

The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

Alabama Historical Radio Society
SUPERHERO

February 2019

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE



Greetings to All!

I hope all of you are doing well and staying healthy during this time when there is a lot of illness all around. January was a good month at the shop.

Ray Giles and Willie Henderson continued their efforts to identify the owners of items that have been stored in the work area of the shop for some time. If you have an item in the shop that has been there for a while, please pick it up or advise how we should handle your item.

Our team presented the AHRS Radio History program to the Homewood Historical Society in January that was very well received. I want to express my appreciation to Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes, Steven Westbrook, Tom Killian and all who are involved with this function of our society. Many of those attending these programs remember the golden age of radio and enjoy hearing segments of the old radio shows. We really need more members involved in this community outreach.

We just received a donation of a collection of radio and radio-related items from member Larry Brock. The donation included radios from the early days of radio through the 1960's; including tombstones, bakelites and novelty radios. He also donated many early telephones, test equipment and radio and television parts. Come take a look; the collection is on display at the shop.

The Birmingham Amateur Radio Club's annual hamfest, known at BirmingHAMfest is scheduled for March 1 and 2. We will have only five tables this year, since the venue is a bit smaller than the Shrine Temple. The new location is the Trussville Alabama Civic Center, 5381 Trussville Clay Road, Trussville, Alabama 35173. As usual, we will have a radio display and sales tables. We will also present one of the many Forums. We will need help on the afternoon of March 1 to transport our items for display and sale to the site. We will send an email with more details as the date approaches.

The AHRS Legends of Broadcast event is in April; more on that later.

The shop is open Tuesdays and Saturdays, as usual, so all of you are invited to come down to work on a project or just enjoy talking with friends.

See you there!

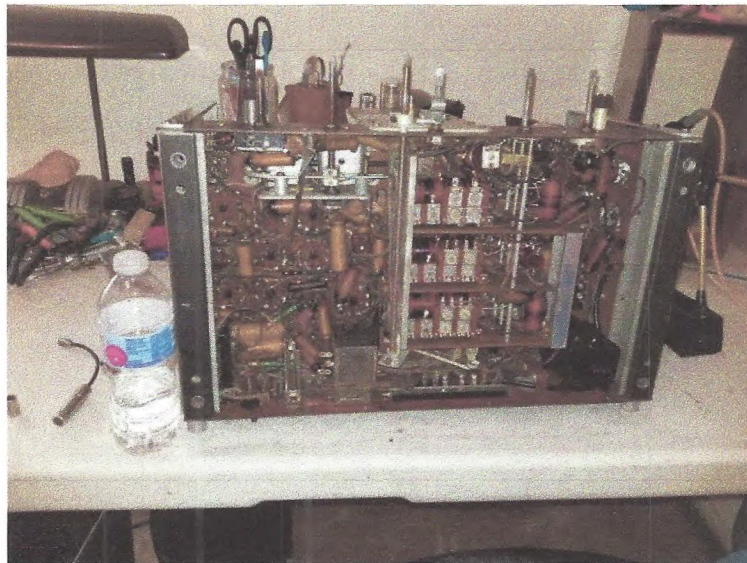
President Dave

(205) 999-7178

johnlecco@charter.net

THINGS HAPPENING AT THE SOCIETY

Member Brandon Sylvester from Montgomery has taken on a new project, restoring a 1937 Stromberg Carlson Model 260L console radio. He sent some pictures showing the before chassis and pictures of the restored radio. It is clear by these pictures that Brandon has learned how to properly restore an antique radio. He has learned his craft by watching restoration videos on the internet and by networking with others who have restored or are restoring similar radios.



1937 Stromberg Carlson 260L Chassis on Brandon's work bench ready to be restored.



Rear of 1937 Stromberg Carlson 260L after Brandon's restoration work.



1937 Stromberg Carlson 260L after Brandon's restoration.

Brandon has acquired a new restoration project, a 1941 E.H. Scott Phantom FM radio. I will share this restoration when he has finished. I am sure it will be first class!

