

December 2017

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

December is the final month in our new fiscal year, which requires an Annual Meeting and election of officers and directors. The officers will be elected for one-year terms and the directors elected for three-year terms. The election will be held at the December 28 night meeting, just prior to the Society Christmas Party. The Nominations Committee recommended a slate of officers and directors, including President-Dave Johnson; Vice-President-Steven Westbrook; Treasurer-Mike Woodruff; Recording Secretary-Dee Haynes and directors Charles McCrary, Dave Cisco and John Outland. Nominations will be taken from the floor prior to the vote. Voting will be by those members present at the Annual Meeting.

Also, annual membership dues (\$25) are due for the upcoming fiscal year, January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018, immediately prior to January 1, 2018. I have kept membership dues records since 2010 and, while not every person on our e-mailing list (over 250 addresses), pays dues, everyone on these dues lists has paid dues at least once in the past eight years. About 110 members on the 2017 membership list have paid dues and are current. About that many more have not paid for years. To be a member, one must pay dues. However, those on the e-mail list receive Society information by e-mail, including the monthly Newsletter, are supporters, but not members. The dues are used to promote and support the objectives of the Society. The Alabama Historical Radio Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization and can accept tax deductible contributions in any amount. (Dues are not tax deductible.)

There are several members who have been active in the past, but are slowing down due to health issues. I wanted to give them some recognition and let you know what they mean to the Society. Hopefully, they will be at the Society Christmas Party on December 28 at the Shop. Marvin Shepherd, retired from Alabama Gas Company, has been mentoring local members at least since 2007 when I joined the group, and I am sure much longer. His radio restorations are on display in the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum and at the Shop. He is a master of electronic repair, wood and plastic refinishing and troubleshooting techniques. The other member I wanted to mention is Robert Frye, retired from South Central Bell, one of the early Presidents of the Society, a mentor to other members and our Radio Repair Class Instructor for many years. He used SKYPE to communicate with the students at the Shop in Birmingham on class days, as he had moved to Loxley, Alabama for health reasons. His dedication to training our members has been unmatched. I got a Christmas card from Robert, and he and Margaret plan on attending our Christmas Party. Come to the Party for the food and fellowship and, by all means, even if you aren't hungry, come visit with Marvin and Robert and Margaret!



Marvin Shepherd at the Magnolia Ridge Nursing Home in Gardendale, AL.



Robert Frye Skyping in for a Saturday Radio Class from his shop in Loxley, AL.

Speaking of the Christmas Party, the Society will provide the ham, turkey, dressing, gravy, rolls, drinks, including sweet and unsweet tea, and the members will provide salads, desserts and vegetables for the party. Following a brief Annual Meeting, the Party will start. I included pictures of the 2016 Christmas Party showing the gathering. The sign-up sheet is at the Shop. You can send me a note by e-mail if you plan to attend and will not be coming by the Shop to sign the sheet.



Members enjoying food and fellowship at 2016 Christmas Party. Note Marvin Shepherd in the back and in front of the "fireplace", with his daughter.



More 2016 Christmas Party food and fellowship. Note Robert Frye standing to left talking with Ron Hall.

Last month's Newsletter contained a picture of member Jimmy Clanton welding the horn speaker for a crank Edison Disk Phonograph from the Arlington Antebellum House, a historical attraction here in Birmingham. Our Society was asked by Arlington caretakers to restore the phonograph to working condition. Members Mack White, Steven Westbrook, Dee Haynes, with help from Jimmy Clanton, brought the phonograph to the Shop and made extensive repairs to the speaker, tone arm and turntable mechanism to get it working properly. I included some additional pictures of this work.



Steven Westbrook (left) holding light for Mack White who is examining the acoustic tone arm.



Mack White making some final adjustments to the Edison Disk Phonograph at Arlington.

