



This next subject is a bit hard for me to figure out who are Acquaintances, and who are Friends. Since I do not hang out on a daily bases with any of them. But I met all the following thru the Hobby of Ham Radio. So to whom ever reads this Story, I hope I do not offend or offend anyone.

My first attempt to obtain an Amatuer Radio License started in 1965 when I took a Ham Class taught by Bill Pope (W6TKE) out at Butte College near Chico, Ca. I had no problem with the Theory part, but for the life of me, I could not copy the code or (cw). Needless to say I failed that class. In 1970, 1975, an 1980 I again took Ham Classes with the same results. The classes in (75) and (80) were taught by a Dick Scobble (call unknown) from Paradise, Ca. (Now of Washington State.) I finally gave up.

In Jan. an Feb. of 1987 Steve Clark (KB6VQV) and I attended a Ham Class in Sutter, Ca. taught by a Ben Murphy (KA6FKZ) in a class at Sutter High School on Mondays and Wednesday Nights. And the code was taught by Robby Robinson (N6PGK) of Linda, Ca. both at the Sutter School and at his home on Friday nights for those who were having trouble learning it. And Boy was I having Trouble. Again I was the only one of 18 in that class to fail because I could not even tell the differance between a (dit) and a (dah) Everyone else passed an got there Novice Class License. Later some went on to get there Tech Plus tickets so they could operate on 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

A month later or around March 15 1987 Steve came by an gave me a whole bunch of Code Tapes he had made up from 3 wpm to 30 wpm. I was determoned that I was going to learn how to copy code or die trying. I would play those tapes on my Motorcycle, in my Volkswagon Bug, in my Chevy Truck and for hours on end in my bedroom. Most Exsperts say you should listen to them for 1 hour a day, an then go find something else to do.

But not me. I played them for up to 10 hours a day. I never even tried to write anything down for the first month. All I was trying to do is to see if I could tell the differance between a dit and a dah. I would play them as I was falling asleep. And when I got up in the morning I would start again.

(Note) (I was forced to retire in March of 1985 after a bad Accident at my last job, working for T.M.duche Nut Co.Inc. on South Railroad Ave, in Orland, Ca. So I had a lot of time on my hands. My Late Father William Noble Padgett had given me a place to live until I got back on my feet somewhat.)

On Nov. 30 1987 I rolled out of bed at 7 a.m. I turned on my tape player and put in the 5 wpm tape I have been listening to for the past 4 months. To my great and unbelieving surprise I copied that whole tape, letter for letter, word for word, numbers for numbers, and punk-u-way-sions for punk-u-way-sions. I thought to myself that I was dreaming. So I put in another tape I had never listened to and copied 85 percent of that one. I yelled (Thank God) so loud I could have woken the dead. Then I cried a little too.

This is the end of this page.

Now 11:25 p.m. pdst © May 2002

Now 5/8/02 Wed. at 11:42 p.m. Getting a late start on this page.

The next day I called Willie Van De Kamp (W6YKV) and he told me to be at his house up in Butte Creek Canyon on Sat. the 12th of 1987 at 10 a.m. I arrived early and he showed me his ham shack, and his 160 meter vertical. It had a big aluminum mast and the top part looked like a Grows nest on top of a big sailing ship with another vertical stinger running out the top.

Then we went into his kitchen at sat at his kitchen table. his wife Jackie was sitting in the living room on a couch and doing some knitting. Willie gave me a piece of Paper and a Pencil. Then played a little of the code tape so I could get use to the sound. After a few minutes he said: No Matter What Happens, Don't take your eyes off your paper and don't stop writing. He just played the 1 minute pre-test tape.

When he came back in to check my copy he started counting. When he was done he looked at me and said YOU PASSED. He said you copied all 26 characters. I said yahoo and ran out the front door. I was jumping up and down and about scared the little Gold fish in the pond to death. He came out and said you still have to take the written test. So back in I went. I answered all 25 questions correctly. I was one happy 49 year old man.

(NOTE) (No.1 Steve Clark was my Elmer, and if it had not been for him pushing me a bit, saying I could do it. I probably would have given up trying to get my Ham Ticket. We have remained Acquaintances, but not what you would call really good Friends. He got married a few years ago, and now has a ready made family of 3 kids plus his wife. And he still works as an Electronics Tech for Payless T.V. here in Chico.)

(NOTE) (No.2 Willie Van De Kamp Died of Heart failure in 1997 and His wife Jackie moved to Montana. We were never Friends. Later on in my ham life he and his Buddy (Doug Dean N6RQL) Choose to bad mouth me after I had passed my Extra Code Test at another VE Session out of Town. He was telling anyone that wanted to listen, And I Quote: Alan must have paid off those people in Susium City, Ca. to get his Extra Code. If He could not pass the code test in Chico, he could'nt pass it anywhere else without Cheating.)

