

**November 2015**



**NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM**

Hello, All!

October has been another busy month for the Society and the rest of the year looks to be equally busy. Donations continue to come in from our members around the Southeast. One such member, Marvin Moss and his wife Lindsay, recently delivered a truck load of books, magazines and two dozen metal and plastic parts bins full of miscellaneous electronic parts and hardware. Also included were hundreds of integrated chips, on foam board and in tubes. Marvin is doing a little clean up of his basement. He and his wife traveled to the Shop from Marietta, Georgia, a total of six hours, round-trip. After unloading the truck, we gave them a tour of the Shop, including the work area, library, radio DJ area, tube room and a look at several hundred radios on display. Unfortunately, the Museum down the street was closed for the weekend. They are planning to come back in February with additional donations. Marvin sent me a bio sketch and I wanted to share it. Originally from Philadelphia, he spent most of his life in Florida. He obtained his novice license, WN4UXJ, in 1951 at the age of 14. At 15, he was W4UXJ, a call he has held since 1952. Marvin attended and worked at the University of Florida, earning a PhD in Electrical Engineering. He spent 32 years at Lockheed in Marietta as an electronics systems engineer, working on classified and special mission aircraft. He retired in 1998. His donated books and magazines have a ham and rocket scientist flavor to them reflecting his background. Marvin's donations have nicely filled in several blank spots in our library. Thanks, Marvin and Lindsay, for your valuable donations to the Society.

**Upcoming Club Events**

- **2015 Ham Fests:**  
Montgomery, AL Nov 21
- **2016 Ham Fests:**  
Freezefest, Locust Fork, AL  
1/02/2016  
<http://www.freezefest.com>  
TechFest, Lawrenceville, GA  
1/09/2016  
<http://www.GARS.org>  
BirmingHamFest, AL  
3/04/2016  
<http://birminghamfest.org>  
Fort Walton Beach Hamfest, FL  
3/18/2016  
<http://www.w4zbb.org>  
Mobile, AL Hamfest  
4/09/2016  
<http://www.w4iax.net/>  
Atlanta, GA Hamfest  
6/04/2016  
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>  
Montgomery, AL (MARC)  
11/19/2016  
<http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>



**Tom Killian, Marvin and Lindsay Moss**



**Parts Bins donated by the Mosses**

Speaking of donations, there is a member who has quietly been donating radios and equipment over the past several years. Two recent donations seemed to be especially noteworthy, and I want to highlight the member and some of his donations. Mack White is a commercial photographer, a ham, he rebuilds and collects older microphones, especially, old tube microphones and is a hi-fi aficionado with interests in amplifiers, preamps, turntables, tape recorders, speakers, tuners and more. He has rerecorded many records to digital, cleaning their sound up and enhancing their tonal qualities. Mack is a valuable member and his donation of time is also appreciated. I have included some pictures with Mack and some of his donations.



**Mack White with a 1923 RCA Radiola IV, Model AR-880, wooden table model with feet**



**Mack White with a 1926 RCA Radiola Model 613 Super Heterodyne Battery Console**



**Mack White with some of his previous donations including several Westinghouse Aeriola Sr. radios, a Westinghouse RT/DA radio, two Radiola III's, Crosley 51 headphones and miscellaneous sending keys.**

There is some good news about our class instructor, Robert Frye, currently on medical leave from teaching class. Robert completed his surgery in early November and returned to his home in Loxley, Alabama. Margaret, Robert's wife, called to say his operation was complete, and it was a success. Now, when he gets a tremble he can activate his implant and the trembles stop. Robert will not have to return to the doctor for three months. Please continue to pray for Robert and Margaret for continued improvement. On a side note, this information on Robert was sent out in early November, and there were over 100 delivery failures for the e-mail. The message was sent later with the same result. Apologies if you got this e-mail multiple times. There may be a temporary problem with the e-mail system or it could be worse. It is being checked out now.

The radio elves continue to repair customer radios and two of our most regular elves are at it in this picture.