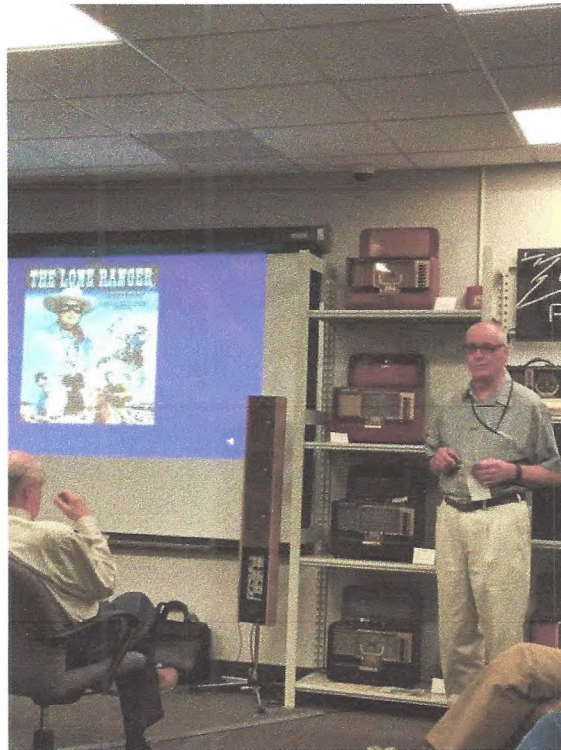


Brandon recently restored this 1942 Stewart Warner Porta Baradio. It is for sale.

The regular Monday night meeting, held on the fourth Monday of each month, featured a program by Dave Cisco and Dee Haynes. President Dave Johnson wanted the membership to see the program that Dave and Dee have presented to various historical and senior groups over the past years, including over 2,500 attendees. The program contains a history of radio in general from the beginning, the local Birmingham area radio history, and a light-hearted review of old radio shows and commercials which were popular when many of the attendees were growing up. A brief history of the Alabama Historical Radio Society is included to educate the attendees about how we were founded and our objectives. It was a good time to present this program, as several new members learned information about radio and AHRS history that they had not known.



Dave Cisco presenting the January Monday night program on radio history.

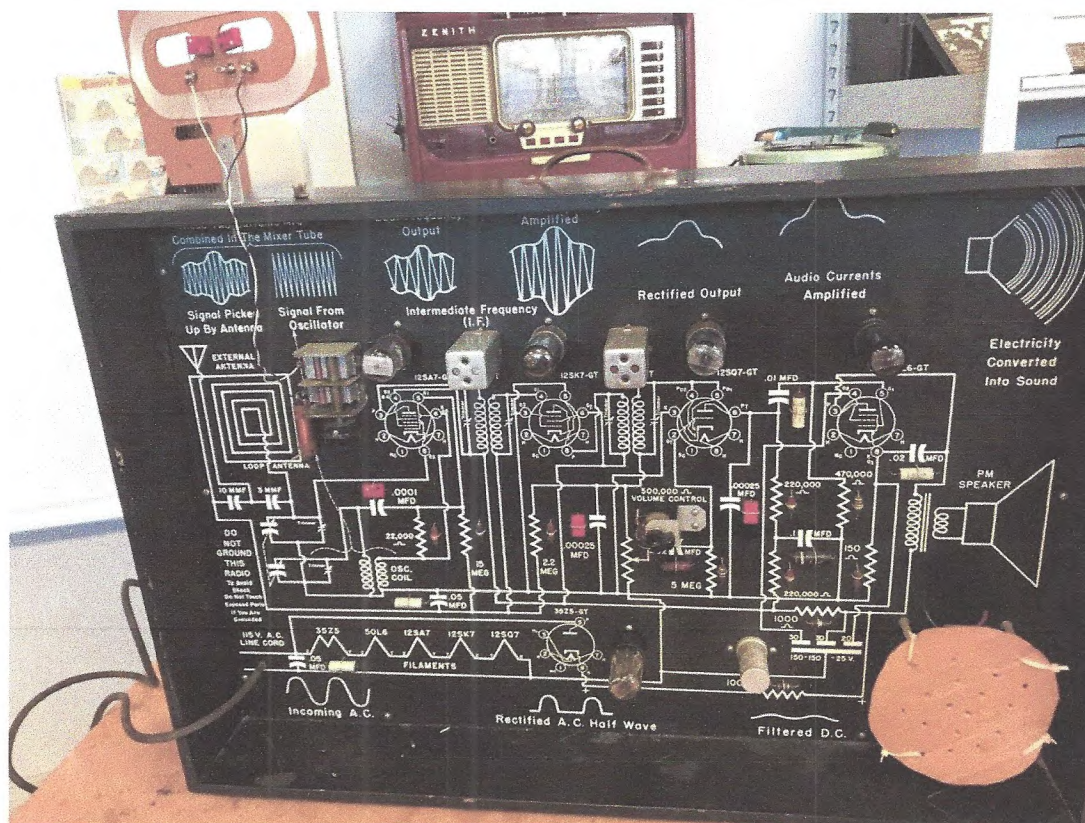


Dee Haynes presenting the January Monday night program on old radio shows including old commercials.

