



July 2014



**NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM**

Hello, All!

It is mid-summer and everyone is somewhere, except at the Radio Society! We continue to go about the business of repairing old radios, sorting donated equipment and magazines, having fellowship and giving tours of the Shop. Shop tour requests have increased, as well as requests for the historical radio program that Dave Cisco and Dee Haynes have been giving over the years.

The calendar has been filling up, beginning with Friday, July 18, when a group of 30 students from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Alabama will tour the Shop and Museum. On August 20, there will be a historical radio program presented to a St. Martin's in the Pines group at their facility. What is interesting about this date? It is National Radio Day. Who knew? I have done additional research on this special day with more to follow. On September 9, a historical radio program will be given at the Riverchase United Methodist Church, and this group will then tour the Shop and Museum on September 23. It is a busy time, and we are looking for volunteers to support these meetings and some to learn the historical radio program to relieve Dave and Dee at times. These events continue to support our mission of educating the public about old radios and general radio communication history.

Elections were held at the Annual Meeting on June 23. The slate of Officer and Board of Director candidates was elected unanimously. Their terms are for one year, and they will be subject to reelection at the Annual Meeting on June 22, 2015. The following are your new Officers and Board members for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014:

- President – Tom Killian
- Vice-president – Steven Westbrook
- Treasurer – Don Letchman
- Recording Secretary – Mike Woodruff
- Board of Directors – Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes, Dave Johnson, Robert Frye, John Outland and Mike Lord

The Corresponding Secretary position is open, and Steven Westbrook is handling those duties. Please give these folks your assistance this year, so we can have another great year! Thanks!

I Googled National Radio Day to get more information, and there is enough to keep you busy a while. There is a Radio Day, founded in Russia commemorating the development of radio in Russia. It takes place on May 7, the day in 1895 on which Alexander Popov successfully demonstrated his invention (radio). There is World Radio Day on February 13, the day the United Nations established the concept of United Nations Radio. And so on. National Radio Day, primarily celebrated in the USA, is on August 20 of each year. On the Altius Directory Site, there are explanations on when, why and how the Day is celebrated, the Radio Invention Story (Dave does a much better job with this!), Benefits of Radio and Evolution of Radio (again, see Dave). The most interesting thing is how National Radio Day is celebrated. Of the several ways listed, the first one pretty much covers it: "The National Radio Day is celebrated by the easy listening of radio transmission." There are E-cards for National Radio Day. Send one to your favorite radio personality! National Radio Day originated in the 1990's by unknown radio station personnel and jockeys who wanted their own holiday.

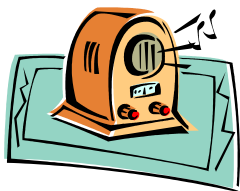
There are dozens of radios and speakers for sale at the Shop. They are going at a fair (cheap) price and offer good candidates for restoration. Tom Hayes and Gene Samples have each bought several of these radios, and they have already restored some of them and brought them back to show them off. It is amazing what a little time and sweat can do for an old radio! If you ever wanted to fix up a classic, wooden radio now is the time to act.

Robert Fry's next radio class is on August 2 at the Shop beginning at 9 a. m. Robert is planning to cover the tube repair lesson he taught earlier. Come learn some radio repair tips!

Our next general membership meeting is on Monday, July 28 at 7 p. m. at the Shop in Birmingham with a Board meeting at 6 p. m. The program is preparation for the Huntsville Ham Fest on August 16 and 17. We have 3 tables with power and are planning to sell some surplus radios and magazines. If you would like to sell something at the Ham Fest, bring it on.

### *President Tom*

205-967-7000 or [music.tomdj@gmail.com](mailto:music.tomdj@gmail.com)



### **OLD TIME RADIO BITS**

Hello Folks!

Summer is the time for baseball. As I write this article, Major League Baseball is at the All-Star break and my team, the Atlanta Braves, is tied for first place in the Eastern Division of the National League. Hopefully your team is doing as well.

A few weeks ago, while listening to one of the streaming OTR sites, I heard an episode of Bing Crosby's show – Philco Radio Time. Of course being a Bing Crosby show, there were several songs by the "Old Crooner," but there was a baseball theme which ran through the show.

Bing Crosby was a big baseball fan and from 1946 until his death in 1977, he was part owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Likewise his old buddy Bob Hope was also a part owner of the Cleveland Indians from 1946 until his death in 2003. The Federal income tax rate in 1946 for the top earners was 86.5%. It would seem that top entertainers like Crosby and Hope were looking for someplace to spend their money without paying it to the IRS.

The Pirates had opened the 1947 season in Chicago. Future Hall of Famer Hank Greenberg had driven in the only run for the Pirates with a double in the sixth inning. The Cubs were held scoreless and over 29,000 fans went home unhappy. This opening game serves as the backdrop for this Philco Radio Time show, which was broadcast on May 14, 1947. Bing's guests were Chicago Cubs sports writer Warren Brown, Hank Greenberg, and Groucho Marx. As always, Bob Hope and Jack Benny served as targets for Crosby's jokes. Likewise, any and every one served as targets for Groucho's jokes. The first eleven minutes are Crosby singing. The comedy skit starts at about 11:15 into the show and culminates with a Greenberg tribute song by Groucho and Bing – Goodbye Mr. Ball Goodbye! The show is extremely entertaining and can be heard by clicking [here](#).

If you are really a baseball fan and want to sample old baseball broadcasts, click [here](#). You will find regular games, All-Star games and World Series games from 1934 until 1966. Included on this site are all seven games of the 1960 World Series when the Pirates beat the Yankees. There is an interesting story about the seventh game. Bing Crosby was superstitious and didn't want to jinx the Pirates by watching the game. Instead he listened to the game on radio while in Paris. However, to cover his bases (pun intended), he had the game recorded using kinescope, a process where the image from the television monitor was filmed. Apparently after his Pirates won the game and the World Series, he watched the game and then put it away in his wine cellar where it stayed undiscovered for 50 years. The complete story concerning this film and its discovery can be found by clicking [here](#).

So, in this article I have tied together two of my main interests – Old Time Radio and Baseball. However, I am never sure if I am providing anything that people are interested in reading. I have a pretty extensive collection of OTR shows and will be glad to provide an article on a subject that interests someone other than me. If you have a request, please let me know by dropping me an email at the address below.

Until we meet again in the theatre of the mind...

*Larry Lokey*

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## **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Don Letchman at 205-967-8557. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

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