



December 2016



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

At the November membership meeting, the revised By-Laws were approved by the membership. There will be several immediate results of this action, beginning with the new fiscal year becoming the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. For the 27 years since the Society's founding, the fiscal year has been July 1 through June 30. Dues (\$25) for the new year are due and payable on January 1, 2017. Please send them to AHRS, PO Box 131418, Birmingham, AL 35213. The Board of Directors (9 positions) will need to be filled in January at the regular membership meeting. Three Board members will be elected for a term of one year; three Board members will be elected for a term of two years; and three Board members will be elected for a term of three years. Following the expiration of the terms of this new Board, each successor Director will be elected for a term of three years. The Board will elect a Chairman, from among them, who will serve a one-year term.

The current officers were elected to their specific offices by the membership for one year terms at the June 2016 Annual Meeting. Their terms would have ended on June 30, 2017, but now, under the revised By-Laws, their terms will extend until the election of officers at the Annual Meeting in the fourth quarter of 2017. The Directors were not elected by the membership, but were asked to serve. Therefore, they must be elected for the new year. There is a nomination committee made up of Dave Cisco, Johnny Outland and Steven Westbrook, with an additional two members yet to be selected. This committee's job is to solicit candidates for the nine Director positions, to be elected this January. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact one of these members.

Activity at the Shop continues to be high, even during the Holidays. Mentoring is strong as our experienced members pass on their knowledge to the newer members. The members who come on Tuesdays and Saturdays continue to enjoy the fellowship with like-minded members. Some pictures of this month's activities follow:



Dee Haynes instructing new member Jason Rumore on how to replace a grill cloth in a Philco Model 90-A Cathedral radio.



Doc Holladay using a military tube tester to check tubes in a radio he is restoring.



Brendan Lovelady, Maurice Lovelady and Jimmy Roberts researching a radio schematic

The December 26 Monday night meeting will be moved to Thursday night, December 29, for the 2016 Society Christmas Party. The party will be at the Shop and will begin at 6 p.m. The Society will furnish the turkey, ham, drinks, dressing, gravy, rolls and utensils, and the members will furnish salads, vegetables and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet at the Shop for your name, number attending and the food you intend to bring. For those members who don't normally come to the Shop but plan to attend the party, please send a return e-mail to me at ahrs2000@gmail.com with your information. This party is always fun, with great food and fellowship. I heard that some of our guitar picking members may provide some entertainment at the party (but don't let that keep you away!).



Members enjoying the 2015 Christmas Party.



Julian Brook and Ned Killian enjoying the warmth of the 2015 Christmas Party fireplace.

There will be an auction on Saturday, January 14, beginning at 10 a.m., at the Shop. The auction committee, Ray Giles, Johnny Outland and Willie Henderson, will select from a large number of radios, test equipment and miscellaneous items to make the event exciting. Members in good standing will be able to pick up some great bargains at this auction. We are planning to have at least four auctions this coming year. Come purchase that special radio you have always wanted for your collection!

Instructor Jim Rogers taught the December Radio Class about oscillators. Students followed along with Jim's PowerPoint presentation and the section on oscillators in the **ARRL Handbook**.



Jim Rogers explaining the finer points of common radio oscillators and their importance in all radios.



Jim Rogers using his PowerPoint presentation to show different aspects of oscillators.

The January Radio Class will be on January 7, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. Instructor, Jim Rogers, will continue reviewing basic electronic circuits and repair techniques for tube-type radios. Come learn how to repair old radios. If you are working on an old radio and have a problem or question about it, contact Jim Rogers or bring your issues to the next class. The entire class usually learns something when an actual radio problem is discussed and resolved. Robert Frye, our regular instructor, who has been recovering from health issues, will attend the Society Christmas Party on December 29, along with his wife, Margaret, so be sure to say hello to them and wish them well!

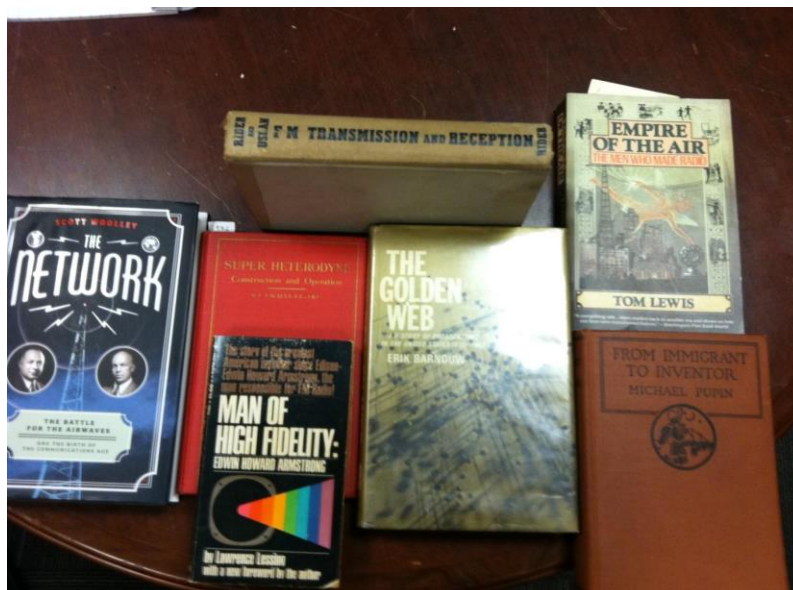
At the monthly night meeting on November 28, the program was presented by Dave Cisco on Edwin Howard Armstrong, Electrical Engineer and Inventor, best known for developing frequency modulation (FM). Dave gave the many highlights of Armstrong's career, including the almost endless litigation he faced over his patents, litigation that his wife continued to fight (and eventually won) long after Armstrong had stepped out of a 13-story window to his death. Dave picked out several books from our library that help

