



November 1989

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Editor Lew Cason (N4HRA)

The Story of Digipeter Rabbit -- a No Code Fable By Frank Terranella, N2IG0

Once upon a time, in the far-away kingdom of Radio, there was a peaceful valley called Hamville, inhabited by a group of rabbits. Hamville was originally settled by the Whiskey family, and the patriarch of that family was an old hare called Charlie Whiskey.

Charlie Whiskey was a farmer by trade. He came to the beautiful valley of Hamville when it was all open meadows. He saw the potential for farming the vacant land and over time he developed a thriving carrot plantation. Charlie Whiskey's carrot plantation was the envy of all the inhabitants of the kingdom of Radio. He succeeded year after year in producing a bumper crop of carrots. All the other residents of the kingdom came to Charlie for advice on planting carrots. Charlie would always tell them, "The secret's in developing a good ear." No, Charlie didn't have superior hearing, but he had developed a very special skill. You see, Charlie picked his carrots with his ears.

In fact, Charlie had worked hard at perfecting this skill and was able to harvest at better than 20 carrots a minute. All of Charlie's family learned to pick carrots with their ears. Soon they were all picking at better than 20 carrots a minute. Charlie was so proud of his special skill that he insisted that everyone who came to work at Hamville first

show that he could pick carrots with his ears. Charlie would not give new settlers any land unless they could demonstrate to his foreman, Victor Echo, that they could pick at least 5 carrots a minute with their ears. When they could pick 13 carrots a minute, Charlie gave them more land to work. When they were able to pick carrots by ear at the rate of 20 a minute, Charlie made them full citizens of Hamville.

This process of learning to pick carrots with your ears went on for sometime. In other parts of the kingdom of Radio, other rabbits began to pick carrots by ear. However, there were some noisy ducks, known as the Quackers, who lived in the community of Good Buddy. They used their mouths to pick their crops instead of their ears. They had much larger mouths than the rabbits and saw no need to use their ears. The rabbits all looked down on the Quackers. "We must always require ear harvesting skills for entry into Hamville," they said. "That way we will keep out those noisy Quackers." So everyone who came to Hamville had to learn how to pick carrots by ear if they wanted to stay. Charlie Whiskey was adamant about that. "If you don't want to learn the skill of ear harvesting then go work in Good Buddy with the Quackers," he would say.

And so the years passed, and new methods of farming were developed. These new methods were easier to learn than ear harvesting, especially for

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rabbits had. What's more, the new methods were just as efficient as ear harvest- ing. As time went by, fewer and fewer of the young animals were willing to learn the skill of ear harvesting. The population of Hamville began to dwindle. All the residents of Hamville were getting on in years. To make matters worse, there were new neighbors nearby who coveted the beautiful open farmland of Hamville. They wanted to come in and turn it into commercial uses like shopping centers. And worst of all, the pollution from the Quackers, the other Rabbits, and the Mice (known in Hamville as the QRM group) was having an adverse effect on farming in Hamville. The future looked bleak indeed.

Then, one day, a stranger called Digi- peter Rabbit came to Hamville. He was an educated rabbit who had studied at the School for Scientific Bunnies (SSB). He had majored in Farm Mechanics and knew all of the latest scientific agricultural methods. But for all his education and know-how, there was one thing that Digi- peter could not do. He could not master the skill of picking carrots with his ears, and since he already knew how to pick carrots more efficiently with new scientific methods, he was not interested in learning.

Charlie Whiskey was outraged. "What do you mean you won't learn to pick carrots with your ears? Why, we in Hamville have been picking carrots that way for 75 years. It's a tradition here. It shows that we're special and that we're better than the Quackers. If you don't have the desire to develop a good ear, then we don't want you here in Hamville." But Digi- peter was adamant. He saw no reason to learn an obsolete skill just to stay in Hamville and he refused to even try. Charlie Whiskey took the matter to the Ancient Royal Rabbit League, which he had found- ed. The ARRL decreed that everyone in Hamville must learn to pick carrots with his ears or be banished. And so Digi- peter Rabbit left Ham- ville and founded his own village called Techietown.

