From the President
Reflections from RI Bangkok

My fellow members of ROAR,

Last year, Diane and I decided that we would like to try to go to Thailand for the May 2012 Rotary International Convention at the Impact Convention Centre in Bangkok. At the time, it really seemed somewhat unlikely that we would get there. Then Pertti EA7GSU, our illustrious past president, convinced me to take on the leadership of ROAR for the next three years. That placed an entirely different perspective on everything. (Yes, it’s your fault Pertti, haha.) Soon I found myself knee-deep in the challenges—some totally unanticipated and devastating—of getting our remote ham-radio station in Thailand up and running.

The ROAR station: Challenges and solutions

In the months leading up to the convention we were privy to the excellent work that Tim Masuda JH1NVZ and ROAR Japan were putting into preparations for an active radio station. They had established a great working relationship with RAST (Royal Amateur Society of Thailand) and the call sign HS85RI had been issued for our use. The King of Thailand is the Patron of RAST and this was his 85th year. This is the significance of the 85 in the call sign.

We were planning to remotely link to the magnificent RAST club station located at the Asian Institute of Technology. This was the only practical option for a station at the convention centre and it was to be the focal point for our ROAR activity. We had every expectation that the remote station would be put online without much difficulty.

Then came Bangkok’s floods. That turned everything upside down.

RAST members took every reasonable precaution. All their equipment was placed high up on shelves for maximum protection, but the floods were much higher than expected and they lost the lot, including all of their QSL card collection. Please take the time to look at their page, http://www.qsl.net/rast/. It is a very long page showing the worst at the very bottom.

Welcome to the Autumn 2012 issue.

In this issue you will find full coverage of ROAR activities at the Rotary International convention in Bangkok, Thailand. President Bill and his wife, Diane, tell us how the severe flooding in the area prior to the convention nearly put a stop to our station there. But we learn how the last-minute hard work of some dedicated Rotarian hams put HS85RI on the air. No time to rest on our laurels! Our past president, Pertti, has written about the planning that has already begun for our station at the next RI convention in Lisbon.

Ever think about working the world using the ham satellites? Craig Bledsoe tells us about a very exciting contact he made by satellite from Alaska to Hawaii. Dan Romanchik attended the 2012 Dayton Hamvention and writes about the fun he had there. Also we have a few member profiles to round out this issue. Hope you enjoy it.

—Richard Spingarn TI7/AA2UP
After the floods, it seemed impossible that we would end up with an active station at the convention. However, after much hard work and persistence a solution was found. ROAR Japan and their members decided they would send both used and new equipment to begin to replace some of the equipment lost in the floods. This effort was complicated by the stringent laws that exist in Thailand controlling the import of radio transceivers. Only equipment on an existing (and out-of-date) list was accepted. But thanks to the efforts of RAST members, a Kenwood TS-590 was added to the list just in time. Tim Masuda and his team brought one in.

Also, no ham antennas were allowed at the convention centre. RAST came to the rescue once again, when John HS1CHB offered the use of his own shack at a family home. But in order to make the station functional, a lot of antenna and feedline work was required. Tim and John arranged for a number of workers to do the on-site repairs immediately.

Of course, to have a remote station, we needed a good Internet connection to make the link between the convention centre and John’s QTH. This is where Shun 7N4DMM really shone. Without his expertise in creating and maintaining the Internet link, there would have been no activity. Many thanks, Shun San, for your excellent work!

Prior to the start of the convention, the Impact Centre offered us various facilities, including ADSL Internet. We ordered and paid for this connection so we could make our essential link. However, when we arrived at the ROAR booth, Diane and I found that, yes, there was an ADSL modem but no AC outlet to plug it into. Fortunately, Tim San and Shun San were able to set up a wireless Internet link to control John’s station. So little time was lost.

After I contacted the appropriate company representatives, the power was connected within a few hours, and Shun San connected the ADSL modem. But for some reason it didn’t work correctly, so we abandoned it in favour of the working wireless Internet link.

