

August 2014



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

As fall arrives and the vacation urge is waning, our members will be coming back to the Shop for radio classes, fellowship, brownies, hot coffee and some of the best radio deals ever. Over the past month, we have received dozens of nice radios and some that need work, but most of them have great display and project potential. Over the next several months, we will receive additional estate radios, which, based on the pictures we have received, will be museum quality and will enhance our Museum greatly. We will be adding shelves at the Shop for additional displays. What we need are members who want to grow their personal radio collection or add a special, one of a kind radio to their collection.

Some examples of recent donations include four truck/car loads of whole radios and parts radios, and test equipment, from Joel Tillman, who is moving south, shortly. Most of you are familiar with Joel's Zenith Transoceanic radio collection on display at the Shop. He is allowing us to continue to display these radios, and we appreciate his generosity.

The estate of Mr. Summerville has given us a cabinet radio that is something we did not have in our collection. It is pictured below. An interesting note from his Executor was that Mr. Summerville had visited our Museum and nothing there was as nice as his radio. Thanks to him, we will have an improved Museum.



Mr. Summerville's radio donation with open doors



Mr. Summerville's radio donation with closed doors

We participated in the Huntsville Ham Fest on August 16. Those working the tables included Dave Cisco, Dave Johnson, Jimmy Kirksey, David LaRussa, Fred Duran, Steven Westbrook and me. There were several other members at the event that dropped by to see how things were going. We had a lot of Ham magazines and books. We sold several bundled years and ultimately left the larger, newer editions on the table with "free" labels on them. We left them there for Sunday and, hopefully, folks picked them up. It is harder to give things away than you would think, but we found some takers.

We sold some radio gear and several old radio speakers. We did not sell any of the old wooden AM tube-type radios. There was not much of a market for those. We did cover our expenses and made a little money for the Society. I know that we have test equipment and some ham radios in the Annex that will sell if we fix them up. We will need to concentrate on making our sale items work and clean them up for future ham fests.

There are several opportunities coming up for us to sell our radios and equipment. There are two antique radio swap meets; one is the SARS Fall Swap Meet on Saturday, September 27 from 8 until 11:30 a.m. The second is the Nashville Vintage Radio Club Fall Swap Meet on Saturday, October 11, from 6:30 a.m. until noon. Google these organizations to get the details of each event. There are four ham fests this fall, including Gadsden on September 13, in Helena on October 11, in Chattanooga on October 25, and in Montgomery on November 8. Again, check the internet for details on these events. If we can find a clear spot on the calendar, we need to add a swap meet in the fall to help move some of our inventory. We have several good opportunities to bring in some money and clear some shelf space over the next few months. If you can repair old radios, we need you!

Dee Haynes and Steven Westbrook traveled to Columbus, Mississippi on the 19th to pick up some donated radios, equipment and parts. They also visited with Martin Jue at MFJ Headquarters, so they will be telling tales for a while. Martin stopped by our booth at the Huntsville Ham Fest and bought a few books for his collection. It was great to see such an icon of amateur radio.



Dee, Martin and Steven

One of our longtime members, who recently retired, has put his new-found spare time to good use by taking, what was the ugly duckling of the estate radios recently donated to the Society by Dave Johnson, and restoring it to like-new perfection. It is an RCA 66X13 wooden table radio made in 1947. The before picture shows everything painted green, and the after picture shows what the radio looked like when new. This is the work of Ray Giles, who loves to work on the outside of old radios, but not the inside. With help from fellow radio geeks at the Shop, he is now learning to do the electrical insides of a radio. Great job, Ray!



Before picture



After picture

Robert Frye's next radio class will be on September 6, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 9 a.m. He plans on continuing his discussion on "things" and any particular repair problems you may be having. I spent about six hours visiting Robert week before last and what a great time it was. We discussed his history with the Radio Society and his employment history working at a TV repair shop, as a DJ at a Pritchard, Alabama, radio station, his picture tube manufacturing plant, work at AT&T, his job offer from Alabama Power Company, and his work at Bell Labs, instructor for Mercedes in Vance, and.... If you ever travel close to Robert's new location in Loxley, Alabama, you must arrange and plan to spend time with Robert and his wife, Margaret, and check out his dream radio shop. You will be glad you did!

