

March 2014



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!!!

There have been so many things going on at your Society, where to start? Thirty-four of us attended the Old Time Radio Show at the Virginia Samford Theatre on February 22, and had a great time! There are several pictures here from the event:



Virginia Samford Theater Lobby Display



Dave Cisco and Tom in front of the display



Stage Shot with Nipper

A Crosley Cathedral Radio (completely restored and donated by Tom Hayes) was auctioned off at the Show, and a nice check was donated to the Theatre by the high bidder. He was happy, and the Theatre was happy! This was a Twenty-Five-Year Anniversary event for us. There will be more of these events throughout the year!

The next thing on the calendar was the Birmingham Ham Fest at the Zamora Temple in Irondale, AL. We had a total of 16 tables, filled with historical displays, old radios and equipment for sale, fifty feet of military radios and equipment (thanks to Chris Story), an ARRL display saluting their 100th Anniversary, several tables filled with old magazines and new ham radio books. There was also good old fellowship, meeting old friends and making new friends. Several new members joined during the Ham Fest. The Society made enough money to cover expenses and to pay about two-thirds of the annual Internet Lease at the Shop. We also moved out some good old fixer uppers (and some junk) to new homes.



Ham Fest with Dee



Ham Fest with Ed



Ham Fest Sales Tables



ARRL 100th Anniversary with Tuska Radios

One of our main contributions to the Ham Fest was a Forum, put on by our favorites, Dave Cisco, with Dee Haynes playing computer operator. Dave and Dee worked hard on creating a new presentation which featured three groups, the ARRL celebrating its 100th Anniversary, the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club (BARC) celebrating its 84th Anniversary, and the Alabama Historical Radio Society celebrating its 25th Anniversary. They did a great job tying these groups together, historically. Our Forum was the highest attended forum of the Ham Fest! Thanks Dave and Dee! Great job!!



Dave at the Forum

Also, at the Ham Fest, your Society Treasurer, Johnny Outland, was given the Citizenship Award by the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club for his outstanding contributions to the amateur radio world.

An award well deserved! Congratulations, Johnny!



Dave and Johnny at Ham Fest

One of our contributors, Larry Lokey, teaches Communication classes at UAB several days a week. He recently brought one of these classes to our Shop for a tour and to learn something more about radios. The group of 22 split up into small groups and were shown different areas of the Shop. Dave Cisco took a group, I took a group and Dee took a group. We had a floater, Jim Cawthon, show groups the radio station and discuss old radios and stuff, in general. These were all students studying Electrical Engineering and they were very interested in what we do. Two of them joined our Society while touring. Also, Larry has his class build a crystal radio receiver from scratch as part of their classroom work. We provided small radio parts for these crystal sets to several of the students while they were touring. I got the feeling that these students saw things in our Shop that they had never seen before, like a wire recorder and the De Forest radios. Dee demonstrated a fairly sophisticated crystal radio he had built years ago.



Larry Lokey's Class

The 2014 Legends of Broadcast will be on April 24th, at our Shop. Again, we will invite every living past broadcaster we can reach to come to this annual event. We transport some from O'Henry's in Homewood where they meet each Thursday morning for coffee and fellowship. We will be showing a video of the 80th Anniversary Celebration of WSY, recorded in 2002. This video includes a panel discussion by the panel: Sterling Brewer, Pete Sides, Everett Holley, Rosemary Lucas, Shelley Stewart and Claude Gray, which should be interesting to the group. The event will start about 9 a.m. and run through lunch, which will be provided by Marilyn's Deli and Dog.



2013 Legends of Broadcast

To go along with the Legends of Broadcast event, we are reworking the radio studio and the space adjacent to it to make the area broadcast radio related. The 1000 watt AM transmitter now faces the back of the radio studio and gives the space more of a radio station feel. Mack White is working on a transcription turntable for the studio, so we may play some of our dozens of transcription disc through the station. The long glass display cabinet containing the smaller radios has been relocated to the rear of the work bench by the conference table. This will allow visitors to see these radios and, with some work, it will make a better presentation of these radios and those we will add in the future. The frequency measuring equipment has been positioned beside the AM transmitter for display. The large display case, donated by charter member, John Truitt,

will be in the broadcast area, to be filled with smaller broadcast items for display. We have dozens of old pictures of broadcast personalities (some of whom come to this event) that we intend to place on the walls and in picture albums placed in the room. A hand crank record player similar to the one in the WSY studio picture above the broadcast area, has been donated by Mack White and will be on display in this room. There is much to do here, especially before the broadcasters show up on April 24. If you have an interesting broadcast item to display or time to give, please help us get this done.

We continue to have folks drop off radios for repair. Last week, one came in from Madison, MS. These two folks drove five hours one way to get their radio to us. The console cabinet had been refinished and looked good, except for the streak across the top (that's what doilies are for). However, the radio chassis was another story. I have included a picture which does not fully show the issues, but you will get the point. I got at least two pounds of clay and dirt out of this chassis and that's just to get to the components that will surely need to be replaced. The hits keep comin'.



