



January 2011

Communicator

www.ifroar.com

Newsletter of the International Fellowship for Rotarians of Amateur Radio

Greetings from the President!



This issue of *ROAR Communicator* contains a lot of material that was intended for publication in the autumn of last year. The workload of our previous editor has delayed its appearance. But Rich TI7/AA2UP has taken over that responsibility. I welcome him in “active service.”

The management of our ROAR fellowship is made up of a central body consisting of the president, immediate past president, secretary, treasurer, webmaster and editor. As our playing field is large, we have a vice president for each area that has a large member population or area that has the potential to grow. Since our last issue was published, we would like to acknowledge the addition of Malcolm Campbell PA3AHC as vice president for CANAEM, Peter Lowe VK3KCD as vice president for ANZO, and Ken Demaray W8SOO as vice president for USCB West. The most recent addition into the ranks is Max Raicha 5Z4MR, who will start the “contamination” of Africa. Welcome Max!

Our only opportunity to publicly boast our existence is at the annual Rotary International conventions. This year we will meet in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, from May 21–25. In addition to showcasing our fellowship in the House of Friendship, we are also working to be heard on the radio waves. David WN5V has already secured the call sign W5R for the station to be established. Please dust off your rig and have a chat!

Our Annual General Meeting will also take place during the Convention. Please look over the agenda (page 12) and prepare your mind. I am looking forward to your participation and a good cross-section of opinions. That way the Board can guide the activities to the satisfaction of the membership.

I'll see you there!

—Pertti EA7GSU, President

In this issue

I am pleased to present this first issue of *ROAR Communicator* as your new editor. I am very happy and honored to take on this new position. Both ham radio and Rotary have been important to me for more than 20 years. They have enriched my life with avenues for self-improvement and for service to others. Both continue to be an invaluable source of long-lasting friendships.



Our feature article is one that shows how ham radio and Rotary are so well suited to each other. Starting on page 3, you can read about how one QSO and one Rotary member expanded a humanitarian effort that is still changing lives in Somalia. Then, on page 8, Pertti tells us the fascinating story of how a group of Finnish hams invented a portable VHF transceiver, a much smaller version of which is likely to be in your pocket. The company they eventually formed is now known as Nokia.

Ever wonder what's the best way to get good at CW? Our friend Dan Romanchik KB6NU tells us how in “Zen and the Art of CW” on page 7. He also expounds on the health of our hobby on page 10.

Of course, this issue includes news of fellow members and information about upcoming events, such as the RI convention in New Orleans in May.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. I am always interested in hearing your comments and feedback so that *ROAR Communicator* can be what our members want it to be. You can email me at editor@ifroar.org. Also I am always looking for articles about ham radio and, even better, articles with a Rotary connection. If you have an idea, or just have some news you think fellow members would like to see, please let me know.

—Rich Spingarn, TI7/AA2UP

President's Report of ROAR Activities 2009-2010

The end of the Rotary year typically brings some changes in our board, and we are appreciative of the work of our members who have stepped down after their years of service. Chuck Graham KI6DCD served as vice president for USCB West before retiring at the end of the Rotary year for health reasons. We also appreciate the service of Norm Dench VK3DNE as vice president of ANZO, and Cees Jan van Mourik PA2X as vice president of CENAEM. For health reasons Diane Main VK4KYL turned over *ROAR Communicator* to James Kalassery VU2ARL, who served as editor for our 2010 issues.

Work on our ROAR Directory, which started during the earlier presidency, is continuing. Our intention is to have it available completely on the internet, with only members having access to the contents. It will then serve as a tool to distribute our newsletter electronically to the contributing members, to send any other urgent information, and to remind members to renew. A critical review of our numbers for membership and paid-up contributions showed that our fellowship had 344 members at the end of the Rotary year. This represents a considerable loss from approximately 700 members a few years back!

In 2010 *ROAR Communicator* was published twice in a new format and also on the internet. Members who had no internet connection were sent a paper copy by the vice president of their region, or in those regions without an acting vice president, they were advised by mail that the newsletter was available.

