



The Road Report

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RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

Prez Sez



Here we are in June! Is everyone ready for our field day? Dates are June 23-25, 2017. Please contact Mike Nason, ka7hbb@yahoo.com, for the details.

This is a big month for ROADS. We will be electing new officers for the upcoming year. If you are interested, please attend the meeting on June 15th to vote for new officers.

To the current officers and board of directors, please bring ALL ROADS related material and records to the meeting on June 15th, to be handed off to the newly elected officers and board members.

I would like to thank the current officers for their support, and participation in the ROADS club this year. They are, Mike Shelby (vice pres.), Dave Goetz (sec.), Dennis Elson (treas.), Troy and Emily Greenberg (news editors), Michael Fuller (director), and Jack Schult (director).

Thanks to Mike Shelby, W7RIS, for filling in for me while I was Spring bear hunting. I appreciate your help. I didn't harvest a bear this season. There were 4" of snow, and those bears just didn't like it! I did see a shooter bear, and a lot of elk. The views were great, and it was still a good time.

The 7QRP competition this year, had some winners from our club. Mike Shelby, Warren Gookin, Jr., and Jim Campbell were part of the ROADS club who participated in the 7QRP competition, put on by the PEAK Radio club of Corvallis. They took 1st place with multiple operators on a two county line. ROADS also had another winner, that took first place, Troy Greenberg, as a single operator, operating QRP.

Thanks for a great year!

73'

Warren Gookin, Jr.

Here 'n There

Warning! Prepare Now!

By K7QXG

No, I'm not talking about the big Cascadia earthquake, nor am I talking about the end of the world. Every single one of us will be affected by this coming event – the Solar Eclipse! Don't think so? Let me explain. There will be a huge influx of people descending on Oregon from around the world and they will begin arriving a week before the event and will stay for several days after the event. What does this mean for you? There are four critical areas you need to think about. 1. *Gasoline*. Better fill your tank a week before the eclipse. 2. *Food*. You don't really think these thousands are going to go on an 8 day diet do you? 3. *Public services* will be pushed

beyond the limit. There will be a substantial increase in noise, short tempers, boozing, partying, and everything else that will make for a bit of misery. Plan on some quiet time and ignore the ballyhoo. 4. *Crime*. Expect to see the crime rate increase. During a very recent visit to Central Oregon I was stunned to learn that Madras, population 6,000, is expecting up to 100,000 arrivals for the eclipse. That is because Madras is a premier viewing location. The city has already mapped out RV and camping sites in surrounding fields. I don't anticipate a surge in population in this area, but it won't hurt to be prepared.

On a more upbeat note....

The W7ORE bunny is now visiting its third home in Dallas. Full info was sent by email via W7RIS (Thanks Mike).

Mentioning bunnies, W7KBR won the Oregon Trail Easter Special and was treated to some Cadbury Easter eggs.

Sporadic E for this summer is back with solid openings on 10 meters some evenings to California, Arizona and Nevada. I found 10 meter SSB activity last night about 7 PM. Sunday morning before the net produced 10 meter QSOs with CA, NV and ID.

Field Day is just around the corner. KA7HBB has all the details.

Election time this month. We have candidates for all positions, so please come to the June meeting and you can thank them for keeping ROADS alive!

5U5R (Niger) QSLs being received locally.

Very interesting QSL received yesterday from WV3S. On the front it says, "The XYL said she'd leave me if I kept playing on the radio. Thanks for the QSO! 73" This was from a MFSK 16 QSO.

ERROR CORRECTION

In the previous issue I mentioned that Oregon is the only state requiring 20 KHz frequency spacing (Oregon Band Plan), and that is grossly in error. I should have researched that topic better. New member WA7SKG informs me, "You mentioned "Oregon is the ONLY state in the union that requires 20 KHz spacing... all others only require 15 KHz." You might be interested to know that WA, OR, ID, MT, NV, UT, AZ, NM, TX, MI(Lower part), HI, and parts of AL all utilize the 20 kHz bandplan on 2 meters. Also, BC, AB, and Northern ON in Canada, and Mexico use the 20 kHz bandplans. So, Oregon is not really an anomaly in that respect." Well, I really missed the target on that one. My apologies to everyone for the error.

Congratulations to **AE7OA**, Mike, who found the bunny again in its new hiding place.

- bob K7QXG

LIFE IS SIMPLE



Solar Storms and QRP Are Not for the Faint of Heart.

By **KF7SEY**

It all started on May 15th, I was looking at the weather report for the week. It showed that Friday the 19th was going to be a good day, warm and dry. So I decided I would take the day off and go out and activate some summits for SOTA. Now, if I had look at the solar weather report I might have changed my mind, but I didn't. Come Wednesday I was watching Ham Nation and discovered that a solar storm was coming and it would hit sometime Friday. I immediately told Emily, (XYL), "Just my luck, the one day I take off to play ham radio. Should be a interesting day", and it was.

