

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society
SUPERFLUX

March 2015



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

We have just finished participating in the Birmingham Ham Fest this past weekend. The weather turned out great, and we had two good days of sales, education, fellowship and spreading the word about AHRS and saving old radios. We had several displays including four radios restored by Mike Lord, a beautiful HeathKit display of 50's models test, ham and short wave equipment, assembled by Dave Cisco, military radios and gear displayed by Chris Story and Dave Johnson, vintage televisions restored and displayed by Gene Samples. We also had tables filled with old books on electronics, *CQ's*, *QST's* 73's, *ARRL* handbooks and "how to" books on amateur radio subjects. We had more than a dozen old plastic, and some wood, radios, mostly project radios. Some actually worked! We had old test equipment, hundreds of cables, connectors, adapters, line filters, cords, junk, some old CB gear, all for sale at garage sale prices. We sold five Hallicrafter receivers and untold miscellaneous stuff. All together we filled up thirteen six-foot tables with displays and sale items. And we made a little money for the Society!



Dave Cisco with the HeathKit display



Gene Samples with his restored television display



Books, magazines and test equipment for sale



Cables, cords, connectors, speakers and junk for sale



Willie Henderson and Ned Killian working the sales tables



Plastic radios and test equipment for sale



Joe Minor at the book sales table



Chris Story explaining how a military radio operates



Military radios and equipment on display



More Military radios and equipment

Our biggest contribution to the Ham Fest was the Alabama Historical Radio Society's Forum presentation on Saturday afternoon. We had planned on a simple program with me giving an overview of the Radio Society, including our objectives. Dave Cisco followed with a general history of radio, starting with Marconi and Hertz. He moved into local radio history and included background on the early days of the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club (the host of the Ham Fest). Mike Lord followed with a ninety-minute presentation on radio repair and restoration, including his recent restorations of several wooden radios, table and console models, short wave receivers and the 1939 World's Fair radio. Mike covered in detail the steps he took to restore each radio. It was very interesting to the point that, of the forty-two attendees, only one left during the two-hour forum. He told me he had to go to his daughter's birthday party and was sorry he had to leave.

One thing that contributed to the success of the Forum was the scanning and arrangement of 158 pictures that Mike used in his presentation. Member Brendan Lovelady prepared these pictures for the show. He also ran the computer for Dave and me, as well as for Mike.



Dave Cisco at Forum



Mike Lord at Forum

We plan to put this presentation on our website. Also, the entire two-hour forum was videotaped and, hopefully, will be, after editing, put on our website. Overall, it was a great event for the AHRS. Thanks to everyone who helped in some way to make our participation successful. There are several more Ham Fests this year, so we will have the opportunity to continue telling our story and selling stuff.

Speaking of telling our story, we have a Museum and Shop tour group from the University of Alabama in Birmingham coming on March 18. Larry Lokey's Communications class, about 27 students, will stop by to see our Museum and Shop. Traditionally, Larry has each student build a crystal radio from scratch and submit it for extra grade points. Larry lets us see the more unique radios his students have constructed. There have been some very original radios made in the past. All of this expands their interest in radio communications.

Many of the items we sold at the Ham Fest were direct donations from Ed Crockett with Vintage Electronics in Hattiesburg, MS. Ed sent me an e-mail last month about the various electronics related items he had warehoused in Hattiesburg and his desire to find them a good home. I agreed to travel (5 hours one way) to his warehouse to pick up the items he wanted to donate. So, Mike Woodruff and I set out at 5:30 a.m. to pick up the items. When we arrived at Ed's warehouse with the small U-Haul trailer we had just rented, he said, "You are going to need a bigger trailer." (I flashed back to "Jaws"—"You are going to need a bigger boat."). I returned with a bigger trailer, and we filled it from top to bottom, side to side and front to back, with Ed's donations. We also filled up my Yukon XL. No problem, but we were still 5+ hours from home (seventy MPH going to MS, and fifty-five MPH pulling a trailer home). Thankfully, our unloading crew stayed late to unload the trailer and truck. Thanks, Ed for some great donations!

