



# The Road Report

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## RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON



### Prez Sez

READY FOR SPRING? I am, tired of the snow and rain. Ready for that Oregon sun shine.

This month on the 16th. We will have our meeting at Rock n Rogers off highway 99 in Rickreall. Dinner will start at 6pm so I hope to see you all there.

As you can see in the minutes the dues increase did not pass. So they will remain the same for now.

The change to our by-laws did pass, so you can review that language change in your last month's new letter.

I was amazed at the anger that was displayed by some members at the meeting. It is a shame that we are all in the club with the thought of having a nice social club and the attitudes that were displayed by some members!

Since that meeting there has been a lot of discussion about the clubs expense in the past and for the future. The board members and director discussed that and made the recommendations and decided to increase the dues. Which was voted down.

I have been told that expenses need to decrease and maybe the club should;

1. Eliminate the web site approximately \$150 savings a year.
2. Drop the 501(c)(3), that could save us \$50 a year. But that brings on other issues regarding our savings account.
3. Not purchase hand held radios that the club has discussed doing in the future.
4. Not do another swap meet. By the way the club did rather well this year thanks to Steve Sunday and Mike Shelby. Both of these members had larger ticket items for the club to sale. THANK YOU.
5. In the future the club would not supply any food or items at the Park Social like we did last year.
6. The club paid Alesa Nason for the hats that the club committed to. The club paid for 20 hats at \$15 per hat. Alesa purchased 30 hats just to make sure that the 20 hats purchased by the club members would be of good quality. So far I think we have collected funds for 9 or 10 hats. Which that money has been deposited into our checking account. If you said you would buy a hat at the meeting when he club discussed it we you need to get your money in. If anyone else would like a hat now would be a good time to step up.
7. I was told that we didn't need any more signs and I didn't get the signs the club had until our last meeting in February.
8. There was even some discussion as to whether or not we need the Bunny that the club voted on to purchase earlier this winter. We have not had a Fox Hunt due to the weather and some health obligations that Mike has had to deal with.
10. The cost of the photo copies that the club paid for was due to the fact that no one has given me or other members a new or complete and up to date set of by laws. There has been numerous changes to the by-laws and I or other boards members do not have a up to date set. So that is what the board is attempting to complete in the near future. I would think that when a officer leaves his position he or she would turn over all materials regarding the club to the new officers. Up to now, that has not happened.
11. The board discussed using pay pal and setting up a new web site. Along with getting some business cards. At this time I would say we will drop that idea. If we can't agree to pay for what we have done without disagreement then we should not try to expand anything else. It would be good to see more members at the meetings and express your feelings.

73" Warren W7KBR

## Here 'n There

By K7QXG

### **Ham Radio Class – Dallas City Hall**

A ham radio class will be taught at Dallas City Hall in March (date TBA) by **W7ADS, Dean**. He does not belong to ROADS, but is a member of the local ARES group.

Well, the PSK article hit a positive note last issue, so at the end of this column there is a brief follow up about on-the-air protocol when using digital modes.

The February meeting was certainly lively, and the issue of dues prompted significant input from various members. More about that later.

**The program by W7RIS, Mike**, on the status of Cycle 24 and where we go from here was excellent. It comes right on the heels of an equally excellent article in QST about the departure of Cycle 24 and the arrival of Cycle 25. The article in QST, and Mike's presentation, both under-scored the fact that you had best be prepared to spend a lot of time on 160, 80, and 40 meters, and that digital communications will be your bread and butter mode of operation.

**My, how times have changed!** The following is an excerpt from the November **2011 ROADS Report**: "Yesterday the flux hit 151 and the number of sunspots was over 150. The result was a great opening on 10 meters, especially to Europe and Africa."

**K7QXG has done a financial analysis of our income/expenditures** and has submitted a proposed dues increase to the President and other officers. I urge you to support the proposed dues increase to keep ROADS solvent.

The attendance at the February meeting was the best in a long time, and it reflects our members' interest in topics that directly impact them. So what are

members doing these days? I know **KA7HBB, Mike**, is still trying to get his wife's embroidery machine to function correctly so we can get our caps delivered. **W6KXA, Fred**, is our oldest member at age 97, and he is a WWII veteran. The return of the **50-50 drawing** was held and the winner of the big \$9 jackpot was....a ham's daughter (now you get to guess who she is).

**N7WWH** is still in AZ helping a son with a remodeling project. I heard that he chatted with someone in Dallas on 40 meters. I also noted that Steve, **KW7DSP**, is also spending these winter days in AZ. **K7QXG** participated in the recent 10-10 Winter SSB contest, which saw no propagation on 28 MHz in Oregon, but the guys in 4 and 5 land had a great time with multi contacts. Meanwhile, **KE7JNT, John**, still pursues the elusive DX with his Lightning Bolt Quad. In mid-February he logged over 40 EU QSOs one morning and the next morning he logged 53 more EU QSOs! All on 20 SSB and between 7:30 AM and 10 AM. **WA7MZM, Dave**, reports great success on 160 Meters using a wire antenna, making contacts all over the USA.

