

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society
SUPERFLUX

April 2015



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

The Shop has been filled with activity as we move toward one of the busiest times of the year for our Society. Donations continue to come in, giving us some hard-to-find vacuum tubes, more test equipment, books, service information and many old radios. Several coin-operated motel radios have come in and are waiting on the right member to restore them. One 1940's radio-phonograph has a record cutting arm, as well as a regular record playing tone arm, to "cut" or record and to play back. It has a nice wooden case and would make a great restoration. These are just a couple of the restoration opportunities available at the Shop. We have over two dozen 1920's, 1930's and 1940's wooden case radios that need to find a good home. Many of these require a special power supply to operate, and we can show how to build one of those to any interested member. We will put out as many of these radios as we can for the Swap Meet.

Speaking of the Swap Meet, this year's date is April 25. The day starts about 5 a.m. for volunteers to set up tents, Society tables, put up our banner, make coffee and last, eat some fresh donuts. Vendors can come in beginning at 6 a.m. and the general public at 7 a.m.

Upcoming Club Events

- **Legends of Broadcast**
Thursday, April 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. meeting at the Shop. Lunch included.
- **AHRS Swap Meet** April 25, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Shop parking lot.
- **Ham Fests:**
 - Mobile, AL Apr 11
 - Dayton, OH May 15-17
 - Huntsville, AL Aug 15-16
 - Helena, AL Oct TBA
 - Stone Mtn., GA Nov 7-8
 - Two Boat Anchor Ham Fests: Dadeville, AL Apr 4 and Oct 3.
- **Antique Radio Events**
Music City Vintage Radio Club
Spring Meet on April 18 from 7 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., 1604 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37210. They also have a Summer Meet in July and a Fall Meet in October. Dates TBA.

SARS Spring Swap Meet

Saturday, June 13 at 8:00 a.m.,
11385 Haynes Bridge Rd
Alpharetta, GA. 30004

The event is scheduled from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. There is no charge for the vendors. Vendors should bring their own tables, chairs and tents. All of this fun is in the Shop parking lot in Birmingham, at 1801 Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd. We hope to see more members selling and trading in the vendor area this year. There will be Shop tours, refreshments and a door prize or two. This event is rain or shine. Please come support your Society!

The following pictures of the 2014 Swap Meet were made early in the day before customers arrived. What we need this year is for members to come swap, trade, sell and purchase old radios and stuff. There are over 55 paid members living in the metropolitan area who should take the opportunity to attend this event. Come get a donut and a hot cup of coffee and support your Society!



M.D. and Charlie Tate ready to sell radios



Gene Samples with some fine restored radios



Joel Tillman and his Zenith Trans-Oceanics for sale



Tennessee vendor with a great selection of old radios

Just two days prior to the Swap Meet on April 23, we will have our 5th Annual Legends of Broadcast event. Held at the Shop in Birmingham, several dozen radio and TV personalities are invited for fellowship with fellow broadcasters, given a nice lunch and encouraged to tell stories about their days in broadcasting. We videotaped one of these events in 2013 and captured some interesting stories from years past. We plan to videotape this year's event for historical purposes.

Several legends have passed away over the years. One was Joe Langston, a local radio and TV broadcaster, who passed away last year. He is on the 2013 video telling a few stories. We have invited radio personality John Ed Willoughby every year, but he was unable to attend. We had hoped he could come this year; however, he passed away in late March. We have a DVD with an interview with Wendell Harris, a well-known TV broadcaster in the Southeast and especially in the Birmingham area. Mr. Harris passed away several years ago after we recorded the interview. It is important that these stories are told and recorded for our library and to remember the great broadcasters of the past and how they contributed to communications history through radio and TV. We are continuing our effort to record interviews with individual broadcasters, as well as recording the group at these Legends events. Following are several pictures of the 2014 Legends of Broadcast.



2014 Legends of Broadcast



2014 Legends of Broadcast

On March 18, member Larry Lokey brought his Communications Class from the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) to tour the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum in the atrium of the Alabama Power Company Headquarters Building in downtown Birmingham. The class then traveled a block north to tour the Society Shop.

Each of the 27 students is working toward an electrical engineering degree and showed a high interest in our radio displays, the library and the workshop area. For extra credit, each student is required to make, from scratch, a working crystal radio that can receive at least five local stations. Many of the students have come by our Shop on our regular work days to work on their radios. Several of the students are working on getting their amateur radio operators license, also for extra credit. The students were split up into small groups and Dee Haynes, Dave Cisco and I gave the smaller groups a tour of the Shop. One of our Society objectives is to educate the public on early radio communications, and this tour fit that objective nicely. Several pictures of the students follow:



Dave Cisco giving Lokey class a brief overview



Lokey class learning about AHRS and early radio communications

The Music City Vintage Radio Club in Nashville, TN is having its Spring Swap Meet on April 18. The hours are 7 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and the location is 1604 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37210 in the rear of the building. This event is rain or shine. Details of this event may be found on musiccityvintageradio.org.