Our fifth Legends of Broadcast event is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, at the Shop in Birmingham and, based on current responses, it will be our best attended yet. There are several out-of-town legends coming. There will be reunions for many of these folks who have not seen each other in years. We will record as many stories as we can, some we can replay and some we better not. It is always fun and entertaining!

Our Annual Swap Meet is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, at the Shop parking lot in Birmingham. This is a rain or shine event. We will be giving Shop tours, and there will be several door prize drawings during the event. We open for vendors at 6 a.m. and the public at 7 a.m. The event ends around 1 p.m. There is no charge for vendors or for the public. AHRS members are encouraged to bring their old radios and gear for sale or trade. The Society will have books, magazines, radios, test equipment and miscellaneous stuff for sale. As always, free donuts, coffee and bottled water will be available for everyone.

Our April night meeting will include a program by Bob Friedman on Black-oriented radio in Birmingham. Also, a DVD entitled "A Radio Hero," about Paul, "Tall Paul" White, a local Black DJ, will be shown. This program has been presented around the area with good reviews. Plan to attend to learn how radio helped develop Birmingham's Black community.

Officers are elected each year from a slate of nominees selected by a nominating committee appointed by the Board of Directors ninety days prior to the annual meeting on the fourth Monday night in June (June 22). This committee will be selected at the March 23 Board Meeting, prior to the regular fourth Monday night meeting in March. Positions open are President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. Two Director positions will also be filled. If you are interested in running for office for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, beginning on July 1, let a member of the nominating committee know.

Robert's next radio class is scheduled for April 4 at the Shop beginning at 9 a.m. Come learn how to fix old radios.

The next night meeting will be on March 23 at the Shop in Birmingham beginning at 7 p.m. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m., prior to the general meeting. Selection of the nominating committee will be at this Board meeting. The Program is TBA. Come enjoy some fellowship and buy that old radio or piece of test gear you have been looking for.

Until next time!

President Tom

205-967-7000

music.tomdj@gmail.com

UPCOMING AHRs EVENTS

Here's Tom's additional description of these events below.

- **AHRs: Legends of Broadcast**

April 23, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: AHRs Shop Facility, 1801 Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd., Birmingham, Alabama 35203. Our annual Legends of Broadcast gathering will be on April 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch Included. We have already started contacting broadcasters who may wish to attend. If you know someone who may wish to attend, please respond to this email and provide their contact information. (Name, Affiliation, Telephone #, and Email address).

- **AHRS: Swapmeet**
April 25, 2015
 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 12:00 p.m. Drawing for door prize
 Tailgate Swap Meet, Free Parking to All, Tour of Facility
 If you wish to have a sales table yourself, please contact us to reserve your space in the tailgate area.
- **AHRS Regular Monthly Meeting**
April 27, 2015
7:00 p.m.
 Location: AHRS Shop Facility, 1801 Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd., Birmingham, Alabama 35203. As a continuation of our Legends of Broadcast, Bob Friedman with the Birmingham Black Radio Museum project will present **Radio's Role in the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement** in a video, "A Radio Hero." The 55-minute video will cover the period between 1936-1963. Hear the voices of Dr. Martin Luther King, Louis White, Jessie Champion, Shelly Stewart, Erskine Faush, Maurice "The Thin Man" King, Willie McKinstry, Edward "Johnny Jive" McClure, Rev. Frank Dukes, Joe Dickson and others. Learn how radio helped develop Birmingham's Black Community and how the conditions shaped Paul "Tall Pall" White's life and commitment to the Civil Rights Movement.
- Other Events: **Ham Fests:** Mobile, AL - April 11; Dayton, Ohio - May 15-17; Huntsville, AL - August 15-16; Helena, AL - October TBA; Stone Mtn., GA - November 7-8; Two Boat Anchor Ham Fests: Dadeville, AL - April 4 and October 3.

The Music City Vintage Radio Club has three swap meets each year, a Spring Meet sometime in April, a Summer Meet in July and a Fall Meet in October. I cannot find any information about these events for 2015 on their web site. If you have any information on these events, please contact me.