**The big ham swapfest at Rickreall** had a large turnout and lots of goodies for sale. The ROADS booth did real well, thanks to **KG7OXU, Steve**, who brought in lots of top quality items. ROADS made about \$85 after expenses were deducted. Meanwhile, four ROADS VEs were busy giving examinations to wanna be hams and to hams who were trying to upgrade their ticket. A tip of the hat to **VEs K7QXG, AE7AO, KE7JNT, and W7HO**. Ron, **W7HO**, had this session well organized and everything went smoothly.

We had 18 individuals come in for tests. Results:

4 - New Generals  
 9 – New Techs (new hams)  
 4 – New Extras  
 1 – Did not make it

**Christmas Dinner 2017** will be held on Sat., December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Greenway Recreation Center, in Greenway Park on LaCreole street.

**Monday Breakfast** at Washington Street Steakhouse is seeing good numbers of attendees with 14 there one morning.

**Advice needed.... W7ADS needs input** about setting up an ECOM station locally, and would like advice about antennas, feedlines, etc. He may attend the next ROADS meeting and present his request there. W7ADS is a friend of **W7NAT**, Nate, who has taught license classes in the past.

I note that a lot of the other members of ROADS are active in one fashion or another, although I seldom hear them on the air.

- Bob K7QXG



## Bob's Soap Box

What happens when our meetings become counter productive because of differing opinions, hurt feelings, arguments, etc? The following is a quote, and everyone reading this newsletter should think about it and then do something about it.

" I HAVE HAD SEVERAL NEW GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS SAY THEY WILL NOT JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP DUE TO THE HOSTILITY PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS. THE QUESTION I GET FROM POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS IS, "WHAT DOES ROADS REALLY HAVE TO OFFER ME AS A YOUNGER MEMBER. ALL I HEAR IS OLDER MEN BEING GRUMPY".

Nuff said!

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## Digital Protocol by Bob K7QXG

Here are a few tips so you don't look like a klutz the first time you venture on the air using one of the digital modes. I'll confine my remarks to PSK31, although they fit other modes as well, such as PSK 63 and 125, Feld Hell, RTTY, and MFSK.

No matter which software program you use, i.e., Digipan, MixW, Fldigi, HRD, etc., all of your opening remarks should be "canned information" in macros because they provide pertinent logging information in a terse and succinct manner. Macros are found in all the above applications.

The letters "de" mean from.

### My info macro looks like this in Fldigi:

```
<TX> {CALL} de {MYCALL}
Hello !
SIG: 599 599
NAME: Bob Bob
QTH: Dallas, Oregon Dallas, OR
LOC: CN84iw CN84iw
How copy?
{CALL} de {MYCALL} K <RX>
```

Another macro is titled "Brag Info" and it describes your station. Finally, another macro is titled End Of QSO and contains info used to conclude the QSO. There are many variations floating around and I suggest you view several before constructing your own. Meanwhile, you can create many specialized macros that you will find a need for over time. QSOs can develop into a rag chew event, so always keep those typing skills up to par.

## KF7SEY Corner

Yes I'm still dabbling in the Ham Radio hobby. Even though I have been busy with my job and family obligations, I have made time now and then to play ham radio. I have been focused on improving my CW skills and planning for the summer. I acquired a MTR-3b (Mountain topper)

The Mountain Topper is a 3 band 20M,30M,40M CW transceiver. Puts out 3-5 watts depending on battery and band. If you are interested, they can be purchased from [LNR Precision](http://www.lnrprecision.com). They



have a couple others but I had my eye on this one. It weighs in at 4 Oz. I also built an antenna for it and keeping with the theme of going lite I found a you tube video of an antenna that would fit well for my needs, it uses ear phone cases from Dollar Tree.



If you are interested in the video it can be found here.

<https://youtu.be/YyZbQEutyE4>

Video is put on by John W7CYF. He has some great videos and has been an

inspiration to me on his endeavor to learn CW. I highly recommend his channel. The antenna I built is a full size 20m Dipole using Sotabeams wire. As soon as we get some decent weather I plan on getting out to use it. Another proud moment I had in my CW endeavors is I finally got a QSL for a CW contact. This contact was my roughest one as the band was bad and had QSB.

You can see my signal report was 349 I gave him a 229. But we made the contact and I was very happy when the card came through.



My next project is still in waiting. With the decline in solar cycle, I decided to buy a bitx40. Bitx40 is a semi-kit that can be

purchased from a company in India. <http://www.hfsigs.com/>. There are some great videos on YouTube by Randy K7AGE. If you are interested in one, it is a great little project that can be built to your liking. I have plans to build a AGC circuit, S meter, and add CW.

There are many mods that can be done. What's great is the cost, \$59.00. Radio will put out 5-7watts but can be pushed up to 15 watts with 24v power supply on the finals. If you are interested and want more details, let me know.

