

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter



August 2018

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE



Greetings to All!!!

We had good attendance at all our meetings and gatherings in July.

The reset of the shop museum continues, thanks to the efforts of Reg Olson, Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes and several others. My special thanks to Milo Jones, Britt Hayden & Nathan Chadwick for their efforts in moving and relocating the radios and associated equipment to their new homes. When this project is finished the displays will be much more visitor friendly.

Radio restoration work continues at the shop every week. Thanks to all who work in the shop for relocating their projects from the work benches to the shelves until you have a chance to come to the shop in the future. This practice will free the work benches for the use and enjoyment of the shop by all members on an equal access basis and allow the shop to run more smoothly.

Our plans for the redesign of the AHRS website are continuing. We are soliciting input from the members on the content and look of the new site. We intend to make the site more exciting, useful and interactive. So if you have any ideas you wish to incorporate into the plans, please contact Steven Westbrook.

Recently, member Rick Curl forwarded me a link to blog articles written by member Max Maxfield after the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club BirmingHAMfest in March. These articles include a very informative and flattering review of our shop and museum. We will have more on these articles later in the newsletter.

Dave Cisco is planning two excellent programs for upcoming meetings. One program will be on the National Company and the other on Nikola Tesla. Bring your ray gun prototypes.

That's all for now----- so stay safe out there and I will see you at the shop!!!

President Dave

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

There has been good response to the request for articles about radio and personal stories. The editing process is slowing down the inclusion of some articles and they will make it in at some point. Dave mentioned the articles by Max Maxfield about his impressions of the Alabama Historical Radio Society. The internet addresses for these articles are below and, hopefully you can make them work.

<https://www.eeweb.com/profile/max-maxfield/articles/the-treasure-trove-that-is-the-alabama-historical-radio-society>

<https://www.eeweb.com/profile/max-maxfield/articles/magic-lanterns-cats-whisker-radios-and-home-grown-radio-stations>



Editor's Note

You may have to scroll down to bypass an advertising message before the hyperlink is displayed.

The July Monday night meeting program was given by member Michael Spanos on the 6L6 and Beam Power Tubes, complete with slides showing the early internal construction of these tubes and how elements were added over the years to the point they are today. He explored the characteristics of the beam circuits and how they were made to perform more efficiently.



Michael Spanos pointing out characteristics of Beam Power Tubes at the July Monday night meeting.

The August Monday night meeting is scheduled for August 27 at the Shop, beginning at 7:00 p.m. After a short business meeting, the program on the National Company will be presented by Dave Cisco and Joe Veras. Come learn how the company evolved and enjoy some fellowship.

In last month's Newsletter, I mentioned that Jim Rogers taught a refresher class on Scopes and I had a picture to prove it but failed to upload it. So a month late, here is Jim Rogers teaching about Scopes.



Jim Rogers teaching Scopes to the July Radio Class.

Instructor Joe Minor taught the August Radio class, continuing the operation of the various sections of a simple All-American Five (AAF) radio. He brought a radio chassis to class where he had purposely disconnected a part in the circuit and then asked members of the class to take a signal tracer and troubleshoot the radio to determine where the problem was. Looking at a radio schematic Joe handed out, students moved the tracer probe through the circuits following the schematic to find the open circuit.



Student Ron Studdard places the signal tracer probe in the circuit as he looks for the open circuit. Other students are looking on and waiting their turn to probe the circuit.

Also, in the August Class, Librarian Dave Cisco took the class on a tour of the various reading materials available in the Society Library. He diagrammed each book shelf on the white board, showing what items were there for their use, including six shelves that hold books that can be checked out and taken from the Library. All reading material outside of these six shelves must be read in the Library and cannot be removed or checked out.

