



ARC-OVER

December, 2017 EDITION

Reminiscences

Les Johnson (W6DIY) was the Electronics Instructor at Turlock High School in the mid 50's and prior to for some time. I showed up in Les's math class as a Freshman in 1951. The math class was held in the electronics classroom with the adjoining shop and an ante room which contained a ham station and a large table with a military code practice station with 8 positions with a key and headphones. Each student could practice alone or with any or all of the other positions. I was attracted to the marvels of wireless communications and subsequently my sophomore year began my radio education that continued through my senior year. We started with a one foot square pine board with four rows of ten finishing nails surrounding the perimeter of the board. Each of the heads were tinned, enameled wire was then cleaned down to the bare copper and strung across the board to the opposing nails forming a checkerboard pattern. Each of the nail heads and the wire cross points were then soldered. It became readily apparent as to how well you cleaned the wire. Each of the cross points immediately revealed your ability to soldering traits regarding cleanliness of wire, tinning and soldering techniques.

Having demonstrated adequately your soldering skill you were then given a length of #20 enameled wire, an empty cardboard toilet paper roll with a couple of two inch square wooden blocks glued to the ends of the tube. This was the beginning of a coil for a crystal set. A chunk of Galena in a lead mount along with a Cat Whisker, a couple of capacitors, one variable, a resistor, Four Faun stock clips to connect, antenna, ground and head phones and out came the glorious sounds Of KTUR and KTRB. This bread board construction was the basis for the next project, construction of a super-regenerative receiver. After completion of these required elements we were allowed to take on projects of our own selection. My first superhet receiver was a Heathkit AR-1 receiver kit. Kit was \$23.95 which was a significant investment made by my folks in that dad only made \$200 a month at the Grange Company north of town. As I looked forward to getting my ham license it was obvious the AR-1 without a BFO was not going to cut it for CW reception. Les sold me a BC-454 80 meter surplus receiver and power supply for \$8. He let me make a couple of payments earned from mowing lawns. John Clements built a Heathkit AT-1 multi-band transmitter at the same time I was building my receiver. In that Turlock was in excess of 100 miles from Battery street in San Francisco a local ham could administer any ham test lower than the class he held himself. Therefore Les had given the test to numerous students during his career as electronics instructor. My old bud John sneaked off behind my back and took the test without saying squat. We walked home across town together stopping at the post office. The day his K6IKT ticket came in I was as excited as he was. We ran home and fired up the Heath AT-1 and John called CQ on 40 meters. A station came back to him and he immediately fell apart like a teen ager receiving his first kiss. Well John got his ticket first but I got to finish his first contact.

The mid 50's at Turlock High School turned out the following Hams, Leon Crouch (W6SQN), Gerald Herring (K6AMW), John Clements (K6IKT), Fred Inabnit (K6HDQ), Ardell Grose (K6SMZ), and Larry Rose (K6ZDE). Hope I haven't overlooked anyone. Leon received one of the last re-issued W6 calls prior to the K6 series being issued. Leon and Jerry Herring were the last two in the area to test at the customs house on Battery Street in San Francisco. When Jerry got the K6AMW license he returned it sure the FCC had made a mistake. This was when we all became aware of the K6 series of calls. This disorderly mob became quite proficient at CW. Most every day after school we got on the air. You had to become proficient to know if the rotten buggars were talking about you or not.

Reminiscences (Continued)

Of the whole mob Leon, (W6SQN) took on the most challenging project. He constructed a Duo Band 80/40 meter transceiver designed by Stan Wymer (W6ADB) who ran a radio repair shop on West main and was an Elmer of mine. Les and Leon both constructed their units during the same time period. Here is a picture of Les (W6DIY) operating his unit during field day on Crocker Ridge. Stan incorporated a sequential block grid keying circuit which started the oscillator first then turned on the buffer stages and the final amplifier. Upon un-keying the finals were turned off followed by the buffers and then the oscillator. There was an automatic antenna switching circuit as well. The ground of the RF gain control was lifted and a second gain control was inserted in series. The keying circuit bypassed the second control to ground for normal reception. When the circuit was keyed the mid-point ground was lifted and second control was inserted allowing an adjustable monitoring level. The result was a beautiful, smooth, almost musical note with complete break-in capability and on air signal monitoring.



While reminiscing we must not forget Leon's interaction with the California Buzzards Net. This bunch of ol codgers hung out on 75 meters. They violently objected to the intrusion of Single Side Band to 75 meters. This opposition continued until one of them purchased a Hallicrafters HT32 transmitter and started whispering on the QT how much better that mode worked where AM just didn't cut thru the QRM as well. Soon there were additional converts and subsequently you thought that the infamous Buzzards group had in fact created and developed the concept of SSB technology. Well the hypocrisy was too much for Leon to bear. I personally witnessed him put the transmitter on their busy frequency. Remember this is SSB and in those days prior to product detectors we used BFO insertion for detection. He then placed a four bladed 5 inch fan with one blade out of sync on top of the metal cover of the vfo compartment, turned fan on, keyed transmitter in CW mode and created a warbling tone on the frequency which sent the assembled group spinning like the knob on an out-house door...

