

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter



September 2018

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE



Greetings to All!!!

August was a good month for AHRS!!! All meetings were well attended. All work stations in the shop continue to be active. Progress is being made in getting items in the shop repaired and back to the owners. The shop committee is making progress in identifying items that have no paper work. Our procedure for taking in items for repair or for donation is improving. If you take in any item, be sure all necessary information is on the paper work. We need full names, addresses and contact information.

The August business meeting on the 27th was one of the best attended that I can remember!!! The excellent program on the National Company presented by Dave Cisco and Joe Veras really brought the people out!!! The program was videotaped with the assistance of Ed Boutwell, and we hope to have it on YouTube and the AHRS website shortly.

Upgrading of our various displays is continuing. We are waiting for an enclosure to place the search light radio in the Alabama Power Company atrium. We may have to rearrange the current limited display area to make room, but I believe the result will be worth the effort. The reset of the displays in the shop continues. Now that John Outland is back from his Alaska Adventure, we will move into Phase #2 of the project, the rearranging and organizing the broadcast radio and television area and the novelty radio cases.

We continue to receive donations. A trip was planned to Pensacola, Florida, to receive the third installment of the fine donation from Julian (Butch) Harris, however, the trip was canceled due to a health emergency. The trip will hopefully be rescheduled soon.

We also received a fine collection of radios from member Steven Gerner from Georgia. The collection included several console radios and several older broadcast radios. He also donated a black Arvin, Hopalong Cassidy radio. Since the Society also recently received a donation of a red Hopalong Cassidy radio from Dave Cisco, as well as a donation of two NOS (New Old Stock) foil front panels, the Society is in a unique position. With the help of a few members in repainting the metal cases, assembling the foil fronts and repairing the radios, we will have an interesting and unique display of this highly collectable radio. Few museums have both colors of this radio with both versions of the foil front panel displaying Hopalong Cassidy and his horse, Topper.

I hope all of you will bring your favorite radio project to the shop to share with others. If you need help with your radio, we will try to help you get it working.

See you at the shop!

President Dave

(205) 999-7178

johnlecco@charter.net

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SHOP

The August 27 Monday night meeting featured a program on National Company given by members Dave Cisco and Joe Veras. They covered the early history, including the original name of National Toy Company, incorporated in 1914 with capitalization of \$1,000. The presentation included pictures of National's famous radio models and the evolution of the company's product line. Joe and Dave tag teamed to speak to the unique parts of the company. The program was videoed and should be on the Society website soon.



Joe Veras (with the mic) talking about the National HRO Senior and its popularity.



Dave Cisco and Joe Veras presenting the Monday night program on National Company.

The next Monday night meeting is scheduled for September 24 at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 7 p.m. After a brief business meeting, Dave Cisco will present a program on Nikola Tesla and his contribution to the radio world. Dave has been doing extensive research on Tesla, and this program will reflect his efforts. Come enjoy some fellowship and learn about an important player in the radio history.

In last month's newsletter, a picture featured Dave Cisco holding a Zenith Toaster radio, restored by Frank Parker, to be given to Willetta Brazeal, wife of member Hank Brazeal, who recently passed away. Hank had located a cabinet and chassis that he planned to restore for their 70th wedding anniversary. Hank's health did not allow him to complete the project. Hank passed away the day after their 75th wedding anniversary. Willetta donated the radio to the Society and Dave had it restored. The following picture is of Willetta and the Toaster radio that Hank wanted her to have. It is the same model he gave her for a wedding present in 1943.



Willetta Brazeal, sitting beside the restored Zenith Toaster radio her late husband Hank had planned to give her on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Steve Gerner from Evans, Georgia, just outside of Augusta, brought the remainder of his father's radio collection to our Shop Saturday, September 8. Steven had donated a portion of his father's collection several years ago. Now, he and his wife are moving into a smaller apartment, and there is no room for the radios. In talking to Steve, I realized there was an interesting story about radios in his family, as his father owned a Radio/TV shop in Pennsylvania. His father was also a ham radio operator.

I have asked Steve to write a short story about this. I believe stories like Steve's are interesting to our readers, and I would encourage any of you to consider writing a short historical sketch of how you became interested in old radios, ham radio and other similar sources of communication--all subject to editing, of course.



President Dave thanks Steve Gerner for the donation of his late father's radio collection.

August 20 was National Radio Day and our Society was asked by the Encore group at a local church to speak to their members on the 20th and 21st of August about radio history and old radio shows. Three members, Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes and I presented the program about radio history, including interesting information on National Radio Day. The way to observe the Day was to listen to your favorite radio station, so I played a local station each day, so we all could officially celebrate. The old radio programs, including a short video on the studio production of sound effects for a radio show, were enjoyed by the attendees. Each attendee received a souvenir vacuum tube used in aircraft altimeters during World War II.



Dee Haynes presenting a series of old radio commercials and shows to the Encore group.