To promote awareness of Rotary International fellowships, and of ours in particular, we produced an article which appeared in the last issue of *ROAR Communicator* and which is available in English, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Finnish, and one Scandinavian language. So far this information has been tapped for publication in France, Poland, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Germany, South Africa, Spain and Australia; some Rotary magazines have thus translated it into other languages as well. Our intention is to widen the coverage and to send an adapted version to hobby and professional publications. If anyone considers a translation into another language useful for promotion, please contact me at president@ifroar.org.

Our participation in the House of Friendship at the RI convention in Montreal was not as successful as we had hoped, owing to a lack of necessary manpower and to logistical problems in setting up a functional station for demonstration purposes. We were able, though, to display our emblems and hand out printed material to promote our fellowship and introduce it to visitors who were unaware of the existence of this kind of Rotary activity. And we have started preparations for the 2011 New Orleans convention—we are looking at the legislative, logistical and practical issues and evaluating new technical solutions for setting up a successful demonstration booth.

In 2009 the theme of Rotary International was "The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands." With regard to ROAR, it still remains in our hands.

Do remember that if they do not know of us, they will not join us!!!
Speak up about ROAR!
Make publicity whenever possible!

The sun spots are coming and hopefully the fellows as well.

—Pertti Kause EA7GSU
President 2009–2012

Treasurer's Report 2009-2010

Beginning Balance July 1, 2009 **\$1,545.25**

Income:

Membership Contributions	
Dues	\$237.25
Dues USA	329.00
Dues ROAR UK	220.00
Dues ROAR Japan	50.00
Donations	157.92
Total Income	\$1,794.17

\$3,339.42

Expenses:

Printing history pamphlet	\$212.99
PayPal fees plus mailing	58.21
500 ribbons	209.75
Postage	16.60
Quick Books (accounting)	89.99
License fee for Montreal	57.97
Bank exchange fee (Euro 20.00)	1.59
Bank analysis fee	4.00

Total Expenses **\$651.10**

Balance June 30, 2010 **\$2,688.32**

Respectfully submitted, Bob Butler WB7RQG, Treasurer

Radio Galkayo—A Radio Lifeline in Somalia

—Rich Spingarn TI7/AA2UP, with additional information supplied by Bill Main VK4ZD and the Rotary Club of Boulder, Australia

DESPITE SOME RECENT POSITIVE NEWS, Somalia is still one of the poorest and most violent countries in the world. It maintains its place at the top of the international list of “failed states.” This means, among other things, that it still cannot provide reasonable public services to its people. These conditions have persisted for at least 20 years, since the Somali civil war started in the early 1990s.

But warring political factions, sustained genocide, and abject human suffering did not deter an Australian ham, an Australian Rotary Club, and the Somali people from starting an AM radio station to bring community news, health and welfare information, and education to much of the population. This is the story of how one ham radio QSO developed into a force for positive change in a war-torn country with a war-weary population.

It all started in 1991 when Sam Voron VK2BVS brought his spare radio and a lot of ham and communications know-how to a place where he knew people were unable to receive essential information. Somalis had access to no radio broadcasting facilities and meager or no print media.

The station was Sam’s idea but, coincidentally, members of the local council in the city of Galkayo, in the northeast region of Somalia, also had a desire to get a community radio station working for their city. They had contacted an expatriate Somali, Abdikarim Nur Mohamud (Abdi), who lived in Melbourne, Australia. Then the unbelievable happened. Sam and Abdi made contact with each other, and “Radio Free Somalia” was born.

To put Radio Free Somalia—now Radio Galkayo—on the air, Sam donated his own HF radio equipment, went to Galkayo, and set up the radio station with only 20 watts AM output. He trained volunteers to become radio operators, reporters and (with the authority of the regional government) licensed ham radio operators.



Sam (left) with International Red Cross and World Food Programme personnel working two-way communication with Radio Galkayo.



Radio Galkayo’s antenna, viewed from the main street of town.

