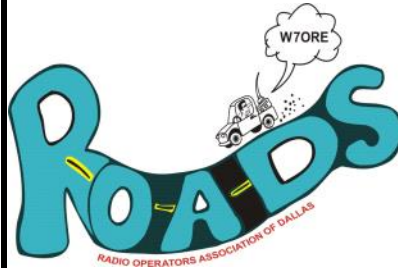


The ROAD Report

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Editor: Michael Fuller, K7CIE
k7cie@arrl.net

RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION of DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez by Jack Schult



Well here we are in 2015. Watching Rock'in New Year's eve, I stayed up to see the ball drop, just as I knew it should, but these days nothing seems to be for certain. I miss Dick, one of the nicest guys I ever had the pleasure of spending a few minutes of my life with. Mr. Clark was the real deal. There was nothing pretentious about him. I could not even detect even of trace of

Hollywood. The Oregon State Fair provided the opportunity to chat with Dick as we sat under a media tent and laughed about the brief encounter at the Burbank Mc Donald's. It impacted me way more than him. I was attending Radio Operational Engineering School and Dick was there filming Action, one of the many TV programs he produced back in '65. I pulled up in my '56 Chevy to grab a burger and there he was walking toward me. As he approached the car with his index finger raised, it must have been the deer in the headlights expression on my face that gave away the fact that I wasn't the person he was expecting. We both shrugged our shoulders in the universal sign language of I guess not, and each had a smile on our face. I know mine was bigger. A brief moment in time to, remember. The Golden Arches, and the State Fair were never the same,

Santa did not bring me a 1 KW Johnson Matchox antenna Tuner

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this year. Not only is the Matchbox the Bee's knees of antenna tuners, it also provides delayed switching from the 110 volt relay voltage from the Valiant. In the tradition of Ham Radio I turned to the electronic bone yard box of goodies and was able find the supplies needed for a Fast Make, Slow Break antenna relay apparatus. Our modern day transceivers cloak the reality that using vintage equipment one must transfer the antenna between the transmitter and the receiver and ideally delay the connection to the receiver after the plate voltage is removed from the final stage. Using my 500 plus feet of Diamond Loop antenna, fed by 450 Ohm ladder line provides a few challenges.

I found that by paralleling 9,000 uf across the switching relay coil provides about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second lag between the time the xmtr is unkeyed to the time the relay returns the antenna from the Johnson Viking Valiant to the Drake 2-B rcvr. Thought I would include photos of



the almost complete assembly for anyone interested. For the vintage equipment enthusiast, please note

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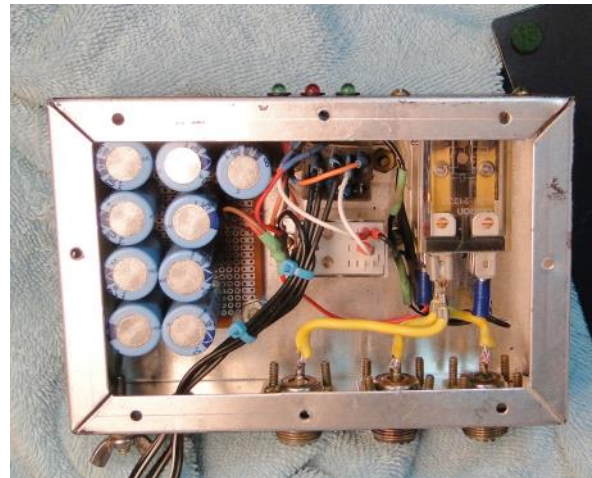
the E.F. Johnson Thunderbolt Maroon paint job.



but I am pleased with the progress so far. Please contact me if you would like additional information.

Less that 2 months before Hamfest at Recreall! Watching Rock'in New Year's eve

Projects under development: NLP experimentation to give a voice challenged Amateur Radio Operator the freedom to use SSB, AM, or FM voice mode to communicate should vocal ability be compromised. NLP or Natural Language Processing, sounds very real, unlike the Steven Hawkin "Weather Radio sound." I have found a way to produce, store, and interface messages at little or no cost. Trial runs can be heard, on a limited basis, 28.803 Sundays starting at 11:30am. I am still working out a few glitches



I look forward to watching ROADS grow over the next year, and to enjoy the company of our members.

Above is a picture of the completed antenna switcher.



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Here n' There By Bob Peschka, K7QXG

This month I'm going to intrude on Troy's turf and talk about an easy project that I've recently completed. As some of you know, I am now sporting two amplifiers in my radio room. The Ameritron AL-811 HD that uses 572B tubes, and the Tokyo HyPower that I originally owned and have since bought back from AE7OA... he needed the money so he could buy himself an early Christmas present – the Yaesu Quadra amplifier! The THP is a solid state amp that produces 500 to 600 watts out, or 400 watts on RTTY. I wanted it for RTTY.

