The ROAR Communicator

The Official Publication of Rotarians of Amateur Radio International
Byron C Sharpe, W9BE, Founder
In Rotary we often speak of Avenues of Service. We are Rotarians because we have a desire to serve others. The foundations of our license/permit to operate radio transmitters are found in the need for us to provide a service to our fellow citizens in the time of an emergency. Once said, then we can find recreation in the pursuit of the hobby of amateur radio. In that pursuit we find fellowship and an avenue of service. In this respect we are much different than many other Rotary Fellowships.

Amateur Radio has flourished for many years because of this recreational desire but lately, with many international and national disasters (tsunamis, hurricanes, etc.), our service can and should be a desire to assist those in need. Communications during emergencies are always initially inadequate. In some cases it is weeks, often months, before communications return to normal. Advanced technology aside, when equipment is destroyed and there is no power available, the most sophisticated commercial system also fails.

My message to the ROAR membership, as I embark on my term of office, is to become active in Fellowship activities (on the air nets) in order to enjoy our hobby and fellowship among fellow Rotarians worldwide. While our sunspot cycle finally (albeit slowly) begins to show favorable propagations (Jim Moran, W1QUO says that patience and perseverance will keep the spark alive), let us also keep our equipment tuned and antennae up to be responsive to emergency needs. Whenever you provide a service via amateur radio, be sure to let all parties know you are a Rotarian as well as a radio operator.

President Boyd in his July message in *The Rotarian* mentioned that Rotarians are “not afraid to adapt and respond” and “to stay aware of needs – in our own organizations and in the communities we serve.” So as we enjoy our Fellowship and our hobby, let us also remember our Rotarian motto, “Service above Self,” and this year’s theme, “Lead the Way.”

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Chairman/President Laszlo Racz, AD6XX/CT1, for his dedicated service to our Fellowship during his term of office. Thank you, Laszlo, for being a great Rotarian and may you return to good health soon. God bless you.

Yours in Rotary,
John E. Maier, W8AUV
President, 2006-2009

Directory Correction: The ROAR web site is not [http://www.ifroar.net](http://www.ifroar.net)
However our web master, Bill VK4ZD has provided a link to the correct address which is: [http://www.ifroar.org](http://www.ifroar.org)
Greetings dear ROAR Friends,

As the president of the immediate past first of all I wish to express my thanks to our XYL-s for their understanding. Didn’t we experience "the food is getting cold" and... just one more rare QSO? They deserve recognition for their understanding and tolerance. Thank you Ladies. We had some major changes during the last three years. Eliminated RI’s "brain storm" on the insurance/indemnity issue. Created a superb ROAR Web. Thank you Bill (VK4ZD). I emailed all Fellowship Presidents about that and most of them changing over to this method. (Finances). Our Bulletin "Magician" Don G0JWE put his work on the Web as well. Don you set an example with the superb quality of your bulletin for the rest of the Fellowships. Gold Medallion.

For the ROAR contribution a new method has been given with Pay-pal. Thanks to Bob (WB7RQG) to our "money man". It will work because Bob and Henk (VK2GWK) make it work. Bob and Henk accept our thanks for your achievement. Fellows keep it in mind that your contribution is imperative to and essential for our existence.

ROAR had a superbly operating stations at all RI Conventions. Thank’s to Tim (JH1NVZ) in Osaka, John (W8AUV) Chicago with Per (OZ5PD) and Bill (VK3KCD) in Copenhagen. And many thank’s to our Net Controllers Jim (W1QUO) and Bill (G4YZE). They have ample chances to experience the hardly existing propagation resulting in a lot of relaying. The contest toreros challenged them strongly a number of times as well. Here we should say thank you for our controller "helpers", Klaus (HB9CQS), Brian (G3LW), John (G4HMG) just to mention some. The net would fall a part many times without their help.

Our new President John (W8AUV) is an old Ham and long time Rotarian. John I congratulate you for your position. I am certain that you will have - with Kay behind you - an enjoyable time. You will direct the best Fellowship of RI. We will all back you up.

As for me I served in many positions during my years (25 years perfect attendance) in Rotary but to serve as ROAR President was the most satisfying. It never became a job to me it was an enjoyment without idleness because in idleness there is perpetual despair and we Rotarians can not afford that.

I am expressing my gratitude to all of you who supported me in more than one way bearing in mind that it is your fellowship you just elected me to lead it for a while.

So this is my "swan song" Wish you all the best and good health. Stay vertical.

73/88 Laszlo AD6XX de CT

John (G4HMG) and Diana’s (G4MVV) trip was a little different from previous escapades as they avoided cold weather in France in early March.