Radio Class Instructor Joe Minor has led the class through the restoration of the radio demonstrator used in class. The next radio class will be held on March 9, the second Saturday in March, as we will be at the BirminghamHamfest on March 2, the normal class day. The class is at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. Come learn how to repair old radios and enjoy some fellowship.



The radio class students attending the February class taught by Joe Minor.



The Radio Demonstrator that has been restored by the students attending the monthly radio class.

The Society continues to receive donations from members and the public, the most recent coming from member Larry Brock. The following pictures show some of these donations. As noted in the picture captions, we plan to keep and display some of the radios and sell the others at a member auction in February and at the BirminghamHamfest in early March.



One view of recent donations, the majority of which were donated by member Larry Brock, to be sold at the upcoming BirminghamHamfest, sold at the membership auction at the February night meeting or kept for display at the Society's Shop.

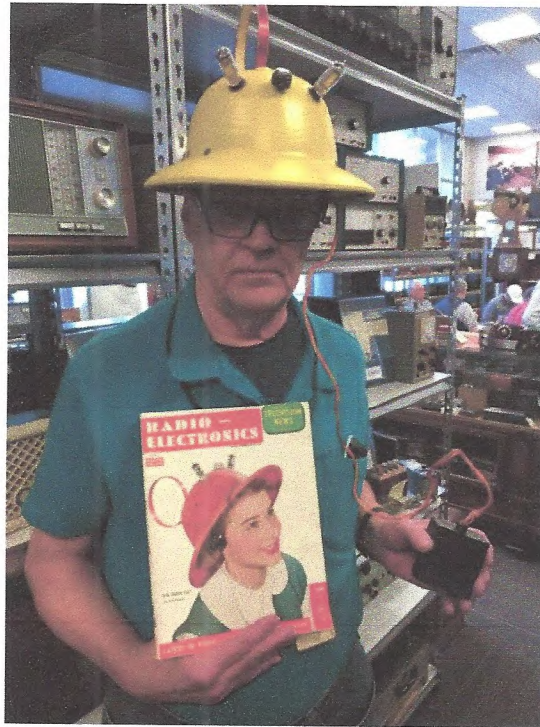


Another view of recent donations to be kept for display or sold by auction or at the Hamfest.

The next regular Monday night meeting, held on the fourth Monday night of each month, will be February 25, at the Shop in Birmingham. There will be a member auction following the business meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. There should be plenty of radios and gear for everyone to bid on and take home. Your membership must be current (dues paid up) to participate.



Included in Larry Brock's donation was this drug store tube tester. While we have some smaller ones, this tester fills a desire to put on display a working tube tester like the ones most of us used over the years to test our tubes.



Dee Haynes modeling the helmet radio recently donated by Rick Curl. The Radio Electronics magazine is circa 1949. Dee is not quite as good looking as the actress on the cover, but she was unavailable for this picture. The radio was available in several colors.



Member Robert Frederick working on his 1924 Crosley 51 at the Shop.

THE CAT AND THE HEATHKIT

As members continue to submit articles for this newsletter, M.D. Smith, who has written a book containing 400+ stories, has sent in one that has a radio flavor to it.

He sets the scene: It's a short story of my building a Heathkit "Seneca" transmitter in 1961, shortly after getting my Novice and Tech tickets and wanting to try out 6 meters. I was already working CW as a novice.

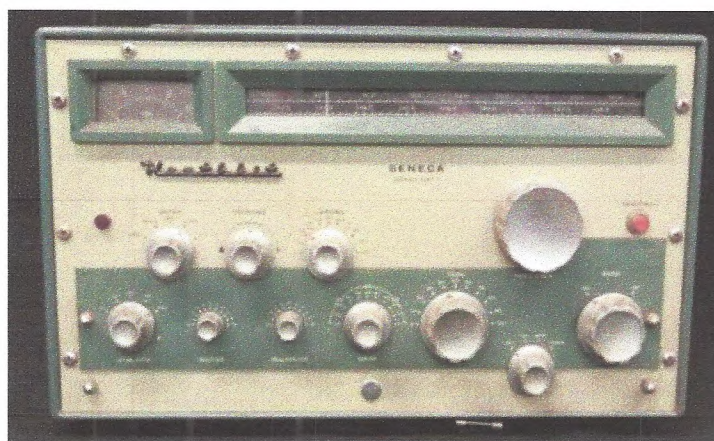
The Cat and The Heathkit®



by M.D. Smith, IV, WA4DXP

The time is Fall of 1961 and the place is the University of Alabama "Married Student Apartments" on Riverside Drive. They were converted WWII barracks, spartan with thin walls. Our 21C Riverside 2-bedroom apartment was between A,C and D.

