

# The Road Report

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Editors:

Troy Greenberg, KF7SEY  
kf7sey@gmail.com  
Emily Greenberg, KG7ITR  
kg7itr@gmail.com



## RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

### Prez Sez



How did everyone do on their 10-10 Easter Egg Hunt?

Hope everyone is having some great success with the ROADS Bunny hunt.

Mike Nason is our committee person in charge of Field Day this year. If you have any interest please contact Mike, KA7HBB, as soon as possible. His email address is [ka7hbb@yahoo.com](mailto:ka7hbb@yahoo.com). **Again we need some people interested and willing to take part or we will not have Field Day.**

73' W7KBR

Just a quick reminder, the 7QRP competition is coming soon, May 6th. Good luck to all that are planning to get on the air and participate.

This last meeting we needed a person to step up and head up the election committee for officers in the upcoming year. No one volunteered for the position.

This upcoming meeting in May we will be looking for persons to fill the Treasure, Secretary and President position. These positions will run for one year July 2017 through June 2018. Please consider running for an office. **If we do not fill the positions then the future of ROADS is in question to carry on in the future.**

I will not be at the May meeting due to a pre planned trip out of town for 5 days.

We are also looking for people with interest in taking part in Field Day. We could use help setting up, operating radios, and taking the antennas down and clean up. The dates for the Field Day is setup June 23, operate June 24, and take down and clean up June 25.

### Here 'n There

#### Mr. Nitpicker

By K7QXG

For a long, long time some of our members have chatted with **KF7SEY**, Troy, on his drive home from work in Salem to Falls City using 146.550. I've done it myself. Well, **Mr. Nitpicker** pointed out to our VP, **W7RIS**, Mike, that we were in violation of the **Band Plan** put in place by the **ORRC** (Oregon Regional Relay Council). The plan requires 20 KHz spacing between 2 meter Simplex frequencies to avoid *interference*.

**Mr. Nitpicker** said we could cause interference with stations on 146.540 if we operated on 146.550! Oregon is the *ONLY* state in the union that requires 20 KHz spacing... all others only require 15 KHz. So, rather than turn this two cent issue into a five dollar

fuss, ROADS members talked about moving to 146.540. But that hasn't happened, and I'll let someone else research the regulations on this. Meanwhile, come join us on 146.550 on any weekday night at 5 PM, or shortly after, and keep KF7SEY from getting lonely on his trip home from work.

**Rabbit Killers ...** The following stations were successful in finding the ROADS bunny in a hidden transmitter hunt in Dallas: **AE7OA**, **WA7MZM**, and **KF7SEY**. When the bunny was relocated to another part of Dallas, it was found within 30 minutes by **K7QXG** using the strategies outlined in the last issue of the ROADS Report. **N7WWH**, reports finding the bunny using the map strategy. Congratulations Jim! A note from **W7KBR**, Warren, says he too tracked down the elusive rabbit! The bunny has now been moved to another location.

**Please Welcome** new member **WA7SKG**, Michael, who moved to Dallas from St. Helens. Michael now lives within spitting distance of AE7OA and K7QXG.

The **Oregon Trail Chapter Easter Special** was an event designed to add a little something different to the usual 10-10 Sunday Net. Members were allowed to choose one of eight colors for their "egg" and all members then collected these different colors during the Sunday nets. The colors had different point values, but only K7QXG knew what they were. After the event ended on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the point values were revealed and it was determined who had the most valuable basket of eggs. The high score won a box of Cadbury chocolate covered crème filled eggs. Yummy! **Flash!** The Cadbury Eggs went to **W7KBR**, Warren, who collected 102 points. Congratulations Warren!

**Congratulations KB6MMV**, "EG", who just received his 10-10 number 77546, and has been assigned Oregon Trail #525 L.

**W6SVP, surprise birthday party** was well attended by those of us who remember Jim Perkins:  
**WA7MZM, N7WWH, KX5W, K7CIE, W6KXA, K7QXG, and KE7JNT.**

**Little Help Needed ...** After many years of faithful service, I began having problems when using my RigBlaster *plus* for PSK and RTTY... It simply would not enable the creation of a COM Port for it. So, I replaced it with Signalink. Sadly, Signalink won't permit me to use true FSK on RTTY – which is a big deal for me because I use the N1MM/MMTTY software for RTTY contests. N1MM makes it EASIER TO TUNE INCOMING SIGNALS when in FSK mode. To return to true FSK I am now looking at the MicroKeyer II... and its hefty price tag. I understand Timewave's Navigator also produces true FSK, but is difficult to configure. RigBlaster Advantage also offers true FSK. Call me please, if you have had experience with any of these!

