



September 2013



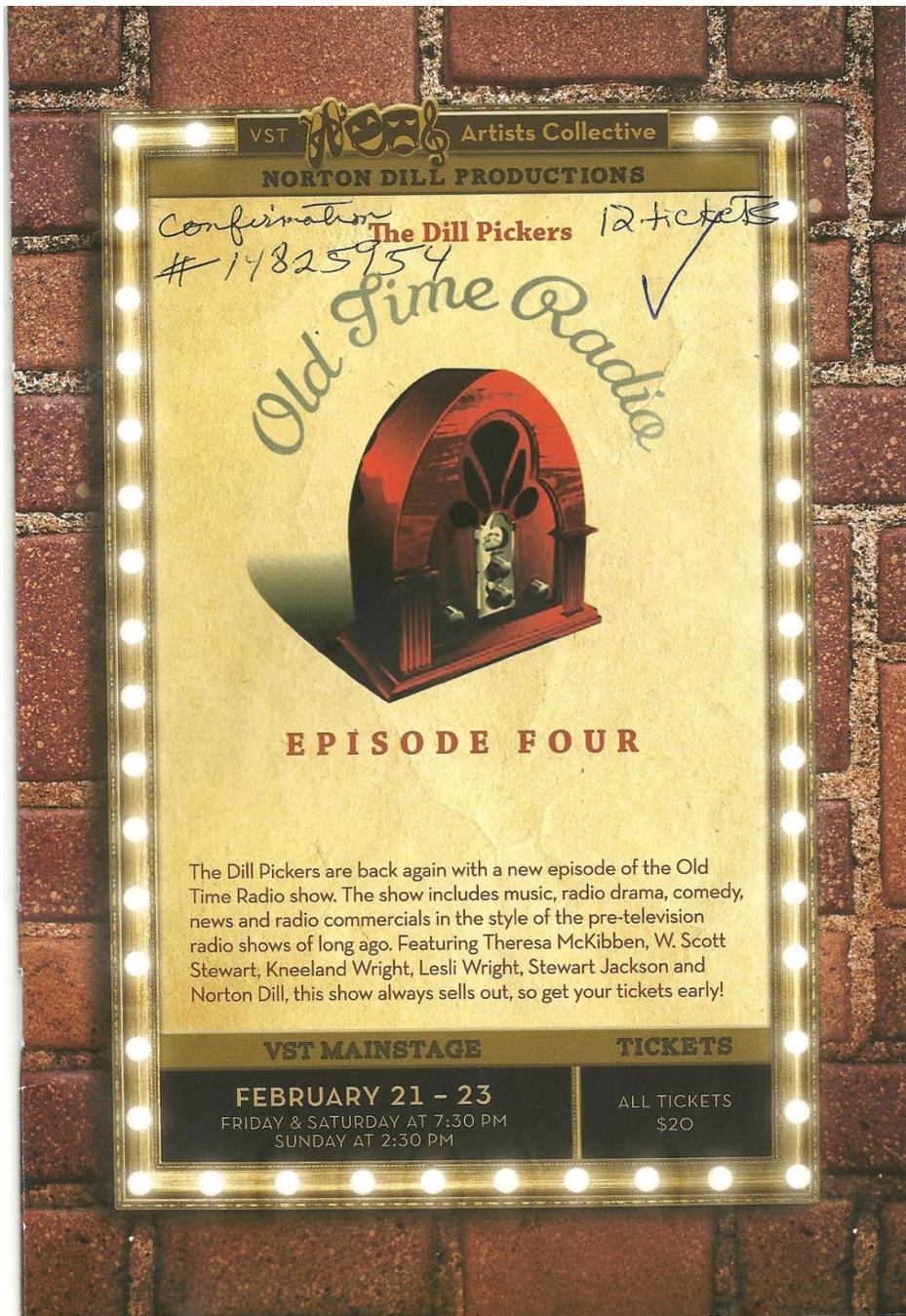
NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!!

This year is going to get more exciting as it goes along! We are currently in our 25th year as a 501(c)(3) organization. On June 28, 1989, the Alabama Historical Radio Society, Inc. was granted a Certificate of Incorporation in Jefferson County, State of Alabama. So, on June 29, 2013, one day after our 24th anniversary, we began the first day of our 25th year. This is a big deal, and we should be proud of our accomplishments over this time.