I caught him with his foot in his mouth. And told him to quit telling lies about me, or I'd sue him for Slander. In 1991 after a friend of his named Riva Bromwell NT6E of Redding Calif. decided she was to old to continue doing both the OO Program and the VE program. Willie Van De Kamp took it upon himself to tell all at a Gears Club meeting, that after I had recieved an OO Slip in the mail from her for giving what she thought was another persons call, (Because of her poor hearing) I drove up to her house in Redding and Threatened her with Bodyly Harm. And that is why she got out of those programs. (She died of heart failure in late 1991)

I went to the Butte County Court house in Oroville, Ca. and had a Cease and Sec-siss order drawn up. And Paid \$50 for a Butte County Sheriff Officer to deliever it to him. I also had another one made up and had it delievered to the (Golden Empire Amatuer Radio Society Club President.) I had to pay another \$50 but it was worth it. Poor old Willie was not well thought of after that. And just about everyone made sure they never said anything they did not want repeated when they were on the local 2 meter repeaters.

Now 5/9/02 Thurs. at 9:11 A.M.

I did not receive a Certificate Of Completion after passing my Novice test. One week later on a Saturday my good friend Chuck Barber (KJ5BJ) now of Pairie Grove, Ark. ask me to ride down with him to the VE test site in Roseville, Ca. On Dec. 19 1987. On the way down I read the questions to Chuck from the ARRL Technician/General Study Guide Book. I retained just about all I read that day.

While standing around in Front of the Police Dept. a fella by the name of Bob Metke (W6SUP) asked me if I was going to be testing. I said No, cause I just passed my novice test last Sat. And I was not given a paper showing I had. He said he would call Willie and varify I had. He did and Bob said if I passed he would hold onto the test results until I sent him my Novice Certificate.

Well I passed it 100% and poor old Chuck just varly made it. We drove down to the Black Angus Resturant near Fairfield, Ca. and Celebrated with a big Prime Rib and Lobster Dinner. It was just wonderful. Then the waiting game started. Unlike now days, one could not operate on any bands until you had your Ham License in your Hands or on the wall of your Shack. But that did not stop me from buying my First Radio, from Jim Kemp Van E in Willows, Ca. I bought a used Yeasu FT 757 GX for \$400 and a 20 amp power supply for \$30. It had a built in Keyer.

Then a George Kellog (WB6SUV) near Oroville, Ca. gave me Free a brand named double paddle called a Ham Key made in St. Louis, Mo. I practiced for 4 months before I ever tried getting on the air.

(NOTE) (Chuck Barber formerly of Paradise, Ca. and now living in Arkansas with his wife Marty, and 6 children has remained a very good friend, but sad to say I can't afford to travel there to see him. So we now keep in touch by E-mail. And he sends a photo of himself once in awhile so I can see how he looks.)

(NOTE) (Bob Metke and I have become good friends over the years. And since 1987 I have sent hundreds of potential new hams to be tested at his home in Roseville. He is a very loving type person and has given a lot to this Hobby of Ham Radio. I have visited him a few dozen times, and he is still doing good service to the hobby. Bob is a retired Police Officer, his wife Jackie is a house wife.)

(NOTE) (George Kellog and I were just Acquaintances, and I once cleaned up all the 3000 beer cans on his 10 acres off Big Ben Rd. And he let me keep all the money. He moved to South Lake Tahoe, Ca. 15 years ago and I lost track of him.)

I received my Novice Ticket on Feb. 13 1988. My Late Father Bill Died on Feb.25 1988. But before he went away he had told me how proud he was of me for not giving up and finally getting my ham ticket. He also had given me all the money to buy all my ham gear Then and Now. If it was not for his Generousity I would have never been able to get on HF and do CW. Because being on Disability I could never afford the high priced ham gear.

Now according to my Log Book I had my first cw contact on April 14 1988 a Thurs. at 11:30 a.m. on 7.113.3 or 40 meters. And it was a total failure. I could'nt copy one letter even though he was going slow enough. It was (W6AiT) Mr. Irvin G. Roye in South San Francisco, Ca.

End of this page, now 6:13 p.m. 5/9/02 Thurs.

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Now 8:05 P.M.

Of course at that time I did not know it was Irvin. And the only reason I answered his CQ is because I thought it was Bill Gregory (N6AiT) in south Chico. Even after I had called Bill on the phone I did not realize I had had a Contact with Irvin. 2 days later I was talking to Norm (N6PPQ) in Gridley, Ca. he looked that call up in the Callbook and gave me Irvin's Name and address. I wrote Irv a letter apologizing for not being able to copy and leaving him hang there. He wrote back with an encouraging letter, saying keep at it, you can only get better, and sent me his QSL Card.

My next 19 cw qso's were just about as bad as my first one. But I did not give up, and my quest to get my General was long and slow. But staying with cw on the air really helped me get my code speed up, slow but sure. And thanks to hundreds of hams like Irv who showed a lot of Patience with a newcomer, I too became a better cw operator. I took my general written twice and my code test 10 times before I finally passed it at the VE Test in Roseville, Ca. on April 22 1989. And from that time on I was hooked on CW. My first 12 contacts on Ham Radio were on 10 meter usb. But after April of 1989 it was all cw.

(NOTE) (N6AiT Bill) was never a close friend. But I am the one that got him started in ham radio way back in 1980, when I gave him my 5 watts to a 1000 watts book put out by Radio Shack back in the late 70's. He earned his first ham ticket by reading that book. He went on to become an Extra Class and a Volunteer Examiner for many years to come. Bill Died in November of 1999 from Knee - moan - ya. His wife Darlene asked me to sell off all his old stuff. I was able to get for her about \$4,500 for his gear. And I found that first book I had given him so many years ago. And I still have it.

