



January 2012



A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DEE

Hello everyone and Happy New Year 2012

Well, 2011 is gone, but there are several reasons that most of us will have no trouble remembering that year. To put it all in a nutshell, we started in the spring with the move from Huffman to Downtown. I can easily remember the boxes of stuff piled high in the main room. There are still a few boxes that need to be sorted out. Moving into a larger building was the catalyst for acquiring the Joe Dentici studio, and if you attended the party last Thursday, December 29th, you got to see it in action.

Not long after we got the studio equipment in place, we had the first annual "Legends of Broadcast" celebration at the shop. The AHRS hosted a party for several of Birmingham's Radio and TV personalities of the past. After an hour or so touring the shop and talking over old times, we went over to the atrium to see our museum in the Alabama Power Company building and have lunch in the food court. Everyone had a great time and looks forward to the second Legends of Broadcast celebration. One of the products of the first Legends of Broadcast meetings was an interview with Wendell Harris that we recorded on video tape. We hope to interview many more people from those great years.

Then it happened! A phone call from a local man hinted that there was a second Superflex out there. When he showed up at our door with the radio, we were all left speechless. What we thought was the only Superflex in existence had a twin along with a very unusual speaker. Now, we have the newly acquired radio and the speaker in our museum and have moved the original Superflex radio down the street a few blocks to the Birmingham History Center in the Young and Vann building. The radio is on loan there and is proudly displayed along with pictures and information about Radio Products Corp. in Norwood, just north of downtown Birmingham. I encourage you to visit the Birmingham History Center to see all their exhibits, as well as the Superflex. You can visit their web site at www.jeffcohistory.com (see related story below).

I would like to thank everyone who helped make our Christmas Party a success, with special mention of the ladies who made sure we all got the food we wanted and that we didn't act like pigs. I understand that several guys tried to come back for thirds and fourths. Thanks also go out to Rockin' Ray Edwards for the vintage music played from our very own studio.

Original Superflex Radio Has New Home

The original Superflex radio has been installed at the Birmingham History Center on 1st Avenue North. The photos below display its new home:





LISTEN TO THE RADIO!!

In 1966 NBC celebrated its 40th anniversary with the following program featuring many regulars on radio like Fibber McGee and Molly, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Lum and Abner and many more. The show is around 77 minutes long, so pull up a chair and enjoy the show.

<http://www.myoldradio.com/include/popup.php?id=33166>

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

Shortwave Heroes

By Steven Westbrook

During World War II, ham radio operation was restricted by the U.S. government for security reasons. However, a group of shortwave listeners (Dxers) monitored the shortwave broadcasts from Germany, Japan and the Axis countries, listening for information on the health and location of American prisoners of war. If information was received, the listener would locate and communicate the information to the POW's family by mail or telephone, as soon as possible. The practice became known as "Prisoner of War Relay" or "POW Monitoring."

Some of the listeners belonged to clubs, such as "SWARM" (Short-Wave Amateur Monitors Club), which was organized by Ruby Yant of Lima Ohio. She organized the group and assigned monitoring times for each of the members, to insure no messages were missed.

My grandfather, Otis E. Denson, from Birmingham was a member of "SWARM." He was blind in both eyes, but wished to do his part for the war effort. In going through his papers, I located correspondence with members of "SWARM." I identified the call sign he used as W4SWL. I now have this call sign.

An excellent book on the subject is ***World War II Radio Heroes; Letters of Compassion*** by Lisa Spahr. A copy of the book is in the AHRS library.

MEETING TIMES

We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 AM in the one-story building at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

It has also been decided to open the shop on Tuesday, as well as Saturday. We have a lot of projects going on and need the extra day to get it all done. So, until further notice, we will be open Tuesdays from 9am till...and on Saturday morning. Note that parking could be a problem on Tuesdays, because it is a business day, and the lot is usually filled, so you might have to find street parking occasionally.

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 Tom at 205-967-7000.

Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.

WHO TO CONTACT

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