

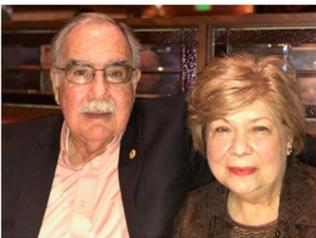


Communicator

www.ifroar.org

June 2020

From the President:



President Ed & his wife Terry.

Yes, It has been an exciting year, it surely has from the Presidents chair. ROAR has faced all of the challenges that Rotary International has and then some. We have an aging population that is involved in a Hobby that is dependent on Sun spot activities for HF radio communication, or that is what we have accepted as fact.

Many of our members, as they have aged, moved into locations that did not allow them to have the antennas needed for HF radio. The digital world over a period of years has altered our day to day communications from paper to digital methods. These shifts have slowly eroded our ability to communicate. No HF and email, not working!

When I assumed the presidency, I was aware of these issues and anxious to pursue the changing world of ROAR with an eye to moving ROAR from an organization from that was struggling to hold its members to one that has a bright future of growth. It became obvious that using the HF nets was not working to restore the organization. Even efforts to communication using email was not working well because so many of our members had not updated their email addresses. In all honesty we had not provided a clear and concise method for

members to update their email addresses. The migration of our member data to a user-friendly environment lagged for reasons that went from member illness to problems merging data from the old environments to a new environment. One other major problem, "If we depend on email to communicate with our members, what do you use when email doesn't work?"

Experiments started in July of 2019, just after the AGM at Hamburg, to use ZOOM as a method to augment HF radio. We had a number of alternate net controls that used ZOOM in the background to facilitate the net operation. It was a little complicated but, it allowed us to communicate with weak stations much more efficiently. On days when conditions did not favor any HF communications we just used ZOOM. That system continued into 2020 with a slow but subtle shift from time spent on HF to more time spent on ZOOM. Something of a miracle occurred, *Laughter returned and became the norm on the ZOOM portions of the net. If it is good to hear someone laugh, it is wonderful to hear and see them laugh!*

As the spring storms in the US worked to limit HF communications, ZOOM got a major boost, a good email list. In the weeks following the first email blast using the improved email list, the ZOOM Meeting/Net has grown rapidly. The weekly participation has grown from a norm of 5 or 6 members to a high of 33 members from 11 countries. With that growth the understanding of our member body has revealed some very interesting facts.

1. Most of our members do not have adequate equipment for HF communication.

2. We have a large number of members that have never used HF to communicate.
3. We can provide value to our members by simply allowing social time on zoom.
4. ZOOM provides a platform to educate members on the use of digital modes.
5. We can provide programs of interest to our ROAR members.
6. We can communicate with ROAR members worldwide when HF propagation stinks.

High point of some of the ZOOM meetings.

We have offered each of our members an opportunity to introduce themselves when they join the net. We are an absolutely amazing group of Rotarians. The majority of our ROAR members are a past president of a Rotary Club. We have a large number of past District Governors. We are a group of individuals with proven leadership abilities that are still very active in our home Rotary Clubs.

The members of ROAR have been active facilitating their club's response to the COVID-19. Many of them have been involved in arranging ZOOM meetings for their individual clubs. They have provided tech support and user education that has aided their individual club to augment club activities when it has not been possible to meet in person. The embedding of a common video conferencing environment in local clubs allows them to do things we would not have even considered just a few months ago. Example, Rotary clubs in the US holding a joint meeting with a Club in Scotland.

We have ROAR members that are incredibly accomplished Amateur Radio operators. Our first planned ZOOM program was provided by Ken Karr. He provided a great discussion of the DXpedition to the Orkney Islands which are located inside the Antarctic Circle. Ken's discussion was accompanied by a number of great photos of the islands and their operating environment.

Recent ROAR meetings have connected members in 11 countries for the common purpose of sharing information about Ham Radio and Rotary activities.

The most important part of these meeting areone simple fact. We are able to share with fellow ROAR members those things we are passionate about. We are able to share a laugh. We are connecting with our ROAR members around the world. Since we have been able to expand the reach of the meetings to include members around the world, I am sensing an excitement that had been absent from ROAR activities. I am excited about what we as a group have accomplished but I am even more excited with thoughts of where we can move the organization in the future years.

That excitement includes the announcement of our President Elect Nominee, Vernon Readhead, G0EGW.