There are several activities your Society is planning to help celebrate our Anniversary. The first activity is to attend the show entitled "Old Time Radio – Episode Four" by The Dill Pickers at the Virginia Samford Theatre. Several of our members have seen the earlier episodes and thoroughly enjoyed them. As a new twist, we are working with Norton Dill, the head picker, to display some old radios at the Theatre while the Show is playing. We have purchased 30 tickets to the February 22, 2014, show. These are spoken for; however, the Theatre may have some tickets left for that show if you want to attend. We will wear our AHRS shirts, so we will be in fashion for the show. It is my plan to have them recognize us and our 25th Anniversary. A flyer for the Show is on the next page.

The second activity will be a little more involved and has the opportunity for every AHRS member to contribute. I plan to pursue, with the Board's approval, the writing of a commemorative book on the twenty-five-year history of the Alabama Historical Radio Society, Inc. It is my hope that we can tap the memory of the few charter members left and those who have been members a long time. There will be room for the newest members to contribute, also. I took the opportunity to discuss this with Dave Cisco, a Charter Member, while we traveled to Huntsville last week to pick up some donated radio equipment. Dave talked about the early days when the group met at Earl Ridolphie's business on the Southside of Birmingham. I was trying to remember what he was saying as I drove. I handed him a blank notebook and asked him to write down his story in bullet form, because I could not take it all in. It is a story worth telling, and it made me want to get this book written sooner, rather than later, as memories can fade. I am looking at almost a full page of "brain storming" by Dave, and I can see several chapters forming for the book. There were the early years, the Homewood Library, Dave's building in Avondale, Fairfield, Roebuck and Downtown.



"Old Time Radio - Episode Four" Flyer

The early days with Don Kresge, Marvin Shepherd, Terry Hays, George Bates and others, need to be put on paper soon! I ask all members to take a few minutes to jot down some historical notes about their time in the Society. Don't try to be perfect, just put things down as they come. We can edit stories later. As we move through the year, more opportunities to celebrate may arise. If you have an idea, bring it on.

There are more Hamfests coming up: in Gadsden on September 21 at the Etowah County Fairgrounds in Attalla, AL, in Helena on October 12, and in Montgomery on November 9 at the Alcazar Shrine Temple. Your Society will probably sell some surplus equipment, magazines and miscellaneous stuff at the Helena Hamfest. Volunteers are always needed to prepare for these events.

There will not be a Radio Class article this month. Robert is working on one for the October Newsletter. Robert's Radio Class for October will be taught on the 12th, which is the second Saturday instead of the usual first Saturday. We are planning on having a large flat screen monitor for the classroom to help the students see Robert and his white board better. I need everyone's help with a problem that comes and goes and was distracting at the September 7 Class. There is only one place to have these classes, and the big room can be noisy with just routine coming and going of the members. BUT there are many places for folks to sit or stand and talk about stuff, away from the class area. Please respect the students who are struggling, at best, with an instructor on SKYPE and poor AV equipment. We will fix the equipment problem. I am asking everyone to fix the distracting noise problem.

Several members have been working on the Frequency Measuring Equipment and I took a few pictures of their activity:





Dave Cisco and Dee Haynes have given several radio programs over the last month to St. Martin's in the Eastwood area and to Mountain Chapel UM Church in the Rocky Ridge area. Steven Westbrook covered for Dee on one of these to allow Dee to handle an issue. Both groups were impressed with the enthusiasm Dave, Dee and Steven

showed for old radios and radio programs. I am excited, because I have them set to give a program to the Alabama Power Company Birmingham Division Energizers, a group of retired Power Company employees and their spouses on October 15 at their regular membership meeting in Birmingham.

I have noticed an increase in radio work at the Shop and that's a good thing. A lot of help is being provided by the more experienced members, and I made a few pictures:





We have received some interesting donations lately. These are pictures of the Huntsville donations, and this stuff is available to you for a song and needs to go soon!







