

August 2015



### NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, all!

Summer is about gone. Kids are going back to school much earlier, in mid August. I remember starting a new school year the day after Labor Day. And then there is football. This brings competition for our Saturday work days, as members cheer for their favorite teams, attending as many games as they can. Actually this is a good thing as it breaks up the weekend and gives folks a break from the routine. And, hopefully, it will bring folks back to enjoy the fellowship of our Radio Society. You can work on old radios in the morning and enjoy the games in the afternoon and evening.

### 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 Fall Meet in  
October. Dates TBA.

We have a great opportunity to tell people who we are at the Alabama Broadcasters Association (ABA) 2015 Annual Conference to be held on August 14 and 15 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel. The Conference will have an Exhibit Floor with 25 booths displaying radio and television broadcast-related products during the event. Sharon Tinsley, President of ABA, has invited our Society to set up a display and tell the attendees who we are and what we do. She attended the Legends of Broadcast event this past April at our Shop and was impressed with our organization and our objectives to preserve early radio equipment, books, manuals and history. Four members, including Dee Haynes, Ed Boutwell, Mike Woodruff and myself, are scheduled to work at the booth. We plan to show video interviews of current and deceased legends of broadcast and a PowerPoint show of our museum, shop and events over the last several years. Membership applications will be available! There will be pictorial coverage of this event in the September Newsletter.

There is plenty of activity at the Shop, as shown in some pictures below. My granddaughter stopped by to demo the DJ station at the Shop. I think that passes for activity at the Shop.



**Killian spinning records at the Shop DJ Station**



**Ralph Atchison learning how to repair his old radio console**



**Brendan Lovelady restringing a dial cord for Jimmy Roberts**



**Ron Studdard and his restored General Electric Table Model Radio**

At our Monday night meeting on July 27, member Chris Story presented a program on QR (Quick Response) codes. Most of us have seen these codes around and are curious about what they mean. I Googled QR Code and looked at the Wikipedia site for QR Code, and there was a lot of information.

Google QR Code and you can select from multiple sites and read all about it. On the Wikipedia page, there is a QR Code Generator that allows you to create your own QR codes. Just briefly, a QR Code is a trademark for a type of matrix barcode first designed for the automotive industry in Japan. A barcode is a machine-readable optical label that contains information about the item to which it is attached.

Chris was explaining these codes in the context of putting one on each of our display radios (beginning with the Museum radios), so museum visitors could scan these codes with their smart phones or devices, loaded with the QR App, to read these codes. Once scanned, the preloaded information would display on the smart device, allowing the visitor to learn more about the item. A great amount of work will be required to get all of our items coded and Chris, along with Steven Westbrook, is doing the early work to get this done. Additional help will be needed to complete this project. For those who attended the meeting, it was exciting to see the energy that Chris has for this project. Let's get behind him and do what each of us can to help him. I have included a QR Code for one of the Society's radios in this article. Please scan it with your app enabled smart device and see what pops up. As far as what app to download for this, there are so many, I don't know which one is the "best." If you find a good one, let me know.



Chris Story explaining QR Codes and how the Society will use them





**QR Code for one of our Museum radios**

A group from the ARC of Jefferson County recently had a guided tour of the Don Kresge Memorial Museum located at the Alabama Power Company Headquarters Building in Birmingham, AL. Vice-President Steven Westbrook and Board member, Dee Haynes, led the tour.



**Steven Westbrook giving the ARC guests a guided tour of the Don Kresge Memorial Museum**

I mentioned last month about the scrap radios and surplus equipment that we carried to the scrap yard. Here is a picture of the 880 pounds of stuff we unloaded.



**Eight hundred eighty pounds of Scrap**

Several members attended the Cullman Hamfest on July 25 and sold and traded for radio equipment and test gear. A couple of pictures show the action. Not pictured were members Fred Cross, Jack Bryant, Bob Lovell and Larry Lokey, who I saw there.



