The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DAVE

Greetings!!
As we look back at the first three months of our thirtieth year, it has been an exciting time for AHRS!!
The auction at the March meeting was another great success, more on this event later in this newsletter.
We are currently making final plans for our much anticipated annual Legends of Broadcast event on Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 10:00 AM till 1:00 PM. In response to our invitation, we have over 60 confirmations from guest plus members. This is always a very exciting event for AHRS, please attend, if you can.
The attendance at our weekly Tuesday & Saturday gatherings continues to be fantastic, with several new members and work in progress at all work stations. Joe Minor continues teaching the monthly electronics class. He is currently completing the theory teaching phase and the students are entering the hand-on training phase on their own projects or on radios in the shop. Thanks, Joe for your great work.
I am sure you have noticed in the past few months that there have been several nice new steel racks installed at the shop and at the annex. I want to thank Tom Killian for donating these racks and for his time and labor to assemble them!! Thanks also to Ray Giles for assisting with this project.
We have been invited by our friends in the Shelby County Amateur Radio Club to participate in their Hamfest in June, 2019. The current plan is to have a table for displaying radios and another table for sales items. I will have more details later.
You will notice a few changes in the format of this newsletter. After many years of service, member Patsy Desaulniers has retired as publisher. The duties will be carried on by Jim Rogers. Let's give Jim our full support by submitting articles to him on any radio related subject for publication in your newsletter.
That's all for now
See at the shop!

Dave

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SOCIETY

New member Jerome Lewis installing a new power transformer on his Philco Model 26 chassis. Jerome classifies himself as a mechanic eagerly learning to repair and restore vintage radios. By the way that heat gun in his wife's hair dryer. Jerome is being assisted by Jim Rogers who would rather be in the shop than editing this newsletter.

New member Frank Roberts checking out his vintage Philco radio. Frank graduated from Auburn University with an EE degree and is now retired from Westinghouse where he worked in the power industry. Frank was heard to say, "There was some difficulty with our shop tube checker.....and it was him"! Frank, we have all been there.

AUCTION!!

The most recent Alabama Historical Radio Society Radio Auction was held after the monthly business meeting on March 25, 2019. The auction was a great success! The event was organized and executed by AHRS Shop Co-Chairman Ray Giles and Willie Henderson, with the assistance of guest auctioneer John Outland and banker, Mike Woodruff.

The items auctioned included many unique radios, including cathedrals, farm radios, record players, portable radios, All-American fives in wooden & Bakelite cases, vintage electric and mechanical clock radios in plastic, and Bakelite cases, several ham radio receivers and a Cadillac car radio in a wooden case converted to run on 120V house current. A total of seventy one items were auctioned, a new AHRS record. A few items which did not receive any bids at the auction were later sold to members at the original established open bid price.

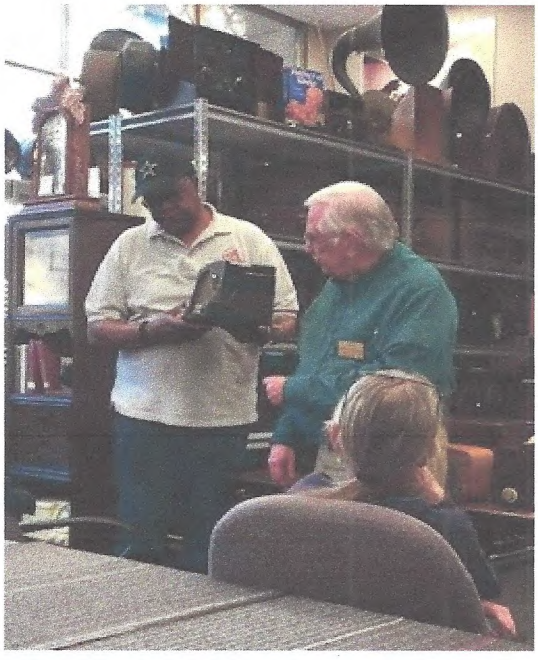
We will schedule future auctions as we received new donations. Of course, when a special radio or piece of radio equipment is received as a donation, the museum committee may elect to have the item placed in the permanent Society equipment collection. This process will allow the Society to grow and improve our museum collection going forward.

