

September 2017

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

The last week or so has been filled with natural disasters and personal tragedy for the southern part of the country, as well as for Mexico, with its earthquake and hurricane. As I write this, the state of Florida is being ravaged by hurricane Irma. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by these disasters and we hope for minimal loss of property and life.

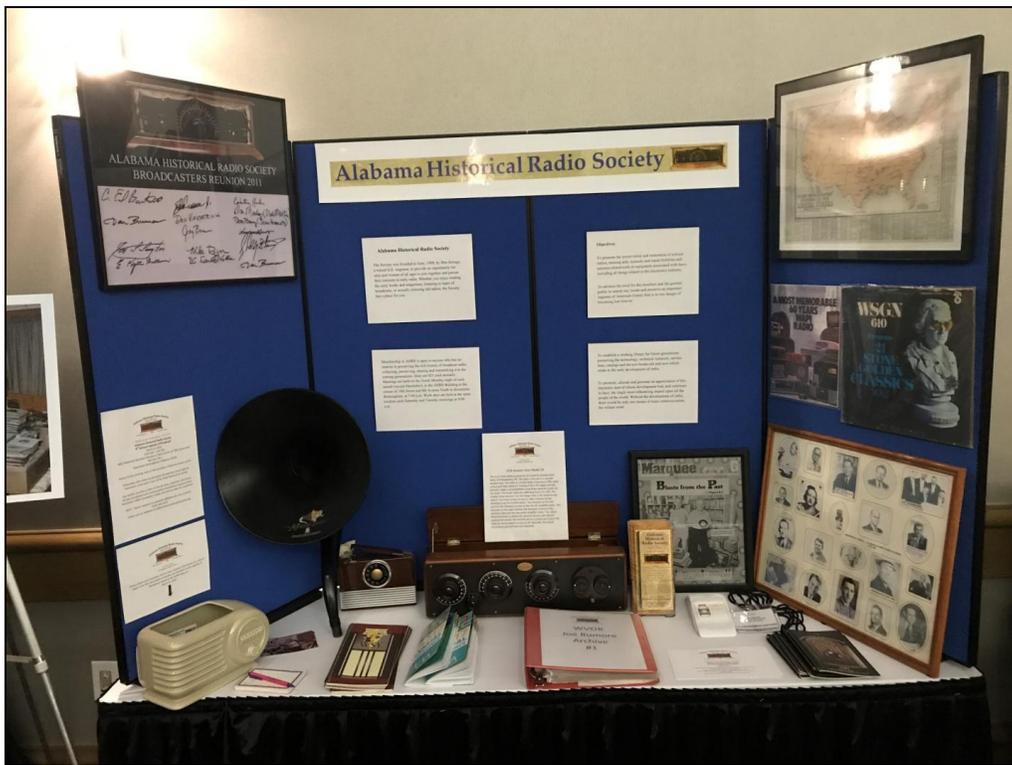
It appears that all government agencies have done the best possible job in preparing for these events. Our collective thanks go to every first responder as they go about their jobs! While these events have kept our attention, the Shop has been busy with the repairing of old radios. Also, we had a booth at the Alabama Broadcasters Association Annual Meeting the last week in August. Pictures are always in order to highlight this activity.



