

December 2015



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

The calendar year is ending, but our fiscal year is just half gone. The holiday season brings excitement to our kids and grandkids and our extended families. Travel is on the agenda and good food and fellowship are everywhere. Our Christmas party on December 28 will have plenty of good food and fellowship. I hope each of you who can, will attend the party! I have included some pictures from last year's Christmas Party.



2014 Christmas Party

Upcoming Club Events

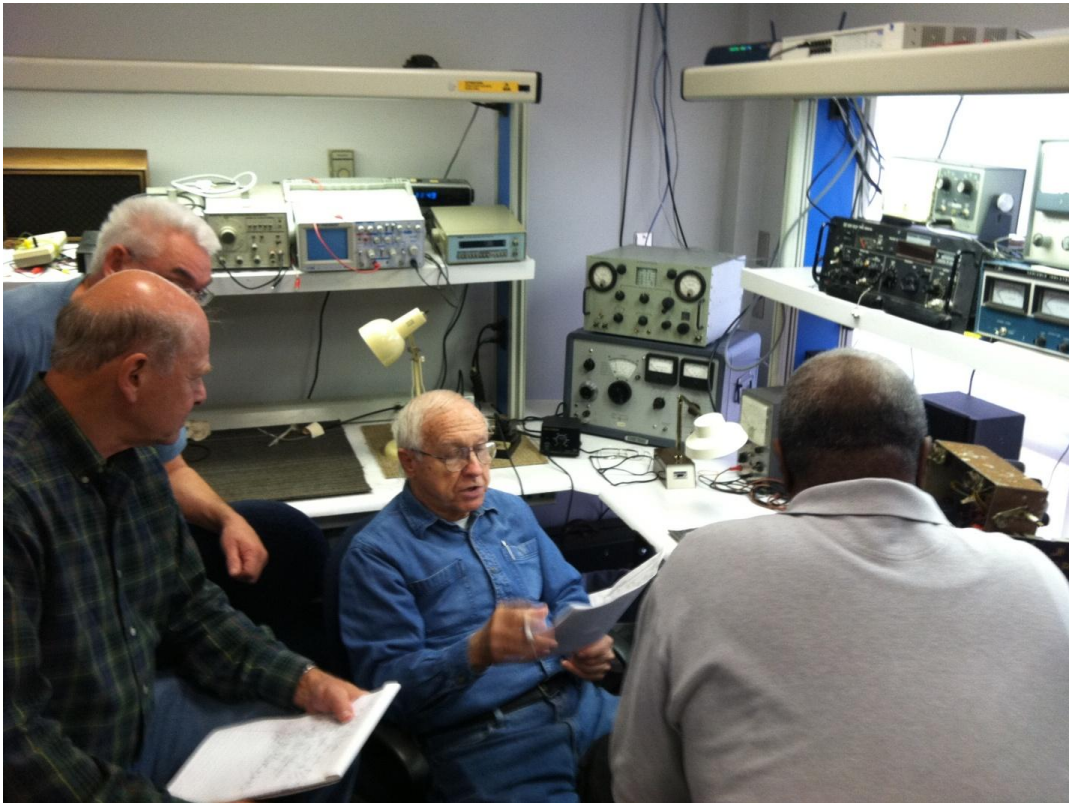
- **2016 Ham Fests:**
 - Freezefest, Locust Fork, AL
1/02/2016
<http://www.freezefest.com>
 - TechFest, Lawrenceville, GA
1/09/2016
<http://www.GARS.org>
 - BirmingHamFest, AL
3/04/2016
<http://birminghamfest.org>
 - Fort Walton Beach Hamfest, FL
3/18/2016
<http://www.w4zbb.org>
 - Mobile, AL Hamfest
4/09/2016
<http://www.w4jax.net/>
 - Atlanta, GA Hamfest
6/04/2016
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>
 - Montgomery, AL (MARC)
11/19/2016
<http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>



2014 Christmas Party

We have added some more display shelves in the big room, so space will be at a premium, but we will squeeze everyone in somewhere. The Society will provide the meats, dressing, rolls, drinks and the plates, cups and utensils. The members will provide the salads, vegetables and desserts. It all comes together in one great meal for everyone. There is a sign-up sheet at the Shop, or you can send me an e-mail if you plan to attend.

There has been some special training going on at the Shop by Charter Member, Dave Johnson. He has taken a small group of members and taught them radio repair techniques, beginning with the initial inspection of the radio through the final alignment of the radio. His students took notes and listened intently as Dave spoke.



Dave Johnson giving instructions on radio repair.



Dave Johnson showing how to measure voltages in an old radio

Outside of the formal monthly radio classes, Dave Johnson has been instructing members on various radio repair techniques.

