

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter



March 2019

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE

Greetings to All!

I hope all of you are well and have avoided the flu. Please continue to remember in your thoughts members who recently had medical procedures: Mack White, Gene Samples and Rick Calhoun.



The first two months of 2019 have been interesting for the Society. Our attendance has been good at both the Tuesday and Saturday Shop Days, as well as the monthly business meetings. Many members have also attended the Saturday Morning Radio Breakfast at Bogues Restaurant. The Society has added many new members this year.

The auction at the February meeting was incredible!!! Many radios and related items were sold. Thanks to Ray Giles and Willie Henderson for preparing and managing the event. Special thanks to our junior auctioneer, Milo Jones. Remember, the proceeds from the auction are used by the Society to pay the bills and continue the mission of the Society. Mark your calendar for the March 25, 2019, business meeting; we are planning another members' only auction. The incredible items for sale are currently on display at the Shop.

March started with our participation in the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club, BirminghamHAMfest. The event was held at a new location, the Trussville Civic Center. Even though we had less display space than before, it was still a fantastic event. Dave Cisco and Dee Haynes displayed and operated the Tesla coil they constructed at the very informative forum on the Life and Times of Nikola Tesla. The forum room was packed, standing room only. Thanks to Dee and Dave.

The next big event coming up on Thursday, April 18, is the 9th Annual Legends of Broadcast. The planning for the event is ongoing. Help is needed making contacts and getting the Shop cleaned up and ready for prime time. If you know of anyone interested in broadcasting in Alabama, please invite them to the luncheon event.

That's all for now. See you at the Shop!!

President Dave

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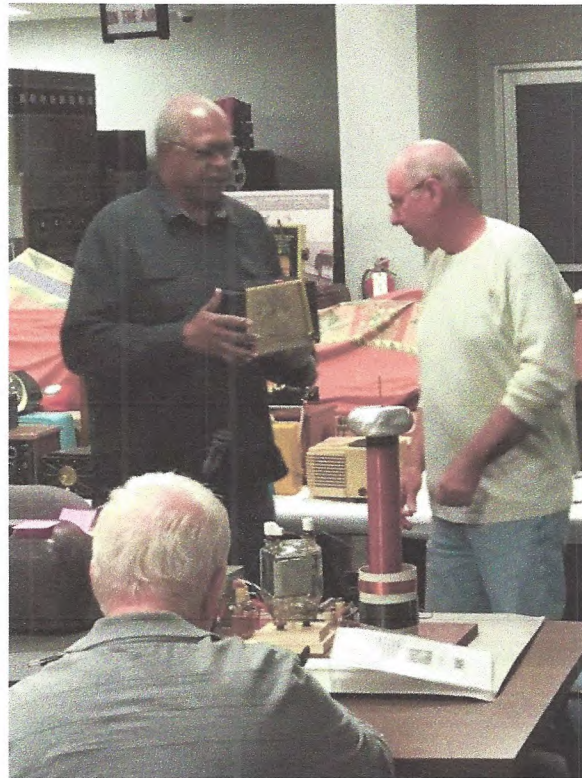
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SOCIETY

The Society has been receiving so many donations recently that storage space is becoming scarce. Several knowledgeable members have been removing items which the Society wants to restore and put on display in the future. The remaining items were put up for auction at the February night meeting. Auctioneers Willie Henderson and Ray Giles offered dozens of items to the large group, selling everything that was for sale that night. Over \$850 was raised for the Society.

In the meantime, more donations arrived, creating another space problem. Normally, member auctions are spread out over the year to allow members to recover financially; however, the space is needed for the upcoming Legends of Broadcast event on April 18, so there will be another member auction at the March night meeting on the fourth Monday night, March 25, following a brief business meeting. There will be items like the February auction, but there will be at least twice as many items as at the March auction. There are several pictures of the March auction items below. Bring your money and get your best hold because this auction is going to move fast! Remember, only members whose dues are paid up are eligible to bid on auction items. Remember, money raised at these auctions goes to the general fund of the Society to help pay expenses, so bring your check books and some folding money.