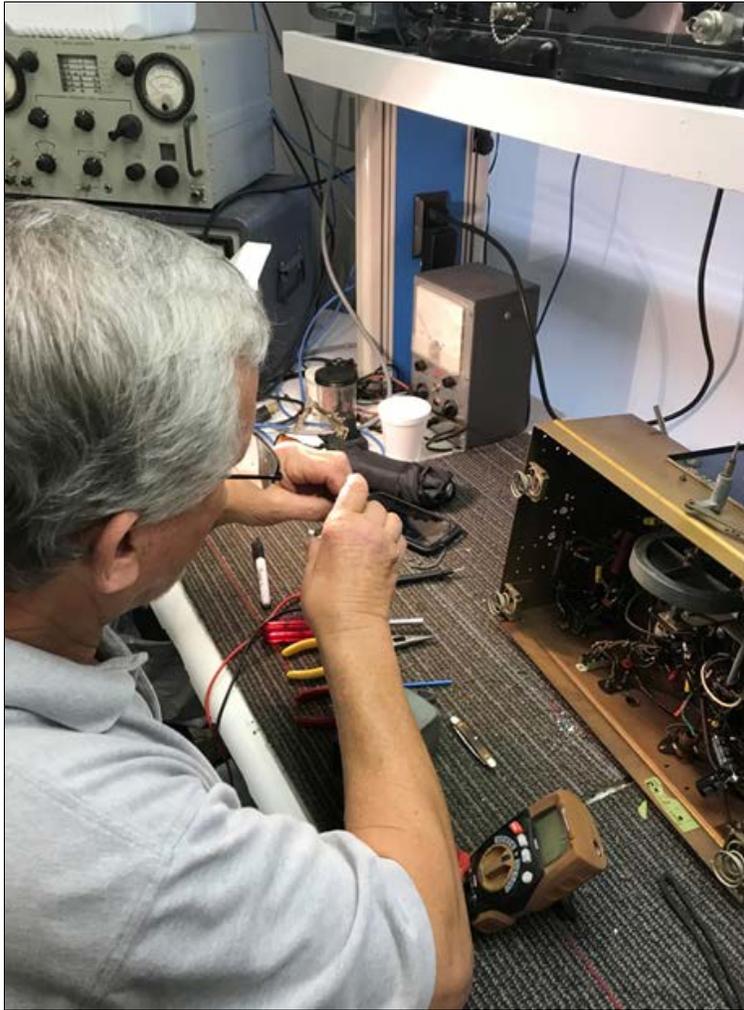
Member Don Letchman brought in a Philco 87-19 1933 cathedral radio belonging to the Gardendale Historical Society for repair. It had electrical circuit issues and missing wood veneer on most of the case. Don enlisted help from several members, including Dave Johnson, Ray Giles and Mike Lord. Mike replaced the large piece of wood veneer. The restored radio was returned to the Gardendale Historical Society for display at their Gardendale location.



Don Letchman adding a cord switch to the Philco Cathedral Radio as Ray Giles looks on.



Don Letchman with the restored Philco Cathedral Radio.



Doc Holladay working on a Zenith Console radio with rotten insulation. Doc has been off for some time with a health issue and we are glad to have him back in the shop fixing stuff.



Rare occasion when this much firepower tackles a radio problem. Jim Rogers (left), Mike Lord (working), Tom Hayes listening intently to Mack White (right).

In November a small group of seniors from St. Martins in The Pines Assisted Living facility toured the Shop and the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum. Steven Westbrook and I met with them and presented a program on the Alabama Historical Radio Society, radio history and local radio history. They enjoyed a tour of the Shop and the Museum.



Monica Hill, from St. Martins, making sure they don't break anything on the tour.



Tour group picture of seniors from St. Martins in the Pines Assisted Living facility.

The November Monday night meeting program was given by Dave Cisco. He put on a slide show of the MFJ 45th Anniversary celebration held at MFJ headquarters in Starkville, Mississippi. As usual, Martin Jue put on a great celebration as he has done at past anniversaries.

Dave also discussed his work with Professor Stephen Coon on early radio laws passed in the twenties. Dave has provided large amounts of historical documentation to Professor Coon. Included with this documentation was detailed history on the WSY radio Station started by Alabama Power Company in the twenties. The WSY information was collected by Bill Tharpe, Archivist for Alabama Power Company. There will be more on this collaboration in a later newsletter.