Here is where I let you in on a little secret. Before Diane and I left Australia we had wondered if there might be a way to avoid using the ADSL in the first place. We had been charged an extremely high price for it by the convention centre. So in the end it turns out we were fortunate the ADSL didn’t work. Their technicians were unable to get their modem to work with our computer. So we requested—and eventually received—a refund!

At the ROAR convention booth

Here Diane takes up the story:

As we had no banner proclaiming who we were, Bill and I asked our Thai host family where we could get one made at short notice. Palm (our host) made some phone calls and then took us to a shopping mall where we were able to design and have the 3m by 450cm banner printed with our logo. Total cost was excellent and it was completed in two and one-half hours.

As I seem to be the one with the gift of the gab, I spent a lot of time talking to the people who came to our stand. I had been advised that 100 pamphlets would be adequate. Not so! We handed out 75 on the first day, and had to have more printed.

So many people stopped to ask what we did—many thought we were running community radio stations—but we soon disabused them of that idea. “I thought ham radio was dead.” “Why not use Skype?” “Ham radio costs a lot to get into, doesn’t it?” “Do people still do that?”

These are the sort of questions that were put to us. I stole a line from one of our local hams and said, “Amateur Radio is the Original Social Network.” (Thanks to Alan VK4SN).
Reflections from Bangkok, continued

The amazing thing is that when we explained that hams and Rotarians are usually community minded, we had Rotarians taking a pamphlet and saying they would use it to introduce Rotary to the hams they knew. What an incredible membership tool we have developed!

I think we could have had an even better result had we taken along some current ham magazines and perhaps some information on amateur radio in general.

From my own perspective I think we need to be more pro-active in promoting the hobby. I do have some ideas for Lisbon. It wouldn’t take much to put together a slide show of ROAR members doing what they do best.

**HS85RI on the air**

**Back to Bill:**

On the Tuesday prior to the end of the conference, I was able to talk by phone with John, where the actual station was located.

Radio contacts from the convention were somewhat limited in number for a variety of reasons. Amongst these were lack of propagation during convention hours to the key target areas of Europe and North America, Internet link failure, high noise levels at the station QTH, and the inability to rotate the antenna remotely.

In order to try and maximise the number of contacts we could achieve with ROAR members, Diane and I made a commitment to go to John’s QTH and man that station from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm on the coming Friday.

John was enthusiastically cooperative; it was an incredible effort on his part at that early hour. Our taxi arrived for us at 5:00 am. And by 5:30, John was on the phone to guide the taxi driver to where he would meet us for the final leg of the trip to his QTH.

With John’s help we were on air by 6:00 AM local time (2300z). Thankfully, the radio room was fully air conditioned, and as the day warmed up to around 40 C, we were very thankful for that.

We had seen an email indicating that Pertti EA7GSU was not going to sleep until he had made contact with us. Guess who was the first station to respond to our CQ? Yes, EA7GSU in the log at 23:06z.

In spite of the high levels of QRN at the site we succeeded in making a good number of contacts. When our taxi arrived for us shortly after 10:30 PM Bangkok time, we called it a day and logged our last contact into Northern Ireland on 15 meters at 15:32z. It had been a long but satisfying day.

I have placed a simplified pdf of the log online for all comers to view at [http://www.ifroar.org/hs85ri.htm](http://www.ifroar.org/hs85ri.htm).

Bill Main **VK4ZD**, ROAR President 2012-2015

Diane Main **VK4KYL**

ifroar.org
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
International Fellowship for Rotarians of Amateur Radio (ROAR)
7 May 2012 / Bangkok, Thailand

1. President Elect Bill Main VK4ZD welcomed all present in his capacity as chair in the absence of President Pertti Kause EA7GSU. The meeting was declared open at 12:33 PM local time.