(NOTE) (N6PPQ Norm) in Gridley has only been an Acquaintance thru other hams. But I know him better when he was on the CB Radio and he went by the name of Jeremia the Bullfrog. And 2 dozen of us talked for hours on end in the upper reaches of the 11 meter band. Years after I was surprised to learn he had a ham ticket.

My first Ham call was KB6VNJ. As soon as I got it I turned it in for another call. And I ended up with my present call which suits me to a tea. Nov. 6 Real Nice Person and I am just that, a nice guy.

Right after I got my General Ticket a fella I had met at one of the Ham Breakfast gettogether up in Paradise, (Roy Brubaker W6VCi) called me on the phone and wanted to know if I would study with him so he could get his Advance and Extra Tickets. I said you bet. Well we helped each other, and on Aug. 25 1989 I was ready to go take my test. But Roy said he was not. So on Sat. the 26th I drove by myself down to Stockton, Ca. at the VE Session run by (Jerry Newton AA6NO).

There was about 30 people taking tests that day. A fella came out and said anyone want to try the Extra Code? I looked around and 2 people had there hands up, so I did too. I missed it by 1 lousy question. I was heart broken. But later I passed my Advance written test, and I had only missed 4 questions. So I felt great about that. Roy went to Chico a month later and passed both the written Advance and Extra tests, and also his 20 wpm code test. Wow what a guy at 76 years old. When his wife of 45 years went into a care home on the ridge, Roy and I became better friends. I put up a couple of antenna's for him, and we ate out a lot with him paying most of the time.

End of this Page at 9:14 a.m. 5/10/02 Fri.

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(5)

Now 5/10/02 Fri. at 1:09 p.m. Just got back from my 4 mile walk.

On 6/3/1990 Sun. Roy and I had a nice pancake breakfast at the Odd Fellows Hall on lower Clark Rd.. When I took him home, he said he was going to go visit his wife up at the Rest Home. Tues. night I was listening to Al Beigler do the GEARS 2 meter net and one of his announcements was that: (We are sorry to hear of the passing of Roy Brubaker) on Monday afternoon at the Feather River Hospital on upper Pentz Rd. in Paradise.) My heart started racing as I broke in to ask Al if it was True? And he said yes. Talk about a shocker. I had just been with him on Sunday and he looked fine to me.

Roy was one of those good old boys who would give you his only shirt off his back. I truly missed having him around. But we all have to go sooner or later.

Another fellow I met up in Paradise was (Charlie Dewell K6KO) After we had had 5 or 6 meetings at the annaul ham breakfast on Sat. mornings he asked me if I would like to do some yard work for him and clean up his place, at the End of Neilson Rd. I said I'll come over an take a look. Boy what a disaster area. Poison Oak and some other types of vines, plus Blackberry vines growing some 50ft up into over grown oak an pine trees.

He had blackberry vines growing across the lenght of his 200 feet concrete driveway. And he had been driving over them for years instead of cutting them back. I told him it would take a long time to do it, mainly because I can't stand on my feet for more than 5 hours at a time. And I told him I normally charge \$15 per hour labor and use my own tools. But for him I'd only Charge \$7 per hour plus a Cold drink of some kind once in awhile, from him. He said fine an when can you start. In the morning.

So on March 20th 1989 I started that Project. And Finished it on September 25th just in time for my walnut season to start. Charlie and I took 290 full pickup loads to the land fill on lower Neal Rd. And It was only \$2.50 per load to dump it back then. And I burned another 400 small piles of brush and whatever. It kept me in cigarette money. And good thing too. Because Chuck was a free loader when it came to smoking the weed . He would barrow full packs from me but never replaced them.

After I got it all cleaned up he wanted to know if I would like to take care of his yard in the summer time, by mowing an weeding an trimming his bushes and whatever. So I did that until March of 1993. On March 8 1993 I had just bought 2 cartons of Pall Mall Cigarettes at the Cheaper Store on the Skyway. The next evening I was watching T.V. and our then President Bill Clinton talk about Raising the tax's on Candy, Whiskey, Wine, Beer and Cigarettes. And I thought he said that by the end of July that Cigarettes would cost \$4 a pack.

Well I said to myself, I'm not going to pay that much. And I got out of my chair and went an cleaned all big an small ash trays. Put together a double brown paper bag, put the 2 cartons I had just bought, 1 carton I had at home, and the 8 packs I had in the Car. My 1965 V.W.Bug. Put all my bic lighters in, and drove on down to Charlie's, and told him he could have them all that I QUIT. He said with a smirky smile I'll hold on to them for you. Because you will be back. He was wrong I never did. It was a very hard thing to quit, but I did it. But sad to say I have gained just over 120 lbs. since I quit.

End of this page.

Now 2:30p.m.

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Now 2:50 p.m. Getting Fast Ain't I. Ha! Ha!

A couple of weeks later I went down to have breakfast at my then favorite restaurant, the 49er Cafe on the Skyway. I went inside to stay away from the smokers. After I had ordered Charlie came in and said come on out and talk awhile and we will not smoke while you are there. He sounded sincere. Just as I sat down all 5 of those Old Goats lit up and blew smoke in my face and said come on Alan have a smoke.

