



April 2011

Communicator

www.ifroar.org

Newsletter of the International Fellowship for Rotarians of Amateur Radio

From the President



Fellow members of ROAR,

This issue of the *Communicator* is specifically intended to tell you about the New Orleans Convention ROAR activities and to prepare you to participate in our Annual General Meeting (AGM). The agenda (p. 2) is extensive. Some items may be more complex than can be decided at one meeting.

In previous issues there have been articles that touched upon some of the questions we need to discuss. If there is a subject in which you have a particular interest, please come to the Convention armed with all the pertinent facts so we can discuss it intelligently. If you cannot come to

the Convention, you can still express your views. Please leave your message with a participating member or email it to me at pikause@yahoo.co.uk.

The articles that follow will bring you up to date on plans for our Convention activities—including our remote station W5R. We review some of the topics for discussion at the AGM and provide reports on past and ongoing ROAR activities. Looking ahead, please remember that our ROAR *Communicator* is for everyone. Our new editor, Richard TI7/AA2UP, encourages all members to participate by submitting information for future issues. Even if you have another hobby in addition to ham radio, Richard would like to hear about it. Speaking for myself, I would like to see more material about Africa or South America. We need to hear more from those continents.

ROAR will have Booth 1184 in the House of Friendship. We will hold our Annual General Meeting in room 383 in Morial Convention Center. The meeting convenes on Monday, May 23rd at 11:30 AM. I hope to see you there.

In the meantime, do talk about ROAR! Remember, if hams don't know about us, they cannot join us!

—Pertti EA7GSU, President



W5R

Special Convention Issue

*The International Fellowship for
Rotarians of Amateur Radio*

Annual General Meeting

New Orleans Morial Convention Center, Room 383

Monday, May 23, 2011 ❖ 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Preliminary Agenda

- ▶ Call to order
- ▶ Confirmation of the chairperson
- ▶ Election of the secretary
- ▶ Introduction and registration of the attendees
- ▶ Tribute to silent keys
- ▶ Minutes of the last meeting (Birmingham 2009)
- ▶ Report of activities 2010-2011 (*see p. 6*)
- ▶ Treasurer's report 2010-2011 (*see p. 7*)
- ▶ **Discussion:** Increase of contributions
- ▶ **Discussion:** Emergency service, disaster relief
- ▶ Report on preparations for the Bangkok Convention (*see p. 5*)
- ▶ Introduction of the new president
- ▶ **Discussion:** "Extraordinary Associate" service award (*see p. 4*)
- ▶ AOB (any other business)
- ▶ Closing

***We have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the AGM.
Please be on time and come well prepared!***

*We would like to arrange an event for all of us to get together for lunch, for dinner,
or at the bar. Keep yourself informed by visiting the ROAR booth!*



▲ John W8AUV, Mike G8LES, and Don GØJWE (former editor of ROAR Communicator) in Birmingham 2009

*Hard at work at the ROAR Annual General Meeting
Birmingham 2009 ▼*



W5R Will Be QRV by Remote Control

—Submitted by Dave Le Jeune, WN5V

This is the exciting way things are shaping up for W5R, our Convention special-event station.

I live about 200 miles west of New Orleans and plan to be at the Convention from Friday, May 20, 2011, until it closes on the following Wednesday. Friday is set-up day.

We'll be remoting to my home station, which consists of the following:

- ▶ Flex 5000A transceiver
- ▶ TenTec Titan III amplifier (1.5KW)
- ▶ 4 Element Steppir Yagi up 11 meters (about 36 feet)
- ▶ 40 meter inverted vee dipole
- ▶ 80 meter inverted vee dipole
- ▶ BigIR Steppir vertical for 80 through 6 (currently has problems but should be working by convention time)

The station will be operated remotely using UltraVNC software for access to the Flex's PowerSDR software running at the home QTH. Skype will be used for 2-way audio. Everything seems to be working fine now. There is a wee bit of latency going from receive to transmit and transmit to receive, but it's workable. I can't seem to get around that.

