

## March Meetings

### John Shive's Wave Machine

March began with Bill Brinker's claim that, as time passed, he became better able to see radio waves. He presented the Bell Labs "Similarities in Wave Behavior" video in which John Shive (right, photo from

Wikipedia) used his wave machine to demonstrate reflection, resonance, standing waves and impedance matching.

### Bill Brinker on "Grounding and Bonding"



At the March 22 meeting, Bill Brinker, WA0CBW, (below, left) club member and long-time ARRL Kansas Section Technical Coordinator, shared ideas and techniques for grounding and bonding to promote safe station operation.

### APRIL MEETINGS

**April 12 -- William Becknell Heritage Days Special Event Station - Steve Everley, KC0VYS/WB0SFT**

**April 26 -- Program AND LOCATION - TBA**

The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 7:00 PM at the Overland Park Christian Church (north entrance), 7600 West 75th Street (75th and Conser), west of the Fire Station.

Much of the membership travels to the Pizza Shoppe at 8915 Santa Fe Drive for pizza buffet and an informal continuation/criticism/clarification of the topics raised at the meeting ... or anything else.

*LEAVE THE CHURCH, TURN RIGHT (WEST) ON 75TH. TURN LEFT (SOUTH) ON ANTIOCH. TURN RIGHT (WEST) ON SANTA FE. PIZZA SHOPPE IS JUST PAST THE SONIC ON YOUR LEFT.*

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## **-> FEEDBACK <-**

*A publication of the  
Johnson County Radio Amateur Club, Inc.*

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## ***PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

No snow this April Fools Day like last year! Weather has for the most part been good for doing outside work, which includes some much needed antenna repair. We did have some heavy wet snow during the winter. Fortunately I only found one antenna that really needed attention for my equipment. I hope you fared as well.

It has been a year since we made the change to the start on the Business meeting which is now 7 PM CDT. All the comments we have received have been positive. Everyone must like getting to pizza earlier.

We have a good a jump with Field Day 2019. Same location as last year. Most of the buildings are gone, but that should allow us to really have a good set up and allow for a good separation between stations. Bring your ideas to the planning meeting.

April is here and so are the Public service events. Volunteering is a very good way to meet other hams. It is a good learn exercise as well for the new HT or mobile rig as well as the nearest QT for the must have cup on coffee.

The Club provides volunteers for Ensor museum. The museum is open only on Saturday and Sunday and needs volunteer for about four hours each day. This year as last we will have a drawing for the gift certificate for those that cover a shift.

**Please note:** The second April meeting will not be at the Church. We are working on a location. So listen to the repeater and check the club's web site for info.

**- Bill Gery - WA2FNK**



## ***Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - March 8, 2019***

Meeting Date: Friday March 8, 2019. The meeting Started at 7:00PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 35 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the February 22, 2019 meeting were read and accepted with 1 opposed vote.

The Treasurer's report, as follows, was read and accepted unanimously.

Cash on Hand	\$ 195.00	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 1,239.83
Checking Account	\$ 554.85	Memorial Fund	\$ 310.00
Savings Account	\$ 10,990.96	Active Members	140
PayPal Account	\$ 61.54		
Total	\$ 11,802.35		

### Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – All are working well aside from a few Portable Digital Node issues.
- Field Day 2019 – We have permission to use the Hutton Farm at Shawnee Mission Park again this year.

### New Business:

- None.

### Reports:

- 6 m – NR.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – 4 participated on March 7.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – 3 participated on March 6.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 23 Check-ins on March 6 and 24 Check-ins on February 27.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 16 Check-ins on March 7 and 12 Check-ins on February 28.
- HF Activity – Réunion Island, South Africa, and Ghana.

### Announcements:

- Santa Fe Trail Commemorative Special Event May 18 -19.
- Novice Rig Roundup March 2 - 10
- See Larry's List for upcoming Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

### Program:

- The Program for this evening was a video presentation on the Visual Observation of Standing Waves using Dr. Shive's wave machine by Bill Brinker, WA0CBW.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

## ***Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - March 22, 2019***

Meeting Date: Friday March 22, 2019. The meeting Started at 7:00PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 35 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the March 8, 2019 meeting were read and accepted with 1 opposed vote.

The Treasurer's report, as follows, was read and accepted unanimously.

Cash on Hand	\$ 95.00	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$ 1,245.83
Checking Account	\$ 722.39	Memorial Fund	\$ 310.00
Savings Account	\$ 10,990.96	Active Members	141
PayPal Account	\$ 23.00		
Total	\$ 11,831.35		

### Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – All are working well.
- Field Day 2019 – A suggestion was made to have a Drone take aerial photos and videos of Field Day.

### New Business:

- None.

### Reports:

- 6 m – NR.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 18 Check-ins on March 20 and No Net on March 13 due to Technical Difficulties.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 16 Check-ins on March 21 and 15 Check-ins on March 14.
- HF Activity – Togo Dxpedition on 20m.

