

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter



June 2018

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE



Greetings to All!!!

As we enter the summer season, I am sure most of you will be taking vacations. I wish for all who will be traveling an enjoyable trip and safe return.

I was not able to attend the May meeting, but I was aware of the reports from the various committees. The program from the attendees at the huge Dayton Hamfest, was an enlightening report on the event, which is an amazing spectacle for amateur radio enthusiasts.

Our attendance at the shop meetings on Saturday and Tuesday continues to be excellent. We are adding new members nearly every week. The efforts to improve our displays are continuing. There have been changes in the tube room, as well. We have received more donations and expect more coming soon from Florida and California. These donations have been parts, as well as radio equipment. Work is going well in the Shop. Every work station is in use at most every meeting.

I thought I had seen about every kind of radio coming through the shop, but not so! Rob Conrad, who spoke at the Legends of Broadcast event, brought in a Victor (circa 1930) for repair. This radio/record player was made by the Victor Talking Machine Company about the time RCA and Victor were merging. The radio and electronics are very unusual. Look at it when you are at the shop.

My thanks to all who help to make AHRS successful!

See you at the shop on June 23.

Until next time ----- see you at the shop on June 23!

President Dave

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JUNE

President Dave mentioned activity at the Shop, so I have made a few pictures about some of this activity.



Jim Rogers soldering in a new capacitor in a donated Collins Model 75A1 circa. 1949 shortwave receiver



Maurice Lovelady replacing a tube he has just tested in a Zenith T.O. chassis



Ray Giles installing new power supply capacitors in a Crosley he picked up at one of our auctions.



James Deese and Willie Henderson look on as Maurice Hill tests this client radio in for repair.



Frank Parker showing his friend, Ben Pitman, how to check vacuum tubes



Sometimes you must let the smoke out! A bad power supply capacitor was suspected, however, after further trouble shooting, the unit worked without changing out any parts. There is a low trust in the condition of this Eico amp and something will probably be replaced before it is sold.

President Dave mentioned the efforts to improve our shop displays of old radios, test equipment and miscellaneous radio stuff by rotating in some fresh old radios, including radios donated by Julian Harris last year. I included a couple of pictures showing this "in progress" activity. Members Reggie Olson, John Outland and Steven Westbrook have been working on this project.



Refreshing the radio displays at the Shop.



Most of these items will be removed from display and replaced with a series of Hallicrafters radios.

Also, President Dave mentioned donations coming in to the Shop. A half-dozen heavy boxes of radio parts have come in from a California estate. Opening each box brings more excitement, especially knowing that these parts would have been thrown away had those in charge of the estate not found us on the internet and asked us if we were interested. There are several other donations I have taken pictures of, as they are interesting.



New Member Ruben Burch with his mother's Edison R5 radio. It needs a grill cloth and a tune-up. It has been well cared for. He wants to donate it, but he may get donor's remorse.



Spirit of St. Louis Co. Wireless Radio novelty radio donated to us. This radio is found in a book on novelty radios recently acquired for our library. It is valued from \$100 to \$125 in the book.

President Dave also mentioned the radio belonging to local radio personality, Rob Conrad, who spoke at our recent Legends of Broadcast. I have several pictures of this radio in mid-restoration. Most unusual is the motor driving the turntable. This is a Victor Radio built about the time Victor and RCA were merging.



Rob Conrad's Victor Radio cabinet waiting to be touched up.



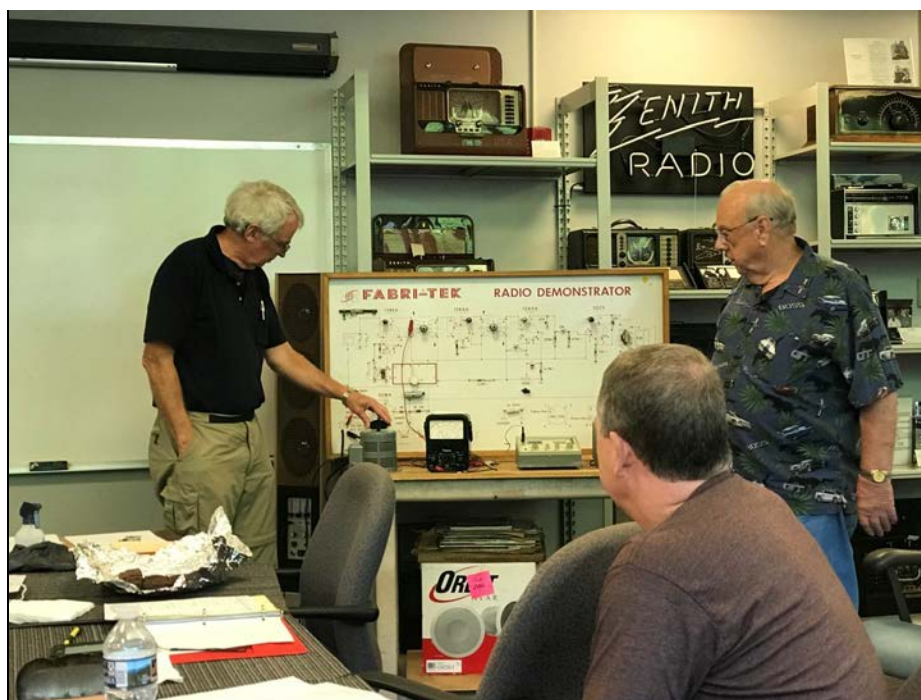
Victor Radio chassis on a Shop work bench ready to be restored.



