



The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society
SUPERFLUX

July 2015



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, all!

The Society 2014-2015 fiscal year ended on June 30. Elections were held for Officers and Board of Directors for the new 2015-2016 fiscal year at the membership meeting on June 22. The candidates were nominated by the Nominating Committee. One floor nomination was made for the Board of Directors, Willie Henderson. All nominated candidates were elected by the voting membership. The new Officers and Directors are:

President - Tom Killian
Vice-President - Steven Westbrook
Treasurer - Don Leachman
Secretary - Mike Woodruff
Board of Directors:
Dave Cisco
Dave Johnson
John Outland
Mike Lord
Robert Frye
Dee Haynes
Ray Giles
Willie Henderson

Upcoming Club Events

- **Ham Fests:**
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.

Elections are held annually for all of these positions. Please support these officers and directors as they tackle the challenges of the new year.

At the June 22 Board Meeting, I ask each standing committee about their plans for the coming year. They each have an area of concern they wanted to address. Briefly, the Shop Committee wanted better soldering irons on each bench. Currently, there were two temperature controlled soldering stations in use and an assortment of smaller soldering irons on the other benches. We had purchased four digital soldering stations for the radio classes, but we were not using them. So, in a matter of minutes, all of the smaller soldering irons were collected and put away and the new digital soldering stations were installed on each bench.

The Museum Committee wants to label each radio and piece of equipment on display with information about its manufacturer, date made and some interesting information about the item, all on a small card placed by each item. They are testing the idea of magnetic calling card holders with a larger name badge attached to the card holder. Our display shelves are metal and allow the magnetic card holders to be easily placed and moved as the displays change. They need help gathering the information for each item, and this is a great opportunity for our members to learn about our radios and their history. They are also planning to improve the labeling at the Don Kresge Memorial Museum in the Alabama Power Company Corporate Headquarters. One other idea they have is to put QR (Quick Response) Codes on each radio/equipment label to take anyone who scans this Code to an internet site, which further explains or describes the item they are looking at. This is also planned for the Museum. One of our members, Chris Story, is working on this project with the Committee.

It is a goal of the Library Committee to get all of the reading material cataloged and on our website, so the depth of our reading material can be seen and utilized by our members. This requires many hours of organizing and typing information into the data base. A few dedicated volunteers would help this along! Along those lines, our website needs some modernization, and this is also on the Library Committee's plate.

The Marketing Committee plans to continue to find new homes for items donated to the Society. We are blessed with hundreds of items each year, so the challenge to this Committee is on-going. All of our members are welcome to visit the Shop and check out these donations.

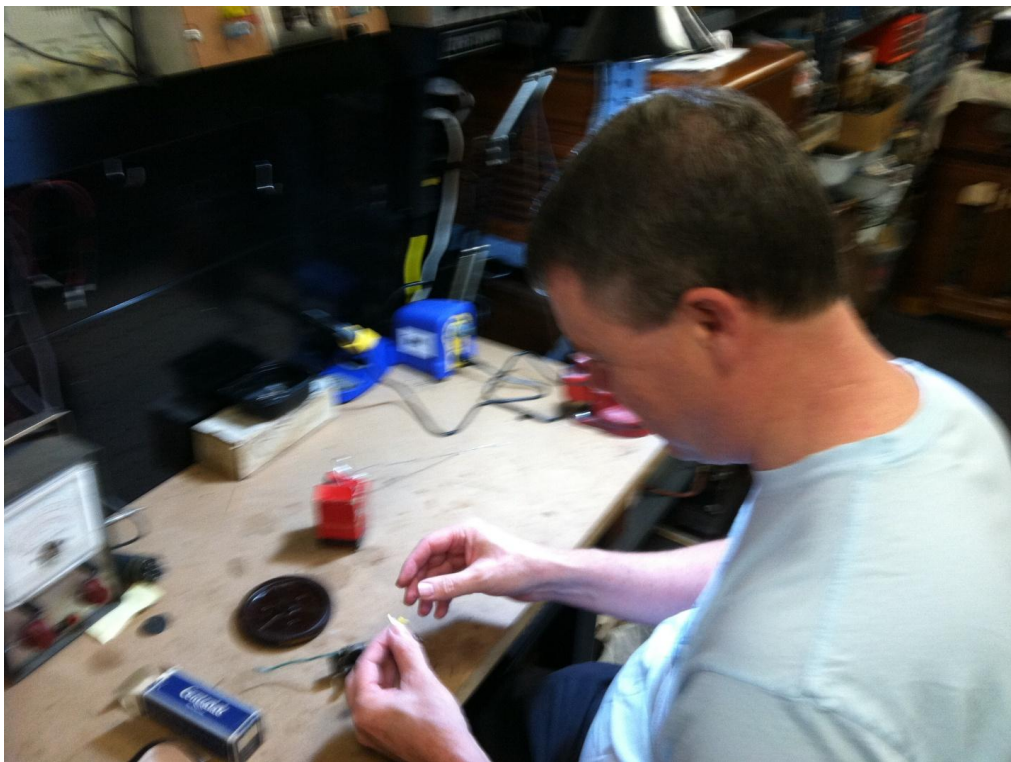
Activity around the Shop has slowed some, primarily due to summer vacations. However, there are a group of dedicated members who continue to come in for fellowship and to repair old radios. Between my wife's brownies and John Truitt's donuts, we are becoming spoiled and a little "bigger." They are hard to beat with a hot cup of coffee. I still like to capture pictures of activity at the Shop. Here are some:



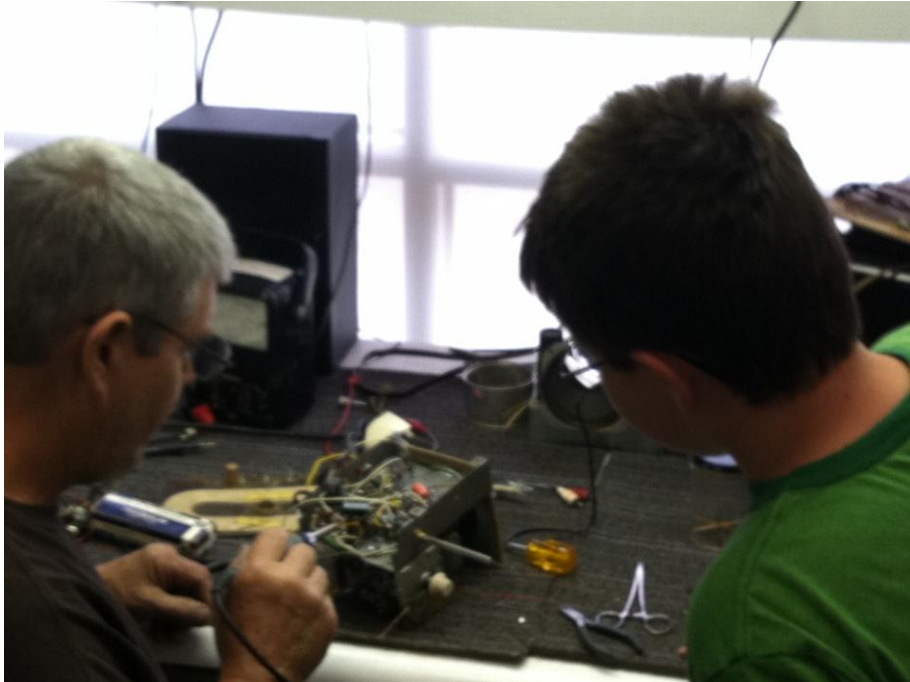
Maurice Lovelady and Mack White working on a 1926 Showers Consola.



