From the President

Fellow Rotarians and Members of ROAR,

In early August I received a message from Ed Tyler N4EDT. His question made me think for a while. He asked, "After enjoying the fellowship, what is it that ROAR seeks to achieve? The question is not asked in the context of what have we done but, collectively, what do we want to achieve," Ed said.

Ed’s question prompted one of my own—namely: Is ROAR for relaxation or is it meant to achieve something? Is ham radio a counterpoise to the obligations we are facing every day or is it just one more thing we “have” to do?

The beauty of this hobby is that it can be either or both of these things. However, in the case of ROAR itself, the executive board has agreed (and has reaffirmed at this year’s AGM) that our fellowship will not actively seek out opportunities for public service. Rather, our members are expected to do that on a local level through their own Rotary and ham-radio clubs. Still, there seem to be members who would like to see preparedness activities conducted within our framework.

For instance, there was much discussion a few years ago at the Birmingham RI Convention about emergency and disaster activities. And think about Operation Galkayo, where hams are helping to set up radio stations in Somalia (see ROAR Communicator, January 2011). Because of our technical knowledge and the equipment we have and know how to use, can we offer assistance to our communities that other Rotarians cannot?

This thinking brings up more questions (sorry) that we have been asking ourselves for many years. Can we get more ROAR members from the ranks of radio amateurs? Should we participate in the training of people who have an interest in becoming radio amateurs? Could this be combined with activities for youngsters to lead them to a great hobby and possibly a career in technology? I think local communities would welcome these kinds of activities, as would local ham-radio clubs.

Of course, how do we achieve this? There are many possibilities for grabbing the interest of youngsters, despite the era of texting and Twitter. Just look at the Hamosphere website. This kind of thing will not prepare potential hams for the examination, but it is a very interesting idea to get the juices flowing. On a local level, you can use this and other tools to organize amateur-radio activities in your community. You will have the support through the Internet of our whole ROAR fellowship.

—Pertti EA7GSU, President 2009-2012
Remembering the Tsunami
A ROAR–Japan Member’s Personal Account

It was just over six months ago, on 11 March 2011, that a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck Japan. The quake caused a tsunami measuring 30 meters high (approximately 100 feet), resulting in almost 23,000 people dead or missing and extreme property damage. Japan’s Prime Minister Naoto Kan called the disaster the “toughest and most difficult crisis” in the 65 years since the end of the second world war.

ROAR-J member Shozo Noda JA7UBZ is a Buddhist priest whose temple, named Shinsho-Ji, is located only six kilometers from the Fukushima beach where most of the tsunami damage occurred. Fortunately, the temple, which was established in the year 1050, was not destroyed. This is his personal account of the experience, translated by Tim Masuda JH1NVZ and edited by Rich Spingarn TI7/AA2UP, and accompanied by photographs taken by ROAR-J members JA7UBZ and JA7TPX.

The earthquake’s tsunami damage is unprecedented. It seems Japan had structures and safety procedures in place to withstand earthquakes. Unfortunately, there was not much knowledge of tsunami preparedness.

When the tsunami hit, about 50 minutes after the earthquake, many people were flushed away with their houses. Most of the bodies were thrown upon the shore. But some were found 240 kilometers (about 150 miles) out to sea.

Over 500 bodies and remains were brought to my temple. The physical characteristics and DNA of the bodies were checked and the remains were put into individual boxes, with a number on each box. We cremated the bodies and kept the ashes to return to loved ones.

In Fukushima, Aomori, and the area south of the Tokai region, there is still great concern about radiation from the damaged nuclear power plants. Almost half of the population of Japan lives in these areas. People are very worried about radiation exposure through food and water.

Soon after the tsunami, all utilities, such as electricity, gas, telephone, and water, were stopped. Cellular telephones were also useless. This lasted for several days. People could not receive important warnings about after-shock earthquakes or other warnings about the tsunami. In my area electricity was restored within three days but telephones could only be used for national and public service. It was impossible to get news of relatives and to find out if they needed help.