### Announcements:

- HamBash April 20.
- Santa Fe Trail Commemorative Special Event May 18 -19.
- See Larry's List for upcoming Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

### Program:

- The Program for this evening was a presentation on "Grounding and Bonding" by Bill Brinker, WA0CBW.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

## Hambone Goes Batty

March 30, 2019, 9:00 PM

Spring is a late bloomer in Eastern Kansas. The ground hog's forecast of an early Spring with warmer days and nights, with grass turning green and with birds chirping in the trees has gone unfulfilled. Instead the night wind still blows cold out of a gray sky and the predominant color in Shawnee Mission Park dead-plant brown. Yet, there seems to be some activity.

"Hi Dude, what are you doin' out this late in the cold? Is that a new MP3 player?" asked Dude's friend, Joey, upon finding him in Shawnee Mission park wearing a camouflage parka and earbuds and staring up at a naked skeleton that soon would be a green leafy tree.

Dude jumped. "Oh! Hi Joey, you scared me. Your electric bike sure is quiet. It should have a bell or something. I thought I was the only one out here. I'm looking for bats with this bat finder."

"A bat finder?"

"Yeah. It's for my Environmental Biology class. We're trying to survey the animals that live in the city. Find where they live and see how they've adapted to city life. I chose bats."

"Why bats?"

"Bats are very interesting and I've been told there are a lot of them around. Besides, I got to class late and bats and worms were the only choices left for the survey."

"Good luck. All I can say is I'm glad I finished high school before

my teachers got any batty ideas," laughed Joey. "Anyway, how does your bat finder work? I don't see any bats around here."

"That's the problem, I don't see any either,"

moaned Dude.

"That's why I'm trying to find them by their sounds."

"But I thought bat sounds

were too high-pitched for us to hear?"

"They are," said Dude. "This bat detector is really just a recorder. I've been going out each night to different places where I think bats might hang out and recording whatever sounds are there. I take the recordings back home where my brother, Hambone, uses his audio software to process the recordings and lower the frequencies to our hearing range.

When I hear bat sounds, I will go back to that place and count the bats for our survey."

"That sounds like a lot of work," said Joey.

"It is."

"What do bats sound like, anyway?"

"I'm not sure because I've never heard any. I've only heard a few people and one time I think I heard a bird. I'm beginning to think it's too early for birds and bats."

"Don't bats hide in trees and eat bugs?" asked Joey.

"I think they do," said Dude.

"That might be the problem. I don't see any bugs flying around here. Maybe it's as simple as no bat food equals no bats."

"Maybe. I've gotta go. Hambone is expecting this recording. I'll see later."

March 31, 2019 8:30PM

Once again we find Dude in the park alongside a creek scanning trees for bats, bugs, anything. And again we find Joey rolling towards him on his electric bike. But this time he is all excited about something.

"Dude, I've got a great idea. You know how your brother is always playing jokes on you?"

"Yeah, I hate it when Hambone does that."

"Well, I just thought of a great trick we can play on him."

"What?" said Dude, cautiously, because he knew that sometimes the ideas Joey cooks up are not always well done.

"This is great!" Joey went on.

"Hambone uses his software to check your recordings for bat sounds, right?"

"Right."

"That means he hears what's on your recordings, right?"

"Right."

"Then, let's let him hear something that will get him all excited."

"Like what?" asked Dude getting interested.

**see HAMBONE on page 6**





**from HAMBONE on page 5**

“Oh, maybe some mysterious ultrasonic message in Morse code. Something like, ‘bring the money’ or ‘we’ll get him’.

You know, something to pique Hambone’s interest and get him all excited.”

“Gee, Joey. Hammy doesn’t like me to play jokes on him. He gets all embarrassed and upset. Besides, how could we add an ultrasonic Morse code message to the recorder?”

“Easy, with this!” exclaimed Joey as he pulled a silent dog whistle out of his pocket. “We, er, you because I don’t know any Morse code, could just whistle some code messages and record them.”

“Oh, I don’t know,” said Dude. “That might be too mean a trick.”

“Just do a couple of words to see if he notices. It will be fun.”

“Well, okay. Give me the whistle.” Although Dude did not see any bats that evening, he still took his recording home for his brother to analyze.

“Dude, don’t tell me you’re still trying to record bats, are you?” asked Dude’s brother, Hambone, in his most sarcastic voice.

“Yeah. I’ve got to have something for my class project.”

“Well, I think this is the dumbest idea ever. You go out every night, make recordings and come back here to analyze them. If you’d heard some bats – which you haven’t – by the time you went back to study or count them or whatever you do, they’d be gone. You should be using my ultrasonic microphone.”

“Ultra what microphone? What’s that?” asked Dude.