Our December Night Meeting will be the Annual Meeting and the Christmas Party on December 28, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Shop.



Dave Cisco giving the November night meeting program on MFJ's 45th anniversary celebration.

The December Radio Class was taught on December 2, with Instructor Joe Minor continuing the circuit analysis of the All American Five radio. Joe passed out several handouts listing specific circuit problems and the possible causes, in table form, for each problem, resulting in easier troubleshooting. The class examined a radio which did not have a working oscillator. Joe carried the radio home for a closer look, as we could not determine the problem in class. Next month's class is scheduled for January 6, at the Shop, beginning at 9 a.m. Joe will continue work with the All American Five radio.



Instructor Joe Minor teaching radio circuit troubleshooting to the class.

There was a radio auction for members Saturday morning, December 16 at the Shop. Some of the auction items are pictured. Donations were accepted for high bidders.



Some of the auction items for the December 16th member auction.

If you are in our area on Tuesday or Saturday morning, come by the Shop at the corner of 18th Street North and Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd. Park in the lot adjacent to the building and on Tuesdays, tell the guard you are with the radio club. Come in the side door by the AC condenser units and up the steps.

Thank you for supporting the Alabama Historical Radio Society!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Digital collecting has its plusses and minuses. The plus side is that storage has become very inexpensive over the years. Right now, a terabyte of hard drive storage is less than \$20. So, I tend to grab whatever is available with the intention of sorting it out later. Of course, I end up with a lot of duplication using this method, but with some time and helpful software, that is an easy problem to handle.

However, when I concentrate on removing duplicates, I sometimes forget to look at some of the other material that I have. That was the case with a Christmas distribution that I recently found on one of my drives. Someone expended considerable effort to consolidate files that deal with nothing but Christmas. A lot of the material is still under copyright and can't be shared on my website. However, the OTR programs that can be readily be shared are found at [this link](#). Take a peek and you will find Fibber McGee and Molly, Jack Benny, Bing Crosby, Amos and Andy, Bob Hope and on and on. There are comedies, variety shows and even thrillers.

With all this new-found material and about 16 hours of windshield time this week, I decided to sample the programs. I loaded the entire set on my phone, set it to shuffle and let the miles go by. I enjoyed having the shows of days gone past help me to get into the Christmas spirit. There were two shows that were especially appealing to me, for very different reasons.

The first of these shows is [Christmas Eve at the Front](#) and was broadcast live Christmas Eve 1943 on all four of the major networks - CBS, NBC Red, NBC Blue and Mutual. In order to cover four time zones in the United States, it was on from 10:00 – 11:15 Eastern time. The host of the show was Bob Hope and attempts are made to relay material from service men over the globe to the people at home.

It is the very nature of the show that really drew my interest. In 1943 there were no satellites, no trans-Atlantic or trans-Pacific cables. All the material outside of America came via shortwave radio and was done on a real-time basis. In today's world, we are used to instantaneous reports from all points of the globe with crystal clear audio and video. However, during World War II, that was not the case. Sometimes during the broadcast, the signal fades. Sometimes the signal fails to appear at all. Overall this program was an ambitious and groundbreaking effort. For anyone who utilizes the shortwaves, or HF as Hams call it, the nature of the broadcast should prove to be a worthwhile listen. It is also interesting for the material contained in the show. Over three and a half million men were deployed outside of the states when the show occurred, and it is an effort to bring them home to their families if only for a few minutes.

The second show which caught my interest was the [December 21, 1951 broadcast of Night Beat](#). I must admit that I can be a very sentimental soul and the episode tugs at my heart strings. It makes me remember the Christmas's that I was not with my family. It makes me remember just how blessed my life is. It makes me realize there are so many things that I take for granted and that not everyone is as fortunate as I am. I will write an article sometime on the Night Beat series but for now, I encourage you to invest 30 minutes to this broadcast.

I hope that you find some time to enjoy some of these shows. I will add more, such as music from Edison cylinders, to this collection as time permits.

OLD TIME RADIO BITS (continued)

I wish for each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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 radios. 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 Mike Woodruff at 205-823-7204. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

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2017/2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE

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](#)