Four days after the disaster I heard someone on my 2-meter mobile transceiver calling for help. I answered him and he told me he and his family needed drinking water and diapers from the refugee shelter located in the public school gymnasium. I was able to relay this message to city authorities. He told me that ham radio was the only form of communication that was not cut off.

Because of the earthquake, my transceiver at home fell off a shelf and it took me a while to reconnect everything so I could make HF and U/VHF emergency contacts. I was then able to ask ROAR-J members to donate ham equipment and batteries. (Batteries were very difficult to get at the time.) This resulted in many much-needed donations. Ham operators and equipment were a great help in the recovery and restoration of the region.
Tsunami Images Recorded by JA7UBZ and JA7TPX

1. Tsunami in Soma City
2. Tsunami in Soma City
3. Yamada Town after tsunami
4. Iwate Bank on the main street of Yamada Town
5. Fishing port of Yamada Town
6. Post Office of Yamada Town
7. Remains at Shinsho-Ji Temple
It was quite a challenge for any operation. New Orleans jazz bands were on the Voodoo Stage, the Hurricane Levee band was on another stage, and thousands of people were talking—all of this within 100 meters of our operating position. The ambient noise was sometimes 10 dB above the threshold of pain!

If that was not enough, we were operating remotely via the Internet to the home station of Dave LeJeune WN5V.

This is the environment we from ROAR survived while operating the special-event station W5R during the 2011 Rotary International Convention. The ROAR booth was in the Rotary House of Friendship at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. Propagation conditions were not the greatest, but we managed to work lots of local and DX stations during the five days of the conference.

Rotarian and ROAR member Jim Moran W1QUO was our very first contact on Friday, 20 May 2011, at 1600 UTC. Jim must have been listening patiently for hours, because as soon as we came on the air he responded with a booming signal. Thanks, Jim! Because of you we knew immediately our operation was going to work!

W5R station operators included Pertti Kause EA7GSU, ROAR president; John Maier W8AUV, immediate past president; and Dave LeJeune WN5V, event chair. We also had several guest operators, including Tim Masuda JH1NVZ, vice president, ROAR-Asia.

We spent Friday setting up the station. The booth was provided with a high-speed Internet drop, 120 VAC, and two tables. The ROAR group provided the laptop computer, speakers, microphones and headphones. The speakers were paralleled with the headphones so booth visitors could listen in on conversations. The laptop and the Internet allowed us to connect to WN5V’s superb home station located approximately 180 miles (290 km) west of New Orleans. The control operator at the remote station was Dave’s XYL, Carolyn N4DHR.

WN5V’s station consisted of a TenTec Orion II, TenTec Titan III amplifier, and 4-element Steppir yagi antenna on a 55-ft (18-m) tower. The antenna rotator was a HyGain Tailtwister, computer controlled by an MDS controller and LPROTOR software. Also included in the mix was a power/swr meter by PowerMaster. This meter could be read via the remote computer. The computer controlling the remote station was a quad core computer running Windows XP. Rig control software was by N4PY in server mode. Remote desktop access was via UltraVNC server software. Skype software was set up on the remote computer to answer automatically when called from the remote station, and it would only respond to calls from one user (WN5V). Transmitter output from the Titan III amplifier was about one kilowatt.

The TenTec Orion II was a late substitute for the Flex 5000 SDR (Software Defined Radio) we had planned to use. Setting the correct audio levels for both receive and transmit for the Flex 5K proved to be unworkable, so we substituted the Orion II. It worked flawlessly the entire time. It also required less bandwidth since we were able to use the N4PY software in the client/server mode. Only the Orion II CAT commands were passed back and forth via the Internet. With the Flex 5K and PowerSDR software we would have had to operate totally with remote desktop software, thus requiring much more bandwidth.
The Steppir antenna was set up in the “general” mode and re-tuned automatically each time the Orion II transceiver frequency changed by 50 khz or more. SWR remained less than 1.25 : 1.0 even when we changed bands. The rotator and antenna performed flawlessly. The only feature of the Steppir yagi that could not be used was the capability to re-tune in the 180-degree mode which would have made moving the antenna direction from Europe to ANZO much easier and faster.