Radios, record players and test equipment set up for member auction at February night meeting.



Willie (on the left) and Ray auctioning off a clock radio at the February auction.



Items available at the March meeting member auction. Ray Giles putting stickers on the items.



A different view of items for sale at the March meeting member auction.

For as long as I have been a member of the Society (2007), we have been participating in the annual Birmingham Amateur Radio HamFest held in the Birmingham area in the March to May time frame. Generally, we have had at least 10 tables, half of which were filled with historic displays of old radios, TV's, test equipment, with the other half filled with surplus items for sale to the public. Books and old radio magazines have been popular sale items. We also have conducted an hour-long forum covering some part of radio history for those folks at the HamFest.

The event moved to a smaller venue this year, requiring us to pare down our displays and sales to five tables, leaving us with one historical radio display table and four sales tables. Based on our sales efforts and comments from the hundreds of attendees that dropped by our table, we did quite well with the smaller footprint. Also, the forum on the Life and Times of Nikola Tesla, presented by Dave Cisco, was attended by 59 folks (my count) with standing room only. In preparation for the forum, Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes and several other members built a Tesla Coil to demonstrate some of Tesla's experiments for the forum. A picture follows with Dave and Dee doing their best to get electrocuted before the group. Overall, the Society added value to the HamFest and showcased the work that we do every day to preserve radios and radio history.



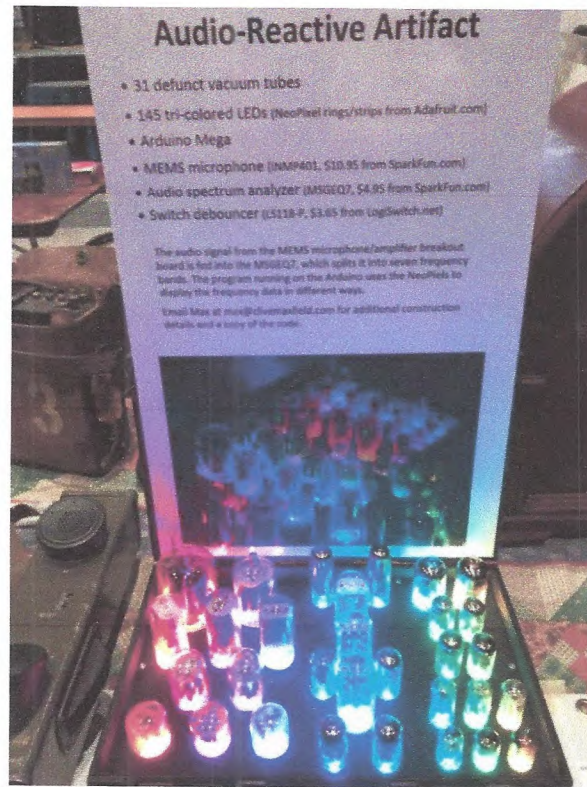
Dave Cisco working the Society tables at the HamFest with Ray Giles in the background.