The Monday night AHRS meeting on April 27 will feature a program by Bob Friedman on black radio broadcasters and their contributions to the Birmingham area. He will show a video and answer questions on this important part of Birmingham's radio history. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m. prior to the general membership meeting. Come learn something about local radio history and have some fellowship.

Robert's next radio class is on May 2 at the Shop in Birmingham starting at 9 a.m. Come learn how to restore old radios.

Until next time!

President Tom

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UPCOMING AHRS EVENTS

Here's Tom's additional description of these events below.

- **AHRS: Legends of Broadcast**

April 23, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: AHRS Shop Facility, 1801 Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd., Birmingham, Alabama 35203. Our annual Legends of Broadcast gathering will be on April 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch Included. We have already started contacting broadcasters who may wish to attend. If you know someone who may wish to attend, please respond to this email and provide their contact information. (Name, Affiliation, Telephone #, and Email address).

- **AHRS: Swap meet**

April 25, 2015

7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. Drawing for door prize

Tailgate Swap Meet, Free Parking to All, Tour of Facility

If you wish to have a sales table yourself, please contact us to reserve your space in the tailgate area.

- **AHRS Regular Monthly Meeting**

April 27, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Location: AHRS Shop Facility, 1801 Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd., Birmingham, Alabama 35203. As a continuation of our Legends of Broadcast, Bob Friedman with the Birmingham Black Radio Museum project will present **Radio's Role in the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement** in a video, "A Radio Hero." The 55-minute video will cover the period between 1936-1963. Hear the voices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Louis White, Jessie Champion, Shelly Stewart, Erskine Faush, Maurice "The Thin Man" King, Willie McKinstry, Edward "Johnny Jive" McClure, Rev. Frank Dukes, Joe Dickson and others. Learn how radio helped develop Birmingham's Black Community and how the conditions shaped Paul "Tall Pall" White's life and commitment to the Civil Rights Movement.

- Other Events: **Ham Fests:** Mobile, AL - April 11; Dayton, Ohio - May 15-17; Huntsville, AL - August 15-16; Helena, AL - October TBA; Stone Mtn., GA - November 7-8; Two Boat Anchor Ham Fests: Dadeville, AL - April 4 and October 3.

There may be other antique radio events in the area, but SARS and Music City are the ones we generally try to attend. If you know of an event I missed, please send me the information and I will include it in the next Newsletter.



OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Here is a quote from the Old Time Radio Researchers Group OTRR, which is a good source of OTR:

"A little song, a little riding, a little shooting and a girl to be saved from hazard" was how a *Christian Science Monitor* writer once described *The Roy Rogers Show*. The program was first broadcast in 1944 on the Mutual Network, and switched between that and NBC over the decade it was on the air. The show was originally sponsored by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, and later Miles Laboratories, Quaker Oats, Post Toasties and Dodge automobiles financed this popular evening western adventure.

Roy Rogers, the "King of the Cowboys" in the movies, was the star. Naturally, his iconic steed Trigger played a big role on the series, as did Roy's group, the Sons of the Pioneers, who originally provided the vocal music along with Roy and the lovely Pat Friday. A year later, Roy's new wife and co-star, Dale Evans, joined the program (along with her horse Buttermilk), as did the Riders of the Purple Sage and Foy Willing. Roy's comical sidekicks included former Sons of the Pioneers member, Pat Brady, and the legendary Gabby Hayes, as well as Forrest Lewis, who portrayed the wisest trail scout of them all, Jonah Wilde.

The show was transcribed from the outset, as Roy's contractual obligations precluded him from performing live. The program's original opening theme was "It's Round-Up Time on the Double-R-Bar," which was also the name of Roy's fictional ranch in Paradise Valley on the series. This was later supplanted by the famous "Happy Trails" song, written by Dale Evans. Roy would often close the show, in reference to his Christian beliefs, with the phrase "Goodbye, good luck, and may the good Lord take a likin' to ya."

I hope you enjoyed this little quote from OTRR, a good spot to find out about your favorite old radio show.

I've been very busy, so didn't have time to do much research this month, but I will tell you folks who have smart phones or tablets that the entire world of OTR is at your fingertips. I am blessed with both smart phone and a reasonably good tablet. With a program like "tunein" on your handheld device, you can go to dozens of Old Time Radio sites and listen 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. On my personal device using "tunein,"

I have about a half dozen sites for OTR, so that any time day or night, I can relax and listen to an old show. It helps me to stay out of trouble. So, if anybody out there needs help setting up your own smart device, just get in touch with me, and I'll do what I can to get you started.

So long for now and see you on the radio.

Dee Haynes

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SATURDAY MEETINGS

We meet every Saturday (unless a Holiday weekend) at 9:00 a.m., 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.

SHOP ON TUESDAYS

The Shop is open on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. until around 11:30 a.m. when we go to Marilyn's Deli and Dog for lunch next door. Note that parking can be a problem on Tuesdays, so you may have to find street parking occasionally.

REGULAR MEETINGS

We meet on the fourth Monday night of each month, too, at 7:00 p.m. 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 Don Letchman at 205-967-8557. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

Who To Contact

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