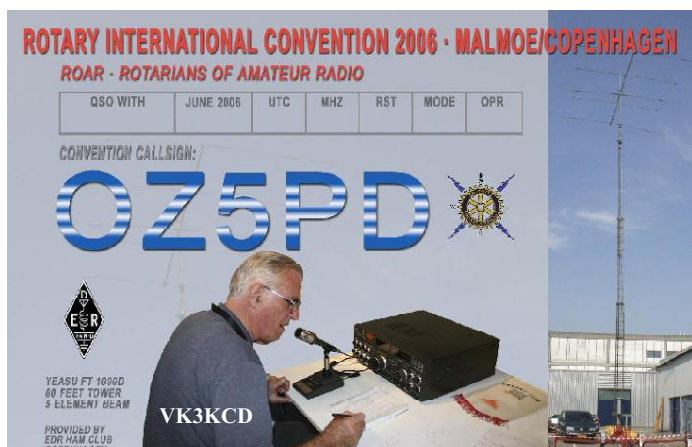
I have 10mbs/760kbs ADSL Internet access into my home station, which should be good on that end. We're getting an Internet drop into the booth that I hope will be fast enough, considering what we have to pay for it. The Steppir Yagi is bandswitched automatically as the transceiver is switched between 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters.

To work the lower bands, we will depend on my XYL, Carolyn N4DHR. She will have to tune the amplifier as we switch bands. In addition, she will be there to un-key the transmitter should we lose Internet contact while transmitting. (The FCC gets a bit perturbed without such control.) N4DHR will be the control operator of record.

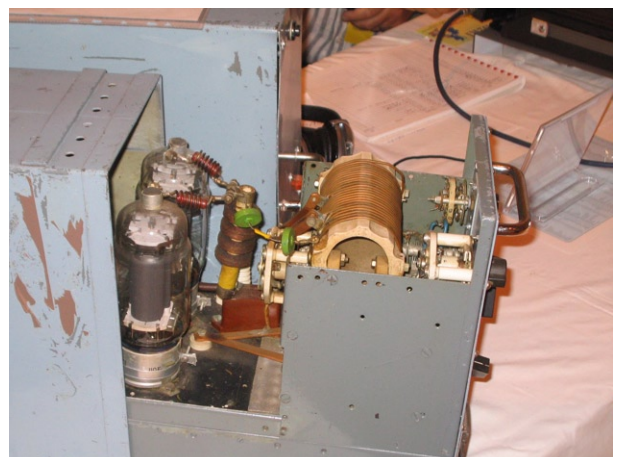
This is shaping up as a very promising station, much more capable than anything we could erect on site. Now, if only the propagation gods will agree to cooperate!

QST from
W5R

*Special-event station OZ5PD
in Copenhagen 2006*



Mike G4WRU operating the ROAR special-event station in Birmingham 2009. The amplifier was not used; it was for demonstration only.



Topic for Discussion—ROAR Special Recognition Award

—Pertti Kause EA7GSU

Here is another thing to think about in advance of the Convention and AGM.

Do you know that we currently have no means to express our gratitude to the people and organizations who help our members and our fellowship?

For example, Joseph Simonet WØTBC, who was Secretary of ROAR for nine years, has recently been ill. A good friend of his, Dave Glas WØOXB, a non-Rotarian, has assisted him in many ways. This included installing a ham radio station for him in the hospital. Should we not show our appreciation for help like this to one of our long-serving members?

Over the years many people and organizations have done things that exceed all expectations to help our members and the ROAR fellowship. Think of the local ham radio clubs that have helped us set up at past conventions.

Jim W1QUO, vice president of USCB East, has suggested that we create a physical symbol of our appreciation for those who have helped us in some extraordinary way. I fully support the idea.



Here is a proposed framework for our *Extraordinary Associate Award*:

- ▶ The honoree would be someone who has made an exceptional contribution to ROAR or its members.
- ▶ The proposal for nomination would be made by the vice presidents along with a statement of merit and justification, and then the nomination would be considered by the Board.
- ▶ Notice of the award would be published in the *Communicator*.
- ▶ If possible it would be presented publicly, e.g., during the AGM.

A few important points we need to consider:

- ▶ We need to discuss whether it is appropriate to give this award to an individual who is not a Rotarian or member of ROAR, or to an organization.
- ▶ Should the award be made for one or two years, or be a lifetime award? Options would be a nicely designed plaque that passes to each new recipient for a given time, or a paper certificate, signed by the president, secretary, and nominating vice president, that the recipient can keep.
- ▶ It needs to be financially feasible.

Please note that this subject is on the AGM agenda. I would very much like to hear all of your constructive ideas. After taking all the comments into consideration, I plan to present the proposal to the board.

Silent Keys

John W. Ferguson Sr. WØQWS ~ Karl Eric Forsman SMØDMJ ~ John Gardner GW4KVJ

In memory of John W. Ferguson Sr.

