

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

April will be one of our busiest months with the Legends of Broadcast on April 20. In preparation for the Legends, several members have been working to restore the radio studio used by Joe Rumore at his home while broadcasting on WVOK. Thanks again to member Ray Edwards for his donation of this studio equipment. We found a picture of Joe in the studio (actually, about 30 copies of this picture), and we are trying to replicate the studio to the way it looked in the picture, as closely as possible. Members continued to work on their radios at the Shop to restore them to their glorious past. Some pictures of this activity follow.



The Legends at the 2016 Legends of Broadcast. Missing is the late Sterling Brewer, who left before the picture was made. Also, Ed Boutwell, our in-house Legend, was behind the camera videoing the event.



Gene Lively telling a story in 2016. Note the late Sterling Brewer at the table facing Gene. Gene is telling the group about how he replaced Jane Pauley at a TV station in Minneapolis.



Jim Cawthon using the mixer as a table to draw a layout of the Rumore studio from the studio picture.



Ken Smith, Steven Westbrook and Ed Boutwell cleaning the UPI Teletype used by Joe Rumore.



The Teletype placed outside of the two radio studios, ready to rip and read. The box contains new teletype paper ready to be installed in the teletype.



Joe Rumore pictures waiting to be hung in the radio studio. The "Record Rack" was a popular record store in Homewood, AL, Joe Rumore's hometown.



Dee Haynes installs the rollers on one of the rolling bases to be installed on the two transcription turntables, the studio mixer and the Ampex reel to reel tape recorder in the Rumore studio.



Willie Henderson and Dave Johnson check out Willie's latest acquisition from our surplus radio supply.



Frank Parker with his restored Navy radio. The warning states that the radio cannot be used aboard a ship because of unsafe radiation limits. A radio only for the land Navy!



Doc Holiday unwinding a transformer to reclaim the form to wind a new transformer.

At the March Monday night meeting, Dave Cisco presented a brief discussion about an upcoming major donation that includes over 100 radios, primarily Halicrafters, along with military radios, test equipment, old telephones, tubes, parts, teletype machines and much more. In the picture with Dave there is a seven-foot-tall equipment rack filled with military "boat anchors" that are in excellent condition.

We will be traveling in the next several weeks to take possession of this donation. There will be a great amount of work at the Shop and the Annex to incorporate these donations into our collection. Everyone's help will be needed to get this done! I will send an e-mail to the local folks seeking this help when it is needed.



Dave Cisco presenting information on the upcoming radio donation.

The April radio class held on April 1 was taught by Dave Johnson at the Shop. He discussed a practical approach to repairing an old radio. He used several older radios to highlight the finer points that should be checked out.



Dave Johnson teaching students how to work on old radios.

The next radio class is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. Regular instructor, Jim Rogers, is working on a subject outline for the class, recognizing that some students have advanced faster in radio knowledge and need a more robust training class. All students will have some level of training that fits their current needs. The class may be taught on alternate days to accommodate these needs.

The next Monday night meeting is scheduled for April 24 at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 6 p.m. Note that this is one hour earlier than meetings last year that began at 7 p.m. This earlier start lets us get home at a more reasonable time.

In last month's Newsletter, I failed to mention that during the February Board meeting, Michael (Mike) Woodruff, the current Secretary, was appointed by the Board to be the new Treasurer. Mike is wearing two hats, and we are looking for someone to be the Secretary. If that is something you are interested in, please contact Dave Cisco or me and let us know your interest. Thanks!

Imagine my surprise when Dave Cisco sent me a website where the Alabama Historical Radio Society's Don Kresge Memorial Museum was mentioned as one of the "50 Most Underrated Attractions in Every State." They called it the Alabama Historical Radio Museum, but we will take that. The site is: http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/g4246/underrated-attractions-by-state/?slide-1&src=nl&mag=ghk&list=nl_gga_news&date=033017

Check it out! Alabama's most underrated attraction!

Thank you for supporting your Alabama Historical Radio Society!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

When I was a kid I would usually be the first one out of bed on Sunday morning. Much to my chagrin, it was not because I was anxious to get to Sunday School and Church, but because the Sunday copy of the *Birmingham News* was lying in our drive. After retrieving the paper, I would usually head to the front seat of our car where there was plenty of light and I could read the paper without having to share it. I might notice the front page and the sports section, but my focus was always on two sections that were not available during the week – the Lively Arts and the color Comics. I loved radio, television, and movies and in the Lively Arts section I could read the all the latest articles relating to them. After reading that section, I would head to the Comics. There were two full panels for nearly every strip. I could read about *The Phantom*, *Beetle Bailey*, *Blondie*, *Dick Tracy* and even check on the girls in *Apartment 3G*. Needless to say, I consumed nearly every strip and loved every minute.

It was only when I was looking for something about which to write this month that I found a weekly radio show called *Comic Weekly Man*. I had remembered hearing about New York Mayor La Guardia taking to the radio in 1939 to read the comics when the newspapers were not published due to a strike. However, this was a singular event and ceased once the newspapers began printing again. I never realized that there was indeed a weekly radio show where the comics were read to the listeners. I also didn't realize that I had the show in my collection.

Based on what I could find on the internet, *Comic Weekly Man* ran on the Mutual Broadcasting Network from 1947 to 1954. The show was not just a simple reading of the comic strips as Mayor La Guardia had done, but was complete with sound effects and music. All of the material was taken from Hearst Newspapers' Sunday comics. The show was intended for both adults and children.

The comic man was never identified on the show, but apparently was radio actor Lon Clark. He was best known for playing the lead in *Nick Carter, Master Detective*. However, he appeared on many other shows such as *Lights Out* and *The March of Time*. For *Comic Weekly Man*, Clark would read all of the comics and perform all of the male vocals. He would sing songs and jingles tailored to each comic. He was accompanied by his female assistant, Miss Honey, who goes uncredited.

I had never listened to the show but find it strangely addictive. Of course, I am addicted to comics in general and have a collection that might rival my Old Time Radio collection. The show was obviously popular since it was on the air for seven years.

There are several episodes of the show which have been preserved. For your listening pleasure, I have chosen the show from March 25, 1951, which happens to be Easter Sunday. You can listen to the show by clicking [here](#). If you are interested in other shows in the series, you can find them in the OTRR section at archive.org. Just click [here](#). Click on any show to listen with the embedded player.

I hope you enjoy the show and also hope you have a very Happy Easter.

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

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

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 6:00 p.m. Please come join us!

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!

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.**

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2017 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (FOR AL, GA, TN AND MS)

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>