**Don't Forget ...** The **May** meeting is nomination time for officers for next year, and **June** is election month. **Three of our officers are not returning: W7KBR (President), KT7H (Secretary), and WB7VAO (Treasurer).** If we are unable to fill these posts, ROADS will need to disband. And, keep in mind that if we disband the IRS rules state we must turn over all funds in our bank accounts to another 501C3 organization with the same goals and objectives as ours. That also means all items owned by ROADS must be sold and the funds turned over to the recipient club. **Is that what you really want?** Which local club will you join then? Who would you like to see in the officer positions? *Have you spoken to any of them about keeping ROADS alive and healthy?* You don't need to run for office, but that doesn't mean you can't encourage others to do so.

And last, sometimes you get a pleasant surprise on the air. I recently worked **LU1ZI**, thinking he was in Argentina. When I checked **LOTW** today, I found he was actually in the **South Shetland Islands!** A nice present indeed!

*If we have no officer candidates for our June election then this will be my last column. However, the Oregon Trail Chapter of 10-10 is a separate entity and will continue its Sunday net sessions.*

- Bob K7QXG

## KF7SEY Corner



Here is my Bitx40 in its final case. Some of you had an opportunity to see it in person when I brought it for show and tell at the club meeting a few weeks back. Since then, I have completed my S-Meter and I had to build an amplifier for it. Without an amplifier I could not get the bar graph to show anything unless the signal was a S5 or greater. Thanks to Jim N7WWH for helping me get signals on my FT-950 and then on the bitx40 so I could calibrate my meter. Here

is a link to a video I posted on YouTube so all of you could see it in action.

<https://youtu.be/wfz4Kn6ktUM>

It has been a fun project but not without some heartaches. When experimenting, things do go wrong sometimes. So far I have been able to fix everything I have done. I have spent my radio time mostly on JT65 and PSK31 with it. Here is my list so far:

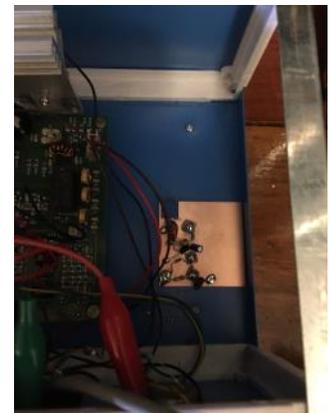
WA, CA, IA, MS, MO, TX, MN, AZ, IL, ID, Alberta Canada, and Japan.

Being QRP you have to be somewhat strategic. I found calling CQ produces the most contacts, but have made a few answering. This has been my go to rig for the last 2-3 weeks. I have been having a great time with it since putting it together. It has been modified from its original state. Mods I have done so far: Adding USB, S-Meter, Volt Meter, Receiver protection from RF, FCC spurious output requirements 43DB for the US, and adding Computer PTT for digital modes. Have some other mods I want to try, one of which is to improve the transmitted audio. Thanks to Jack W7SCT for recording my audio and sending me an MP3. I now know what it sounds like on the other end.

Until next time 73

Troy KF7SEY Dit Dit

S-Meter amplifier is the small PCB board.



## Minutes for ROADS meeting April 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Warren, W7KBR at 7pm.

New member Michael Barnes, WA7SKG was introduced.

Motion from Dave, KT7H, to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made and approved.

Treasurer's report was given.

Committee report from Mike, KA7HBB was given. Request was made to see how many people WILL help (not just give lip service) with field day. 6 people have shown interest. Bob, QXG, Mike, HBB, Warren, KBR, Dennis, VAO and Doc, KX5W. Concern was expressed if this was enough people and what level the club wants to participate in field day.

Bonnie, ZQ, Senate bill #2 and House bill 2597 are progressing with no exemption for ham radio yet. Please contact your representatives.

Christmas social will be at the Greenway Mobile Park on Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup> and will be catered by Washington Street Steakhouse and will be about \$17.00 each.

February swap meet at Rickreall netted the club \$209.90 from misc sales and sales from the estates of K7AA, Ray Porter and N7BUD, Bud Smith. Radio sales from KG7OXU also helped.

President Warren asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. No one volunteered. President Warren then asked for anyone wishing to hold an office to come forward. Again, no one. It was pointed out that the club will die if no one holds offices.

The City of Dallas family night was tabled due to the fact that the club might not be active.

It has been brought to one of the club members attention that some people are using 146.550 as a simplex frequency. The ROADS club does NOT have a club frequency and does NOT endorse a frequency for club use. Simplex frequencies are available for use at the operators discretion.

Website information was briefly discussed.

Program on the grid square system was presented by Nate, NAT.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Dave Goetz, secretary

## 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

Club Meeting at the Polk County Courthouse at 7:00 PM on 5/18/2017

Gathering every Monday Morning at Washington Street Steakhouse & Pub

### VE Testing Polk County Court House

- 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.