ROAR member John W. Ferguson Sr., 73, of Independence, Missouri, became a Silent Key on July 6, 2010. John began his library career as a book shelver at the Springfield, Missouri, Public Library. He married Nancy Carolyn Southerland in 1958. In 1981 John was appointed Director of Libraries for the Mid-Continent Public Library.

Some of the numerous community and professional activities in which John provided leadership were: President of the Independence Rotary Club; District Governor, District 6040; President of the Independence YMCA Board of Directors; Net Control of the Rotarians of Amateur Radio; member of the Council of Legislation for Rotary International in Singapore; recipient of the Rotary Foundation Meritorious Service Award; plus many more.

John's other hobby was driving his motor home to Rotary conventions and rallies around the country. It was our pleasure to let him park on our driveway a time or two when he passed through Albuquerque, NM, on business or pleasure.

John is survived by his wife of 52 years, three sons, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

My thanks to John W. Ferguson Jr. for furnishing me part of this information. John Ferguson was one of my really good friends. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.

—Submitted by Jack W. Page KF5BD

Convention Time for ROAR—Looking Back, Looking Ahead

ROAR in Montreal 2010

—Report submitted by Joe Spears AF1E

The booth and visitors. At the Montreal Rotary Convention, June 19-22, 2010, we had forty-four guests signing our log and we received six QSLs or other cards.

Throughout the entire convention, I was the only ROAR member available to staff our booth. Since I had other Convention obligations, I was unable to meet many who came by. However, many folks either left a QSL card or signed the visitor's register. Some were very persistent and came back to see me while I was at the booth.

Unfortunately, we did not have an active station. We explored the idea of a remote configuration but the logistics proved too difficult. A special thanks to Coos VE2GTI for helping us secure the call VC2R.

I printed 100 copies of the ROAR brochure and handed them all out. Some representatives of individual clubs asked to take a few back so their club members could learn more about us. Also, we had plenty of display space and the ROAR banner was very lonely on the wall. We should be sure to add more visual interest at our W5R booth this year in New Orleans.

I want to thank all of those who came by the booth. It was a delight to have an eyeball QSO with many ROAR members and Rotarians interested in our fellowship. I also want to thank Pertti for his guidance and support. It was an honor to represent the fellowship at the Convention. It was good to see the continued high interest in the fellowships and particularly in ROAR.

The Annual General Meeting. The AGM was scheduled for Sunday, June 20. Unfortunately, I was the only one who attended. I believe this was due to poor communication (the meeting was not listed in the Convention directory) and the time (early in the day).

Recommendations for future meetings. I think it is important that ROAR have a booth at future Rotary Conventions. But there needs to be a plan for staffing the booth that involves sharing the workload. It is not appropriate to expect a single person to set up and staff the booth.

We need more signage in the booth. I suggest a banner of member QSL cards and perhaps a world map where those passing could place a pin on their home country. In addition, there should be pictures of the ROAR members in action. We should begin building a ROAR scrapbook of pictures, with the best on display and others in a book people can thumb through easily. We may even think of putting this online.

There also should be a social gathering for the members to get together and share stories. A breakfast or a dinner or even just drinks and snacks would be great.

Additional recommendations. I believe that beyond the ROAR *Communicator* we need to stimulate more interest in ROAR. Perhaps an award for "Worked All Rotary" would be good to reward a Rotarian or others who work each country of the 212 countries where there is a Rotary Club.

ROAR in Bangkok 2012

—Report submitted by Tim Masuda JH1NVZ
Vice Chairman of ROAR Asia District
PP of Tokyo Katsushika Rotary Club

I think our visit to Bangkok to plan the ROAR station set-up for the 2012 RI Convention was quite successful. We met important Rotarians and a key person from the NTC (telecommunications authority).

All Rotarians in Bangkok plan to be very active for the Convention.

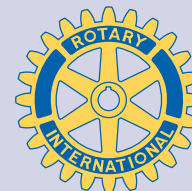
We visited the convention hall (IMPACT). It is tremendous. They said that 60,000 people can fit in the big hall. Also many additional rooms and shops are there. *(Please refer to their web site: <http://www.impact.co.th/en/index.php>)*

We would like get the ROAR booth as close as possible to the entrance.

We should thank RAST (Radio Amateur Society of Thailand) for their efficient support for ROAR.

I will be visiting the New Orleans Convention. Looking forward to having an eyeball QSO with you there.

