

# The Road Report

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## RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez

by

Jack Schult, W7SCT



The elections gave us three candidates for the Board of Directors position, K7CIE, K7LWV, and KW7DSP. Mike took it by 1 vote. The officer's positions yielded zero newcomers willing to volunteer and again Troy made the difference as he reversed his decision not to run. Without additional manpower willing to serve, this club will not be able to continue as we are now. It is becoming clearer to me what American Author Mary Mapes Dodge wrote in 1865 about the little Dutch boy who plugged a dike with his finger waiting for the adults of the village make the necessary repairs.

Recalculating.....

Looks like we temporarily avoided the demise of the Road Report. It was the contribution of Two ROADS members that made the difference.

Thank you, Troy and Emily for publishing and editing this publication.

As I'm sure you know Mike AE7OA suffered a stroke. At this writing he is improving. It is a wakeup call for us all, it can happen to any of us at anytime. God speed for recovery Mike.

- Jack, W7SCT

## Here 'n There

By K7QXG

Summer nights are heating up, and the big solar storm did nothing but give us lots of problems. The 20 meter band had been most cooperative during the late evenings in May with some openings lasting until 1:30 AM. Now it is noisy, crackly, and not much is happening. **On a positive note**, I did work the Veterans Hospital station in Loma Linda on 20 SSB from my mobile rig while in Douglas County near Roseburg. Even better, I received a great QSL card from the operator of that station.

In a prior issue I noted that **KW7DSP and AE7OA** had posed with a chess board in our city park for a photo that was intended for the Oregon Good Sam Annual Photography Contest in Roseburg. I had a total of nine photos, but was only permitted to enter five. Sorry to say, our Good Sam chapter voted to cut the park photo and send KW7DSP and AE7OA to the waste bin. All was not lost though – a photo of my granddaughter on the carousel in Salem's Waterfront Park took grand prize and earned a nice gift certificate from Camping World.

**Congratulations to our 2015/2016 officers.** I was very pleased to see **W7SCT**, Jack, return as our President. The club seems to be at a cross-roads right now – we either grow or we diminish in size and activity. Now is the time for strong leadership and breadth of experience and Jack brings all those talents into play. I know that **N7WWH** also brings a wealth of management experience to the club from his days when he lived in “*that other state*”. I especially wish to welcome Troy and his XYL to the role of Editor. They will continue to provide us with a classy

news letter. I will continue writing the Here 'n There column and will resume the DX column in September or October (I'm trying to put a new face on it).

**Complaint Department:** As with any organization, one size shoe does not fit everyone and some members have voiced concerns and disenchantment with some aspects of the club. I agree with some of the criticisms, but am more interested in seeing the club move forward and continue to establish itself in the community than to lose any sleep over features of the club that don't fit well with my personal philosophies..

### Field Day 2015

Well folks, I don't think we were as prepared as we have been in years past, and the club was further hampered by erratic propagation on Saturday morning. Even so, **KX5W** and **K7QXG** hammered away on CW and by 6 PM had rounded up four times as many QSOs as the SSB station. KX5W logged contacts for K7QXG and it was a perfect team matchup. Both read and speak fluent CW and often Doc would have the contact station's call in the computer before Bob had sent the preamble to the station on the other end.

Our hunger pangs were addressed by **KW7DSP**, Steve, who wore the chef's hat in admirable fashion. Lunch right off the barbecue was great and dinner at 6 PM was even better with a great dessert provided by Barbara, XYL of **AE7OA**. After dinner most operators were tired of dealing with the heat and called it a day. Not die hard **K7QXG**. He retreated from the dinner table to the CW table and began collecting several new sections. Doc had left for the day and logging was provided by **KT7H**, Dave, and **W7NLI**, Dudley. At 8:30 PM our CW station worked Aruba and we then called it quits for the day. The heat was too much and everyone was close to having a heat stroke. When the CW station closed, they had worked 5 stations for every 1 the SSB group had worked. It was a neat ending when the final QSO of the day was with Aruba. Equally impressive was the use of Doc's Windom antenna that was only 10 feet off the ground!

Dedication and patience overcomes most obstacles.

I noted a lot of activity around the Field Day site at various times by **WB7IEO**, **N7ATQ**, **K7LWV**, and a few others who were just passing through. Even the venerable **W7LOU** put in an appearance. I did miss seeing **W6SVP**, Jim Perkins, who is dealing with health issues. **AE7OA** had ample assistance from his son Darren, who helped Mike assemble his station. When it was time to take down everything on Sunday, I found **KA7HBB** right in the midst of the activity.

