



October 2012



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DEE

Hi Folks!

So far, we've had one volunteer to help me restore the Raytheon RA-1000 transmitter. However, we're not in any kind of hurry to get it up and running. I am still working on the mod bias supply, and Dwight Crider is working on the audio amplifier. After we get all the subassemblies cleaned and working and stored away, we will tackle the main cabinet and get it cleaned and ready. I am really looking forward to getting this monster up and running (into a dummy load, of course),

We now have a new multi-drawer tool chest. All hand tools are now stored in their proper drawers in this tool chest. When you come into the shop and start to work on a project, decide what hand tools you will need, go to the chest and take what you need. When you finish up for the day, return all the tools back to the tool chest, put your radio project on the shelf with your name attached, so we will know that it is a work in progress. Last but not least, clean up the work bench. We are having more tours that see our shop these days, and we wouldn't want to have to clean up the work benches every time we have a tour.

Another work in progress is our library. We still do not have the books entered into our database. Mike Woodruff has volunteered to help us with this project. The database we currently have is the one we had when we were in Huffman, so it is outdated. We need people who can type (no hunt and peck please).

We just finished up two speaker coils for someone in Texas. Thanks to Ed Boutwell for videoing the process. He will edit it down to about 10 minutes. We plan to put this "how to" video on YouTube and link it to our website. Hopefully, this will give us some good advertising.

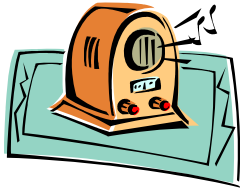
Well, I've gone whole hog into streaming old time radio. I put speakers in several strategic areas in my basement shop and plugged them into an amplifier, which in turn is fed from my laptop. Now I can listen to "Lights Out with Arch Oboler" and other spooky shows from the past while I play in my shop.

Speaking of OTR, our club now has another expert on Old Time Radio. It is a pleasure to welcome Larry Lokey to our club. Larry has agreed to input much needed information to our monthly newsletter.

So without further adieu,

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net



LARRY'S OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Ask any Old Time Radio enthusiast what the date October 30, 1938, represents, and the answer will immediately be Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds*. During a one-hour broadcast on the Columbia Broadcasting System, a major event in American folklore was born as Martians invaded the Earth in the area of Grover's Mill, New Jersey. Depending on one's perspective Welles either pulled off one of the greatest hoaxes in broadcast history, was innocent of any mischievousness, or capitalized on an opportunity that began as an innocent dramatic broadcast. No matter how the show is viewed in the eyes of history, there is no doubt that Orson Welles was a masterful showman and the presentation made him famous.

The broadcast, which was actually an episode of *The Mercury Theatre on the Air*, was largely presented in the format of a newscast, complete with frequent live bulletins from the site of the Martian invasion. It only lasted a little over 55 minutes, but as a *sustaining show* was broadcast with no commercials, which only added to the realism. Even though the show began with a normal introduction, stating among other things that the year was 1939, the facts went unnoticed by many listeners. In the pre-World War II days of heightened tension, the stage was set for people assuming the worst and ignoring the small things such as the extensive use of time-skipping. In one segment, the time from the beginning of a battle until the end only takes less than one minute.

In actuality many of the panicked listeners missed the beginning of the show due to them tuning in to the very popular *Chase and Sanborn Hour* with *Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy*. The comedy skits of that show ended about 15 minutes after the top of the hour and people tuned the dial as the musical numbers began. Many landed on the news bulletins being broadcast about the invasion. Hearing only the newscasts which sounded real, they believed what they heard – Martians were invading the Earth. Some theorize that Welles structured the show to take advantage of listeners' habits, but Welles never said whether he did or did not.

Just how widespread the panic was has been debated for years. The headline in the New York Times the next day was "Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact". Radio stations reported receiving many calls from anxious listeners. However, the episode in broadcast history showed just how powerful this medium called radio had become in just a few short years.

So on a personal note, I ask that sometime around Halloween of this year that you visit <http://archive.org/details/OrsonWellesMrBruns> for a recording of the show, mask out all of our many daily distractions, lower the lighting, and imagine a time 74 years ago when the shows on the radio were real.

Larry Lokey

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MEETING TIMES

We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 AM in the one-story building at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

It has also been decided to open the shop on Tuesday, as well as Saturday. We have a lot of projects going on and need the extra day to get it all done. So, until further notice, we will be open Tuesdays from 9am till...and on Saturday morning. Note that parking could be a problem on Tuesdays, because it is a business day, and the lot is usually filled, so you might have to find street parking occasionally.

Come to the Monday Night Meetings, TOO, on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM!

FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

Dwight Crider has taken over Robert's classes, and the first Saturday of the month, will teach electronics classes free to members. Topics include test equipment, Resistors and Capacitance testing, Inductors and coil winding, to name only a few subjects!

We hope to see you there!



Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Tom at 205-967-7000.

Dues can be mailed to AHRs @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.

WHO TO CONTACT

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