



**November 2016**



## **NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM**

Hello, All!

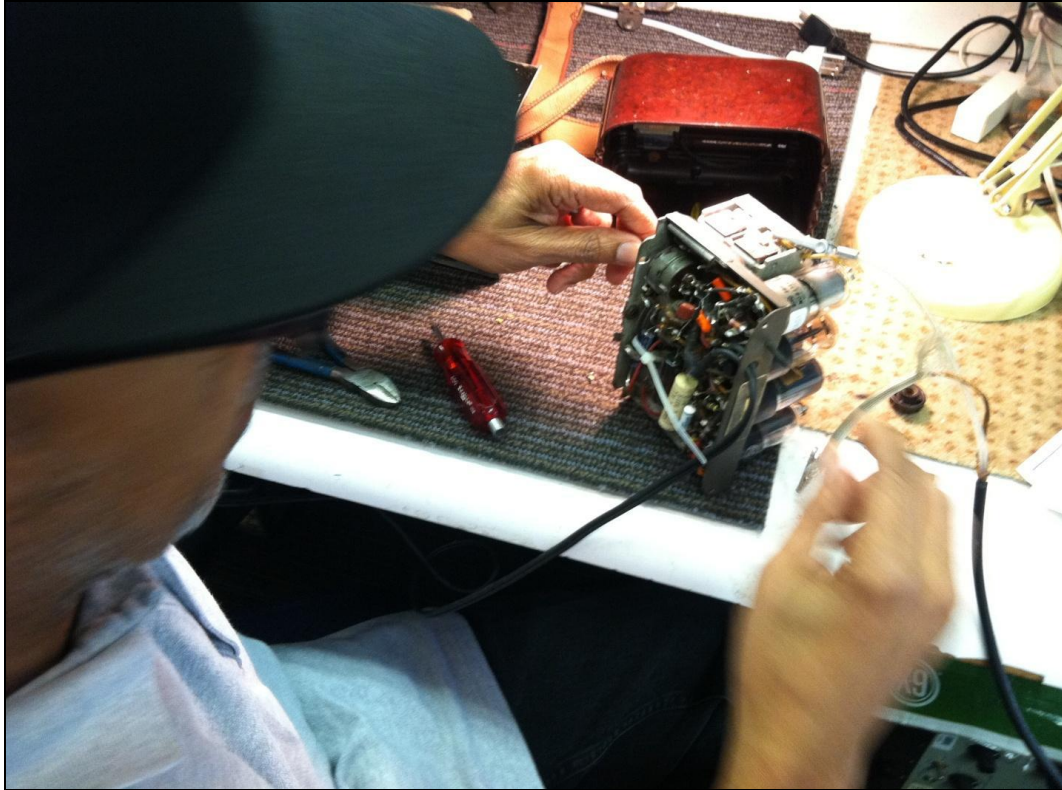
The 2016 calendar year is nearing its end and will bring a change to our Society's fiscal year of July 1 through June 30, a fiscal year the Society has had since its founding. Voting on our updated By-Laws is currently underway by e-mail by all members in good standing. At the November night meeting on Monday, November 28, these e-mail votes, along with the votes of those present at the night meeting, will be counted and, hopefully, the updated By-Laws will be approved. Several significant things will come out of the By-Law update: a new Board of Directors will need to be elected to take office beginning January 1, 2017. Also, the dues for 2017 and beyond will be due on January 1 of the new calendar year, which will become our new fiscal year. Currently the dues, except for new members, who pay when they join, are paid just whenever during the year. There are some active members who have yet to pay 2016 dues. We haven't been pushy about this, but if you want to buy radios and parts cheap, use Shop facilities for personal repair work and use Society materials and copier resources, you should be willing to pay the \$25 annual membership dues on time. Many receive this Newsletter for information and will never come to the Shop or otherwise utilize our resources and they pay membership dues voluntarily to support the Society. We appreciate the support we get from those folks we see and those folks we don't see.

