

FEEDBACK

AUGUST 2020

Hambone and the Binary Blues

A Hambone Story by Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB

"Oh, Hi Unck, what are you doing here?" asked Hambone as he opened one eye to verify that the room was really spinning around him.

"I think a better question is what are you doing HERE," replied Elmer as he nudged awake the bleary-eyed hulk draped over his couch. "Late last night, no, early this morning, you came in through my basement ham shack door, ran up here and collapsed on my couch. And here you are."



"This is your house, Unck? Oh, oh!"

Suddenly, as if he was hit by lightning, the nearly comatose Hambone jumped off the couch and ran to the bathroom. The door slam was followed by the sound the previous night's festivities exiting via projectile vomit. Returning to his uncle's couch Hambone groaned, "Oh man, I feel awful, I think I'm gonna die. I don't know what happened, I only had two or three beers all night."

Never missing an opportunity to experience schadenfreude at his older brother's expense, Dude suddenly appeared. "Hi Unck, somebody left your basement door open, but I closed it", reported a very cheerful Dude.

"See, Hammy, I told you this was the wrong house."

"Yeah, yeah, go away! My head hurts and the room is spinning around."

"I'm not surprised," continued Dude. "You had two or three beers and then two or three more and..."

"Shut up, twerp!"

"Oh, and if you think your head hurts now, wait 'till you check your wallet. That's where the real pain is," replied an excessively cheerful Dude.

"Whadya mean?"

"What do you mean, what do I mean? You lost fifty bucks playing that stupid bar game. Don't you remember?"

"I thought you guys were going on a road trip to Colorado or some place with a couple of friends. What happened?" asked Emer placing a pot of hot coffee and three cups on the coffee table and proceeding to pour.

"We were," said Hambone as the coffee began to pump some life into him. "But we got side-tracked."

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JULY MEETINGS

Aug 14 --TBA

**Aug 28 -- Antique Radio Collection -
Claude Chafin, NØFMO.**

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 SOIC ON YOUR LEFT.

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145.290 Repeater off the air

Construction near the repeater site has take the club repeater off the air. Please do not attempt to use the repeater until an "all clear" is given at a JCRAC meeting or on Larry's List.

-> FEEDBACK <-

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Johnson County Radio Amateur Club, Inc.*

Bill Gery, KA2FNK, President

Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB, Vice President

Ted Knapp, NØTEK, Secretary

Cal Lewandowski, KCØCL, Treasurer / FEEDBACK distribution

* * *

Chip Buckner, ACØYF, Editor

Charlie Van Way, NØCVW, Photography

Deb Buckner, KDØRYE, Contributing Editor

All email addresses are available at w0erh.org

The Amateur in Amateur Radio - Chip Buckner ACØYF

Not Even Arguably a Radio Story

I can't turn it into a radio story, but it's a neat tale and I'm going to inflict it on the group.

Many news outlets are reporting the passing of Olivia de Havilland, perhaps the last surviving performer from the "golden age of Hollywood" on July 26.

Ms. de Havilland was an Academy Award winning movie star who is likely best known for her work in the movie *Gone with the Wind* (1939) and for appearing opposite Errol Flynn in the adventurous *Captain Blood* (1935) and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938).

Someday at a JCRAC meeting, you'll have to ask Deb how she came

to have such an illustrious pen pal. For the purposes of this tale, they've corresponded for decades. We have a "let me tell you what really happened" rebuttal to Groucho Marx's account of their dinner date. On another occasion, she noted that she had met my grandfather when she visited troops in Alaska during World War II.

Deb saw that Ms. de Havilland, who lives in Paris, would be in the United States to receive some sort of special Academy Award. Deb wrote to congratulate her and to ask whether there was any possibility that there would be an opportunity to meet, just to say "hello". Deb got a very nice reply, explaining that the movie star's time had been wholly committed, but that perhaps there might be some future opportunity to meet. Deb was disappointed, of course, but not surprised.

see AMATEUR page 7

***de Havilland and Buckner
in Alaska during WW2***



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our inability to have in-person meetings is turning all of us into Zoom "experts". When we can



have meetings at the church we may still use Zoom as a way to open it up to member that can not attend due to distance or other issues.

We should be able to do this as there is WiFi available.

We are beginning to receive items for the Ensor auction, We are not, however, sure of the format for this year. How to have the auction an maintain distancing and permitting the items to be reviewed are two on the issues.

The club's raffle is underway because on the auction uncertainty. Vince (KE0CGR) Is heading up the raffle again this year. You can contact him for tickets or go to the club's web site (w0erh.org) select the "store" tab. We already had one surprised winner. Me! Get your tickets for the August drawing and add to your chances. All tickets, except the wining ticket stays in the pot.