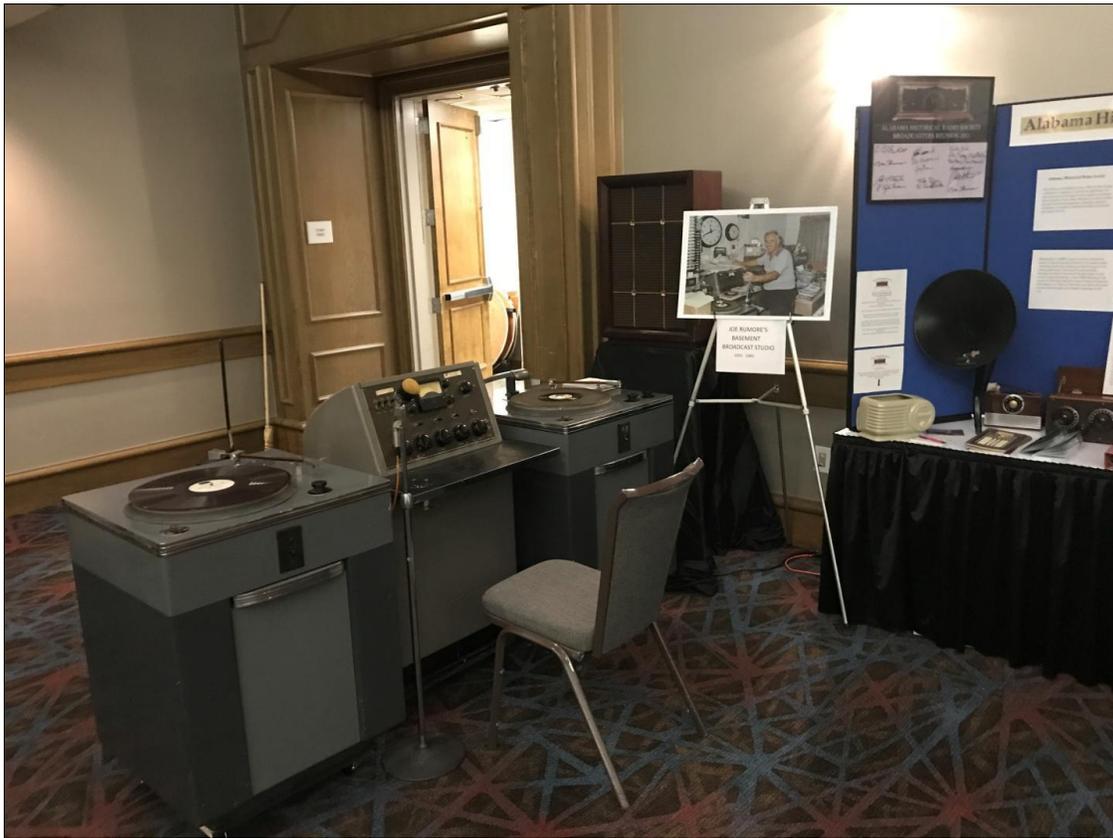
Dee Haynes checks out a donated National NC-46 Receiver.



The AHRS Booth for the Alabama Broadcasters Association Annual Meeting.



A close-up view of the AHRS display table at the ABA Meeting.



The Joe Rumore Turntables and Mixer used in his basement studio for live radio broadcasts.



