

September 2016



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

We are in the third month of our fiscal year and things are moving right along. Every Tuesday and Saturday, workday is filled with at least 15 members having fellowship, working on radios, helping others on radio repair and reading books and magazines in the library. There are several old radios restored and returned to use each week, helping preserve these masterpieces of yesteryear. Watching the different repairs going on at the six different repair stations, I realize that we are doing some great work and so many of our members are becoming quite the experts at radio repair, from replacing capacitors, speaker cones and field coils, tubes, controls, deteriorated wiring, lamps, knobs to refinishing the wooden cabinets and replacing grill cloths on their radios and those brought in for repair by others.

I have watched new members, who did not know what to do with a broken down radio, become very good at radio repair. We have mentors and a monthly radio repair class to help members learn how to repair old radios. As usual, I have some pictures from the Shop reflecting this repair activity.

Upcoming Club Events

2016 Hamfests

- **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



Dee Haynes helping a walk-in friend work on his radio



Larry Lokey and Maurice Hill working on an old Philco console radio.

A picture in last month's Newsletter showed Dee Haynes working on a turntable using the special stand for turntables. He finished the turntable work and reinstalled it in the console. He also refinished several major areas where the wood finish was in distress. The receiver was checked out, recapped and several tubes replaced and the speaker re-coned. Dee is shown below with the restored console, ready to be put back in service.



Dee Haynes putting the finishing touches on a console radio on which he has been working.

Robert and Margaret Frye visited the Shop on the Tuesday before the Huntsville Hamfest and posed for a picture. They were in town for Robert's medical check-up and planned to attend the Hamfest the following weekend. He looked good and is improving. He is still on leave from teaching our monthly radio class, with member Jim Rogers taking over teaching duties while Robert is off. We wish Robert good health and continued improvement!



Margaret and Robert Frye visiting at the Shop in Birmingham



Robert with a group of members on a regular Tuesday workday at the Shop

On August 20, member Robert Mathews, brought his Boy Scout Troop 413 to tour the Shop and learn about early radios and communication in general.



AHRS member, Robert Mathews (back right), brought his Scout Troop 413 from Mount Olive to tour the Shop. They enjoyed playing DJ at the DJ Booth.



I enjoyed showing them how the turntables worked. They learned about records, including 45's, 33 1/3's and 78's.



Jim Rogers teaching basic electricity to the students at the September radio class.

The next radio class will be taught on Saturday, October 1, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Students, be sure to bring your ARRL Handbooks to follow along. Instructor Jim Rogers will continue his discussion of basic electricity. If you are having a specific problem with a radio repair, be sure to ask Jim about it in class. Come learn how to repair old radios.

The next Monday night meeting will be on September 26, beginning at 7 p.m. After a brief business meeting, there will be a program, including a book review by our librarian, Dave Cisco. Dave is passionate about the library and he wants you to be, too.



Dave Cisco showing off the books available for checkout

We have a great opportunity to display a couple of old radios at the upcoming International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Exhibition at their 125th Anniversary being held in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 16, 17 and 18. The Southern Company, parent company of Alabama Power Company, will have a booth at the Exhibition with a theme about going from old to new, featuring items representing old and new. The radios include a 1923 Ward's Airline De Luxe dry cell powered radio with a tall external horn speaker. The second radio is a 1933 Philco Cathedral model with a built-in speaker and powered by 120 volts AC. Both radios have wooden cases and show well. As an added feature, the Airline will have an iPod inside of it playing period music through the horn speaker. Frances Damian, with the Alabama Power Company Meeting and Event Services, will take the radios to St. Louis and set them up in the booth. A small sign stating that the radios are displayed courtesy of The Alabama Historical Radio Society will be placed by the radios.



Frances Damian with the radios to be displayed at the IBEW 125th Anniversary Exhibition in St. Louis

There will be an auction on September 24, a regular Saturday workday, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Shop. Members who are current with their dues will be eligible to bid on several unique radios and test gear. Come pick up a gem to work on and enjoy the fun of one of our quarterly auctions!

Check with Don Letchman if you are unsure of your dues status. Last week Don checked the dues records and a large number of members, ones that had paid dues in the past, had not paid their 2016 dues.

Thanks to all for supporting your Radio Society!

See you soon!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Dee and I were talking this week about the kind of OTR shows that we like. I tend to listen to dramas. He likes comedies and juvenile serials. The mention of serials led me to remark that I had just recently downloaded the original *Flash Gordon* serial as was shown in movie theatres in 1936. We had presented the movies as part of the Film Series at UAB in the early 70's, and I had watched every episode twice. In those days, when access to old videos was not prevalent, it was campy to watch things like *Flash Gordon*. If anyone is interested in a copy of the *Flash Gordon* serial, drop me a note and I will make a copy. The movies are long out of copyright.

After I got home, I got a notice that the new *Radio Times* from the *Old Time Radio Researchers Group* (OTRR) had just been released. The first article dealt with *Tarzan* and the serials that had been created from the Edgar Rice Burroughs novels. Unlike the short articles that I write for this newsletter, the *Tarzan* article had been researched more thoroughly. There are pictures and even some of the *Tarzan* comic strips. However, what was missing were links to any of the *Tarzan* episodes.

Rather than attempt to create another article on *Tarzan*, I will refer the reader to the *Radio Times*. The newsletter is available by clicking [here](#). However, to add some additional value to the article I have uploaded all of the episodes of *Tarzan* from the OTRR Certified Series.

The first set of shows was called *Tarzan of the Apes* and is available by clicking [here](#). There are other audio files in the folder, such as a [short synopsis of the Tarzan series](#), as well as an [autobiography of Edgar Rice Burroughs](#). The actual radio shows are titled beginning with the date to be broadcast, such as 320912 - the first show. There are also several pictures relating to *Tarzan* and are available [here](#). As detailed in the *Radio Times* article, there were 130 shows produced. At this moment, only the first 77 are known to exist. However, there are enough of the shows to give a distinct flavor of the beginning of the *Tarzan* series.

The second set of shows was titled *Diamond of Asher*. It was broadcast in 1935 and is available by clicking [here](#). All 39 episodes of the set exist and are available. The third set of shows was titled *The Fires of Tohr*. It was broadcast in 1936 and is available by clicking [here](#).

After the first three sets of shows, Tarzan took a 15-year break from radio. The series was resurrected in 1951 and ran until 1953. These shows are available by clicking [here](#).

So there you have one of most well-known characters of literature, radio, and cinema. I wonder if it might be worth listening to the shows as they were presented - possibly one show a day, just as a serial should be experienced.

Next month, I will provide links associated with the second article in the Radio Times. Just as a hint for then – “Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?”

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

Larry Lokey

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Website - otronmp3.com

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!

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