

# The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society  
SUPERFLUX

November 2014



## NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

October has been a busy and good month for our Society! We are looking forward to November being even better! On October 23, Steven and Marianne Gerner drove to our Shop in Birmingham from Evans, GA, just outside of Augusta, to deliver the radios from his father's (Mr. Darrell Gerner) collection. Counting the radios, keys, books (many nice ones on Atwater Kent), magazines, and tubes, it was over sixty items.



Steven and Marianne and their donations.



**Steven and Marianne and their donation**



**Dave Cisco looking at one of the code keys donated.**



The Gerners enjoyed a tour of the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum in the Alabama Power Company Atrium and a tour of the Shop down the street from the Museum. They were impressed by what they saw (They said so!) and may donate some additional items next year. We gave them a big thank you for the donations and invited them to visit any time when in the area. The donated items will be integrated into our library, broadcast and radio displays. Next time you are at the Shop, check out these valuable and interesting items.

Our monthly Monday night meeting on October 27 was highlighted by the Program put on by Mike Lord and Tom Hayes about finishing the outside of a radio. They brought several examples of beautifully refinished radios, including plastic and wooden ones. The presentation also included examples of wood veneer repair and replacement. They shared some of their professional secrets, providing those present a sheet of information followed by specific names of products they use to perform their magic. We had a good crowd at the meeting, which tells me that a good program will bring the members to the monthly night meeting. We do need suggestions on programs which will be interesting and will teach some aspect of radio repair for our members. Programs for our members and by our members will be a goal of mine from now on.



**Mike explains wood finishing techniques.**



**Mike and Tom discuss aspects of veneer repair.**



**Tom talks about his unique ways of finishing wood and plastic radios (some are shown on the table).**

Other things we have worked on this month include moving shelves around in the small rooms in the church annex. The result is more organization, allowing additional shelf space and floor room for the many radios, records and magazines we have and



continue to receive. We placed a folding table in one of the large rooms in the church annex to use as a sorting table, so the many boxes of miscellaneous parts can be more easily sorted. Two sets of shelves were installed in these large rooms to get these boxes off of the floor. There is still much work to do in the church annex, and we will be working on that in the near future. We have many old radios, record players, receivers and amps, test equipment including scopes, tube testers, VTVM's, in the church annex, which are available to our members for a small donation. These items need to be disbursed among our members for their benefit and to give us more room for radio stuff. Come on down! Let's make a deal!

We have added several new members and many have jumped right into the middle of radio repair. Willie Henderson and Maurice Hill learned about our Society from our discussions while we exercised together at a local fitness center. I invited them to visit on one of our work days. They did and got hooked on old radios. Maurice had worked at Gayle's TV Service for several years and at TV Station Channel 10 in Birmingham. As Willie says, he is at zero on radio repair knowledge, retiring from U. S. Steel after many years of service. Willie picked out a radio for his first restoration project. He was fired up! After a couple of hours working with him on the radio, I finally told him we would not finish it that day. It would take some additional work. He was sad, but understood.



**Willie and Ray Giles checking out the tubes on Willie's radio.**



Maurice checking out the 'scope he built for an electronics school he attended.

**The regular Monday night meeting scheduled for November 24, the week of Thanksgiving, will not be held and is cancelled due to the special meeting on December 4 with the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club at our Shop (see below).**

We have a special joint meeting with the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club on Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. The program will be presented by James Spann, local TV weather man and a fellow amateur radio operator. His programs are legendary, and you will learn something valuable and have great fellowship at this meeting.

Our next radio class will be on December 6, the first Saturday in the month, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. Please join us as we learn to repair old radios.

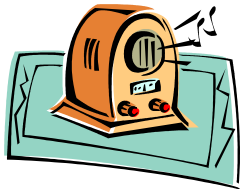
Our **Christmas Party** will be on **December 29** at the Shop in Birmingham. This will be in lieu of the fourth Monday night meeting, which would have been on December 22, the week of Christmas. We will provide the turkey, ham, rolls, drinks and utensils and the members will provide covered dish salads, vegetables, desserts, and homemade stuff that is good to eat! Put this on your calendars and plan to have a great meal and lots of

good fellowship. Also, we will be judging the radios restored by Robert's class. The winner may be happy for his efforts!

## *President Tom*

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### **OLD TIME RADIO BITS**

Hello Folks!

Mark Twain has been quoted as saying, "Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because Fiction is obligated to stick to possibilities; Truth isn't." As much as I admire Mark Twain and his humor, I have to believe that one area of fiction doesn't have to stick to possibilities - Science Fiction.

For many years I have been a fan of both science fiction and American history. Recently while watching a program on the History Channel entitled *The World Wars*, I found out an interesting tidbit about Adolf Hitler. Supposedly during World War I, a British soldier spared a wounded Hitler's life because he couldn't shoot an injured soldier (click [here](#) for a more complete article). Of course, something like that starts my mind to wondering how life would be different if indeed the outcome had been different. How would the world be different today?

Science fiction and radio have coexisted for quite a while now and a significant aspect of science fiction has always been time travel. There have been numerous methods which allowed one to travel back in time – for whatever reason. Some people attempted to change history for the better. There were shows in which people traveled to a time when they thought that life better suited them. There was even a show where hunters traveled back in time to hunt dinosaurs.

There are several shows which rank on my favorites list, but for this article I will narrow my list down to only three. The first of these shows, and my favorite, is titled *Time and Time Again*. It was broadcast on January 11, 1956, as part of the *X Minus One* series and is based on an H. Beam Piper short story from 1947. In the year 1975 during World War III, a soldier is severely injured during a battle. After he is given medication for his pain, his time travel experience begins as he awakens on his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday with his memories from the future intact. While the radio script ending is a little different from the short story, the ending is basically the same as it looks to a positive future. The show can be found by clicking [here](#).

The second show on my short list is *Time On My Hands* from a *Suspense* episode broadcast on September 25, 1960. In this show a man and his wife from 1939 travel back to Austria in 1908 to kill Adolf Hitler. They had met him previously during their honeymoon and now wanted to make that meeting much more significant by changing history. The show can be found by clicking [here](#).

The last show on this list is *Target One*. It was broadcast on December 26, 1957, again from *X Minus One*. This time the world was devastated by an atomic war in 1960. A plan is hatched to travel back to 1900 from 1990 to prevent the discovery which unleashed the atomic age. The originators of the plan are convinced that by killing Albert Einstein, the Great War will never occur. The show can be found by clicking [here](#).

In each of these shows, time travel is obviously present. However, each show presents a different outcome from the effects of time travel. There are other science fiction episodes in my collection, and I will be glad to share them with anyone interested.

Also, as was mentioned in a previous article, there is a streaming channel whose main focus is science fiction. Roswell UFO Radio can be heard by clicking [here](#) or by checking out the Listen Now page [here](#).

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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