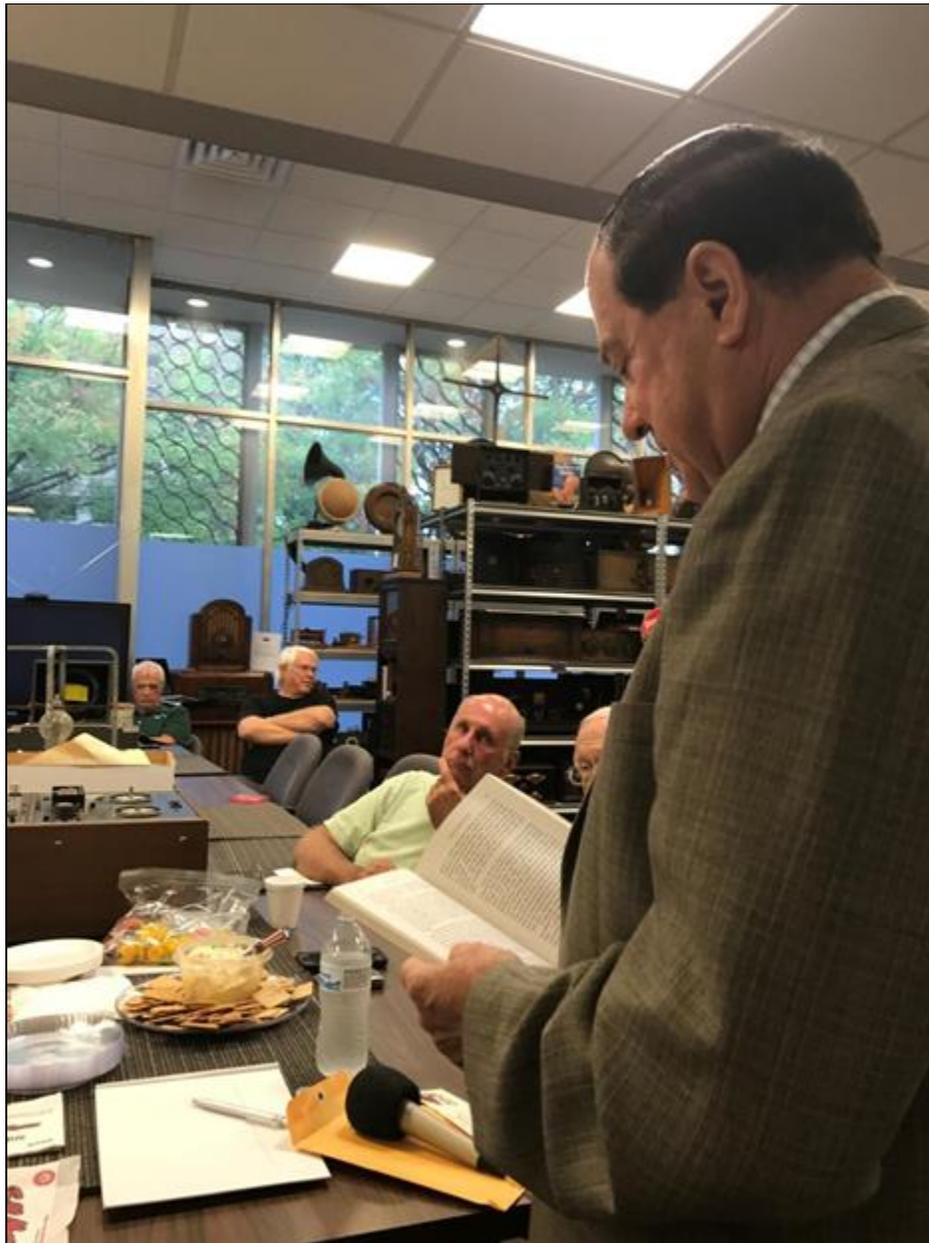
Joe Rumore in his basement studio where he broadcast live radio shows 3 hours per day. He also sent a taped program to a sister radio station in Montgomery, Alabama. His clocks show real time and show time. Most of the listeners in Montgomery never knew his program was taped.



The Teletype machine used by Joe Rumore in his basement studio to keep up with world news. The Teletype has been modified to print out predetermined stories such as the declaration of war after Pearl Harbor and other stories of interest for the ABA attendees. The remote control changes the printed story by pressing numbers 1 through 8 on it.

On the fourth Monday night of each month, we have a night meeting for those members that cannot come on a Tuesday or Saturday morning. There is usually a short business meeting and then there is a program for those attending. The August program was scheduled to be presented by Dave Cisco on the influence of short wave radio on early radio communications. Dave had a family emergency and could not attend the meeting.

Sam Rumore attended as a guest to briefly discuss his Uncle Joe Rumore and to donate a book to our library. Sam became our program, reading the story he had written about his Uncle Joe. Sam's discussions about going to Joe's house for Christmas and other occasions were very interesting for the group. He gave us great insight into a radio legend to which most of us had grown up listening.



Sam Rumore sharing stories about his Uncle Joe.

Sam Rumore, Joe Rumore's nephew, reads the story he wrote 25 years ago about his Uncle Joe. He let Joe read the article before it was published and Joe said he thought Sam covered the subject (Joe) well. He would not change a thing. The story appears, along with others from around the South, in the book, "I Wish I Was in Dixie: Two Dozen True Tales About Growing Up in Dixie," written by Marie Stokes Jemison and Jim Reed and published on October 10, 1992 by Reed Books. This book is in our library.

The next Monday night meeting is scheduled for September 25, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 6 p.m. Dave Cisco will present his short wave program after a brief business meeting. Please come enjoy some fellowship and learn something about old radios.

On the first Saturday of each month, we have a radio class for those members interested in learning more about radio circuits and some repair tips for radio restoration. Member Joe Minor has been teaching the last several classes and has been concentrating on the All American Five (AAF) radio using the AAF radio demonstrator to show students how to trace signals through the demonstrator. Several relevant YouTube videos about radio repair have been shown to help students learn safe repair of old radios.

The next radio class is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. If you are able, come learn how to repair old radios. If you are working on a radio and need some help, bring the radio to class and we will collectively try to figure out your repair issues.



Joe Minor teaches radio repair using the Radio Demonstrator tracing the circuit path for a radio signal.