Victor Radio phono drive motor. It appears to have a speed governor system on the back side.

MONTHLY RADIO CLASS

Instructor Joe Minor continues to teach interested members how radio circuits work, how to use test equipment to analyze the circuits and how to repair old radios. He plans on bringing in guest instructors to teach oscilloscopes, to teach cabinet repair and refinishing and other subjects, which will interest the students. I included a picture of the June class as Joe has a student adjust the variac to see, firsthand, how the voltage affects the radio demonstrator.



Student adjusting the voltage on the radio demonstrator while Instructor Joe Minor looks on.

The next regular radio class will be on July 7 at the Shop beginning at 9 am. Joe will give more specifics on the subjects taught in the reminder announcement just prior to the class day.

The next fourth Monday night meeting will be on June 25 beginning at 7 p.m. After a brief meeting, there will be an interesting program. The program subject is TBA prior to the meeting date.

Please continue to support your Alabama Historical Radio Society!

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

Until next time!

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

The first radio broadcast station? Easy enough - KDKA in Pittsburg. However, that statement may or may not be true. It all depends on how you define broadcast station.

On October 27, 1920, Westinghouse was granted a Limited Commercial license by the Department of Commerce with the call sign of KDKA. Nowhere in the application or in the resulting license is broadcasting even mentioned. In fact, the station was to be used for radiotelegraphic communication with other stations in Cleveland, Newark, Springfield, and Brooklyn.

On November 2, 1920, KDKA broadcast the Harding-Cox presidential election returns and most people credit this as being the first commercial broadcast. This was not the first time that spoken word broadcasts had reported the presidential returns. In 1916 the DeForest Radio Telephone and Telegraph Company's station in New York had broadcast the Wilson-Hughes results. The difference was that broadcast was via the station's experimental license, 2XG. Also prior to the KDKA broadcast, the Detroit News Radiophone had begun daily broadcasts on August 20 of that year, with an amateur call sign of 8MK.

So, it all comes down to how broadcasting is defined. If only stations with the word commercial in the license are included, then KDKA was the first, even though their license was not for broadcasting. If the criteria are expanded to actual broadcasts, KDKA was not the first. The humorous part in the use of the word commercial is that KDKA's owner, Westinghouse, was initially against the use of over-the-air commercials because they would destroy the listening experience. A recreation of the historical broadcast is found [here](#) on YouTube.

So, who was the real winner in this debate? That question is easy to answer – Westinghouse. The company had the foresight to do extensive regional publicity for the upcoming broadcast. They targeted amateur radio operators plus the general populace. In conjunction with Joseph Home Department Store, they assured that receivers were available for "\$10 upwards." They organized public listening sites for those who couldn't buy radios or lacked the technical ability to build them. An [excerpt from the Pittsburgh Gazette Times](#) illustrates this publicity.

From the KDKA broadcast on, Westinghouse became a major player in the world of radio. They had attempted to form a monopoly for radio receivers. That didn't happen because the Armstrong regenerative rights they had obtained were not exclusive rights. Armstrong had previously sold amateur and experimental rights to other firms. That issue was settled in the courts.

Westinghouse, along with RCA and General Electric, founded the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), even though just a few years later, it was forced to divest of its interest because of antitrust proceedings. From there it amassed a stable of stations that it operated for many years until Westinghouse eventually bought CBS and changed the name for its broadcasting arm to CBS.

All of this background brings us to a 1944 video that is worth sharing – [On the Air: The Story of Radio Broadcasting](#). The film was prepared by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. I found it interesting and worth my time. Hopefully you will feel the same.

OLD TIME RADIO BITS (continued)

The information that I have presented here was mainly obtained from the Wikipedia articles on [KDKA](#) and [Westinghouse Broadcasting](#).

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 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 7:00 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.

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>

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://fgcarc.org>

Learn More