Best 73, YIR.



President's Report of ROAR Activities in 2010-11

—Pertti Kause EA7GSU

Greetings to all of you. Here is my report of what has taken place in 2010.

Changes in administrative posts. In June 2010 I received a letter from Chuck Graham KI6DCD informing me of his resignation. Ken Demarey W8SOO responded to my “warrant” and is now VP for USCB West. In late summer Cees Jan van Mourik PA2X decided to dedicate himself to the presidency of a Dutch radio net. Fortunately, Malcolm Campbell PA3AH stepped forward and volunteered to be VP for CENAEM.

In late autumn James Kalassery VU2ARL asked to turn over the editorship of our *Communicator* because of business pressures. The general call brought some answers and Richard Spingarn TI7/AA2UP took over in December. We have already seen his footprint on the January issue. He is permanently located in TI7-land with his wife, Penny, who is a graphic designer and is responsible for the *Communicator's* new “look”.

New Year's greetings brought a nice note from Max Raicha 5Z4MR, from Kenya. As I had been looking for members in Africa, I asked him to join the executives of ROAR and he accepted. He is facing a splendid challenge in finding new members in that continent as VP for Africa.

Past and future conventions. Our activities in Montreal were very modest, to say the least! I am thankful for Joe AF1E for his efforts and regret that the fruits of his hard work were so limited. Please review his report (p. 5) so we can be aware of our mistakes and learn how to make a more effective presentation in the future.

And for the 2012 Convention in Bangkok, Thailand, Tim JH1NVZ has reported that the preparations are well underway (p. 5).

Website. The plan to improve our Internet communication is developing slowly. Our webmaster, Bill VK4ZD, is in contact with Martti OH6SM, and something important is brewing. I anticipate that we will soon have an online system to monitor member contributions (dues) and to remind us of when they are due. The idea is that this will help maintain (and grow) our membership.

Nets. Our national and international nets are doing well. The ANZO local net is active as is the EU net; both are on 7MHz band. I think more hams will participate once the nets become more established. Intercontinental nets are gaining in participation as propagation improves. The sunspot numbers are increasing, so dust off your rig and let's hear from you!

Disaster Planning. Recent natural disasters reminded me of some earlier discussions about the best way we can respond and participate. Some of the comments I have heard warn that it will be a demanding commitment if we decide to join the established Rotary aid groups. Do we have the capacity, the manpower and the finances required to be efficient? The AGM offers an opportunity to express your opinions on this issue. One suggestion I have heard is to just leave it up to individual ROAR members or groups. In this way those of us who are able to help out will find the appropriate partner in the other country's ham radio organization.

Radio Somalia. On the initiative of Bill Main VK4ZD, I personally challenged our members to individually participate in raising money for the purchase of a broadcast radio station for Somalia. I am happy to say that the challenge was met successfully, thanks to individual ROAR members, Rotary clubs, and non-Rotarians. I am sure we will hear more of the progress in due course. The main goals of the station are to distribute reliable information and to discourage the growth of piracy in the surrounding waters. There was a nice article about Radio Somalia in the January issue of *Communicator*.

I would like to thank every member who has contributed to the activities of ROAR during the year. I am looking forward to seeing you at this year's Convention!



**Don't forget to check at the ROAR booth
for details of our member get-together!**

Topic for Discussion—Time to Increase Dues?

—Pertti Kause EA7GSU

I am proposing an increase in our annual ROAR contributions (dues).

Here are the reasons I believe we need to act on this:

- ▶ The increasing cost of setting up demonstration stations during conventions
- ▶ Possible participation in security and disaster service
- ▶ Increasing printing and postage costs (although we are reducing these by using the Internet to communicate with our members)
- ▶ Proposal to make a video for presentations at future conventions

At the moment we have about \$4,000 US in our account, but after New Orleans we will have only \$1,500–2,000.

The annual contribution has not changed for at least 15 years. Dues are \$10 US per year, or \$45 for five years. I would like to see the dues increased to \$20 per year, but there are other proposals on the table.

The subject of the increase will be decided during the AGM. I have already received some comments on this issue and welcome your feedback. If you cannot make it to the Convention or to the AGM, please tell your vice president your thoughts on the matter, or email me at: pikause@yahoo.co.uk.

