



The Road Report

Volume 13, Issue 2
February 2016

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RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez
by
Jack Schult, W7SCT



It's Not What You look at That matters,
But how you view what you see.

Henry David Thoreau

The same could be said of making contact with our brothers of the airwaves. In our mind's eye we form an image of what the voice represents.

Listening to our club members working DX I find a pleasant exchange beyond the hit and run 5-9 QRZ, the response often give out by uber

contesters. The next time you hear QXG or JNT take note of how they communicate. A little extra care they put in goes a long way to a positive, lasting impression.

The ROADS membership is growing, essential to keeping the club together. In the spirit of the founding of the origination (not the stated *purpose* of the club *defined* in the *bylaws*) we have 25% of our meetings exclusively dedicated to social gatherings. Added to that would be Field day, Two Ham Fairs per year and many ROADS members attending Monday AM Coffee get together and if you can't make Monday's, Troy has volunteered his time to organize a Saturday version. Not bad, one would think, for a ham club in a town with a population less than 15000.

Jim, N7WWH has again volunteered to take management of our participation in Ham Fair February 20th. THANK YOU! Once again I would suggest if you have a high value items to bring them early in the morning, make arrangements with Jim. We have never had anything missing from the table overnight, but why take the chance.

Intentional interference?

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-shows-no-mercy-sustains-22-000-fine-for-egregious-on-air-behavior-by-michigan-licensee>

We had a special visitor at our last meeting EI4GOB-Finn and XYL Kelly, from Ireland!

- Jack W7SCT

Here 'n There by Bob K7QXG

Here 'n There

By K7QXG

Something very different this month....

I have debated about telling this story for years, and I trust my use of anonymous identities will preserve the identity of those involved.

UNDERCOVER HAM RADIO

I had retired just two years before, in 1988, as a Detective Lieutenant in command of a special undercover unit in the Portland Police Detective Division. Late one evening I received a mysterious phone call from a judge who knew me and who knew I was a ham radio operator. It seems that an organization, that had a two meter repeater serving the Tualatin valley and much of the Portland metro area, was suffering deliberate interference every time there was a net and often when other members simply wanted to chat. The judge said he wanted me to assist the organization that maintained the repeater, find the culprit, and put an end to the interference.

The judge gave me a phone number to call and I promptly dialed it up. After going through a phone dance with the receptionist, she agreed to put me through to "the boss." The "boss" gave me an address in the industrial section of a small community and, after much searching, I found the building where the "boss" was located. Its shabby exterior was hidden from the street by several trees and what had once passed as a lawn now looked like a weed farm with a bumper crop. I

parked in a spot marked "visitor" on a crumbling concrete pad that passed itself off as a parking lot. I walked in and was immediately greeted by the receptionist, Miss Twenty Questions. I gave her my card and she picked up the phone and muttered something into it. A moment passed and she buzzed me into the inner sanctum. As I walked past her I did a quick double take and wondered what a chicky like her was doing working in a place like this.

I was stunned when I entered the long hallway – the ramshackle office building had suddenly become a millionaire's suite. Someone met me and ushered me into a plush office filled with lots of overstuffed leather furniture and expensive decor. The bespectacled gent behind the mahogany desk had all the looks of a serious engineer and I thought that might explain the array of huge antennas I had noticed on the roof on my way into the building. It was time for surprise number two when I asked what kind of business he was in and he replied that this was a photo supply company. Hmmm, I thought, where is the inventory?

Mr. Hyde (fictitious name) said he would escort me to the second floor where they had evidence to show that an obnoxious cretin was creating multiple problems with their two meter repeater. As we left his office we were joined by a big guy in a black suit. I glanced at the side of his chest to see if there was a bulge there that might indicate that he was packing. No such luck – well, as far as I could tell.

We reached the second floor which was divided into two areas. Mr. Hyde pointed to a door leading to the other area and said it was off limits to me. Just as well, I thought, because this was getting a bit freaky. I was guided to an "operating" station, which consisted of a series of desks, shelves and tables containing stacks of

some of the most expensive electronic equipment I had ever seen. Tektronix scopes were everywhere, and these weren't the cheap kind either. Computer monitors glared at me from several corners, and blinking lights of many colors dazzled me. It looked like one of the sets for a Star Wars movie.

Mr. Hyde gave me a quick instructional on the equipment and then brought up a file on one of the computers. I was treated to a first-hand experience using superb electronic fingerprinting images of the type that had recently been accepted by the courts.

In short order they showed me the "fingerprint" from the offending station gathered during a net on the repeater, and then pulled up the culprit's electronic fingerprint that they had gained at some other time (they never said how they gained it). It was interesting to note that they had a name to go with the fingerprint! I had lots of questions, but most went unanswered. However, I did learn that there were unique monitoring stations on all the ridges surrounding the valley and they all had a direct feed to the main server located a few feet away from where I was seated.

"There you are," Mr. Hyde said. "The judge told me you would take care of this little matter for us." An icy chill swept over me and I suddenly wished I'd never taken the ham license test.

TO BE CONTINUED

Meeting Notes, Jan. 17th

First, I want to thank Nate, **W7NAT**, for bringing in those plastic tubs full of parts and giving them away to members at the meeting. A new member, **K8AXE**, was present and we had two visitors who were passing through the area: **KG7GPG** and

EI4GOB from Ireland. I need to mention that a new member, **KI7AAH**, Warren, has applied for a vanity call and will be using **W7KBR** very soon. Warren selected KBR because his acreage in Polk County is named "Kick Back Ridge". **W7RIS**, Mike, our VP, put on another technical program about corrosion. **KF7SEY**, Troy, proposed the club meet once a month for lunch since some members work and cannot attend the Monday morning coffee. It will have a trial run on January 30th and then continue on the last Saturday of each month. Look for more info in this newsletter.