The November Radio Class was taught by Mike Lord, while Robert Frye, our regular instructor continues to recover from his recent surgery. Mike discussed transformers, including power and IF transformers. He showed the class how to identify the different leads on a transformer when they were not marked. He reviewed the color codes given in the *ARRL Handbook* that each class member is studying. He took an IF transformer apart and showed how to repair broken wires and how to identify the wire leads by color code. He removed and cleaned the mica washer in the tuning condenser of the IF transformer. He took a single wire from the ground braid of a coaxial cable to use as the repair wire for the IF coil. Mike had everyone's attention with his hands-on demonstration. Several pictures follow showing moments in the class.



Mike Lord giving students background information on transformers



Mike Lord demonstrating the correct way to measure voltages on a power supply



Students watching intently as Mike Lord unsolders the old IF leads



Mike Lord cleaning the mica washer on the IF tuning condenser



Mike Lord soldering the small wires on the IF coil

Mike also taught the class on December 5 when the class took a closer look at a Varsity radio chassis he has been working on. The students got an inside look at the magic Mike does on his project radios. He had Tom Hayes refinish the case and paint it Florida State colors. When completed, Mike will have a collector's Varsity radio from the late 1930's, restored inside and out.

Member Chris Story is our military radio collector, and he brings in some unusual military radio devices, mostly tube powered, but also some solid state powered units. Recently, I observed him and Jim Cawthon looking over the schematic of one of these radio power supplies. Jim has an extensive knowledge of solid state circuits and was a good choice to help Chris. This is one more example of how members help members fix radios and equipment at the Shop.



Jim Cawthon and Chris Story reading the power supply schematic

Occasionally, something strange is brought to the Shop, and we are asked to identify it. Dr. Cobb brought in what was obviously a speaker that looked like a radar screen that would turn some to aim the sound left or right. It had four wires coming out of the bottom for hookup. Did it need to be powered? How did it work? Who made it? And could we locate any service information on it? Our detectives went to work and found that these (he had two) were satellite speakers for a console radio/phonograph. It was an electrostatic high frequency speaker coupled with a standard woofer about 9" by 2" long. It was made by Philco, and, based on the schematic, it needed a -580 volt power source for the electrostatic tweeter and a standard 8 ohm input for the woofer. That's an over simplification, but we learned that they could be cleaned up, but probably for display only.



Dr. Cobb and Jim Cawthon looking over the strange speaker

When our members travel across the street from the Shop to the church annex where we have storage rooms full of radio stuff, they sometimes find an old radio that just calls out their name. On one such trip, Ray Giles fell in love with an old wooden desk-top radio with holes in the front case for four vacuum tubes to protrude. Ray brought it back to the Shop where we discovered its rarity. With Ray's help as the primary restorer, this radio will be restored for display in the museum. The radio was built by The Colin B. Kennedy Co. and was licensed under an Armstrong U.S. Patent issued October 6, 1914.



Ray Giles looking at his next project, The Colin B. Kennedy Co radio

In the Library, Dave Cisco has arranged two more shelves with books that can be checked out. He has set up a total of four shelves for checkout. I noticed several books on Tesla, which I may check out. Next time you are at the Shop, check out the Library and Dave's book check-out opportunities (the operative words here are check-out). He has also been filling in the missing issues in the Library collection with magazines donated by the Moss's.



Dave Cisco sorting donated magazines for the Library

There are dozens of plastic, metal, wooden, table top, console, portable, battery powered, ac/dc powered, military and short wave radios in our storage rooms. These radios need a good home. There are many pieces of test equipment including scopes, tube checkers, signal generators, TV test, volt meters and more, which also need a good home. Beginning on January 16, there will be a quarterly auction for members only. Members must be current on membership dues to qualify to bid. An auction committee will select the items to be auctioned. The mechanics of how the auction will be conducted and the selected items will be published prior to the auction. So don't spend all of your money on Christmas gifts. Save some dough for the auction!

Annual Society membership dues are \$25, and 2016 dues are due on January 1, 2016. Older members who have not yet paid 2015 dues will owe \$50 to cover both years. These dues help cover our fixed expenses, including the Shop internet service and administrative expenses for the year.

Next month's Radio Class will be taught on January 9 at the Shop in Birmingham. We are looking forward to Robert Frye returning to teach that class.

The December night meeting will be the Christmas Party on December 28. The January night meeting will be on Monday, January 25, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 7 p.m.

From the Officers and Board of Directors, we would like to wish all of you and your loved ones, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Holidays and a Happy and Safe New Year!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Well Folks, seems like I'm sorta stuck on Gunsmoke again this month.

Most of my life I've been interested in among other things, meteorology, so I've been a fan of James Spann's daily weather blog for a long time. I saw on the internet today (11/18/15) a tribute by James Spann to J B Elliot, long time local meteorologist, who passed away earlier this year. I'm sure many of you remember J B. Now you may wonder what does this have to do about Gunsmoke? I thought that I would look for a video of J B on YouTube and here is the first one I saw. I won't tell you about it, you'll just have to watch it.

Miss Kitty Story by J B Elliot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTG5VUq5bWg>

Due to many other happenings and the holidays, that will be all for now from the keyboard of Dee Haynes. I want to wish all of you out there a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy 2016.

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 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 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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