The regular Radio Class was taught on the first Saturday in September, although it was a holiday weekend and several regular students were going to be absent. The regular instructor was unable to schedule a day in September to teach, so member Dee Haynes taught the class. He showed a video from the AHRS website on coil winding. Dee does most of our coil winding, and he was the "talent" on the video. He discussed field coils and their use on older speakers. He does most of our speaker reconing and explained how that was done. Several YouTube videos were shown covering inductance and capacitance. For a holiday weekend, the class was well attended. Regular instructor, Joe Minor, should return for the next Radio Class scheduled for October 6, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Shop.



Dee Haynes (foreground) teaching September Radio Class.

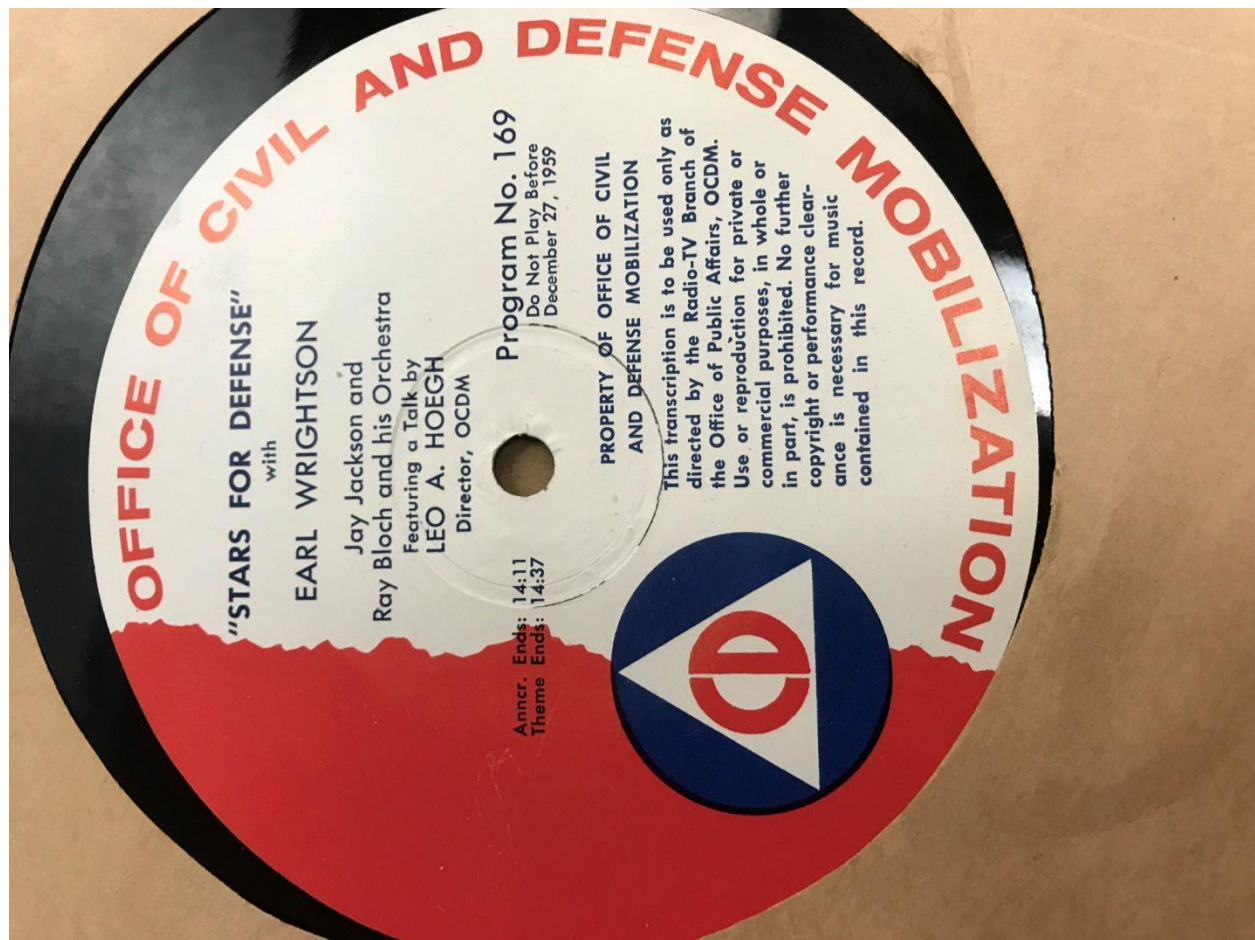
I have a story submitted by member Josh White about older times when the public was more attuned to the dangers of nuclear war and general preparation for such. His story follows:

Stars for Defense may be something some of our members may remember from the days of radio broadcast. However, at the time it was being broadcast, television had made its strong invasion into our homes. You see, Stars for Defense was recorded between the years of 1956 and 1967 and broadcast over radio weekly. The purpose of this broadcast was to not only entertain but also to inform the public. The Cold War was deep in everyone's mind and information needed to be disseminated in a way that the public would listen. Each broadcast was recorded and shipped out to radio stations across the country. The broadcast was approximately a fifteen-minute run and consisted of entertainers of the time. Whether it be a singer, orchestra or actor/actress; the format remained the same. Once the stylus touched the vinyl you would here the voice of the host or guest come across with a short intro. Most would consist of a quick explanation that for the next fifteen minutes, music and "Sound Advice" for the efforts of a Civil Defense mindset. I can just imagine sitting in my chair during that age having a peaceful pipe smoke while listening to the sounds of the time. After a few minutes of song or conversation with the guest, another segment would touch on the need for maintaining that preparedness mindset, how civil defense would respond or instructions on how you should respond during an event. Some episodes tackled inflation and gave insight on how to battle against this "Home front enemy". Hold Prices down by "shopping carefully, buying wisely, and paying no more than ceiling prices" (excerpt from an episode with guest Dinah Shore). These broadcast intrigue me because of a fascination with the Department for Defense / Civil Defense Division. I long for the community that it instilled. Everyone was to help everyone in the need of an emergency either natural or man-made. Everyone had a job, volunteered time in the community, looked after one another and kept America strong. It was truly a "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" mindset.

These original broadcast vinyl records come across Ebay ever so often, but make sure you have a platter large enough to play them. Luckily, we at the Alabama Historical Radio Society have the estate of Joe Rumore to thank for the ability to listen to the history contained in these records. May his Legacy continue and the History influence.



Josh White copying the Civil Defense record to his computer while playing it on one of Joe Rumore's studio turntables.



"Stars for Defense" record being recorded by Josh White for historical purposes.

There will be another radio auction coming soon! The plans are to have it at the October night meeting on October 22nd. Come pick up something for your personal collection!

Thank you for supporting your Alabama Historical Radio Society! Come visit and enjoy some fellowship and enjoy looking over the latest items donated to the Society!

Until next time!

Tom Killian
205-936-5455
music.tomdj@gmail.com

OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Some months I start to write an article and, as I research the material, I take a side-road and end up writing about something else. That was the case this month. I have three tabs that have been open on my browser for several months. They deal with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS). While reading through all the associated material, it dawned on me that a couple of months ago we lost one of the more famous personalities associated with a part of the AFRTS, particularly the Armed Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN).

OLD TIME RADIO BITS (continued)

If I had started this article with the quotation “Gooooood Morning Vietnam,” you might have thought about the movie *Good Morning Vietnam* or even Robin Williams. But who would have thought about the man who was the inspiration for the movie – Adrian Cronauer? Probably very few of us. But that thought is what turned the focus of this month’s article.

Adrian Cronauer was a real person, not just a character that Robin Williams played. He was an Air Force Radio and Television Broadcasting Specialist working with broadcasting and media operations. He was an enlistee whose service years were 1963-1967. He is best remembered for his service in Vietnam even though he had previously served in Crete, Greece.

Cronauer’s tour in Vietnam was from 1965 to 1966. His program was called *Dawn Buster*. He did originate the program sign-on “Good Morning Vietnam,” he did teach English to the Vietnamese, and he did shake up the music playlist for the Vietnam stations (earning a reprimand from a superior officer), but he claimed that was where the similarities between him and the character that Robin Williams portrayed stopped.

The idea for the movie came from Cronauer. He was a co-writer of the movie. His idea was to blend *M*A*S*H* and *WKRP in Cincinnati* with his experiences in Vietnam. Obviously with the right casting, his idea became an overwhelming success.

Rather than extending this article any farther, by stitching together facts that are readily available, I am going to provide two links that in my opinion best describe Cronauer.

The first link is to a video from Adrian Cronauer himself in a talk to the American Veterans Center in 2008. It is an edited version which only lasts seven minutes and 46 seconds. However, I guarantee that it is worth the time spent watching it - [Good Morning, Vietnam! Adrian Cronauer on Accuracy](#).

The second link is to his [obituary in the Washington Post](#). In case, you don’t read the article or don’t read it to the end, I will provide the quote that closes it – “The movie is much more interesting than the experiences I had,” he said in 1988. “Robin Williams is very funny. I’m not. Williams is the disc jockey I would have liked to be.”

As for me, I’m out to find a copy of the movie.

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 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



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

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

President – Dave Johnson

(205) 999—7178

johnelecco@charter.net

Vice President – Steven Westbrook

205-305-0679

spwestbro@bellsouth.net

Recording Secretary – Dee Haynes

205-841-4360

k4hfx1@charter.net

Treasurer – Mike Woodruff

205-823-7204

michael_woodruff@hotmail.com

Joe Minor, member and Instructor

205-913-1260

k4joe1@gmail.com

Web site – Bill Levey

cahaba@gmail.com

Web Address:

<http://alhrs.org>

E-mail Address:

ahrs2000@gmail.com

Newsletter – Patsy Desaulniers

patwrite@gmail.com

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

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

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

2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (continued)

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>

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