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR DUES?

**Not going to renew?** I've been approached by some members who are not going to renew – so they said – because the club's agenda and activities do not meet their needs. To each his own. I believe that if a person is not satisfied with the direction of ROADS, it is better they leave the club than to remain and be an unhappy camper, which then rubs off on others. However, it means that those of us who are dedicated to the club must find new members to fill the empty slots on the roster.

### About Windows 10....

There is an excellent article about Windows 10 in the recent issue of QST and I recommend everyone read it. WIN 10 will be a FREE upgrade to everyone who is using WIN 7, 8 and 8.1, but the FREE part is only good for 1 year.

### Oregon Trail Chapter of 10-10

The chapter still has good attendance on the Sunday nets despite summer activities and vacations. In fact, it has about the third largest attendance for chapter nets world wide. The net was suspended on Field Day Sunday to allow members to focus their efforts on the ROADS Field Day team.

Don't forget: August will feature the 10-10 Summer QSO party which is on 10 meter SSB. **The band may not open for us, but give it a listen.** This event is normally held the first weekend of August and is 48 hours long.

### Helping fellow members....

From time to time our members need assistance with a project – technical or just plain manual labor. *You need to ask in order to receive!* If you are putting up a tower, don't be bashful about calling a few members on the roster and asking for their help. The same holds true if you need technical assistance with equipment or a computer. Find out who the tech wizards are and then ask if they will give you a helping hand. I also suggest that if you need help with a labor intensive task, such as digging a hole for a tower base, you can always ask anyone in your circle of non-ham friends. When I poured concrete for my tower, I had just two ham operators assist me, but I also had four non-hams from my circle of friends who gave me a lot of help. Don't whine about it – be right up front about your need for assistance.

But enough of this exposition by philosopher Bob. There are better topics at hand. Such as, when the DX column fires up again in September or October, what kind of content are you interested in seeing? Tell me at a meeting or at Monday coffee – but **don't** email me your thoughts. *I don't want anything in writing.*

### LATE NEWS FLASH.....

**AE7OA** Mike Nolan taken to Salem hospital on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> with a stroke. More info at the meeting and at Monday coffees.

**Great QSL Week** with cards from Malta, Navassa, and Cocos. No other cards outstanding at this time, so it is time to work some new ones.

### Wrapping it all up .....

I was gone for part of the month of June, so I am probably missing items that would be of interest to you. I have some travel plans for July and August so the readers may need to provide tidbits for the column.

- Bob, K7QXG



## Do you communicate?

By Jim, N7WWH

We all communicate with others by many means all day long, but do you talk to other ROADS club members? Do you hear a rare DX station that other members may need? Did your rig do something strange and you want to ask someone else their opinion as to why? Do you need a little help putting up that new antenna? Does your computer not like you today? HELP. We have all had these things happen.

That is why we have a 2 meter simplex frequency (146.550) that many members monitor all day. We kick around ideas, enlist others to help with projects, and just generally socialize. ROADS is partly a social club, and part of that is just sharing ourselves with others by being part of the kidding, helping, and story telling.

So far so good, but our members are spread out over a large area. This makes simplex contacts with all, impossible. We wished to make it possible for more to join in on the fun and conversation. To this end the club officers approached the Salem Repeater Association for permission to use one of their 70cm repeaters for this endeavor. We explained that we did not want to tie up a wide area coverage repeater with our socializing (shooting the bull). They said that they had just what we needed. A 70cm repeater on Prospect Hill in South Salem.

It has coverage from south of Portland to north of Eugene. Our testing has shown that it can be accessed by an HT (handheld) from the Dallas area very easily, also Monmouth and Independence. The frequency is 443.725 + 186.2 tone. This repeater gets little use and needs the exercise we will give it.

As most of you know the Salem Repeater Assoc. operates many repeaters of wide area coverage on both 2meters and 70cm (440). If you have talked on a repeater in this area it was probably one of theirs (145.33, 146.86, 147.02, 145.29 to name just a few). Since these machines don't repair themselves or run for free, a donation to the fine gentlemen at the SRA would be appreciated. See Richard (k7lwv) about this. Remember this repeater is open to all. It is NOT RENTED, LEASED, OR OWNED by ROADS. We use it with the very

kind permission of the SRA and should not abuse the privilege.

