

May 2015



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, all!

This has been a busy month for the Alabama Historical Radio Society. Beginning with our fifth annual Legends of Broadcast, we welcomed and entertained some of the best known legends of radio and TV from this area. A meal prepared by Marylyn's Deli and Dog was provided to the invitees and member guests. During the meal, smaller groups relived stories of their early radio/TV days and some of these stories were captured on video.

Following the meal, the Legends were invited to gather around the conference table for some real story telling. Some video was recorded of these conversations. Over three hours of four-channel audio was recorded in an attempt to capture as many stories as we could.

Each year we have a different makeup of Legends, with one or two of them "taking over the discussion." This year, Shelly Stewart took the lead and told some very interesting stories from his radio days in the sixties. Some of his experiences would be highlighted in the April Monday night meeting program held by the Society, to be mentioned later. The invitees were appreciative of this event, as it provided them with a chance to have fellowship with those radio brothers and sisters that they had worked with over the years. They all are looking forward to next year's Legends. Some pictures from the event follow.

Upcoming Club Events

- Ham Fests:**
 Dayton, OH May 15-17
 Huntsville, AL Aug 15-16
 Helena, AL Oct TBA
 Stone Mtn., GA Nov 7-8
 Two Boat Anchor Ham
 Fest: Dadeville, AL
 Oct 3.
- Antique Radio Events**
Music City Vintage Radio Club
 1604 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN
 37210. They have a Summer
 Meet in July and a Fall Meet in
 October. Dates TBA.

SARS Spring Swap Meet
 Saturday, June 13 at 8:00 a.m.,
 11385 Haynes Bridge Rd
 Alpharetta, GA. 30004



Feeding the Legends



Legends watching the 2013 Legends video. Some of the 2013 attendees are now deceased.



Shelly Stewart makes everyone laugh.



Legends back in the studio.



Legends for 2015 (Some had left by picture time).

Two days following the Legends, we held our fifth annual Spring Swap Meet at the Shop parking lot in Birmingham. The weather was stormy right up until 6 a.m. the morning of the Swap Meet. By 8 a.m. the rain was gone and the sky was turning blue. Unfortunately, by then the damage was done. The usual out-of-town vendors and shoppers were no shows, and we were left to enjoy the local vendors and the Society sales tables. Thanks to member, John Truitt, we had ten dozen assorted donuts to munch on. And thanks to member, Dave Cisco, for the 30-cup-pot of fresh, hot coffee. We offered a venue for folks to come to buy, sell, swap, and give away all sorts of radio stuff. The Society made some money, after expenses, and we all enjoyed the fellowship during the day. Some pictures follow.



John Truitt, looking at all of those donuts.



Ron, Marvin, Dave and Ray at the Swap Meet.



Gene Samples' wares. He sold many of these.



Tom Hayes showing his like-new radios.



Maurice Lovelady sold several radios, including that signal generator (small boat anchor).



More activity as the weather cleared and folks showed up.

At the monthly Monday night meeting, following the Swap Meet on Saturday, we had an interesting program that tied in with the Legends event the previous Thursday. Bob Friedman, the Director of the Black Radio Museum and a Legend in the radio business, has been doing research on the influence of the local black radio station owners and disc jockeys on the civil rights movement in the Birmingham area. He produced a DVD entitled, "A Radio Hero," covering much of this history, in particular, that of disc jockey Paul White, known around here as "Tall Paul." Following the video, Bob answered questions about the local radio disc jockeys and their importance during this time in history. The video covered the time frame of early radio through 1963, so none of the more contemporary disc jockeys were mentioned. One of the disc jockeys in the video attended this year's Legends event and had given those attending the Legends several interesting stories from the early days of radio. Some pictures follow.



Bob Friedman introducing the program.



Bob Friedman introducing the DVD, "A Radio Hero."



Bob has every one's attention.



Bob Friedman answering questions about his video.

One past Tuesday, I was commenting on customer radios coming in for repair. I am sensitive to that because we only have a handful of members who actually repair radios. I try, but I have more radios on life support in the Shop than anyone. Why do I always get the tough ones? One of our officers does a lot of work around the Shop, inventorying donations, sending tax letters for donations, signing up new members and logging their e-mail addresses into the computer. You seldom see him working on a

radio. I caught him doing just that and I captured it on my camera because no one would believe me otherwise. So here he is, actually working on a (his) radio.



Vice-president Steven Westbrook working on a radio.