I was saving up for a new HT and by luck found myself in possession of a gift certificated from Associated radio. So I'm the owner of a new Yaesu FT-3DR.

You, too, can be a winner of the raffle too.

- Bill Gery - WA2FNK

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - July 10, 2020

Meeting Date: Friday July 10, 2020. The meeting Started at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this Meeting took place online using Zoom Video Conferencing. 27 were present.

There were No Minutes from the June 26, 2020 as this was the meeting before Field Day.

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

Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – All are working well. Now that we are into the hot summer days please keep your conversations short on the 145.29 MHz Repeater to keep it from overheating.
- Ensor Auction – Raffle tickets are available to purchase off the website or from Vince Sabia, KE0CGR. The first drawing will be at the July 24th meeting.

New Business:

- None

Reports:

- 6 m – There were some opening on FT8.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – 4 participated on June 25.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – NR.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 18 Check-ins on June 24 and 22 Check-ins on June 17.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 21 Check-ins on June 25 and 22 Check-ins on June 18.
- HF Activity – 13 Colonies Special Event.

Announcements:

- Everything Canceled.
- The Hawk 100 has been canceled.
- See Larry's List for upcoming Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Program:

- The Program for this evening was Preliminary Field Day Results.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - July 24, 2020

Meeting Date: Friday July 24, 2020. The meeting Started at 7:00 PM.

Attendance: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this Meeting took place online using Zoom Video Conferencing. 27 were present.

The Minutes from the July 10, 2020 were read and accepted unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was not available.

Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting.
- Repeater Update – All are working well. Thanks again for keep traffic on the 145.29 MHz Repeater low to keep it from overheating during these hot summer days.
- Ensor Auction – Raffle tickets are available to purchase off the website or from Vince Sabia, KE0CGR. The first drawing will be at the July 24th meeting. We are starting to formulate plans on how this year's Auction will look giving the current pandemic situation.

New Business:

- Ensor Auction Raffle - The first \$200 Gift Certificate drawing to Associated Radio was conducted. Bill Gery, KA2FNK was the winner.

Reports:

- 6 m – None.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – 3.5 participated on July 23.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – 1 participated on July 22.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 20 Check-ins on July 22 and 14 Check-ins on July 15.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 20 Check-ins on July 23 and 22 Check-ins on July 16.
- HF Activity – Slovenia on 20m, Fiji on FT8, Italy on 40m.

Announcements:

- Sunflowers to Roses on August 2nd. Contact Steve Lester KDØEKS at stevekd0eks@gmail.com
- See Larry's List for upcoming Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Program:

The Program for this evening was presentation on the Comet NEOWISE and Perseid Meteor Shower by Bill Gery, KA2FNK.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

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“Yeah,” continued Dude. “Besides Hammy and me, Tim decided to come along. I think the change of plans was actually Tim’s idea.”

“It was all Tim’s fault. Let’s blame Tim,” groaned Hambone as he made another dash for the bathroom.

“Who’s Tim?” asked Elmer.

“He’s that tall, geeky guy,” replied Hambone, now returned from his second visit to the porcelain throne. “He’s majoring in math as well as engineering and is uber smart. He’s also a member of the math and physics fraternity. We don’t usually let those guys join our engineering frat but we made an exception because he’s a ham and really very nice.”

“Besides, continued Dude, “You guys wanted someone who could help with that homework ole’ Professor Flask gives you.” Hambone continued, “Tim suggested that we visit his other frat’s Math and Magic party before leaving for Colorado. He said it’s a once a year party where members bring in cool gadgets and nifty problems and lots of kegs. There’s always some high voltage stuff and big magnets. We could be his guests. It sounded like fun, so we went.”

“It was fun,” continued Dude.

“There were lots of weird gadgets and geeky puzzles and Hammy had to try every one of them. Hammy could usually figure them out, but one puzzle kicked his butt. The guy called it ‘heaps’. Hammy, tell Unck how it kicked your butt.”

“It did not kick my butt. I won some and lost some.”

“The way I saw it, you did most of your winning at the beginning when

you played the guy for beers. Which, by the way, were free. Then you did most of your losing near the end when you played for quarters and dollars. Face it, Hammy, you were taken to the cleaners by a math guy. It’s lucky you only had fifty bucks and the guy didn’t take plastic. Oh, the shame.”

“I think that guy cheated,” said Hammy. “If I ever see him again I’m gonna kick his butt.”

“No prob Hammy bro,” said Dude.

“That guy hangs out at the coffee shop almost every afternoon playing that game.”

“Well,” said Elmer taking an interest in this discussion, “I guess you didn’t remember that advice your dad gave you long ago about gambling. He said never play for money with people you don’t know, no matter how simple the game or how good you think you are.

Anyway, what was this game?”

