

# The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society  
SUPERFLEX

April 2018

## NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE



Greetings to All!!!

The last few weeks have been very busy. We started the month with a successful display and forum at the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club BirminghamHAMfest. Our sales were good, and the forum presented by Mike Lord and Rick Curl was excellent and well attended. The video of the forum was shown at the Monday night meeting in March for those who did not attend the hamfest.

The Tuesday and Saturday meetings have been well attended and several radios have been repaired and given back to the owners. The shop committee continues to work on bringing order to our parts inventory and tracking to the items in for repair. Dave Cisco has our library in good order.

We continue to receive book donations and Dave always finds a place for them. The most recent book donation came from Larry Price, the past president of the ARRL. If you are not familiar with our excellent library, let me encourage you to visit soon and look around. Be sure to let Dave show you the books that are available to be checked out.

The museum committee continues to monitor and maintain our displays at the Alabama Power Company atrium. They are also working with Bill Tharpe to have LED lighting installed in the cases.

The next big event is the Legends of Broadcast on April 19. All members are invited to attend.

The visit to the WEWN transmitter and antenna for the 500-kilowatt radio station was Friday April 13.

Changes and improvements continue to be made to our web site. If you have not looked at it recently, please do so; many new videos and documents have been added. We may be asking some of our members to assist with the web site soon. If you have experience in this area, please contact me or Steven Westbrook.

This last Saturday, Tom Killian manned a booth at the Stereo Equipment Sale event at Tom's Sound here in Birmingham. Tom's Sound is a local retailer of old & new audio equipment, who opens the rear of his shop once a year for a flea market.

The Financial Committee, including Mike Woodruff and Julian Brook, are keeping our books in good order.

Thanks for your support!!!!!! See you at the shop.

*President Dave*

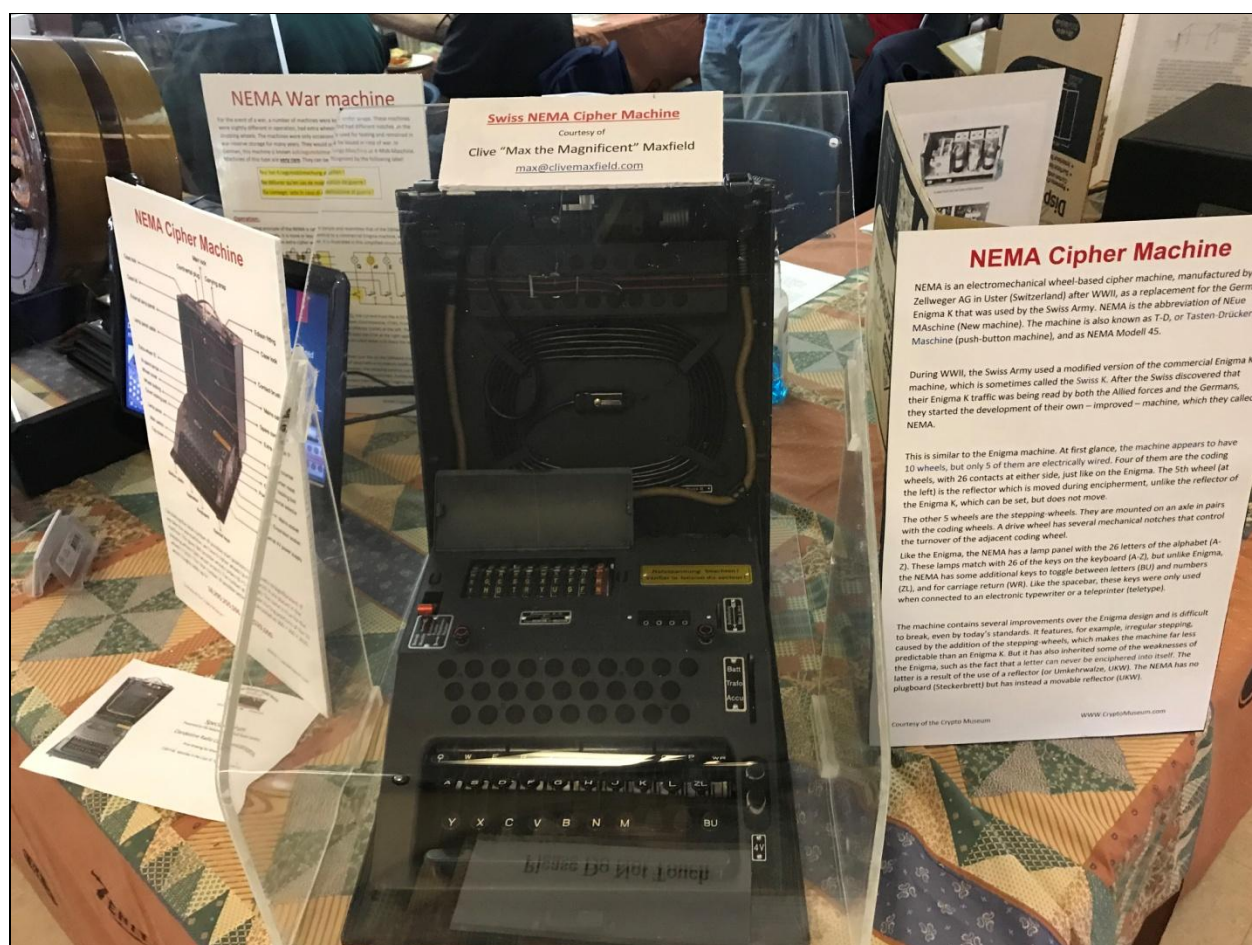
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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT AHRs