Up to that time, the only radio stations Somalis could hear were foreign shortwave stations which told of the fighting and egregious conditions in their country and of fighting elsewhere in the world. The people were depressed and demoralized. Sam’s endeavor won encouragement and guidance of representatives from the United Nations, but financial help was another matter. His request to the Australian government for support received a flat “no”.

But Sam would not give up. He continued to talk about the radio station in Galkayo to all who would listen. And that included fellow hams.

Radio Galkayo, cont.

One day Sam was operating on 20 meters and happened to contact Bill Main VK6ZX (now VK4ZD). Sam told Bill about Radio Galkayo. He explained how he wanted to see this fledgling radio station continue to provide non-political news and humanitarian information on the air. It happened that Bill was also the International Director of the Boulder, Australia, Rotary Club (District 9470), and Bill started thinking this might make a good club project.

Sam faxed pages and pages of information, including newspaper clippings showing the UN support for the initiative. He also sent a detailed breakdown of the costs of equipment and transport that would be needed to turn the station into one that the majority of Somalis could hear. With enough power, some nearby countries with large Somali expatriate communities would also be able to receive the broadcasts.

Bill's proposal to his club's Board of Directors won their complete support, and the work began. Invaluable help was given by Boulder past president and Paul Harris Fellow Frank Andinach in putting together a submission to the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) for a dollar-for-dollar matching grant from the Australian government.



The antenna goes up!

The application included photographs of the existing battered and basic equipment that was being used at that time. The equipment was low-powered and the antenna system was no more than a simple dipole strung from the tower in the local police compound.

The application was accepted on its first presentation to AIDAB which, many said, was unheard of. Preparations then began in earnest. Letters were sent to various companies requesting favorable pricing on the necessary goods and services. A radio transceiver was not required, but RF amplifiers, tools, antenna, spare parts for the amplifiers, antenna tuner, cassette deck and tapes, handheld radios, safety harnesses and helmets, and transport were all needed.

All of the companies contacted were more than generous in their discounts, which meant more and better equipment was purchased than was first thought possible. Even the freight companies and airlines reduced their charges, allowing the majority of the funds to be spent on equipment and supplies.

Seventeen cartons of equipment weighing over 470 kg were shipped to the Australian exit port for free, thanks to a donation from Boulder past president Tom Barry. Singapore Airlines shipped the equipment to Dubai, where it was loaded on an Arab dhow to Bosaso, Somalia's northern deep-sea port. The remainder of the journey was 700 km by road to Galkayo.

Radio Galkayo, cont.

Local volunteers helped Sam and Abdi assemble the antenna, which had been shipped in kit form, and mount it on the existing 40-meter tower in the police compound. The antenna was carried up to the top of the tower using ropes, pulleys and lots of manpower.

Sam and Abdi then trained local volunteers to operate and maintain the equipment. The students, both men and women, were enthusiastic and soon managed the station with quiet professionalism. What is more, this effort spurred an active ham community of some 30 hams. The name of their club says it all:

Somalia Amateur Radio Friendship & Emergency Network (SARFEN).

Bill and his wife Diane VK6KYL (now VK4KYL) were invited to visit the station. In 1997 they were able to make the trip to Somalia as part of an extended vacation, finally reaching Bosaso in a 20-seat Tupelov twin prop and then Galkayo by Toyota Landcruiser, escorted by Abdi and Bille, their security guard. When they arose their first morning, they were welcomed by a group of smiling and enthusiastic volunteers waiting outside their room.

The volunteers were bursting with pride at their own achievements and the stability that had followed. In a country that has been ripped apart by conflict and starved of contact with the world, the positive effects of the project were undeniable. Here was a group of people who felt they had a hand in their own future. What is more, part of their success was due to the interest and encouragement of many people they had never met. This is the very essence of the Rotary mission and is also a testament to the talents of radio amateurs.



Volunteers at Radio Galkayo.



Welcome to Bill and Diane Main.



Children from Galkayo on the air.