So here we are living on \$100 a month with \$32 going for rent (power & fuel oil for the single heater was included). Judy had married me shortly after I had been a summer DJ for WAAY when she met me. It's now our Junior year at Alabama and I had gotten interested in Ham Radio. I had a fresh Novice and Tech license that I got at the same time. Already on the air with my novice CW rig, I had saved enough money to buy a Heathkit® Amateur Radio "Seneca" VHF-1, 140-watt AM Transmitter kit to try out six-meters. It was a pair of 6146s that were screen modulated. Kits were much cheaper than a wired version and while I knew it would take several weeks building time, I was willing to tackle it having built a "Knight Kit" super-regen CB radio a year before. That was a much simpler project, but you must step up sometime, don't you?



Judy was always the "motherly" type and instead of thinking about kids while in college, I managed to divert her to adopting a pair of "Domestic Shorthair" (alley) cats who we called Pete and Gladys named after a popular sit-com of the time. We went on to have and raise eight children, so the cats were only a somewhat temporary diversion and our first son was born a month before I graduated in May of 1963. More about the cats later.

So here comes my beautiful new Heathkit® in the mail with a notice in our student Post Office box that the package was waiting. It was a big heavy box because the case made of steel was like a lot of the old BIG radios and had a heavy transformer and a big choke for the power supply. I get it home and the spare bedroom was my study and sort of work bench table. Heathkit® wisely said I should carefully sort all the small pieces of screws, washers, and hardware and then sort the resistors by color code and the capacitors by type of case. I used two of Judy's metal muffin pans with 12 cups in each pan. So, after several hours I have sorted all the hundreds of small parts so carefully into 24 cup places and had at least bolted in the transformer, the tube sockets and hardware to the gleaming aluminum metal chassis. It's late so I head for the bedroom for the night, hoping to get lucky, but we were newlyweds, so why not.

You know, cats are somewhat night-time creatures and they are curious. Just about the time things were getting 'cuddly,' *"I heard such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter."* (Sorry Clement Clark Moore). It was a terrible sound, and not just one crash, but several combined with a lot of tinkling sounds. You can guess what happened I am sure. When I dashed into the other room and threw on the light, there on the floor were hundreds of gleaming electronic parts and "St. Gladys," too. The curious cat had jumped from floor to table and landed square in the middle of both trays and subsequently cat and my entire Heathkit® parts splattered to the floor. There were pieces everywhere and, of course, all were mixed together like they had been in a mixing bowl with Judy's Sunbeam hand mixer set on high.

Pete and Gladys scattered quickly and made themselves scarce as I screamed profanities at the top of my lungs. The next-door neighbors through the paper-thin wall asked the next day if I had to be rushed to Druid City Hospital. Well, no, but the cats almost needed to. It took me hours and hours to pick up the parts and sort them again and I was not sure I had found all of them. I did have to buy a resistor or two when it came time to wire it and it was missing. Cats and Heathkits® full of parts don't mix. When I laboriously resorted the damage, I TAPED the trays to the table AND locked the door to keep the cats out, because that surely was never going to happen again. When I finished, the transmitter didn't work. Hours later I traced down a step where I had soldered a resistor to the wrong pin of a tube socket, which I had to correct. I wonder if my mind could have been distracted when I made that connection? Ya think?



73, WA4DXP

Up to 120 watts input on Phone, 140 watts on CW
Built-in VFO, modulator and power supplies
"Spotting" push button for off-the-air tuning
Extensive RF shielding—built for rugged use
Thanks for the story, M.D.!

THINGS HAPPENING AT THE SOCIETY (continued)

VP Steven Westbrook will be taking orders for the grey AHRS polo shirt with the embroidered logo. The cost is \$35. Please send the funds and your size with your order. You can mail your order to AHRS, P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham, Alabama 35213, or give it to Steven at the Shop. Payment is due with the order.

As President Dave mentioned in his comments, we will take part in two events coming up, giving many opportunities for our members to participate. The BirmingHAMfest is coming on March 1 and 2, where we will display old radios, sell radios and gear and present a forum on Nicola Tesla. This will be held at the Trussville Civic Center.