“Simple,” said Hambone. “I don’t see how I could lose unless that guy was somehow cheating.

We made three piles, or heaps, of poker chips, each with up to seven chips. Players alternate and each must take some chips from only one pile. You can take as many chips as you like, including all the chips in that pile. But you must take at least one chip and can act on only one pile per turn. The player who takes the last chip loses.”

“Oh, my Goodness!” exclaimed Elmer. “You were taken by one of the oldest games in the world. Its common name is Nim and it has a simple mathematical solution that, if you follow it, you will win.”

“Unck, you mean to say the game was rigged?”

“No, not at all. As I said, you have to be nuts to gamble with a stranger,

but you have to be double nuts to gamble with a math wiz stranger. Those guys devote their lives to analyzing games and finding strategies to win them. My guess is the guy outsmarted you fair and square. Now you know why the beer at the party was ‘free’.”

“Okay Unck, what’s the trick?”

“I thought you’d never ask. It’s fairly simple, but there’s some slightly weird math ahead, so, watch out.

First, the reason the guy picked three piles with no more than seven chips is to make the math easier to juggle in his head. But, the ‘trick’ works with any number of piles with any number of chips in each pile.

To begin, let’s review the numbers from one to seven as written in binary:

1 -> 001

2 -> 010

3 -> 011

4 -> 100

5 -> 101

6 -> 110

7 -> 111

Notice that each binary number has only three binary digits. If he allowed more chips in the piles, say eight, you would need at least four binary digits which makes the math harder to do in your head.

To try to keep this explanation clear, we’ll call the guy the ‘gambler’ and the player, you, the ‘mark’.

To see how it all works, we’ll write out each move on paper calling the three piles A, B and C and using the letter ‘x’ for a chip. Let’s say you both agree to place seven chips in pile A, three chips in pile B and two

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<p>from HAMBONE on page 5</p> <p>chips in pile C. Like this:</p> <p>Pile A xxxxxxxx Pile B xxx Pile C xx.</p> <p>We then write the number of chips using binary notation one under the other like this:</p> <p>Pile A: 111 -> seven chips -> xxxxxxxx</p> <p>Pile B: 011 -> three chips -> xxx</p> <p>Pile C: 010 -> two chips -> xx</p> <p>Then we add them in a way called <i>bitwise exclusive OR</i>, or <i>bitwise addition without carry</i> in binary arithmetic lingo.”</p> <p>“Okay Unck,” said Hambone ,</p> <p>“You’ve lost me. What’s this adding without carry?”</p> <p>“It’s easy, Hammy, let’s write the numbers again and add them without carry and putting the total at the bottom:</p> <pre> 111 011 010 ---- 110 </pre> <p>Do you see the pattern? It’s really simple. If there’s an odd number of 1s in a column, you put a ‘1’ in the total and if there’s zero or an even number of 1s in a column you put a ‘0’ in the total.</p> <p>The column to the far right has two 1s so it gets a 0 at the bottom. The middle column has three 1s, which is an odd number, so it gets a ‘1’ at the bottom and the left column has one ‘1’, which is an odd number, so it gets a ‘1’ at the bottom.</p> <p>Mathematically, we have performed a bitwise addition without carry function on the numbers. But you don’t need to remember that, the</p>	<p>odd or even number of 1s or 0s is good enough.”</p> <p>“So, Unck, how does this tell you how to win?” asked Hambone as he washed down a couple of Aspirin with his coffee.</p> <p>“That’s the trick. Let’s say it’s the gambler’s turn. His strategy is to remove enough chips so when his turn is over, the total at the bottom is 000 or all zeros. This means you lose.”</p> <p>“How can he do that?” asked Dude.</p> <p>“He could take six chips out of pile A leaving it with only one chip,” explained Elmer. “The lineup would then look like:</p> <p>Pile A 001 -> one chip -> x</p> <p>Pile B 011 -> three chips ->xxx</p> <p>Pile C 010 -> two chips -> xx</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Total 000</p> <p>Now it’s your, er, the mark’s turn. Let’s say you take the last chip from pile A leaving zero chips in that pile. The gambler is then faced with the following line up:</p> <pre> 000 Pile A -> zero chips 011 Pile B -> three chips -> xxx 010 Pile C -> two chips -> xx ----- 001 </pre> <p>The gambler once again wants you to be faced with a configuration that results in 000 at the bottom. To do this he removes one chip from pile B leaving it with two chips. Pile C still has two chips because neither of you has touched it. The result is the following sum:</p> <pre> 000 Pile A -> zero chips 010 Pile B -> two chips -> xx 010 Pile C -> two chips -> xx </pre>	<p>----</p> <p>000</p> <p>The mark, you, now has several different choices, none of which will lead to a win. For example, you could take all of pile B. But then the gambler would take one from pile C leaving the last chip in pile C for you. You could take all of pile C, but you would be stuck with the last chip in pile B. Or, you could take one chip from either pile but the gambler would take all the chips in the other pile and again, you get the last chip and lose.</p> <p>So, you see, the gambler was obviously a math guy and could do this algorithm in his head pretty much guaranteeing you a loss.”</p> <p>“I still think that’s sorta cheating,” moaned Hambone.</p> <p>“That’s not the worst of it,” added Dude. “After you staggered out, I mean, left the party, I saw him waving your fifty bucks around and saying what a good idea it was to invite the engineers to the party. They pay for the beer!”</p> <p>“What tha... I want revenge and my money back!” shouted Hambone as he jumped up from his uncle’s couch. “I’m gonna build a revenge robot and take it to the coffee shop! I’ll show that nerd that engineers rule!”</p> <p>“Knock, knock, anybody home?” came a new voice from the partially open front door.</p> <p>“Hi Tim,” said Dude. “Unck, I’d like you to meet Tim and Tim, I’d like you to meet our Uncle Elmer.”</p> <p>“Pleased to meet you Mr. Elmer. I just came by to see if Hambone is all right. He was pretty out of it last night. And I want to apologize. I</p> <p>see HAMBONE on page 7</p>
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from HAMBONE on page 6