- Troy KF7SEY

## Electronics 101(Bias)

By Nate W7NAT

The term "bias" means a positive or negative slant imposed on something. For example, people are said to be biased when they have certain political views. Either they are biased toward a certain view or they are biased against that view. Now, let's discuss the term bias as found in electronics. We say that a given component must be either positively or negatively in order for it to function properly. What is meant by positive bias or negative bias?

First, lets note some components that need to be biased. Electrolytic capacitors, tantalum capacitors, most diodes, LEDs, a vacuum tube's plate to cathode connections, and a transistor's emitter to base junction require positive bias. Zener diodes, a transistor's collector to base junction, a vacuum tube's plate to grid connection, and varactors need to have negative or reverse bias. Without the proper biasing these components will not work as designed.

In electronics, the term bias means that positive and negative voltages must be applied in a specific way to those components that require biasing. For example, electrolytic capacitors need to have **positive** bias, which means that the voltage is applied to them in a way so that the capacitor lead which is marked (+) has a voltage applied to it that is more positive than the (-) lead. Connected in the opposite manner will cause that capacitor to explode. In the case of most diodes, one end of the diode has a black or colored ring marked on its body. That is the negative side of that diode. Since a diode must be biased positively, that end of the diode must have a voltage applied to it that is more negative than the voltage applied to the other end in order for current to pass through it.

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Negative bias means that a given component must have the opposite connection to voltages. In order for a zener diode to function properly, it needs to have **negative** bias, which means that its anode (+) needs to have a negative voltage applied to it compared to its cathode (-) requires a more positive voltage applied to it.

The biasing of transistors depends on whether the transistor is a PNP or a NPN transistor, which requires a knowledge of what the terms P and N mean and which terminal is considered as the emitter, base, or collector. But the same principles apply.

All of this means that components that require biasing must be connected to voltages in a specific way or they will not function as desired. So, the direction that these components are placed into a circuit board is very important.

\*Reprinted from CTR Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Minutes for the ROADS meeting February 16, 2017

The regular meeting of the ROADS radio club was called to order by President Warren at 7 p.m. with the flag salute.

Minutes as printed in the newsletter. Jack requested that the word "Draft" be applied to the minutes as he contends that they are "not minutes until they are approved". (Note. The secretary has read the minutes section of Roberts Rules of Order Revised, Fourth Edition, Section 60, and did not find any mention of "draft". The only word used was "Minutes")

Jack next brought up that he did not understand what the treasurer's vote was and that it was moved, seconded and approved. A correction has been made to the minutes as "Treasurers vote was moved, seconded and approved to Treasurers report was moved, seconded and approved. Discussion was added that treasurer's report does not need to be voted on, rather "be accepted".

#### Committee Reports

Field Day – Mike will be asking for assistance from members. Please help where you can. What bands the club will operate on will depend on how much help the club is willing to give.

ARRL – Bonnie reports that there is a new head of the FCC and looks to be helpful to ham radio. The national antenna bill is moving forward as the congressman from Florida is not opposing it this year. It was reported that he was astounded by all the hams from Florida that contacted his office. The state bill regarding distracted driving due to the use of cell phones also applies to ham radio. Representatives assure us that the bill will not move forward in its current state. There is talk of a new entry level license aimed at grade school level. Analysis of the current tests show that the current tests read at a 12<sup>th</sup> grade level, far above the grade school level.

Club hats – There was a problem with the sewing machine so there was no display. At the time of discussion, 9 hats had been paid for. (several more were paid for during and after the meeting) Doc moved that the club pay for the 20 hats previously agreed upon. Passed.

The program on propagation was delayed to have discussion on the dues increase. Much discussion followed.

Historical note – the savings and 501(c)(3) were designed to grow the club with a clubhouse and radios. The low dues were to encourage people to join the club which has not happened.

The president presented a secret ballot which has a portion for the dues increase and a portion for the bylaws change which is awaiting a vote. The ballots were passed out to the members to vote.

It was stated that Fred has an honorary membership which he received years back. Several members remember when it was done. It will be recorded. Jack moved to refund the dues Fred paid last year as he meets the requirements for honorary membership. Passed.

The president has asked the secretary to write a voting article regarding how votes are tallied.

The September social will be a potluck to be held in the new shelter in Dallas city park.

The Christmas social will be a catered dinner by Washington street restaurant . the board will set the place and date. (after discussion about where, and what dates were available at both venues and caterer.

Vote tallies 18 total

Bylaws change	15 approve	2 against	1 abstain	Passed
Dues increase	8 approve	10 against		Failed

Bob, feels that there was not enough research done for a proper analysis of the dues increase. He has graciously agreed to do research with Dennis and come up with a budget and a dues increase to keep pace with the deficit.

Timber Thompson won the 50/50 drawing worth \$9.00.

Presentation on propagation was given by Mike with a forecast of reception woes in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

## 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

Dinner meeting, Rockin Rogers at 6:00 PM on Mar 16, 2017

Gathering every Monday Morning at Washington Street Steakhouse & Pub

### VE Testing Polk County Court House

- March 11, 2017
- May 13, 2017
- July 8, 2017
- September 9, 2017
- November 11, 2017

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