

FEEDBACK

DECEMBER 2018

The Story of a Vintage Novice Station

by Doug Tombaugh, N3PDT

I really enjoy the vintage gear.

I like tubes.

I like point-to-point wiring.

I like the style of operating they require.

Mention you're using a vintage rig during a QSO, and be prepared for the guy in the other end to wax poetic about the DX-40, or equivalent, that he ran as a youth 50 years ago. They're just plain fun.

Over the years I've had a number of the more popular rigs - Johnson, Heathkit, Globe, etc. Then I found Novice Rig Roundup and began to focus on the equipment marketed to Novices in the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Eventually, I ended up with what

many consider to be the ultimate novice station from that era, the being very fun and very cool, this Drake 2-NT/2-C combo. Besides station is also very special to me personally.

I picked up the 2-C a couple years ago as "working, in good shape, but needs a little TLC." I bought it from one of the founders of Novice Rig Roundup, Bry AF4K, when he offered it a great price as a fundraiser for NRR. I played with it enough to see that it was a pretty good receiver, despite its apparent simplicity, but it seemed to have a pass band problem and it ended up on the project shelf.

see VINTAGE on page 6

MEETINGS

Dec 14 - Holiday Party

Dec 28 - No Meeting

Jan 11 - Planning for 2019

The Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 7:30 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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Thank you, FEEDBACK contributors

This issue of the FEEDBACK features a trio of talented writers.

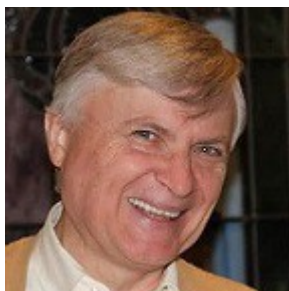
Jaimie Charlton, ADØAB, needs no introduction to FEEDBACK readers. Hambone's zeal, Dude's smarts and Elmer's wisdom combine each month in a light-hearted adventure that typically sheds light on what might otherwise be a challenging technical point.

Doug Tombaugh, N3PDT, tells how he collected both friends and vintage equipment on his way to building a special Novice appropriate rig.

Deb Buckner, KDØRYE, has written a second play for this year's JCRAC Christmas party. You can be the first to see the new production on December 14. Those who missed last year's production can review last year's play to get a taste for what's coming up this year.

Thanks to these three, **Bill Gery, KA2FNK, Ted Knapp, NØTEK, John Raydo, KØIZ, Charlie Van Way, NØCVW, and Tom Wheeler, NØGSG**, who contributed to the FEEDBACK during 2018.

Chip Buckner, ACØYF



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hope everyone has a happy and safe Thanksgiving. I'm looking forward to



Christmas this year more than usually. Maybe it is because we have had colder weather and snow already. To answer your question, yes I'm hoping for a

white Christmas.

I want to thank everyone who helped with Skywarn Recognition Day. The Central Region stations did extremely well considering the band conditions at night. Between the CW and phone stations we made 899 contacts. That included 46 states and 77 National Weather Service offices. The ARRL station for the event was WX1AW which was entered into our log.

December 14 is the club's pitch'in Christmas party. The party will be at the church and is for the entire family. Last year the JCARC "Repeater Players" presented "A Christmas Contact" by Deb Buckner, KDØRYE.

The January 11 meeting will be asking for what programs you would like to see in 2019. Please think about this and who would be the presenter.

I do want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- Bill Gery - WA2FNK

Johnson County Radio Amateurs Club - November 09, 2018

Meeting Date: Friday November 9, 2018. The meeting Started at 7:00PM.

Attendance: Self introduction with name and call sign. 30 signed the check in sheet. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were No Minutes from the last meeting to read as it was the Friday before the Ensor Auction.

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

Cash on Hand	\$ 82.00	Repeater Operating Reserve	\$1,110.83
Checking Account	\$ 653.23	Memorial Fund	\$ 310.00
Savings Account	\$ 11,800.10	Active Members	148
PayPal Account	\$ 1,185.13		
Total	\$ 13,720.46		

Old Business:

- We welcomed all 1st time visitors to the meeting.
- Annual Club Christmas Party will take place during the December 14 meeting.
- The Final totals on the Ensor Auction will be available in the near future.

