



May 2008



A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

Well, April turned out to be everything we expected.....WONDERFUL! Beginning with Pete Sides actual birthday on April 10, when four of us (John Outland, Dee Haynes, Ed Boutwell and I) went to Montgomery on Thursday. We met at the Red Lobster and also had Pete's son (Pete) and Ben Letson, (Pete's friend from St Petersburg) for a nice visit. Pete and Ben have been friends for over 70 years and just to listen to them talk was a treat. Then on Saturday, the tenth, we all went to Montgomery for the BIG surprise birthday party. Pete was really surprised as he was convinced he had outlived all his friends (how wrong he was). Pete was given a letter from Charles McCrary, President of Alabama Power, thanking him for his 41 years at AL Power. There were also awards from ARRL, the Montgomery Amateur Radio club, AND about 70 people to sing Happy Birthday.

Dee and I did our "World Renown" radio show for the Walker County Genealogical Society on April 24. We are finally getting these shows perfected.

We had a nice donation of old radios from Mr. Hawthorne, especially a Majestic 'High-Boy,' which will make a nice museum piece.

We returned Charles McCrary's Radiola 60 that several of us had restored for him (special thanks to Marvin Shepherd). He was very happy with it.

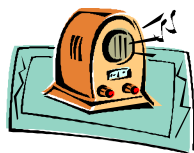
BirmingHamfest was the 3rd of May, but really was part of April's activities. We had a great show. Many members had radios in our exhibit with a special exhibit of Joel Tillman's wonderful collection of Zenith Transoceanic radios (see picture that follows). Thanks to all who helped and those that came out to show all those 'hams' what a great bunch of folks we are! I think we really made a good impression.

Enough of my ramblings, but its hard not to ramble when we are having so much fun.

Dave



Joel Tillman's collection of Zenith Transoceanic radios



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

Hello Radio Fans,

I won't be long winded today but just ask you to guess on what radio show each of the following phrases are heard:

- 1 Ah... Ah. Ah. Ah. Don't touch that dial!
- 2 McGee, you're a hard man.
- 3 Cisco, the Sheriff, he is getting closer!
- 4 Go to sleep little baby, When you wake we'll patty patty cake...
- 5 Somebody, I say, somebody knock?
- 6 And Kook - a - Monga
- 7 I'd love to help you son, but my money's all tied up in currency.
- 8 Hello, Jot'em Down Store this is ..
- 9 Leeeeeeeeeeeeeee Roy!... You call me Uncle Mort?

10 What a revolting development...

Until next time,

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net



Editor's Note:

Dave Ingram K4TWJ has once again answered our request for articles from members.

Note: This article is not to be reproduced without the consent of author Dave Ingram, K4TWJ.

One in a continuing Series

HAM PRIDE: OUR LEGACIES AND TRADITIONS

By Dave Ingram, K4TWJ

We occasionally hear fellow amateurs say they thoroughly enjoy on-the-air operations, but lack an electronics background for fully understanding technical details of modern equipment. Is that a deficiency? Absolutely not. Every amateur has a special place only he/she can fill in our great hobby/service and “technical know how” is not mandatory. The following tale exemplifies that statement. Remember it and pass it on to future generation amateurs later in years as one of our proud legacies.

Although a little known fact, telegraphy and the Morse code were not invented by a technical genius, but by an artist and portrait painter. That's right friends: Samuel F. B. Morse was an internationally recognized artist. While traveling between Europe and North America, he met Joseph Henry plus several other pioneers in electromagnetism. Soon afterwards, he devised an electromagnetic signaling device that worked by moving a metal-cased pin from side-to-side on a painter's canvas while it was being slowly drawn through a windowpane type stretcher. Like every innovation or invention, a series of small and natural steps followed.

First, Morse devised a dot/dash code for converting pen movements into letters and words transmitted over wires. Then Morse's assistant Alfred Vail designed and built a full mechanism key to replace the crude strap key Morse had quick-devised to use with his setup. Noting the difference in sound between dots and dashes, Vail also built an electromechanical sounder, to replace Morse's original pen-and-canvas setup. Telegraphy was then off and running. Quick-formed telegraph companies on several continents began installing telegraph lines across sparse lands. Hundreds of small telegraph companies, most without interconnecting lines quickly flourished. In many cases, runners hand-carried messages between companies lacking interconnecting

lines. As time progressed, the largest telegraph company purchased hundreds of small telegraph companies and combined them all under the now internationally recognized name of Western Union.

The next big step was Marconi's development of spark gap communications, or wireless telegraphy. A slightly modified form of Morse code—using different combinations of dots and dashes for a few letters to permit easy copy with an earphone followed. That international version of Morse code prevailed, and is still proudly used by radio amateurs today. It has relayed desperate messages by radio, by hammer taps on sinking submarine hulls, via eye blinks by the severely handicapped and prisoners of war, and more (original text messaging!). Many radio amateurs even carry medic-alert cards illustrating the Morse code and explaining if severely injured, but able to move any body part, they can communicate via Morse code. Simply stated, this is a mode that promises to live forever!

The left key in our accompanying photograph is representative of Samuel F. B. Morse's original "strap key". Although simply a piece of spring brass tapping a metal contact on a wood base, it stands as an easy-to-copy piece of communications history worthy of gracing any office or home desk. The right key is an authentic R. A. Kent Company reproduction of the full mechanism key Alfred Vail made, named the "Correspondent" and gave to Morse for use in his first demonstration of telegraphy (approximately 1844). Adjustment screws are large and coarse, the arm's pivot rod is held in place with a small cotter pin and the arm's end is flattened rather than fitted with a knob, but it represents a piece of telegraphic history you can hold in your hand. The key also inspired over a hundred years of art in brass key designs that continue alive today.



Strap key



Vail Correspondent

Author Dave Ingram, K4TWJ, is one of today's most active, enthusiastic and well-known radio amateurs, with over 800 articles and 26 books on amateur radio to his credit. He presently writes three columns in CQ Magazine (of the U.S.), designs QRP kits and operates 30 and 20 meters CW daily. You can see more of his work at <http://k4twj.blogspot.com>.

MEETING TIMES

We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 at the Alabama Power Building on Parkway East (aka Centerpoint Parkway) in Huffman. The organization's space is accessed from the rear of the building, so park around the back (by means of Huffman Road, which runs parallel to the Parkway). Entry is via the door on the right.

Come to the Monday Night Meetings, TOO, on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM!

FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

The first Saturday of the month, there are electronics classes free to members. Topics include test equipment, Resistors and Capacitance testing, Inductors and coil winding, to name only a few subjects!

We hope to see you there!



WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING DUES!

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about the dues, you can contact Julian at 205-879-3619. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 130307, Birmingham AL 35213.**

WHO TO CONTACT

President – David Cisco

205.822.6759

ciscod@bellsouth.net

Member and Instructor – Robert Frye

205.631.6680

RLF100243@aol.com

Web site – Robert Matthews

RMatthews@ms.soph.uab.edu

Web Address:

<http://alabamahistoricalradiosociety.org/>

Newsletter – Patsy Desaulniers
patwrite@juno.com



Editor's Note:

Thanks for your prayers. I made it through the surgery very well. My new knee is getting a little easier to control each day. I spend most of every day rehabbing the knee—three days a week I go to the PT and the rest of the time I work here at home. It turned out to be much as I imagined (thanks to YouTube and other Internet sources). Sometimes, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, but I am very hopeful that the end result will be a knee without pain and with the needed rotation.