It is obvious that the project has been a huge success. Not only do the townspeople have access to health and welfare information, but they have regained their pride and self esteem. Peace has returned to the area, people are returning to their homes, and business is prospering. The project cost only AU \$40,000, but the benefits are priceless.

***Their name says it all:
Somalia Amateur Radio Friendship
and Emergency Network***

More information about the Radio Galkayo project can be found on the following websites:

<http://sites.google.com/site/somaliahamradio/radio-galkayo>

<http://sites.google.com/site/somaliaamateurradio/>

<http://sites.google.com/site/radiosomalia/>

Update to the Radio Galkayo Appeal from Pertti

ROAR has decided, as a fellowship, not to participate in charity work or financial aid, leaving it to our members to work through their individual Rotary clubs. However, because the members of our fellowship understand better than any other the nature of the support needed by Radio Galkayo, I made an exception and asked you, as individuals, to assist.

At the time when I announced my challenge, Somalian hijackers were holding 20 cargo ships and 400 crewmembers hostage. The purpose of the current project is to educate youngsters not to find their future in criminal operations.

The south of Somalia is in the hands of extremists who try to prevent people from listening to the radio. Broadcast personnel live under constant harassment and threat of death. The new radio station is needed to distribute fair news, as well as to promote alternatives to piracy. Here is a description of the situation from Filip Rogister ON4TA, 6O0F, a volunteer technician at Radio Galkayo:

The importance of local FM radio in Somalia cannot be underestimated. Given the lack of printed (press) material, poor infrastructure, a high level of illiteracy, and a large proportion of nomadic population, radio is often the only way to reach people in urban as well as bush areas.

Over the past two years the Radio Galkayo staff has been seeking funding for an FM station in Bosaso. Our focus will be on raising community awareness about piracy so that the young generation will not see it as a livelihood. We also hope to establish an interest by journalists in this very serious issue. I have put my treasured Yaesu FT-847 and Heathkit SB220 linear up for sale, hoping to raise 1,000 Euros, which will be my initial contribution.

We have approached NGOs and UN agencies for funds; but besides meetings and promises to look into the matter, nothing has materialised. We are now seeking help from the international radio amateur community, local radio enthusiasts, NGOs, companies, and individuals.

Radio Galkayo has received a quotation from ELENOS, an Italian manufacturer of FM transmitter systems, for a system consisting of an ETG500DR FM band transmitter (500W nominal), a two-stack vertical broadband dipole antenna system and new coax. All equipment would be shipped to the airport in Nairobi and Radio Galkayo staff would organise own transport to Bosaso.

The costs are: ETG500DR – 2,560 Euros
Antenna system & coax – 1,250 Euros|
Shipping – 650 Euros

The total comes to 4,450 Euros or about \$6,040 US.

Just as this newsletter went to press, Bill Main reports that the project appears to be fully subscribed. The final portion of the required funds were provided by the Somalis themselves.

The November message of RI President Ray Klingensmith was: Reach Out To Africa, ROTA. I am gratified to see that not only individuals, but many Rotary clubs as well, have responded to the appeal.

I sincerely thank you, everyone.

—Pertti EA7GSU, President

A Special Thank-You to Sam

Sam Voron VK2BVS, 6O0A, who initiated the Radio Galkayo project with the purpose of distributing reliable information promoting peace and coexistence, is not a Rotarian but he definitively has the heart of a Rotarian!

The State Certificate of Appreciation he received from the Australian government confirms his achievements and is a testament to the work he has done, not only in Somalia but in other countries as well.



Of course, should anyone still wish to contribute toward additional or spare equipment for this project, Bill Main would be happy to accept the donation through his Paypal account. Go to the Paypal site, click on "send payment online" and enter Bill's email address: bill@mainlink.net.au. Be sure to include your name and call sign (if any) along with the purpose and amount of the donation.