2. Present: JH1NVZ Tim Masuda
   JM2HBO Terunobu Hashimoto
   JJ1KMW Naokata Mohri
   7N4DMM Shunchi Fujii (NY9V)
   N9HWO Phil Fleming
   VK4KYL Diane Main (attending the booth during the meeting) Thanks, Diane!
   VK4ZD Bill Main President Elect, Chair
   VK3KCD Peter Lowe, Minutes Secretary

3. Chairman Bill called for a minute of silence for Jim Moran W1QUO, SK.

4. The minutes of the last AGM held in New Orleans in 2011, as published in the Communicator, were unanimously approved by those who had been present at the 2011 AGM.

5. There being no motions before the meeting of which due notice had been received, the meeting proceeded to general business.

6. General Business
   a) ADSL extremely poor at the House of Friendship and a refund is to be sought.
   b) The chair recognised ROAR Japan’s generous donation to the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) of equipment to replace that which was destroyed in the recent floods. The items donated were a Kenwood TS590S, Icom IC731 and a QRP 7 & 21 MHz CW transmitter with key. Tim and Shun attended the RAST AGM to co-ordinate activities for the 2012 convention and to obtain the special call of HS85RI (85 being the King of Thailand’s birthday this year). The chair acknowledged the support received from RAST and noted that a certificate of thanks will be provided.
   c) Membership enquiries made at the convention are to be followed up where possible.
   d) Peter VK3KCD foreshadowed a motion for a constitutional amendment to allow proxy voting at future AGMs.
   e) The membership record is to be overhauled.
   f) The list of visitors is to be posted on the IFROAR Website.
   g) There was further discussion on the current operation of HS85RI.

7. The chair thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 13:23 PM local.

— submitted by Peter Lowe VK3KCD, Regional Vice President ANZO
Round Trip: Alaska–Hawaii  
**Time limit: 10 seconds**

— from information submitted by Craig Bledsoe, KL4E

Some hams complain that QSOs these days are too short. But to some members of the Arctic Amateur Radio Club (AARC), even a high-pressure HF contest is a study in leisure. On Saturday, August 4, 2012, Craig Bledsoe KL4E and Dale Hershberger KL7XJ made probably the first-ever Low-Earth-Orbit (LEO) ham satellite contact between Fairbanks, Alaska, and Honolulu, Hawaii, over the Pacific Ocean. And it was done in less than ten seconds with hand-held equipment.

Craig and Dale were serving at the AMSAT satellite radio display at the AARC Hamfest in the Bentley Mall in Fairbanks. According to Craig, who is a past president of the Fairbanks Sunrisers Rotary, the contact between Fairbanks and Honolulu took place during the third of four planned satellite demonstrations in front of the Bentley Mall, where they were surrounded by a crowd of enthusiastic onlookers.

They demonstrated three satellites, FO-29, AO-27, and SO-50. The Alaska–Hawaii contact was made on the second pass of satellite AO-27. “Two brief exchanges of call signs and locations were accomplished before the applause of the crowd and Loss of Signal (LOS) wiped us out,” says Craig, who is also an FAA air transport pilot and aviation safety expert. “Smooth-sphere calculations show that the window of mutual visibility or overlap between these two locations is less than ten seconds! Stations on each end were Robert NH7WN in Honolulu and myself, both using hand-held radios and antennas,” he says.

The equipment Craig and Dale used consisted of a 5-watt Yaesu VX-5R HT, feeding an Advanced Receiver Research P432VDG pre-amp with a NuWaves SF-433.92 band-pass filter. The Mega-Arrow hand-held antenna they used can be seen in the photographs.

The team’s next goal will be to work Hawaii from a nearby mountaintop north of the Arctic Circle! “With careful planning and a little luck, it can be done,” says Craig, adding that during the first AO-27 pass, the team worked a Mexican station just south of the US border near San Diego as well.

