

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society
SUPPORT EX

January 2019

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE

Greetings to All and Happy New Year!!!



What a great Annual Meeting and Christmas party! What a way to start a new year! I was elected to serve as your President for 2019 and I received a surprise 80th birthday party at the shop on January 5, given by my family, friends and AHRS members WOW!!!! Thanks to all who attended these events and all who helped to make them so successful!!!!

The attendance at the Annual Meeting and Christmas party was good, even though there was torrential rain at the time. The slate of Officers and Board Members was confirmed by unanimous vote. At the party, there was a lot of good food and fellowship and a funny video about how not to install an antenna. A good time was had by all.

We are planning an exciting and busy new year. We are continuing to work with the State of Alabama Archives about placing a display in Montgomery and we hope to work with the Birmingham Airport Authority about a display inside the airport terminal. We are currently planning for the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, March 1 and 2. The event has moved from the Zamora Shrine Center and will be held at the Trussville, Alabama, Civic Center. I will have more on this event at a later date.

The Annual AHRS Legends of Broadcast will be in April, as usual, so prep needs to start right away.

2018 was a good year for AHRS. Our shop operations have been improved in many ways. As we begin 2019, our 30th year, we will continue to work on every area where help is needed. I ask all of you to work with me to make 2019 the best year ever for AHRS!!!

Remember we have breakfast on Saturday mornings at 7:30 A.M. at Bogues Restaurant on Clairmont Avenue and 32nd Street South before the regular shop opening. The shop schedule is the same--- Tuesday and Saturday 9:00 A.M. until??

Remember the \$25 AHRS annual dues are due and payable in January. You can give the payment to an officer at the shop, mail it to the club at P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham, Alabama 35213 or pay by Paypal. Be sure to get your dues in this month so we can continue to pay our bills, and continue all the programs and activities of the Society.

That's all for now. See you at the shop.

President Dave

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SOCIETY

Through words and pictures, I will expand on subjects President Dave mentioned, as well as some additional subjects. The Annual Meeting and the Annual Christmas Party were held on December 27, at the Shop in Birmingham. Elections for Officers, who serve for one year and for three Board members, who serve for three years, were held. The current officers and three existing Directors were elected by acclamation to new terms. There were no nominations from the floor. Those elected Officers and Directors are:

President - Dave Johnson

Vice-President - Steven West brook

Secretary - Dee Haynes

Treasurer- Mike Woodruff

Directors - Ray Giles, Willie Henderson and Jim Cawthon.

Following the election, President Dave reviewed the history of the Radio Society going back to its founding in 1989, noting that 2019 is our 30th year. He outlined much of what is in his message above to those in attendance.



President Dave reviewing the Society history at the 2018 Annual Meeting.



Christmas Party attendees loading their plates with great food.



2018 Christmas party attendees finishing dessert and enjoying some fellowship together.



Hop and Margaret Hays ready to enjoy a Christmas meal.



2018 Christmas party attendees enjoying the evening with AHRs friends.

Over the Holidays, I brought my granddaughter, Killian, to the Shop to see the radios and other interesting equipment on display. I wanted her to see a pillow radio I purchased for her mother back in the eighties. Here she is checking it out in our novelty radio display.



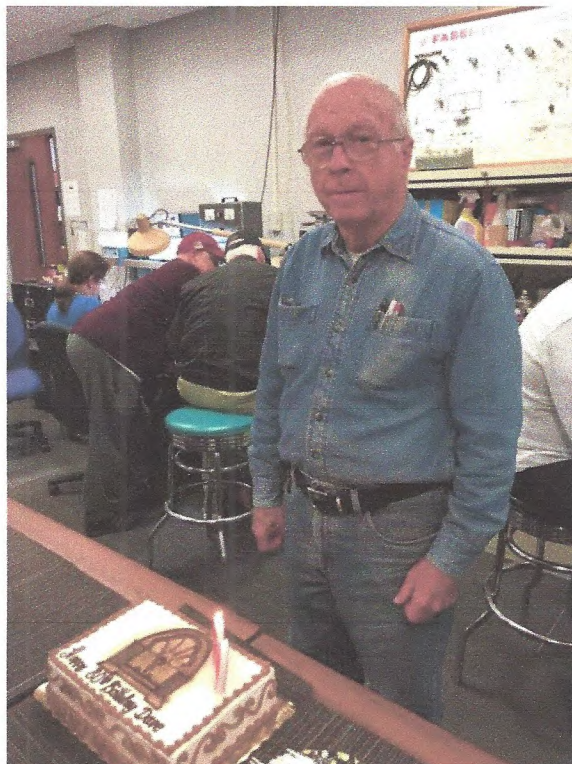
Killian is looking at the Pillow Radio that belonged to her mother. It does work and sounds great.