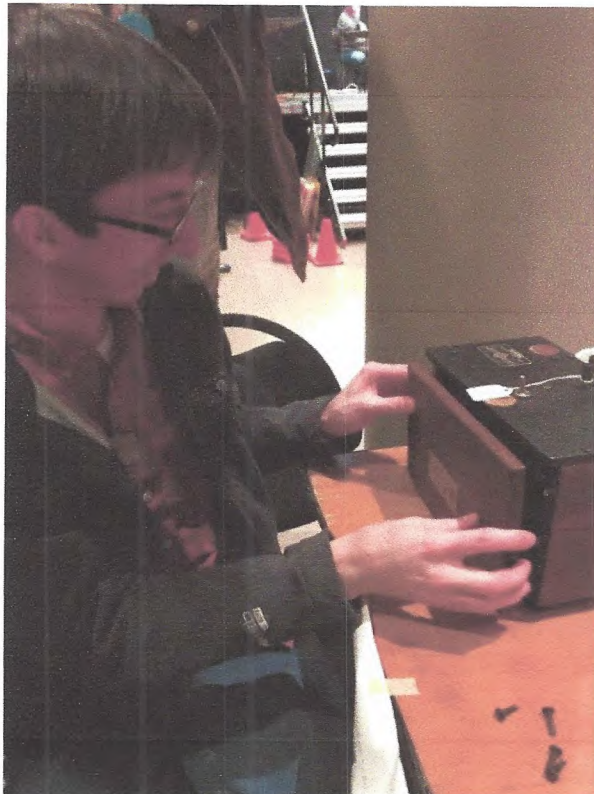
Sales tables at the Society booth with Ray Giles checking out the displays.



Two Society members who write interesting books for sale. Don Keith (on the left) has written over 30 books, with one recently being made into a movie thriller. M.D. Smith has written several books, including one entitled "Reflections," which covers 70 years of stories with him and his wife Judy. You will see some of these stories in future newsletters. They each had a booth at the HamFest.



This "Artifact" showed up on our display table bringing some attention with the dancing lights. Member Max Maxfield built the device for no apparent reason except as a curiosity. Max loaned us the Enigma Decoder machine for display last year and the circa 1949 Helmet Radio on display this year.



Out of town member Kyle Owen paid us a visit as he inspected his latest purchase.



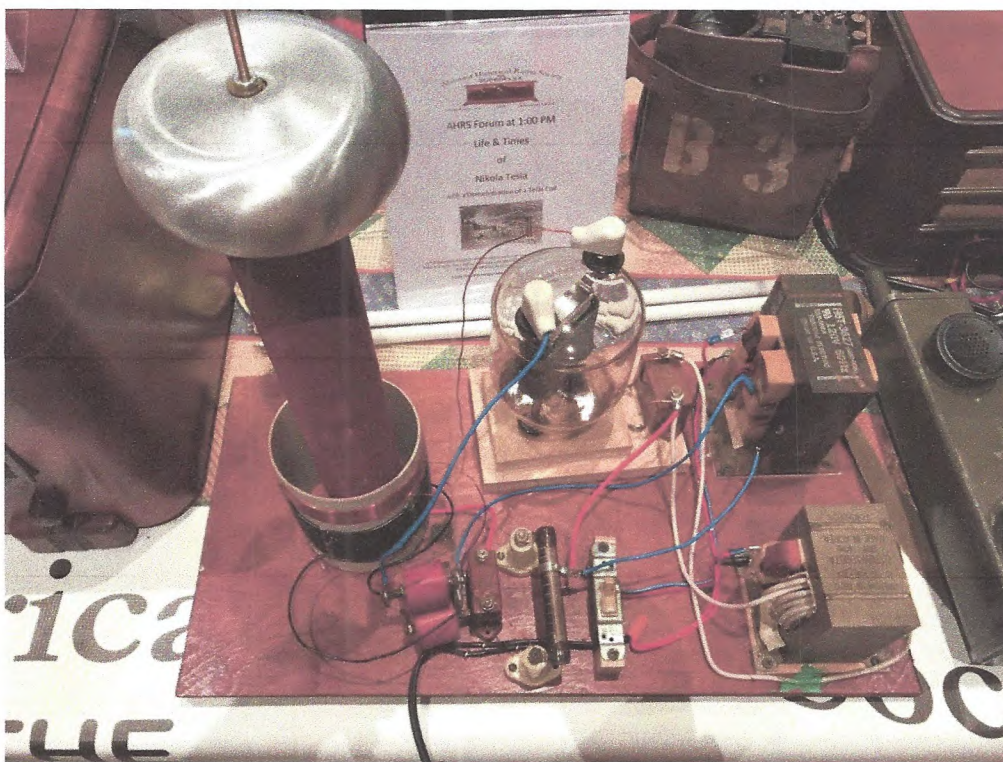
Dave Cisco beginning his forum presentation on the Life and Times of Nikola Tesla.



