

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter



Supplied

March 2007



A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

The program for February was one of the best we have ever had. Dee Haynes, with some assistance from Jack Bryant, gave us a great program on crystal sets, antique as well as modern. After the formal meeting, we had a demonstration in the shop. Dee had made a very special set. The wooden cabinet was a masterpiece, which I am sure required many hours to construct. Thanks to Dee and Jack. If you missed this one it was one for the record book.

We now have our new laptop computer, so we can begin doing some of our programs. The first program will be for the Southern Company Services retirees on March 12. We are going to video the program, so we can critique our first attempt.

If you haven't sent in the annual dues, please get them in to Julian so we can continue to grow. Robert Frye's wife Margaret is recovering well from her heart surgery. Robert brought her by last Saturday for a visit.

Our newspaper and TV coverage has generated several donations of some neat stuff. We are going to have to find more storage space or have a major "Spring House cleaning." We have added many new books to the library, with several more on order. Our Saturday morning sessions are still well attended and always exciting. Be sure and drop by even if you can't stay all morning.

Dave



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

Wow, a lot of things have been happening since I last talked with you. One thing in particular was the Monday night meeting on February 26. We highlighted the crystal set.

I have been reading the Radio Boys books in our library and one of the first books has a section on how to build a "wireless telephone receiver" or crystal set as we know it. The book was written in 1922 and includes drawings of the hardware and wiring of the set. So, I decided to build one just like it for the meeting. We hooked it up, and it worked great, picking up several local stations.

Ron Westbrook brought his collection of "Rocket Radios," and Jack Bryant brought some of his crystal sets, too. I also brought my DX-30 crystal set. The DX stands for dyslexic, because the dial tunes backwards. The 30 stands for its ability to copy at least 30 stations on a good antenna. We had a great turn out. If you didn't make it, you missed a good time. It was worth it just to sample Celeste Cisco's batch of chocolate chip cookies along with some hot coffee. One more thing about crystal sets, the design and construction account for about one-third of your final results. The other two-thirds are the antenna and the ground. You can take a junk-box-built set with a good antenna and ground and do very well. Ops, I think I let the cat out...

Only three people so far have asked for the old radio shows. I am surprised that more people aren't taking advantage of our vast supply. If nothing else, it will keep you from watching the boob tube so much. I average about 2 to 3 hours per week in front of the tube instead of 2 to 3 hours a night.

Here are some interesting sites. You may be surprised at what you find.

<http://members.aol.com/jeff560/jeff.html>

<http://home.bellsouth.net/p/s/community.dll?ep=16&groupid=106688&ck=>

<http://maps.live.com/>

<http://www.bobforrest.com/JukeBox.htm>

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net



Note from your newsletter editor:

Thanks to my “ace” photographer, Tom D, we have photographs of the crystal sets from Monday’s meeting. If you didn’t make the meeting, you missed a good one. Celeste Cisco’s cookies were great! I am not so into the technical stuff as most of you members, but I have always had a radio by my bedside, and I log lots of late night listening hours. Seeing these beautiful (and functional) crystal radio sets makes me want to try my hand at one!!



Dee's radio and lots of heads



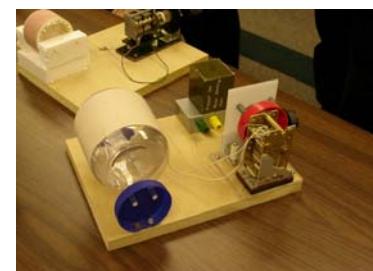
Dee's wormy chestnut cabinet



Dee's Crystal set



Ron Westbrook's Rocket Radios



Jack Bryant's crystal set



Mack White's Crystal Set



Marvin Shepherd's crystal radio

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!



DUES ARE NOW DUE

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Julian at 205-879-3619.

Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 130307, Birmingham AL 35213.

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