As most of you know, my radio room is SMALL, so it presented a challenge to find room for it. Once that was accomplished, I needed to find a simple way to switch between the two amps without unscrewing coax cables and unplugging the relay cable. As always, I start with a block diagram (learned that in 1960 and it has stuck with me through the years.) AE7OA, Mike, was kind enough to give me an ALPHA-DELTA DPDT coax switch and KE7JNT has loaned me another DPDT coax switch. After installing the two, I was able to switch between the amps and feed a common antenna. That left the relay switch. A trip to

Fry's in Wilsonville produced all the parts and plugs that I needed. A one hour soldering task resulted in a simple and easy to use switch that allows me to direct the relay output from the FT-2000 to the amp I want to use.

I took some nice photos of the entire installation, and the switch box I built, but to conserve on space I'm not including them in this column. Meanwhile, KE7JNT is building a super switchbox for me that uses several relays and will allow me to switch between amps with the throw of a single switch. Now, is that neat or what?

A Tip Of The Hat... goes to WA7MZM, Dave, who has repaired both of these amps over a period of time. He replaced the finals in the Tokyo HyPower and it runs better now than when it was brand new! The Ameritron amp had failed recently and KE7JNT and I spent 3 days trying to pin down the problem. After we gave up, WA7MZM took it home and had it repaired in a couple of hours.... Something to do with the fuses, but we won't go there. It also had a blown 572B that was shorted internally. I had some used 572Bs and that solved the rest of the issue. So, the Ameritron produces a maximum of 350 – 450 watts on 10 through 20, while the Tokyo HyPower produces 500 – 600 watts on the same bands.

When 10 Meters Is Hot

December 13th was the ARRL's 10 meter contest and the propagation did not disappoint anyone. There weren't many EU DX stations, and I only worked one of them, but there were lots of South American stations. The USA stations were jam packed into the band and most had big signals. After a few dozen QSOs I slowed down and became a SWL of sorts, looking for the more interesting contacts (who wants to work 50 stations in Texas?). That led to QSOs with EA8 stations, New England stations, and some that are hard to work on 10 meters like British Columbia. The CW band was just as wild as the SSB part of the band, although the voice portion was a solid mass of QRM from 28.300 to 28.800. Most of my contacts were with 95 watts and the AL 811 HD was only used on a few of the more difficult stations – besides, the amp only produces 350 watts out on 10 meters and on SSB that barely makes a difference.

Some of the DX stations in the contest included: FY5, TI5, ZY2, P40, CT1, HC, CE, PY, LU, EA8, TG9, PJ4, NP3 and ZF2. Of course the band was loaded with USA stations from New England including VT, NH, and ME.

Oregon Trail Net Using CW!

On Dec. 14th a "first" happened when three stations checked into the Sunday Net with CW: Those skillful operators were W7HO, W7SCT and

AE7OA. A discussion was held following the net and in the future stations that check in by sending their call in CW will receive extra "points" to add to their point total.

KW7DSP Earns WAS On Net

A station from Maine checked into the Oregon Trail net and made Steve, KW7DSP, very happy. Maine was the last state Steve needed to complete his Worked All States Award. Net control made sure that KW7DSP and AA1QW exchanged the required signal reports to make it an official contact.

K7CIE Scores Again

K7CIE, Michael, is a member of the W7TVC contest team, and they scored big time in the 2013 ARRL 10 meter contest.

W7TVC was Number 1 in Oregon and the Northwest Division. Further, W7TVC was Number 4 in the United States. The award certificate from ARRL looks great and I am sure Michael is very proud of it. This reflects a lot of hard work and dedication to score so well. Congratulations to Michael and the team.

JT65 News From N7WWH

Jim, N7WWH, recently began using the JT65 digital mode running 10 – 20 watts. He acquired several new countries using this mode and has worked all continents with it. Among the countries worked was Sri Lanka, a fine catch on any mode.

Jim uses HRD-DM780 in conjunction with the JT65 software. It was set up and configured by Troy, KF7SEY.