John reports: “We visited Merida and other small and most attractive towns on the Spanish plain. Without doubt our visit to Pertti (EA7GSU), high up in the mountains was one of the high spots of our time in Southern Spain. After Ronda we moved up the coast eventually reaching David (EA5ALK) and Valerie at Calpe. A young villain tried to snatch the laptop however Diana grabbed it and screamed at him. He dropped it but took a handbag, which fortunately had little of value in it.

During our return through France we spent time with a couple who have moved from Wirksworth. Kevin was heavily involved in their Aquabox project (see photograph and report on page 10)

On our return we picked up Laszlo and Helga at Bristol Airport and took them to the ROAR UK AGM at Matlock Bath. We have taken Laszlo and Helga to some of our favourite places in North Devon and Cornwall and to Dartmouth, along with various local visits. I also took Laszlo to our Rotary Club meeting. Finally after a two week stay, we took them to Bristol Airport at 5.00am.”
Report from Per Dantoft whose call sign OZ5PD was used for the station.

See the special QSL card Per made on page 1. Cards are on the way to all the stations contacted.

We were quite successful communicating from the Convention 2006 in Bella Center, Copenhagen.

With outstanding help from the Ham Club of Copenhagen we had an almost perfect setup at the ROAR Booth. The club Chairman Jørgen, OZ5LH and two helpers installed a 5 element beam for 10-15-20 meters in a 60 feet Versa Tower placed right outside the Hall H where the booth was situated. The ham club also provided us with a 200 watts Yaesu FT100D transceiver and low pass filters to prevent the equipment from disturbing the sensitive electronic installations in the Bella Center.
We managed to contact 75 stations in 19 countries. This result could have been much better if the QRM level had been lower. Our transmissions did not in any way interfere with the electronics in the center, but unfortunately we had an S7 level of QRM most of the time. This prevented us from contacting many week stations that might have wanted a QSO and a QSL card.

We had 25 regular guests at the booth and many of them were quite interested in knowing more about ROAR. Besides a large amount of people took a quick look at the strange people sitting there contacting the outside world. I had made some 100 sheets showing our WEB site and they were all gone when we closed down.

Peter Lowe, VK3KCD was of invaluable help when it came to operating the station. Peter was around almost from early morning to closing hour and he was the one who made most contacts.

Peter Lowe’s (VK3KCD) Report

I arrived in Copenhagen on Thursday June 8 and having settled into my hotel walked to the Bella Center which took about an hour due to getting mildly lost.

On Friday proceeded to the Bella Center again having now got my bearings (note sun is in the wrong part of the sky!) and registered for the Convention and got my Exhibitors wrist band half expecting an orderly to appear and take me off for some medical tests. Late morning two gentlemen from the Copenhagen Amateur Radio Club appeared with a trailer and equipment. The trailer was the base for a 20 metre high crank up tower and on the ground was a 5 element yagi in pieces. By 4pm we had the tower up with the yagi attached. During this time staff from the Bella center installed the necessary cables from the booth to the rear of the building for connection to the antenna. By 5pm the rig was functioning and signals received over the S7 noise level. This persisted all through the convention. At this stage we still did not have a dedicated power outlet and this was arranged the next morning.

Come Saturday morning the shuttle bus system was operating so the need to walk or hire a taxi receded. When the power was connected the rig was fired up and the first contact was between OZ/VK3KCD and Peter G2YT who was calling CQ VK/ZL. In view of the lousy propagation he settled for a contact with me.
Shortly after that OZ5PD went to air and official Convention contacts commenced. 20/15/10 were operational but the vast majority of contacts were on 20. Conditions were peculiar as lots of very short skip was experienced and despite the antenna being fixed northwest contacts were made all over Europe and one to the USA. In all we had some 74 contacts with 19 countries and participated in both 20ms ROAR nets on Sunday June 11.

I had a ball and thoroughly enjoyed the Convention it was great to meet Per and Inge Danloft and the members of the Copenhagen A R club without whose generous support the station would not have been as successful.

On a sadder note President Laszlo's illness cast somewhat of a pall over proceedings and left our booth looking a bit minimalist as Laszlo had the fittings and brochures. It was suggested that the booth be moved to a modern art gallery as an exhibit.

I am pleased to hear that Laszlo is making a recovery and hope to speak with him when propagation improves.

In conclusion my thanks to all who assisted particularly to Per and the Danish Amateurs who gave so generously of their time, expertise and equipment and last but certainly not least for all the help from ROAR members in the UK.

Peter’s report continued......

Dan Holben (K2VY) Camden, New Jersey
Rotary Club of Haddonfield NJ District 7640

ON6PX John Piret
CT1DJG Luis Manuel Araujo
JW6MY Sven A Tjelde

Peter Dettmann DK8UL,
Rotary Club of Rheine, (South of Hamburg).