Due to the March Newsletter's concentration on Marvin Shepherd, information about the March Birmingham Hamfest, the Legends of Broadcast event, the monthly Radio Class, Old Time Radio and more, are included in this issue.

First some pictures from the Hamfest, where we filled 10 tables with radio and TV displays, surplus items for sale, the NEMA Cipher machine, several clandestine radios, a military rescue radio kit and more. The Society also presented a Forum on clandestine radios, including the NEMA Cipher Machine, by members Mike Lord and Rick Curl. This Forum was the most attended of the day. A video of this presentation is on the Society [website](#). There is also an article published on the Internet site [EEWeb.com](#) entitled *Clandestine Radios of WWII*, dated March 8, 2018.



The NEMA Cipher Machine loaned to the Society by Max Maxfield for the Hamfest.



A clandestine radio built by member and Forum presenter, Mike Lord.



Mike Lord explaining the various clandestine radios to Julian Harris.



An Admiral Predicta TV provided by member Gene Samples. It played old westerns during the Hamfest.



Joe Minor minding the booth while most of the members attended our Forum on Clandestine radios.



A Zenith Farm Radio, restored by Gene Samples, on display.



Don Leatchman selling books for the Society.



A radio made for use by the military cavalry during World War II on display.



One of many Society tables offering "fine" items for sale.



**Julian Harris checking out the rare "Gibson Girl" radio he donated to the Society.**

The March monthly night meeting was held on the fourth Monday night and the program featured a replay of the video of the Hamfest Forum presentation on clandestine radios given by members Mike Lord and Rick Curl. The presentation is available on the Society website given at the end of the newsletter.



The March Monday night meeting showing the Hamfest Forum video on clandestine radios.

In April of each year since 2011, the Society has held a special event called **Legends of Broadcast** at the Shop in Birmingham. Every radio and television person, young and old, actively broadcasting or having hung up their headphones, is invited to come have a tour, some great fellowship, a good meal and a couple of hours of telling stories about the "good old days." We have been making videos of the story-telling portion of the day for historical purposes. Many redactions would be required to make anything public. Those in attendance totally enjoy the craziness of early radio and TV. Also, several past attendees have passed away, but their stories live on through our recordings.



The Legends event begins with a tour and then everyone enjoys a good lunch and fellowship during the meal.



At a past Legend event, Gene Lively, who was on local Channel 13 TV, talks about replacing Jane Pauley, an up and coming personality, who was moving from the Minneapolis area. Also in this picture are Sterling Brewer, sitting to the right of Gene and Everett Holley with his bald head to the camera. Both Sterling and Everett passed away in 2016 and 2017, respectively.



Local radio personality, Dollar Bill Lawson, talking about his previous sidekick, Patty Wheeler.



Most of the Legend attendees at the 2017 Legend event. Some left prior to the picture.



**AHRS table for the Stereo Equipment Sale at Tom's Sound in Birmingham. We got some good publicity, as our name was on the event flyer, and many attendees had not heard of us before. Not much income, but great exposure.**

Most everyone we meet has a story about a radio they listened to while growing up. With no TV's, the radio was about the best entertainment you could get. One of our new members brought in for repair the radio that he listened to when he was growing up and he wanted to hear it play again. Dave Johnson checked it out, replaced several parts and soon it was playing again. The member, John Schmith, sent me a short story about how this radio affected his early days. John's story follows:

"The year was 1947; our nation was on the threshold of an economic and family values explosion. Expectations were unbounded, and the will was present to accomplish whatever was necessary to succeed.