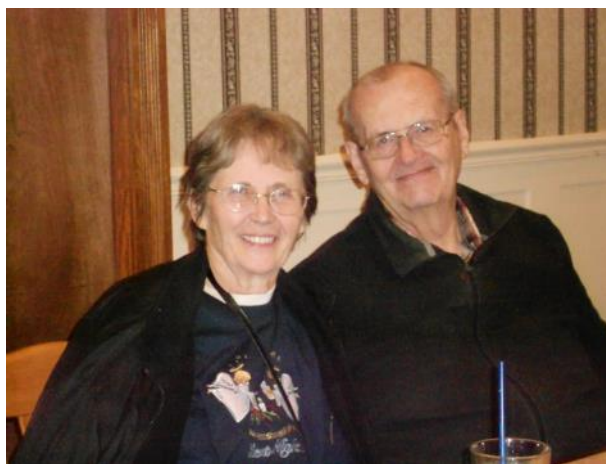
The Smoke Test

How many of you remember the phrase “the smoke test...”? It was very commonplace in the 60s and 70s when there was still a lot of building going on in the ham radio world. Well, one of our members experienced it recently. Fortunately the circuit was protected with a fuse and no damage was done. The moral of this story is: A fuse will save your equipment, and maybe your life.

eQSL Worked All Canada

If you use eQSL to confirm your QSOs, and millions of hams do, you may have noticed that they now have two new awards. One is Worked All Australia (you need 8 provinces confirmed for the basic award), and the **Worked All Canada Award**. It requires QSOs with 11 of the 13 Provinces to get the basic award. It is not as easy as you think, but on December 27th the annual Winter RAC contest was held and the bands were alive with Canadian stations. Only one Province had eluded me by Saturday noon. At that point I traded operating for watching football on TV. Nearly all QSOs were on SSB and all but one were on 10 and 15 meters. Even nearby British Columbia stations were heard and worked.

**That’s all for this month!
A very Happy New Year in 2015
and good health to everyone.
73,
K7QXG**



Backyard DX by Bob Peschka, K7QXG

It was raining hard, dinner was over, and it looked like a hum drum evening. I had a few updates to install in the radio room PC, so I wandered out and began the task. I turned on the FT-2000 and scanned the 20 meter CW band to pass the time. The band should have been dead at this time of night, but... aha! A faint squeaky signal greeted me on 14.025. Careful tuning brought him in a little bit better, and, after getting his prefix, I rotated the beam with the heading dead on Rodriquez Island...half way around the world from me. 3B9FR was calling CQ and not getting an answer, so I fired up the amp and sent 500 watts his way. It took two tries before he got my call right, but a few minutes later he was in my log! My report was only 559, but on a totally dead band any report would have been acceptable. The moral of the story is that you will find DX at times when you least expect it!

So What Else Is On ...

The following is a partial list of country prefixes that I have worked since the last ROADS Report came out. Let's start with a few choice ones and

I'll omit all the ON, HB, G, DL and other garden variety QSOs I've had: 3B8, 3B9, IT9, VP2, LZ1748, ZF, 9W6 (Borneo), FY, BH4, C6, VP2, FM, TZ6BB (Mali), TM14VT (Special Event), JD1 (Torishima on RTTY!), BX4AG on 10 meter RTTY, VP8 (Falkland Is.).

The LZ1748 has a beautiful QSL card and he is one of several stations commemorating the saints of Bulgaria. No, it doesn't cost anything for his QSL, and there is no need to send direct because these special cards all come through the QSL Bureau. If you collect five in a given year, you can send an email to the program manager and he will send you a nifty certificate as an email attachment. All the QSLs are different and commemorate a wide variety of Bulgarian saints.

QSL Watch....

I'm patiently waiting for 5R8M... Madagascar. 5R8M confirmed all three QSOs in LoTW, but so far no sign of the pasteboard card in my mail box.

Tromelin "riot" and the coming DXpedition to Navassa Island

The December issue of QST had a great article about the bad manners, poor operating, garbage-in,

garbage-out operating by the hordes of amateurs trying to work Tromelin. The remarks in QST were intended to quiet the crowd when Navassa comes on the air, but I guarantee you it's not going to happen! I listened a few times to the hordes of jerk operators mangle and trash the bands, show disrespect to all who were vying for a contact, and in general made me ashamed to be an amateur radio operator. The same will repeat itself in late January.

Who is to blame? I will point my finger right at the main culprit in all of this: The ARRL! Yes, that organization has made it nearly impossible for the "little pistols" to work the rare ones anymore. For some years now the ARRL has advocated working DXCC entities on every band (except 5 meters), using every mode, and now the big powerful DX stations enjoy this sport. One contact is not enough to satisfy their DX appetites, so they fire up the big multi KW amp, swing their big yagis towards the expedition, and add to the mayhem as they make their 23rd contact with the DXpedition, thereby precluding 22 other hams from even getting one QSO. This greed is further perpetuated by the expedition mem-

bers who want to give out as many QSOs as possible because the more stations worked means the more donations that roll in, and the more big DXers means more of the BIG donations. So, there is no effort to make the rare entity available to the rest of us by taking calls from specific call areas. This sure isn't the DX scene I remember from the 1960s.

But enough

I'll get down off my soap box now and tell you what has been on the air that anyone can work, including the "little pistols."

At the beginning of the column I listed prefixes of several stations that were a relatively easy catch. Most of these were worked on 10 or 15 meters, and most were worked with 90 watts. One was worked with 45 watts. About 2/3 were worked on SSB, and the rest were snagged using CW.