tell Armstrong's story. These are all available to read in the library. Dave does a great job on these programs and his efforts are appreciated by all the members at the meeting.

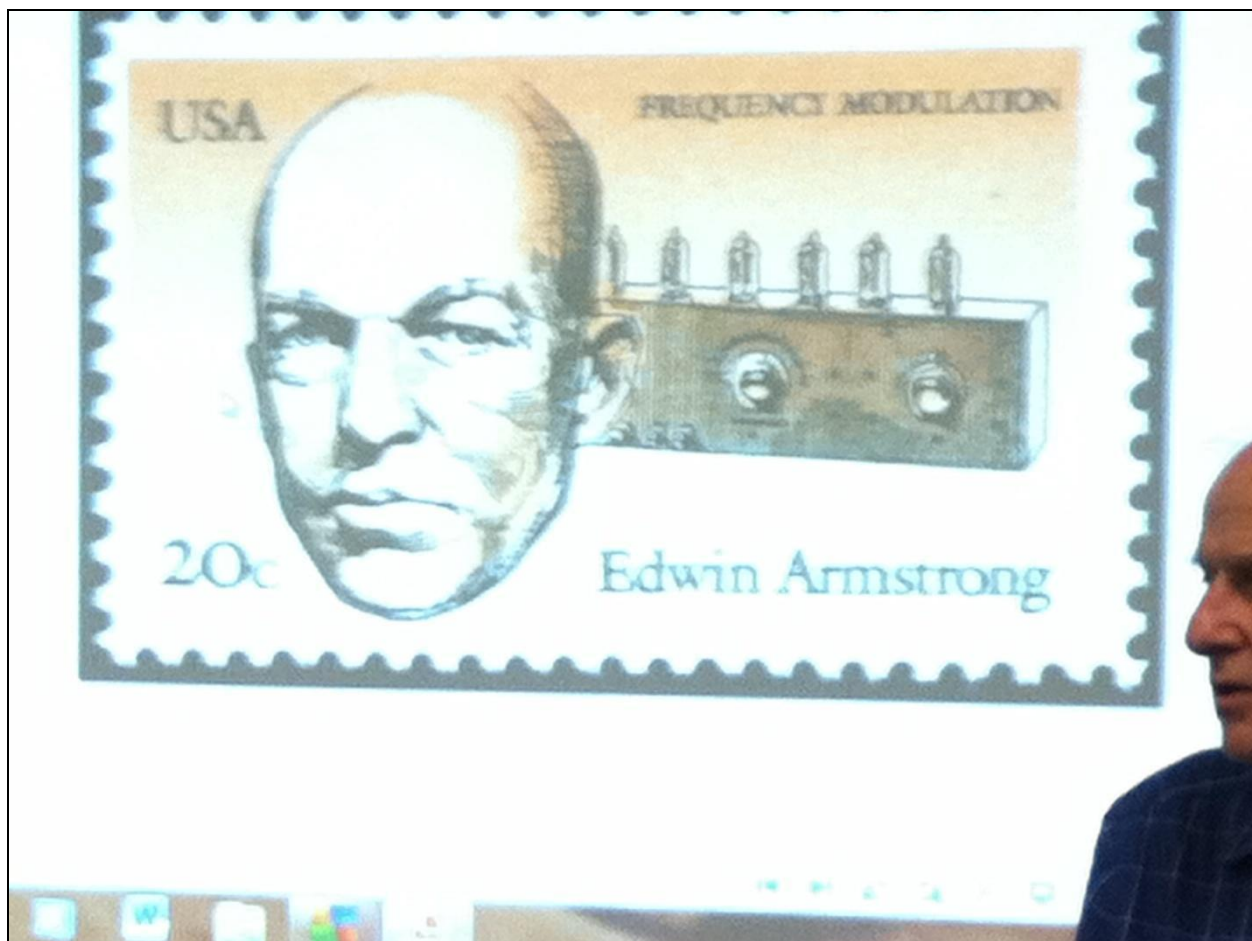


Dave Cisco talking about Edwin Howard Armstrong at the Monday night meeting.

The large radio in front of Dave is the first radio built (RCA Radiola) using Armstrong's Super-regeneration circuit. It is also shown on the slide at the right. This radio is part of our radio collection at the Shop.



