

# The Road Report

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## RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

**The Prez Sez**  
by  
**Jack Schult, W7SCT**

**The Power of Electricity A true story.**

If memory serves it was the winter of 1959 when it happened. I was twelve years old and close to passing my test to become a Novice. I studied theory and almost had reached five words a minute CW. To generate money for the support of my new hobby I was a paperboy for a morning Las Vegas newspaper. After school I would sell subscriptions door to door. For an added incentive, contests were held where the top sales kids would be treated to events like a week at Camp Fox in Catalina, or in this case a Trip to tour Scottie's Castle in Death Valley. Picture, if you will, a chartered bus packed with preteen contest winners three hours into a five hour bus ride back home. Circa 1959 did not provide much in the way of entertainment.



His name was Billy Kitner. We did not play well together and would get into verbal insults while working on our jobs at the newspaper. One day after work he was thumpin' on a friend of mine smaller than him and I stepped in to even the odds. I didn't get into many fights, this was an exception. It didn't take long for me to claim victory, protecting my buddy. The story that he told around school the next day was a lot different. I figured Karma would fix him, I had no idea how true that prediction would be.

I was in the back of that bus, last seat on the right as it traveled down the two lane highway toward home. Behind me the shining star of the travel bus industry, the Toilet.

Mile after mile seeing the same cactus trees, litter lining the road flung from passing cars, going through the

alphabet in Morse code, I was BORED!! About ten minutes after “A hundred bottles of beer on the wall” faded off I was desperately searching for a something to keep me occupied. I found it on the wall behind my seat in the form of a small box like cover attached by two screws.

About three inches long and two high this cover must be protecting something. I continued to investigate and found the bottom was open. I could not see the object, but was able to determine that there were two nuts and what felt like a wire connected to the object. I tried to remember what was on the inside of the potty at that location. A roll of TP and 15 inches above that on a yellow raised placard the words “For Emergency push button.” HmMMMMMMMM.

It has been said that the world is a stage, and for this bored soon to be adolescent Radio Amateur, the curtain was about to rise.

Checking my pockets I found my Lucky Silver Dollar. Lucky indeed and no doubt an instrument of Karma as a familiar figure came into view. Walking down the aisle to the rear of the bus and the room with button, was Billy Kitner.

I stared out the window as he passed my seat. I couldn't let on that I was hatching a plot based on electronic wisdom and a Lucky Silver Dollar. The perfect storm was forming as I heard the click of the latch and the signage announcing that the facility was *OCCUPIED!*

I figured the odds were in my favor that the two terminals were of low voltage variety as I held the coin between my thumb and forefinger as it slowly slipped behind my seat. Timing is everything when it comes to something like this, like fishing, waiting to set the hook.

It must have been a long 35 seconds before the coin shunted across the two terminals, under the cover, attached to the wall of the honey pot.

The noise was like 10 old fashioned buzzer door bells as it reverberating the length of the bus, originating on a panel just above the driver's head. 'Gave it a good two seconds as I admired the amplitude of the warning device. The reactions were diversified, the riders were focused up front with a questioning look while the driver had one hand on the wheel, the other motioning in a pointing manor toward the rear.

I had my hands in my lap, just lookin' out the window when a much larger figure came quickly into view. Making a rapid beeline to the rear of the bus was the District Manager!!! You OK in there? He asked knocking on the door. A muffled “Ya?” was heard as Billy replied. “Don't be pushin' that button” the Manager ordered as he walked backed to his seat.

I was so proud of my electronic abilities, now time to focus once again on timing. Just as the District Manager was on the down stroke of being seated I once again found the magic terminals. It went off like a whoopee cushion as his cheeks hit the seat. You would have thought he sat on a tack. Back down the aisle he came with renewed enthusiasm, this time not bothering to knock. All eyes were on him as he sounded like a Drill Sargent bellowing “Who's in there?” the muffled voice replied “Bill Kitner”  
“I want to talk to you when your done, and don't push that button again” the Manager replied. Clearly his managerial skills were in question and giggles could be heard as he retreated for the second time.

I could have left it there, considered it an application of OHMS law. I could have, but didn't. This was Karma and Billy had it coming!

Providing ample time for the manager to get settled, and enter into a discussion with the driver no doubt as to the fate of young Bill, the buzzer of doom was once again the center of attraction with the of rhythm of "Shave And a Haircut."

I didn't think a bus could stop that quick! There wasn't a sound from the Junior High School passengers as the 300lb moose like driver made his way back. His Beet red face acted a barometer of his degree of agitation. He was MAD and had the key to open the door to the john.