There has been progress made this year. That progress could not have been made without the support and encouragement of ROAR members worldwide. I look forward to meeting you in a video conference. Share the information about ROAR, join a weekly video conference, meet your fellow ROAR members, share what your club is doing, talk about Radio and, when you least expect it have a good laugh with your fellow ROAR members. They are one of the greatest, most accomplished group of people you will ever meet.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your president, with your continued support and encouragement, I look forward to a very exciting year of ROAR expansion.

73,

Ed - N4EDT
IFROAR President

Nick G4HCK:

There is no doubt we are living in particularly challenging times and the media is filled with terrible news about loss of life due to the virus.

In the UK, the government has been giving instructions as to what we can and cannot do. One of the instructions we have been given is to avoid going out which has resulted in me not leaving home for around 12 weeks so far – or has it?

Via the mode of the air waves I have been travelling around the world. Although conditions have not been that favourable the bands have opened from time to time and recently, I managed to speak to gentlemen in Hong Kong and Thailand. So, the DX is there but unlike a few years ago currently you must monitor the bands and pounce when the opportunity arises. I can recall when I was first licenced the sunspot cycle was in my favour and while driving in Wales I spoke to a gentleman in Brisbane and this was 10m FM 25 watts. I do not think that will happen in the current climate.

Returning to today one of the positive events that has happened is amateurs are taking to other forms of communication. VOIP is playing a major part in keeping the world economy going and helping members of organisations such as Rotary stay in contact. The DMR (peanut) schedule on a Sunday has been a lifesaver. As I stated before the bands G to ZL & VK have been rather frustrating recently but at least we can stay in contact.

Recently I moved to Zoom. Although I had used Skype over past months/years Zoom does appear to be a reliable way to keep in contact. And what is more you can put a face to a name. I have spoken to Jean Pierre F1CFA on 20m for many months, but it was recently on Ed's American ROAR zoom meeting on a Sunday that I was able to see him. He only looks 21 and x months!!

So, despite what for me in the UK is an incredibly challenging time the radio and computer are enabling me to get out and

about and find out what is happening around the globe. I can recall back in the past helping my father who was also licenced carry a 2m rig from his car to the shack. Today the little Baofengs can be carried in the palm of your hand and can do a lot more than my father's heavy 2m rig. Lots of equipment has been miniaturised, some so small it is a challenge to see the components. You will hear me talk about the good old day's watching SSTV with a 5FP7 tube. In my case it was a green and black picture. Then you had RTTY a creed 7e or a 444. Once the teleprinter was assigned a place in the shack you never moved it because of the weight. Today we have wonderful colour pictures on SSTV and data received on the same computer using programs quite often developed by an amateur from somewhere around the world and given free for any amateur to use. Yes, the good old days were good. It was history in the making as radio/electronics developed and still is with new innovations appearing.

Amateur radio is an international hobby as is Rotary and therefore to join the two together via ROAR is a wonderful opportunity to keep the Rotary **International** fellowship alive.

However, a word of warning! In the UK someone was using Zoom for a business conference call. They thought they would cheat and only put a shirt and tie on. Unfortunately, he did not realise the people at the other end could see more. Luckily, he had shorts on. So sometimes the modern-day technology can place people in an embarrassing position.

ROAR Membership Pins



We now have ROAR Membership lapel pins: These are available to Financial Members: If your dues are current then you are entitled to one of these pins:

Pins are held by ROAR in the USA, RGBI, VK and ZL, Japan.

ROAR in RGBI

During the year some changes were made to the management of ROAR in RGBI with Brian G3LUW adding the role of Treasurer to his ongoing role as Chairman, Bob G3SZF becoming Secretary and John G7OAI joining to form the Committee.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak our planned AGM near Chester in May had to be postponed. Hopefully the gathering will be reinstated later in the year. They take place at different locations, last year York, and are enjoyed by hams and XYLs. Nevertheless, a virtual AGM was held which reviewed the year's activity, confirmed the new management and agreed to keep the annual subscription unchanged.

Membership remains at about twenty. The Sunday 80m net continued regularly, controlled in turn by G3LUW, G3SZF and G7OAI and joined by a number of UK stations with occasional Continental visitors. This is reported to Phil VK2MCB whose weekly report includes the UK activity on the international HF nets. In addition some UK stations join the ZOOM net held on Sunday evenings managed by ROAR President Ed N4EDT.

The following picture was sent from my Club to District 1260 in response to their appeal from Clubs for articles to be included in their monthly Newsletter.