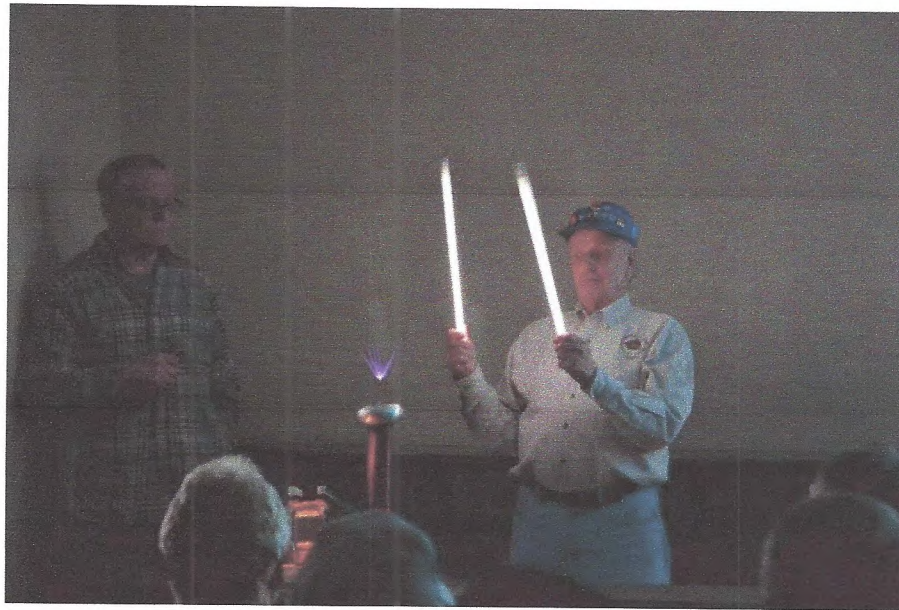
A look at the standing room only crowd attending Dave Cisco's presentation.



Dave Cisco showing a slide of the former Palace of Fine Arts where the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition was held. It is now the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, IL. Westinghouse beat out Edison to illuminate the building at the 1893 Exposition using AC with his consultant, Tesla. Edison, using DC, was \$100,000 higher than Westinghouse's AC price. They used 200,000 incandescent light bulbs, which was more light bulbs than all of Chicago had at the time.



This is the Tesla Coil that Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes and several others built for the forum. It is pictured on the display table at the Society booth for the HamFest.



Dave Cisco is holding two small fluorescent bulbs near the operating Tesla Coil. Dee Haynes is watching at a safe distance.

The ninth annual Legends of Broadcast event will be held on April 18 at the Shop in Birmingham. Members who are helping with the event should be on site by 9 a.m., so final preparations can be completed before the guests arrive. Guests usually arrive between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Some come a little later, as they are still on the air until noon or so. We will give them tours of the Shop, including the two radio studio sets and feed them great sandwiches from Marilyn's Deli and Dog next door. At some point just prior to and following the meal, the guest personalities will tell unbelievable stories about their days in radio and/or TV. Over the years we have heard some real interesting stories and have recorded most of them on video. Many of the legends have left us, so we feel it is important to give them this platform to reminisce and share some good and not so good times with their fellow broadcasters.



Local radio personality, Rob Conrad, telling the other guests about his time in broadcast. He is still on the air today and has been at the same station for 25+ years, a rarity in the broadcast industry.