On the laptop at the convention center we ran the UltraVNC client and the N4PY software. Skype provided audio to and from the remote rig. Setting up for operation each morning consisted of the following steps:

- Log onto the remote computer via VNC and start up N4PY control software.
- Connect via Skype to the remote computer. At this time audio could be heard from the Orion II.
- Start N4PY software on the laptop.
- Set frequency. Both the primary (14.293) and secondary (14.288) frequencies were saved in memory so this was easy.
- Press the transmitter tune button and check power meter for output and SWR.
- Test transmit output in SSB mode.

As mentioned above, our biggest challenge was dealing with the loud, noisy conditions on the convention floor. The ROAR booth was located at the end of the House of Friendship, very close to the two entertainment stages. This presented quite a challenge when attempting to select the proper microphone and set audio levels for both receive and transmit. Skype is designed for telephone-type operation, and if the microphone picks up a lot of background noise, it mutes the receive signal.

On transmit, the background noise was often louder than the person speaking into the mike. We started out using a Heil Pro Set Elite headset with boom microphone. During quiet times this was very easy to set up but proved to be unusable during times of high ambient noise. What we needed was a uni-directional noise-canceling microphone that could be muted except when transmitting. We finally solved this on Sunday by purchasing a computer-style microphone with USB input. After much experimenting with audio levels we were successful in operating in high ambient-noise conditions. We even made it through when a typical New Orleans brass band played “When the Saints Come Marching In.”

We operated on 20 meters, 17 meters and 15 meters. Bill VK4ZD was worked on 15 meters, but almost 99% of operation was on 20 meters due to poor propagation conditions. All operation was on SSB. Dave WN5V attempted to work CW, but was not able to get the remote station to respond properly. Since Carolyn N4DHR, back at the remote station, had not been trained in setting up the Orion for CW, Dave abandoned his attempt. It should be noted that Carolyn did a great job in re-tuning the Titan III amplifier each time we changed bands.

I believe our team concluded that the operation of W5R in New Orleans was a qualified success. Until we changed mikes, operation from 1500 UTC to 1900 UTC was very challenging. Early mornings and late afternoons, when the crowds had quieted down and the entertainment was silent, operation was great. After getting the new microphone and setting the audio levels, we were able to operate at any time. Setting the audio levels itself was challenging. We had to consider Skype audio level (automatic level was best), sound card audio level on the laptop, sound card level on the remote system, Skype audio level on the remote system, and both transmit and receive audio levels on the Orion II.

All stations we worked were very understanding about the loud background noise. We normally had the 14.293 Mhz frequency to ourselves; and when other nets were running, particularly on 14.295 Mhz, we moved down to 14.288 Mhz. Pertti, John and I had a great time. I hope everyone who wanted to work W5R was able to do so. On Sunday, 29 May 2011, W5R was on both the International Net at 1130 UTC and the Transcontinental Net at 1800 UTC to provide others the opportunity to work the 2011 Rotary International Convention special-event station.
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
International Fellowship for Rotarians of Amateur Radio (ROAR)
11:30 EDT, Monday, 23 May 2011 / New Orleans, Louisiana USA

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ROAR was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, on 23 May 2011 in conjunction with the 2011 Rotary International Convention. The meeting was called to order by Rotarian Pertti Kause, ROAR president. The first order of business was to elect a chairman for the meeting. Pertti was elected by unanimous voice vote. Pertti then appointed Rotarian Dave LeJeune to serve as secretary for the meeting.