Friday morning came and I finished packing my pack with radio gear. I looked at the propagation report, and yes the storm was here. Conditions were going to be bad. I decided to go over to the coast range in the Tillamook forest area and activate. 1st summit was [Sheridan Peak](#). This is a 2 pointer and an easy hike through the forest for about a half mile. Once I got to the summit I began to setup, starting with 20 meters. I spotted myself on SOTA watch and started calling CQ. First station, K6HPX in California comes to my call. Then 2 more stations, NG6R and K7ICB. Now to get points for the activation you need a minimum of 4 contacts. This is where it gets interesting. I continue to call CQ with no takers. I even switched to 40 Meters with no success. I did this for over an hour. At this point I had two choices. One, pack up and head down giving up the points. Or two, switch to CW and hope for one more contact. So I chose number two. Very nervous at this point as I have never called CQ on CW. I reconfigure my antenna for 20m CW and spot myself on SOTA watch. "Need one more 14.063 CW Calling CQ please QRS 10 WPM with spacing". I started calling CQ SOTA DE KF7SEY. After a few minutes I get a pileup. But here is the crux. They are somewhere around 20 wpm, I can't copy anything and now completely flustered. I send a quick QRS, which is send slower. I hear nothing and it felt like forever but was only seconds. I hear, N S 7 P. I know who this is. It is Phil in Eugene. I answer him back with signal report and receive one back. He accommodated my speed and I made my first SOTA CW

contact calling CQ. At this point I'm so nervous I screwed up sending his report and had to send a couple of times. I got my four contacts. After over an hour and wet and cold from sitting on the forest floor, I went QRT. I went on to activate two more summits, [Mt. Hebo](#) and [Little Hebo](#) with success, but not without challenges. Made four contacts on Mt. Hebo, which also took over an hour and five contacts on Little Hebo, including two summit to summits. This day shows with a little patience and the ability to switch bands and modes, contacts can be made.

- Troy KF7SEY

QST , ROADS Bunny Hunt #3

The ROADS bunny has moved to a new location. This bunny hunt will probably last for a month or more. I want to give everyone plenty of time to find the Bunny. The Bunny is located somewhere within the city limits of Dallas. The Bunny should be active (transmitting) every morning starting at 7:00 am. and it will go to sleep around 11:00 pm every night. Note that the transmit frequency is **146.560 MHz**. This frequency reflect the Oregon band plan for 2M. The bunny will transmit for 20 seconds with a musical tune, followed by about 10 seconds of the CW ID (W7ORE). The transmitter will be ideal for 60 seconds before repeating the musical tune and CW ID. With a reasonable antenna, the transmitter should be heard throughout the Dallas city limits.

The Bunny location is identified by a small 4" X 8" plastic sign with the Call Sign of "W7ORE", the frequency of 146.560 and some yellow safety tape. The sign is on a stake about 16" off the ground. Please do not trespass on anyone's property. The sign is clearly visible from a public road or sidewalk. When you have located the Bunny, please email me information about the location and I will respond with a conformation. To verify the location, I will need to know the nearest cross streets, or house address, or picture of the location with the sign, or GPS location.

- Mike W7RIS

Minutes for ROADS meeting May 18, 2017

Meeting was called to order by the vice president Mike Shelby, W7RIS, at 7 pm.

One visitor was introduced, Paul Johnson, W7COV.

Moved by Mike, KA7HBB, to accept the published minutes. Passed.

Treasurer report was given by Dennis, WB7VAO.

An audit committee is needed for the annual inspection. Dave, WA7MZM and Steve, KW7DSP volunteered to serve and report back.

VP Mike appealed for membership involvement for volunteers to step forward for the nominating committee or for members to allow their name to be entered for club officers. Three members were gracious enough to allow their names to be submitted. Steve, KW7DSP, Bonnie, AB7ZO, and Mike, KA7HBB. Thank you for volunteering.

Mike, KA7HBB gave a report on field day operations and plans. Mike and Steve are working on antennas and generators. There will be no tower and beam this year. There will be several radios available and will probably work under a 2A classification. 7 to 8 members have said they will work the contest. If you can come and help, please do. Another club meeting will be held before field day. Mike is planning another field day meeting to tie up loose ends. Call him for info if you can help.

The problem of insurance came up and it was stated that it was done last month.

NOTE. Looking back, it was tabled last month due to undetermined club status and needs to be done as the city needs a rider.

Mike, W7RIS gave an interesting program on Phonetics. A very informative program.

Nate, W7NAT, announced that there will be a VE session at Dallas city hall on May 20 at 1pm.

Dave, KT7H, mentioned that the big storm in April knocked a tree into the 145.350 tower and the tower is down. It will be for at least a month more and probably longer as the tower needs to be erected and all antennas need to be replaced. Possibly the club might make a donation as many hams use the repeater. Steve, KW7DSP said that the club should consider taking money out of the savings as the "windfall we got to build the clubhouse" won't happen. The money should be spent on improving ham radio. That's the purpose of the club and we should consider doing that in June.

Steve, KW7DSP, would like a future program on insurance for radio equipment such as the one ARRL offers and any others.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

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 6/15/2017

Gathering every Monday Morning at Washington Street Steakhouse & Pub

VE Testing Polk County Court House

- 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 or 503-585-2136.

- **QST, Sea-Pac in Seaside is on June 2,3, & 4 at the Seaside Convention Center. See website for more details. <https://www.seapac.org/>**
- **QST, Some Roads members are now monitoring 146.460. We have moved from 146.550 to accommodated the ORRC band plan.**