

May 2014



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

The April Monday night Membership and Board meetings were cancelled due to severe weather in our area. There were numerous tornadoes generating major damage and loss of life. It was unsafe to ask our members to be out in this weather. I have not heard of any damage to our members and, hopefully, everyone was safe. My wife and I spent some time in the closet, surrounded with sofa cushions, and covered in moving blankets when a tornado was on a straight line for our area. And, then, it disappeared from radar. How lucky can you be? Stay safe and know what is happening with the weather!

There are so many things going on that I sometimes think I am going to miss something (and sometimes do). Here goes:

The Society recently acquired an Atwater Kent Secretary style radio from John Sisler in Pensacola, FL. A friend of mine has a business there and brought it home for us. The radio needs its speaker re-coned, a new grill cloth, its power supply repaired, and some refinishing work on the cabinet.



Atwater Kent Secretary Radio before Restoration

To kick off the work, Dee Haynes and Marvin Shepherd tackled the speaker work. The speaker had a selenium rectifier powering the coil and some other unusual characteristics. They replaced the rectifier with a solid state bridge rectifier and an electrolytic capacitor. They replaced the cone and voice coil and carefully aligned the new coil structure. After all of this love, the 80+ year old speaker is like new.



Marvin and Dee Repairing Speaker

Next month, I hope to have pictures of the power supply work, including Marvin's technique on un-potting the power supply (pot being that tar-like substance surrounding the capacitors in the power supply can). Hint: don't heat it in your wife's oven.

On April 24, we held our fourth annual Legends of Broadcast event at the Shop. There were several new attendees and some of our regulars that were under the weather and could not come. Those attending enjoyed hearing stories and tall tales of radio adventures from years past. While we did not video this year's event, we did record about two plus hours of audio. We needed more recorders, as there were several sub-conversations going on that were very interesting. We did show the video from last year's event, but there was so much talking going on, I am not sure they saw much of it. Anyway, we do have that video, and it is worth watching sometime when you are at the Shop. The fellowship, meal and stories were outstanding! Thanks to all of our members, and attendees, for making it happen! The fifth annual Legends of Broadcast will be on April 23, 2015, so mark your calendars now and save the date. Speaking of videos, Ed, we need to get the one-on-one videos moving! Including yours!



Legends of Broadcast 2014



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Legends of Broadcast 2014

While on the broadcast subject, we are looking for unique broadcast items to display in the new broadcast area. We have the WAPI mixer board used by, then young, Ed Boutwell to remote broadcast services from the Church of the Advent during the 50's. It seems lonely in the display case, so how about giving it some company?

The call has been answered! That is, the call for help archiving our historical documents. The historical material has been sorted and prioritized and is now being scanned into a hard drive for future review and storage. Larry Lokey, Phil Sasnett, Dave Cisco, and Dee Haynes have begun the daunting task of archiving our history. This will be an ongoing project and volunteer opportunities should be abundant as it moves forward. We are archiving twenty-five years of AHRS history from 1989 to 2014.



Larry and Dee scanning documents

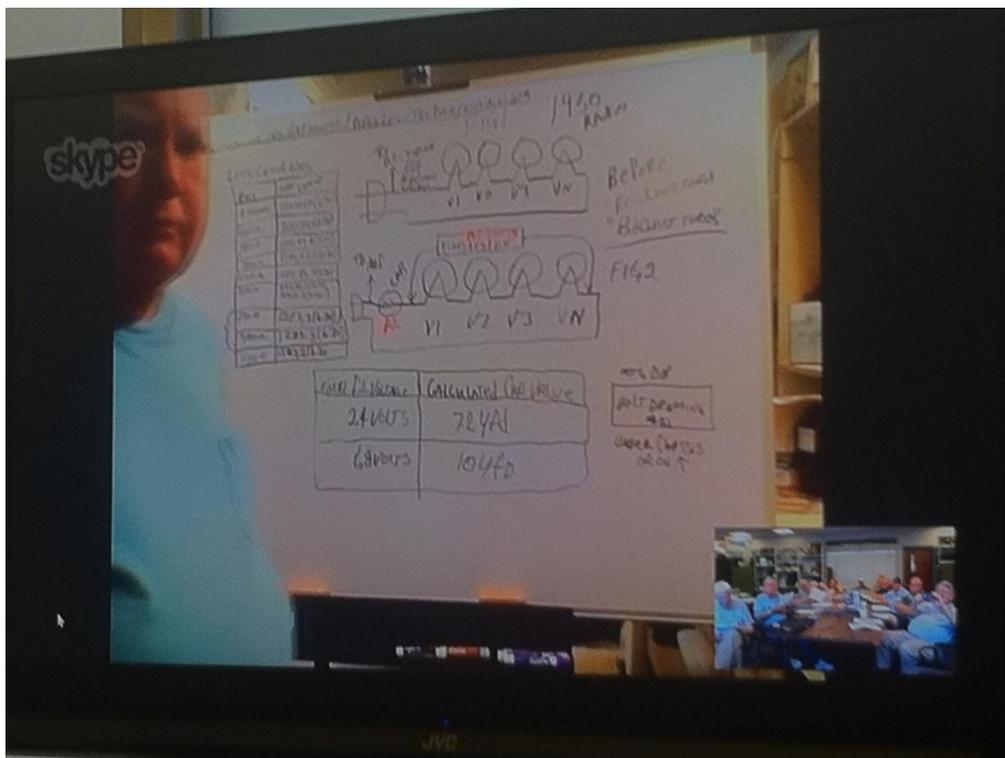
The annual Swap Meet is scheduled for May 31 from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. at our Shop in downtown Birmingham at 18th Street North and Rev. Abraham Woods Blvd (8th Avenue North). Volunteers are needed for setup, parking, vendor assistance, tours, security, registration, take down and clean up. Let me know your choice(s). The workday will begin at 5 a.m. If you have something to sell or swap, bring it on! Access to our Shop may be an issue on May 31 due to a charity run in downtown Birmingham. The race route will include 16th Street North and 19th Street North. It looks like access to the Shop will be best using the 17th Street exit off of I-20/59 on to 17th Street and down to 7th Avenue, east one block to 18th Street, turn north on 18th and into the lot for vendors and park on the street or down the alley for non-vendors. The first runners start at 8

