

October 2017

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

This is one of the best times of the year, with cooler weather, fall leaf colors, football, holiday celebrations and family events! It is a less busy time at the Shop, as members are out enjoying the season. Attendance at the Shop has been light, but steady as our regular activities repairing old radios, teaching members how to repair old radios individually at the bench and as a group at the monthly radio classes and just visiting and enjoying the company of fellow Society members continue. There are always picture opportunities at the Shop!



Maurice Lovelady tuning in a signal on a 1921 Model 35-B John Firth Crystal Radio.



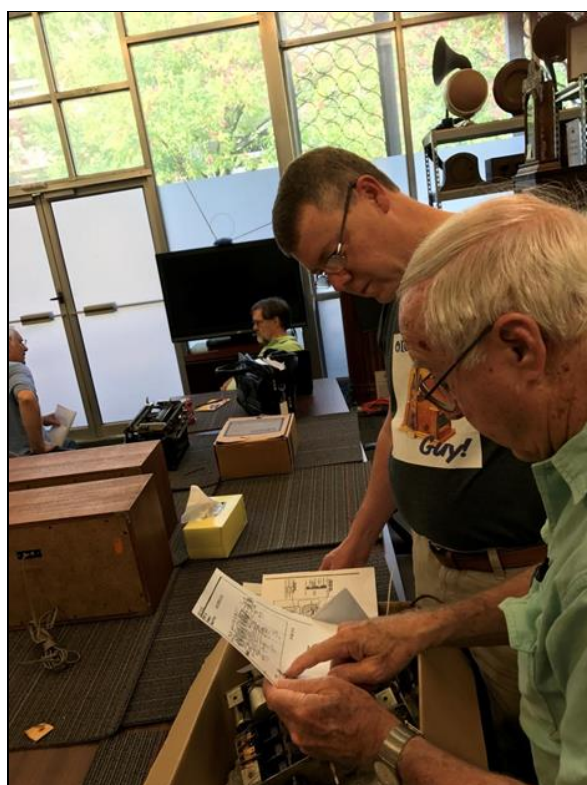
Milo Jones soldering the antenna leads on Josh White's (looking on) 1939 Packard Bell Model 5AC radio.



Maurice Hill working on a client radio at one of five available work benches.



Mack White works on a radio chassis with his son Bill White.



Dave Johnson showing Ron Studdard how the circuit is laid out on the schematic for the radio Ron is restoring.



Enjoying some fellowship are Tom Hayes, Ron Studdard and Mike Lord. In the background, a group gathers around the DJ radio station studio.



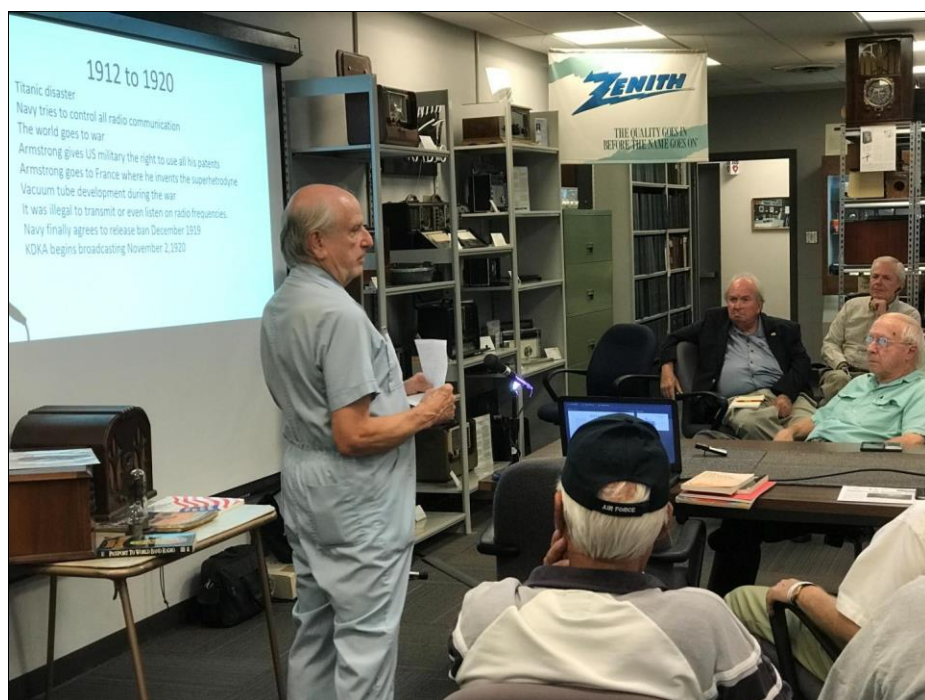
Sometimes there are show and tell moments as in this case when Steve Spicer (2nd from left) brought in an Arduino-based processor developed for the Thompson High School Engineering Class for testing the output of solar panels. The Class is evaluating solar panels for use by another high school in Africa for portable use to charge personal electronics and tent lighting while traveling in Africa away from the power grid. Milo Jones, Jim Rogers and Roger Powell look on.