I got up and told Charlie that was a very rude thing to do. Here I was trying to better my life and quit smoking and he and his so called buddies were making fun at me. I told him to find somebody else to take care of his place and that I will not be back to the Cafe as long as they were there. He never called to apologize and we never spoke again. Charlie died in Feb. of 2000 from Lung Cancer and Knee - moan - ya. In fact all of his buddies that were in that smoking group have all passed on. It is too bad we had to part as NON FRIENDS. But it was his choice NOT Mine.

Another Ham I met was (Bart Bartlett W6OWP) in Paradise. For years he sent code practice on both 40 and 80 meters. From 1930 to 1999. First with a tape machine and later with the help of a computer. He was first licensed in 1930. (That was 7 years before I was even born.) We have had a few CW QSO's over the years, but for the past 7 years or so it has been mostly me calling him on the telephone or sending him e-mails, and once in a Blue Moon me driving up to the ham breakfast to have short chats, about whatever. For a man in his late 80's he is still very active on Ritty and still has some CW Skeds he has had for some 40 years. I work a friend of his once in awhile on 80 meters CW who lives up in Vancouver, Wa. (AL K6ORT) And if there is anything important he wants passed on, I'll call Bart and let him know. And just a week or so ago I was able to meet Al and his Dotter who came to visit in Chico. We had a nice 25 minute chat. Bart and I remain very good friends today. In the 8 and 1/2 years I lived in Paradise I must have met a good 200 hams. But none were close friends except Roy, and Bart, and my good buddy Chuck Barber who moved to Arkansas.

It took me 18 months before I finally passed my test to get the top prize, EXTRA CLASS. I had to take the Theory or written test twice. And the 20 wpm code test 14 times in 9 different City's before I finally got it. It was like someone had lifted 1000 pounds of rocks off my old tired shoulders when I took that last test on June 29 1991, in Susan City, Ca. near Fairfield. I had Not Planned on taking it. I had taken (Blake Johnson N6WJQ) from Magalia, Ca. down to take his written General test. The Wed. before I had taken him down to Roseville to take his 13 wpm code test at Bob Metke's Ve Session. He had passed just varyly.

AA6NO Jerry Newton was now handling this group. He was very pleased to see me. He asked if I was going to try my 20 wpm code. And I said NOPE. I just brought Blake down to do his thing. For the next 20 minutes or so he kept bugging me to go try it. So I finally gave in. I paid the test fees, then he took me way down to the other end of the room away from everybody. He said here is your own Cassette player. There is a 1 minute practice tape, and 1 = 20 wpm test tape. Once you turn the recorder on you can't turn it off. Remember once you start don't take your eyes off your paper and don't stop writing. (Huuummm !! Where have I heard that before.

End of this page. Now 4:17 p.m.

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Now 5:02 p.m.

Well after looking around the room, I put my earphones on and put the practice tape in. I pushed the play button and was able to copy the two sets of VVV VVV and that was all I got. I said to myself, I'm not ready, but I had already paid. I looked at the wall, and the ceiling, and the floor, and finally I asked God for some help. I put the test tape in and waited a couple of seconds then pushed the button. When it was over I had about 1/4th of my copy paper covered with a bunch of chicken scratch. But I could make a few letters and words out.

I went over and a guy gave me the ten Questions. I was really surprised that I could answer the first 7 questions with what I thought were the right answers. But the last 3 I just guessed at. I rechecked my paper and then handed them in. I went out and waited in the lobby. Jerry would come out and hand Certificates to a lot of people including Blake, but would not even look at me. Blake wanted to go, and I said I want to see if I passed my test. He didn't even know I had taken one. I said it is my car and I have the keys. If you're in such a big hurry, you can walk the 173 miles home. He sat down and shut up.

After waiting 45 minutes I gave up and as I was walking out to the back parking lot, Jerry came out waving my Certificate and said you want to take this with you. Congrats you finally did it. I said thanks for having faith in me. I was one happy camper. I took Blake over to Burger King and bought him his lunch. Good thing cause he didn't have any money to even pay me for my gas. At least that is what he said anyway.

For the next four years I visited Jerry many a time. Jerry had made a few million dollars in the Stock Market a few years back. He was married but I can't remember his wife's name or call. And lived between Woodland and Davis off of Hwy. 113. He drove an older style Rolls Royce Convertible to all his VE Sessions. Because the seats were so thick in the front I could not fit my 6' 7" frame into it. But I did ride to 3 or four VE Sessions in the back seat. It was a lot of fun. Jerry said he liked me because I was a go getter and never gave up on getting my top ticket. He said I'm sure your Father would have been proud of you too, if he had lived to see that day. Jerry was always a happy person and never said a bad word about anyone even if they deserved it.

Jerry passed away suddenly one Saturday afternoon in July of 1995, when he had gone to the local dump, and had had a massive heart attack. According to his wife he was the only one out there and he could not make it to his Car Phone to call for help. They figure he was out there 3 hours before the Cat Operator found him by the back bumper of his truck. I really miss him. He was such a delight to be around. And he helped a lot of people in the Ham Community. I'm sure he was missed by a lot of people. His wife took over the VE Sessions in the Fairfield area for about 2 years and then let somebody else handle it.

(NOTE) (Blake and I were never friends, he was just a Big Moocher. He was a wine-er. Always bitching that somebody was out to get him. He finally gave up on the Hobby in 1994. I felt sorry for the jerk and bought all his remaining ham gear. And sold it to others who got some good use out of it.)