### **Upcoming Club Events**

#### **2016 Hamfests**

- **Montgomery, AL Hamfest,**  
November 19, 2016

On a lighter note, restoration of old radios continues at the Shop and here are some pictures of the latest restoration work:

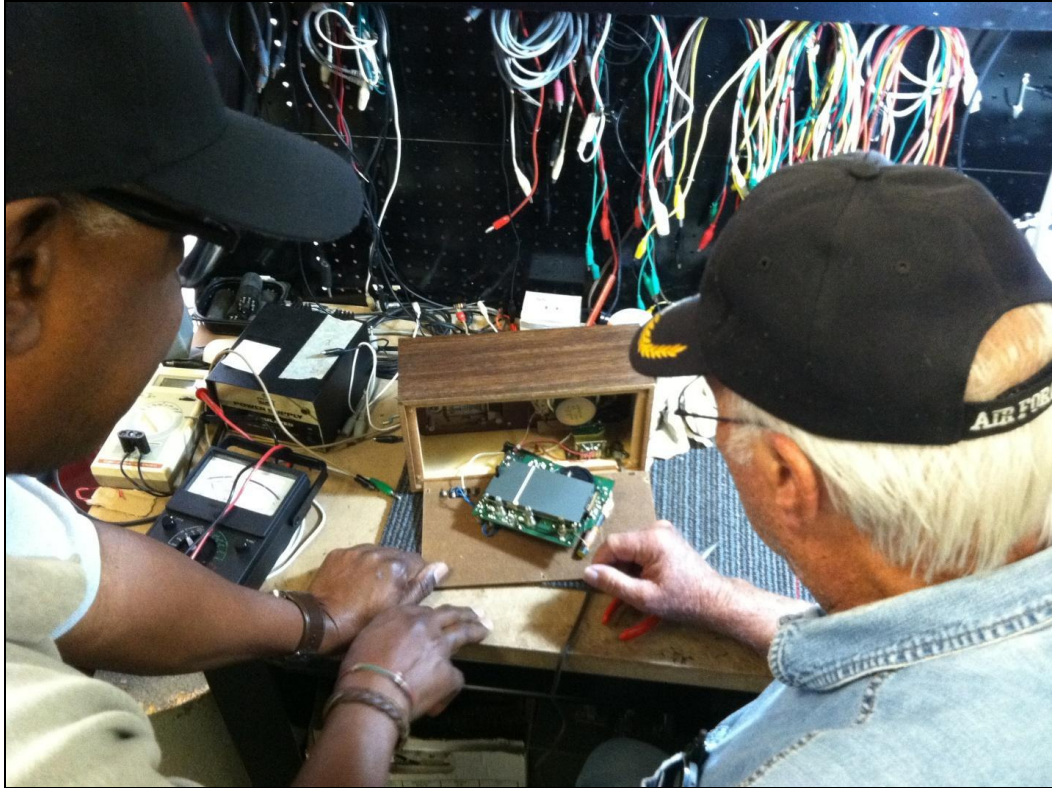


Maurice Hill working on a very compact AM radio. He said it was a TRF radio making reception poor.