Monday Night Meeting

The September Monday Night meeting program was given by Dave Cisco. He talked about the importance of shortwave radio on the development of radio, highlighting events that occurred during several blocks of time, such as the sinking of the Titanic and the importance of radio communications at that time. The program was recorded and should be available on our website later this year. Thanks to Ed Boutwell for taping the program!



The Monday Night meeting was well attended to see Dave Cisco's program.



Dave talking about one block of time in the evolution of shortwave radio.

The next Monday Night meeting will be held on October 23 at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 6 p.m. After a brief business meeting, the program will be given by Mack White. He will speak on the history of commercial broadcast microphones in this first of a two-part program (second part in November). Mack has been collecting older broadcast microphones for a long time. He rebuilds them for sale, also. His collection includes an RCA model 44 used by Tokyo Rose during World War II. Come learn about broadcast history and more at the October Monday Night Meeting.

The October Radio Class was taught by Joe Minor and he continued to discuss the circuitry of the All-American five radio. He reviewed the replacement of selenium rectifiers, checking transformers and coils, and basic ohms law calculations. Joe likes to have students participate in using the test equipment available to check the various radio circuits.



Joe Minor showing student Ron Hall how to check for continuity on a tube filament circuit.

The next radio class will be on Saturday, November 4, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. sharp! Instructor Joe Minor will continue to teach basic radio circuit analysis and respond to any troubleshooting issues you may be experiencing as you work on your individual restoration projects.

On October 5th, Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes and I put on a historical radio program for the Blue Flame Club, which is a group of retirees from Alabama Gas Company. When we scheduled the presentation, the company name was Alagasco. The day of our presentation, the company became Spire. Same folks, just a name change. I presented information about the Alabama Historical Radio Society. Dave Cisco spoke about the beginning of radio and concluded with information about local radio history. Dee made his old radio show presentation, including the "Behind the Mike" video of the making of a radio show, including how the sound effects were made in the studio. The entire presentation was well received.



Dee Haynes presenting his program on old radio shows including the one shown for Superman.

There are currently two planned tours of the Shop and the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum set for the first two weeks in November. There will be more information posted at the Shop if you want to help with these tours.

One of the city's big events makes our life at the Shop difficult. It is the Magic City Classic Parade, on October 28; it starts a block from our Shop, goes through town and ends at our front door. This year the parade will begin at 8 a.m. and run 3+ hours with over 20 bands, floats, you name it, passing in front of our building. If you drive to the Shop, come before 7 a.m. and plan to stay until about noon. Now it's a show for sure, so make plans accordingly.

Elections are coming up in November-December time frame at the Annual meeting. Three one-year-term Director slots will be open and the president's office will be open. If you have an interest in any of these positions, let Steven Westbrook or Dave Cisco know.

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

Come see us when you are in our area!

President Tom

205-936-5455

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Years ago, when I was a student at UAB, I had the pleasure of chairing what was known as the Film Committee. It was a subcommittee of the Student Government Association and presented movies on Friday and Saturday night in the Engineering Building auditorium. This was before the days of 250 cable channels (and nothing to watch). College kids were interested in anything free and that included movies.