After November of 1989 I became a pretty good CW operator. And for the next 6 years I averaged 135 cw qso's a month mostly on the Novice bands, helping the newcomers with getting their code speed up. that's what I liked doing best helping others young or old.

End of this page. Now 7:35 p.m.

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Now 7:58 p.m.

I met hundreds an thousands of hams from all walks of life that enjoyed talking about how they had gotten there ham tickets and wanting to get to the Extra class level so they could become VE's themselves and give a little back to the hobby. I've talked to all 50 states and have QSL Cards confirming that. I also have 12 Good Guy Awards from 7 States from OO's or Official Observer's who were monitoring my qso's, letting me know they and others appreciated my Patiences with the New Hams. Before I had gotten my first one. I had No idea such an award Exsisted.

I even met a couple of Police Officers From Staten Island, New York. Patrick an Lisa Cahill that after qsling and writting a few letters back an fourth they wanted to Adopt me. So I could tell anyone who cared that I had Family. But that was short lived when I worked him a 2nd time and all he did was send to fast an run everything together, and would not slow down when I sent a QRS.

So I sent him a letter telling him of his poor sending an trying to show off his speed. I said communication is the name of this hobby, NOT SPEED. If one can't copy a terriable fist, then what is the point. He never answered my last letter but he told his wife to do it. She mailed everything I had ever sent them, and saying you really hurt Patricks feelings by calling him a lid. I never used that word. They like MOST COP'S just assumed I did. I was Wrong and they were right. And nothing I could say or do would change the way they feel about there almost Uncle in Northern Ca. Baa Hum Bug.

I Then worked a (Jean AKA (John) Linder F. KC6JHV) in Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca. He likes Cw , Planes, Helicopters, Girls, and Big Ships, and Tub Boats in that order. He was just a kid when I first worked him. I think he is in his early 30's now. He works with Rabbits, and at his local Church doing all kinds of stuff. His Fathersname is Jacques, an Mother is Marlyse. They are Swedish. They are both retired Phy-a-sists. For the first couple of years I worked John 3 dozen times or more a year. Then once every 6 months, then less an less an less. Until we don't work anymore. But He calls me on the phone to check up on me, and make sure I have'nt passed on. Ha! Ha! He also send's an e-mail once in a blue moon.

He owns 3 dogs, 4 cats, 25 pigeons, an 2 lop eared rabbits. They use to have an avery with lots of Parakeets, and a Cockatoo I think named Mohawk. John goes to Switzerland for 2 or 3 weeks every year, to visit his girl friend. (Note) (I talked to John on the Telephone Friday Night 5/10/02 and he said he is home alone with all the animals while his folks are off on there annual hoildays in Switzerland.) And he say's he is saving up for a Cruise to Mexico later this year.

I had the pleasure of meeting both him and his dad in July of 2000. They came up when the WX was the Hottest. They first drove up to Portola, Ca. up in the High Sierra Mountains to go ride on a Big Train. Then they came to Chico. They were planning on driving up I-5 to visit the Mighty Mt. Shasta then doubling back an taking 299W west over to the Coast. Then driving down the coast on Hwy 101, going thru the Ave. of the Giants (Redwoods) and continuing down thru San Francisco and other coastal cities an then home.

End of this page. Now 10:03 pm.

© May 2002

Now 11:09 p.m. I will not finish this page tonight.

Well sorry to say there well laid plays got changed. John is a bit E-Knee-Mick an does not take heat well. He ended up in Enloe Hospital over on the Esplanade. His Dad never boughtered to call me, so I could keep him company until John was released. I never even knew any of this until they had gotten home on the following Monday. I Don't remember if they sent me an E-mail, or that John called me on the phone to tell me. It was a bit unsettling, but i'm glad he is ok, and that he was not sick for a long time. The Chances of me ever meeting John again is almost Zero to Nothing. Because I don't have a dependable car or the money to travel. So he is another of my Long Distance friends.

The Next person I met was (Mrs. Becky Ormonde now K6EY) of Chino. Ca. on Road 21 an Formerly of Montclair, Ca. on Highway 10. I don't remember her first call. But it was close to KD6GUH or something like that. She is one of the fastest learners of CW that I ever ran across. It seemed she went from a Novice to Extra in just a few Months. She is Married to a guy named Andy (KB6OPY) I think, who works for Yeasu U.S.A. in Cerritos, Ca. as a Tech among other duties. And she has two children. Sweet Jessica who use to be my Pen Pal, (And who's picture I still have pinned on the wall in my Radio Room.) and Drew ages unknown. I met her about 7 years ago. And we use to have a cw qso about once a month. But in the last 2 years, we have probably only hooked up about 6 times. We tried a sked for awhile. But the north/south path never worked. She has regular skeds with other hams though.

But since May or June 1999 we have sent each other E-mails almost everyday. She is such a busy house wife and does everything, and I mean everything. She is the sole caretaker of her two children. She takes care of the house inside an does all the mowing an edging of her yard. She Cleans he mothers house, she does all the shopping, paying bills, taking the kids and herself to all the many Doctor Apointments. Walks her kids an there Dog Hunny to school and back. She put herself on a Becky Diet and in 3 or 4 years has lost 195 lbs. That is more that both of my fat legs weigh.