73s and keep safe from ROAR in RGBI.

Bob G3SZF

Secretary of ROAR in RGBI



Reflecting this year's theme our Treasurer, Bob Frost, connects through his membership of ROAR, the Fellowship of Rotarians of Amateur Radio.



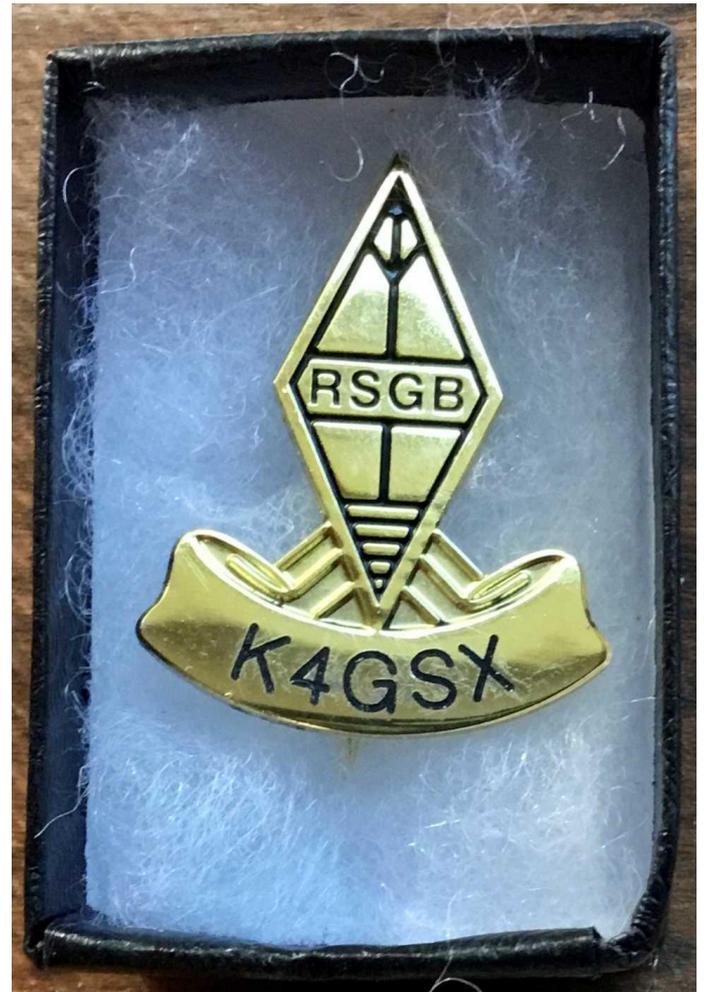
CT1BJZ Vitor from Portugal sent these photos to us. They show a presentation of equipment to a hospital in Portugal during the Covid-19 outbreak



In April The Radio Society of Great Britain kindly sent this small lapel pen honoring my 50-years of membership. In general, the background of member pins has a black enamel fill.

Best Wishes,

Dale K4GSX



Silent Key

Sadly this year we lost PP Pertti Kause EA7GSU.

Pertti was an accomplished pianist and always headed to the piano at Rotary International Conventions.

Lee Moyle VK3GK appointed to the Wireless Institute of Australia as a Director:



This was on the National WIA Sunday Broadcast and is used with permission from Lee

Why did I volunteer to be on the WIA board?"

"The big question, which I have been asked by many of recent times, "Why did I volunteer to be on the WIA board?"

I have been in the hobby for over 40 years now both as a hobbyist and as a professional and it has provided me with a great career opportunities and even adventureand it was time to give back.

I have offered my services to the WIA as I see an opportunity for the WIA to capitalize on some unique opportunities that have presented themselves recently. I bring strategic and objective thinking to the table and I am involved with an external team of quality people that continually support the WIA. I have viable ideas that will raise the WIA public profile and should attract an increase in membership which long term is a benefit to all.

My activity levels within the amateur community put me in a position where I

receive significant relevant information as it comes to hand and my international travel has enabled me to meet relevant people involved in Amateur Radio related regulatory and legislative discussions at a global level.

I am also active on social media where many of the newcomers to the hobby currently are at.