Among protests of "What did I do?" Billy was taken by his shirt collar as he held his pants up, to the seat at the front of the bus between the Manager and the driver where he remained for the next two hours. Every so often you could hear "I didn't do it."

This is where I discovered a practical application of, and a demonstration about, the Power of Electricity.

Billy never did find out the cause of his downfall on that bus trip. He wasn't fired, but I'm sure he learned a few new words from the District Manager.

Thought I would share. 73 !

- Jack W7SCT

## Here 'n There

By K7QXG

Last year a Special Event ran for a full 12 months! I am referring to the ARRL Centennial Special Event. There were several aspects to this special, but the primary one was to work a W1AW station in each of the states and U.S. Possessions. As the Special event stations uploaded their logs to ARRL, everyone who had worked them was able to review their progress towards getting them all by visiting the ARRL web site. After the year ended, there were certificates available, such as the one displayed in this column. It is for working W1AW in all 50 states and has endorsement seals for those Possessions that

were also worked.

**After a very long run of bad propagation** the bands are once again becoming a bit lively. It will be a bit short lived though, and that makes operating a bit challenging.

**And this means???** We are nearing the end of Cycle 24, and that means days of little or no propagation on 17 through 10 meters. Even 160 through 30 will have their limiting factors. These conditions will persist for 3 to 4 years during the downside of the Cycle, so it requires significant adjustment in your operating preferences, unless all you ever use is VHF and UHF.

**This means** that if your only interest is snagging QSOs with DX stations on 20 through 10, you will need to expand your horizons or find another hobby to occupy your time until Cycle 25 begins to peak in 4 or 5 years.

There are multiple special events every weekend, and on weekdays you can repair, modify, or build station equipment. You may wish to develop new skills with JT65, PSK31, RTTY, or AM. These sun-spot cycles are a fact of life and requires patience on your part, along with creative thinking.

### September Meeting Notes

We had three guests at the meeting and one has already passed the Tech test while another is studying for the exam. One guest, from Nevada, came to the meeting with one of our members that he was visiting. **W7RIS** put on another PP program and this time he showed us how to use Raspberry PI... no, that is not a misspelling... it is a nifty little board about the size of a deck of cards that will do everything but tie your shoe laces. Mike also showed us examples of similar devices, such as Arduino, and provided significant information about their uses, software, and other innovative ideas. If you want several good reference web sites, fire off an email to [w7ris@arrrl.net](mailto:w7ris@arrrl.net). In November Mike will have a PP presentation on *The Care And Feeding Of Amplifiers*. You won't want to miss that one!

**Swaptoberfest** was mentioned and the go-to person this year is **N7WWH**. Once again, this is an excellent opportunity to acquire something your heart desires but the wallet cannot afford (just tell your wife that the devil made you buy it). N7WWH will be assisted by **AE7OA**.

**AB7ZQ, Bonnie**, our direct link to the **ARRL**, was present (and always a welcome visitor), but brought some sad news with her. She and her husband

were the victims of an extensive theft of fire-arms from their shop. It is of interest that the focus of the burglars was pistols and gunsmith tools for working on pistols. Other items of significant value were bypassed.

The topic of **WIN 10** came up, and again the most serious "flaw" – gathering your personal information – was mentioned. Mike Nolan, **AE7OA**, has a link to a website that provides step-by-step details for turning off this Microsoft feature. However, be forewarned that you must access the Registry and make a change there. If you have never worked in the Registry of a Microsoft program before, be sure you make a copy of the Registry before you open it. Just follow ALL the steps in this link to avoid WIN 10's data snooping feature: [https://www.reddit.com/r/Windows10/comments/3f38ed/guide\\_how\\_to\\_disable\\_data\\_logging\\_in\\_w10/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Windows10/comments/3f38ed/guide_how_to_disable_data_logging_in_w10/)

This proved to be an interesting meeting and was well attended.

### Ham Radio Doldrums

Is this happening to you? You don't even feel like turning on the radio? Nothing seems to draw you to those signals reaching out to you? Everybody hits that "down-in-the-dumps" spot at some point in their ham radio life, and often more than once. My advice: Don't worry about it; do something else for awhile; meet another ham for lunch or coffee and let his enthusiasm rub off on you; but no matter what you do, DON'T SELL YOUR EQUIPMENT! If you do you will regret it later and then you'll need to shell out a lot of dollars to get your ham radio "fix".