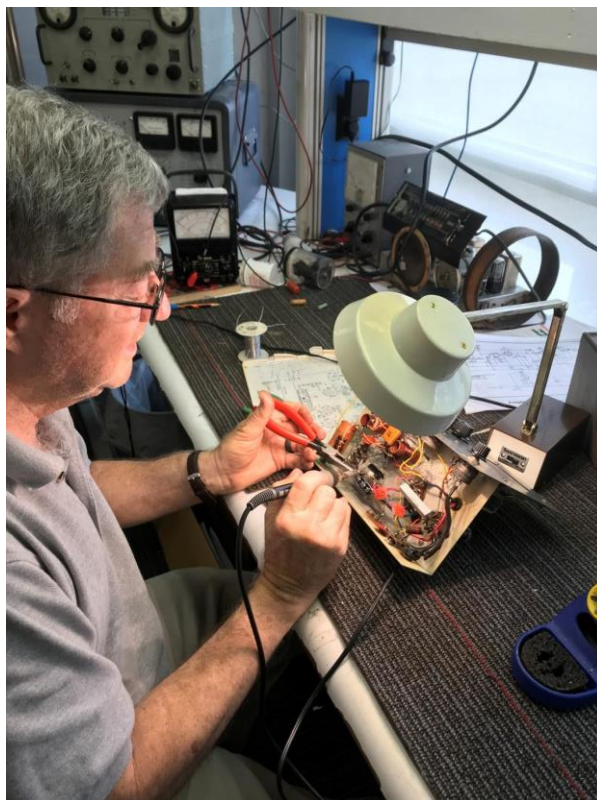
Dave also passed out Howard Sam's Index books and asked each student to look up a particular Zenith radio by model number. The first step in working on most old radios is to find and make a copy of the service information. Once the folder was found, Dave reviewed the proper way to open a Sam's binder to protect the documents in the binder and to make a copy. Once copies are made, the original documents are placed back in the binder. Binders are not allowed to be used at the work benches, only copies of the documents. This protects the originals from mishandling issues. Dave also reviewed these procedures for the Rider Repair Manuals. He noted that there is additional service information throughout the Library, so if you could not find something in Riders or Sam's, to ask him about it.



Dave Cisco explaining the resources found in our Society Library at the August Radio Class.

Radio classes are taught on the first Saturday of each month unless there is a holiday involved. The September Radio Class will be on September 1, even though it is the Labor Day holiday weekend. Instructor Joe Minor was not available, so guest Instructor Dee Haynes will teach the class about coil winding and speaker repair. The class will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. Like Instructor Joe Minor, Dee will be able to answer general questions on radio repair. Come learn how to fix old radios.

Some of the miscellaneous work going on at the Shop is shown in the following pictures.



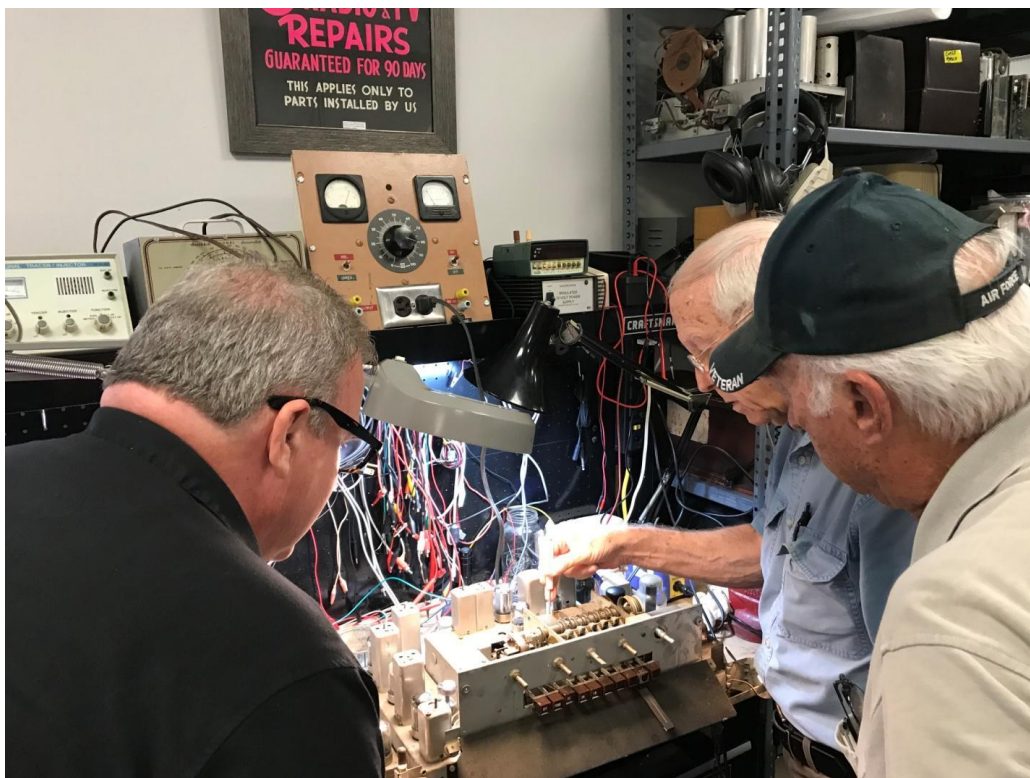
Richard Waguespack working at the Shop on a Knight Kit radio like one he put together in the 50's. He found this one on e-bay and is replacing the power supply capacitors to get the hum out of it. He smoke tested it and, thankfully, no smoke was found.