Also, she was interested in a small TV on display. It is a Tele-Tone Model TV-149, made in 1948, with a seven-inch round CRT B/W picture tube. She is more familiar with 50" LED flat screens and watching this TV would be a real pain.



Killian is looking at the 7" Tele-Tone B/W TV, circa 1948.

In early January, President Dave celebrated his 80th birthday. His family surprised him with a brunch, enjoyed by all present, and a birthday cake. This was on a Saturday morning when many members meet for breakfast at Bogues. An e-mail, sent to everyone except President Dave, advised that there would be an early surprise lunch for Dave's birthday, so we would not be eating breakfast as usual. Of course, the e-mail did not go to Dave, so he showed up at Bogues and ate breakfast, alone.



President Dave with his birthday cake and glad there is only an 8 and a 0 on it, in lieu of 80 candles.



President Dave celebrating his 80th birthday with his family,(L to R), Dennis Drummonds (Son in Law), Dave, Julie Drummonds (Daughter) and Sara McDonald (Granddaughter).

The next event on our calendar is the Birmingham Ham Fest, to be held on March 1 and 2 at the Trussville Civic Center in Trussville, AL. AHRS has had a large presence at past ham fests and this year we will continue that tradition. I have included some pictures of our past displays to show the level of participation. In addition to displays, we offer radios, test equipment, magazines and related gear for sale. We do receive some donations during the event. We have conducted an informative forum at the Ham Fest for the past several years.



AHRS presentation of Hallicrafters radios at the 2016 Birmingham Ham Fest.



AHRS display of test equipment at the 2017 Birmingham Ham Fest



Member Mike Lord explaining his Clandestine Radio display to member Butch Harris from Pensacola, FL. at the AHRS display at the 2018 Birmingham Ham Fest.

Following the Birmingham Ham Fest in March, AHRS will host the ninth annual Legends of Broadcast event at the Shop in Birmingham. This year's event is scheduled for the third Thursday in April, April 18. These events have been very successful in getting the living radio and TV personalities to come together at our Shop, where they receive a tour of the displayed radios and equipment, eat a nice meal and then sit around the conference table and tell stories of their careers in radio and/or TV. We record these stories on video. Unfortunately, the tapes are not suitable for public replay. Many of the attendees have passed away since attending the Legends. We have captured their stories in their words and maybe, with some editing, they will be heard again by others.



Legends of Broadcast in 2018 with blind radio personality Ken Osborn telling about his time in radio. Interestingly, Ken announced high school football games, with the help of a spotter, live on the radio, as a test and was so good that he was hired for the whole football season. He currently does voice over work for several well-known cable networks.