Craig Bledsoe KL4E is currently a member of Anchorage East Rotary, which meets in the Hilton Hotel in downtown Anchorage. He has held various positions in several clubs, including youth exchange, club program chairman, board member, and past president. Since this is Alaska, Craig says, club members include a number of hams as well as a bunch of pilots. Craig belongs to four fellowships: IFFR (flying), Rotacyclists (motorcycles), Home Exchange, and of course ROAR.
I was born in the North of France on December 14, 1940. My father was French and my mother was Belgian. My wife Evelyne and I met on a ferry boat between France and Great Britain in 1962 and since then, we have sailed through life together for better and worst. We had three boys, Damien, Martial, and Benjamin. Unfortunately Martial died in 1982.

My son Damien and his wife Sofie have four children, one girl and three boys. He lives and works in France. Benjamin and his wife Caroline have one boy. He lives and works in Hong Kong.

As an engineer, I retired from the textile industry soon after that industry left France.

My passions are Rotary, which I joined in 1992 (I am a Paul Harris Fellow), and my ham radio hobby, which I’ve enjoyed since 1972. I am also a diver and have made more than 700 dives in seas and oceans all over the world. This hobby is a source of constant and renewed discovery for me. For 20 years, I have taught informatics and computer science at a youth club. I also am involved on the town council of Tarn, my hometown.

Rotary and the ROAR fellowship are a wonderful world for building friendship and respect. If everyone in the world were a Rotarian, it would most certainly be a better place. I am sorry to say that I am the only French member of ROAR at this time. Perhaps Serge F1BFL and Maxime F5JDK will rejoin again next year!

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**Hams Helping Hams**

In July of 2010, two ham friends of mine, Charlotte and Richard Johnson, were cruising north over part of the Alaska Highway near Dawson, Yukon Province, Canada. Charlotte KC5KW1 and Richard KC5EVR were in their diesel-powered rear-engine pusher motor home when they ran over a huge bump. According to Richard, who was driving, the construction was not very well marked. On impact the motor home went airborne. When it landed, Richard pulled over and made some visual inspections. Finding no apparent damage, they proceeded north-bound. However, after a while it seemed the engine was not working properly and Richard began having to add much more oil than usual. They headed to Alaska and limped in to Fairbanks, then to Denali, and on into Anchorage, where they located a Cummings Engine service center.

I had been following the Johnsons’ progress on my computer, looking at APRS maps every day. When I found the big motor home parked in a commercial area for a week, I suspected a problem. So I contacted my Alaskan ham friend and fellow ROAR member Craig Bledsoe KL4E, who lives nearby in Eagle River. I asked Craig to drive by the Cummings Service Center to try to learn what was going on. [Ed: Yes, the same Craig who made the AMSAT contact described on the previous page.]

Evidently, what had happened was that when the motor home came back to earth from its airborne experience, part of the turbo system (super charger) was broken. This permitted dirt and sand sand to be injected into the engine, causing it to break down. The engine needed to be rebuilt or replaced. The Johnsons chose to replace the engine with a factory-rebuilt one. But it had to be shipped up from Oregon.

At this point we were able to stay in touch via email because Craig set up an antenna so that the Johnsons could get online right from their motor home. Lots of email traffic went back and forth among us. In addition, Craig and his wife Ruth Ann entertained the Johnsons and also came to see them often while they were sitting there waiting on the new engine to be delivered.

Once the engine arrived, three more days were needed to get it installed. Richard, who owned an auto parts store in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and is a machinist, was qualified to help the Cummings mechanic. Before heading south the Johnsons drove the motor home on several short trips to break in the engine. Thank you Craig, a retired FedEx pilot, and Ruthann, an active Alaska Air Lines flight attendant, who helped my friends.
I am told that I was born in Harrow about 12 miles northwest of London in 1934. This made me one of those just-too-young to have served in the second world war, but I did do national service in the Royal Engineers. After I received my commission, I was appointed Garrison Engineer in the German towns of Hildesheim and of Hamelin (the “Pied-Piper” town). I was lucky, as this gave me a lot of experience at a time when I was in the process of qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor.

