

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!

March has been busy so far with the Birmingham Hamfest just concluding. Our Vice-president, Steven Westbrook, was in charge of the Hamfest as a member of the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club (BARC). He and his team did a great job on this event. We had 10 tables there, with five tables of historical exhibits and five tables filled with items to sell. Our two-day income was higher than any in recent Hamfest history. All income goes back to the Society to help cover the expenses for the year. There were 10 Society members helping operate the display/sales areas at the Friday evening, all-day Saturday event. Many more members helped prepare the radios and test equipment for display and to gather and prepare the items for sale. All sale items were donations to the Society from our generous friends. I have captured the activity at the Hamfest with pictures that follow:



Our banner flying over the historical test equipment display.



Close up of historical items on display.



More historical items on display.



More historical items on display.



Member John Green conducted the 1 p.m. Forum on the restoration of a Collins KWM-1 Receiver, which is shown here on display at our booth prior to the Forum.



John Green greeting a ham looking at his Collins restoration.



John Green making the Forum presentation on his Collins restoration at the Hamfest to a group of 25 interested attendees.



A Zenith Radio Corp. Model 6S-321 on display and provided by Dave Johnson



Radio Corporation of America Radiola IV on display with other historical items



Restored Televisions on display at our booth, including a Philco Predicta TV



Don Letchman selling books and magazines



Items for sale at our booth.



Dave Johnson and Ray Giles operating the sales tables.



Gene Samples and his son with Dave Cisco at the sales tables.

Several weeks before the Hamfest, we had a work party at the home of Joe Rumore, who broadcast for years on WVOK from his basement studio in Homewood, Alabama. He passed away in the early 1980's and the studio has sat silent since then. One of our members, Ray Edwards, purchased much of the equipment, records, carts and reel tapes that were collected and used on broadcasts over the years. Ray donated the studio equipment and boxes of miscellaneous items to the Society for restoration and display. The equipment included the main mixing console, two 16" transcription turntables, a console holding an Ampex reel to reel recorder and its electronics, a smaller mixer which supplied mixed sounds to a record cutting lathe, the record cutting lathe, a teletype machine that was in the adjacent office, several tube-type table radios from his office (one of which was given as a door prize at the Saturday Hamfest Forum given by John Green) and boxes of miscellaneous items. We have Joe Rumore's original recorded (on a pre-vinyl record) audition reading commercials and making general announcements. Our members have been checking out the equipment, as shown in some pictures that follow.



The main studio mixer used for mixing the live broadcasts each day.



Ed Boutwell and Jim Cawthon ringing out the multiple circuits in the main mixer.



Mack White checking out one of the two 16" Transcription Turntables.



UPI Teletype Machine from Joe Rumore's Office for "Ripping and Reading."



Dee Haynes Cleaning and Checking out the Teletype. Dee repaired Teletypes for AP all over the country. He wanted to change the name of the teletype from UPI to AP, but it would not be authentic.



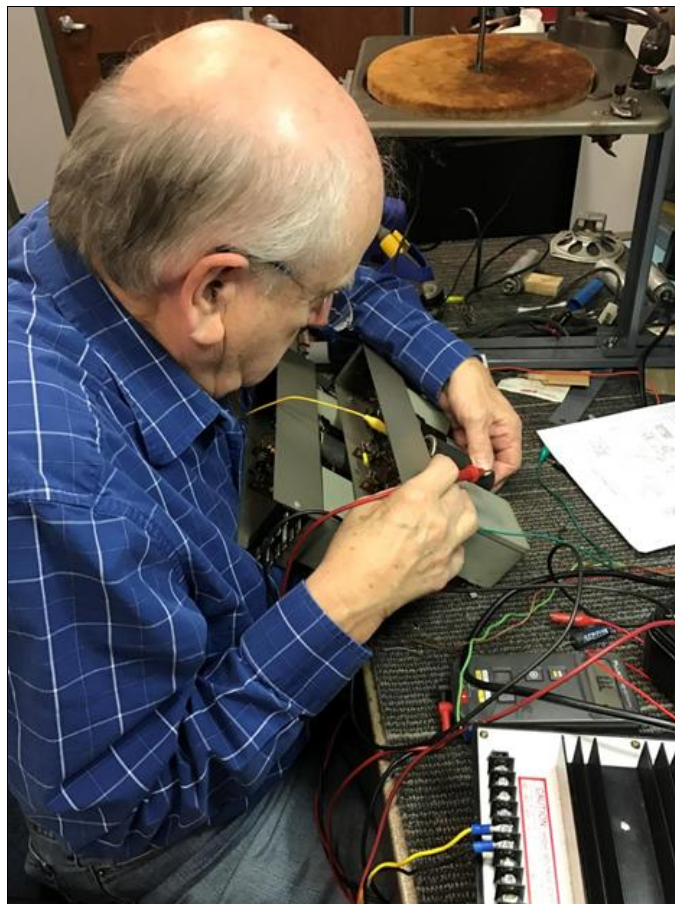
Don Letchman cleaning the Record Cutting Lathe.