With this we now have another route to reach fellow ROADS members. Please be an active club member and join us on 146.550 or 443.725. We will be listening for you !!!!

- Jim, N7WWH



By Troy, KF7SEY

When I became a member of Roads, one thing I found I enjoyed was one of our members, Bob K7QXG put on a fun little contest. It was a Zip code contest. The name of the game was to work as many zip codes you could on ten meters. The contest time was evening our time, which made it impossible to work a long distance contacts. So the contacts had to be made local (ground wave). It was a short contest, if I remember it was an hour long. In honor of that type of fun local contesting I would like to start a monthly challenge. Those that complete the challenge, just email me the info and I will publish in the next newsletter.

### Challenge #1

Work 5 Country's between July 6th and July 31st

### Challenge #2

Work 5 Contacts Portable between July 6th and July 31st  
( hint Repeaters are allowed)

You can complete one or both

Email me at kf7sey@gmail.com with country's worked #1 and/or contacts worked #2

- Troy, KF7SEY

# Field Day 2015





DXpedition to Chesterfield Island, FK/TX3X on October 1-12. Chesterfield is #23 on most sought DX entity list. 4 operators on the team are 10-10 members! Should be a heck of a big pile up!

73,

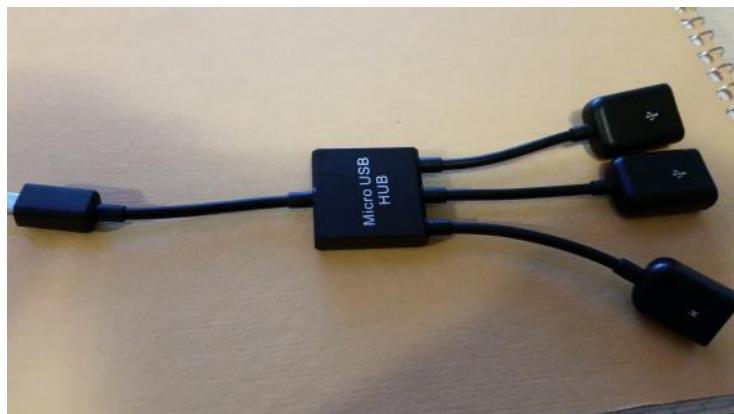
Bob, K7QXG

## KF7SEY Corner

By Troy, KF7SEY

Yeastu System Fusion radios are becoming a big hit with serval roads members. I currently own the FTM-400dr mobile and a FT1D handie talkie. One thing I wanted to do was hook up the radio to a computer and use the received APRS packets and view on a map the station heard. My research did not find any way to use my computer, but I did find a way to use an Android smartphone or tablet. Using an app called W2APRS, you can hook up the radio using the programming cable that came with the radio. You can download the app here <http://www.qsl.net/ja7ude/SmartPhone/w2aprs/indexe.html>. This app is not in the google store so you have to install using the install from unknown sources options. If you have never done this before, there is plenty of info on the web on how to do it. There is also some you-tube videos on the W2APRS website showing how it works. You will

need a micro USB adaptor to hook the cable up to your



phone, I picked mine up off EBay. Once you have everything installed, under the APRS menu on the radio you go to the comport settings and turn it on with waypoints as output. Now as you receive packets they will be displayed on the map in the app.

- Troy, KF7SEY

## From the Editor's Desk

By Emily, KG7ITR

Some of you may already know, my husband KF7SEY and I are the new editors. We would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know we are looking to spruce things up a bit and in doing so we need your participation. We are looking for stories, bits of history, accomplishments you want to brag about, and XYL's this includes you too. XYL's if you have a story to share, a craft you have made in honor of the hobby, we want to share it. Honestly ladies, you will be the ones with the funny stories. You know what I'm talking about, towers going up, the ever convincing reasons why they need just one more radio, not to mention the ever growing antenna farm in the yard. We are also asking for station photos so we can feature a station a month. Thank you all in advance for your participation and if you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to let us know.

- Emily KG7ITR

## Your 2015 - 2016 Current Club Officers

Position	Name	Callsign	E-Mail	Phone Number
President	Jack Schult	W7SCT	jackschult@msn.com	(503) 831-0756 (503) 881-5836
Vise-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	(503) 241-9922
Director 2	Mike Fuller	K7CIE	mfuller@pictishbeast.net	(503) 831-3651

# July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Club Meeting 7:00 PM  
Polk County Court House