

June 2016



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

This fiscal year is winding down with the new year beginning on July 1. By all accounts it has been a great year!

Among our year's successes are the following: gaining a dozen new members, holding monthly radio classes, having an information booth at the annual Alabama Broadcasters Association meeting, receiving multiple donations from across the southeast, enjoying a great Christmas Party, participating in the Birmingham Hamfest with historical displays, presenting a Hallicrafters' forum, selling of surplus Society equipment, having the best Legends of Broadcast event in its six-year history, holding multiple auctions of surplus equipment, conducting tours of the museum and the Shop, making presentations to local seniors and historical groups, mentoring new members and enjoying fellowship all during the year.

I believe the late Don Kresge (the driving force behind the founding of the Alabama Historical Radio Society in 1989) would be proud of what he and his like-minded friends started and proud of our stewardship to their originally-stated objectives. The Society will begin its 28th year on June 29, and energized members are needed to step forward and lead the Society into its 28th year. At our Annual Meeting on June 27, elections will be held for four officers. Incumbents Steven Westbrook, Don Letchman and Mike Woodruff have been nominated for vice-president, treasurer and secretary positions, respectively. Dave Cisco has accepted the nomination as president. Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to voting. We appreciate all of these who have stepped forward to lead the Society forward. The board of directors will serve the new year as it is presently constituted.

The Society has been at the Shop in downtown Birmingham for five and one-half years with six months left on the lease. It is our hope that a new three-year lease will be signed before the current lease expires in February, 2017. In the meantime, the large

Upcoming Club Events

2016 Hamfests

- **Milton, FL** Hamfest, July 8-9, 2016
- **Cullman, AL** Hamfest, July 23, 2016, 8 a.m. to noon
- **Nashville/Lebanon, TN** HamQuest, July 30, 2016 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Huntsville Hamfest**, August 20-21 (setup August 19, 2016)
- **Pensacola, FL** Hamfest, September 24, 2016,
- **Chattanooga, TN** Hamfest, October 22, 2016
- **Stone Mountain, GA** Hamfest, November 5-6, 2016
- **Montgomery, AL** Hamfest, November 19, 2016

collection of magazines, radios, test equipment and miscellaneous parts in storage needs to be reduced. There will be auctions at the Shop at least quarterly, with some held at the monthly Monday night meetings. These auctions have been popular with the members and have allowed the movement of dozens of radios and pieces of test equipment out the door. If you are looking for a specific item, please get in touch so we can help you find it.

Our next major event will be the Huntsville Hamfest on August 15th. We plan on having at least two tables with surplus radios and test equipment for sale. We will have books on radios, electronics, and radio history for sale. We need several members to take ownership of this project and make it happen. There are several ways to help: one is to help select items to take to Huntsville, recondition or make these items ready for sale and two, to help operate the tables at the Hamfest on Saturday, August 15, in Huntsville.

If there are five or six members at the tables in Huntsville, there will be a better opportunity for them to check out the other vendor tables and to enjoy the Hamfest. The plan is to travel to Huntsville early Saturday morning with the sale items, to have a great day at the Hamfest and return late Saturday afternoon after the Hamfest closes for the day. There is no plan to attend the Hamfest on Sunday, August 16. The Society will pay for entry buttons for the first six volunteers attending and helping operate the Society tables.



AHRS members attending the 2015 Huntsville Hamfest

Jim Rogers has been the guest Radio Class instructor the last two months and has done a great job imparting his vast radio knowledge to those attending. There are

several members that are highly qualified to teach our radio classes and, hopefully, the training duties will be shared while Robert Frye, our regular instructor, is away.



Jim Rogers diagramming a radio circuit in the April radio class



Jim Rogers teaching the June radio class (the donuts, three brands, were provided by Jim Rogers, Doc Holladay and John Truitt - got to get students to class somehow)

Marvin Moss has made a third donation to the Society, including a 1948 Hallicrafters TV-54, the first TV made by Hallicrafters. Also, several oscilloscopes were included, as well as miscellaneous radio gear and lots of parts, capacitors, resistors, relays, switches, battery holders, fuse holders and hardware. We appreciate Marvin's donations and his interest in our Society!