Pertti asked for a moment of silence in tribute to the ROAR silent keys who passed away since our last AGM. They are: John W. Ferguson Sr. WØQWS, Karl Eric Forsman SMØDMJ, and John Gardner GW4KVJ.

Minutes of the last AGM held in Birmingham, which appeared in the April 2011 Communicator, were approved by voice vote with no one dissenting.

Pertti then read the ANZO report prepared by regional vice president Peter Lowe VK3KCD (published in the April 2011 Communicator). Minutes of the RIBI AGM were not yet available. Tim Masuda JH1NVZ gave a verbal report of the activities of ROAR-Japan.

The interim treasurer’s report as of 25 March 2011 was distributed (see the April 2011 Communicator for a copy of the report.) Pertti gave an update of the balance in the bank account, a total of $4,346.21. Expenses for the current convention will be deducted from this amount; estimated costs are approximately $1,500, primarily for Internet connection ($1,100), electrical power ($150) and an extra table for the station laptop and speaker ($128).

See page 8 of this issue of Communicator for the final 2010-11 treasurer’s report.

Pertti raised the issue of a need for an alternate signature for the ROAR checking account. Currently only Bob WB7RQG, ROAR treasurer, can sign checks. A motion was made to add an alternate signature (to be selected by the treasurer) to the bank signature card for checks. It was passed unanimously.

Following the treasurer’s report, Pertti introduced the subject of increased contributions (dues). The present contribution per member is $10/year, or $45/5 years. He stated the reason we now have a small “cushion” in our bank account is due to our low convention costs in 2010 in Montreal, where we did not have an operating event station. Costs for ROAR in Bangkok in 2012 are expected to be greater than costs in New Orleans. Moreover, our current balance reflects contributions for members who have paid for multiple years. Pertti said an increase was justified considering current expenses, expenses for upcoming conventions, and the normal administrative costs.

The discussion that followed included comments submitted in advance to Pertti regarding the need for a good estimate of our annual income and expenditures and the need for an annual budget (see page 8 for a summary of these comments).
No one really objected to an increase from $10 to $20 per year. After much discussion, raising the current annual contribution to $20 for one year or $90 for five years was brought to a voice vote and was approved with no dissenting votes. It was also agreed that the dues increase would be effective immediately.

The next item of business was a discussion of how ROAR could be a part of disaster relief and disaster preparedness. The result of this discussion was a general consensus that this should be left up to individual ROAR members working with local disaster-relief officials.

Tim JH1NVZ then presented a report about the 2012 RI Convention in Bangkok. He recently made a trip to Bangkok to discuss plans with local amateur-radio club members and said he believes that ROAR-Japan can have a station up and running for the convention in 2012. He said he would need monetary support from ROAR but did not specify the estimated amount. He also said that ROAR-Japan is willing to assist with the station funding.

Pertti then presented Bill Main VK4ZD (not present at the AGM) as his nominee for ROAR president for the next three-year term, starting in July 2012. Since no other nominees were presented, Bill was elected unanimously by voice vote.

Pertti concluded with a recommendation for how ROAR could recognize extraordinary efforts of various members, past and future. Discussion followed and it was moved and approved in principle that some sort of certificate should be developed to recognize these individuals as the need occurs. It would be signed by the ROAR president and the vice president who recommended the recipient. Pertti accepted the task of proceeding with the idea and discussing it with VPs. (See page 10 for a summary of Pertti’s recommendations.)