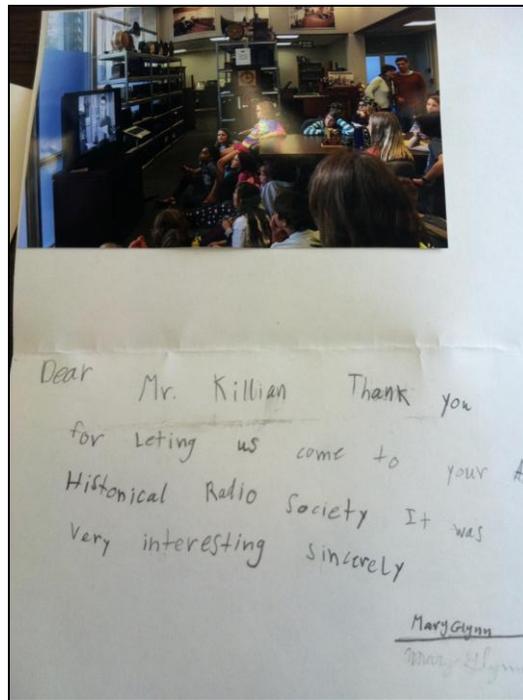
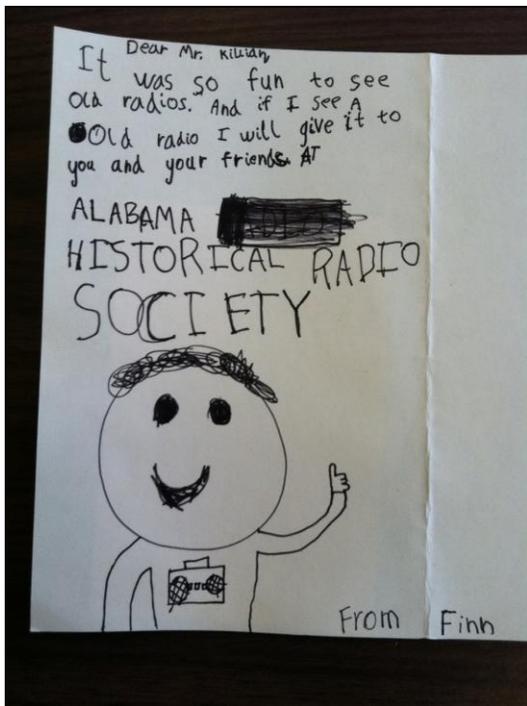


**Jim Cawthon and Chris Story working on a military power supply**



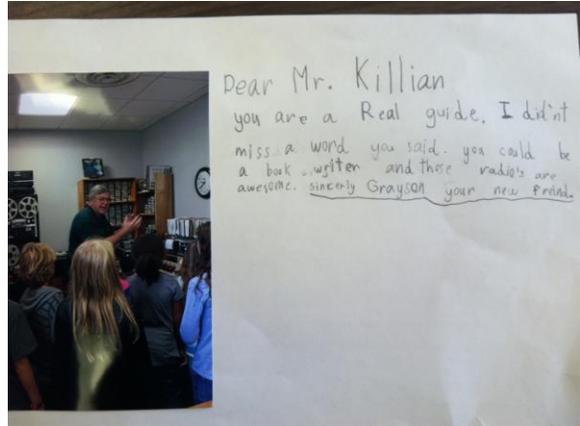
**Maurice Hill and Willie Henderson working on a customer radio**

In last month's Newsletter, there was an article on the Red Mountain Community School tour. A week after the tour, I received a thick envelope full of thank you notes from the school children. They were all very original and thankful of our efforts to teach them about old radios. I have included several pictures of these notes, as well as, a picture of the members who gave them the tour. Enjoy!





Dear Mr. Killian, Thank you for  
us getting to go to your place for  
free. I learned that ~~PERLEHADER~~  
Rabbes is that Intertainment.  
My favorite part was when we  
watched the movie it was fun.  
Sincerely EZRA G.W.



Dear Mr. Killian  
you are a Real guide. I didn't  
miss a word you said. you could be  
a book writer and those radials are  
awesome. sincerely Grayson your new friend.