She rides her indoor bike, walks over and does the bleachers, 8 to 12 times. Goes to OA meetings. Works for a lady making Phone Calls from time to time. I don't know when she has time to sleep. I get worn out just reading her E-mails. Ha! Ha! She does'nt eat enough to fill up a small frog, or muskrat, or a small puppy. But she somehow manages to have enough energy to perform her 14 hour plus days an nights.

I had the pleasure of meeting this Pretty Lady at a Ham Convention in Concord, Ca. on Oct. 20th 2001. She had told me that her Husband was going to take her to Pacificon, and wanted to know if I would be going down. I told her NO cause it was in the middle of my walnut season, besides it was to far to go for a car I could not depend on to keep running. But I was sneaky.

I called my ham friend in Loma Rica, Ca. (Dennis Hively KD6DFY) and told him I was thinking of going, and wondered if he and (Paul Johnson N6XVL) could see if they could locate her an tell her I could not make it. He said he would try. I would probably get there around 11 a.m. after I had delievered a load of Walnuts to the NUT CO. in East Biggs, Ca. Only after I got my money did decide to go down to Surprise Becky, that is if I could find her, among those hundreds of other nameless faces. Her Old Man was working the Yeasu Booth I thought.

This is the end of this page. Now 5/11/02 at 8:28 a.m.

(I'm getting faster. Hul!!)

May 2002

Now 8:51 A.M. 5/11/02 Saturday.

After I left the Nut House I went over and had a great breakfast at the Crossroads Restaurant in south Gridley, Ca. I had already had one breakfast at Denny's in Chico. But I was a big man and I wanted to make sure I could go down and back without stopping to eat again. Then I headed for Concord, arriving at 11:05 A.M. I went in the main entrance and paid my \$15 then started walking around to see if I knew anyone. Nope, not for the first hour anyway. I looked in on some of the seminars that were going on, but didn't see anyone that looked familiar.

I told myself I was going to give it another half hour, then I was going to Bug Out of There. I went back out to the Blue Hanger and sat by the door talking to one of the hams that belonged to the Club sponsoring this event. In about 15 minutes everyone I was looking for seemed to appear all at once. Dennis (KD6DFY) Paul (N6XVL) and Tom (K6AJS) all came in together.

And as I was talking to Dennis, I turned to my left and Becky came around the corner. I ask Dennis to go over and keep her busy while I snuck up behind her. He did a good job. Just as I got there he ask Becky if she had ever met N6RNP Alan and she said she was hoping too. Dennis then said well turn around. And when she did she was looking me right in the stomach. She looked up and with a slight smile she said are you Alan ?. I said " Surprise " and yes I am. I thought she was going to faint. But she gave me a big hug, then turned around and gave Dennis a hug and thanked him. Then she took me over to meet her husband Andy. He seemed pleasant enough and said he was finally glad to meet the famous story teller and artist that his wife was raving about so much. That was the only time I saw him. Becky had a million question for me. And we sat over by a window and chatted for a good 1 hour. Then she took me out to see her OM's car a Z-80 Chevy Camaro I think. Then I was hungry and while I waited for an outdoor vender to fix my lunch, Becky went up to her Hotel Room and lost some water and got her own water bottle.

When she returned we talked some more and then she walked me out to my car. We hugged 2 or 3 more times, and then I headed north and back home. It was 178 miles and I made it in 3 hours and 18 minutes. In some ways I wished I lived closer to her. But I'm afraid the way things normally go with women friends in my life I would soon get to liking her too much and then I would be in trouble with Andy. And I do not need any new problems in my Senior years. Ha! Ha! Ha! She is one of the better Friends I have. I can talk to her about almost anything.

The next person is (KA7IWX Brian K. Kunz) of Post Falls, Idaho. I worked him a good 10 years ago. And when we were both really active we would work each other a lot. He has never married, but has a lovely cat named Amber that keeps him company. He owns his own home, and has a nice lawn but No Bushes to trim. He works in a big light bulb factory doing something. Since we don't work each other on CW anymore, I wished he had a computer and got on E-mail. Maybe he will some day. In the mean time we write Snail Mail letters back and forth. He is another one who loves reading my short stories, and has paid me for most of them. He has also called to wish me a Merry Xmas, and this year sent me a nice 65th birthday card. Ham radio has been good to me. Allowing me to meet nice people all around the country, and in the process make a few lasting friends.

End of this page. Now 3:45 p.m.

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Now 5:14 p.m.

The next person I met was (Chuck Alldrin KN6JS) of Chico, Ca. He owns a few Business type rentals on Mangrove Ave. I met him on 2 meters when I was in good standings with the Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society back in the late 80's and early 90's. I really do not know why we became friends to start with. He was an still is a self made Millionaire, and an On-ter-pa-nure, who makes money in whatever he try's doing. He was a Crop Duster Pilot for 10 an 1/2 years. And invested his money into business and home an apartment realstate.

I think he had a T.V. Repair Shop for a few years. Then he built an sold homebrew Airplanes. Then him and his son Lance got into building Fancy Rolls Royce type sailing boats that sold for around \$100,000 bucks each. But a few years ago they had to give that up because the apoxy type glue stuff they used was making there skin peel off there hands an arms. Lance went back to teaching school in Corning, Ca. And Chuck bought a Motorized Powered Gold Dredge made a killing at that until he could'nt stand to be in cold water.