In Clanton, Alabama, many retail enterprises were prospering; as were a multitude of farm supply, hardware, drugstores, clothing, furniture and automobile merchants. I vividly recall sitting outside in front of Tiffin Furniture showroom, along with other spectators, and watching television telecasts until the late evening hour of 8 p.m. But much more impactful upon my growing up was the purchase by my parents of the Emerson AM FM radio from that same furniture store. The radio was primarily listened to while activities occurred in the kitchen and almost exclusively tuned into WKLF, the local station. My bedroom was adjacent to this kitchen and I was glued to the radio at night when reception might bring stations from Texas and other faraway places. I split my sides listening to Jack Benny, Amos and Andy and the Great Gildersleeve. I was frozen with fear by the Inner Sanctum and The Fat Man detective series.

But most of all, I lived and died by the wins and losses of the St. Louis Cardinal Baseball team whose play-by-play originated from KMOX in St. Louis. To this day, I still root for the Cardinals, even though I have never seen them play.”



**Member Ray Giles (left) who introduced John (holding his Emerson radio) to the Radio Society**

I have a similar story from another member and will put it in a future newsletter. If you have something radio-related that you think would interest the readership, please send it to me for consideration.

Several Society members present programs during the year on general radio history, local radio history, the history of Alabama Historical Radio Society, samples of old time radio shows and other interesting topics, all to meet one of our objectives to educate the public on radio communications history. On April 15, Dave Cisco and I presented a program to the Birmingham Jewish War Veterans Post 608 highlighting "The Radio History of Birmingham." We need some additional members to help with these presentations and if you have an interest in helping, please see Dave or me.

The next radio class is scheduled for May 6 at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. Please bring your handouts and your ARRL Handbook. If you do not have a Handbook, let us know and we will find you one. There is no charge to students. If you are having a problem repairing a radio, bring it to class for help. Thanks again to instructor Joe Minor for putting in the time and effort to see that our members receive the necessary training to safely repair old radios.

The next Monday night meeting is scheduled for April 23, with a short business meeting and an interesting program to follow.

**NOTE: The night meeting starts at 7:00 PM, one hour later than the meetings started this past year.**

Until next time!

*Tom Killian*

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## OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Not too long ago, I watched the Academy Award nominated movie *Dunkirk*. I found it to be extremely interesting and would recommend it to anyone who has even the slightest interest in World War II. With my fascination of Old Time Radio and the associated news, I got to wondering if I had recordings related to the Dunkirk evacuation. In case you are completely unaware of this gallant rescue effort, Wikipedia has a very good article. You can find it [here](#).

As I have mentioned in previous articles, radio came of age during the depression. Radio news came of age as Adolf Hitler ascended to power and the Japanese began their conquest efforts. Correspondents were dispatched across the globe to share world events with their home audiences. The impending war was being brought to the listeners just as 30 years later the Vietnam War would be brought home to US viewers.

The Dunkirk Evacuation occurred between May 26 and June 4, 1940. The following is a chronological listing of the associated newscasts. Just click on each link to listen.

- [1940-05-29-BBC An Appeal For Boating Skills](#)
- [1940-05-31 BBC Bernard Stubbs On Evacuated Troops From Dunkirk](#)
- [1940-06-02-CBS Edward R Murrow On Dunkirk](#)
- [1940-06-02-CBS Elmer Davis The News Germans Near Dunkirk](#)
- [1940-06-02-NBC Anthony Eden Dunkirk](#)
- [1940-06-04 BBC Winston Churchill - We Shall Never Surrender](#)
- [1940-06-04-CBS Elmer Davis The News Germans Capture Dunkirk](#)
- [1940-06-04-BBC Edward R Murrow Churchill News Of Dunkirk](#)
- [1940-06-05 BBC JB Priestly On Dunkirk](#)
- [1940-06-08-BBC Charles Martin Describes Dunkirk](#)

This month there is less reading and lots of historical links. Most of the newscasts are very short. Winston Churchill's address is only 12 minutes long. I strongly encourage you to take a little while and listen to these recordings, as we remember the courageous act of British civilians to protect their countrymen.

