

May 2016



**NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM**

Hello, All!

April was a great month for activity at the Shop! Every workday became a race to see who could occupy one of the five work benches in the shop area. Everyone got to work on their radio, some just had to wait for an open bench. The mentoring and team work was everywhere, with the more knowledgeable members showing the newer members how to troubleshoot their radios. I have included pictures of Shop activity.

**Upcoming Club Events**

**2016 Ham Fests**

Atlanta, GA Hamfest  
6/04/2016  
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>

Montgomery, AL (MARC)  
11/19/2016  
<http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>



**Ron Hall learning speaker repair from Dee Haynes**



**Maurice Hill, Ty Pegues and Willie Henderson, researching a radio for their next repair job**



**Dee Haynes and James Deese checking out a signal generator, with Ron Hall looking on**



**Ray Giles with his latest restoration project-acquired at our last auction**



**William Marvin Shepherd (our most senior member) dropped by for Robert's April class**

The first week in April, on a Friday, I received a call offering the Society some old radio gear. The deal was that it had to be picked up the next day, Saturday. As a regular workday, finding help to load, transport and unload the donations was not a problem. We set out to Uncle Bob's Storage in nearby Hoover with three pickup trucks and my Suburban, to meet the donors, Marybeth and Mark Santillo and Donna and Mike Grainger. The donations were all boxed, packed well enough to be shipped by a freight carrier, with each box assigned a number, and with the boxes weight shown. Well, five hours later and nine pickup loads later, we had moved all we could handle at the time. There may be more, later. Marybeth and Donna are daughters of George Hails, a retired AT&T employee who now lives in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Mr. Hails is a native of Birmingham. I spoke to him by cell phone that Saturday and thanked him for his donation to the Radio Society. He was glad his collection was going to a good home. I have included some pictures of the day. I don't have any pictures of the members who unloaded the trucks at the Annex, but they worked as hard as anyone taking 75 plus boxes down the steps at the Annex. Thanks to all that helped moving this donation!



**George Hails' daughters - Donna and Mike Grainger and Marybeth and Mark Santillo**



**Loading trucks at the warehouse (Mike Grainger on far left & Mark Santillo on far right)**



**Frank Parker taking a box from Donna Grainger**

At the April Monday night meeting, the program was set up to be like a birthday party, opening presents. In this case, we had 29 boxes from the Hails' donation set up at the Shop to be opened as the program. It was exciting seeing members opening the boxes and removing some antique, eclectic pieces of test equipment, some military, some laboratory grade and some regular test gear. The large conference table was filled with these items, many of which no one had a clue how they were used.



**Hails' donation boxes set up for Monday Night program**



**Members opening boxes from the Hails' donation at the April Monday night meeting**



**Some of Hails' donation items on display**

Many of the Hails' donation items still remain in about 60 boxes in our Annex, waiting to be opened. It will be a month or so before we can open them all. Maybe at the May Monday night meeting we can open another group of them. Some items have been cleaned up and put on display at the Shop. Some of the test equipment has been placed in service in the Shop at the work benches. And some items will be placed in the auction to be held on May 14 at the Shop.

On April 21, the sixth annual Legends of Broadcast was held at the Shop in Birmingham. This was the best one of the six from an attendance and participation

standpoint. This year's Legends was filled with good food, good stories and the good fellowship that has accompanied this event over the years. About two hours of video tape was shot capturing the unique stories many legends told. The attendees enjoyed their special day and expressed their appreciation for our recognizing them and the radio/television industry in general. As several of them stated, the new radio/television era is more technology driven and fewer people are employed to produce today's programming. Only on-air people are working regularly, while behind the scenes, the ranks are shrinking. The event was captured in pictures and some are included here.



Legends enjoying a meal prepared by Marilyn's Deli and Dog



Ed Boutwell was the emcee for the story telling session after lunch. Sterling Brewer has the microphone and is telling one of his many stories.