Soon, all the young animals in the land of Radio were flocking to Techietown. But Digi- peter had his own entrance requirement. A good ear and a good memory were not enough for him. No one could stay in Techie- town unless he could demonstrate technical knowledge, understanding and ability, and the desire to contribute to the advancement of Techietown.

Digi- peter encouraged all the residents of Techietown to experiment in the cultivation of new unexplored lands, never before farmed. Digi- peter showed them how to overcome pollution problems. He showed them how to use the land they had more efficiently. Digi- peter even perfected a method of farming which allowed a number of rabbits to farm the same land at the same time. And while the residents of Hamville were picking 30 carrots a minute on a good day, in Techietown.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

*** MEETING NOTICE ***

The next meeting of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League will be held on Wednesday November 8th, at 7:30 PM at St. David's Church on Old Roswell Rd.

Directions are as follows:

From Highway 9 and Holcomb Bridge road take Holcomb Bridge East toward Ga. 400. Take a left at the first traffic light which will be Old Roswell Road. The church will be 3/4 of a mile on your right. Talk in on 145.47 or 147.06.

FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget the cutoff date for the news letter is the 25 of the month. Items

for the news letter can be sent by the following.

1. Packet via WA4VMV PBES
2. LARC BBS (494 5272)
3. US MAIL to:

Lewis Cason (N4KRA)
749 Barnsmill Trace
Marietta, Ga. 30062

Minutes of N.F.A.R.L. October Meeting

Secretary: Dan St. Andre, KI4MQ

I. The meeting was called to order at 2000, Wednesday, 11 October 1989.

II. Old Business

A. The Constitution And ByLaws

The President asked that this topic remain tabled until a later meeting. Dan, KI4MQ, introduced the format of a document that would be needed if NEARL were to incorporate. He stated that he would rather invest time in the incorporation rather than in resurrecting the old documents. The topic was tabled with no dissent.

B. Rowing Regatta

Scheduled for the weekend of 4 November. A sign-up sheet was distributed. Interested persons should contact Al Stern, N4QXII.

III. New Business

A. A Transmitter Hunt will be held on 21 October at 0830. Meet in the K-Mart parking lot in Roswell. Jim, W4QO, is the fox.

B. A.R.E.S. Simulated Emergency Test, SET, is 21 October. The transmitter hunt will double as a search for a downed aircraft.

C. Election Of Officers

Jim Fergusson has volunteered to chair this years nominating committee. He may be reached by phone at 993-7790.

D. Harold Nyland, WA4PZY, is moving to California. There will be a farewell dinner on 18 Oct at 1930 at Shoney's by N. Fulton Medical Center.

E. The Novice Class is going well. If you have any old straight keys for Morse code practice, could you donate them to the training effort? Photocopier "out-of-paper" alarms make a great practice set with a battery and a key. [RadioShack/Tandy has some Morse keys for two bucks -- the brass looks nice but the other key is better.]

F. The Alpharetta Disaster Drill has been postponed.

G. The Roswell Youth Day parade is this Saturday, 14 Oct from 1000 to 1200. If hams attend, please bring your handi-talkie just in case something happens wherever you stand. The Fire-Rescue show will follow in the parking lot at Drug Emporium.

H. It is time for membership renewal. Application forms will be included in all club mailings for November, December and January.

IV. The business meeting adjourned at 2035.

V. The Program

Our scheduled program by a staff member from Congressman John Lewis' office did not show. With S.E.T. pending, Jack Sanders, NC4E, discussed A.R.E.S. plans.

BE A SAINT DAVID'S BROWN BAGGER . . .

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fruit Juices | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Tomato Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Pepper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Meats (Tuna, Chili, Stew, Etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Soup | <input type="checkbox"/> Flour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut Butter | <input type="checkbox"/> Corn Meal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jellies | <input type="checkbox"/> Catsup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Cereals | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayonaise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oatmeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Mustard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dried Beans | <input type="checkbox"/> Dish Soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dried Peas | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Detergent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rice | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar Soap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grits | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spagetti | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macaroni/Noodles | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powdered Milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrushes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evaporated Milk | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fruits | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels |

Please remember, many food recipients can not read. Please no mixes or foods that require additional ingredients like eggs, milk, meat, etc.