New Business:

- Bill Gery, KA2FNK brought up the idea of creating a Jack Holzer, WØYZS Memorial Scholarship Fund. Funds for this yearly scholarship would come from part of the Ensor Auction proceeds. More to come on this after the first of the year.
- Annual Club Christmas Party will take place during the December 14 meeting.
- A drawing was held for the \$50 Gift Certificate to Associated Radio for all who volunteered at the Ensor Museum during the month of October. The winner was Doug Tombaugh. N3PDT.

Reports:

- 6 m – NR.
- 10 m SSB Roundtable – 4 or 5 participated on November 8.
- 40m SSB Roundtable – 4 participated on November 7.
- Fusion Digital 440 net – 16 Check-ins on November 7 and 10 Check-ins on October 31.
- 2m Wheat Shocker net – 16 Check-ins on November 8 and 21 Check-ins on November 1.
- HF Activity – Lithuania and Russia, Island of Malta, and Indonesia.

Announcements:

- See Larry's List for upcoming Events.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Program:

- The Program for this evening was a presentation on ARRL by Ron Cowan, KBØDTI Kansas ARRL Section Manager.

Submitted by Ted Knapp, N0TEK, Secretary.

Hambone and Five by Nine

“WOW! It looks like Christmas came early!” exclaimed Elmer as he looked over the array of new equipment decorating the radio shack in that den of excessive youthful exuberance otherwise known as Hambone’s frat house.



Although Elmer rarely visited the frat house, he did this time because his nephew would not stop nagging him to come and see all the new decorations, especially the ones in their radio shack.

“Yes it did,” agreed Hambone and his fellow frat hams, Alvin – the boy, not the singing rodent - and the twins Sam and Jim. The young hams were all wearing their most outlandish Christmas sweaters, their colors covering the entire visible spectrum from infrared to ultraviolet with particular emphasis on reds and greens. Jim’s even had a tree made out of glow sticks and Hambone’s had ornaments and sported a badge flashing holiday greetings.

“The frat’s board of directors bought it for us,” explained Jim. “There’s even a new beam with a rotator on the tower outside.

They said that the huge amount of good publicity resulting from our public service work really raised the stature of the fraternity in the academic community. So, they wanted to reward us and encourage us to do more.”

“That won’t be a problem,” said Alvin – the boy, not the singing rodent. “I really like being a part of

marathons and bike rides and helping in emergencies. It just makes you feel good.”

“But Unck, we seem to have a little problem with this new software defined radio,” said Hambone changing the subject. “It’s a great radio, super sensitive and unbelievably quiet. But, from time to time some of us hear a very slight noise pulsing in it. I think it may be something inside the radio.”

“I think it’s outside the radio,” countered Jim. “I took the antenna off and it nearly went away. That proves it to me. Maybe it’s the neighbor’s Christmas lights.”

“I’ve heard that wind can create noise in an antenna just by blowing on it,” said Alvin.

“Don’t be crazy,” scoffed Sam.

“Not crazy. The wind friction creates static electricity on the antenna and that causes a slight noise in the receiver. And if the long wire antenna is swinging back and forth, maybe that could cause the rhythm we heard,” continued Alvin.

“I don’t know,” said Hambone. “It sounded more electrical than just static to me. Besides, it didn’t go completely away when you removed the antenna.”

“Well, boys, it’s a lot of fun to stand around and speculate about the problem, but guesses without information are worthless,” said Elmer. “If you want to identify that

noise, you have to get some solid information about it.”

“Gee, Unck, how do we do that? It sounds hard,” whined Hambone.

“Think of it as basic detective work. That’s what troubleshooting really is. First you find clues, then you gather evidence and finally identify the culprit. Right now, you’re jumping directly to ‘identifying the culprit’ without following any clues or evidence. That’s why everyone already has their own opinion with no actual information to back it up,” said Elmer.

“Okay, Unck, maybe you’re right, but what’s a clue and how do we start?”

“A good way to start is to segment the problem. That is, eliminate everything it can’t be and concentrate only on reasonable possibilities.”

“I still don’t get it, Unck.”

Now that he had all the boys’ attention, Elmer continued. “In this case, you might determine whether the noise is generated inside the radio itself due to some defect or is it coming from an outside source. Also, you might investigate why some of you have heard the noise and some haven’t. Maybe the noise is imaginary.”

“I still like the wind static on the antenna,” said Alvin. “I’m sticking with that.”