Jim Rogers showing Leo Barnhart the circuit location to check out as Leo continues to work on his jukebox amp.



Re-assembling client Rob Conrad's antique radio/record player are Willie Henderson, Don Letchman, Dee Haynes and peeking over the back is Doc Holladay.



President Dave Johnson showing Maurice Lovelady and Christopher Shelt the problem area to check on Christopher's radio.



Some days at the Shop are for fellowship as Jim Rogers, Ed Boutwell and James Deese do their best to avoid any meaningful work.



Just about every Saturday, member Tom Hayes brings in a radio that he has completely restored. Recently he brought in this Zenith Model 4B - 106 complete with its companion speaker. In the Zenith ad for this radio, it is shown as a "Boat and Trailer Radio" with "Homepower." Dating back to 1936, this radio is powered by a 6-volt battery.

One of our longtime members, Robert Frye and his wife Margaret, have been away from the Birmingham area, living in Loxley Alabama. Even that did not keep him from continuing to teach radio class on the first Saturday of each month. He used SKYPE to teach directly to the class. Until last year, he was able to do this until health issues caused him to no longer teach. Several times a year, including the annual Christmas party, Robert and Margaret would visit the Shop. They missed this past party and have been missed by the members.

I took an opportunity to visit with Robert and Margaret at their home in Loxley in early August, spending about five hours with them. They are recovering from some recent health issues and they both look forward to this year's Christmas party. If any members are planning to travel in the Loxley area, please contact Robert and arrange to drop in for a visit. He and Margaret would love to see you! I took a picture of them during my visit and they look great!



Robert and Margaret Frye during my recent visit.

Longtime member Hank Brazeal recently passed away and Dave Cisco was helping Hank's wife, Willetta, go through some of Hank's radio things, when they discovered a radio chassis in a box and a wooden radio cabinet in a paper sack. Hank gave Willetta one of these radios for a wedding gift in 1943 when they were married.

Over the years, the radio was lost, and Hank wanted to restore the chassis and cabinet he had found into another radio he could give her on their 70th wedding anniversary in 2013. As Hank's health deteriorated, he could not restore the radio and on the day following their 75th wedding anniversary, Hank passed away. Willetta donated the radio parts to the Society and Dave brought them to the Shop.

He enlisted member Frank Parker to restore the radio. Frank does incredible restoration work and did not disappoint with this restoration! Dave Cisco is pictured holding the Zenith "Toaster" radio which will be presented to Willetta soon. I hope to have a picture of this presentation that captures her joy in seeing Hank's dream fulfilled.



Dave Cisco holding the Zenith Toaster Radio restored by Frank Parker for presentation to Willetta Brazeal, in memory of her late husband Hank Brazeal.

There are many stories to tell and they will be interspersed in upcoming Newsletters. If you have an interesting story related to what we do, and you believe it would be interesting to our members/readers, please consider sending it to me by e-mail.

Election of officers and certain Board members will be held at the Annual meeting held in December. If you have a desire to serve as an officer or Board member, please let President Dave Johnson or Chairman of the Board Dave Cisco know. We are also looking for someone to replace me as the "composer" of the Society Newsletter. This is my 64th monthly Newsletter and I would like to take a break. Thanks!

Thank you for supporting the Alabama Historical Radio Society!

Until next time!

Tom Killian

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NATIONAL RADIO DAY

Monday, August 20, is National Radio Day, which recognizes the great invention of radio. Several inventors had a part in the invention of the radio in the late 1800's and not just one person can be attributed with its beginning. Radio's inception required an international effort, including the research of German Heinrich Hertz that proved electrical signals could be transmitted wirelessly. Nikola Tesla, a prolific inventor who had multiple patents, provided radio with the Tesla coil. Many of his patents involved alternating current. Guglielmo Marconi made the first commercially available wireless transmitted information and served more of a military and regular public service role. A Marconi wireless was in use on the Titanic at the time of its sinking.

In 1906, the first radio broadcast of voice and music purely for entertainment purposes was transmitted to the general public by Canadian born Reginald Fessenden from Brant Rock, Massachusetts.