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1800 UTC.
**ROAR Treasurer’s Report 2010–2011**

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

**Income:**

- Membership Contributions
  - Dues Europe $236.84
  - Dues USA 880.97
  - Dues ROAR UK 195.00
  - Dues ROAR Japan 892.94
  - Dues ANZO 110.00
  - Refund RI Convention electric 48.51

**Total Income**  $2,364.26  

**Expenses:**

- Printing ROAR pamphlets  $60.24
- PayPal 11.62
- 2011 RI Convention 1,341.08
- Internet 1,126.51
- Electrical 109.76
- Maier W8AUV 104.81

**Total Expenses**  $1,415.00  

**Ending Balance June 30, 2011**  $3,657.58  

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Butler WB7RQG, Treasurer

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**Notes on the increase in contributions**

In response to his request for comments on the proposal to increase ROAR contributions (dues), ROAR president Pertti received the following communications, which were presented during the discussion at the Annual General Meeting:

*It is with some concern that I understand that the dues are to be increased, whereas we had been anticipating a reduction from the current $10. (ROAR-UK has been paying $5 as we distributed the Directories and Communicator to our members).*  —Bruce Foxall GØPCF, Treasurer ROAR-UK

*I have circulated the ANZO membership with advice of the increase and have not received any adverse comment; in fact, I have received no comment regarding the increase at all. So at this stage acknowledging that an increase is inevitable it is probably acceptable in this region.*  —Peter Lowe VK3KCD

*Doubling the contribution seems to be a large increase and perhaps the increase should have been introduced incrementally over time. This did not happen and the reality is that $20 per year is still a very small amount to ask. Fifteen years ago, $10 was worth a lot more than it is now and as Pertti says, exhibition costs have increased substantially. I am sure that we would all be very disappointed if we did not have a special event station active each year at the International Convention. I believe that it is necessary to increase the contributions and at the very least make them a 50% increase this year ($15) and the remainder ($20) next year.*  —Bill Main VK4ZD

*We have discussed increasing dues on several occasions over the last several years. I feel we should just do it. Pertti, you stated the reasons quite eloquently and as such it should be adopted. The challenge however is not the action of raising the dues but the collection of them—not because there would be a backlash but for the mechanical steps of the actual collection and tabulation.*  —John Maier W8AUV

*What we need is a proposed annual budget which includes convention costs. It seems not unreasonable to allow $1750 for each convention. The fees will fall out of that plus our running costs divided by the number of paid up members.*  —Mike Sanders, G8LES, Vice Chairman ROAR in RIBI

*ROAR-J is collecting our annual fee by our treasurer, then transferring to ROAR that 100% of members paying the fee. On the other hand, the percentage of collecting annual fee from ROAR members seems very low. I think that the collection of annual fee from all members is a very important thing.*  —Tim Masuda JH1NVZ, Vice Chairman of ROAR-Asia, PP of Tokyo Katsushika RC

*I agree with your approach re contributions.*  —Malcolm Campbell PA3AHC, VP CENAEM

*I think you should have no trouble with the proposed dues increase. For the small proposed cost of membership, we derive a large basketful of “goodies” like The Communicator, fellowship, and informative net material etc. etc.*  —Jim W1QUO

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Reminder from Pertti:

The new amount of the annual contribution (dues), having been approved at the AGM, is in effect now. Please check the term of your membership at http://www.ifroar.org and remember the new fee when renewing.
Digital Radio
My Love Affair with Olivia

—submitted by Richard Spingarn TI7/AA2UP

When I decided to retire in Costa Rica, dreams of grandeur danced in my head like excited ions. After living in the big ho-hum of U.S. 2-land for my whole ham life, I would finally get some respect. Now I would be the DX. Why, I’d just have to stick a soggy string bean out the window, give one CQ call, and my receiver ALC would hyperventilate. Impenetrable pile-ups were already ringing in my ears.

Didn’t happen. The reality is that for the two years I’ve lived in Costa Rica, I’ve never experienced a pile-up on either phone or CW. I’ve struggled to set up a decent antenna, and equatorial propagation still has me mystified. Ninety percent of the time I can’t even be heard by anyone on the North American ROAR net. So much for ham radio in paradise.

If it were not for the odd squeals and squawks of PSK-31 and such, my happy dreams may have turned to mere delusions.

I will not go into much detail about my woes, except to say that putting aluminum antennas in the air here is not a realistic option. When we chose our house site, the fact that it is located near one of the best wind-surfing spots in the world just didn’t set off the warning bells it should have.