. . . for North Fulton Family Services Food Pantry.

North Fulton's Fox hunt

The club held its second "fox" hunt on the morning of Saturday, October 21. Seven groups participated including three from North Fulton and five from the Alford Memorial club. The fox was Jim Stafford, W4QO. Temperatures were chilly Saturday morning as the North Fulton area experienced record cold temperatures. It was about 30 degrees with frost on the ground as the hunters began to gather in the K-Mart parking lot. By 8:30, the fox was in position and the call was made to start the hunt. The call came in the form of a test emergency message issued by North Fulton EC Alan Stern, N4QXH. The message reported a downed aircraft approximately five miles north of the intersection of Holcomb Bridge Road and Highway nine in Roswell. The job of the hunters was to find the downed plane and report their find. We all felt sorry for W4QO as he began his test transmissions for us to track. Jim must have been very cold in his "airplane." His pleas to hurry and find him to get him out of the cold spurred the hunters on.

The equipment used by the various teams varied from quite simple (Jack, WA4FIB, used a mobile rig with an S meter and an Icom handy-talky with its rubber duck antenna), to very complex. Most of the Alford groups had doppler direction finders to aid their search. Avery, WB4RTP, used a miniature directional loop on top of his HT. The wide area of equipment caused differing hunt techniques that proved most interesting over the contest.

It didn't take long to find poor, cold Jim. As WA4FIB drove up highway 9, he found very strong signals on the S meter. Switching to the HT, the signal was full quieting in the area just north of Hembree road. A search of the parking lot at Harry's Farmer's Market revealed nothing, and the business park behind the same. Still, the signal *was* full quieting, even without an antenna on the HT, so the signal must be close. The only remaining area to search was the parking lot for the North Fulton Medical center. A quick loop through the parking lot revealed no one sitting in their car, much less anything that looked like a downed

aircraft. As Jack was exiting the parking lot, Andy, WD4MYL, entered. Andy was using doppler equipment and had tracked the signal to the same parking lot. He too circled the lot, and then parked to try to find the fox on foot. Using a portable DF setup, he walked right to W4QO's car, which was empty! A note on the window directed hunters to take a number from a string tied to the door latch and send a message to N4QHX advising Alan of the find. The note then directed the hunter across the street to the Shoney's where Jim was quite comfortable, eating breakfast. His secret was a mobile UHF/VHF mobile rig that repeated Jim's UHF transmissions on two meters!

Close behind WD4MYL was WA4FIB who followed Andy over to the car. Over the next twenty minutes each of the remaining hunters found the "airplane" and came over to join Jim at Shoney's, until finally WB4RTP was the last to finish. The final hunter finished at about 9:30, taking only an hour of our Saturday morning. We all had a great time, and met some new friends. One of the most interesting things we found about this hunt is that it doesn't take fancy equipment to do well. Even though the winner used a doppler system, he nearly came in second to a guy that simply watched signal strengths.

Following our new tradition, the winner of the hunt will be the fox at the next hunt. WD4MYL has promised to make things very interesting for us! Why not join us? I can't think of a much better way to spend a couple of hours, and even learn some things that are quite useful!

- Jack, WA4FIB

You too can hunt for the fox at the next NFARL Fox hunt to be held in December or January. Stay tuned as we decide on a final date!

November NFARL Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday, November 8 at St. David's Episcopal Church in Roswell. The church is located just south of the intersection of Old Roswell Road and Warsaw street. Talk-in on either the 147.06 or 145.47 repeaters. The business meeting will be important this time as we discuss the constitution and elect new officers. See you there!

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

P.O. Box 1741

Roswell, GA 30077

The Baby Boom Continues...

NFARL extends a hearty congratulations to Dan (WB4PYL) and Lisa Gustafson on the birth of their first child, Laura Elaine. Laura was born on October 20, weighing 8 pounds, 2.4 ounces. Momma, poppa and baby are all doing well, using LOTS of Pampers (Laura) and getting little sleep (Lisa and Dan). Dan claims to be down off cloud 9 a week after the birth, but we will have to check him to make sure. Just wait Dan, it gets even better as they grow!



_K4JHM

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(V/B)

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