



October 2016



## NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

Activity is brisk at the Shop on Tuesday and Saturday workdays, even with football games, hamfests and the usual festivals, fund runs, charity walks and cook-offs. Each workday, old radios are repaired and returned to use, fulfilling one of our objectives of saving old radios. And each workday brings a new member and several folks from the community, looking around saying that they did not know we existed. One such new member is Jason

Rumore, who brought in an old radio-phonograph console for repair. He joined the Society and is learning to work on his console. Now the name Rumore may not mean much outside of the Birmingham area, but he is in the family that gave us Joe Rumore and Duke Rumore, two long-time radio personalities, broadcasting on high power stations in Birmingham (and Montgomery). Joe also broadcast from his home in Homewood back in the early seventies when I worked for Alabama Power Company as a Field Engineer. He was having electrical interference on his home broadcast and I was sent to find the problem and get it fixed. There were two issues, one was an aquarium heater and the other was a butter warmer in the refrigerator. These were producing electrical noise when they cycled on and off. Eliminating these sources fixed his problem. You can Google Joe Rumore and select the Life and Times of Joe Rumore to learn more about his life. Jason related a story about when he was 7,000 miles away in military service and someone asked him about being related to Joe Rumore. While he is proud to be in the Rumore family, he does not bring the subject up. We do love our old radio memories! Joe Rumore passed away in 1993 at the age of 73.

### Upcoming Club Events

#### 2016 Hamfests

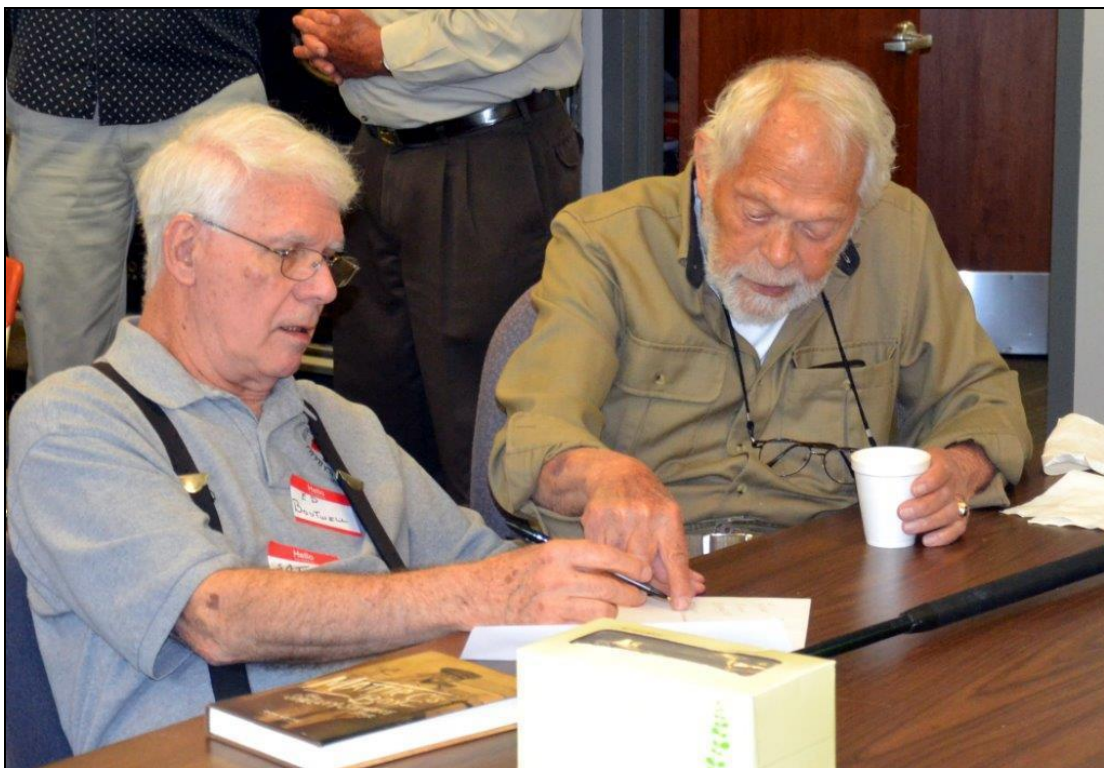
- **Chattanooga, TN** Hamfest, October 22, 2016
- **Stone Mountain, GA** Hamfest, November 5-6, 2016
- **Montgomery, AL** Hamfest, November 19, 2016



Jason Rumore working on the turntable from his console radio

Another radio and TV personality recently passed away in Birmingham. Sterling N. Brewer, 90, died September 30. If you follow the articles and pictures about our Legends of Broadcast events over the past six years, you will see Sterling in the pictures along with many of his contemporaries. There are several video and audio recordings of old radio and TV stories recorded at these Legends events.