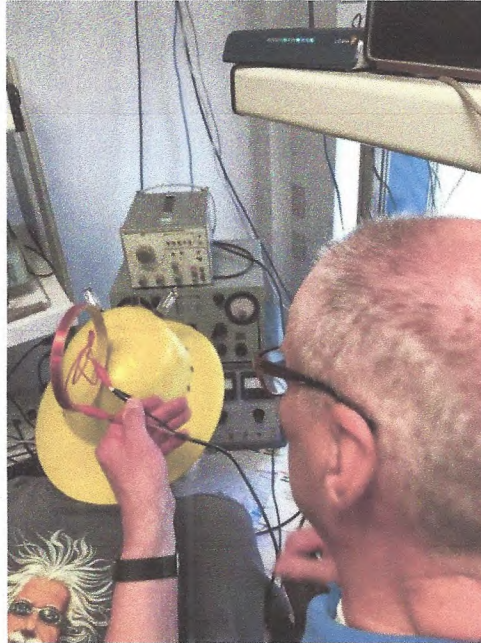


Gary Richardson (with the microphone) covering his many years as a broadcaster and as a station owner. He is also Mayor of Midfield, AL and President and CEO of Richardson Broadcasting Corp.



Our own broadcast legend, Ed Boutwell (with the microphone) telling a story or two at the Legends of Broadcast event last year.

President Dave mentioned good activity at the Shop, and I have included a few pictures showing this.



Dee Haynes tuning the Helmet Radio as Rick Curl wears the helmet.

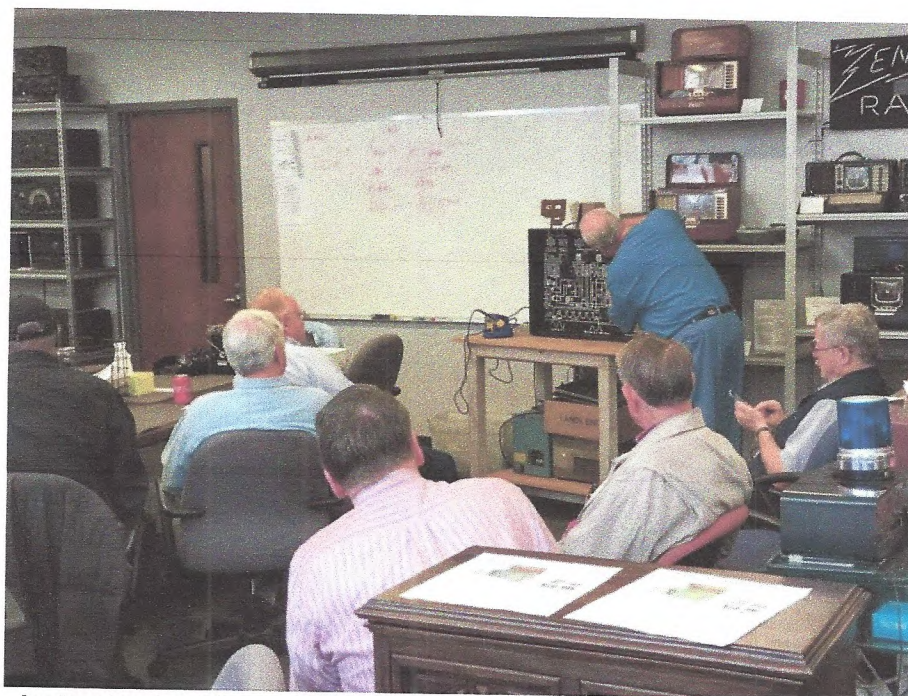


Doc Holladay (on the right) helping Jimmy Clanton work on his early Radiola radio.



President Dave helping new member Jim Burns work on his 1930's Philco radio.

On the first Saturday of each month, Instructor Joe Minor teaches students in radio class how to troubleshoot and repair old radios. The class recently completed the restoration of an older radio demonstrator donated by member Tom Hayes. Joe is now using this demonstrator to teach how each section of a five-tube radio operates. The next radio class is scheduled for April 6 at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. sharp. Come learn how to restore old radios and enjoy some fellowship.