See you at the next auction!

Steven Westbrook, VP

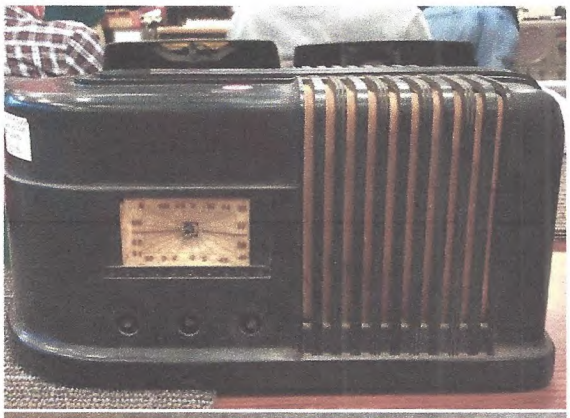
Your editor got to the shop at 5:30 PM to get a look at the items before the crowd got there. I was too late, members were already scoping out the items they were going to bid on. There were three tables fully loaded with everything from vintage radios to amateur radio devices.

Herman Vogel (foreground) and Maurice Lovelady looking over the merchandise. Herman was a bidder on quite a few items during the auction.



Auctioneers Willie Henderson and Johnny Outland auctioning a small radio. Ray Giles was also an auctioneer and all three were kept busy auctioning off the host of equipment and moving equipment to be auctioned to the front of the line. Paying attention to the goings-on is Lynn Baisch.

And Steve has a new Philco project. Steve went on to buy another or two and we will look forward to seeing the restorations.



Tom Hayes, one of our master restorers bought radio project in the top picture and gave a sage bit of advice. Always check to make sure you have everything possible with a project. Down in a corner of the box was the dial pointer missing from the top picture. Some restorations stop short of being complete when you find it necessary to fabricate a missing item. With a radio project you want the radio to look just like the original.

NEW AHRS SHOP RULES

Due to increased membership, shop activity and space constraints we are establishing some basic shop rules so that we have work space and materials to do what we do – work on radios.

1. **EVERYTHING THAT COMES IN THE DOOR IS EITHER A PROJECT OR A DONATION –AND IF LEFT IN THE SHOP-MUST BE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED AS ONE OR THE OTHER RIGHT THEN.**
2. **ANY MEMBER ACCEPTING A PROJECT OR DONATION INTO THE SHOP FROM A NON-MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOCUMENTATION, LOCATION AND PROGRESS OF THAT PROJECT.**
3. **DUE TO LIMITED SPACE PLEASE WORK ON ONE PERSONAL PROJECT AT A TIME AND TAKE EVERYTHING ELSE HOME. IT WILL BE MUCH SAFER THERE.**
4. **ANY PROJECT LEFT IN THE SHOP MUST HAVE A SIGNED WORK ORDER OR A NAME STICKER WITH IT AT ALL TIMES.**

5 **DO NOT PUT A CHASSIS IN ONE PLACE AND A CABINET IN ANOTHER – UNIDENTIFIED RADIOS LEFT IN THE SHOP ARE SUBJECT TO BEING SOLD AFTER A 60 DAY NOTIFICATION PERIOD.**

6 **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF – THERE ARE ONLY 5 WORK STATIONS – PUT ALL TOOLS AND SUPPLIES BACK WHERE THEY BELONG AND TRASH IN THE TRASH CAN .**

7 **ALL SURPLUS RADIOS AND EQUIPMENT FOR SALE WILL BE SOLD IN PERIODIC AUCTIONS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, EXCEPT IN RARE CASES AUTHORIZED BY THE CLUB PRESIDENT.**

8 **ALL REPAIR PARTS REMOVED FROM THE ANNEX BASEMENT OR THE SHOP BASEMENT MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR.**

Ray Giles- Co-Chairman of Shop Committee

Willie Henderson – Co-Chairman of Shop Committee

LEGENDS OF BROADCAST NEWS

Submitted by AHRS member, Don Martin

One of our guests who will tell his story on April 18th at our upcoming "Legends of Broadcast" event will be Jeff Tyson Nysewander aka "JT". For those of you who don't know him, here is a brief bio. You don't want to miss this event!