There are many items for sale at the Shop, and I have pictures of many of them. Come by the Shop and check this stuff out. Any reasonable donation will make you the new owner!









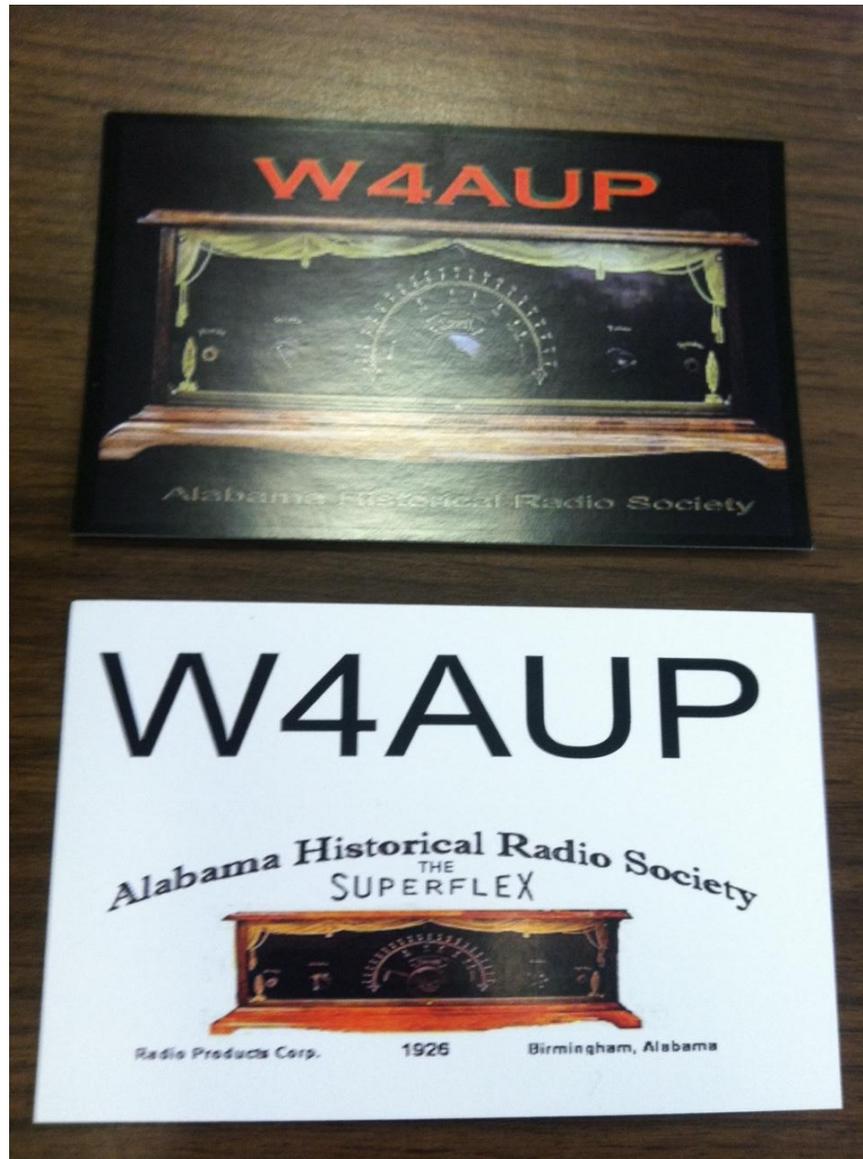






There are plenty of items to choose from sitting on the floor in the Shop. Please come see!!

Steven has received our QSL cards (see below) and some have actually been mailed out confirming radio contact with our ham station. Nice job, Steven!!



The next Monday night meeting is on September 23 at 7pm with a Board meeting at 6 pm. Please come join us in fellowship, meet some new folks and take some of this stuff home with you. Thanks!!

Tom Killian

205-967-7000 or music.tomdj@gmail.com



OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Hello Folks!

A few issues back there was some discussion about Wi-Fi radios. After talking to some of the members, it became apparent there was confusion about what a Wi-Fi radio is. So this month we will get my opinion and show how it relates to OTR.