Silent Key
WB1GAQ George F Adam III of Billerica
died April 18th 2006 at West Roxbury VA Hospital after a brief illness.

Polo style shirts with the ROAR logo. These shirts will be white with the ROAR logo on the front on one side, and the persons call sign and first name on the other front chest. These are good quality embroidered shirts. The cost for the shirts are $32.00 + actual shipping cost in US funds. If you are interested please send me your name, address, what call sign to be used, quantity of shirts you want, and size. I will collect the money later. I will personally ship shirts to you when they are ready. We all can wear these at Salt Lake and future international conventions.

Contact: K9OWU Joe Miller Jr Deputy Governor of Leadership District 6510 USA [mailto:jvmrotary@hotmail.com]
Coos (VE2GTI) returned from Holland with a former High school friend Wilhelmina (Helmi) van Vliet, now a widow for four years. They married on May 28th in Coos’s church. She and Coos were High School sweet hearts, sitting in the same class. His son, Mark’s ashes were interred on May 13th. A big gathering and a fly-over by a Pitt special to honour Mark’s aircraft enthusiasm. He had a WWII Spitfire in re-conditioning to make it airworthy.

David (EA5ALK) had a great party to celebrate his and Valerie’s 13th wedding anniversary on Saturday 13th May (13 lucky for some).

Ralph (M0BDI) celebrated his and Sally’s 59th anniversary on Friday 12th May.

Bert (VE3BGG) from Cambridge, Ontario is now an “Honorary” Rotarian after 50 years as a Rotarian. He has joined the local Probus Club Cambridge (Galt) the first Probus club in North America. His rig at his cottage (a 300 mile drive from Ottawa) is an old Icom which he 191817 and puts out 100 watts to a G5RV strung between pine trees about 30 feet above the ground. He and his XYL Margaret are busy organising the Surgical Society’s 53rd annual reunion in Ottawa in September.

Jack Page (KF5BD) Albuquerque Rotary club District 5520 recently celebrated 90 years of service to the Albuquerque, New Mexico [USA] community. On the USA map New Mexico is East of Arizona and South of Colorado. During the evening ROAR member Jack W. Page received his 50 year pin. Jack entered Rotary in Ashland, Ohio [additional active to his father] and held the Automobile Retail Classification. In Ada, Ohio where Jack served his second Rotary Club. Jack was elected president of the Ada Club but was not inaugurated due to relocating to Albuquerque in 1959.

Ray Hazan (G0PQQ) one of our blind operators was made President of St Dunstan’s (a national UK charity established in 1915 by Sir Arthur Pearson to provide an independent future for blind ex-Service men and women). He still works for them full-time as the office of President is an honorary post. He was also made a Freeman of the City of London in 2005 which gives him the right to drive his sheep over London Bridge, Hi Hi.
We had 28th ROAR-J AGM on 8th and 9th July at Hachioji City which is one of satellite cities of Tokyo. It is located 40 Km West of Tokyo and the population is 540,000. Having 21 universities that it is like a student city. Hachioji City is well known as Silk textile.

We had over 40 members plus XYLs. AGM was started with President Mitsu JJ1KTZ’s speech. We recorded over 8,000 times this annual year of roll call since ROAR-J established Nov. 1980. We designated new president Masa (JASANQ) for 2006-2007 and decided next AGM at Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan in July 2007.

From Asia Region Vice President, Tim Masuda (JH1NVZ)
Excursion
Sightseeing to TAKAOZAN

Photographs taken by Yoshi (JE1JQX)

JA8ANQ  M. sakai
ROAR-J  President 2006-2007
A great weekend was had by all at Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, on the occasion of our Roar in RIBI AGM. We were entertained, and educated, by ROAR President Dr. Laszlo Racz together with his very charming XYL Helga, not to mention some very welcome (bottled) Portuguese Sunshine. Photograph shows Laszlo (AD6XX) Regional Vice President, Bill (G4YZE) and Josée, Bill’s son, Duncan and Mike (G8LES) who, with his professional video camera recorded the proceedings.

On the Saturday morning most of the party visited the Aquabox HQ. In the photograph are Diana (G4MVV), Norman (G0MMO) and previous Aquabox Chairman Frank Lund. Both Norman and Frank belong to the Wirksworth Rotary Club.

We are sorry to lose the membership of Adrian Keeble (G4HPU) who has been a keen and enthusiastic supporter over many years.

NEW MEMBERS

Ed Gaffney (G4KRJ) Cinderford, Gloucestershire - Royal Forest of Dean Club, District 1100.
Jim Cowburn (G7NKS) Rotary Club of Biggleswade Ivel, Bedfordshire - District 1070.
Dave Thomas (GW3RWX) and J F Read (GW8KTQ), both from Cardiff, South Wales.