He also buy's used car's an fixes them up an resells them. Now he owns Alternative Energy Business and sells Small Windmills, wind generators, Batteries, and Solar Panels. He did a really good business during the Big power shortage in 2001. I have not seen him in 3 months. So I have no idea what he is doing.

When I lived in Paradise, we use to get together at least 2 times a week for lunch at La-ca-meta on Mangrove Ave. in Chico, for over 5 years. With me driving down from Paradise. After I moved back to north Chico in 1996, we now only get together for lunch once every 6 months if that. Kinda funny I think.

Chuck is responsible for me living out here in the country an renting from Chuck an Dorothy Bain, a couple of retired school teachers. His son Lance use to rent this place before he got married. When I was forced to move out of Paradise because my last landlord kept changing the rules, and I could'nt find another place I could afford to rent on my low income. Mr. Alldrin said he knew Mr. Bain really well, and arranged a meeting for us. I told Mr. Bain my story and and we made a hand shake agreement on the rent. He pays for the Electricity, because there is no meter on this Apartment. He also provides all the Firewood Free for my only source of heat being a Wood Stove. I moved out here on May 22 1996. It is nice an quiet out here. Guess i'm going to have to call Mr. Alldrin one of these days an see if he would like to have lunch. Anything for Food.

The next person I met on CW was (Dennis Powers AB6QR) up in Forest Ranch, Ca. When I first worked him in 1989 he had a hard time copying 5 wpm. But he has become one of the fastest Fist in Butte County, and A DX Hound on CW only. He has worked Worked All States and Just about all the Foriegn Countrys in the world. Now he is into QRP with Mili Watts. We are not really close friends, because I don't run in his upper class or style of people he hangs out with. But he lets me come up an visit him once in awhile, and has never ushered me out the door before I am ready to go. We Used to belong to the Brass Monkey Straight Key Group, that operated for a short time on 10 meters. But we could not generate enough interest from the New Hams coming into the hobby. And it soon died away, just like CW is doing today.

End of this page. Now 6:26 p.m.

Now 5/12/02 Sun. at 6:38 P.M.

Next person is (Scott Laughlin N7NET) Formerly of Eugene, Or. I first met him way back in April of 1990 when he was one of 9 Oregon Hams I worked in a 10 man round robin on 40 meters CW. Which lasted 3 hours an 27 minute. They were Scott, Kenneth NX7O, John WU7B, Tom N7GEH, Wayne KB7HUF, Leo KB7LOC, (Ernie KB7HCW Now a silent key) (Jim ND7J from Armsville, Or. now a silent key.) Don WA7ADW in Grants Pass, Or. and Gene K7YGM in Grants Pass, Or.

I had worked Gene 4 or 5 times before but he did not remember me. I went up to visit and meet some of those folks, on the 18th an 19th of May 1990. Had a great time, even if it did rain most of the time I was there.

After leaving Eugene on the 20th I drove down an had a short 1 hour visit with Ron an Gene in Grants Pass. Then took Hwy 199 south/west to Hwy 101, then north back into Brookings, Or. to visit King an Claire Price for about 22 hours. Then I came home Via Arcata, Redding, Red Bluff.

Scott and his wife Barbara came to visit me in Paradise one time on there way to Arizona. Scott use to Publish a CW Jounal and is a great Story Teller. When he retired as A Truck Driver he spent most of his time in Arizona and other places, an gave up on the Jounal. He and I have remained friends thru out the years. And now keep in touch Via E-mail.

Right now he is in Dallas, Tx. visiting his Dotter. In a few days they well be heading north to Colorado for a Camp Host Job someplace north of Creede, Co. at about the 8,500ft. elevation. Wow Wee he should be able to make some good radio contacts from up there.

The next person is (Lawton (Gene) Wright WA6ZRT) from Chico, Ca. I knew Gene way back in the Mid 60's an the Citizen Band days. When he went by The Fix it Man, an owned his own T.V. Repair Shop over on Hwy. 32. He got his first Ham Ticket when he was in the Military Stationed in the Phil-lee-pines. We are somewhat friends but not really buddy, buddy. He hangs out more with the Well To Do Types. But he has helped me out a few times to figure out how to use my computer. And I rode down to Oakland, Ca. one time to keep him company. He never Believes anything I ever say, but it is better than him having to talk to himself.

I was the one that introduced him to 2 meters a good 10 years ago. He never even knew it exsisted. Now he does'nt go anywhere without it. He use to take me out to lunch once in awhile, But he is to busy now days. When he was working for P.G.&E. as a Comtech man. I keep him company going to an from his different jobs.

A few years ago he took over the GEARS VEC Program because nobody else wanted the responsiability of it. It is one of the oldest Ve Testing Groups in the United States. He retired from P.G.&E. On Nov.28th 2001. And now he is a big time golfer, and a League Bowler that travels all over the western states bowling in Big Tounements. The only time I see him now is once in awhile when I volinteer my Services as a VE Every other month at the Gears Test Sessions. I value his Friendship even if he does'nt value mine.

End of this page. now 8:46 P.M.

C. May 2002

Now 5/12/02 Sun. at 9:09 P.M.