**Everett Holley and M.D. Smith - Radio/TV personalities enjoying the occasion**



**Binnie Myles - Local on-air radio personality, with member Larry Lokey**



**Gene Lively - telling his stories, including replacing Jane Pauley at a TV station**



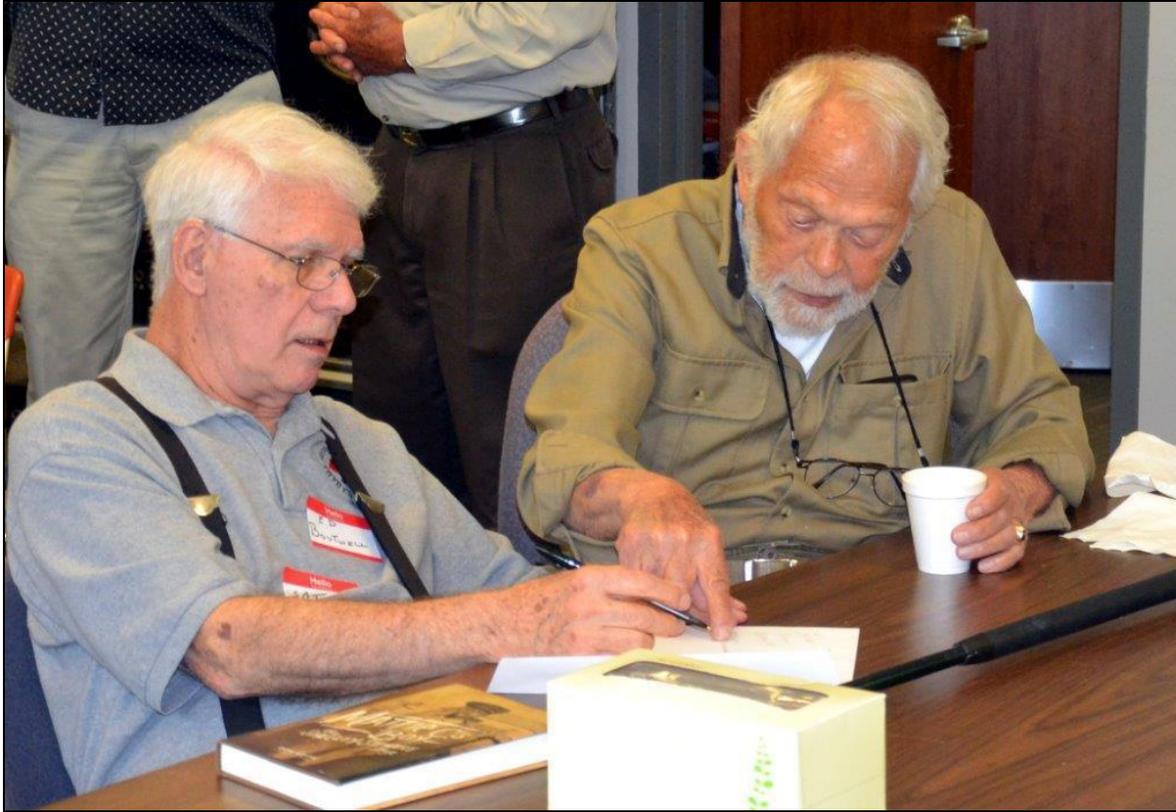
**Frank Lewis Giardina and Bob Barry - both radio personalities**



**Dollar Bill Lawson - Local on-air radio personality**



**Binnie Myles, Ray Giles (member), Gene Lively and Maurice Lovelady (member)**



**Two old buddies - Ed Boutwell and Sterling Brewer reliving radio/TV days**



**Legend Attendees present at picture time. Several had to leave. Ed Boutwell was making a video and failed to get in the picture.**



Most of the Legends signed the poster

Those attending the Legends event are looking forward to next year's event, scheduled for the third Thursday in April, at 9 a.m. at the Shop in Birmingham.

Dave Cisco continues to work in the Society Library, putting recently received magazine and book donations into their proper places. He has been adding to the collection of books that can be checked out of the Library. He now has six shelves full of interesting books for your check-out (reading) pleasure.



**Dave Cisco with the books available for check-out**

Society elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on the fourth Monday in June, the 27th. If you are interested in holding an office, please let Mike Lord or Dave Johnson know your wishes.

The next radio class will be held on June 4, at the Shop beginning at 9 a.m. Since instructor Robert Frye is "under the weather," we will have a guest instructor teach the class. The class will be a continuation of study of the handouts from the April class.

The next radio auction will be held on May 14 at the Shop, beginning at 10 a.m. You must be a paid-up member to participate.

The next Monday night meeting will be on May 23, at the Shop beginning at 7 p.m. A Board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. We will open more Hails' donation boxes.

It can be a challenge publishing a Newsletter each month. You need subject material, things that are of interest to members and to those who read the Newsletter. At times I feel repetitive, covering the same things, like what's going on at the Shop, the latest radio restorations, radio donations and radio class. There needs to be a breath of fresh air every now and then. I am looking for new subject material from anyone who may be able to provide it. Any copyrighted material will need to have permission to be reprinted. And, of course, every publication needs a good publisher. We have a very capable one in Patsy Desaulniers, in Conway, Arkansas, who has been editing, formatting and publishing the Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter since 2006. Thanks, Patsy!

Thank you for supporting your Society!

*President Tom*

205-967-7000

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**OLD TIME RADIO BITS**

Hi Folks,

This will be my second and last farewell/retirement party newsletter. I started writing this column back in February of 2006, over 10 years ago. Here is the first sentence of that first column: "This is the first installment in what I hope will be a long-lasting column in our newsletter." And, yes, it's been a blast' and I believe it's about time to move on to new frontiers in the field of broadcasting.

I might just start watching more television. Actually, I have increased my TV watching from almost none per week to about 3 or 4 hours per week. Most of that comes from British comedy shows that I have purchased or have downloaded. My favorite show is ***Last of the Summer Wine***, which features three Yorkshire retirees that manage to act like 9 year olds most of the time throughout the show, which ran from 1973 to 2010. It's sort of sad to watch the actors that were young in 1973 become toddling old seniors in 2010, but life goes on for most of us. If there are any of you older fellas or gals that would like to join me in a "Summer Wine" party and watch an episode or two, let me know. We could have beer or wine or just maybe some tea and a sticky bun. By the way, I have all the "Summer Wine" series on DVD and my hard drive. I watch the shows on my 42-inch computer monitor. Another show that I enjoy is ***Dad's Army***, about the Home Guard in England during WWII, mostly made up of, you guessed it, Old Guys.

That's about it as far as TV watching. I still don't watch any shows on the regular TV stations, just a little FOX News and local news. It's nice living in my little fantasy world.

I still listen to my radio shows, mostly on my WIFI radio. If you don't have one, then by all means get one! There's something on the WIFI for everyone. Each weekday night I tune in ***Amos'n Andy***, followed by ***One Man's Family*** and then ***Vic and Sade***. These shows make up the time slot from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m., then it's a little Bible reading before lights out.

It's not a bad life, but somebody's gotta do it. No links this time. If you don't know where to find the old radio shows by now, you probably will never find them. In the future you may hear from me if I find something I just have to tell you about, but until then, may God bless each of you. To quote a famous CBS newsman, "So Long until tomorrow."

***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 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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