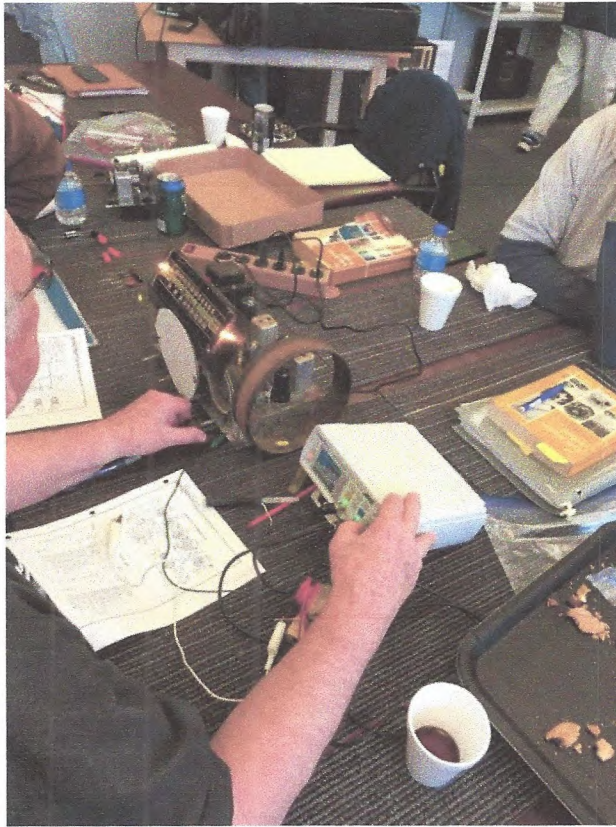
Radio Class Instructor, Joe Minor, started the class this month on restoring the Demonstration Radio for class use. He divided the class into small groups to clean up the board, find replacements for the missing tubes, test these tubes, check power supply capacitors and check out the wiring for good insulation and cold solder joints. One of the students, Brad Bailey, brought a Truetone table radio he is working on to get the oscillator and IF's tuned for the best reception. Joe used his newly purchased FeelTech signal generator in this procedure. The next Radio class is scheduled for February 2, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. The class will continue to restore the Demonstration Radio and will work on any radios brought by class members for trouble-shooting help. Come learn how to fix old radios.



Instructor Joe Minor gives an overview of the Demonstration Radio.



Boyd Bailey demonstrates how to use an in-circuit capacitor checker to the radio class.

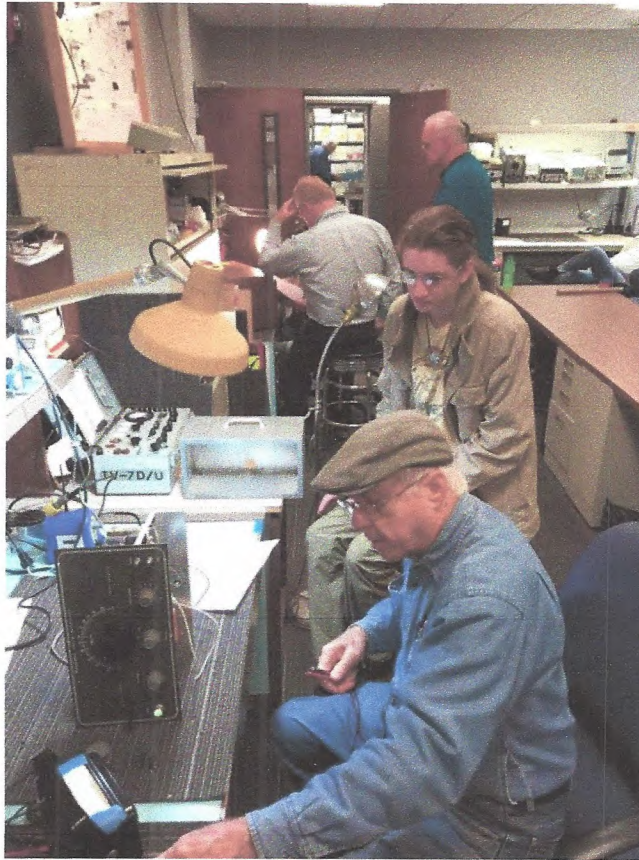


Instructor Joe Minor using his Feel Tech Signal Generator to align a Truetone Radio.