a.m., so the affected streets will probably be closed by 7:30 a.m. I will send out an e-mail blast just before the 31st with the best traffic information I can get.

The Annual Meeting will be held on June 23, the fourth Monday night meeting in June. We will elect officers and directors for the fiscal year, which begins on July 1, 2014, and ends on June 30, 2015. Nominations may be made at the May 26, Monday night meeting, and the June 23, Monday night meeting, prior to voting. All officer positions are open, including President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Two Directorships are open. Directorships are for two-year terms and officers are for one-year terms. A Nominating Committee will assist in the search for eligible candidates and report to the Board.

Robert taught an interesting class on May 10. The lesson involved replacing resistor power cords in old radios. We have a FADA 172 in the Shop for repair, and it has a resistor power cord with seven wires coming out of the chassis end and a regular, non-polarized two-blade plug for the power outlet. These cords heated up and caused fires over the years, so in restoring this radio, we needed a safe replacement for the power cord. After looking at several options laid out by Robert, we will use a ballast tube to replace the 15 ohm, 15 ohm and 100 ohm resistances in the old power cord. Check on the Nostalgia Air website to find an article on replacing resistor power cords for more information.

Robert's next class will be on June 7 at the Shop in downtown Birmingham, starting at 9 a.m. Come learn some good radio repair techniques.



Robert Frye May 2014 Class

Joel Tillman is planning a move soon and in preparation for that, he is selling many of his Zenith Transoceanic (T.O.) radios, and he has brought some to the Shop, so you can check them out if you are interested. He will have those and much more at his vendor booth at the Swap Meet on May 31.



Joel's Zenith T. O.'s for sale

Our next Monday night meeting will be on May 26, a holiday, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Shop. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. We will take nominations for officers and directors and will finalize plans for the May 31 Swap Meet.

President Tom

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



OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Hello Folks!

Next month is the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the end of Nazi Germany. On June 6, 1944, the German occupied beaches at Normandy were invaded by the Allied

forces in order to free the European countries occupied by the Nazis. Officially the operation was known as Operation Overlord, but most of us know it as D-Day.

According to Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normandy_landings), “The amphibious landings were preceded by extensive aerial and naval bombardment and an airborne assault—the landing of 24,000 British, US, and Canadian airborne troops shortly after midnight. Allied infantry and armored divisions began landing on the coast of France starting at 06:30. The Normandy landings were the largest seaborne invasion in history, with nearly 5,000 landing and assault craft, 289 escort vessels, and 277 minesweepers participating. Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel on D-Day, with 875,000 men disembarking by the end of June. Allied casualties on the first day were at least 12,000, with 4,414 confirmed dead. The Germans lost 1,000 men.”

Both sides in the war knew the invasion was coming. However the date and the location was another matter. The Allied Command attempted to prevent the German Command from knowing where the attack would occur in order to prevent the deployment of defending troops. So leading up to D-Day, there was a continual game of cat and mouse. Even the soldiers who were to make the landing did not know where it would occur.

The Allied Command also implemented a communications blackout. The American people knew just about the same thing the soldiers knew – there would be an invasion somewhere, sometime. With this situation in mind, it shouldn't be surprising to know that the American broadcast networks found out about the invasion from the Germans. Berlin Radio reported “The Invasion” first. The American broadcasters did not know if the reports were true or not.

Fortunately for Old Time Radio enthusiasts and also for historians, there are recordings of the news from that day. On my website is one such set of recordings which can be found [here](#). There are 24 different broadcasts, each about an hour long, and corresponding to the 24 hours after the invasion occurred. All are interesting and deserve their place in history. However, if 24 hours is too much, then at least attention should be given to the beginning of each of the first two hours. Hour one, found [here](#), gives the information from Berlin Radio and hour two, found [here](#), gives the newflash from General Eisenhower's headquarters.

While we are on the subject, please remember Memorial Day is observed on May 26 this year. Many people in our Armed Forces have paid the ultimate sacrifice for us and this is the day we honor them. Close to home for AHRs members, D-Day was the day

that Hop Hays lost his father. Even though he was not part of the invasion, his sacrifice (along with thousands of others) is remembered on this day. Hopefully we will never forget them.

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

Website - otronmp3.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! DUES! DUES!

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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