First off, Wi-Fi radio is a misnomer; the more accurate name is an internet radio device. According to wikipedia.com, “An **Internet radio device**, also called **network music player** is a hardware device that is capable of receiving and playing streamed media from either Internet radio stations or a home network.” This seems to be a perfectly reasonable definition. The only problem is that the definition is quite broad. A desktop computer would be (and is) an internet radio device. A laptop computer is an internet radio device. Even a cell phone is an internet radio device.

So if we restrict the internet radio device to one which has Wi-Fi capabilities, we would probably remove the desktop computer since most work on a wired connection. However, we still have the other devices remaining, which we could easily call Wi-Fi internet radio devices. In fact, my first attempt at a Wi-Fi radio was a laptop computer which sat on the nightstand next to the bed. Unfortunately the laptop had a very noisy hard drive, and it was soon discarded for a better solution. That solution turned out to be what is commonly called a “Wi-Fi Radio.” It is a standalone device, not very large, that is connected to my home wireless network and allows me to listen to internet streaming sites. It did not have a hard drive, so it didn’t make a lot of extraneous noise, and it required very little power. It also had ten presets, so I could program ten OTR internet streams (commonly called stations) – more than enough to allow me to drift off to sleep.

With all of that said, it seems like I took a long path to make a simple point, and I will admit that I did (sorry, but I am an Engineer). The reason for this long explanation is to try to help anyone thinking about buying a Wi-Fi radio which will be used to receive internet streams. If all you want to do is listen to the occasional “internet station,” just make sure the Wi-Fi is active on your cell phone and get a free app like Tunein. You will be able to listen to the same thing as someone who pays \$100, or more, for the Wi-

Fi radio. If the speaker on the phone isn't good enough, get a pair of computer speakers and plug them into your phone.

However, if you are like Dee or Patsy and want a standalone unit that can be used to listen to these internet streams, then find yourself a Wi-Fi radio. You can move it around to wherever you are, as long as you have access to a Wi-Fi network. You can choose from among thousands of "radio stations." Many of these stations have the same content that is broadcast over the airwaves, but there are many stations which are only available over the internet.

There are numerous stations streaming OTR on the internet. Also, there are many stations which are like rain showers, they come and go. Fortunately, there are several stations which have been around for a while. For the sake of convenience, I try to keep a list of these stable stations at my website ([click here](#)). This list can also be accessed directly ([click here](#)). Clicking on the streaming link will take you directly to the OTR stream. However, if you want to visit the website associated with the stream, that link is also available.

If you plan to listen to these streams on your Windows computer, there is one "gotcha" – most of the streams will probably not work with Windows Media Player. However, the solution is simple, download and install a program like Winamp or my favorite, VLC Media Player. If you plan on listening to them on your Wi-Fi radio, you will need to use the method that your device requires. Every attempt has been made to show the correct name of the site so that you can correctly program your Wi-Fi radio. It should also be noted that many of these streams are available through iTunes and the associated information is available on the individual websites.

So as always, I suggest you take any chance you can to enjoy Old Time Radio. If there are errors on the list, or if you find other stations that I need to add, just send me an email and I will take the appropriate action. If you have problems getting your computer to work with these streaming links, I will be glad to help in any way I can.

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

Website - ottronmp3.com

MEETING TIMES

We meet every Saturday (unless a Holiday weekend) at 09:00 AM, at the one-story AHRs Shop at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

Also, we have opened the Shop on Tuesdays at 09:00 AM until around 11:30 AM when we go to Marilyn's Deli and Dog for lunch next door. Note that parking can be a problem on Tuesdays because it is a business day and the lot is usually filled, so you may have to find street parking occasionally.

We meet on the fourth Monday night of each month, too, at 7:00 PM. Please come join us!

FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

One more great benefit from becoming a member of AHRS--free Electronic classes!

Classes are taught the first Saturday of each month (except when something special is taking place, then we agree on what Saturday).

We start from the beginning Ohms Law, inductors, resistor and Capacitors color codes, as well as what each component does within the radio circuits. We also teach how to use test equipment used in the repairing of radio. We teach troubleshooting radio troubles, as well as how to read a radio diagram. There are coil winding classes, and one-on-one repair help.

Come join these classes.



Dues are Due

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact John Outland at 205-354-5258. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

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