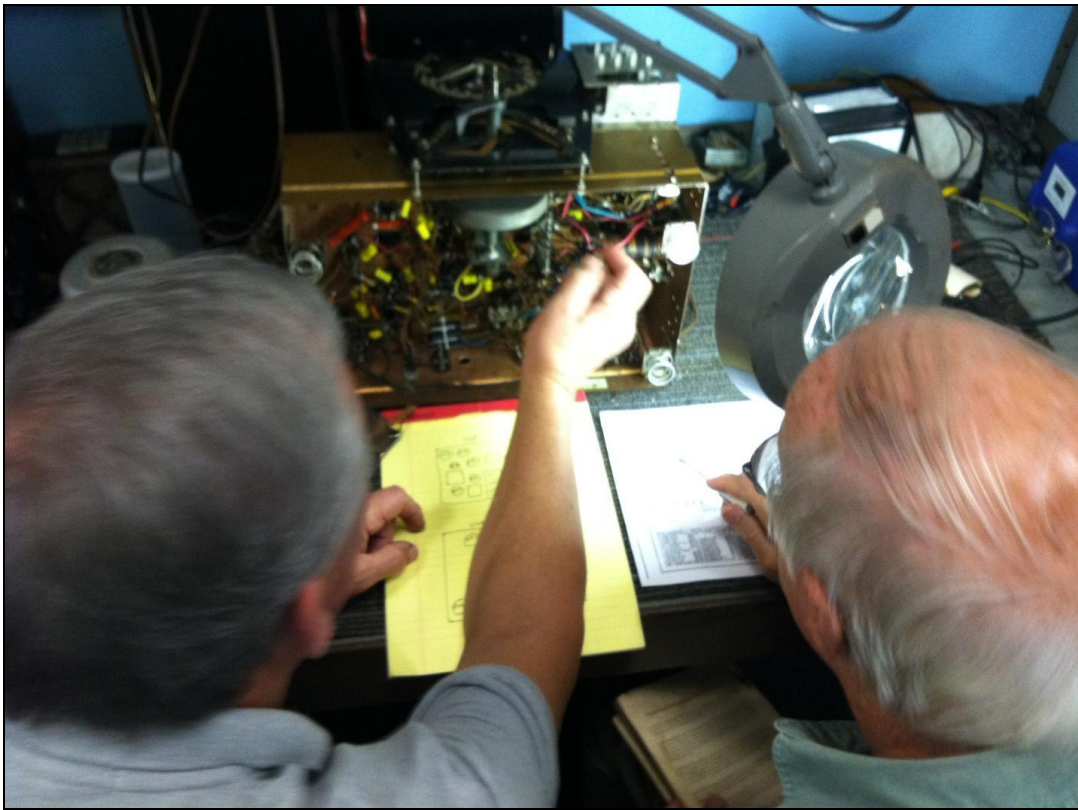


Jason Rumore and Dee Haynes reinstalling the restored turntable in Jason's console radio.





Maurice Lovelady showing Willie Henderson how to troubleshoot a small transistor table radio.



Doc Holiday showing Dave Johnson where the arc came from when he turned his 1930's Zenith on.



**Dee Haynes and Mike Williams blowing the dust out of Mike's old Silvertone radio in for repair.**



**Maurice Lovelady brings in some unusual radios for repair and this one caught my eye. It is a 1922 Model HR Clapp-Eastham one tube radio.**





**This is the inside of Maurice's Clapp-Eastham Radio showing the one tube circuit.**

We had two special guests, M. D. Smith and Dan Whitsett, Jr., both from Huntsville, AL tour the Shop on November 1 and they enjoyed the personal attention from members Dave Cisco and Don Keith as they learned about the Society. M. D. and Dan's families have a long history with radio and later with television in our area. There are two websites full of historical information on the Smith family's involvement in early radio and TV. These sites are: <http://www.31alumni.com/> and <http://www.31alumni.com/31histor.htm>.



**Dave Cisco and Dan Whitsett, Jr. at the radio station studio in the Shop.**



**M. D. Smith reliving old times as a radio DJ at our station in the Shop.**



**Don Keith and Dan Whitsett , Jr. talking about radio history while touring the Shop.**

The Society received an e-mail message from the father of a 7th grader who wanted to give us some positive feedback on our website. His daughter's technology class is learning all about the history of communications. He has been helping her do research and our page was a big help in leading them to some great information. He mentioned an interesting site that was not on our links page. The site has been added to our links page by webmaster Bob Lovell. The site is: <http://www.thesnugg.com/history-of-communication.aspx>.

One of our members sent me a pdf of "The Old Radio Times," which is The Official Publication of The Old-Time Radio Researchers. The current issue, November-December 2016, is 32 pages long with great information about the subject. The website for the Radio Researchers is [www.otrr.org](http://www.otrr.org) and from that you can go in many directions. I sent a request to the editor of "The Old Radio Times" publication seeking information on linking it to our website, but I suspect that there is a charge for the publication. At least the link above will take you to the information about membership and the things they offer. I recommend a close review of this group.

This year's Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 29, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. The Society will supply turkey, ham, dressing, gravy, rolls, tea-sweet and unsweet, coffee-regular and decaf, bottled water, all serving and eating utensils, napkins, cups and ice. Members will provide salads, vegetables and



desserts to complete the meal. The regular fourth Monday night meeting scheduled for December 26 is cancelled and replaced with this Thursday night Christmas Party. Please mark your calendars!

The following pictures show some of the fun from last year's Christmas Party:



**2015 Christmas Party**



**2015 Christmas Party**



The radio class on November 3 was taught by interim instructor, Jim Rogers, who has been teaching while Robert Frye continues to get his health back. Jim covered how vacuum tubes work, including their internal construction and the function of each element. It was very interesting! He followed the ARRL handbook section on vacuum tube basics.

Next month's radio class will be on December 3 at 9 a.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. The topic of discussion will be Oscillators, so bring your ARRL Handbook which covers the subject in detail. Come learn how to fix old radios.