Mostly we ran recent movies, but every now and then we would try something different. One time we showed all 13 episodes of the 1936 serial Flash Gordon. Another time we showed the 1916 silent movie Intolerance backed with instrumental rock music of the day. However, nothing proved as popular as the movies we ran around Halloween of my senior year. In one weekend, there was Frankenstein (1931), Dracula (1931), The Mummy (1932), and The Wolfman (1941). Today these movies might seem trite, but to me they were classics and I watched every frame of every movie.

So how do my college days fit in with old time radio? Well, it seems that one doesn't have to see a monster for the monster to be interesting. There have been numerous radio adaptations relating to them. Do I see Boris Karloff when I hear a Frankenstein show? Do I see Bela Lugosi when I hear a Dracula show? Most of the times the answer is yes. My mind has been trained to see them from the movies I watched. Does that make them any less interesting? That answer would be no.

A search of my collection revealed many OTR shows on these monsters. There was a 13-part adaptation of Frankenstein from 1931, a version from CBS Radio Mystery Theatre, a version from The Witch's Tale, a version from the Weird Circle, and a version from Suspense. Similar results were found for Dracula and The Mummy. Curiously there was nothing found for The Wolf Man.

Rather than providing links to many of the shows, I have narrowed the list down to just two. The CBS series Suspense produced a version of [Frankenstein](#) that aired on November 3, 1952. The show is only 30 minutes long and tells a story instead of trying to scare you to death with a big monster. Likewise, Mercury Theatre on The Air aired an Orson Welles adaption of [Dracula](#) on July 7, 1938. This was an hour-long show, but is presented in a much more intense manner.

I hope you can take the time to listen to these shows and find some enjoyment in them. If you are interested in any of the other monster shows that I may have, just let me know.

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



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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.**

OFFICERS

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2017/2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE

10/21/2017 | Greeneville Hamfest

Location: Greeneville, TN

Type: non-ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Andrew Johnson Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://greenevillehamfest.com>

10/21/2017 Helena Hamfest

Location: Helena Amphitheater, Helena, AL

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

10/21/2017 | Hamfest Chattanooga 2017

Location: East Ridge, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.hamfestchattanooga.net>

10/21/2017 | Randy Griffin Memorial Hamfest

Location: Morrilton, AR

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Randy Griffin Memorial Radio Club

Website: <http://k5boc.org>

11/4-5/2017 | Stone Mountain Hamfest (Lawrenceville, GA)

Gwinnett County Fairgrounds

2405 Sugarloaf Parkway

Lawrenceville, GA 30045

855-786-8643

Sat: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

11/11/2017 | The Greater New Orleans Ham Fest

Location: Harahan, LA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Crescent City Amateur Radio Group

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2044282109131267/>

11/11/2017 | Montgomery Hamfest

Alcazar Shrine Temple

555 Eastern Blvd

Montgomery, AL 36117

11/17/2017 | Jackson County ARA Hamfest

Location: Ocean Springs, MS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Jackson County Amateur Radio Association

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

12/09/2017 | Pearl River County ARC's 11th Annual Hamfest

Location: Poplarville, MS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Pearl River County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.facebook.com/Pearl-River-County-Amateur-Radio-Club-117965401695779/>

12/16/2017 | MARA Annual Christmas Hamfest

Location: Minden, LA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Minden Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.n5rd.org>

01/26/2018 | Delta Division Convention (Capital City Hamfest)

Location: Jackson, MS

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Jackson Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://hamfest.msham.org>

03/24/2018 | Ides of March Hamfest

Location: Union City, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://reelfootarc.com>

10/20/2018 | Tennessee State Convention (Hamfest Chattanooga 2018)

Location: East Ridge, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4am.net>

More: [Southeastern hamfests](#); [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#); [Contest Corral](#); [QRP Contests](#); [State QSO parties](#); [Special Event Stations](#); [North America SOTA events](#); [DX Bulletins](#)