

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society
SUPERFLUX

January 2016



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

The start of a new calendar year brings more opportunities for our Society to grow, to reach more of the general public with historical presentations, to rescue more old radios destined for the dump and to restore customer radios to their original (or near it) condition. Over a dozen new members have joined in the past two months. These are folks who discovered us and found something they liked and decided to kick in with us to meet our objectives. As the year continues, we will feature these new members as they continue their journey into the old radio world. Many of these new members enjoyed their first Society Christmas Party along with the older members on December 28.

Upcoming Club Events

- **2016 Ham Fests:**
 - <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>



Everyone eating a great meal prepared by the members



Enjoying dessert and some fellowship



Julian Brook getting warm from our fireplace with Ned Killian looking on



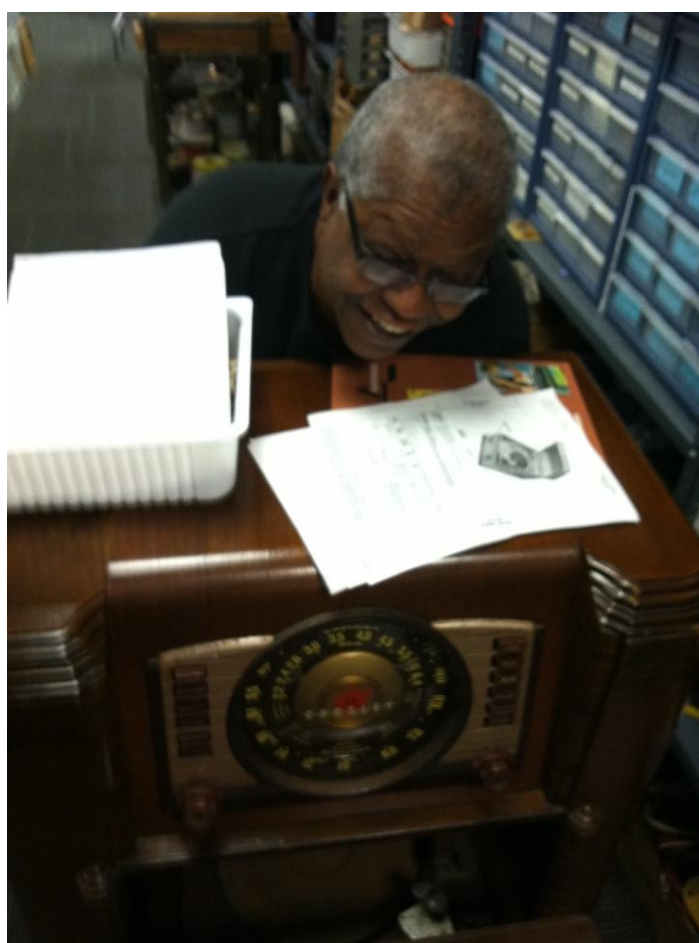
Ken McEwen and Sue Dentici Morse preparing a "salad bar" for the Christmas Party



Willie Henderson, Ron Studdard and Jason Lynn enjoying the Christmas Party



Ken Smith and Barron Smith using the Smith Repair Technique to repair an old radio



Willie Henderson tightening the chassis on a console ready to go. Willie delivered the radio and the customer was very pleased. Maurice Hill and Dave Johnson also worked on this radio.



Dee Haynes repairing a customer speaker by replacing the cone and rewinding the voice coil

Ed Boutwell brought a dozen DVD's and CD Video's to the Shop for us to review and place in our video library. He pulled out one of the DVD's of a Tom York Show (a local morning TV show host for many years) on which he served as one of four local panelists to discuss the current music scene, locally and nationally. The show originated in 1984 and was copied to a DVD several years ago from video tape. It seemed appropriate to take Ed's picture as a 70+ year old watching himself as a 45+ year old dishing out his expertise on music. These videos are available for viewing any work day, except during radio class days. They are very interesting and are representative of the videos we hope to make of our most senior members for historical purposes.



Ed Boutwell today looking at Ed Boutwell on a 1984 Tom York TV Program about music

The Society recently received a donation from Kevin and Jessica Martin from Clanton of an Airline Deluxe W 6 circa 1923 complete with a matching horn speaker. These were acquired at an estate sale, and the Martin's wanted us to have them to be preserved and admired by everyone who visits our radio museum and shop. The owner's manual was inside the radio and is in excellent condition. Both of these items appear in a magazine ad in the mid 20's. We appreciate the Martin's gift and their support of our Society.



Kevin and Jessica Martin with their donated Airline Deluxe W6 radio and horn speaker.

The Birmingham Amateur Radio Club (BARC) will hold their annual Hamfest on March 4 and 5 at the Zamora Temple in Irondale. What's new this year is that day one on the 4th is a Friday and the Hamfest will be open from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Saturday, the 5th, will be a normal day from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be no hamfest activities on Sunday the 6th. Again, we will have multiple tables, displays and surplus items for sale. The first of four quarterly surplus radio auctions will be held on Saturday, January 16, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 10 a.m. A committee has selected about a dozen radios for this auction. These radios are a cross-section of the radios, including short wave, am-fm, plastic, wooden, Bakelite, ac, ac-dc, and farm (battery) radios. The auction is open to members who are current with their membership dues.