Need ...---... with Your Code? Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy

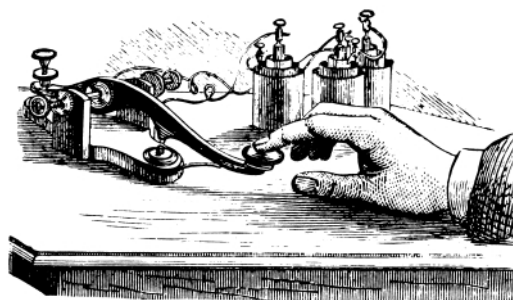
—Dan Romanchik KB6NU

ONE THING THAT I FIND AMUSING ABOUT MORSE CODE is that the more people claim that it's dead, the more people there are that rise up to defend and promote it. Note that I said "defend and promote it," not actually use it, but that topic is for another column.

Having said that, let me direct you to a new tome on our ancient art, *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* by Carlo Consoli IK0YGJ.

What makes this book different from others is that instead of concentrating on the mechanics of learning and using Morse Code, the author spends a good deal of time talking about the psychology of learning this skill.

To succeed in learning Morse Code, Consoli advises that we need to change our approach to learning:



“When learning CW, therefore, we must establish a new component in our self-image and, when doing so, we need to be relaxed. Always practice during the same time of day and in a place where you can experience positive feelings of comfort and pleasure. When we make a mistake we are always ready to blame ourselves. This is the way we learned from our environment during childhood, often accepting any fault as our own error or weakness. This potentially destructive mechanism can be used to build a positive self-image, rather than demolish it. A mistake must be considered a signal, pointing us in the right direction. If you fail, let your mistake pass away, with no blame or irritation. Learn CW in a relaxed mood, enjoy the pleasure of learning something new, repeat your exercises every day and be confident in the self-programming abilities of your self-image. Just a few minutes a day: you can take care of your ‘more serious’ stuff later on.”

Consoli also has some interesting things to say about getting faster. He agrees with me that it's essential to abandon pencil and paper and start copying in one's head. We also agree that at this point, you need to start using a paddle instead of a straight key. He has analyzed the situation a lot more than I have, though. When hams ask me how I learned to copy in my head, all I can do is to relate my own experience, which is that one day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to work for a lot of operators.

If that doesn't work for you, Consoli says that what you need to do is to program yourself to copy in your head. You do this, he says, by relaxing and visualizing. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and one day, you will be one. That seems to have worked for him. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. Will it work for you? I'm not sure, but if you haven't been successful with other methods to improve your codespeed, then Consoli's methods are certainly worth a try.

This book is available as a free download:

http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygy/enu/ZART_ita_v20100826.pdf (original Italian) and

http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygy/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf (English translation).

When not pondering the psychology of operating CW, Dan actually operates CW. You'll find him almost every day on either 40m or 30m, and in the winter in North America on 80m.

You can email him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Use Your Cell Phone Today? . . . Thank a Ham!

—Pertti Kause EA7GSU

YES, I WAS THERE.

There was a time 50 years ago when the manufacturing company called Salora Oy in Finland filled its laboratory for new products with a majority of ham radio operators. They included the chief engineer, Martti Juva OH1PM, who joined the company as an young engineer and became chief engineer and the principal developer of new radio and TV products. His interest and enthusiasm led to an environment in which all the members of the lab were encouraged to experiment with new ideas of their own and build equipment for ham radio and other electronic applications for their own use.

Anything available as standard production material was free for the personnel to take and use without any financial charge. Enthusiasts made remote control airplane and model boat systems. They made phasing-type SSB transceivers and power amplifiers with TV line-output tubes and used them in the international contests.

I remember long before mobile telephony was “in the air” we had a vivid discussion of the future where people would not need to find a specific place to receive a phone call. The call would find you! The idea was promoted by a fellow who later became the first head of the mobile telephone department of the company and the first managing director of Mobira, later Nokia Mobile Phones—Jorma Nieminen, OH1QP.

Here’s how the “amateurs” made it happen:



The very first prototype of a portable transceiver for military purposes.

One day the company received amongst many other enterprises a request to quote a man-pack radio for the Finnish army. What a challenge! A pair of transceivers for specified frequency range was developed by two or three key members of the crew of ham radio champions.