Interim Financial Statement July 1, 2010—March 25, 2011

Beginning Balance July 1, 2010 **\$2,708.32**

Income:

Membership Contributions	
Dues Europe	\$226.84
Dues USA	329.97
Dues ROAR UK	195.00
Dues ROAR Japan	892.94
Donations	65.00

Total Income **\$1,709.75**

\$4,418.07

Expenses:

Printing ROAR pamphlets	\$60.24
PayPal	11.62

Total Expenses **\$71.86**

Balance March 25, 2011 **\$4,346.21**

Respectfully submitted, Bob Butler WB7RQG, Treasurer

NOTE: The complete 2009-2010 financial statement can be found in the January 2011 issue of Communicator.

Regional Report—ROAR ANZO

—Submitted by Peter Lowe VK3KCD
Regional Vice President, ANZO

Since I accepted the position of vice president of the ANZO region we have introduced two new members, Peter Rentsch VK3FPSR and Phil Byrne VK2FPDB. Peter is a member of R.C. Cobram on the Murray River north of Melbourne and Phil is a member of R.C. Canberra and is currently secretary of that club and incoming president.

We had a general meeting in Canberra in August in conjunction with the Australian Rotary Convention, with three members present and one guest. Preliminary planning has begun for the ROAR station at the RI Convention in Sydney in 2014. We propose to run a remote station, as the venue for the Convention is totally unsuitable for HF operation.

In July we started a net on 40 meters and have an active group regularly checking in. This net started on 7,115 KHz but after a few weeks it became apparent that we were in competition with a net in far-north VK4-land. Consequently we are now on 7,118 KHz, and the VK4 net has gone a little lower.

Activity from our region continues on the ANZO-Europe net and the improvement in propagation of late is greatly appreciated.

I have written to those in the region on my mailing list regarding the increase in dues and have had no comment adverse or favourable. As a result I will indicate this region's support for the increase.

At the end of 2010, ROAR ANZO became an affiliated club of the Wireless Institute of Australia. The purpose of this was to gain a listing in the 2011 Australian Call Book and this has been achieved.

The Radio Galkayo project has attracted personal and club support from Bill Main and myself and we are pleased to note the detailed report on this project in the last issue of *Communicator*.



Peter VK3KCD and Derek G3SQH
in Birmingham 2009

Have Rig, Will Travel



This is Pertti's luxurious Jeep Laredo, proving that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It's only twenty years old with 150,000 km (about 93,000 miles). Don't laugh! It has a functioning HF mobile station. The rig is an Icom IC-735. The antenna system is a homebrew ground-plane consisting of six one-meter rods. Depending on how the sections are arranged, the antenna covers 20 to 10 meters. It has a simple matching arrangement using half-a-dozen radials.

This is the same set-up Pertti used this past summer on his 5,000 km (3,100 miles) trek through Spain and Portugal. It kept him QRV for the Sunday nets and he also enjoyed many QSOs—including one all the way from Andorra to Finland. For details of that adventure, just email Pertti for a complete travelogue.

ROAR Nets

The current schedule for all ROAR nets is maintained by our webmaster Bill VK4ZD.

You can access the information from our website:

<http://www.ifroar.org/hfnets.html>

Treasurer's Reminder

If you have not yet paid your dues, now is the time, because new rates are up for discussion at the AGM.

You can find out how to pay with Paypal by going to our website: www.ifroar.org.

—Bob Butler WB7RQG, Treasurer

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 \$10 US for one year or \$45 US for five years and can be paid by visiting the website:

<http://ifroar.org>



ROAR Officers 2009-2012

President	Pertti Kause EA7GSU
Imm. Past President	John Maier W8AUV
Secretary	Elwood Anderson AE5EA
Treasurer	Robert Butler WB7RQG
Webmaster	Bill Main VK4ZD
Editor	Rich Spingarn TI7/AA2UP

Regional Vice Presidents

Africa	Max Raicha 5Z4MR
ANZO	Peter Lowe VK3KCD
Asia	Tim Masuda JH1NVZ
CENAEM	Malcolm Campbell PA3AHC
RIBI	Mike Sanders G8LES
SACAMA	***
USCB East	Jim Moran W1QUO
USCB West	Ken Demaray W8SOO

*** If you are interested in this position, please contact Pertti at president@ifroar.org.



ROAR Communicator is published by President Rotarian Pertti (Pete) Kause EA7GSU/OH1SH (RC Benahavis-Costa del Sol, Spain) for and on behalf of the International Fellowship for Rotarians of Amateur Radio. Editor: Rotarian Richard Spingarn TI7/AA2UP (RC Ithaca, NY, USA).