Radio Class on January 9 heralded instructor Robert Frye's return from medical leave to resume teaching our members how to fix old radios. The class featured oscilloscopes and how to use them as a basic diagnostic tool to repair old radios. We thank Dave Cisco and Mike Lord for filling in as instructors while Robert was away.



Robert Skyping in from Loxley, AL



Robert had one of the largest radio classes on his first day back



Students checking out the curves on the scope. Robert did a great job and the students applauded him at the end of the class.



Other Shop activity while the radio class was going on

The next radio class will be on Saturday, February 6, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. Robert will continue the lesson on oscilloscopes with some hands-on circuit analysis with a scope.

The next Monday night meeting will be on the fourth Monday, January 25, at 7 p.m. at the Shop. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m. prior to the general membership meeting. There will be a program to be announced for the general membership meeting. Please plan to attend and support your radio society.

Thanks!

President Tom

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Fred Duran passed away on January 6 after an extended illness. He was a long time active member and supporter of the Radio Society. Fred was also an avid ham radio operator, W4NKL. His visitation was Thursday, January 7, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Valley Chapel in Homewood. His funeral was Friday, January 8, at 10 a.m. at the Chapel. The family will have a private burial in Montgomery. Please keep Fred's family in your prayers. Fred donated a great deal of radio books, magazines, ham equipment, test equipment and miscellaneous items to the Society as he was moving to an assisted living facility. The Society will continue to benefit from Fred's generous donations.



OLD TIME RADIO BITS

This month we are going to tackle Old Time Radio from a different perspective – social media. You know the terms – Facebook, Twitter, etc. There are those who have never used any of the prominent services and swear they never will, because they are dangerous. You know the ones, “I have never and will never use that Facebook. It is bad because it will steal everything about me.” This statement might strike close to home to some of you. I don’t mean to offend anyone; I just want to address the topic and then how it relates to OTR.

If every day I were to go down the street and tell the passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel, what I have done the night before, what I will do tomorrow night, give them pictures of my family, my dog and me gardening and spending time on my radio, you might think I was a little off my rocker (not that I’m not). Yet there are people who do

just that every day on Facebook. In all honesty that logic escapes me, but to each his own.

However, if periodically I were to get with a group of people who share the same interests as I do, and I were to share my experiences with them, that would probably be accepted as being okay. That logic I fully understand. I regularly “meet” with fellow radio people and discuss all things related to radio. I might mention how I feel, what I am planning to do this evening, or even share my bad luck with my truck. Still the thing that binds us together is our love of radio.

There are several such radio related groups that I am involved with, one being the Old Time Radio Researchers Group (OTRR). I have written about them before. Their goal is restoring, preserving and sharing the classic shows from what is commonly known as the “Golden Age of Radio.” The only problem with this group, if you can consider it a problem, is that they are older people. I include myself in this category. Many of them are set in their ways. After all their ways have worked just fine for years – but have they?

When OTR collectors first started, it was hard to network with fellow collectors. There were the occasional gatherings, where people got together and traded the shows in their collection. Initially they were trading reel to reel tapes. Then, when cassettes came along, they were trading them, even though the purists complained loudly about the degradation of the hobby by using cassettes. Then, when computers came along, they were trading digital versions of the shows. Again the purists (or those resistant to change), complained loudly. Then the internet came along and the world really changed. We could easily share our collections with a lot of people. Still there are those who would only trust sharing by writing the files to cd’s or dvd’s and mailing them to each other. I must say that I have been involved to some extent in all of these modes of sharing.

So why the long lead-in here? Well recently the OTRR, by my best guess less than a hundred people, decided to form a Facebook group in order to involve more people in the hobby. And low and behold, about a dozen or so went ballistic. How could we ever consider using the evil Facebook? It is not a trustworthy organization. They will know everything about every one of us and on and on. Several of us tried logic to address their concerns but logic doesn’t apply in an emotional situation. Then we tried to tell them how to establish dummy accounts so that they wouldn’t have to disclose anything about themselves. Even that wasn’t acceptable. The only trustworthy way to continue was to use the present method – posting all of our names and addresses on a Yahoo group and mailing the media to each other. Yea, that is real secure. I bit my tongue and never asked them how secure they felt with the government monitoring all of our electronic communications, but I wanted to ask.

And what about the Facebook group that was established? It has over 400 members and the number is increasing weekly. A lot of new information and topics are surfacing. It seems that some missing Lone Ranger episodes have been found. Several new “OTRR Certified” series are being shared with new people. People are sharing OTR sites that I have never heard of. A graduate student who is researching the history of

radio collecting all of a sudden has many new sources of information. People are sharing their experiences, likes and dislikes about a very interesting hobby.

To wrap all of this up, the name of the Facebook group is "The Old Time Radio Researchers". It is a closed group but membership is readily granted by the moderator. There are several interesting posts each day and a lot of links to OTR programs. If you are one of those who does not trust Facebook, get in touch with me, and I can tell you how to establish an alias account. If you want to check out the OTRR site, it is located at <http://www.otrr.org/>.

Any way you look at it, the internet and social media is a way of life, and it is up to each one of us to wisely use the resources. As hobbyists grow older, new enthusiasts must come along or the hobby will cease to exist ... I guess that applies to most things in life.

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

Larry Lokey

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[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 18th 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!

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