Robert's next radio class is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. Come learn how to fix old radios.

The next regular Monday night meeting will be the fourth Monday night in June, June 22, at the Shop in Birmingham. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m. This will be our Annual Meeting and we will elect officers for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

The Nominating Committee has recommended a slate of officers and board members for election. Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to voting. If you have an interest in being an officer or a board member, please let Mike Lord, Nominating

Committee Chairperson, know. The Nominating Committee offers the following names for the positions listed for the 2015-2016 year:

President - Tom Killian
Vice President - Steve Westbrook
Recording Secretary - Mike Woodruff
Treasurer - Don Leachman
Board Members - Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes, Dave Johnson, Mike Lord, John Outland, Robert Frye and Ray Giles (new)

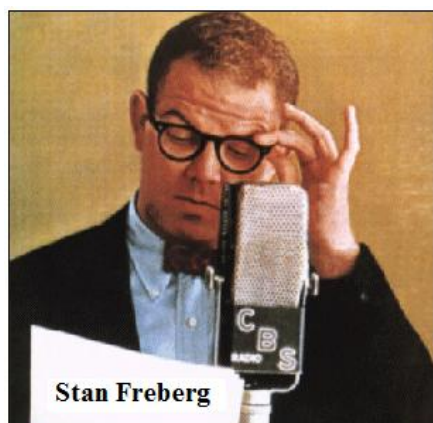
Please come support these nominees as we begin our 27th year as Alabama Historical Radio Society. Thank you for your continued support!

Until next time!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

At last month's *Legends of Broadcasting*, we were extremely fortunate to have quite a few radio personalities. During one of the conversations, someone said that the on-air personalities were more than just announcers; they were also salesmen and ad men. That statement brought to mind something that I had heard just a few days earlier. When discussing the passing of Stan Freberg, one commentator had described him as one of the greatest ad men ever. I had spent a lot of time on the radio with Freberg but never realized until his death last month that he was more than just a radio personality – as if that wasn't enough.

Before the days of the internet, listening to old time radio just wasn't that easy. Sure I had a few shows in my collection, but you could only listen to an episode of *The Shadow* so many times until it got tiring. The Birmingham Public Library had a few records and tapes, but they were all located downtown and in those days my travels didn't take me there that often. Most of the variety that I found was in a syndicated radio show called *When Radio Was*. It was originally hosted by Art Fleming of

television *Jeopardy* fame and after his death by Stan Freberg, the host from 1995 until 2006. So yes I was very familiar with the voice of Stan Freberg. Five nights a week I set a timer to record a cassette of the show from WCKY (also called WSAI), 1530 in Cincinnati. Something about atmospheric propagation just about always brought a clear signal into Birmingham. Thanks to Stan Freberg my interest in OTR increased daily.

Reading Freberg's entry in [Wikipedia](#), it turns out that he was "an American author, recording artist, animation voice actor, comedian, radio personality, puppeteer and advertising creative director, whose career began in 1944. He remained active in the industry into his late 80s, more than 70 years after entering it." He was a well-known satirist and his work is recognized to this day.

There are two articles that really helped me to get a better understanding about the man with whom I had spent so many hours. The first is the aforementioned [Wikipedia](#) entry. The second is a [Los Angeles Times](#) article written about his passing. It only seems right that we acknowledge the life and accomplishments of a man that was so instrumental in the entertainment industry.

Unfortunately, the only thing that I have that I am sure is not under copyright is his show that ran on CBS in 1957. There are fifteen episodes filled with satire and parodies. Even though I am not a big fan of comedy, these shows are very interesting. No one was safe from him. Consequently, he frequently met with interference from the network executives. In many ways, his work met the same resistance that the Smothers Brothers did on television in the 60's. All of the shows can be found [here](#). Also possibly going out on a limb, [here is a link](#) to some of his commercials. Don't expect to compare them to what you hear on television today.

However, there is one item that cannot be ignored. It is from one of his albums and goes to the core of radio. Things could be done on radio that could not be done on television, at least before the days of computer generated imagery. The name of the piece is "[Anybody Here Remember Radio](#)" and should be heard by everyone. In case you are from the current generation and your attention span cannot stay with a piece that runs about four and a half minutes, [here is a link](#) to a YouTube video that only lasts one minute. Either way your time will be well spent.

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

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

[Website - otronmp3.com](http://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). 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!



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.**

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!

Who to Contact

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