

August 2017

## NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

Summer is coming to a close and football is in the air in our parts with Alabama, Auburn and UAB close-by. Every Saturday will offer opportunities to go somewhere and do something. Our Shop in Birmingham will still be an interesting place to come to have fellowship with other folks who love old radios, to work on radios and to read the latest additions to the library. Also, lately there have been several interesting donations received and placed on the conference table for members to check out. There are immediate offers to buy many of these items, but our inventory is checked and if we don't have that radio, we will generally keep it for restoration and display. Coming regularly to the Shop on Tuesdays and Saturdays, gives you the advantage of picking up a great donated radio without waiting for a competitive auction. Some donated items are restricted by the donor and are not available for disposal. Come spend some time at the Shop!

The Shop work benches have been active each Tuesday and Saturday with work on client and personal radios. Outside of the Shop area, the usual suspects sit around the conference table telling stories and drinking coffee. Some pictures are in order. If these folks look familiar, it is because they are doing interesting things each month. If you wish to have your picture published while doing some productive radio work, please come to the Shop on Tuesdays and Saturdays, do something worthy and I will put your picture in the newsletter.



Dave Johnson reviews the schematic with Dee Haynes and Chris Shelt, who owns the radio being restored.



**Doc Holladay reconing a 4" speaker for a client restoration.**



**Jim Rogers using a digital volt-ohm meter to check a capacitor.**





**Frank Parker attaching the tuning knob as he completes this client restoration.**



**The restored Zenith radio is ready, thanks to Frank, Dave Johnson and others, but mostly Frank!**



**Gene Samples with the Society's Zenith farm radio he restored. Note the car battery used to power these old radios.**



**Sometimes we let our hair down at the Shop with Doc Holladay and Jimmy Clanton picking and a grinning.**



The next event for the Society will be attending the Alabama Broadcasters Association (ABA) meeting at the Hyatt at the Galleria in Hoover, Alabama, on Friday, August 18, in the vendor area. We will set up the Joe Rumore mixer, turntables and teletype, along with an information board telling everyone about the Alabama Historical Radio Society. There will be some old radios on display also.



**Dave Cisco in front of the Society Booth set up at the ABA meeting in 2015.**



The Joe Rumore home studio had sat unused since he passed away in the early 1980's until this past February when we moved the major equipment pieces to the Shop.





**Mack White (left) and Jim Cawthon make the final repairs on one of the Rumore turntables in preparation for the ABA Meeting.**



**Dee Haynes (standing) and Jim Cawthon ready the Rumore IP Teletype for the ABA Meeting. They will use a WIFI program that receives our President's tweets, as well as, prints older news bulletins such as the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war with Japan. It will be "reporting the news" at the Meeting on Friday.**



**Sam Rumore (left), related to Joe Rumore and Bill Tharpe, Archivists with Alabama Power Company, visiting the Joe Rumore Studio.**

The August radio class was conducted by Joe Minor at the Shop in Birmingham on August 5. These classes are scheduled for the first Saturday of each month, unless there is a holiday or a conflict such as a local hamfest. Joe discussed the different sections of a typical all-American-five radio, especially how the mixer/oscillator works and how to adjust the AM tuner dial on the radio. The next class is scheduled for September 2, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Shop. Joe will discuss general troubleshooting techniques on the demonstrator. Joe has plans to set up some problems and let the students use their knowledge to fix them. Come learn how to fix old radios.





**Joe Minor teaching the August radio class using the All American Five Demonstrator.**

Groups continue to have an interest in touring the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum and the AHRs Shop a block away. The most recent tour group was from Shades Mountain Baptist Church. They enjoyed the reintroduction to old radios like the ones they grew up with. The Museum is in the Atrium of the Alabama Power Company Headquarters at 600 North 18th Street in Birmingham and is open when the building is open, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The building is closed on the weekend and weekdays that are major holidays. The Museum tour is self-guided and there is no charge. If you want to have a group tour, we can schedule a date and time and have tour guides available to lead your tour. There is no charge for a guided tour.