My appointment to the WIA board will enable the other board members an extra hand to share the load somewhat and maybe with some external help as well to manage the never-ending tasks that continually seem to arise on a daily basis. I am very active amongst the "troops" in the field as I attend most VK3 hamfests often as a buyer but usually as a vendor, either selling or promoting VEA(*Volunteer Examiners Australia*) and AMC (*Australian Maritime College*) examinations, "As the pathway to USA and Australian Amateur Radio Licencing" and now also as the local VK3 WIA representative to directly interface with members and others as required to fly the WIA flag once again and it has been missing in action in recent times. If positioned correctly, I can see we can get that physical presence back at many hamfests Australia wide promoting the benefits of WIA membership and the WIA brand again.

One needs to remember that "a rising tide lifts all boats" and all the local and international lobbying the WIA does has a flow on effect that benefits all the Amateur community long term.

The WIA is the The National Association for Amateur Radio in Australia, it is the only representative body that the IARU recognise in Australia.

The WIA celebrates its 110th year this year in 2020, no other organisation can say that. Not the ARRL nor the RSGB. It is an incredible effort and is important to continue on. We are waiting for the allocation of VI 110 WIA from ACMA (Australian Communications & Media Authority) to commemorate this event with the on air activations.

The WIA is not just the "Board", as it is all of us, it includes all the volunteers and helpers, it includes all of the members, we are all the WIA and we all need to help and support each other. If you ever wanted to volunteer to help out, now is the time to put your hand up, send an email, send an sms or even a Facebook message letting us know what you can contribute. Every small contribution makes a difference, it really does, your contribution will make a difference to the overall big picture as the organization needs the support of the membership to bring benefits to the members.

"Perception is reality" and we need to fly the WIA banner once more and align ourselves with good strategic and corporate partners to build a strong and vibrant WIA for all of us and the future of our Amateur Radio hobby. Please remember that "YOU" are the WIA,

just as "WE" are all the WIA and together as one, we can all continue to be that powerful, representative one strong loud voice of the WIA.

73 Lee Moyle.
VK3GK

ANZO Report

Members of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania (ANZO) chapter of ROAR continued to be active on the airwaves over the past twelve months but some changes which were driven by a number of circumstances, the most significant being Ionospheric Conditions and changes to membership conditions. The sunspot cycle continued to dominate with poor HF conditions, particularly between Europe and the South Pacific on 20m. While the 40m net was continued successfully within and between VK and ZL, not much happened on the 20m long path to Europe. The conditions drove change however, and to compensate for poor HF propagation, a digital net sprang up on Sundays using Dstar and Peanut. Regular participants on this net were

Nicholas G4HCK, Vernon G0EGW, Jean-Pierre F1CFA, John ZL2JPM, David ZL3WT, Bill VK4ZD, Peter VK3FPSR, Peter VK3KCD (at times) and Phil VK2MCB.

We all hope that we have reached the end of the low period in the SS Cycle and that things will return to decent DX conditions soon. Until then, there is always Digital (including Zoom) to keep us connected.

73
Phil VK2MCB



New & Returning Members

Richard Hewitt K8DHN

Brad Ormsby W6VO

Alexander Hagerty W4JHU

and from Bonnie Scotland

David Smith GM0KCN

AGM Details

Join the ROAR Annual General Meeting (AGM) ZOOM meeting Saturday July 4th.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7848247670>

*** 2100Z Saturday July 4th ***

The ZOOM room will open at 2000Z. **Please check in by 2045z so the meeting can start promptly at 2100Z**

2020 - 2021 Financial Report

July 1, 19 thru June 30, 20		
July 1, 19	Beginning	\$15,884.88
	Total income	\$3,336.27
	Total expenses	-\$2,088.75
Ending balance June 30, 20	Ending Balance	\$17,132.4

Ed Tyler N4EDT

*President
IFROAR*

ROAR Officers 2020 -2021

President Ed Tyler N4EDT
President Elect Vernon Readhead G0EGW
Imm. PP John Moriarty ZL2JPM
Secretary Phil Fleming N9HWO
Treasurer Ingo Werk KK6EWB
Webmaster Bill Main VK4ZD / KG5SDI
Editor Diane Main VK4DI / AG5JI

Regional Vice Presidents

Africa Max Raicha 5Z4MR

Australia-New Zealand-Oceania

ANZO Phillip Byrne VK2MCB

Asia Chihiro Kawai JA0CBU

Central Europe-North Africa-Eastern Mediterranean

CENAEM Malcolm Campbell PA3AHC

RIBI Great Britain Brian Whittaker G3LUW

South America-Central America

SACAMA * open position *

United States-Canada-Bermuda

USCB East Joe Spears AF1E

USCB West Steve Bloom KL7SB