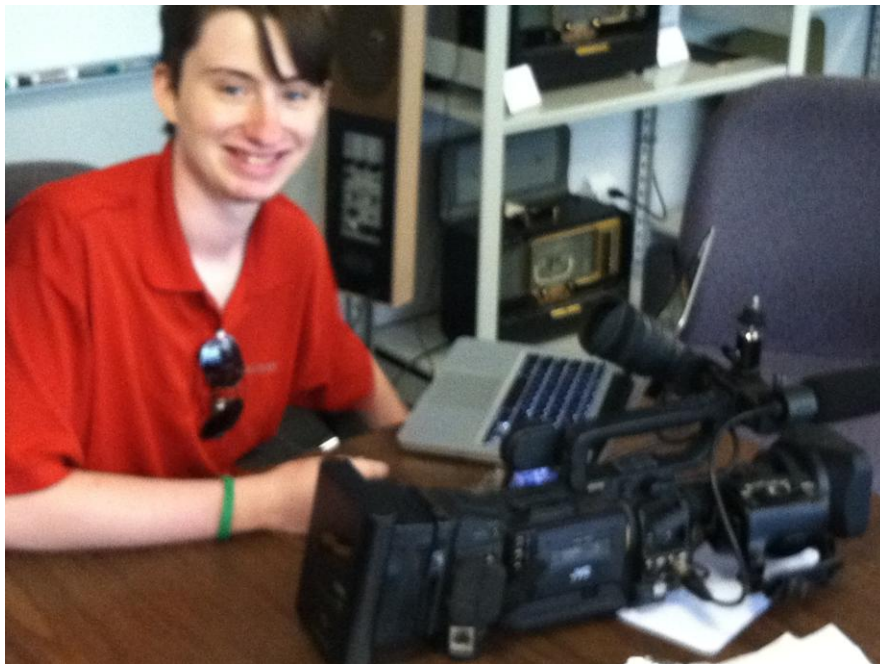
Maurice and Marvin Shepherd enjoying some Saturday morning fellowship.



Ron Studdard working to rebuild a difficult radio part.



Gene Samples mentoring his son. You cannot start too early.



Brandon Lovelady and his new love, a JVC HD GY200U Professional Camcorder.

We have been moving equipment in the Annex to make room for replacement of the floor. I have included some pictures of the radios we moved and in their new location. Most of these radios are available to the membership for a reasonable donation. This is a fraction of the radios and test equipment that we have available.











Mike Woodruff and Chris Story admiring one of the military radios we moved.

The next membership and Board meeting will be on the fourth Monday night in July, July 27, at the Shop in Birmingham.

The next radio class will be on August 1 at the Shop in Birmingham. Robert Frye continues on medical leave, so we will work on our class radios. Please continue to keep Robert and Margaret in your thoughts and prayers.

Until next time!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

A couple of things came together in the last few days that dictated the topic of this month's article. First was the tragedy that occurred in South Carolina. As most of us are well aware, nine people were killed in Charleston by a lone gunman as they worshipped in one of the oldest black churches in America. The second thing that occurred was that I was working on some of my digital collections (radio shows and comics) and came across a lot of items that related to Superman.

At this point, many will wonder how these two actions have any relationship. Actually they tie together in an indirect way – in 1946 the fictional character Superman took on the real life Ku Klux Klan, and Superman won. Maybe the last statement is a little exaggerated, but there is much more truth than fiction in it.

The short version is that an activist by the name of Stetson Kennedy infiltrated the resurgent KKK, learned the inner workings of the organization, including all of the rituals, and fed the information back to the producers of the popular Superman radio show. The writers of the show then put together a 16-part series entitled, "*The Clan of the Fiery Cross*," using real-life incidents and actual information about the KKK. What may be unknown to the reader is that the Superman radio show was aimed at kids, even though some adults obviously listened to it. The opposite of the trickle-down effect occurred at this point. Parents became aware of the subject from their children and the final result was the collapse of the KKK's new-found resurgence.

I realize this story sounds somewhat far-fetched. However, the matter is well documented. There are many articles, a book, and some television shows that deal with the subject. Rather than trying to expound on the subject any further, I will direct

the reader to one of the better articles that I have found - [Superman Takes Down The Clan Of The Fiery Cross](#).

What I can offer is the complete series for your listening enjoyment: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 4](#), [Part 5](#), [Part 6](#), [Part 7](#), [Part 8](#), [Part 9](#), [Part 10](#), [Part 11](#), [Part 12](#), [Part 13](#), [Part 14](#), [Part 15](#), [Part 16](#). Each episode lasts about 15 minutes. Approximately the first two minutes and the last minute of each one are the same, in case the listener wants to skip the repetitive opening, commercial, and closing.

When looking back on something that occurred 69 years ago and seeing relevance in today's world, it may be useful to remember that Superman always fought "The never ending battle for truth, justice, and the American way."

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

Larry Lokey

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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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