**Dave Cisco discussing the history of early radio in Birmingham for the Shades Mountain Baptist Church tour group.**





**Members of the Shades Mountain Baptist Church touring the Museum and Shop.**

John Outland presented the program at the July Monday night meeting. He had a slide show about his recent six-week drive to Alaska, towing a 30 plus foot travel trailer for his son. I missed the meeting, but I heard it was as good as any home movies you have ever seen (or better). The next Monday night meeting will be on August 28 at the Shop in Birmingham. There will be a short business meeting and then a program (TBA).

Thank you for continuing to support your Alabama Historical Radio Society!

*President Tom*

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## OLD TIME RADIO BITS

2017 – the year of the great solar eclipse. By the time you read this, the eclipse will probably be history. I must admit that I only had a passing interest in the event. I was more than willing to watch it on tv. I was more than willing - until my nine-year-old grandson took an interest in seeing the sun blocked out by the moon. Or at least to see the sun mostly blocked out by the moon. So being a grandfather, I went in search of glasses for him, his brother and myself. As I look into the future (which is probably the past to you), hopefully the clouds will participate and all will go as planned.

All the solar eclipse news got me to thinking about our fascination with eclipses. Fiction writers have frequently found ways to incorporate the events into their stories. The one that comes to my mind first is Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. In all honesty, I cannot say that I have ever read the novel, but I have seen the movie. I can remember Bing Crosby threatening to block out the sun to prove his powers, and then proceeding to do just that. The year was 528 and I guess King Arthur was just not as sophisticated as we are now. Anyway, old Bing proves his powers and the story goes on.

However, Mark Twain was just one of many who uses eclipses to tell a story. In fact, there is a Wikipedia page devoted to [Solar eclipses in fiction](#). If you check out the page, one of the first entries you will find is the novel *Nightfall* by Isaac Asimov and Robert Silverberg. The novel was developed from an Asimov short story by the same name. The story was published in *Astounding Science Fiction* magazine in 1941.

So, with the help of the Internet Library, I was able to find this issue of the magazine. Specifically, it is [Astounding - September 1941](#). Click the link and you can find the story beginning on Page 9. You can read it online or you can download the file in numerous formats to read it on your computer, tablet, or e-reader. My preferred method of reading old magazines like this is using the comic book format. I like this method best because I am actually reading page scans of the magazine, just as many of you do when reading QST online. Of course, this takes a comic book reader but there are plenty available for both computers and tablets. The best part is that nearly all of them are free.

Now to finally get to tying *Nightfall* to OTR. The short story served as a basis for an episode of *X Minus One*, the NBC science fiction anthology series that aired in the mid 50's. The story involves a planet where up to six suns were visible. Worse case there were two suns providing star light for the planet. However, every two thousand and forty-nine years, there was a total eclipse and those mysterious things called stars appeared in the sky. The darkness could affect the planet's population in strange ways. If the darkness didn't get you then the stars might become your nemesis. Of course, there were men of science who weren't affected by such trivial things. I'll leave the rest of the story to you. Click [X Minus One December 7, 1955](#) to listen to the show. Maybe you will find some tie-ins to our own solar eclipse.

As a bonus, while researching the internet for this article I found the [Generic Radio Workshop Script Library](#), an online repository of scripts from the Golden Age of Radio. The [Nightfall script](#) even contains the music cues.

One last thing – Using *Word*, I have not been able to determine how to force a link to open in a new tab when it is clicked. If you want a link to open in a new tab on your computer, hold down the Ctrl key when clicking on the link. I keep looking but this is the only solution that I have found.



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 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



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**Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January.** If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Mike Woodruff at 205-823-7204. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

## CLUB OFFICERS

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

**11/11/2017 Montgomery Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2017**

**Location:** Montgomery, AL

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



### **Editor's Note**

Just to give you an update on my total knee replacement on July 24—my recovery is going well. I am in rehab three times a week, plus three times a day exercises here at home. I gave up my walker last Wednesday and can walk very well without any support. Of course, my knee isn't happy being folded under my computer desk, so I am forced to limit my time there for the next few weeks.

I appreciate all your prayers.

*Patsy D*