When is the best time of day to find most of these, and on which band? Try 10 meters when it is open, at around 3 to 5 PM, and point the beam NW, if you have a beam. Some were strong enough to be worked with a coat hanger!

CW Alert....For those who are

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short on DX, but know how to use CW, there will be lots of small contests coming up in the next three months and you should be able to find a few new entities. An example: Dec. 20th the Croatia CW contest was held. It only lasted a few hours, and was half over by the time the bands opened here. Even so you could have worked 5B (Cyprus), 4Z4, LX1, YT, and lots of 9A stations. Several other countries were logged as well.

Totals Climb With Digital Help

Since Jim, N7WWH, began using JT65, his DXCC totals have climbed to 215 confirmed.

Asia Openings

The nice openings to Asia persisted on 15 meter SSB and CW on Dec. 23rd. However, one of my CQs was answered by K7NN in Tucson, AZ...off the back of my A4S beam! His signal was 20 db over S 9, so I can only imagine what it would have been like if I had spun my beam around towards him. He is 75 years old and still highly sought by companies for his skills with fiber optics. So, all you old timers out there, possibilities last forever, although I can't see myself going back to work again. Hmmmm, I started this commentary with re-

marks about the Asia openings, but seem to have gotten off track. Age does that to you. Suffice it to say there are lots of great signals out of Asia around 3:30 PM local time to 4:30 PM local time. And don't think you need a great antenna, as became apparent on December 29th when I was playing with RTTY on 15 meters. The beam was pointed SE, which put the back of the beam towards Asia. I was getting lots of calls from USA stations who were looking for ARRL Centennial points. Soon I began getting many calls from Japan – on the back of the beam. As they say, when the band is open, you don't need much of an antenna and very little power.

Congratulations to

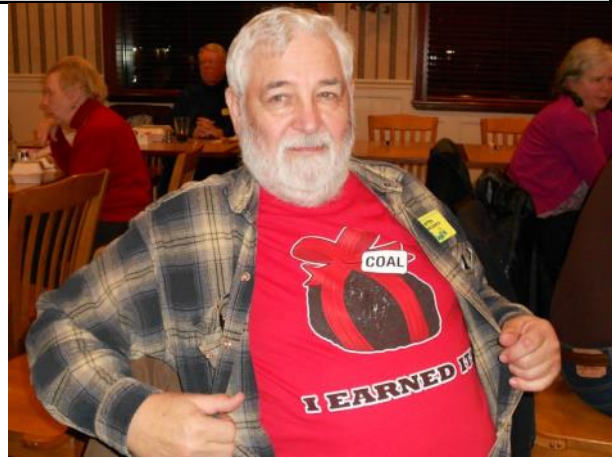
KE7JNT and N7WWH who both worked Tromelin Island. Am I jealous? YES! I've also learned that KX5W already had Tromelin confirmed. Oh well, I guess I'll need to be satisfied with Penquin Island and Walvis Bay. You say you can't find them on the DXCC list? Well, that's because they were deleted years ago. I got them when they still counted – in the early 1990s.

Yes, this column is long, BUT...

It makes up for last month when I had little information to put in it.

Next month I hope to have a few photos of the switch box that KE7JNT is building and a report on its operation.

73, K7QXG



Photos courtesy of Lita

Your 2014-2015 ROAD's Calendar

- 15 January 2015** **Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House—
Program—TBD**
- 14 February 2015** **Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet,@ Polk
County Fairgrounds, Rickreall**
- 19 February 2015** **Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House—TBD**
- 14 March 2015** **V.E. Testing @ Polk County Courthouse**
- 19 March 2015** **Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House—
Appoint Nominating Committee**
- 16 April 2015** **Club Dinner Meeting - 6 pm—TBD**
- 9 May 2015** **V.E. Testing @ Polk County Courthouse**
- 14 May 2015** **Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House**
- 5 June—7 June 2015** **Sea-Pac—NW Division ARRL Convention @ Seaside, OR**
- 18 June 2015** **Club Meeting - 7 pm @ Polk County Court House—
Elections**
- 27-28 June 2015** **ARRL Field Day**

Your 2014-2015 Current Club Officers

Position	Name	Callsign	E-mail	Phone
President	Jack Schult	W7SCT	jackschult@msn.com	(503) 831-0756 (503) 881-5836
Vice 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	Hollis Ferguson	WB7IEO	HollisHBM@msn.com	(503)623-1936

For Sale, Swap, Trade, or Wanted

For Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio-related items may be listed for sale, trade, swap or as "wanted" only by club members. There is no fee and the ad will be listed for two publications of the ROADS Report. Individuals must submit to the ROAD's Editor complete wording to include price and contact information. A picture may be included. All listing are non-commercial.