1950's Ampex Series 350 Reel to Reel Recorder with Electronics mounted in a Console.



Willie Henderson, Ed Boutwell and John Outland looking over some records from Joe Rumore's Studio.



Dave Cisco repairing a module from Joe Rumore's Main Mixer.



An Advertising Prop with these cans soldered together with a handle on top.

Joe Rumore purchased air time from the stations he broadcast from, mostly from WVOK in Birmingham, AL. We found several letters in the miscellaneous stuff where station management was telling him that he had to cut down on his commercials and play more music. It was also a requirement of the FCC to give listeners a break from all the advertising. After all, advertisers paid the bills. Joe Rumore was a master at milking all the commercial time he could, even playing music under the commercial voicing.

We will have the main Rumore studio equipment set up and on display for the seventh annual Legends of Broadcasts event at the Shop. All TV and Radio personalities are invited to the Shop for a Tour, lunch and then some storytelling by the Legends. It has been very interesting over the past six events and it should be equally incriminating this year. Each year we lose a Legend or two, so it is important to get their stories recorded as they tell them. This year's Legends is set for Thursday, April 20, beginning about 10 a.m. (they don't get up much sooner) and runs to about 1:30 p.m., at the Shop.

The Alabama Broadcasters Association has invited the Society to have an exhibit this year at their annual conference on August 18 and 19 at the Hyatt Hotel at the Galleria in Hoover, AL. We plan on setting up the core equipment from Joe Rumore's Studio and operating it like it was operated when it was in his basement. Our member, Don Keith, will DJ the station during the event. Don worked with Joe Rumore in real life at WVOK and can tell some true stories about their adventures together. I hope Don will share some of these for the record at the Legends event in April.

The first 2017 Board of Directors meeting was held on February 16, at the Shop in Birmingham. All nine Board members were present along with two officers. Dave Cisco was elected unanimously to be the Chairman of the Board. Handbooks were given to each attendee and contained important information about the Society that each member needs to know. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for April 13 at 1 p.m. at the Shop.

The next Radio Class will be on March 11, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Shop. Dave Johnson, a Charter member with years of experience repairing radios, will teach the class. The plan is to pick out an old radio from our collection of "dead" radios and start from the power cord, working into the radio, explaining the steps to systematically restore an old radio. Dave is a master at circuit analysis and we should all pick up some good pointers.

The April Radio Class will move back to the first Saturday on April 1. The lesson plan is under development.

The next Monday Night Meeting will be on March 27 at the Shop in Birmingham beginning at 6 p.m. The program is TBA.

The January Monday night Program put on by Dave Cisco about "Pop" Ansley and early radio in Birmingham was videoed and the You Tube video has been put on our website, ALHRS.org. Check it out!

Thank you for your continued support!