The second event is wholly run by AHRS and is the 9th annual Legends of Broadcasts Program set for April 18, inviting current and past radio and television on-and-off-the-air personalities to attend. The event is held at our Shop in Birmingham. Attendees begin arriving around 9:30 a.m. We give the attendees a tour of the Shop, a great meal and then have those personalities sit around our conference table and tell their stories while in the broadcast industry. The stories are recorded on video for future viewing.

We do not send invoices for dues. They are now due. Send to AHRS, P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham, AL 35213.

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

Contributing Member Tom Killian

205-936-5455

music.tomdj@gmail.com

OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Larry will not have a column this month.

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.

TUESDAY MEETINGS

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!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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.

WEBSITE

Be sure and check out our website at <https://www.alabamahistoricalradiosociety.org>, which has copies of all newsletters from 2006 to the present (click on News), videos, photo galleries, museum, Old Time Radio columns, Projects, Reading Rooms, Archives, and Contact Information.

OFFICERS

President – Dave Johnson

(205) 999—7178

johnlecco@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

michaelwoodruff@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

2019 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE



Editor's Note

The next few pages have the 2019 Hamfest and Swap Schedule for the Southeastern United States. I have not edited these—they are copied directly from the ARRL site.

01/18/2019 | Southern Florida Section Convention (Southwest Florida Hamfest)

Location: Fort Myers, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://swflhamfest.info/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/25/2019 | Mississippi State Convention (Capital City Hamfest)

Location: Jackson, MS

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Jackson Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://msham.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/26/2019 | DeSoto County Hamfest

Location: Arcadia, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: DeSoto Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://desotoarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/26/2019 | TechFest

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.techfest.info/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/08/2019 | Southeastern Division Convention (Orlando HamCation)

Location: Orlando, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/16/2019 | Brooksville Hamfest

Location: Brooksville, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hernando County Amateur Radio Association

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/16/2019 | W4HCA Annual Hamfest

Location: Sebring, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Highlands County Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://highlandsamateurradio.com>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/22/2019 | 5th Annual TECHCON Convention

Location: Tampa, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: ARRL West Central Florida Section

Website: <http://arrlwcf.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/23/2019 | Dalton Hamfest

Location: Dalton, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dalton Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4drc.com>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/02/2019 | Charlotte County Hamfest

Location: Punta Gorda, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Peace River Radio Association

Website: <http://prra.club>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/02/2019 | ZAARC Ham Fest

Location: Zephyrhills, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://zaarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/02/2019 | Pinecastle Hamfest

Location: Orlando, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Stan Korzep, W8NNX

Website: <http://skorzep@gmail.com>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/09/2019 | MTARS - TULLAHOMA HAMFEST

Location: Tullahoma, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/mtars/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/15/2019 | Fort Walton Beach Hamfest 2019

Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Playground Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4zbb.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/16/2019 | Gulf Coast ARC Spring Hamfest

Location: New Port Richey, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://gulfcoastarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/16/2019 | Stuart Florida Hamfest

Location: Stuart, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Martin County Amateur Radio Association (MCARA)

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/23/2019 | Ides of March Hamfest

Location: Union City, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://reelfootarc.com>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/30/2019 | Tennessee Section Convention (Sevier County Hamfest)

Location: Sevierville, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Sevier County Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://seviercountyars.org/>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/30/2019 | DeKalb Amateur Radio Club Tailgate

Location: Fort Payne, AL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: DeKalb Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w4gbr.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

04/06/2019 | Pasco County Spring HamFest

Location: Odessa, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Suncoast Amateur Radio Club

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

04/20/2019 | Gainesville Hamfest

Location: Waldo, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gainesville Amateur Radio Society

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

04/27/2019 | Coastal Amateur Radio Society Swap Meet

Location: Savannah, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society

Website: http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=812

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

05/11/2019 | East Pasco Tailgate

Location: Dade City, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://eparsonline.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

05/25/2019 | Wormfest 2019

Location: Pinellas Park, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: The Glorious Society of The Wormhole

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

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

07/12/2019 | 23rd Milton Annual Hamfest

Location: Milton, FL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Milton Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://miltonarc.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/17/2019 | Alabama State Convention, Huntsville Hamfest

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

Learn More

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/24/2019 | Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest

Location: Lebanon, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Short Mountain Repeater Club

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

Learn More

10/18/2019 | Delta Division Convention (Hamfest Chattanooga 2019)

Location: East Ridge, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w4am.net/hamfest-chattanooga-2018/>

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

11/09/2019 | 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

11/15/2019 | Jackson County ARA Hamfest

Location: Ocean Springs, MS

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Jackson County Amateur Radio Association

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

Learn More