### Interesting Call Letters

During a recent Scandinavian contest, I heard an interesting call from Sweden... **SLOW**. This was on CW and he was anything but slow!

### 10-10 And The Oregon Trail

Sunday nets on 28.803 have been well attended. The current issue of QST has an interesting article about propagation as we slide downhill on Cycle 24. It should be a "must read" for all of our members. For members of Oregon Trail Chapter, get ready to catch some turkeys over the Thanksgiving holiday.

**And, finally....** Monday coffee on September 28<sup>th</sup> had an exceptional turnout reminiscent of the "old days" with 13 bodies present. Some of the visitors were from Salem and belong to other clubs. Even President Jack was there, and we all had a great time!



- Bob K7QXG

Here are some photos from Tower removal project Siletz Oregon

Roads members present: N7WWH, KF7SEY, W7SCT, and K7LWV. Also Jims son in law Joe.



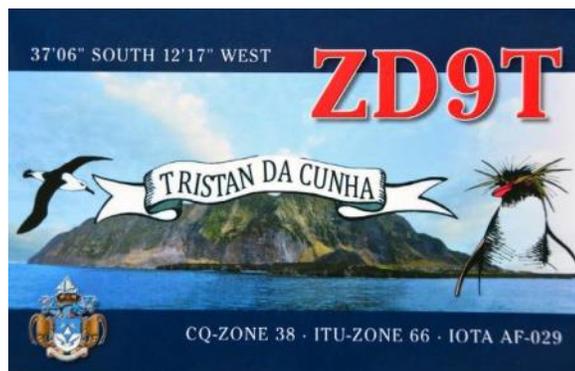
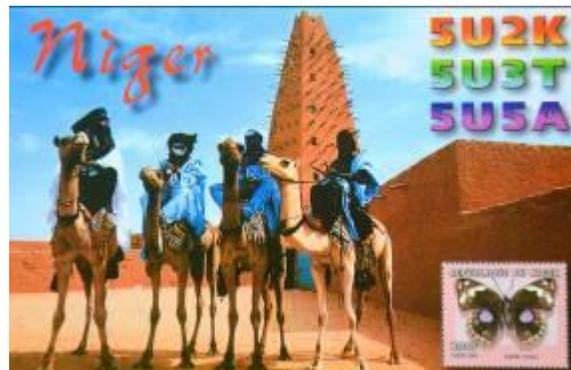
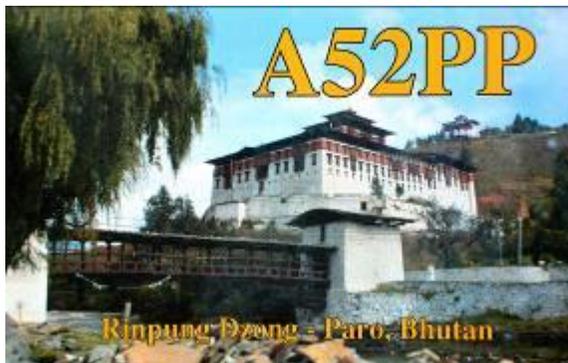
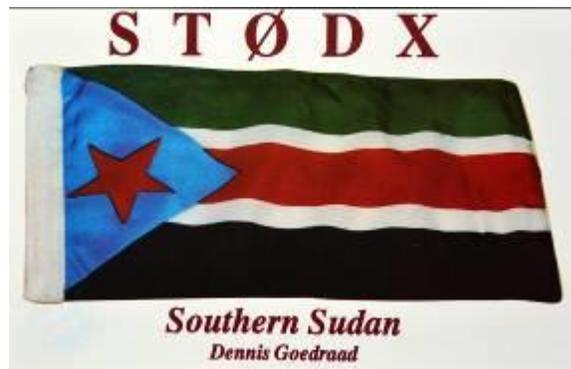
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## Backyard DX

By K7QXG

This month we will look at a small sampling of countries that you will find challenging to work. What better way than to display QSL cards from those entities.

Have you seen any you would like to have? They are out there, but it takes a lot of research and head-to-head competition with other stations that also want them. You need to watch DX Summit daily; search the bands on your own; and check out PSK, RTTY and CW. Of those shown, some were on SSB, some on CW and the ZD9T was on RTTY.



Perhaps it is time to look at the announced DXpeditions and you can select a few countries to focus on during the coming months.