The Tour crew - Don Letchman, Dee Haynes, me, Willie Henderson, Dave Cisco and Steven Westbrook

The November Monday Night meeting, which would have been on the 23rd of November, will not be held. **THERE WILL BE NO NOVEMBER NIGHT MEETING.** It is the Thanksgiving week, and we need to take a little time off for the holidays. The next Monday night meeting will be on December 28, which will be our annual Christmas Party at the Shop. The Society will provide the ham, turkey, dressing, rolls and drinks, including sweet and unsweet tea, regular and decaf coffee, water and a variety of soft drinks. The best part is the members bring the snacks, salads, angel eggs, vegetables, desserts and ? While there is no way to cook items at the Shop, there will be aluminum trays heated by sterno to keep things warm and a refrigerator to keep things cool. There is a signup list at the Shop for folks who plan to attend and the food item they plan to bring. Those who will not be at the Shop before the Party, but who plan to come to the Party may e-mail this information to me at the Society e-mail address. We look forward to another great party and the fellowship with everyone.

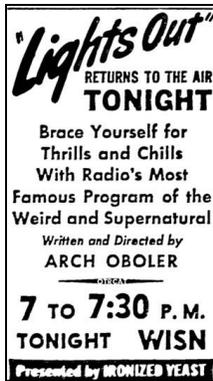
The December Radio Class will be held on December 5, at the Shop beginning at 9 a.m. Our substitute teacher, Mike Lord, plans to continue where he left off in November, teaching about radio circuits and how to troubleshoot them. Continue to review the *ARRL Handbook* to keep up with Mike's lessons. Our regular instructor, Robert Frye, is due back in January for the class on January 9. Come learn how to repair old radios!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

*President Tom*

205-967-7000

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## OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Radio can do something that cannot be done on television or in movies. It can paint a picture and no two people will see the picture exactly the same. Horror stories are the best example of this fact. I must admit that this genre is not a favorite of mine, but since Halloween just occurred what better time is there to explore the world of horror shows?

Arch Oebler's *Lights Out* was a pioneer in this area. The following is taken from John Dunning's *Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio*:

With its premiere on the nationwide NBC hookup in 1935, *Lights Out* was billed "the ultimate in horror." Never had such sounds been heard on the air. Heads rolled, bones were crushed, people fell from great heights and splattered wetly on pavement. There were garrotings, chokings, heads split by cleavers, and, to a critic at Radio Guide, "the most monstrous of all sounds, human flesh being eaten." Few shows had ever combined the talents of actors and imaginative writers so well with the graphic art of the sound technician. In April 1935, *Newsweek* reported that one listener fainted from excitement and another called police to her home after listening to the show. "I was frightened out of my wits," she said.

I'm not sure what more I could add to this description. When listening to an episode from this series, it might seem tame to us today. After all, television has brought all sorts of gore into our homes. However, there is one particular show that seems to come up whenever the series is discussed. That show is *The Dark*, which was broadcast on December 12, 1937. The novelty of this show is a cloud which turns a person inside out. The appropriate sound effects are there for you to visualize the happening. The link to the show can be found [here](#).

The next show on our list is from the series *Quite, Please*. The series is not necessarily known for the horror of *Lights Out*, but it still has the ability to get inside your mind. Dunning describes it as "surrealistic drama ... where the element of menace was ripe and ever-present." It did produce the episode that many people point to as the scariest radio show of all time - *The Thing on the Fourble Board* from August 9, 1948. The drama involves drillers on an oil platform inhabited by invisible creatures from a world beneath the ocean. For whatever reason the show has the ability to linger in people's memories. Check it out for yourself by clicking [here](#).

The last show on the list is from the adventure series *Escape*, which is not a horror series. However, it produced the show that I find the scariest of all – *Three Skeleton Key* from December 15, 1949. This particular episode stars William Conrad of *Gunsmoke* fame. It is on very few people's list of horror shows, but it is on mine. The reason that the show gets under my skin so much is that it involves an attack on the inhabitants of a light house by a swarm of rats. The less said the better. However, I do encourage you to listen to the show by clicking [here](#).

So here we have three very different shows. Each paints a picture and I contend that no two people view the picture the same.

Until we meet again in the theatre of the mind...

*Larry Lokey*

[larry@otronmp3.com](mailto:larry@otronmp3.com)

[Website - otronmp3.com](http://Website - otronmp3.com)

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> Street, (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). 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!



### **DUES INFORMATION**

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.**

### **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!

### **Who to Contact**

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