“You might reconsider after evaluating some facts. First, to build up a static charge, your antenna would have to be well insulated. But the weather lately

see HAMBONE on page 5

from HAMBONE on page 4

has been damp and rainy. That means leaky insulators. Besides, your antenna is at DC ground through the UN-UN transformer. All that means that static build-up is unlikely,” suggested Elmer.

“To save time and effort, it’s a good idea to make a plan. You can always change it as necessary, but it gets you started.

For example, if disconnecting the antenna eliminates the noise, then you can be fairly sure that it is coming from outside the radio. But remember that the power cord, microphone and earphone cords can also act as antennas bringing outside noise into the radio.

“I’ve got to get going, but I think you guys know what to do. Don’t just look at obvious big noise sources. Toys, Christmas LED lights, modems, all can create noise. As part of your plan, keep a list of every item you check for noise, who checked it and how it was checked. If you can’t find the problem or you think it’s in the radio, come over to my shack tomorrow and tell me what you’ve found. Don’t forget to bring the radio.”

That said, Elmer left the frat house and headed home.

The next afternoon that same group of young hams, plus a couple of extras who just wanted to see the legendary Elmer at work, came across Elmer’s yard and entered his shack via the back door. The group was led by Hambone who was carrying the new transceiver. Hambone plunked the radio down on Elmer’s test bench while the others stood stared open-mouthed at

the vast array of electronic equipment in the shack. But the spell was quickly broken as the aroma of fresh pizza attracted the boys into the next room. There they found Dude, Hambone’s younger brother, snacking on a spread clearly laid out for the boys.

“Dig in boys,” said Elmer, as the group was already hoovering up the food and soft drinks. “Then, let’s see what you found.”

“Gee mister Elmer,” said Sam. This is great! How did you know we’d be coming over?”

“Simple, Sam. I read ahead in this story.”

“Oh,” Sam exclaimed. “Then you know what’s causing the noise and how we fixed it!”

“Sorry, Sam. The author hadn’t written the end, yet. He’d only gotten as far as you guys coming over. So, I guess we have to figure everything out ourselves.”

Filled with pizza and soda, the small hoard of hams huddled around the test bench and hoped Elmer would agree with their findings.

Sam spoke first, frustration showing in his voice. “Mister Elmer, we could not find the noise. In fact, we couldn’t even decide if the noise is coming from inside or outside the transceiver. Some of us aren’t even sure there is a noise.”

“Well, said Elmer, “Let’s see what you found. You made a plan, didn’t you?”

Alvin piped up, “Yes we did and here’s what we found. First and worst, we can’t even agree on the noise. Some of have heard it and some haven’t. Hambone seems to have heard it the most, but he

operates the most. Sam and the other guys have heard it in different amounts. I have never heard it. But, I only operate very early when everyone is asleep.

Anyway, would you believe we found 116 noise generating things in the house, but none of them was causing the problem.”

“That’s about right,” said Elmer.

“There are a lot more noise generators around these days than most people think. How did you check them?”

Sam said, “Hambone was the radio watcher since he has had the most experience with the noise. He took the antenna off and that reduced, but not eliminated the noise. So, we put it back on.

Then, we took a portable radio and placed it near every electrical device and light in the whole house and guess what? Almost all of them make noise! Even the laptops!”

“The routers and modems buzz and the plasma TV both buzzes and hisses at about S9+20 dB. Nearly all the wall warts produce some kind of noise and even some of the cars radiate something even with the engine off, not to mention with the engines on.”

Jim the other twin continued, “One by one we turned each item off. Its noise stopped, of course, but the noise in the transceiver stayed on. Oh, it changed a little now and then, but never disappeared. So, we figured the noise must be inside the radio. That’s why we brought it over here for you to do your magic.”

“I’ll see what I can do,” said Elmer as he proceeded to open up the

see HAMBONE on page 6

from HAMBONE on page 5

radio. “Okay Hammy, show me the noise.”

Hambone applied power and pushed a few buttons and eventually a very faint rhythmical hiss became apparent. “There it is!” exclaimed Sam. It’s still beating out five blasts and then nine blasts.”

“I wouldn’t exactly call those blasts,” said Alvin. “You can hardly hear them.”

“Hmmm, Hammy,” mused Elmer. “I don’t see that five by nine info in the information you gathered.”

