminder that the club meetings will informally start at 6:30 for tell and show and general discussion.

Bob made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:38.

Your 2016 - 2017 Current Club Officers

Position	Name	Callsign	E-Mail	Phone Number
President	Warren Gookin	W7KBR	wlgookin@gmail.com	(503) 787-4018
Vise-President	Mike Shelby	W7RIS	w7ris@arrl.net	(541) 745-7058
Secretary	Dave Goetz	KT7H	dave@begonias.com	(971) 241-9922
Treasurer	Dennis Elson	WB7VAO	dynotime2@gmail.com	(208) 773-4119
Director 1	Jack Schult	W7SCT	jackschult@msn.com	(503) 831-0756 (503) 881-5836
Director 2	Mike Fuller	K7CIE	mfuller@pictishbeast.net	(503) 831-3651

VE Testing Polk County Court House

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.