Then came the day when the chief was prepared to make a field test of the samples. It was February and the coldest period of the Finnish winter. The Army had a special area in southern Finland well known to be difficult for communications, and it was there where the boss decided to carry out the testing. As the personnel of the lab had participated in the birth of the product (at least mentally), there was no question of eliminating us from the final part of the development.

The team started out in the cars of two members of the optimistic audience. The chief engineer, in charge of one of the cars, was eager to be there first and was speeding. The result of which was being stopped by the police. After the legal procedure and the unavoidable ticket we finally were ready to set up the test procedure.

One group moved step-by-step further away to find out the operational distance of the transmission. At the beginning everything was fine but with time—not with the distance—the readability deteriorated and finally cut off completely. Nothing could be done to improve the performance. It was -28°C of Finnish winter treatment. So we went back to the bench, thinking about “what went wrong?” Semiconductor-based products are sensitive to ambient temperature and that was the nick! The equipment had no kind of temperature compensation. What worked in the warm lab premises did not operate in temperatures 50°C lower! So we made the necessary modifications and added temperature compensation.

At the end of the day the Finnish government did not have the money to authorize the purchase of the man-pack radios and the company was left with a well-tested product for communications. What to do? Find an application and make use of the competitive development!

The outcome was a great number of taxi radios, train communications radios, products for fire departments, civil defense, private radio nets, etc. And the next step many years later was the announcement by the nordic PTT’s

Hams and cell phones—an historic pair, cont.

(post, telephone and telegraph) of the development of NMT (Nordic Mobile Telephone) networks. That was the beginning of fully automatic public mobile telephone service in Europe. The rest, as they say, is history.

Many are the stories around this new wonder, like the one of the managing director of the Finnish Polling Company called Gallup. He was an eager health exerciser and regularly biked through Helsinki to and from his office. One day the bicycle was stolen; the police were informed but searched in vain. Some days later the director had his 50th birthday, which in Finland is usually the first milestone in someone's life and a cause for celebration and presents. The best present the director received from his subordinates was his own bike furnished with a mobile telephone!

As time went on, the advent of each smaller application was a little wonder. But bit by bit the mobile telephone has achieved the size of today—and more than that, contains multiple functions never dreamt of before.

In my opinion the secret to the success of the world's leading mobile telephone company is based purely on the innovative working atmosphere provided to the team of "amateurs" in the laboratory. I feel myself fortunate to have been an engineer working in the same premises where the history of Nokia Mobile Phones started, and to have seen and felt the enthusiasm which led to the creation of a worldwide telecommunications success.

This spirit of development among amateurs is still continuing on new frequencies where bands have been opened for us to experiment. It is a challenge to find out how the limitations of low frequencies can be physically conquered to produce a viable communications band. As "amateurs" we can all be proud of our ongoing role in advancing technology and creating successful business enterprises in telecommunications.

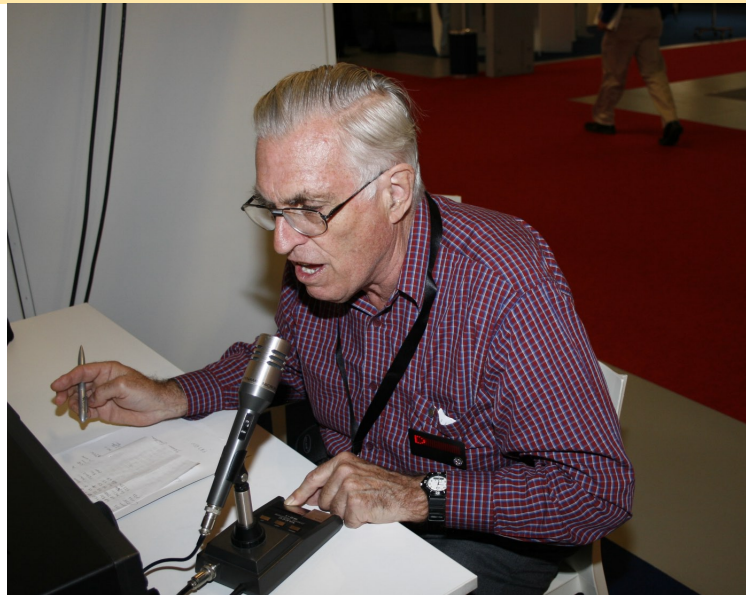


Congratulating the "Boss" at 80 years in 2009.