“Oh, don’t you remember? I built an ultrasonic microphone from a kit last year. It was for finding powerline arcs that were creating RF interference by detecting the ultrasonic noise they made,” said Hambone feigning surprise at his brother’s ignorance. “Oh, that’s right, I did it at the school ham club. You weren’t there, sorry.”

Enjoying his brother’s irritation, Hambone went on. “It works much better than your recording thing. It’s just a microphone, an amplifier, a high frequency audio oscillator and a mixer all in one little box.

It picks up the sounds with a high frequency microphone and amplifies them. The amplified sounds are fed into a mixer circuit where they are mixed with a signal from an oscillator that is close to the frequency you want to hear. The output of the mixer is the sums and differences of the local oscillator frequency and the input sounds. That output goes to the headphones. Since the sums are way too high to be heard, all you hear is the differences which are within the range of our hearing. It works sorta like a radio, but with sound instead of radio waves.”

Sensing he had been deceived, Dude ignored the technobabble and replied, “If you knew you had a thing for finding bats, why didn’t you tell me instead of letting me keep going out every night making these dumb recordings?”

“Bro, you didn’t ask. Besides, I thought it would do you good to learn the basics, first. I was going to tell you, eventually.”

Dude was about to punch the smirkoff his brother’s face when a little voice within him said, “*Don’t get mad, get even. Let him hear the recording.*”

Controlling his anger, Dude said, “Just process the recording.”

As the recording came to an end, Hambone said, “It looks like another dead end. Those pesky bats just don’t like... Wait! There is something. It sounds like code.”

“You’re imaging it,” said Dude. “All I hear is noise.”

“No, no, it’s code all right,” insisted Hambone.

“I don’t think bats send code,” said Dude.

“Not bats, people. It sounds weird but I think it’s saying, something about bringing money.

Show me where you recorded this.”

“It was in the park by the creek. I’ll show you tomorrow if you want to come with me. But only if you bring your microphone. Right now, I’m tired and going to bed.” With that, Dude went to his room.

The next day, 8:30AM

It was a very busy morning. It found Hambone at his fraternity’s hamshack explaining the previous evening’s events to a couple of friends. They agreed that something odd was happening and decided to go with Hambone that evening to the park and search for weird bats.

That very same morning also found Dude and Joey working on the very same bat-finding project. But they were with Dude’s Uncle Elmer in his hamshack.

**see HAMBONE on page 7**

**from HAMBONE on page 6**

“That was a great idea, Joey. Hammy took the bait. He’s going with me tonight to see where the ‘weird code’ is coming from. If I know Hammy, he’ll bring a few frat friends and they will all have microphones.”

“Dude, this will be fun! I’ve got a couple of guys who will meet us there. They’ll have dog whistles, too.”

“Great! I wrote out some words in code for you and your buds to whistle,” said Dude. “It doesn’t matter what you whistle except be sure to get the last two words right. Those guys can read code.

Hammy and I will be there about 8:00 PM. Watch for us, but don’t let him or his friends see you.”

“No prob, Dude.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be set up on the bridge. The weird bat hunters are in for a big surprise,” said Uncle Elmer. “By the way, I don’t think you’re going to find any real bats because they’re still in hibernation. They don’t come out until it gets warmer and there’s food. Maybe worms would have been a better project.”

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“This is the exact spot I made last night’s recording,” explained Dude to his brother and three excited fratboy hams who were standing ankle-deep in cold creek water. Apparently, they didn’t notice that Dude was standing on a dry spot. “You’ve got to listen carefully, bats don’t make much ...”

Taking command, Hambone interrupted, “Okay, Dude, we got it. Guys, let’s spread out. First one to hear any sort of a signal, holler.”

Eager to be the first to hear a signal, Hambone and his buddies began sloshing up and down the creek. They didn’t have to slosh long.

“I got something!” hollered one of the fratboys. “I think it was the word ‘money’”

As Hambone ran towards him, another fratboy shouted, from the opposite direction, “I just heard the number twenty-thousand.” The boys took an about-face and ran towards him. For nearly an hour, signals kept drawing the boys from one place to another like bugs to lights on a summer night.

Finally, Dude shouted, “Hey, I got a signal! I think it’s saying ‘stone bridge, stone bridge’. Is there a bridge around here?”

Hambone replied, “Hey! I’m getting the same thing!”

A fratboy said, “There’s a bridge way down at the far end of the creek.”

The boys, excited by the prospect of closing in on their prey, began running blindly along the creek bed, slipping on the wet rocks and tripping on underbrush and cursing the whole way. High on adrenaline, they failed to notice that all signals had suddenly stopped and Dude was nowhere to be seen.

One fratboy shouted, “I see the bridge! I see the bridge! It looks like some guy is sitting on it.”

As they approached the bridge, a man did appear to be sitting there. Upon closer inspection, they discovered the man was actually a manikin wearing a Batman costume. In the manikin’s hand was a sign. It read: ‘It’s April, you Fools!’

**>> JCRAC FEEDBACK <<**