“We d-didn’t think it was important,” stammered Hambone, embarrassed at being embarrassed in front of his friends. “After all, it’s still noise.”

“We d-didn’t think it was important,” stammered Hambone, embarrassed at being embarrassed in front of his friends. “After all, it’s still noise.”

“Every piece of information is important until you find the problem. A good troubleshooter does not ignore anything.”

Suddenly, a voice rang out from the behind the group. It was Dude

who, up until now had been quiet. “Can’t you see what’s causing the noise? It’s right there in front of you.”

Dude pushed his way to the front of the group and rather roughly removed Hambone’s flashing badge from his Christmas sweater and placed it right inside the open radio.

The pulses of noise were now much louder and as they pulsed out their five by nine beat, Hambone’s holiday badge displayed:

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

from VINTAGE on page 1

Fast-forward a couple years, Bry has “retired” from running NRR, and somehow I became cochair of it along with Dan W7PAZ. Also over the past couple years, I’d become acquainted local ham Jack WØYZS and would assist Don WØDEW when Jack needed some things moved, or light maintenance in his shack/shop. As Jack’s health declined and he moved out of his house, I was honored to be among his group of friends trying to help him move all his treasures. One day during the moving, I ran across the 2-NT in a cabinet. I showed it to Jack, and he said with a little smile, “Doug, that will go with your 2-C. Take it home and get it on the air again!” I was floored. A few days after I brought the transmitter home, I found the receipt in the manual.

Guess who Jack had bought it from 15 years ago? Yep, Bry AF4K, the same place the receiver came from! I’d been using the transmitter with another receiver, but after a few weeks, it was definitely time to get



that 2-C in top shape. I put new filter capacitors in it and Tom N0GSG kindly offered his assistance in aligning it. We spent a Saturday morning with the 2-C on his bench. Tom guided me through aligning the BFO, and he made some minor alignment tweaks. The receiver really sings now!

I told this story to my NRR co-chair, Dan, the other day during one of our “NRR business” chats. He was as enthused as I was with the station and the coincidences and “good ol’ ham spirit” that led it to my operating desk. Then he said,

“All you need now is the 2-CQ to make the package complete. It really makes the receiver stand out.” A few days later, practically out of the blue Dan sent me one as a thank you for my help with NRR! Talk about generous, and man that little guy really comes alive with the 2-CQ attached.

I look at this little vintage novice station as my “meant to be” station. Each piece has a story, and a wonderful link to hams that really bent over backwards to pass that ham spirit on. It’s a personal treasure.

A Christmas Contact - A Radio Play

Deb Buckner, KDØRYE

as presented at the 2017 JCRAC Christmas Party

Cast: (in order of appearance)

NARRATOR

EBENEZER STOOGE

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PAST

ELMER FEZZIWIG

VOICE OF NICK

YOUNG STOOGE

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

TINY TOM

BOB CATCHIT

MRS. CATCHIT

SANTA

ELF

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME

FUTURE STOOGE

BOY IN STREET

DELIVERY MAN

NARRATOR: Good evening, and Merry Christmas to all! Tonight, the Repeater Players present, A Christmas Contact, sponsored by Hambone Electronics. It is a cold, snowy Christmas Eve as we find Homeowners' Association President Ebenezer Stooge alone in his home. Stooge is reviewing applications for special requests.

STOOGE: "I wish to erect a six-foot-tall stockade fence around my property. Even though the HOA strictly prohibits fences and there are no other fences in the neighborhood, I want one. I hate neighbors and want to be protected from them." A man after my own heart. Granted.

[sound effect of rubber stamp].

Next. "I want to keep a rooster in my back yard. The HOA permits keeping of up to four hens, but prohibits roosters. I cannot wake to any kind of alarm clock and need a rooster to get me to work on time." A man of diligence. Maybe it will get his lazy neighbors out of bed, too. Granted.

[sound effect of rubber stamp].

Hmm, from Bob Catchit. "I request permission to erect a dipole antenna not to exceed 10 meters in length and to be screened from view by a large oak tree on my property. My son, Tiny Tom, has suffered a leg fracture and will be confined at home for several months. A determined lad, he has recently studied for and passed his amateur radio operator's license. He will receive a radio for Christmas, and I know being able to visit with contacts will brighten his lonely days."