There may be other antique radio events in the area, but SARS and Music City are the ones we generally try to attend. If you know of an event I missed, please send me the information and I will include it in the next Newsletter.



Edward R. Murrow

OLD TIME RADIO BITS

A couple of months ago I heard on the news that newsman Richard C. Hottelet, the last of the Murrow Boys, had died. While I recognized the name from some OTR news broadcasts, what caught my attention was the association with Murrow's Boys.

The Wikipedia article on [Murrow's Boys](#) states that "Murrow recruited a number of newsmen and women to CBS during his years as a correspondent, European news chief and executive. The "Boys" were his closest professional and personal associates. They also shared Murrow's preference for incisive, thought-provoking coverage of public affairs, abroad and at home."

However, this article is not about Murrow's Boys, but about their leader, Edward R. Murrow – one of the most respected names in American broadcast journalism. Murrow joined CBS in 1935 when there wasn't even a news organization. His job wasn't to be a journalist or even to read the news. His job was to line up newsmakers to go on the air and discuss the issues of the day. When he went to Europe in 1937, his function still was not on-air reporting.

While in Europe Murrow and journalist William L. Shirer would team up to become the forefathers of broadcast journalism. Murrow's on-air journalism began in 1938 when Hitler annexed Austria. Forced into a live broadcast his first words were "This is Edward Murrow speaking from Vienna.... It's now nearly 2:30 in the morning, and Herr Hitler has not yet arrived." The world was listening and while they may not have liked the news content, they liked the man who brought them live and factual information.

Based in London, Murrow went on to provide eyewitness reporting of the war in Europe. His most noteworthy work was a CBS and BBC co-production called "London After Dark." What set him apart from many of the other news efforts was that he was not sitting in a studio reading news copy, but was providing live, on-site, riveting reporting. He reported on the bombings in London from the top of a building. He reported from a bombing run to Berlin. He reported from the liberated concentration camp in Buchenwald. In today's world such work is common place, but at that time it was extraordinary. His famous opening line was "Hello America. This is London calling" and his equally famous closing line was "Good night, and good luck."

After he returned to America at the end of the war, he became head of CBS news, as well as a Vice-President of the network. However, at heart he was a broadcast journalist and in 1947 he returned to the air where he remained until 1959. He soon branched out into television journalism and became a household name in that medium. He is especially noted as the journalist who took on Senator Joseph McCarthy and McCarthyism. He was instrumental in McCarthy's political downfall.

There are several shows in my collection and it is hard to pare them down. However, I have so much respect for Murrow and his work, that I am listing ten programs below ranging in time from 52 seconds to 49 minutes. In case the listener doesn't care for the longer programs, the running times for each program are listed. I urge everyone to listen to at least a few of the programs in the perspective of the infancy of broadcast journalism.

- [1940-08-24 On the Blackout \(2:46\)](#)
- [1940-08-25 Effects of Bombing \(3:44\)](#)
- [1940-09-20 On London Rooftop During Blitz \(4:10\)](#)
- [1943-12-03 'Orchestrated Hell' Broadcast With RAF \(17:36\)](#)
- [1944-08-17 Counts Parachutes in Holland \(1:01\)](#)
- [1945 On Buchenwald Concentration Camp \(10:16\)](#)
- [1946-02-24 Remembers England \(4:40\)](#)
- [I Can Hear It Now 1933-1945 \(48:55\)](#)
- [News Commentary on McCarthy Murrow \(0:52\)](#)
- [News Senator Joseph McCarthy \(14:23\)](#)

There are volumes of works dealing with Edward R. Murrow. However, if one wishes to read more on his life, I suggest as a start, the Wikipedia Article from which much of this information was gathered.

And as a bonus, in case you missed the January club meeting, here is the link to the program that Dee presented – [The Philco Radio Story](#).

Until we meet again in the theatre of the mind... "Good Night and Good Luck."

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

Website -otronmp3.com

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). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

SHOP ON TUESDAYS

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 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

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 – Don Letchman

205-967-8557

dletchman@bellsouth.net

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