**Instructor, Jim Rogers, details the makeup of a typical vacuum tube.**

The October 24 Monday night meeting program was presented by Dave Cisco about Powel Crosley and his rise in prominence in the radio world and some presence in the automotive world.



Dave Cisco and his display of Crosley books and radios for the program.



October Monday night meeting attendees listening to the presentation on Powel Crosby.



The next Monday night meeting is November 28th, beginning at 6 p.m. (new time) at the Shop in Birmingham. We will vote on the updated By-Laws and other business. The Program will be presented by Dave Cisco on Edwin Howard Armstrong, best known for developing FM (frequency modulation) radio. One interesting side note - our founder, Don Kresge, worked with Armstrong on the development of FM. It should be a very interesting program! Come vote on the upgraded By-Laws, enjoy some fellowship and learn about a true radio pioneer and his contributions to this great medium, radio.

Thank you for your continued support of the Alabama Historical Radio Society!

See you soon!

*President Tom*

205-936-5455

[music.tomdj@gmail.com](mailto:music.tomdj@gmail.com)



### **OLD TIME RADIO BITS**

Well the election of 2016 is finally over. I don't know how you feel, but it seems like I've been watching months and months of one of television's reality shows. The bad news is that the presidential campaign for 2020 probably has probably already started. So instead of looking forward to the election of 2020, let's look back to some of the past elections.

The first election returns were broadcast by KDKA in Pittsburg in 1920. Here are a couple of very short clips from the election. The [first clip](#) gives the candidates for office and the [second clip](#) gives presidential election returns. The announcers have come a long way in the last 96 years.

The next clip is from [Amos 'n' Andy](#) as they discuss the 1928 presidential election. Maybe I should have listened to Amos and Andy for election advice.

Next is a very short clip, only 47 seconds, from the [1932 election in Germany](#). The speaker is the infamous Adolf Hitler. I don't speak a bit of the German language, but the emotion and anger comes across very clearly.

The next programs are from the 1940 election. For those who don't remember, this is the year when Franklin Roosevelt broke with tradition and ran for a third term. The first selection is [Fibber McGee and Molly on Election Day](#). The program has actual voting results interleaved with the comedy. The second selection is from Fulton Lewis, a national commentator with a nightly broadcast on the Mutual Network. The program is entitled [Election Over at Last](#) and has commentary that could be applicable today. The actual show begins at approximately the 1:25 mark, being preceded by 20 seconds of silence and about a minute of orchestral music.

In the 1944 election, America was still in World War II. [Eddie Cantor](#) begins his post-election day show by making fun of America's foes. By the end of the show Cantor is the President and is tackling the functions of the office.

After this we skip ahead to what most of us would consider the television years, even though radio was still popular with many people. First is a short selection from a [John Kennedy election eve speech](#). Next is WOR's [Jean Shepherd](#) discussing the election of Jimmy Carter. Jean Shepherd was a humorist and radio personality, but is best known by most people as the narrator in ***The Christmas Story*** movie.

And finally, we come to something from the year of the hanging chads. [Dan Rather](#) has over a minute of clichés relating to elections. I encourage you to invest a minute for this almost comedic routine.

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

*Larry Lokey*

[larry@otronmp3.com](mailto:larry@otronmp3.com)

[Website - otronmp3.com](http://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 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**

#### **President – Tom Killian**

205-936-5455

[music.tomdj@gmail.com](mailto:music.tomdj@gmail.com)

#### **Vice President – Steven Westbrook**

205-305-0679

[spwestbro@bellsouth.net](mailto:spwestbro@bellsouth.net)

#### **Recording Secretary – Mike Woodruff**

205-823-7204

[michael\\_woodruff@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_woodruff@hotmail.com)

#### **Treasurer – Don Letchman**

205-967-8557

[dletchman@bellsouth.net](mailto:dletchman@bellsouth.net)

#### **Member and Instructor – Robert Frye**

205-482-0562

[RLF100243@aol.com](mailto:RLF100243@aol.com)

#### **Web site – Bob Lovell**

[bob@dixiwebdesigns.com](mailto:bob@dixiwebdesigns.com)

#### **Web Address:**

<http://alhrs.org>

#### **E-mail Address:**

[ahrs2000@gmail.com](mailto:ahrs2000@gmail.com)

#### **Newsletter – Patsy Desaulniers**

[patwrite@gmail.com](mailto:patwrite@gmail.com)