Even in those days I was interested in wireless and had been a member of the Signals Section of my school Cadet Force. I was, however, rejected for the Royal Signals, as I am colour blind and could not pick the right little sweeties to solder into equipment. But I did supervise the building of a cinema and of 200 married-soldier quarters, and I looked after the buildings in two busy garrisons. Perhaps you could say this was a rare case of a square peg in a square hole.

I renewed my interest in radio and qualified as a radio amateur when about 40 years old, and my wife Diana and my daughter Sue followed a year later. Sue actually found her husband through the hobby!

Largely through the efforts of Mike G8LES, a fellow Rotary club member, I was for some years very involved with fast-scan amateur television and had a very effective station transmitting colour on the 70cm UHF band. I was asked to chair the Home Counties ATV Group. However, being the least technically-oriented of the group, I could only be trusted with a public-relations role. During that time we mounted several major demonstration stations at rallies which were held to promote organisations and to raise funds.

Some of the rallies were part of canal celebrations—another of our family interests. Although originally built during Industrial Revolution, these narrow canals in the UK are very popular with recreational users.

I was lucky enough to be a founder of my first Rotary Club and was president of that club and also my present club in Taunton. I joined ROAR in my early 40s and am very honoured to have been ROAR president from 2000-2003, the years of the excellent RI Conventions in Birmingham and San Antonio. At that time it was still fairly easy to mount a live demonstration station in the Hall of Friendship.

After 12 years of holidaying in most of the countries of Europe in a motor home (RV) and operating from some 15 different countries, we have now settled in Spain. We still try to join our nets as EA/G4HMG. Diana G4MVV and I are both still keen members of ROAR and try to get back to England for the annual RIBI hotel weekends of ROAR. I am writing this whilst we are in our home country on one of our bi-annual stays. We are parked in our caravan, in the hills near where we lived for 23 years.
I have been a Rotarian for over 40 years and am now a member of the club in Palo Alto, California. Throughout my years in Rotary I have held many leadership positions, such as club president, and I have served at the district level. As to ham radio, I’ve been licensed since 1938 and again served many roles, including vice-director of the Pacific Division of the ARRL. I was first licensed as W9KTL in Chicago. Then I moved west after World War II and was one of the early licensees in Nevada (W7NOH), when that was a rare and “most-wanted” state.

I have been very active in an international aid program to which Rotary has contributed—the Medical Amateur Radio Council (MARCO). I believe I am still a member, although I haven’t been personally involved for a number of years.

Very briefly, MARCO is a group of radio hams who are also career medical professionals (MDs, DDSs, etc.). MARCO has a longstanding weekly net on 20 meters, during which a lecture on a previously announced medical subject is presented for about 45 minutes. This is followed by a Q&A session. MARCO is so well respected that the American Medical Association and the American Dental Association, accept it for continuing-education credit, required by both organizations for professional license renewal. There can be as many as 30–50 check-ins on any one Sunday. You can find more information on MARCO on its Website.

My ham radio activities in recent years have been rare to none, although my legal-limit station is on my desk, an arm’s length and a push-button away. I’ll have to re-read the manual if I ever get back on the air. However, when I was active, I worked all countries—then over 350 entities as I recall. I’ve still got all the QSL cards and an ARRL “Worked All Countries” certificate to verify it. This is still considered the most difficult-to-earn award—or so I’ve been told.

I have been active in recent years in our local emergency communications nets and organizations. But at 91 years of age, my formerly active role is becoming “limited-er and limited-er.”

More information about MARCO is available at: http://www.medishare.org
Dayton Hamvention 2012
Another great ham radio experience
— submitted by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

May 17-19, 2012: My Dayton experience started at 3:45 AM on Thursday. That’s when I had to get up so that I could make it to the Fairborn Holiday Inn in time for the first session of this year’s Four Days in May (FDIM) conference. FDIM is a one-day conference put on by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International and is a great way to start the “Dayton experience.”