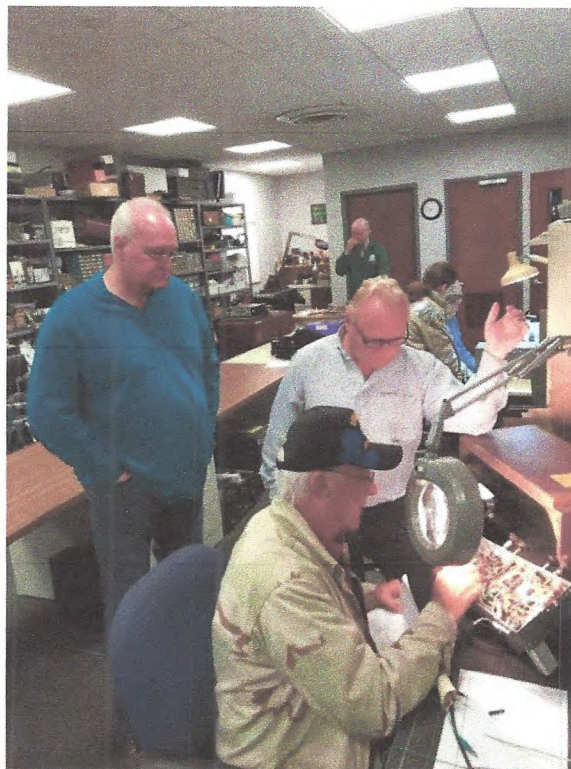
More Activity at the Shop:



Skip Leslie honing his DJ skills at the Society Radio Station.



Dave Johnson showing Leo Barnhart how to trouble shoot his grandfather's Heathkit Signal Generator.



Maurice Lovelady checking a part on Knox Sharp's Radio with Barron Smith looking on.

The January Monday night meeting will be held on January 28, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. There will be a program following the business meeting. Come enjoy some fellowship and learn some radio history.

As Dave mentioned, dues for 2019 are now due.

Thank you for all that you do for Alabama Historical Radio Society!

Have a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Newsletter Contributor: Tom Killian

OLD TIME RADIO BITS

One of the things that I have become aware of in my lifetime is that we, as people, tend to stereotype other people. I saw it in industry. A really good technical person was just that – a really good technical person. That same person might be a good manager or even a good marketer, but may have never gotten the chance because they were a “really good technical person.”

Recently I became more aware of this particular trait while watching an episode of the PBS *American Masters* series - “Bombshell – The Hedy Lamar Story.” If you have never seen the show, here are a couple of trailers from [YouTube](#) and [PBS](#). Hedy Lamar was a stunning Hollywood beauty who also invented and patented the basis for modern secure communications. The concept is called frequency hopping, the underlying reason that wi-fi, Bluetooth, and even earth to space station communications exist. Yet she was just “a stunning Hollywood beauty” and never got the credit due her for her contribution to modern communications.

All of this got me to thinking about an idea that had been rolling around in my head for several months. How many movie, television, and radio performers were stereotyped? Were Fibber McGee and Molly just comedians or were they capable of dramatic work? Was Peter Lorre always just this creepy looking guy who played strange characters? The list could go on and on.

One of the best examples comes to mind when I think of Lucille Ball. The first thing I always think of is the tv show *I Love Lucy*. Who has not seen this show? She is the red-headed, slightly crazy woman who always finds herself in hilarious situations. Was she just a comedian or was she a true multi-faceted actor? I watch *Turner Classic Movies* frequently and had seen her as a dramatic actress in the 1939 movie *Five Came Back*. There were no comedic aspects to her performance in this film. There are several [Movie Clips](#) on TCM’s site, in case you are interested in seeing a much younger Lucille Ball in a non-comedy role.

So how does any of this tie to Old Time Radio? The answer is easy – *Suspense*, the radio series that ran from 1942 to 1962. One of the early producers, William Spier, constantly allowed actors to step out of their usual rolls and portray different characters. Most notably, comedians were allowed to have dramatic parts. Later producers followed Spier’s example. Possibly, this action accounted for some of the show’s longevity.

Lucille Ball appeared on *Suspense* several times, both with and without her husband Desi Arnaz. The following are a few of the shows in which she appeared as a single artist:

[Dime a Dance \(1944\)](#) – this show is considered the best thriller of all her performances.

[The Ten Grand \(1944\)](#)

[A Shroud for Sarah \(1945\)](#)

So if you are interested in stepping outside of the stereotypes, I would suggest the [Suspense](#) series. If you are interested in experiencing a true comedic actress in a dramatic role, I would suggest any of the three shows show above.

