



The Road Report

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Editors:

Troy Greenberg, KF7SEY
kf7sey@gmail.com
Emily Greenberg, KG7ITR
kg7itr@gmail.com



RADIO OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF DALLAS OREGON

The Prez Sez
by
Jack Schult, W7SCT



This might be a good time to think about emergency power for your station. A good pure sine wave inverter, battery bank and charging system will keep your operation going when the grid goes down. I am looking forward to adding solar to mine soon.

Recently we updated our member profiles and are looking for shack photos to go with them. Please send the photos to me for use on the back of the agenda and to include in the ROAD Report as featured station of the month.

The April Dinner Meeting will be held at Rock'n Rogers in Rickreall 6pm 4/21/16 @6pm hope to see you there!

- Jack W7SCT

Here 'n There by
Bob K7QXG

Hello once again. Spring is in the air and a Ham Radio Operator's fancy turns to outdoor things like antenna construction, or reconstruction, that ground system that somehow got put off for the last few years, or maybe a new tower to reach into heavens where those hard to get distant signals can be arrested. It's all good. If we were not in the hammy field we might be reduced to setting for hours in front of the TV or some other non constructive mode. There is satisfaction and enjoyment in our hobby that is hard to find these days. I believe it's important to recognize that. It is a benefit of being an Amateur Radio Operator.

This month I'll mention things that involve most of us at some level or another.

Field Day. Have you ever participated? We can use you, even if it is only to set up the tents, or to log stations, run errands, etc. Even an hour of your time will be greatly appreciated. We also need *operators!*

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Oregon Trail Chapter of 10-10 has moved their Sunday noon time net to 28.330 for a trial run that will last at least 120 days. Discussions were held about moving the day and time to Saturday around 11 AM. That was not feasible at all because we would have lost two net control operators.

Summer Social in the park. Last summer we had an Ice Cream Social in the park instead of a bar-b-cue. It was a definite success. What is your pleasure this year? Repeat? Do something else? Cancel it?

VE Testing is conducted by **W7HO, Ron**, who has a FB cadre of examiners to keep the program moving. Tests are given every two months at the Polk County courthouse.

A Tip Of The Hat to Polk county for allowing us to use the large meeting room for VE testing and for the ROADS meetings. Also, the same applause for the city of Dallas for allowing us to use the city park for the national Field Day event.

Declining Cycle 24 has slowed operations on 10 meters, BUT, **K7QXG** and **KE7JNT** still were able to work the 5J0P and TX7EU DXpeditions on 10 meter SSB. In fact, both members made a clean sweep of the 10 through 20 meter bands. Propagation exists, but you've got to work to get these stations, and that means frequent visits to DX Summit, along with lots of patience and skill when working pile ups.

Monday Coffee has had some good attendance with nine of us there on March 21. Poor band conditions and poor weather conditions lead to good

attendance at coffee.

Very Interesting....!!! In 2015 I entered the North American Sprint SSB contest. Ordinarily I only "play" in most contests and then never send in a log. Not this time! For the first time ever they were giving away prize certificates to the top ten stations. Well, I'm never one to pass up a golden opportunity like that! Apparently several hundred hams had the same idea, and it was pure bedlam on 20 and 40 meter SSB during the 4 hour event. Today I received an email from the contest manager saying I had been awarded a certificate. My meager 2880 points had made me a member of the **2500 Club!** So, I went online to review all the scores. I finished 25th in 7 Land – I think that instead of sending me a certificate they should have asked me to not enter again considering my pathetic score, even though I worked 33 states. I was probably #350 Overall. I don't plan to enter the next one in August.

KW7DSP, Steve tells me via email that he will return from AZ in May. He is putting up a 10/20 meter antenna at this time in desert country.

WSPR Report... This nifty software program does provide some startling information at times. This morning the signals out of Europe were mostly non-existent on 20 meters, although I did copy 7X4WPL in Algeria quite well on PSK 63. Otherwise, it was a bummer. So, I turned on WSPR, set it for 5 watts on 20 meters, and pointed the beam NE. What a surprise! My station heard four EU stations in three countries, and my 5 watt signal was heard in England! WSPR then showed me numerous stations in the USA and Canada that were receiving my signal. All of this on a

band that was supposedly dead! I plan to turn the beam towards Japan in the late afternoon and see what WSPR finds in that direction.

Heard Island Expedition Using WSPR... Yes, that's right... go to the WSPR web page, enter VK0EK, and then enter the bands they are likely operating on and the map will show the predominant path their signals are taking. I tried it on 30 meters and found their signals were being heard in Europe! Amazing! This is an easy way to determine whether there is good propagation from Heard Island to Dallas for a given band they are using.