Some of the books about Edwin Howard Armstrong available in our Library.



US Postage Stamp honoring Edwin Howard Armstrong.

Remember, there will be no fourth Monday night meeting in December. It is replaced with the Society Christmas Party on Thursday, December 29.

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

Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

See you soon!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Imagine that it is December 1, 75 years ago. Depending on where you lived, it was the first week after Thanksgiving or the second week after. President Roosevelt had declared the third Thursday of the month as Thanksgiving (to allow for a longer Christmas buying season), but some states had stuck with tradition and observed the fourth Thursday as Thanksgiving. Either way, the nation had offered thanks for its many blessings. The economy was slowly improving so things were looking up in America. The international scene was not as favorable with a war raging in Europe, but the nation was outside looking in.

Forward in time to the next Sunday. After Church services, the family had the traditional Sunday dinner, if they lived in the Eastern or Central time zones. If the family lived in the Mountain or Pacific time zones, they were in Church or on their way. No matter the time zone, the world as was known in the United States was turned upside down that day as Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese Empire. In just a week, the promising outlook for the nation became the opposite. We were at war. With the suddenness of the attack, no one knew what to expect exactly. Families could not foresee the many Americans who would lose their lives in defense of their country. No one could see the effects of the war on the nation, just when things were looking up.

Forward in time again, 17 days to Christmas Eve. The outlook must have been gloomy that day. Prime Minister Churchill was in Washington working with President Roosevelt on war plans. However, the ceremony for the lighting of the Christmas tree was important enough that both leaders stopped their meetings to participate in the ceremony. This was the first time that the tree was directly on the White House lawn. Radio was there to capture the event. The broadcast was only thirty minutes long, but both leaders were among the speakers, and their messages were somber yet hopeful. [Click here to listen to the Christmas Tree Ceremony](#). From that ceremony, Churchill's message was inspiring. If you are not inclined to listen to a 30-minute broadcast, it will be well worth the time to listen to four minutes from Winston Churchill. [Click here to hear his speech](#).

Later that day, Amos and Andy presented their Christmas broadcast. It has become one of the favorite Christmas programs in the history of radio. The series was wildly popular with listeners. This show was recorded and has become a Christmas tradition. The program offers hope for the families and loved ones of all Americans. [Click here to listen to the Amos and Andy show from December 24, 1941](#).

Jumping many years into the future to 1964, [here is Frank Borman's Christmas transmission from the moon](#). It is a message that has more meaning when the Earth is viewed as a small and distant object in space.

There are many more Christmas shows available on my website. You will probably find something in that directory that you will find interesting. [To see the available shows and to listen to any of them, click here.](#)

Until we meet again in the theatre of the mind, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Larry Lokey

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SATURDAY MEETINGS

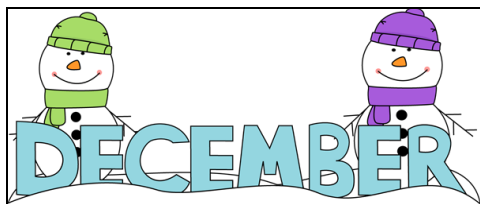
We meet every Saturday (unless a Holiday weekend) at 9:00 a.m., at the one-story AHRs Shop at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street, (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

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

President – Tom Killian

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Vice President – Steven Westbrook

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Recording Secretary – Mike Woodruff

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Member and Instructor – Robert Frye

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E-mail Address:

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2017 Hamfest Schedule (for AL, GA, TN and MS)

01/07/2017 FreezeFest

Location: Locust Fork, AL

Website: <http://www.freezefest.com>

01/07/2017 LARC's Annual HAMFEST

Location: White Pine, TN

Website: <http://www.morristownhamfest.com/>

01/14/2017 TechFest 2017

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Website: <http://www.techfest.info>

01/21/2017 Georgia ARES Convention

Location: Forsyth, GA

Website: <http://gaares.org>

01/27/2017 Mississippi State Convention (Capital City Hamfest)

Location: Jackson, MS

Website: <http://msham.org>

02/25/2017 Dalton Hamfest

Location: Dalton, GA

Website: w4drc.webstarts.com/hamfestintro.html

3/03/2017 Alabama Section Convention

Location: Birmingham, AL

Website: <http://www.w4cue.com>

03/18/2017 The Great Southern Hamfest

Location: Thomasville, GA

Website: <http://www.thomasvilleamateurradioclub.com>

03/25/2017 Ides of March Hamfest

Location: Union City, TN

Website: <http://www.reelfootarc.com>

04/29/2017 CARS Swapmeet Hamfest

Location: Pooler, GA

Website: <http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/>

06/03/2017 Atlanta Hamfestival

Location: Marietta, GA

Website: <http://atlantahamfest.com>

06/17/2017 Knoxville Hamfest & Electronics Exhibition

Location: Knoxville, TN

Website: <http://www.w4bbb.org>

11/11/2017 Montgomery Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2017

Location: Montgomery, AL

Website: <http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>