

# The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society  
SUPERFLUX

October 2015



## NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

Your Radio Society continues to reach out to the public to teach them about old radios, wired and wireless communication and the history leading up to some of the most important discoveries of our lifetime. For the last eight years, two members have carried the weight of this effort. Dave Cisco and Dee Haynes have conducted dozens of presentations in those eight years to over 2,000 interested folks from all over the central part of Alabama. They have fulfilled one of our Society's objectives of raising awareness and creating interest in this vital part of our entertainment history. Dave and Dee added to their numbers in late September when they made a presentation to residents of Kirkwood by the River in Irondale. They were well received by those attendees at Kirkwood.



Dave Cisco being introduced by Director Claudia Reach at Kirkwood

## Upcoming Club Events

- **2015 Ham Fests:**  
Helena, AL, Oct 10  
Stone Mtn., GA Nov 7-8  
Montgomery, AL Nov 21
- **2016 Ham Fests:**  
Freezefest, Locust Fork, AL  
1/02/2016  
<http://www.freezefest.com>  
TechFest, Lawrenceville, GA  
1/09/2016  
<http://www.GARS.org>  
BirmingHamFest, AL  
3/04/2016  
<http://birminghamfest.org>  
Fort Walton Beach Hamfest, FL  
3/18/2016  
<http://www.w4zbb.org>  
Mobile, AL Hamfest  
4/09/2016  
<http://www.w4iax.net/>  
Atlanta, GA Hamfest  
6/04/2016  
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>  
Montgomery, AL (MARC)  
11/19/2016  
<http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>



**Kirkwood residents enjoying the presentation**

On October 2, the Red Mountain Community School toured our Shop, including the library, work shop, DJ station, vacuum tube vault and viewed hundreds of radios and test equipment on display. This was the largest group we have ever had on a tour, and the students were eager to learn about old radios. Based on the questions they asked, they were highly interested. There were about 65 students ranging from kindergarten to twelfth grade and several teachers led by Erin Keenan. They were very well-mannered and orderly. Dave Cisco gave them a brief history of radio and answered about a dozen questions. They split up into small groups, each led by a Society member, and toured the Shop. They ended their tour at the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum in the atrium of the Alabama Power Company Headquarters building down the street. Afterward they enjoyed a lunch in the cafeteria adjacent to the Museum.



**A group picture in front of the Shop**



**Red Mountain Community School students ready to learn radio history**



**Dave Cisco telling the students about the history of radio**



**Students watching an old radio show being produced with sound effects in a studio**



**Dee Haynes showing the students a horn speaker used with early radios**



**The students in the Atrium as I thank them for their interest in our Society and in radio history**

The programs for the past two Monday night meetings have featured one of our charter members, Dave Johnson, a Master Electrician since the mid-seventies, speaking on electrical issues, which included new circuit installations, rewired existing circuits, grounding issues, changes to the National Electric Safety Code and electricity in general, to those members in attendance. Several members posed interesting questions on situations that they have encountered over the years. Dave updates his knowledge monthly through attendance at Code (Electrical) classes held locally. He is, by far, our most knowledgeable member in the electrical service industry. He has also been repairing electrical appliances, including TV's and radios, since his high school days working for Sears. Thank you, Dave, for standing before the group and taking all of those difficult questions!



**Dave Johnson answering electrical questions**



**Dave Johnson showing several reference books used in the electrical industry**

Several months ago I extended an invitation to the membership to send in pictures of their workshops and any interesting details that set their shop apart from other shops. Unbelievably, I got some pictures. This is no ordinary member, as he has restored some really awful radios to like-new condition, all done at his shop at home. Several of his restorations have been featured in past newsletters. I included all of the pictures he sent me, since he is the only respondent. He is Mike Lord, and here is his shop.