At the last event on April 21, 2016, several stories shared by Sterling were videotaped. I recalled that he was trying to leave, but just kept coming up with one more story. Reading from a story about Sterling printed in ***The Birmingham News*** on page A8 of Sunday, October 9, 2016, edition, he was active in community affairs, as well as, in the radio-TV and advertising businesses. As an announcer for Monday night wrestling at the Boutwell Auditorium in Birmingham from 1958 to 1972, Sterling would sign off the wrestling broadcasts with "Be a good sport and give God a chance."



**Our own Legend, Ed Boutwell with Sterling Brewer, at April's Legends of Broadcast event**



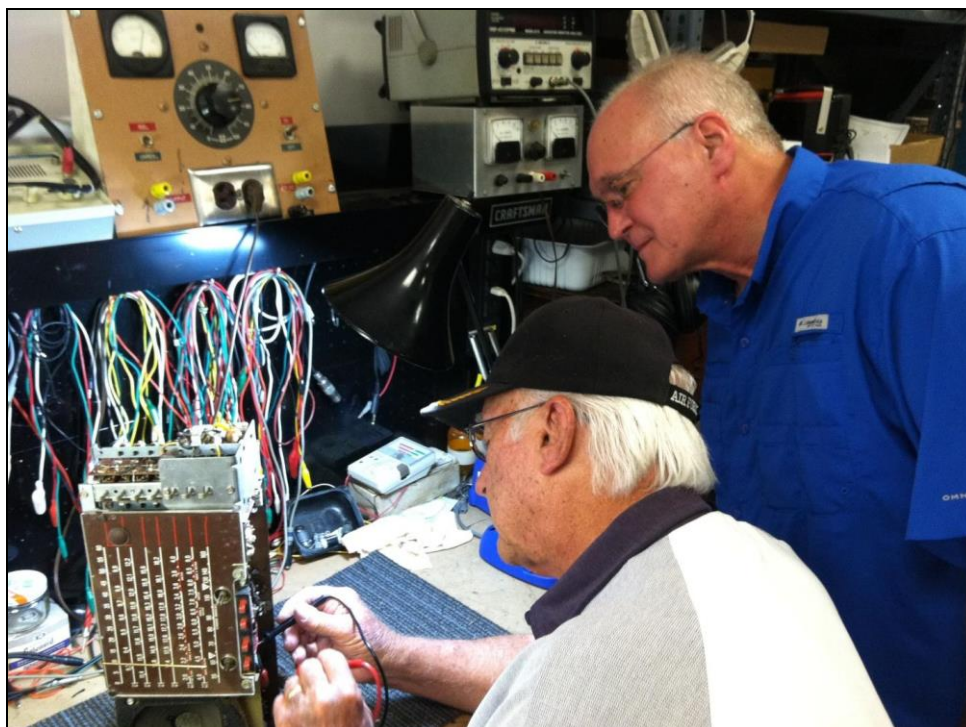
**In the center, Sterling Brewer with the microphone telling one more story**



I have some more pictures of activity at the Shop this past month.



**Willie Henderson with his just restored 1946 Philco (Joe DiMaggio) portable radio bought at the auction**



**Maurice Lovelady and Barron Smith working on a Zenith T.O. radio bought at the last auction**



Jim Rogers replacing an IF coil, that was rewound by Dee Hayne, on a Philco 90



In the September Newsletter, I mentioned and included pictures of the radios your Society was donating to Southern Company to use in its booth at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 125th Anniversary Exhibition in St. Louis, MO on September 16, 17 and 18. The pictures below show the Southern Company booth and the radios on display. Signage was on display giving credit to the Alabama Historical Radio Society for providing the radios. Many thousands of attendees enjoyed the three-day event and the following IBEW Convention.