Using the Demonstrator, Joe explained the function of each section of a radio in receiving and playing a radio broadcast.

Thank you for your continued support of your Alabama Historical Radio Society!
Come see us when you are in our area!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

When you hear the phrase “Just the facts ma’am,” what comes to your mind? If that doesn’t sound familiar how about Detective Joe Friday? Unless you have never watched television reruns from the 50’s and 60’s, you will probably determine quickly that the series to which I am referring is *Dragnet*. The show ran on radio from 1949 until 1957. It also ran on television from 1951 to 1957 and 1967 to 1970. In both cases Joe Friday was played by Jack Webb, who was also the creator of *Dragnet*.

Before I get into the background of the radio series, it might be interesting to note that the most famous line from the show “Just the facts ma’am” was never on the show - just as the phrase “Play it again Sam” was never spoken in the movie *Casablanca*. According to snopes.com “Sometimes the phrases are made up out of whole cloth (because they sounded like something those people would say), and sometimes they’re corruptions or rephrasings of something that actually was said.” This was the case for both *Dragnet* and *Casablanca*. The article at Snopes is interesting and may be worth the time to read it.

Back to the subject at hand - While researching the material for the OTR show *Dragnet*, John Dunning’s book [On The Air, The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio](#) provides extensive information on the origination of the show. Rather than paraphrasing the material in the book, I am going to provide selected text from the *Dragnet* entry. Maybe this is the lazy way to write an article for the newsletter, but I prefer to believe that I cannot match Dunning’s writing or his obvious admiration for the show.

Jack Webb had been around west coast radio for several years. He had his own morning show, comedy series, was a character actor in several network radio shows, and finally his own detective show. In 1948, he began his film career in the movie *He Walked By Night*. “Webb played a crime lab cop. The film’s technical adviser was Sergeant Marty Wynn of the Los Angeles police. Webb and Wynn shared a belief that pure investigative procedure was dramatic enough without the melodrama of the private eye. The seeds of *Dragnet* were sown on a movie set.”

“But *Dragnet* evolved slowly. Webb pondered the idea he had received from Marty Wynn and developed it for more than a year. Realism should be the show’s hallmark: the stories should be authentic to the last sound effect. He began hanging out at police headquarters, riding with detective teams on house calls. He attended classes at the police academy, becoming fluent in police terminology and technique. But when he prepared his series proposal, NBC was unimpressed. It sounded like just another cop show, without the contrived thrill trappings. Webb was told to prepare an audition record: he had one week to pull it together.”

“With his audition disc in hand, his next job was to obtain the cooperation of the police. This was essential, for the series Webb envisioned could not be done without it. He wanted to get his stories from official files, to show the step-by-step procedure used by real officers in tracking down a real criminal. Accompanied by writer James E. Moser, Webb took the record to C. B. Horrall, Chief of Police in Los Angeles. Horrall listened to ten minutes, then got up and left the room. A deputy chief working at a nearby desk looked up and grunted

OLD TIME RADIO BITS (continued)

occasionally but offered no encouragement. Horrall never returned. It was an inauspicious beginning.”

“Surprisingly, the police approved the show. The conditions were clear: the police wanted control over sponsorship; they wanted Webb's agreement that his access to the files would not compromise confidentiality; and they wanted assurance that the department would not be ‘scripted into any unflattering entanglements.’ They needn't have worried: Webb was, and remained, a staunch police advocate. He was a sympathetic ear, a true believer in the difficulty and often impossibility of the jobs they do. ‘We try to make cops human beings,’ he would say years later. ‘We try to combine the best qualities of the men I've seen downtown, incorporate their way of speaking, make a composite.’”

“There was still no theme music: the soon-to-be-famous *Dragnet* March was in place within the month, but the second show (the earliest episode yet heard) reveals a strange *Dragnet* indeed ... Week by week the show was refined, the dialogue pared, the delivery made ever more deadpan. In the trade this was called underplaying, a term Webb disputed. ‘Underplaying is still acting,’ he told *Time* in 1950. ‘We try to make it as real as a guy pouring a cup of coffee.’”

“When the cops walked up the steps at headquarters, listeners heard exactly the number of steps between floors in the real police building. When Webb picked up a crime report and read off the description of a suspect, the listener heard him turn a page first, because descriptions were always on the second page of real reports. The cops became fans as well as technical advisers.”