**Mike Lord's main work bench**



**Mike's side work table**



**Some of Mike's test equipment**



## Mike's parts supply

Mike has done some fine work in his shop, including taking about ten of our donated VTVM's and making seven good ones out of them, testing them and rounding up leads and probes to make them complete. These VTVM's were given to our radio class students to use in their home shops. Mike also was the radio class instructor in Robert Frye's absence for the October 3 class. The class continued the use of ARRL Handbooks to study radio circuits, color codes and how to read the tube charts and pin diagrams. Mike pointed out many sections in the Handbook with which one must be familiar to seriously repair old radios. He used an example of an old radio with six tubes, the tube numbers were known, but there was no schematic to be found for the radio. He showed the class how to look up each tube in the Handbook, and based on the characteristics given, how to determine what the tube was used for such as a mixer, detector, IF amp, audio, rectifier and the pin voltages to help troubleshoot the radio. The importance of the Handbook became apparent to us students. The next Radio Class is set for November 7, at 9 a.m. at the Shop. Mike charged each student with reading Chapter 2, Electrical Laws and Circuits, and Chapter 3, Vacuum-Tube Principles, in the **ARRL Handbook** in preparation for the next class.

Remember that Robert Frye, our regular Radio Class instructor, is on medical leave and will have a serious operation on October 12, at UAB in Birmingham, AL. Please pray for Robert and his wife Margaret as they prepare for this surgery. Robert is expected to return to teaching our radio classes in January, 2016.

The next Monday night meeting will be on October 26 at 7 p.m. at the Shop in Birmingham, AL. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. The program is TBA.

Thank you to the members who support our Radio Society with their time, labor, donations and thank you to those members we will never see that support us by sharing an interest in old radios and their history! All of you play an important part in making the Society successful!

Until next time!

*President Tom*

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### **OLD TIME RADIO BITS**

Photo from *Old Time Radio Westerns*

Hi Folks!

Let's do some more rambling this month. Last August I talked about a few different shows, including the western, "Gunsmoke," and I think I'll start things off this month with "Gunsmoke," in particular the show of September 20, 1954. We all know what a SNAFU is, don't we? Strangely, the name of this episode is "The F. U." It's a really great show with some good acting by William Conrad and Parly Baer. I won't tell you anything about the show; you'll just have to watch it (in your mind's eye that is). Just one last thing concerning the show, does anyone know what a horehound drop is?

Click on the following link and scroll down to episode #121

[https://archive.org/details/OTRR\\_Gunsmoke\\_Singles](https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Gunsmoke_Singles)

And now for rambling number two--there's a lake in Massachusetts near the Connecticut border with an Indian name that is known as one of the longest names in existence. The rough translation of the name is "You fish on your side, I'll fish on my side, and nobody fish in the middle." I'm not going to spell out the name, because for me, it's too much trouble. (Did I just split an infinitive?) But, if you want to hear the name pronounced, then listen to this episode of "Sam Spade" at the following link:

<http://otrlibrary.org/s.html>

Look for Sam Spade and the episode of September 25, 1949. By the way, the American name for the lake is “Lake Webster.” The patch below looks like it belongs to the Webster, MA fire department.



One of the issues near the top of today’s political rhetoric is the problem with illegal aliens. Let’s go back a few years to 1952 and see what kind of trouble we were having with aliens back then. It seems that it’s been going on for quite some time. OK, buckaroos, here’s an episode of ***The Roy Rogers Show*** from October 2, 1952. Click the link below and scroll down to 52\_10\_2 and listen:

[http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/213/Westerns/Roy\\_Rogers\\_Show\\_\\_The.html](http://www.dumb.com/oldtimeradio/radio/213/Westerns/Roy_Rogers_Show__The.html)

I won’t mention how good the acting is, but remember ***The Roy Rogers Show*** was aimed at the 9-and-10-year-old kids. By the way, I was 9 years old when this show aired.

Well, radio fans, that is enough to keep you busy for a few minutes, so it’s Vaya Con Dios for now and Buenos Dias.

*Dee Haynes*

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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 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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