Left-to-right are: Pertti OH2PM, Boss Martti OH1PM/OH1NQR, Mauri OH1OY, Pentti OH1VT and Jouko OH1PV.

ROAR Board Profile Meet Peter Lowe VK3KCD Vice President, ANZO

I joined the Rotary Club of Glen Waverley (District 9810) in 1974 and have been a member continuously ever since. I served on the board for a short time, becoming director of international service. I am now a retired medical practitioner, having been an anesthetist (anesthesiologist) during my working life, with a few years practicing in pain medicine before retiring completely. My work-and-Rotary interface included a tour to Fiji with Interplast Australia and the running of an appeal to establish an academic unit in anesthesia in Melbourne.



I have been a licensed radio amateur since 1957 and have been active to varying degrees during that time. My interests have included the field of propagation and in the early days I worked 6 meters with some success from a very simple rig. Today I work mostly 20 meters and can be found on 40 meters at times. As anyone will know I have attended two RI conventions (Copenhagen and Birmingham) and really enjoyed the fellowship of ROAR.

I was pleased to accept Pertti's invitation to take on the vice president's position and it is indeed an honor to be able to contribute. I look forward to extending the reach of ROAR ANZO region during my tenure.

Ham Radio by the Numbers

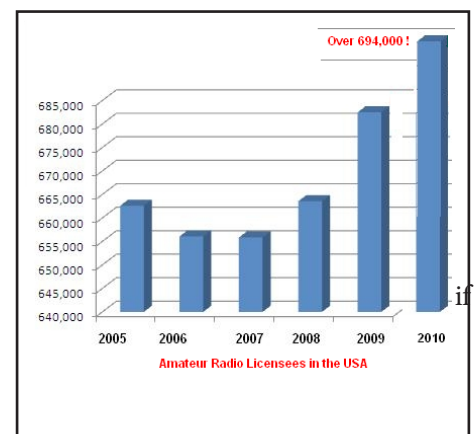
—Dan Romanchik KB6NU

If you've been around ham radio for even a year or two, you've no doubt heard or participated in the debate as to whether or not ham radio is dying. The question is as perennial as the grass.

Recently, this was a topic of discussion on the ARRL PR mailing list. Allen W1AGP, the ARRL's media and public relations manager, generated a chart to show that ham radio is NOT dying. It shows the number of licensees in the U.S. every year from 2005 to 2009: 2005: 661,000 2006: 655,000 2007: 655,000 2008: 662,000 2009: 681,000 2010: 694,000!

This chart as drawn is a good example of how you can lie with statistics. The y-axis started at 640,000, so the rate of increase in the number of licensees looked quite dramatic. Even so, the good news is that the number of licensees is quickly approaching 700,000, and should surpass that number shortly.

Upon seeing this chart, Jerry N9TU did a little statistical analysis of his own. Of the 83 licensees in his zip code, 9 hams are deceased and one license has expired. There are 4 Novices, 36 Techs, 18 Generals, 5 Advanced and 10 Extras. From this data, he deduces—if this is an average sampling of deceased members, expired members and club licenses—there are roughly 90,000 fewer licensees than shown in the data nationwide. I have no clue of the error rate involved with my data. Your results may vary. My guess is that his zip code is probably pretty typical, and that his analysis is essentially correct.