Next is John Bennedict (Old Call KB6VRS) (Now KE5RS) I can not remember if I first met John on 40 meter Cw or I met him thru our mutural friend Steve Clark my Elmer. When I first met him he was married to Curtis Downers daughter, and he lived in Cohasset, Ca. where all the True Hillbillies live.

I'm not sure if he was working for the 3M Co. in South Chico then or not. But that is who he is working for now. He is a Designer of things. But I do not know what he designs cause he has never told me, that I remember anyway.

I do not remember the year but we use to belong to a (Small) CW Group called (The Brass Monkey Net) Which operated on the 10 meter band. And started by Jerry Short < who also like to be called POP'S > (WB6RXF) formerly of Chico, but now lives in Los Malinos, Ca. And also there was John (KE5RS) Dennis Powers (AB6QR) of Forest Ranch, Ca. Alan Padgett (N6RNP) Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI) Sutter, Ca. Dennis Hively (KD6DFY) Loma Rica, Ca., Ken White (KC6RSS Paradise, Ca. And 4 or 5 others that I can't remember. It did not last long.

Shortly before the group disbanded someone took it apoud themselves to make up an send out Certificates for the Brass Monket Net Members. I just found out Earlier this month from the Man himself, as to who did it. It was the Brain Storm of Jerry Short and Dennis Powers. Dennis doing the art work. Up to that point I had NO CLUE who had done it. But because of my past Art Work on other stuff. John always thought I had done it. Dennis told me he had sent some of the certificates to a Ham In Mo-zer-ree. and had him mail them from there. That really threw me off. And it was a fun time in our lives. But the good things in life never last.

Sometime before 1996 John who had gotten a divorce then remarried a lovely young lady named (Dena) made an improvement in his life by going into debt an buying a Big Mobile Home an moving it into a Mobile Park off hwy 99 on Hicks Lane. but he was not there long. The Company he worked for gave him a BIG Promotion. And in order to get the Big Bucks he had to move his Family back to Leander, Tx. to be near his New Job in Austin.

In May of 1996 I moved to north Chico about 3 miles from the Mobile Park. In June or July of 1996 John moved his new home an family back to Texas. For the First couple of weeks after he had got settled, we tried to hook up on CW on 40 an 20 meters. But we spent more time on the telephone. And when my phone bill reached above \$100 I had to quit doing that. I don't know how he feels about me, but I think of John as being one of my better Ham Friends, and I hope he stays that way for a long time to come. For the past several months we have been keeping in touch by E-mail.

(Note) Jerry Short and I were never close friends. (Note) Ken White and I have an never will be good friends. (Note) Lee Sheffield and I can talk to each other but we are not good friends. but all the others are good enough to keep as friends. and I hope they think of me in that manner too.

Now 9:21 P.M. The end is near-er.

Last but not least is (Dennis Hively KD6DFY) In Loma Rica, Ca. We first met on 40 meter cw, when he was just a novice. We worked quite a bit of Cw until he got his code speed up an got his General Ticket. Then I never heard him much after that. Later On down the road he said he was going to go up to the Gears VE Test and see if he could pass his Advance written test. I drove down from Paradise to give him some Moral support. His wife Brenda and son Gordon were also there.

I went inside an sat down with him until the test started. Willie Van De Kamp was handing out the test papers and looked right at me an handed me the Technician Wrtten test. I told him in a loud voice that I already had my Extra Class Ticket so I didn't need to take his lousy Tech test again. And also told him he should get his hearing , eye's an brain checked, cause he was losing all 3. He never finished handing out the test papers. He let his wife do it and he went outside.

When the test started he came back in and I went out an sat with Brenda. Dennis came out 3/4th of an hour later and said he passed with flying colors. Dennis use to own his own Big Rig (18 Wheeler)an traveled all 48 states. But in resent years he has been either doing his trade as a Grade Setter on ditches on roads, or operating a crane, road grader, bulldozer, or a backhoe in all types of construction. Laid a big Gas Pipe Line up near Alturas, Ca. in 1999. And another one down in the Bay Area. He is a hard worker. Over the years we have done a few things together and we are really good friends. He loaned me some money when I needed some after I had my Eye Surgery. He is another one of those Good Old Boys.

Well finally to end this saga. Since April of 2000 my Cw has gone down hill. Mainly do to the fact that the Novice Band has died away since all the rule changes imposed by the FCC and 98 percent of the ARRL Members. By doing away with the 13 an 20 wpm code. Now there is only 3 classes of licenses. (Tech) with no code taken. (General) with theory and a lousy 5 wpm code test. (Extra) with just a written theory test, Providiong you have passed the 5 wpm code test already. I spent 15 years on the Novice Bands, so now I can't copy the faster code. So I don't bother going down to the Speedy Gonzales Bands, because 99 percent will not slow down. I do however do my duty as a VE from time to time helping out Gene Wright (WA6ZRT) who now runs the VE Testing for the GEARS Group. Even tho I do not belong to that club.

If it were not for E-mail and Snail Mail I would not be able to keep in touch with those people I like the most. And I thank you all for hanging in there.

This is the end of this Long/Short Story.

Until next time. Enjoy Life and those Friends you have.

Written an typed by Alan W. Padgett Nov. 6 Real Nice Person
5/12/2002 Sun. at 10:07 P.M. PDST

C May 2002