So what is a self-respecting ham to do? Hang the radio and bent metal up as lawn art and strap himself to a board and a sail? No way! After the quick and anguished demise of a rotatable dipole and much trial and error with wire antennas, I finally settled on the simplicity of a 136-foot doublet fed with ladder line. With my automatic tuner, this is a very respectable all-band HF antenna.

But a world-class station it is not. All is not lost, though. I have discovered the magic and fun of the digital modes, specifically one of the best-kept secrets in ham radio—the mode known as Olivia.

If you are unfamiliar, the digital modes I’m speaking of are the ones that require only a transceiver and a computer with a sound card. You also generally need an interface between the radio and the computer. There are simple plans galore on the Internet to build one yourself. Or you can buy one of the many boxes on the market. Software to make this all work together can be downloaded for free.

Once this set-up is in place, ham radio takes on a new dimension—especially for those of us with simple wire antennas and moderate power. With PSK-31, my dreams of pile-ups have come true. I can frequently just put out one CQ call and suddenly my TI prefix brings the DX ops out in force. In fact, just last week I worked many multitudes of stations in quick order until the 17-meter band gave out.
PSK is very popular because you need very little power or bandwidth. The downside is that many errors in copy make it through to your screen. Although you can almost always make sense of the readout, it's just a bit sloppy for my taste. Accuracy is not only pleasing to the senses, it can be extremely important in an emergency. With Olivia the copy is almost 100% error-free—even when the signal is as much as ten dB below the noise floor. For many years I’ve had a weekly sked with a friend in Ohio. When I first moved to Costa Rica, we tried phone and CW with mixed-to-no success. Sometimes it was just not possible to hear each other at all. We tried Olivia, and from then on the sked went off like clockwork. Without fail, we are able to chat as long as we want, with almost 100% clean copy on both ends. My friend has a 80-foot tower and a beam so he usually only runs five watts. With my antenna, I find twenty or thirty watts is all I need. Pretty amazing!

The secret behind Olivia is Forward Error Correction (FEC). Transmissions having FEC contain carefully designed redundant data. Your receiver uses this redundancy to detect and correct most of the errors before any text appears on your screen.

The best part is, if you own the equipment to operate PSK-31, you need buy nothing more for Olivia. If the digital software you are using does not support Olivia, I know of at least three free programs that do. I use Fldigi. There is also MultiPSK, and (free for a while longer) DM780, the digital-mode software included with Ham Radio Deluxe.

Rather than take up space with the details of how Olivia works and instructions on how to use it, here are some websites that can tell you much more than you need to know to get going. First try the WB8ROL page, “Olivia...the Magical Mode.” Another great site is at HFLink.com.

So, am I happy with my ham shack in Costa Rican paradise? Yes, but I’ve still got a lot of tinkering to do. I realize that my Walter Mitty dreams of being the hottest DX on the band will probably never come true here. But, can I work the world, learn new things, and have a lot of fun? The answer to that question is the essence of ham radio.

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**Proposal for the Byron C. Sharpe Certificate**

In the April 2011 issue of ROAR Communicator I brought up the topic of creating a means to express our gratitude to those who have made exceptional contributions benefiting our members and our fellowship.

The proposal to create some kind of certificate to recognize our “Extraordinary Associates” was discussed at the AGM and approved in principle. It was suggested that we call it the Byron C. Sharpe Certificate, in honor of the founder of ROAR.

Here is the framework of the proposal:

- **Eligibility.** Individuals or groups who are not Rotarians will be considered. A member of ROAR with exceptional contribution can be a nominee. Recipients would be proposed by our regional vice presidents and a statement of merit and justification would be presented to the ROAR board for approval.

- **Presentation.** We need to set the term of the award, perhaps one or two years. Production of the certificate itself needs to fit within our limited finances. The award would be publicized in ROAR Communicator and, hopefully, presented in person at our Annual General Meeting.