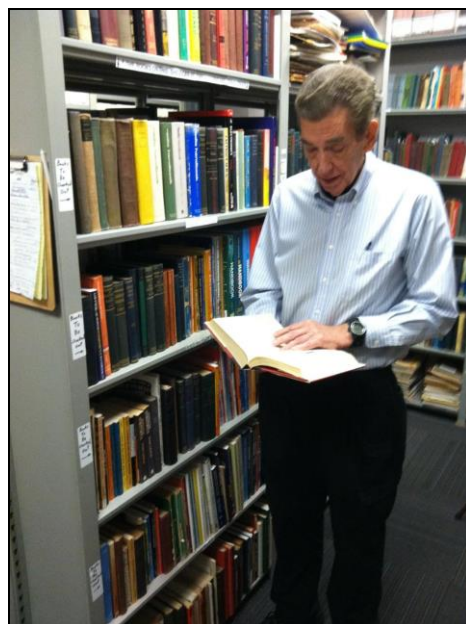


Marvin Moss and his most recent donations



Dave Cisco telling the May Monday night meeting attendees about his recent trip to the Dayton (Ohio) Hamfest - reportedly the largest event of its type in the country. John Outland and Steve Westbrook also attended the event with Dave. (Ask Steve about his new radio)

Your Society has one of the best radio libraries in the country. The checkout section is a special treat for our members.



Jimmy Kirksey looking over the Checkout book shelves



The usual suspects cutting up on a June work day (yes, we work on guitar amps, also)

The next radio class will be on July 2 at the Shop in Birmingham. Guest instructor, Jim Rogers, will continue discussing the different stages in a basic All-American Five AM tube radio and continue instruction on how to use common test equipment.

The next Monday night meeting is the Annual Meeting on June 27 at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be a Board meeting at 6 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. Remember that nominations will be taken from the floor prior to the election of officers. Following the election, we plan to open about 30 more boxes from the Hails' donation, which has made for an interesting program in the past. Come vote, enjoy some fellowship and discover more donated treasures.

Thank you for your contributions to the success of your Radio Society this year!

President Tom

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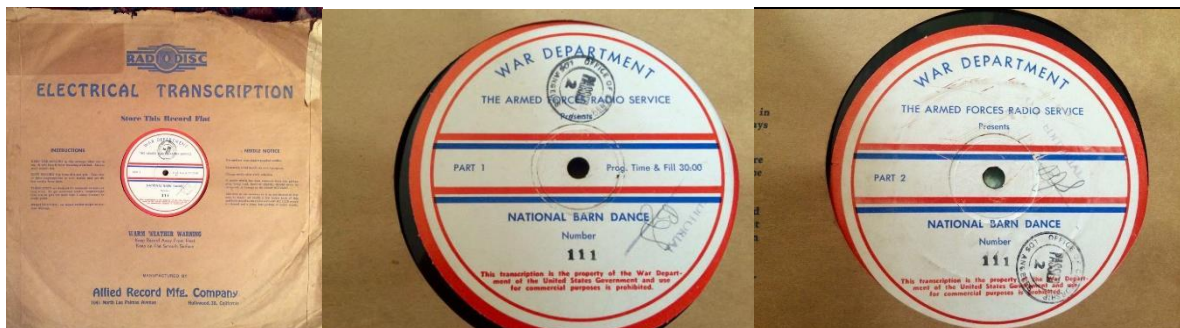


OLD TIME RADIO BITS

In case you missed last month's article, Dee has decided to hang up his keyboard. He claims that 10 years was long enough, and he was running out of things to write about. Even though I haven't been writing as long, I understand the situation very well. Sometimes I decide what I am going to write as I open up the document to start typing. So unless we can get someone else to step forward (HOPEFULLY), I will be putting together a few words each month dealing with some aspect of old time radio and possibly old time radios.

This month was one of those months when I had no idea what to write. So I started searching the Old Time Radio Restoration Facebook group for ideas and thankfully one surfaced immediately.

It seems that an electrical transcription disc, commonly known as an ET by broadcast professionals, surfaced recently and brought forth an episode of a program that was in no known collection. This situation is becoming more and more rare. Here is a picture of the disc with close-ups of the labels.



As can be seen, this disc was for the Armed Forces Radio Service, a part of the War Department. It contains *The National Barn Dance* program from December 2, 1944, and was probably meant for overseas broadcast.

The National Barn Dance was a country-themed program that originated in Chicago. It ran from 1924 until 1970 and was a Saturday night mainstay for rural America. It was often thought of as a competitor (or possibly complimentary) to *Grand Ole Opry*, both live shows broadcast on Saturday night. The following is taken from John Dunning's *The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio*:

“For much of its run, *The National Barn Dance* was neck-and-neck with *Grand Ole Opry* in the ratings battle for the country crown. The razor-thin point spread shifted from year to year, a safe assumption being that the same people who tuned in the *Barn Dance* at 9 o'clock stayed around for *Opry* at 10:30. The Crossley figures were impressive, showing a national audience in excess of ten million. But the numbers barely touched the shows' true strength—the plow-boys and whistle-stop people from the Deep South to the corn belt.”

You can listen to this new discovered broadcast of *The National Barn Dance* by clicking [here](#). If you are interested in the very few other remaining episodes of the show, you can find them [here](#).

Next month we will explore the *Grand Ole Opry* broadcasts.

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 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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