When Band Conditions Are Bad there are lots of ham radio related things you can do: Send for QSL cards; Download and use WSPR to amuse yourself; refurbish an old piece of equipment; try a new mode like digital; design the layout for a new antenna system; and other things too numerous to mention. Or, do like one member did and spend the day planting squash!

- Bob K7QXG

Backyard DX by

Bob K7QXG

Wow, things are getting a bit wild with the expeditions and surprise openings that have appeared from time to time.

Let's examine, briefly, some recent expeditions: K5P, 3XY1T, 5J0P, and TX7EU. All four should have been an

easy catch for anyone in ROADS if you knew CW or used RTTY and ran 100 watts to a modest triband beam, moxon, or ground plane vertical. In my humble opinion, based upon 55 years of DXing and 337 countries worked, the best operation was K5P. Next was 3XY1T. Both were very proficient and moved around the bands so we all had a chance to work them on 80 through 10 meters if we so desired. As for the other two, 5J0P and TX7EU, they offered me very few opportunities to try for them on 30 meters, and 40 and 80 was nil. Further, their online logs were missing some solid QSOs I had made with them.

Especially frustrating were RTTY contacts with each when my call sign was very clearly displayed on the monitor during the QSO but I never made it into their log... so, I had to try again on RTTY later in the week and then managed to get those RTTY QSOs confirmed. All four expeditions did a great job, but the last two could have shown some logging improvement.

Next month I'll review the Heard Island expedition. It is staffed by a large team of very experienced DXers.

The Hat Trick...For the DXers reading this, you score the "Hat Trick" when you work a DXpedition on SSB, CW, and RTTY. I managed that with K5P, 5J0P, and TX7EU. I'm not even going to bother with Heard Island. I have that one confirmed and I don't want to take away the opportunity of some station that has never worked them, unless the crowd thins out to the point there is no waiting for a contact.

Coming Attractions

April will provide the following very desirable DX, so keep your eyes on DX Summit and your ear to the radio: Heard, East Timor, Cambodia, Market Reef, Botswana, Mayotte, Maldives, Bahrain, Juan de Nova, and Iran. **May** will offer up Palestine and **September** will give us Baker & Howland with a big experienced team.

DX QSLs have began arriving with **ZL9A** in the first delivery. Next, **3W3MD** arrived. Both are great looking cards and the 3W3MD QSL from Vietnam was awesome! Now begins the wait for the two VP8 entities, 3XY1T, TX7EU, along with cards from, 5J0P, Tonga, Timor, and a couple of others. When I receive these QSLs from exotic countries, it truly adds to the enjoyment of ham radio, and usually expands my knowledge of the planet where I live.

VK9CK, Cocos Keeling Island, was a nice catch using my home brew ground mounted vertical on 30 meters. Our power limit on 30 meters is 200 watts, but I sure heard a lot of stations that had to be running much more than 200 watts.

Other DX Worked In March had a couple of nice ones: A93, YC8, R5, E74, VK9CK, 4A1, T88, C91, and several garden variety stations in Europe and Africa. Please note that these were all on 40, 30, and 20 meters. Most were found on CW, but PSK yielded a few nice ones and SSB snuck in once or twice. **And then the flu struck...** what is really bad is that both Shirley and I have been hit hard...Shirley with a severe cold, and a lab test shows I have Influenza B. No medicine for that. So, we are having a

really crappy Easter. Some of our kids were going to come down from Portland and bring a nice Easter dinner with them, but I told them to stay away. So for Easter dinner we will be having TV dinners. I told Shirley I have not eaten this quality of food out of a tray since 1954 when I was with the 1st Marine Division in Korea. Ahhhh, what I'd give for a strawberry milkshake right now!

Heard Island is on the air but I can't even bring myself to go to the radio room to see if I can hear them. I understand they have serious weather problems there

And Then There Are The Italians.. On the Heard Island web site is a notice that the expedition will never ever operate simplex. So what is posted on DX Summit this morning... Italian stations claiming they worked Heard on 7.080 "Simplex". One even said "EASY". They are in for a real surprise at QSL time.

LATE NEWS FLASH - Heard Island Expedition A MESS! Next month I'll examine all the things that made this long awaited DXpedition a great big FLOP for all the little pistols in the Pacific northwest.

K7CIE, Michael, reports working Heard Island on 80, 40, and 30 CW. Outstanding!

- 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

Roads monthly meeting **April 21th** will be a dinner meeting 6:00 PM at Rock n' Rogers

Monthly Luncheon **April 30th** Abby's Pizza Dallas 1:00 PM

VE Testing Polk County Court House

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.