This year, we were treated to six very fine presentations. They included talks on using microcontrollers for various projects, software-defined radio, VHF and UHF for QRPers, homebrewing with “hollow state” devices (more commonly known as tubes), using open-source electronic design tools, and operating pedestrian mobile. The two talks that I enjoyed the most were “Hollow State (Thermatron) Homebrewing” by Grayson, TA2ZGE/KJ7UM and “Leveraging Free and Open Source Tools in Homebrewing” by Jason, NT7S.

Friday morning, I got up early again, so that I could make the 7:30 AM bus to the Hamvention. We arrived about 8:00 AM, just as the gates were opening. The first thing that I did was to head to the FAR Circuits tent, which is—as the name implies—at the far end of the flea market. There, I made my first purchases, a board to make a regenerative receiver and one to make an audio breakout box.

The rest of the day was a combination of wandering the aisles of the outdoor flea market, fighting the crowds inside the arena, attending seminars, and meeting people that I know. By the time 4:30 PM rolled around, I was pretty hot and tired. Temperatures topped 80 degrees, and on the blacktop surface of the flea market, temperatures were undoubtedly higher. I was happy to get on the bus and head back to the hotel.

Saturday was pretty much the same story, except it was even hotter. The temperature almost hit 90 degrees. I didn’t bring any sunscreen, either, so I got a little rosy.

I ran into some people I knew, who had just come down for the day or perhaps I’d missed the day before. One guy I ran into at the Ohio Repeater Council booth pulled out his new Elecraft KX-3 and gave me a quick demo. It’s actually quite a cool little radio. I’m still saving up for a K-3, though.

Around noon I went to the food court for a slice of pizza and a glass of beer. Seating is catch-as-catch-can, so I shared a table with several other hams. This is great because you get to meet all kinds of people.

This year, an older gentleman sat down next to me with his beer. We got to chatting and as it turned out, this was his 55th straight year attending the Dayton Hamvention! He started going before it was even held at Hara Arena, and even after they moved to Hara, they didn’t use the entire facility as they do now. I’m really glad that I got to speak with him.

So, what did you buy?

I didn’t really go down to Dayton with much of a shopping list. In addition to the PC boards, I did pick up a bunch of other little stuff including some strain reliefs, more clamp-on ferrite cores, a paddle pad from Vibroplex ($1) to keep the paddle down at the club station from sliding around, and some tube sockets! One of the vendors there had a box of tube sockets selling for a quarter apiece or five for a dollar. I picked out five and paid the lady, and as I was walking away, I decided that they were such a good deal that I went back and bought five more.
Dayton Hamvention, continued

My biggest purchase was NT7S's OpenBeacon QRSS transmitter (www.etherkit.com). It cost me $40. It looks like a very nice kit, and I'm hoping to be on 30m QRSS shortly with it. The nice thing about this transmitter is that it has a microcontroller that lets it transmit DFCW and Hellschreiber, in addition to CW. It should be fun to both build and operate.

Too rich for my blood.

In other news, both Kenwood and FlexRadio introduced new radios at Dayton. Perhaps the most buzz was around the Kenwood TS-990. All they were showing was a prototype under a Plexiglass cover. In addition to being incredibly expensive, the radio is huge! I heard someone joke that to produce this radio, Kenwood is going to have to corner the market on buttons and knobs. If you've seen the photo in QST (which was allegedly produced with Photoshop), you'll know what I mean.

The other radio with a bit of buzz is the new FlexRadio FLEX-6000. For the past couple of weeks, the FlexRadio website was proclaiming that this radio was going to be a game changer. Perhaps it is, but at $6,000+, this radio is out of my league, and too expensive for the majority of radio amateurs. That being the case, I really don't know what all the buzz is about.

I'm sure that the TS-990 and the FLEX-6000 are both great radios, but I think that the law of diminishing returns applies here. At some point, are you really getting $6,000 or $12,000 of fun out of the radio? I don't think that I would.

Well, that's it. Another Dayton Hamvention is in the bag. It was a lot of fun, and I'm already looking forward to next year. I've already contacted one of the forum organizers about adding an adult education forum. I think that's something that's both needed and would be popular. I'll just have to make sure to leave enough time to hit the flea market and grab some more tube sockets or coax or whatever.