## Announced Expeditions

### October

- 2 – 12 **TX3X Chesterfield Island**  
10 OPS. Should be easy.
- 13 – 28 **V73D Marshall Island**  
12 OPS Another easy one
- 17 – 27 **PY0F Fernando de Noro**  
3 OPS. Medium hard
- 21 – 28 **T42US Cuba**  
13 OPS Lots of fun!
- 31 – Nov 10 **3W3MD Vietnam**  
20 OPS Join the party!

### November

- 12 – 23 **3C7GIA Equatorial Guinea**  
Only 1 OP. Not promising

There are many others, but most of you already have them in your log-book. Good luck with these, and if you work 5 of them let me know so I can post your call in the column next month.

**Fall season underway ...** On Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> the 20 meter band opened briefly to Europe on CW and two nice contacts were made with England before 9 AM. A bit later A93, **Bahrain**, was booming in on 20 CW, but he was in a long rag-chew with a W4 and I spun the dial to find someone else. The someone else was **E6GG**, an English expedition on **Niue**. So, it was a great day and I finished it with some further refurbishing of my 40 meter vertical.

### **Club Meeting DX**

So, what do you do after a ROADS meeting? It was well after 9 PM, but I decided to give my "new" home brew 30 meter vertical a try – if there was anyone on the band at that time of night. I found two pile ups and the DX stations had very strong signals, which

was encouraging. It took a while to land **FW5JJ**, but that provided the incentive to try for **E6GG**, which I had worked earlier in the day on 20 CW. The pile up was HUGE, so it took patience and persistence, but I finally landed him. Needless to say, I am satisfied with this home brew vertical for the 10 MHz band.

### **What is on the bands....**

**V85TL** hangs out on the low end of 40 meter CW these days around 7 AM PDST. During the Scandinavian contest I worked **SLOW** and finished my run for the day with **OH0Z** on **Aland Island**. Those **VK** and **ZL** stations are still found on 14.183 late in the evening and the net control station has a whopping big signal.

### **QST On DXing**

The current issue of QST has some outstanding information and articles on working DX and on antenna myths. Everyone should read it, whether you are a DXer or not.

### **Where To Find Countries You Need!**

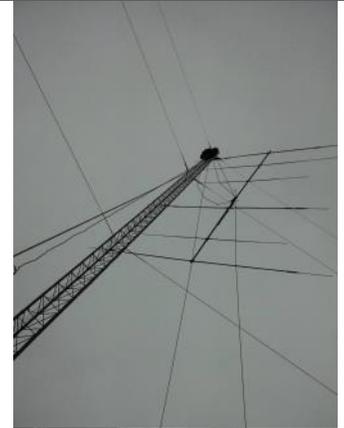
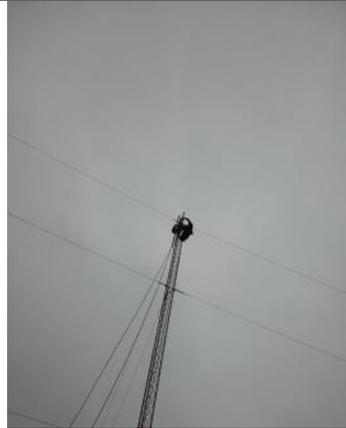
Contests! Yes, I know that nearly all members of ROADS have no interest in contests – in fact, some members detest them – but the fact is, there is usually some kind of contest on the air nearly every weekend and they often have a wide array of countries participating. Propagation came back with a big bang on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>, and it was just in time for a big World Wide RTTY contest. After the 10-10 net at noon on Sunday, I decided to see if I could work 25 countries in one hour, beginning at 12:30 PDST. I ran 325 watts to my beam and used an ordinary software program for RTTY. At the end of an hour and 30 minutes I had managed 23 countries, and even snagged Morocco toward the end. Even though I fell short of 25 countries, my log showed some

good entries and I was satisfied. I called it quits at that point, even though the band was still very lively with EU stations.

Every member of ROADS should be able to work countries in a RTTY contest. There is FREE software, and a used interface can be found for a very reasonable price at Swaptoberfest – which is just a few days away. In these big contests, even 50 watts and a dipole or vertical will catch a lot of contacts for you. No, there is no typing involved. Just program two macros in the software program and that is all you need... just two mouse clicks and you have landed one for your log!

I still think that the concept by **W7RIS** is a sure way to succeed: "Just make one contact a day and you will be surprised at what you have accomplished at the end of a year." Truer words were never spoken!

- Bob K7QXG



## 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	(971) 241-9922
Director 2	Mike Fuller	K7CIE	mfuller@pictishbeast.net	(503) 831-3651

# October 2015

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