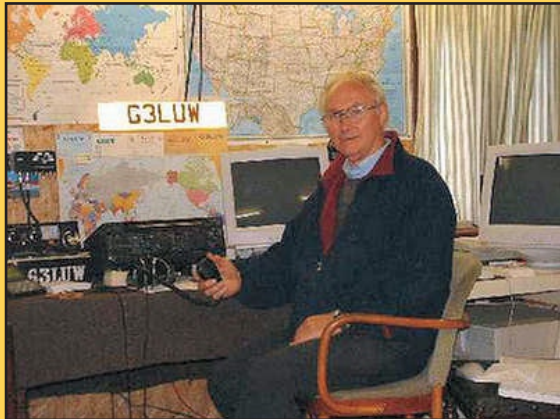


There is also the question of activity. It's my guess that nearly half of all licensees are inactive, and that if we could figure out a way to activate those hams, then we'd really be able to say that our hobby is not dying. It's something worth thinking about, but there's certainly no easy answer to this problem. As Yogi Berra is purported to have said, "If people don't want to come out to the ball park, there's nothing you can do to stop them."

Overall, though, I think the numbers are headed in the right direction. Ham radio is NOT dying. Let's all keep up the good work.

When not pondering whether the reports of ham radio's death have been greatly exaggerated, Dan operates CW on the HF bands, teaches ham radio classes, and blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com.

News of Our Members



Our Secretary Brian G3LUW came in 11th in the world in the 2010 IOTA contest. Congratulations, Brian!



Celebrating 50 years of marriage for Diana G4MVV, and John G4HMG, past president of ROAR. The fellow in the middle is Pertti EA7GSU.



Congratulations to our US eastern regional vice president, Jim W1QUO, and his bride Claire, who entered into blissful matrimony in January 2011. The couple is only in their 90s. Kids get married so young these days!!

ROAR Nets May Be Roaring Back

The increasing solar activity is energizing our members as well! Participation in traditional nets is increasing and in addition to that, new nets are forming.

The ANZO area is having “local” chatting on Sunday mornings on 7.118 kHz at 0600z. Net members have been heard in Europe and, with good antennas at both ends, participation by “outside” members should be possible.

The Europeans again are developing their round table on Tuesday mornings on 7.180kHz at 0700z. At that hour medium-distance communication is possible and all members are welcome to take a seat.

Higher-frequency bands are now opening, and don't forget the 21.403 kHz frequency either, which has been a back-up in old days. Long ago there was an India net on the first Sunday of the month on 14.292 kHz at 0200z. South Africans have been active also on first Sundays of the month on 7.090 kHz at 0730z and again on 14.300 kHz at 0800z. Let us hope they will wake up!

The American transcontinental net at 14.288kHz at 1800z can be joined by Europeans—some stateside stations have booming signals. Traffic density is increasing. Do use the traditional ROAR frequencies for other traffic as well, so that they are occupied by “friendly folks.”

—Pertti EA7GSU



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>

Annual General Meeting



W5R

The International Fellowship for Rotarians of Amateur Radio will hold its Annual General Meeting at the RI convention in New Orleans (*time to be announced*).

Agenda

- Call to order
- Election of the Secretary
- Introduction and registration of the attendees
- Tribute to silent keys
- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of activities
- Treasurer's report
- Discussion topics

Increase in dues and contributions

Emergency service and disaster relief

Preparations for the Thailand Convention

- Any other business
- Closing

The time allotted for the Annual General Meeting is only 1-1/2 hours. Please come well prepared!

And if you will not be able to attend in person, please send me your ideas at president@ifroar.org.

See you in New Orleans!

—Pertti Kause EA7GSU

Treasurer's Reminder

If you have not yet paid your dues, now is the time, because new rates will be discussed at this year's annual general meeting.

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, a former Rotarian, a licensed amateur operator, or a person with a genuine interest in shortwave radio whose spouse is a member of ROAR.

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

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

Regional Vice Presidents

<i>Africa</i>	Max Raicha 5Z4MR
<i>ANZO</i>	Peter Lowe VK3KCD
<i>Asia</i>	Tim Masuda JH1MVZ
<i>CENAEM</i>	Malcolm Campbell PA3AHC
<i>RIBI</i>	Mike Sanders G8LES
<i>SACAMA</i>	***
<i>USCB East</i>	Jim Moran W1QUO
<i>USCB West</i>	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 Bena-havis-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).