Bah! Hambug! We can't allow anything so disruptive and unsightly in the neighborhood! Denied!

[sound effect of rubber stamp].

NARRATOR: Having completed his review, Stooge is off to bed. He turns on his bedside radio.

[sound effect of quick scan of various radio stations].

STOOGE: I hope I can find a station that isn't blasting inane holiday music.

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PAST: Ebenezer Stooge!

STOOGE: What? What was that?

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PAST: Ebenezer Stooge! I am the Signal of Christmas Past--your past. Have you forgotten your old neighbor, Elmer Fezziwig?

STOOGE: Fezziwig! Elmer Fezziwig! He used to give me cookies and chocolate milk and let me listen to his radio broadcasts.

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PAST: That's right. You were interested in ham radio in those days, weren't you, Ebenezer Stooge?

FEZZIWIG: Now, Ben, always remember to speak clearly into the microphone. CQ CQ. This is W9FUN. Merry Christmas to all!

VOICE: W9FUN, this is N1CK, Nick from the North Pole, mobile. Merry Christmas to you!

YOUNG STOOGE: Nick from the North Pole? Is it really--

FEZZIWIG: You never know who you will meet with amateur radio! Ben, are you studying your Morse code to get ready for your test?

STOOGE: Yes, sir, Elmer. I'm almost ready.

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PAST: But you didn't take the test, did you, Ebenezer Stooge?

STOOGE: No, I never did. It was silly, a silly dream.

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PAST: Because the other boys told you it was silly?

STOOGE: They said Elmer was a crazy old man and that talking in dots and dashes was daffy. I--I hever went back to Elmer's house. I never took the test. I never had cookies and chocolate milk again. Go away. It is silly. You are silly.

NARRATOR: Stooge sits up in his bed and looks around, frightened.

STOOGE: What was that? Did I find some crazy talk show?

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: I am the Signal of Christmas Present here to report to you what is happening today. In response to the hurricane in Puerto Rico, fifty amateur radio operators have been requested to facilitate communications. In a nearby marathon to raise money for cancer research, a runner fell and suffered a broken leg. A ham radio operator working at the scene immediately contacted emergency assistance. After a devastating tornado, ham radio operators . . .

STOOGES: All right, all right. So, you think ham radio is useful--maybe even important. But what is that to me?

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Let me show you something a little closer to home. Listen to Christmas Day at the Catchit house.

[sound effect of unwrapping a gift]

TINY TOM: Oh, Mom, Dad, thank you for the Hambone radio. It's really keen! I can't wait to make some contacts.

BOB CATCHIT: Well, son, I'm afraid there's some bad news. We--we can't mount an antenna. The Homeowners' Association denied our applicaiton.

MRS. CATCHIT: It's that Ebenezer Stooage.

[sound effect of first hitting table]

Such a heartless man! I'd like to give him a piece of my mind!

TINY TOM: Dad, do you mean my radio won't work?

BOB CATCHIT: No, no, son, the radio is fine it's just--

MRS. CATCHIT: Don't you worry, Tiny Tom. Tomorrow we will put this house up for sale and move to the country where you can have any antenna you want.

BOB CATCHIT: And we can sell this house to Cousin Jake's friend with the rock band. They've been looking for a new garage to practice in after that incident with the amplifier . . .

STOOGES: No, wait! I didn't want Catchit to move away. He had the Yard of the Month last summer.

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Tiny Tom is destined to do good works with his little radio, but, alas, it won't be in your neighborhood. Good-bye, Ebenezer Stooage.

STOOGES: Wait! Wait!

NARRATOR: My, but Stooage has put himself in a sad and sorry state, hasn't he? What will his future hold? We will find out in a moment, but first a word from our sponsor.

[sound effect of sleigh bells]

SANTA: Hello, folks, Kris Kringle here! Even when you make a list and check it twice, things can change on a moment's notice. Weather conditions, new developments, I need up-to-the-minute information. Local weather coverage? Get serious! Cell phone connections? Here? That's why I rely on my Hambone Radio. With it, I'm never out of touch

ELF: HDØLF calling HØHO.

SANTA: Pardon me a moment. This is HØHO.

ELF: Chief, you have to go back to the Johnson house on Maple Street. They just had a new delivery--8 lb. 2 oz. Johnny. Activate emergency rattle-stuffed bear-booties drop!