When he's not tromping around flea markets, or attending conferences, Dan KB6NU writes books about ham radio. His latest, 21 Things to Do After You Get Your Amateur Radio License, is available as an e-book from Amazon, Barnes&Noble, or from his website, http://www.kb6nu.com/. You can e-mail him with comments, questions, compliments, or brickbats at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.
It always seems that if you wait too long to get started on a big project, the work gets almost overwhelming as you get close to the deadline. With this in mind, I decided at an early stage to meet with Victor CT1BJZ, who is willing to help erect our station in the House of Friendship at the June 2013 RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal. After few hiccups Victor was able to get started on July 7. He contacted the Portuguese ham radio association, Rede dos Emissores Portugueses (REP). The club promised to participate in the project, and he recruited another volunteer from the club.

In the morning I was picked from the hotel by the “fellows” and we went to check out the surroundings of the conference center. It is a huge complex at Lisbon Bay in beautiful surroundings, built few years ago on a unsightly corner of the harbor area. The architects deserve compliments for how well the new building turned out. After our tour, we conducted a meeting in the premises of REP in the city. The following is a partial summary of the minutes.

Present: Victor Silva CT1BJZ, member of ROAR; Carlos Nora CT1END, President of REP; Manuel Jesus CT1EWT, a specialist in digital communication; and Pertti Kause EA7GSU, past president of ROAR.

Because of our recent experiences at other RI conventions, we decided that a remote-control station would be the best solution for efficient operation. The problematic area has always been the controlling technology. Manuel’s preference was a hard-wired cable control via Internet to avoid interference by other users. The second choice was a WIFI connection.

The system we use will, in the end, depend on our base station. There are four stations available. We also discussed which bands we should use. During previous conventions 20 meters has been the main communication band. But we certainly can use other bands, depending on the facilities available. Manuel expressed a willingness to try others. We hope to conduct real-life testing of the setup well in advance of the convention.

The cost of Internet will depend on the organizers of the event and is not known yet. REP is the authorizing body for the call signs. To create more interest I suggested, as has been the case previously, to choose an unusual and short call with a possible Rotary reference. Carlos suggested CR6R for use from June 20–26, 2013, subject to approval by ROAR.

Foreigners with valid ham radio licenses can operate the station. To give interested “hams” the possibility to meet and chat at a leisurely pace, I suggested that we have a “get-together” evening meal. Those who would like to attend could sign up at our ROAR booth. Reservations in a nearby restaurant should be made. I will try to visit Lisbon again before the end of the year if that will help the project progress.

Looking Ahead to RI Lisbon

— submitted by Pertti Kause, EA7GSU
About ROAR

Rotarians of Amateur Radio is one of the oldest fellowships of Rotary International. It was established in 1966 by Byron Sharpe W9BE, a Rotarian from Illinois, USA. In 1989 one of our ROAR members, Hugh Archer W8JA, served as president of Rotary International. ROAR members are perhaps the most active fellowship in communicating with each other regularly.

Purpose: ROAR provides a forum for the exchange of views among members who share an interest in amateur radio, either as licensed radio amateurs or as shortwave listeners. We wish to promote international understanding and fellowship.

Eligibility: To become a member of ROAR, you must be an active Rotarian, a Rotaractor or a former Rotarian, and you must be a licensed amateur operator or have a genuine interest in shortwave radio. Spouses of ROAR members may also join.

Dues: The fellowship collects annual dues that cover the cost of maintaining our member directory and producing our ROAR Communicator newsletter.

Currently our dues are $20 US for one year or $90 US for five years and can be paid by visiting the website:

http://ifroar.org

ROAR Officers 2012-2015

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Imn. Past President Pertti Kause EA7GSU / OH1SH
Secretary Elwood Anderson AE5EA
Treasurer Robert Butler WB7RQG
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