“Webb's portrayal of Joe Friday would become classic. Friday was a cop's cop, tough but not hard, conservative but caring. It was through Friday's eyes that *Dragnet* unfolded each week. The show opened with a startling burst of music—four stinging notes that became immediately celebrated, indelibly linked through the decades with Webb...” [Dunning]

There is much more that could be detailed about the show. In fact, Dunning's entry on *Dragnet* appears to be one of the most detailed in his book. The bottom line is that the show was a ground breaker. The audience appeal on both radio and television was obvious. Any show that has a presence in media for over half a century is significant.

The *Dragnet* radio series has been certified by the [Old Time Radio Researchers \(OTRR\)](#) group. Their compilation of the available shows is found on [archive.org](#). Pick a show at random and enjoy the realism that the show brings. If you are so inclined, the complete series can be downloaded [here](#).

I do owe a hat-tip to Dee Haynes for the idea (along with the emails) for this article. Dee has suggested a particular episode that displays a little levity in an otherwise very serious series – *The Big Housemaid*, selection 332.

OLD TIME RADIO BITS (continued)

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

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

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 6:00 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 INFORMATION



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Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Mike Woodruff at 205-823-7204. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

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2017/2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE

09/09/2017 | Gadsden Hamfest

Location: Etowah County Fairgrounds

301 Griffin Street SE

Attalla, AL 35954

Website: <http://www.garc.org>

09/22/2017 | Central Louisiana ARC Hamfest

Location: Alexandria, LA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.clarc.us>

09/22/2017 | W4DXCC Convention by SEDCO

Location: Pigeon Forge, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: SEDCO

Website: <http://www.w4dxcc.com>

09/29/2017 | ARRL Day in the Park / MFJ 45th Anniversary

Location: Starkville, MS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: ARRL Mississippi Section & MFJ Enterprises

Website: <http://www.arrlmiss.org>

09/30/2017 | ARCOS TAILGATE/SWAPMEET/CATFISH FRY

Location: Shreveport, LA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Amateur Radio Club of Shreveport (ARCOS)

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/nwlar/arcos.htm>

10/21/2017 | Greeneville Hamfest

Location: Greeneville, TN

Type: non-ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Andrew Johnson Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://greenevillehamfest.com>

10/21/2017 | Helena Hamfest

Location: Helena Amphitheater, Helena, AL

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

10/21/2017 | Hamfest Chattanooga 2017

Location: East Ridge, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.hamfestchattanooga.net>

10/21/2017 | Randy Griffin Memorial Hamfest

Location: Morrilton, AR

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Randy Griffin Memorial Radio Club

Website: <http://k5boc.org>

11/4-5/2017 | Stone Mountain Hamfest (Lawrenceville, GA)

Gwinnett County Fairgrounds

2405 Sugarloaf Parkway

Lawrenceville, GA 30045

855-786-8643

Sat: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

11/11/2017 | The Greater New Orleans Ham Fest

Location: Harahan, LA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Crescent City Amateur Radio Group

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2044282109131267/>

11/11/2017 | Montgomery Hamfest

Alcazar Shrine Temple

555 Eastern Blvd

Montgomery, AL 36117

11/17/2017 | Jackson County ARA Hamfest

Location: Ocean Springs, MS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Jackson County Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.jcmsara.com/>

12/09/2017 | Pearl River County ARC's 11th Annual Hamfest

Location: Poplarville, MS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.facebook.com/Pearl-River-County-Amateur-Radio-Club-117965401695779/>

12/16/2017 | MARA Annual Christmas Hamfest

Location: Minden, LA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Minden Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.n5rd.org>

01/26/2018 | Delta Division Convention (Capital City Hamfest)

Location: Jackson, MS

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Jackson Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://hamfest.msham.org>

03/24/2018 | Ides of March Hamfest

Location: Union City, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://reelfootarc.com>

10/20/2018 | Tennessee State Convention (Hamfest Chattanooga 2018)

Location: East Ridge, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4am.net>

More: [Southeastern hamfests](#); [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#); [Contest Corral](#); [QRP Contests](#); [State QSO parties](#); [Special Event Stations](#); [North America SOTA events](#); [DX Bulletins](#)