SANTA: See what I mean? Things can change on a moment's notice. Stay informed. Stay with Hambone. That's Hambone Electronics! Rudolph, u-turn!

NARRATOR: Stooze again sits up in his bed, his hands trembling as he reaches for the radio dial.

STOOGE: I don't understand what is happening.

[sound effect of scan of radio stations]

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME: Ebenezer Stooze! Listen! Listen to what will come to pass. A devastating tornado has struck, centered near your neighborhood. Many are feared to be trapped in the rubble. With all telephone service destroyed, no one can summon help.

STOOGE OF FUTURE: Oh, I am trapped, trapped in the rubble of my very own house! Does anyone know I'm here? Help!!

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME: Look, Ebenezer Stooze!

NARRATOR: Stooze sees a cemetery and a tombstone bearing his name.

STOOGE: No, it can't be! Someone would have called for help!

SIGNAL OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME: Yes, Tiny Tom would have. But he moved away. Your prohibition against antennas drove all the hams away. There was no one to call for help.

STOOGE: Is this the future that will be, or that might be? Please! Tell me it's not too late. I'll--I'll change. I--I want to be a ham!

NARRATOR: Stooze sits up in his bed. He hears the sound of church bells.

{sound effect of bells}

STOOGE: Is it? Can it be? Is it Christmas Day?

NARRATOR: Stooze runs to his window.

[Sound effect of window being raised.]

STOOGE: You, boy!

BOY IN STREET: Me?

STOOGE: Delightful boy! Yes, you! Is that Hambone six-element five-band Yagi antenna still in the window of Associated Radio?

BOY IN STREET: You mean the one as big as me?

STOOGE: An intelligent boy! Yes, that's the one.

BOY IN STREET: I saw it this morning.

STOOGE: Go and beat on the door and ask them to send the antenna to Tiny Tom at the home of Bob Catchit. Tell them to charge it to Ebenezer Stooze. Come back in ten minutes, and I'll give you a reward.

NARRATOR: Stooze dresses quickly and heads to the home of Bob Catchit.

TINY TOM: Oh, Mom, Dad, thank you for the Hambone radio. It's really keen! I can't wait to make some contacts.

BOB CATCHIT: Well, son, I'm afraid there's some bad news. We--we can't mount an antenna. The Homeowners' Association denied our application.

[sound effect of doorbell ringing]

DELIVERY MAN: Special delivery from Associated Radio for Tiny Tom.

TINY TOM: What a big box! What can it be?

BOB CATCHIT: Why, it's from Mr. Stooge!

[sound of opening]

TINY TOM: Wow, a Hambone antenna. I knew you were only teasing, Dad.

BOB CATCHIT: But, son--

[sound effect of doorbell]

BOB CATCHIT: Mr. Stooge!

STOOGE: Call me Ben.

NARRATOR: Stooge enters the Catchit home and sees the box from Associated Radio.

STOOGE: Oh, good, it's here! Tiny Tom, I've come to help your father mount this antenna. But I have a favor to ask of you. Will you help me study for the amateur radio exam?

TINY TOM: Yes, Ben!

STOOGE: I almost took the test once, but I couldn't learn Morse code.

TINY TOM: It's not on the test anymore!

STOOGE: Not on the test anymore? Well, this is a Merry Christmas!

NARRATOR: Stooge and Bob Catchit work together to mount the antenna in the front yard while Tiny Tom watches from the open window.

BOB CATCHIT: There, it's all done, but we just need a little piece of wire to bend right here.

TINY TOM: But, Dad, we don't have any wire.

STOOGE: Here, take this from my key chain! It's my best wire!

TINY TOM: Ben's best bent wire! Listen, Mr. Stooge!

[sound effect of "Ben's best bent wire" in Morse code.]

TINY TOM: God connect us, every one!

NARRATOR: With Tiny Tom as his Elmer, Stooge studied for and passed his exam. He and Tiny Tom had many happy days together, sharing cookies and chocolate milk and working with their radios. They became a superb fox hunting team, honing skills that made the two happy hams heroes when that fateful tornado occurred. Thanks to their efforts, all their neighbors were saved. In the words of Tiny Tom, God connect us, every one!

[Ed. -- Deb updates another Christmas classic for this year's party. Don't miss it.]