Now it is time to finalize these particulars. Please send me your opinions and suggestions so that I can move the project along. I am looking forward to receiving your creative and constructive ideas!
It’s Back-to-School Time…for Ham Radio, too!

—submitted by Dan Romanchik KB6NU

As I write this, it’s about 85 degrees, and I’m sitting on the patio of a cottage overlooking Elk Lake in northern Michigan. This idyllic spot is about as far away from school as you can get. And yet, in less than a month, kids will be back in school, and if kids are going to be back in school, why not ham radio operators?

The fall is a good time to begin teaching a new group of Technicians. I favor the “Tech in a Day” or “Ham Cram” type of class. This type of class focuses on teaching students the answers to questions on the test rather than the material itself.

There’s a lot of controversy about this, and many decry this method of teaching, but I think the best way to learn about ham radio is by actually doing it, and you can’t do if you don’t have a license. Besides, how much more instruction will students actually get in a more traditional eight-week or ten-week course, maybe 16 hours? Will those 16 hours make that much of a difference?

For the sake of argument, let’s say that you’ve decided to offer a one-day Tech class. Now what? Well, the first thing you have to do is to find a place to teach it. Possible sites include your local public library, a township hall, a community college, perhaps even your church.

Now that you have the place, you need to find some students. Your local emergency-management group would be a good place to start. Also, make sure a notice gets published in your amateur radio club’s newsletter. Chances are most of the subscribers already have licenses, but they may have friends or relatives who would be interested. Also, make sure the class gets listed in the upcoming-events section of local newspapers or magazines.

Once people start signing up, you should suggest that they either purchase a study guide or download my free study guide (www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual). Because I use my study guide when teaching the class, I always advise my students to get a copy, but if you’ll be using other materials, then your advice may differ.

I counsel the students to read through my study guide a few times and take some online practice tests before coming to class. That will make them familiar with the material, especially areas they may be weak in or have questions about. By bringing those questions to class, we can address those areas in a little more depth, which will, hopefully, give them the help they need to pass the test.

The class itself is six hours long, running from 9 AM to 3 PM, at which time we give them the test. This is not a lot of time for the amount of material I have to cover, so I move along at a pretty brisk pace. I concentrate on giving them the answers, but with enough context so that it all makes sense.

OK, let’s say your class was wildly successful, and you now have a group of newly-minted Techs. What do you do now? Well, you might consider offering some short sessions on what ham radio operators do—Ham Radio 101, so to speak. The topics could include how to choose your first radio, the basics of FM repeater and net operation, and building your first antenna (say a 2m ground plane). They’ll be more enthusiastic about these classes now that they actually have a license.

It might also be a good idea to schedule a General Class license course for sometime shortly after the Tech class. This will encourage them to upgrade while they are enthusiastic about the hobby.

I hope that this has encouraged you to offer some ham radio courses of your own. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com or phone me at (734) 930-6564. Good luck, and let me know how your classes turn out.

When not preparing for his next ham radio class, Dan publishes the “No-Nonsense” study guides for the Technician and General Class license exams.

Free versions and print version are available from his website at www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual. E-book versions are available for the Kindle and devices that run the Kindle app on Amazon.com, and for the Nook on BarnesandNoble.com.
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 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 Richard Spingarn TI7/AA2UP

Regional Vice Presidents

Africa Max Raicha 5Z4MR
ANZO Peter Lowe VK3KCD
Asia Tim Masuda JH1NVZ
CENAEM Malcolm Campbell PA3AHC
RIBI Brian Whittaker G3LUW
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.

For the next issue of the Communicator, I promise to write something about my other pursuit—oil painting.

Have you got a second hobby? Write to us about that! How did it start and why are you still at it?

We also would like to hear about services provided by ROAR members and their fellow hams in their local communities.

Please send your stories to our editor:

Richard TI7/AA2UP, at editor@ifroar.org.

Join us on the 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

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