Instructor Joe Minor setting up the radio demonstrator for class usage.



Joe is answering a specific question about a student's personal Zenith Trans-Oceanic Radio. Students are encouraged to bring their project radios to class so the students can troubleshoot real-time circuit problems together.

There are many activities available to Society members who can come to the Shop on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Please put a trip to the Shop on your calendar and come do some light work and enjoy some fellowship. See you there!

Thanks for all you do to support your Alabama Historical Radio Society!

Contributing Writer Tom Killian

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Some people read their favorite books several times. Some people watch their favorite movies several times. Some people watch television shows over and over – if they didn't what would be shown on half of our cable networks? However, with the exception of the movie *Casablanca*, I don't fit the category of repetitive reading and watching. If I don't get the book or movie the first time, I guess I just miss out on all the subtleties that can be discovered. Therefore, I was mildly surprised when I noticed there was one particular radio episode that I have listened to many times.

At night as I doze off to dreamland, I listen to Old Time Radio via internet radio. My favorite shows for going to sleep are science fiction, mainly because I have heard most of the episodes and I don't concentrate on the material. I'm not really listening, I'm just letting my mind wind down. However, when the *X Minus One* production of *Time and Time Again* is playing, I can either change the station or delay my sleep for 25 minutes. I know that I will intently listen to the show, just as if I had never heard it before.

The short story *Time and Time Again* was written by H. Beam Piper and appeared in the April 1947 edition of the magazine [Astounding Science Fiction](#). *Astounding*, at the time of publication, was the leading magazine in the pulp science fiction arena. *Time and Time Again* was Piper's first short story, the first of many that he wrote over the next 14 years.

Time and Time Again was adapted for radio and was first heard on [Dimension X](#) in July of 1951. It was later reenacted for the series [X Minus One](#) and was broadcast on July 11, 1956. The radio dramas are both excellent. The acting is good and of course the story is interesting.

The episode involves one of my favorite science fiction areas – time travel. However, unlike most adaptations, only the main character's consciousness makes the trip. Also, unlike most adaptations, the character's plan for changing history does not involve the death of the bad guy. I will leave that aspect as it is, just in case anyone actually listens to the story.

However, the real thing that makes this show interesting to me is the interaction between the two main characters, the father and the son. In just 25 minutes we see the complete relationship of the two evolve. The son becomes the teacher to the father. Then the father looks at his future as a result of the son's past (or future depending on how you perceive the show's premise). There is an emotional impact that is hard to capture in just a half hour.

Of the two productions, I much prefer the [X Minus One](#) show. While the [Dimension X](#) episode is good it lacks the depth of acting presented in the later show. Also, I found the [actual short story](#) interesting. Just follow the links provided in this paragraph to read the story or listen either of the presentations. It is my sincere hope that someone listens to the show and that it has the same impact as it does on me.

Until we meet again in the Theatre of the Mind...

Larry Lokey

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Website - otronmp3.com

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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.



Editor's Note

I needed a little filler for this page and thought with the upcoming Legends of Broadcast, you might enjoy this reminder of James Spann's visit in December 2014.

James Spann, Meteorologist for local TV Channel 33/40, gave his time to our Society and to the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club at a joint meeting on December 4, at our Shop in Birmingham. He gives his time freely to the community and getting on his schedule is difficult. Thanks to our member, Dee Haynes, for arranging this presentation. There were over 50 members of both organizations who attended and enjoyed James' weather history, his humor and his expertise on all things weather.

He also spoke about life, growing up and how amateur radio influenced his life (he is a "ham"). There was an article in the **Birmingham News** dated November 9, 2014, by Leigh Morgan, AL.com, in which James discussed his personal and professional life, much of which he covered in our December 4 program. Below is a picture from this event.



TUESDAY MEETINGS

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!

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.

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.

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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.

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