**Southern Company Booth at the IBEW 125th Anniversary Convention and Exhibition in St. Louis, MO**



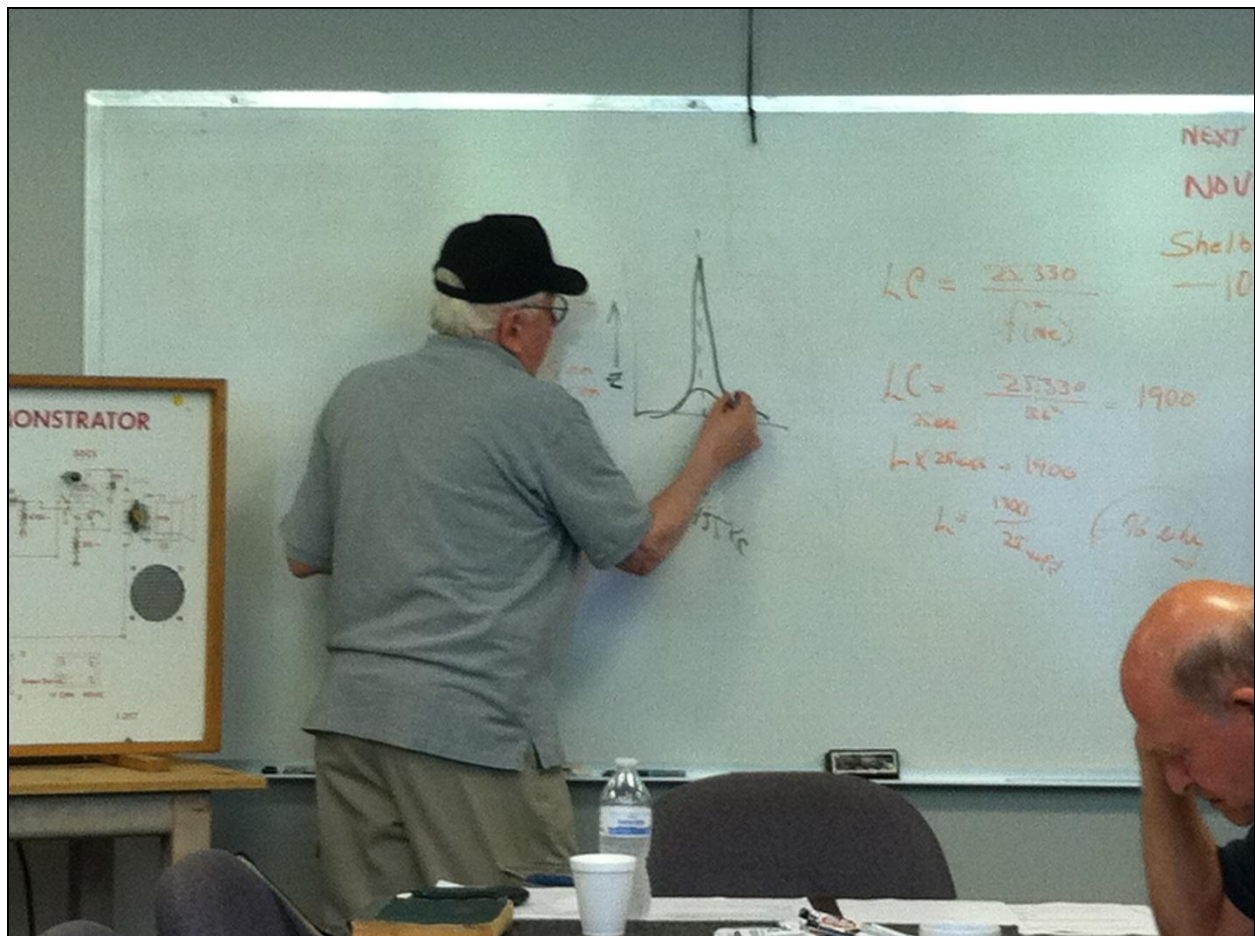
**A closer look at the radios on display, a 1930's Philco Cathedral and a 1923 Ward's Airline with horn**



The 1923 Ward's Airline with a horn speaker which played older music by a hidden I-Pod.



The last radio class was held on October 1, with Instructor Jim Rogers discussing tuned circuits and their importance to the functioning of a radio receiver. Below he shows the results of a properly tuned circuit.



**Jim Rogers drawing out the signal curve to show the benefits of a well-tuned circuit**

The next radio class is scheduled for November 5 at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. Students need to bring their ARRL Handbooks to follow along in class. If you do not have a Handbook, we will find you one (to keep) for the class.