didn't know that jerk was going to be at the party."

"That's okay, Tim," replied Hambone. "I don't blame you for anything. But I do want to get revenge and my fifty bucks back."

"You aren't the first person he's taken with that trick. There's a lot of people who'd like to get even with that arrogant ass. But it's not so easy. He only plays that one game and he's very good at it." "I was thinking of building some kind of a robot that could play the game, maybe better than he does," said Hambone.

"I don't know for sure, but I doubt he'd even play it. He would probably say something like engineers are too stupid to play themselves so they build a robot to take their losses for them. That's the kind of guy he is."

"Maybe I could just practice until I can play the game as good as he does and then challenge him to a rematch," said Hambone.

"You could try, but he might just blow you off. Even if he did play you, there wouldn't be much revenge. The algorithm is such that if both players play a perfect game, the one that goes first wins, I think. Or, something like that. Anyway, the best you could do is win half the time which wouldn't be that much fun, said Tim. "We need to trick him out of his comfort zone and fun!"

The room fell silent as the boys mulled over their predicament. Then, Dude popped up. "I've got an idea!

To Be Continued ...

The AMATEUR from page 2

A year or so later, I got a call at the office. Deb said that we had received a letter from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. We had been invited to attend a reception and Academy retrospective of the films of Ms. de Havilland in connection with her 90th birthday. I could hear the "can we go? can we go?" tremble in her voice. I observed that we didn't get THAT many invitations to go to Hollywood parties, so perhaps it would be all right to go to this one.

We got to Los Angeles a day early, to make sure we knew where we were going. We went to the Academy and told the security guard why we wanted to look around. "Oh yes", he said, "there are 500 people coming to the retrospective". (I don't remember the number. It might have been 300. It might have been 700. It was a bunch of people.)

"What about the reception? Our invitation is to the reception", Deb asked.

The guard looked at Deb. "You got invited to the reception? Well then ..." He then gave us the what's and when's and invited us to tour the Academy's museum.

At the appointed time, we reappeared at the Academy. I would hazard that there were perhaps 200 people in the room. Shortly after our arrival, the mayor, an Academy muckety-muck and Ms. de Havilland came down a stairway into the main room. Each person said a few words, after which they continued down the stairs, crossed the main room and toward another room.

Deb grabbed my hand. "We're going", she said.

We worked our way (which is a polite way of saying "Deb bulldozed") through the crowd to a roped off area. There was a line of people waiting to speak to Ms. de Havilland. The man in front of us was explaining to the security guard that he HAD to be on the list. He had worked with Ms. de Havilland on this project and that project and there must be some mistake. The guard politely turned him away.

Deb looked at me and gulped. We were next. "Deborah and Chip Buckner", she said.

The guard checked his list. "Right this way, please. Ms. de Havilland is expecting you". After various security formalities, we were taken to see Ms. de Havilland.

"Ms. de Havilland, I'm Deborah Buckner."

The movie star took her hand. "After all these years." They conversed, after which it was my turn.

I introduced myself and said, "I understand you knew my grandfather".

"Oh yes", she said. "He was a great man. But I failed him."

"How so?"

"He asked me to take a message to his wife and children. He wanted me to tell them that he was thinking of them and that he loved them very much. But I got busy. I didn't do it immediately and then, after he was killed, it just didn't seem right to ..." Her voice trailed off.

A few days later, on my return to Kansas City, I picked up the phone to make a call.

"Dad, I have a message for you. From your father.