JT has been in radio for over 35 years, both as an on-air personality and Program Manager. He grew up in Pittsburgh and attended Clarion University with the hopes of becoming a dentist. After spending time with friends at the campus radio station, he quickly changed his major to communications. "Speech class was a lot easier than chemistry and physics", says JT. And as they say...the rest is history.

JT has lived in 10 different cities during his Broadcast Career including Miami, Washington D.C., Pittsburgh, Greenville, Cincinnati, Nashville, and Birmingham. Locally he hosts a live morning talk show @105.5 FM....WERC and, has an afternoon drive show on Magic 96 in Birmingham. In addition, he also hosts via voice tracking daily radio shows in Cleveland, Ohio, Houston, Texas, Greenville, South Carolina, Auburn, Alabama and Gadsden, Alabama. But wait, there's more! He also voice-tracks 7 P.M. to Midnight on the Oldies and Classic Rock stations for I-Heart Radio which is distributed to over 40 radio stations around the country. You can also look for JT in the movies, "Hoffa" and "Striking Distance".

When not sitting in front of a microphone, JT can be found with his family most of the time. He absolutely enjoys his recreation too! Look for JT on the golf course, in the woods hunting or on the beach somewhere. JT says, "No doubt, I am truly blessed with an amazing family and give all the glory to God and my relationship with Jesus Christ!

RADIO DAYS

Used by permission of

Don Keith

Award-winning and best-selling author, journalist, broadcast personality and Amateur Radio operator Don Keith

A friend of mine recently sent me an old magazine article that proclaimed that the time before World War II should be declared as "Radio Days." The article went on to say that anything related to the medium after the war was downhill, killed off by television. I agree that the '20s and '30s was a magical time for broadcasting, typified by the Woody Allen movie "Radio Days."

I actually believe each generation has its own "radio days." For me, it was the top 40 radio of the '60s and album rock of the early '70s. My radios were in the dashboard of my VW bug or a smaller Radio Shack AM/FM portable, battery-powered receiver, but with a speaker big enough I could hear the songs. I further believe radio had two golden ages, the '20s and '30s, as this article describes, and the 60s and 70s, when top 40 and creative deejays saved radio from the onslaught of TV.

Now, this generation probably won't even know the word "radio," and their source of music and entertainment is an iPhone or Pandora or YouTube. Music is not "presented," curated for them, or delivered in a way in which it is part of a "show" or has a host who was telling listeners why they should hear the song about to play. And it is not put together in such a way that the music flows from one song to another so each song "fits." It's not heard on good radios with big speakers so the music sounds good. Sounds good and can be FELT!

Instead, it is "streamed," one song unrelated to the other, selected for them by a computer algorithm, a formula based on what other songs the person typically listens to, almost certainly eliminating the chance the listener will be introduced to new music and artists he or she might actually enjoy, but is culled by the hear the song and not even know who sang it, who wrote it,

why it was sung or written, who played on the session, what other songs the artist might have written or recorded, how popular it might be with other listeners, or whether or not the artist might be coming to town soon for a live concert. The listener is almost totally detached from the stream, thus rendering it little more than background noise.

That's what I think today's music listeners are missing! Their "radio days" will be "streamed-music-on-an-iPhone days." And that is sad.

Editors Note: If you would like to follow Don's posts, he is on facebook, twitter, and his blog at n4kc.blogspot.com.

SO THAT IS IT.... I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. We were a little pushed to get this one out before the Legends of Broadcast get together.

Please submit your articles, projects, and anything of interest to our group. This is not a one man job and I definitely will need everyone's help. Until next time, Jim Rogers, Editor (rogers9466@charter.net).

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
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
woodruff_michael@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 – Jim Rogers
Rogers9466@charter.net