The Alabama Historical Radio Society By-Laws have been revised by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors. The By-Laws are currently being reviewed by an accountant and an attorney to make sure all of the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed. Once this is complete, the proposed By-Laws will be sent to members in good standing for their reading and ultimately to approve the new By-Laws. The revision committee deserves credit for tackling this job and getting it done. Dave Cisco, John Outland and Steven Westbrook were members of this committee. One of the results of this revision will be the election of a totally new Board of Directors before the end of this year, to begin service on January 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year. If you have an interest in being on the Board, be sure to let your fellow members know so they can support you.



This is the time of year when charity runs and football parades close the roads around the Shop on Saturday mornings. On October 15, the 25th Susan Komen Race will be held at Linn Park, one block from the Shop. By 7:30 a.m., most of the roads around the Shop will be closed by the police. You can get there early, but you will have to stay until around 11:00 a.m. before the roads reopen. On October 29, the Magic City Classic Parade will take place involving all three city streets around the Shop. The Shop may be closed on the 29th, since this is a long parade (last year right at 3 hours long). It is possible to get to the Shop by 7:00 a.m., but you will need to stay until at least noon. Last year I was the only one at the Shop, except for hundreds of my closest friends, many watching from the steps of the Shop. The parade starts in front of the Shop and had at least 17 bands last year. It is quite a show, but tiring. I will send out a notice if the Shop will be closed.

The next night meeting will be on October 24, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be a presentation on By-Law changes during the meeting. Dave Cisco will present a program on Powel Crosley, who started the Crosley Company in 1921. Crosley called his sets the "Model T's of Radio" due to their low price. Dave gave a teaser for this program at the September night meeting, but was cut short due to time constraints. He will have time at this meeting to do Mr. Crosley justice.

Thank you all who actively support the Alabama Historical Radio Society! It is more important to have this support now than ever! Come join us on Tuesday and Saturday mornings and at the monthly night meeting for fellowship and to learn how to fix old radios.

See you soon!

*President Tom*

205-936-5455

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### **OLD TIME RADIO BITS**

Last month, the latest issue of *Radio Times* (available [here](#)) from the *Old Time Radio Researchers Group* (OTRR) had a couple of interesting articles. The first dealt with *Tarzan*, and in last month's newsletter I provided links for all of the episodes that are known to exist for that series (available [here](#)).

This month we will look at the second article in that newsletter, which is entitled “*BOY WONDER: The Radio Life of Orson Welles*”. I must admit that Orson Welles is one of my favorite radio, movie and television personalities. My very first article for the club newsletter dealt with the infamous Mercury Theatre production “*War of the Worlds*” (available [here](#)) . Later when writing about *Suspense*, I provided links to one of my favorite episodes of that series “*The Hitch-Hiker*” which starred Orson Welles (available [here](#)).

There is one series discussed in the OTRR article that I have purposely avoided over the years. It is probably one of the best known OTR shows ever produced. That show is “*The Shadow*”. Many are familiar with the opening line “Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows.” The reason that I have not ever provided links to my site for any of these shows is that copyright claims still exist for the show. For several years the copyright owners aggressively pursued any postings of the shows and submitted take-down notices. Failure to remove the shows could result in a lawsuit. Not being independently wealthy, I chose to just avoid the situation.

However, in recent years I have heard streaming sites presenting episodes of *The Shadow*. Also, I have seen several sites providing episodes for download. So, to provide links for the shows in the *Radio Times* article, I have loaded shows from September of 1937 to March of 1938 on the server. It was in this time period that Orson Welles portrayed *The Shadow*. The first show in his run was “*Death House Rescue*” and was broadcast on September 26, 1937. To listen to that show, click [here](#). The last show in which he appeared was “*The White Legion*” and was broadcast on March 20, 1938. It can be heard by clicking [here](#). It is interesting to note the change in the portrayal of the character between the first and last show of the season. If you are interested in listening to other shows of shows of the 1937-38 season, they can be found by clicking [here](#).

The other prominent OTR series discussed in the article was “*Mercury Theatre On the Air*” a co-production of Orson Welles and John Houseman. As Elizabeth McLeod points out in her article “The Mercury Theatre on the Air marked a high point in radio's evolution as a dramatic medium.” The shows in the series all dealt with literary classics and remain interesting to this day. Most of the shows can be heard by clicking [here](#).

In summary, I encourage you to read [Elizabeth's article](#) to get a glimpse of the boy genius who became famous in his early 20's by producing some of the most innovative radio shows and movies of the time, and then spent the rest of his life trying to recapture the magic of his youth.

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 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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