Around this time John (K6IKT) had gone to work with PAC BELL in Oakland Living at the "Y". He came home to Turlock on the weekends. He soon came home with a sparkling new Viking II which we promptly plopped on his mom's kitchen table. Strung 100 feet of wire from the transmitter over the curtain rod out the window to a near by tree. Fired it up and rapped the key and all of a sudden we smelled smoke. It was apparent the antenna wire had arced to the curtain rod setting the curtains afire. This almost ended John's amateur career. In a subsequent trip home John brought home a spanking new Gonset Communicator II. The following January John, Myself George Stevans (K6SNA) and Leon loaded up in Leon's ol Pontiac and headed off to Manzanita Point up in the Sonora area for a January VHF contest. COLD was not the word it. George had brought a single army blanket, THAT'S all. Here the four of us were huddled in the tent freezing our buns off. After a while we had had enough and decided to shut down and try and get some sleep. John would have nothing of it. Finally someone removed the vibrator from the power supply and hid it under one of the sleeping bags. George kept trying to find a snuggle spot amongst the pile of humanity. We ended up piling into the ol Pontiac two or three times during the night to fire up the heater to thaw out. It's amazing what benign endeavors youth will engage in for the sake of entertainment. Upon subsequent visits to John in Oregon he almost without exception mentions trip to Manzanita point. He also recounts Leon's purported Alien abduction and boarding of their spaceship. It's a bit fuzzy whether this was a delusion that happened at Manzanita point or elsewhere. Maybe it was colder than I remember. Then that's a story for another day. John was an Air Traffic Controller in the Air Force and later in Civilian Life. John always had a love of Roses and became a major West Coast Rose Breeder. Heirloom Roses became such a tourist attraction that Oregon state installed signs to direct tourists to the nursery. During the High School Auditorium Restoration John developed a variant of a Miniature Restoration Rose and donated 1000 cuttings towards the project. John was getting back into ham radio. Had bought equipment, and a 100' self supporting tower with M-Square beams installed at the nursery. \$12,000 was spent for antennas alone. John passed away a few years ago. The new nursery owner left antenna structure in place, costing more to remove than it was worth. John (K6IKT), our dear friend, gone but certainly not forgotten... K6IXA Editor

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Turlock High Radio Hams - Dec. ²²~~21~~ - 31.

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Nelson.

A motion was made and passed that we have our next meeting the Tuesday following vacation.

A short talk was given by Pres. Nelson on "Our Amateur Bands."

There was a short period of code practise, set building, and discussion.

The meeting adjourned.

Sect. Pro-temp.

Arthur Dalstrom

When these December 22, 1931 minutes were taken the club President was Morrie (Morris) Nelson, W6GFB who later in life owned Nelsons Radio Television repair on Main Street... Chris Coffin (K6CP) and Wally Ray worked for Morrie... When he retired he sold the business to Chris and Wally... Morrie passed away a couple of years ago... There is ONLY ONE of the original cast still around, is Jim Jolly W6RWI, Fair Oaks CA

First licenses, 1939, same call. XYL, W6QPV, Rose, ARRL, member QCWA, DXCC, Senior member IEEE. WWII Radio Officer Merchant Marine, 1942-45. College: BA Physics, Univ. Pacific, Masters, Ph.D Univ. Santa Clara. Work: Eng. KCVN Univ Pacific 1950, Research, Factory engineer, Mgr Industrial Microwave, Eitel McCullugh (EIMAC) 1951-1969, Asst. Professor, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey 1970-1976, Professor, California State University 1976-1990. Emeritus Professor 1990. Author of over 50 articles and books in the field of electronics, management, and utilization of research output.



W6RWI

James A. 'Jim' Jolly
Fair Oaks, CA

QCWA # 30800
Chapter 169

Turlock Amateur Radio Club Minutes
December 12, 2017
Turlock High School classroom I-4 (Electronics)
Turlock, CA

The meeting was called to order by President, Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) at 7:00 p.m.

Number of attendees: 25

Secretary Report: President, Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) entertained a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed in the Arc-Over. Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ron Roos (KJ6KNL). The motion was voted on and carried.

Treasurer report: Mike Smith (KG6VFL) gave the treasurers report and reported there are 77 paid members.

Vice President, Dick Decker (K6SUU) reported the program would be given by Mike Johnson (KD6BGO) on the operation of the Radioddity KD77.

Membership Report: Ed Darrah (K7ERD) reported he will accept dues before and after the meetings. Mailing to the P.O.Box with a check is also an option.

Repeater Chairman report: Grady Williams (K6IXA) advised all is quiet.

Arc-Over Publisher report: President Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) advised items for the Arc-Over are due by December 19th.

Old business:

The Christmas dinner was a great success.

2018 nominations for President, Secretary and possibly Sergeant at Arms, are needed. Other officer positions will remain the same for the coming year.

Nominations were made for officers. Grady Williams (K6IXA) moved that the nominees be accepted. Dinny Echols (N6TLW) seconded the motion. The members voted on and accepted Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) as President, Gregg Back (WA6LGS) as Secretary, and Fernando De Couto (W6FRD) will take the position of Sergeant of Arms vacated by Bambi Schmidt.

New Business:

None, no new business, other than ...

the President Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting was made by Mike Johnson (KD6BGO) and seconded by Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL). The motion was voted on and carried. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Minutes taken by member Lynne Smith (KM6DKF)