73,

-Bob K7QXG

Backyard DX by Bob K7QXG

K5P, what a story! Great signals on 20 meter SSB in this area as evidenced by the stations that worked them – usually on the first call: **W7LOU, N7WWH, W7SCT, KE7JNT, KX5W, K7CIE, AE7OA AND K7QXG**. AE7OA got them on 15 SSB right after K7QXG snagged them there following the Oregon Trail Net and the signals were very good at that time. At first their signals were weak on other bands, but by the 20th their signals had become very strong on 20, 17, 15, 12, and OK on 10. I found I could work **K5P** at will, with QSOs on SSB, CW, and RTTY. However, I did not find them on 30 mtrs or 40 mtrs. So, congrats guys, you got a rare one and deserve a pat on the back.

Helping a DX station... I received an email from **PY2ALC** asking for a CW contact with Oregon.

KF7SEY Corner

That was the last QSO he needed out of 150 to earn the Triple Play Award given out by the ARRL. I agreed and soon it became a series of frantic emails as we tried to punch through crummy propagation on 20 CW and make the contact, but perseverance paid off. Finally his tiny 30 wpm signal came through! After the exchange, I sent him an email congratulating him. It felt great to be able to help someone in far away Brazil.

With Regret And Sympathy....

K7AA, Ray Porter, now SK. Ray was an old timer and a DXer with an outstanding record of 369 DXCC entities confirmed. He lacked only Somalia to have them all.

VP8STI, South Sandwich, proved to be an easy catch for **KE7JNT** as he snagged them on 17 and 20 SSB. **N7WWH,** Jim caught them from Falls City, but the little pistols were still trying on Sunday the 24th. The pile up was outrageous, and made life difficult. But that is life. After all, this is just a hobby, and you can't work them all.

Another sour note – I will be recovering from surgery when that team goes to **South Georgia, VP8SGI,** and will have no opportunity to work them. That would be an ATNO for me. But that's life!

73, Little Pistol

- Bob K7QXG

October 29th 2012, under the command of Captain Robin Walbridge KD4OHZ, replica ship Bounty sailing 90 miles off the coast of North Carolina is in distress, caught in hurricane Sandy. The bounty and all 16 crew members are in danger of sinking. Taking on water the captain uses his methods of communication. First the satellite phone, no success. Next method was his Ham Radio ability's, Maritime Mobile net. It also produced no results. One last effort to contact the Coast Guard, Captain Walbridge used a service called Winlink. He was able to get an email out to the coast guard. Within an hour a C130 and later a helicopter made the rescue. 14 crew members were rescued from 2 life rafts. One who was nonresponsive after swept overboard then being pulled out of the water died from her injury's at a hospital. The captain was swept overboard and was never found. One Coast Guard crew member received major injuries during the daring rescue.



What are you first thought from this story? Mine was WOW and then thank goodness for Ham Radio. Without a doubt if it was not for ham radio, all hands would have been lost. We are so lucky to have so many ways to communicate within the ham radio hobby.

You probably already guessed on what we are going to talk about this month. Yes [Winlink](#).

Winlink, also known as the **Winlink 2000 Network**, is a worldwide radio messaging system that mixes internet technology and appropriate amateur radio. The system provides radio interconnection services including: email with attachments, position reporting, graphic and text weather bulletins, emergency relief communications, and message relay.

There are a few software's available for this. RMS Express is the preferred software and is what I use. This service can be used with Packet, Pactor if you invested in high price equipment. Or Winmor a sound card mode for HF. I have both methods setup packet for 2 meters and Winmor for HF. If you are a member of ARES then you already know what this is and I'm probably starting to bore you. The reason is ARES use the Winlink system for there Emergency Communications. But for the rest of you this might be something you might be interested in. My main reason for Winlink is I travel a lot away from civilization from the coastal mountains hunting to deep in eastern Oregon. Most of these places do not have cell coverage or do not have the ability to hit 2 meter repeaters. Example was last November I was Elk hunting east of Tillamook with my father. Our camp was in a canyon with high mountains all around. No cell phone coverage. No VHF. All I had was HF. In the evenings I would fire up my portable station(FT-817) and connect to a station in Chandler Az on 40m. I would then send an Email to the XYL telling her how my day went. I would then wait a half hour or so then, connected again to see if she responded.

This is a great way to use our Ham radio to communicate to the outside world. If you travel say RV style, this may be a great opportunity to communicate with family members. One thing I forgot to mention, the person receiving does not have to be a ham, you can send and receive from any email. Just remember the content has to follow part 97 rules. If this is something you might be interest in, here is the website www.winlink.org I would start there. Also there is numerous You -Tube videos on how to.

I hope I'm never in a position as the crew members of the Bounty were. But if I'm ever in a emergency situation I know I have Ham radio technology's to help.

- Troy KF7SEY

Monthly Luncheon

We had a great turn out on our first Luncheon get together on Saturday 1/30/16. I counted at least 13 people rag chewing. We had a variety of members from charter to new. I thank all who attended. I enjoyed seeing everyone. Since it was a success ,we will do another round.

Next one will be Saturday Feb 27 1:00 PM at Abby's Pizza in Dallas

See you there

- Troy KF7SEY

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

Ham Fair Rickreall **February 20th** Polk County Fair grounds

There will be VE testing during ham fair

Roads monthly meeting **February 18th** Polk County Court House 7:00 PM

Monthly Luncheon **February 27th** Abby's Pizza Dallas 1:00 PM

VE Testing Polk County Court House

March 12th 2016

May 14th 2016

July 9th 2016

Sept 10th 2016

November 12th 2016

If you have any questions on the VE testing sessions, please contact Ron, W7HO at W7HO@arrl.net or 503-585-2136.