In a totally unrelated note, several months ago I stumbled across a show from 1943 entitled *Christmas Eve at the Front* and wrote an article for the newsletter. Don Keith, a real writer, saw a bigger story in the material and wrote a better article that was published in [The American Legion](#) magazine. Please take a few minutes to read Don's article. I think you will find it both interesting and informative.

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 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



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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.

WEBSITE

Be sure and check out our website at <https://www.alabamahistoricalradiosociety.org>, which has copies of all newsletters from 2006 to the present (click on News), videos, photo galleries, museum, Old Time Radio columns, Projects, Reading Rooms, Archives, and Contact Information.

OFFICERS

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2019 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE



Editor's Note

The next few pages have the 2019 Hamfest and Swap Schedule for the Southeastern United States. I have not edited these—they are copied directly from the ARRL site.

01/18/2019 | Southern Florida Section Convention (Southwest Florida Hamfest)

Location: Fort Myers, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://swflhamfest.info/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/25/2019 | Mississippi State Convention (Capital City Hamfest)

Location: Jackson, MS

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Jackson Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://msham.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/26/2019 | DeSoto County Hamfest

Location: Arcadia, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: DeSoto Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://desotoarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/26/2019 | TechFest

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.techfest.info/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/08/2019 | Southeastern Division Convention (Orlando HamCation)

Location: Orlando, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/16/2019 | Brooksville Hamfest

Location: Brooksville, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hernando County Amateur Radio Association

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/16/2019 | W4HCA Annual Hamfest

Location: Sebring, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Highlands County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://highlandsamateurradio.com>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/22/2019 | 5th Annual TECHCON Convention

Location: Tampa, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: ARRL West Central Florida Section

Website: <http://arrlwcf.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/23/2019 | Dalton Hamfest

Location: Dalton, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dalton Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4drc.com>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/02/2019 | Charlotte County Hamfest

Location: Punta Gorda, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Peace River Radio Association

Website: <http://prra.club>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/02/2019 | ZAARC Ham Fest

Location: Zephyrhills, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://zaarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/02/2019 | Pinecastle Hamfest

Location: Orlando, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Stan Korzep, W8NNX

Website: <http://skorzep@gmail.com>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/09/2019 | MTARS - TULLAHOMA HAMFEST

Location: Tullahoma, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/mtars/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/15/2019 | Fort Walton Beach Hamfest 2019

Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Playground Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4zbb.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/16/2019 | Gulf Coast ARC Spring Hamfest

Location: New Port Richey, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://gulfcoastarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/16/2019 | Stuart Florida Hamfest

Location: Stuart, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Martin County Amateur Radio Association (MCARA)

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/23/2019 | Ides of March Hamfest

Location: Union City, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://reelfootarc.com>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/30/2019 | Tennessee Section Convention (Sevier County Hamfest)

Location: Sevierville, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Sevier County Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://seviercountyars.org/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/30/2019 | DeKalb Amateur Radio Club Tailgate

Location: Fort Payne, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: DeKalb Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w4gbr.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

04/06/2019 | Pasco County Spring HamFest

Location: Odessa, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Suncoast Amateur Radio Club

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

04/20/2019 | Gainesville Hamfest

Location: Waldo, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gainesville Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.gars.club/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

04/27/2019 | Coastal Amateur Radio Society Swap Meet

Location: Savannah, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society

Website: http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=812

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

05/11/2019 | East Pasco Tailgate

Location: Dade City, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://eparsonline.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

05/25/2019 | Wormfest 2019

Location: Pinellas Park, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: The Glorious Society of The Wormhole

Website: <http://w4orm.org/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

07/12/2019 | 23rd Milton Annual Hamfest

Location: Milton, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milton Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://miltonarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/17/2019 | Alabama State Convention, Huntsville Hamfest

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/24/2019 | Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest

Location: Lebanon, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Short Mountain Repeater Club

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

Learn More

10/18/2019 | Delta Division Convention (Hamfest Chattanooga 2019)

Location: East Ridge, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w4am.net/hamfest-chattanooga-2018/>

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

11/09/2019 | 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

11/15/2019 | Jackson County ARA Hamfest

Location: Ocean Springs, MS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Jackson County Amateur Radio Association

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

Learn More