Dirt Dobber Radio

We do need more "Radio Doctors" in the Shop ER.

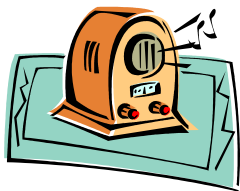
Our Annual Swap Meet is scheduled for May 31, beginning at 7 a.m. and going to 2 p.m. It will be at the Shop parking lot in Birmingham, AL. Vendors will set up at no charge inside the fenced parking lot, and the shoppers/public will park on the street or in the parking lot at the end of our alley. It is a rain or shine event, and we hope everyone will spread the word and come on down for some good trading and fellowship!

Our next Radio Class is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, at 9 a.m. at the Shop. Come learn some practical radio repair tips from Robert Frye.

Our next Monday night meeting is March 24, at the Shop, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. Program is to be determined. See you there!

President Tom

205-967-7000 or music.tomdj@gmail.com



OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Whenever it comes time to write an article on Old Time Radio, I always wonder if I should choose a broad topic with a lot of available shows or choose a singular show. What is the line between interest and overload? This month I chose to go with the single show and some associated information on OTR programming philosophy.

Unlike television programming, radio scripts were reused from one series to the next. For example this month's show, *Mars is Heaven*, was first broadcast on the adventure series *Escape* in June of 1950. The show must have been well received because the next month the show was somewhat re-scripted for the science fiction series *Dimension X*. After taking some time off, it was again performed with a completely new script on the experimental drama series *ABC Radio Workshop* (also known as *Think*) in 1953. After another spell, it was recreated on the science fiction series *X Minus One* in May of 1955 using the script from the *Dimension X* series. One might think this was the end of its life, but after the age of OTR was over, it was again broadcast in 1976 on the series *Future Tense*. So the final count is four Old Time Radio Series and one New Time Radio Series.

What is it about *Mars is Heaven* that makes it so popular that it was broadcast so many times? The show is based on the Ray Bradbury science fiction short story of the same name. The original story was published in 1948 and is generally acknowledged as one of the best science fiction stories of all time. In fact, in 1970 the Science Fiction Writers of America selected it as such and the story was published in *The Science Fiction Hall of Fame Volume One*.

The story revolves around Mars and the first spaceship from Earth to land on that planet. The crew discovers a Midwestern-type town where deceased family members reside, hence the title *Mars is Heaven*. Without giving away the plot, let me just quote Dee Haynes, “The show is kinda creepy.” While you may or may not agree with Dee, the time spent listening to at least one version of the show is well worth the time.

Below are links to the four Old Time Radio shows. All are interesting in their own way. The first part of each varies somewhat (except for the *Dimension X* and *X Minus One* versions) but the story is the same. If forced to choose, my favorite would be the *Dimension X* version if for no other reason than I particularly like the work of Wendell Holmes who portrays the Captain of the spaceship.

- [Dimension X – Mars is Heaven](#)
- [Escape – Mars is Heaven](#)
- [ABC Radio Workshop – Mars is Heaven](#)
- [X Minus One – Mars is Heaven](#)

Until the next journey into the theatre of the mind...

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com
Website - ottronmp3.com

MEETING TIMES

We meet every Saturday (unless a Holiday weekend) at 09:00 AM, at the one-story AHRS Shop at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

Also, we have opened the Shop on Tuesdays at 09:00 AM until around 11:30 AM when we go to Marilyn's Deli and Dog for lunch next door. Note that parking can be a problem on Tuesdays because it is a business day and the lot is usually filled, so you may have to find street parking occasionally.

We meet on the fourth Monday night of each month, too, at 7:00 PM. Please come join us!

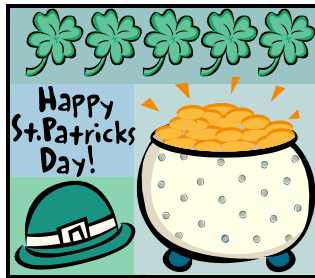
FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

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! DUES! DUES!

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact John Outland at 205-354-5258. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

WHO TO CONTACT

President – Tom Killian

205-967-7000

music.tomdj@gmail.com

Vice President – Steven Westbrook

205-305-0679

spwestbro@bellsouth.net

Recording Secretary – Mike Woodruff

205-823-7204

michael_woodruff@hotmail.com

Treasurer – John Outland

205-354-5258

jaoutland@gmail.com

Member and Instructor – Robert Frye

205-482-0562

RLF100243@aol.com

Web site – Bob Lovell

bob@dixiwebdesigns.com

Web Address:

<http://alhrs.org>

E-mail Address:

ahrs2000@gmail.com

Newsletter – Patsy Desaulniers

patwrite@gmail.com