**Brian Wingard and Mike Lord at the Cullman Hamfest**





**Hop Hays reeling another one in at the Cullman Hamfest**

The Huntsville Hamfest will take place August 15 and 16, at the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsville, AL. We will not have tables this year, but several of our members are going to attend.

Robert Frye is still on medical leave from radio class duties. We miss his organization and instruction, and our best wishes and prayers go out to Robert and Margaret. Our next scheduled radio class will be on September 5, at the Shop.

Our next Monday night meeting will be on August 24, at the Shop in Birmingham, AL, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m.

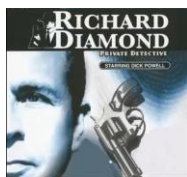
If you have not been to the Shop in a while, please come join us, meet our new members, see the changes we have made and have some fellowship. See you there!

Until next time!

***President Tom***

205-967-7000

[music.tomdj@gmail.com](mailto:music.tomdj@gmail.com)



## **OLD TIME RADIO BITS**

Hi Folks!

The following is just a few ramblings, since I don't have a particular theme this month. But, it's all about OTR. And, how about letting me know if you are out there and enjoy my tidbits. You can send me a comment at [k4hfx1@bellsouth.net](mailto:k4hfx1@bellsouth.net).

If you need me, just call, or maybe just whistle. You know how to whistle don't you? Just put your lips together and blow. I bet the guy or gal that whistles the intro to "Richard Diamond, Private Detective" knows how to whistle. I never could whistle a high note till I got my store bought choppers. Now every time I listen to Richard Diamond, I pucker up. And, if you would like to listen to a few good detective shows, feel free to tune in to Mr. Diamond at this web site. Just click the show of your choice. [https://archive.org/details/OTRR\\_Richard\\_Diamond\\_Private\\_Detective\\_Singles](https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Richard_Diamond_Private_Detective_Singles). By the way, try to whistle along with the intro.

Well, I just discovered something about the radio show "Gunsmoke." Evidently, they dub in the sounds of the gun shots after recording the show. Go to this link [https://archive.org/details/OTRR\\_Gunsmoke\\_Singles](https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Gunsmoke_Singles) and click on show number 70, "How to Kill a Friend." Near the end, Matt Dillon gets into a gunfight with a hired gunman and shoots him twice, but you don't hear a gunshot. Either Matt used a silencer or they forgot to add the sound. I guess they let that one slip by. If you don't want to listen to the entire show, the gun fight comes at minute 21:30; however, I would suggest that you listen to the entire show. Gunsmoke was an excellent show with good acting and sound effects. In today's market, it would probably be rated PG13.

Here's another tidbit. According to the radio show, "This is Your FBI - Jul 15, 1949: Merchant of Death," there was a person murdered every 40 minutes that same year. That is interesting because I did some research on the internet. There were 12,765 people murdered in 2012. Now if my calculations are correct, that means that there were 41 people killed every minute. Doesn't seem like we've learned our lesson yet. Or maybe you could look at it this way--since there are a lot more people in the US now than back then, we probably are doing better.

You will see that the shows at this site, <http://otrlibrary.org/index.html>, are categorized alphabetically, so click on "T," then scroll down in the right-hand column. Click on the show and scroll down to find the date July 15, 1949. This is a good show, so enjoy. This is an excellent site for old time radio, so browse around and have fun.



How many of you folks enjoyed the TV show “Green Acres”? Well, if your answer is yes, then have I got a surprise for you. Before TV, there was “Granby’s Green Acres,” the radio show from which the TV show was copied. The radio show had an all-star cast: Gale Gordon, Bea Benaderet, Shirley Mitchell and Parley Baer. Here is a link to the otrr library: <http://otrrlibrary.org/g.html>. In the column on the right, scroll down to “Granby’s Green Acres.” Sadly, there are only six shows available. The first show is the audition.

So long for now and see you on the radio.

*Dee Haynes*

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[k4hfx@bellsouth.net](mailto:k4hfx@bellsouth.net)

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 INFORMATION**

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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### **Member and Instructor – Robert Frye**

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### **Web site – Bob Lovell**

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