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 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



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

## OFFICERS

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## 2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE



**Editor's Note**

The next few pages have the 2018 Hamfest and Swap Schedule for the Southeastern United States. I have not edited these—they are copied directly from the ARRL site.

## 2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (continued)

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **04/21/2018 | [Bryon Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Byron, GA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.wa4ort.com>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **04/21/2018 | [Flamingo Net / UMARC Free Flea](#)**

**Location:** Coral Gables, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Flamingo Net / University of Miami ARC

**Website:** <http://FlamingoNet.8m.net>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **04/21/2018 | [Gainesville Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Waldo, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Gainesville Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://gars.club>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **04/28/2018 | [Calhoun GA Hamfest](#)**

**Location:** Resaca, GA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.k4woc.com>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **04/28/2018 | [DeKalb County ARC Tailgate](#)**

**Location:** Fort Payne, AL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.w4gbr.org>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **04/28/2018 | [Savannah Hamfest & Swapmeet](#)**

**Location:** Savannah, GA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Coastal Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** [http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page\\_id=731](http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=731)

**Learn More**

## 2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (continued)

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

### **04/28/2018 | WIREGRASS ARC SPRING TAILGATE**

**Location:** Headland, AL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Wiregrass Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.w4dhn.org>

**Learn More**

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

### **05/05/2018 | SUWANNEE ARC HAMFEST**

**Location:** Welborn, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Suwannee Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.suwanneearc.org>

**Learn More**

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

### **05/12/2018 | EPARS Tailgate**

**Location:** Dade City, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://eparsonline.org>

**Learn More**

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

### **05/26/2018 | Wormfest 2018**

**Location:** Pinellas Park, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** The Glorious Society of the Wormhole

**Website:** <http://w4orm.org/>

**Learn More**

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

### **06/02/2018 | Georgia State Convention (Atlanta Hamfest)**

**Location:** Marietta, GA

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC) & Kennehoochee ARC (W4BTI)

**Website:** <http://www.atlantahamfest.com>

**Learn More**

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

### **06/16/2018 | Pinecastle Hamfest**

**Location:** Pinecastle, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Stanley Korzep, W8NNX

**Learn More**

## 2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (continued)

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **07/21/2018 | Cullman ARC Hamfest**

**Location:** Hanceville, AL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Cullman Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.cullmanarc.com>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **07/21/2018 | Florida Traders Net Tailgate**

**Location:** Orlando, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Jack Moyer, K4KDI

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **08/18/2018 | Southeastern Division Convention (Huntsville Hamfest)**

**Location:** Huntsville, AL

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Huntsville Hamfest Association

**Website:** <http://www.hamfest.org>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **08/18/2018 | TARCFest XLII**

**Location:** Tampa, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Tampa Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.hamclub.org>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **10/06/2018 | Cy Harris Free Flea**

**Location:** Oakland Park, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Broward ARC (W4AB)

**Website:** <http://browardarc.net/free-flea/>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **10/12/2018 | 53rd Annual Melbourne Hamfest**

**Location:** Melbourne, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.pcars.org>

**Learn More**

## 2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (continued)

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **10/27/2018 | Jacksonville FREE Hamfest**

**Location:** Jacksonville, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** North Florida Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://nofars.net/home/hamfest>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **11/03/2018 | Fall 2018 LARC Hamfest**

**Location:** Lakeland, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Lakeland Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://lakelandarc.org>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **11/03/2018 | Georgia Section Convention (Stone Mountain Hamfest)**

**Location:** Lawrenceville, GA

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Alford Memorial Radio Club

**Website:** <http://stonemountainhamfest.com/>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **11/09/2019 | Montgomery ARC Hamfest 2019**

**Location:** Montgomery, AL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

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

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **11/10/2018 | Alabama Section Convention**

**Location:** Montgomery, AL

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

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

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **11/10/2018 | SPARC Fest**

**Location:** Pinellas Park, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.sparc-club.org>

**Learn More**

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

#### **11/17/2018 | Flamingo Net / UMARC Free Flea**

**Location:** Coral Gables, FL

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Flamingo Net / University of Miami ARC

**Website:** <http://FlamingoNet.8m.net>

**Learn More**

## 2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (continued)

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

**12/07/2018 | [West Central Florida Section Convention \(Tampa Bay Hamfest\)](#)**

**Location:** Plant City, FL

**Type:** ARRL Convention

**Sponsor:** Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council

**Website:** <http://fgcsrc.org>

**[Learn More](#)**