Another contributor to the radio was American, Lee de Forest, who would become the chief scientist for the first U.S. radio firm, American Wireless Telephone and Telegraph. His invention of the Audion vacuum tube made live broadcasting possible. As wireless came alive, the first broadcast stations began airing programs in the 1920's. These first programs were those of news and world events.

To celebrate National Radio Day, listen to your favorite radio station and give a special recognition to your local radio personalities.

OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Larry's column will return next month.



Editor's Notes

In Larry's absence, I will talk a bit about the demise of my Squeezebox Internet radio. I have been a radio listener since I was 10 years old. Since I am 78, that is a lot of listening! As a child growing up in Harrison, Arkansas, I listened to KCMO (Kansas City), WWL (New Orleans), KMOX (St. Louis), KDKA (Cincinnati) and KWTO (Springfield, MO, which was closest to me). Over the years, I continued to listen to them, but was always bothered by static on many of these stations late at night. Finally, Tom asked Dee Haynes about being able to listen on the Internet.

My first Internet radio arrived in a few days, a Logitech Squeezebox. I was able to program in my favorite stations from all over the US—and static-free!

About two months ago, I turned on my radio to find that all my favorites were inaccessible—not a good night that night, since I must have a radio to go to sleep!!

After several calls, we determined that the CBS stations are owned by GE, and GE sold the rights to broadcast their stations to Entercom, which evidently broadcasts through radio.com. If your Internet radio can't access radio.com, you are up the creek without a paddle.

I updated my Squeezebox to UE Smart Radio, but radio.com isn't available. I am now limping along with KRMG, WNIX (Greenville, MS), and a few local stations. In researching to see what happened to my Squeezebox, I did find an article, "Logitech leaves Squeezebox fans wondering what's next. (See <https://www.cnet.com/news/logitech-leaves-squeezebox-fans-wondering-whats-next>). Logitech never sent me an email or gave me any notice that they were no longer supporting this product.

Oh yes, I do have a Grace Internet Radio and it can access radio.com, but Tom is using it. Looks like I might be in the market for a replacement to my Squeezebox!

Perhaps some of you have had similar problems with your Logitech Squeezebox. Please let me hear from you if you have a fix for my problem.

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!

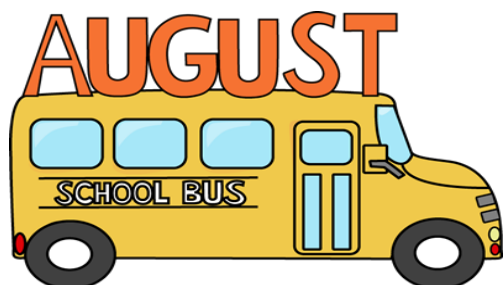
FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

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 radios. 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



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

OFFICERS

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2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE



Editor's Note

The next few pages have the 2018 Hamfest and Swap Schedule for the Southeastern United States. I have not edited these—they are copied directly from the ARRL site.

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/18/2018 | Southeastern Division Convention (Huntsville Hamfest)

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest Association

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/18/2018 | TARCFest XLII

Location: Tampa, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tampa Amateur Radio Club

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

10/06/2018 | Cy Harris Free Flea

Location: Oakland Park, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Broward ARC (W4AB)

Website: <http://browardarc.net/free-flea/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

10/12/2018 | 53rd Annual Melbourne Hamfest

Location: Melbourne, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

10/27/2018 | Jacksonville FREE Hamfest

Location: Jacksonville, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: North Florida Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://nofars.net/home/hamfest>

Learn More

2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (continued)

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

11/03/2018 | Fall 2018 LARC Hamfest

Location: Lakeland, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lakeland Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://lakelandarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

11/03/2018 | Georgia Section Convention (Stone Mountain Hamfest)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Alford Memorial Radio Club

Website: <http://stonemountainhamfest.com/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

11/09/2019 | Montgomery ARC Hamfest 2019

Location: Montgomery, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

11/10/2018 | Alabama Section Convention

Location: Montgomery, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

11/10/2018 | SPARC Fest

Location: Pinellas Park, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.sparc-club.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

11/17/2018 | Flamingo Net / UMARC Free Flea

Location: Coral Gables, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Flamingo Net / University of Miami ARC

Website: <http://FlamingoNet.8m.net>

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

12/07/2018 | West Central Florida Section Convention (Tampa Bay Hamfest)

Location: Plant City, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council

Website: <http://fgcarc.org>

Learn More