On August 20, National Radio Day, Dee Haynes, Dave Cisco and I presented a historical radio program to the St. Martin's in the Pines Assisted Living/Independent Living group. I introduced the program with a brief history of National Radio Day and then introduced Dave who discussed radio history. Dee discussed old radio shows, including showing a video clip of an actual radio production with sound effect artists making the sound effects in the studio for a western movie. We displayed several old radios and horn speakers, as well as a crystal radio made from plans printed in the ***Birmingham News*** in 1922. The audience gave us a nice round of applause.



Dave's presentation at St. Martin's

Our next Monday night meeting is on August 25, at the Shop in Birmingham, beginning at 7 p.m. with a Board meeting starting at 6 p.m. We will discuss the pros and cons of receiving donations, periodic sales to members, continuing the repair of non-Society radios and equipment or not, and preparing for receiving dozens of donated radios and equipment. Your opinions are needed at this meeting. And we will have some fellowship, too!

See you next Monday night!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Hello Folks!

In June I wrote about women in radio, featuring Joan Alexander (Lois Lane), Shirley Mitchell (Lela Ransom in the Great Gildersleeve), Eve Arden (Our Miss Brooks), and Natalie Parks (Candy Matson lady private eye). This month I will continue on this theme.

First on my list is June Foray. Say you've never heard of her? Well you've heard her voice. Here is a clip from Wikipedia about Ms Foray:

1. "June Foray is an American voice actress, best known as the voice of such animated characters as Lucifer from Cinderella, Rocky the Flying Squirrel, Cindy Lou Who, Jokey Smurf, Witch Hazel, Granny, Natasha Fatale, Nell Fenwick and Magica De Spell."
2. Although she appeared in a few radio programs in the 40's, 50s and 60's, June Foray became famous providing the voices for hundreds of cartoon characters, most notably Rocky the Flying Squirrel. I almost wore out the wheel on my mouse scrolling down through all her credits. Born September 18, 1917, and she's still doing voiceovers--most recently in 2014 in a Rocky the Flying Squirrel Cartoon.



This image must have been in the late 1930's.



This image was taken in 2014.

Next, let's talk about Janet Waldo. Remember Judy Jetson from the cartoon, "The Jetsons," well, that was the voice of Janet Waldo. My best memory, and my favorite, was her character, "Emmy Lou," in the Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet. Ozzie would frequently run into Emmy Lou on the street near his house. I think she may have had a crush on Ozzie, because she would make this funny scream like sound.

She was born February 4, 1924, and is still active.



Last, but by no means least, a few brief words about Lurene Tuttle.

Starting in vaudeville, she later played in countless radio shows. Later she worked in television, and movies. Ms. Tuttle played Marjorie on the radio show, "The Great Gildersleeve," from its premiere through 1944. She died on May 30, 1986, at age 78. I'm sure you will recognize her picture below.



Guess that's enough for this newsletter. If you have a favorite radio actor or actress, let me know, and I'll dig up what I can find.

See you on the radio.

Dee Haynes

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MEETING TIMES

We meet every Saturday (unless a Holiday weekend) at 09:00 AM, at the one-story AHRS Shop at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

Also, we have opened the Shop on Tuesdays at 09:00 AM until around 11:30 AM when we go to Marilyn's Deli and Dog for lunch next door. Note that parking can be a problem on Tuesdays because it is a business day and the lot is usually filled, so you may have to find street parking occasionally.

We meet on the fourth Monday night of each month, too, at 7:00 PM. 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 radio. 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! DUES! DUES!

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Don Letchman at 205-967-8557. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

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