President Tom

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OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Some of you may have seen NBC's 90th Anniversary Special last month. While I missed it initially, I did obtain a copy of the show and have watched parts of it. Based on what I have watched, the program made it appear that NBC has been broadcasting television shows since its inception. I must admit that I am a fan of old (and new) television shows. I have several of them in my collection. However, to not acknowledge the rich radio history bothered me. So, I searched through my collection of radio programs and found three other NBC anniversary specials – the 25th (at least the first twenty-two minutes of it), the 40th, and the 50th. All of these are radio specials. To share these programs with you, I needed to provide a little background about the network. As usual I went to [Wikipedia](#) and found all the information I needed.

The NBC network was formally formed in 1926. The initial owners of the network were RCA (50%), General Electric (30%) and Westinghouse (20%). Interestingly, this was not RCA's (nor Westinghouse's) first attempt to form a broadcast network. In 1923, after establishing WRC in Washington DC, RCA had attempted to link it with its New York station, WJZ, using low-quality telegraph lines. It chose that method of transmission because AT&T had the only high quality transmission lines and refused anyone else access to them. These telegraph lines did not provide sufficient quality due to their susceptibility to both atmospheric and electrical interference. By 1925, when AT&T decided to rid itself of WEA in New York, NBC had learned a lot and in the deal to purchase the station included the right to lease AT&T's high quality lines for network transmission.

NBC officially began broadcasting on November 15, 1926. As would always be the case, it saw a marketing strategy that would expand its reach. On January 1, 1927 two of NBC's stations became the flagships of two separate networks. WEA led the charge for the Red Network and offered commercially sponsored entertainment and music programming. WJZ was the flagship station for the Blue Network and offered sustaining (non-sponsored) entertainment.

On April 25th of the same year, NBC extended its reach to the west coast with the formation of the Orange and Gold networks. The Orange Network carried Red Network programming and the Gold Network carried Blue network programming. The creation of the two networks was due to the three-hour time difference between the two coasts. To have a program at a specific time to each coast (for example 8 p.m.), the program was created and broadcast on the east coast and then recreated and broadcast three hours later for the west coast. There were no means for high quality recording that would allow the programs to simply be retransmitted three hours later. Obviously, the performers had to do twice the work in this case.

There is one other area that is not directly associated with the establishment of NBC, but is very closely associated with the network – the NBC chimes. Most of us can readily identify NBC by the simple three-note sound. The chimes were established so that local stations could identify the end of a program and then give the station identification as required by the Federal Radio Commission and later by its successor the Federal Communications Commission. The story goes that WSB in Atlanta used the sequence of notes for its own programs and, during a networked broadcast of a Georgia Tech football game, someone in NBC's headquarters heard it. Permission was requested by NBC to use them on national broadcasts. On November 29, 1929, both the Red and Blue networks broadcast the chimes and the rest is history. In case you are drawing a blank as to how they sound, [here](#) is a link to a recording from 1933. There is much more to the chimes story. Just go to Dr. Google or Wikipedia and type NBC chimes into the search bar for the rest of the story.

If you are interested in listening to the different anniversary shows, here are the links to them.

[25th Anniversary Special](#) – hosted by Fibber McGee and Molly (Only the first 22 minutes)

[40th Anniversary Special](#) – hosted by Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy

[50th Anniversary Special](#) – This one is a little more complicated. This special was broadcast over five nights with five different hosts. The link will take you to the [Old Time Radio Researchers Certified](#) distribution of the complete series. Just click the link that you are interested in hearing.

There is a lot more to the NBC network story. For Example:

- During World War II, there was a fourth tone used for important announcements.
- General Electric (GE) is forced by the government to divest itself of its share in RCA
- The Blue Network is sold and becomes the American Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)
- The many monumental programs developed and broadcast by NBC
- GE acquires RCA, which resulted in the demise of NBC Radio

The list goes on and on. Just follow the [Wikipedia link](#) and the many links contained to the excellent entry. Nearly all my background information came from Wikipedia.

Until we meet again in the theatre of the mind....

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

[Website - otronmp3.com](http://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 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 INFORMATION



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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March 2017

2017 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE (FOR AL, GA, TN AND MS)

03/18/2017 The Great Southern Hamfest

Location: Thomasville, GA

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

03/25/2017 Ides of March Hamfest

Location: Union City, TN

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

04/29/2017 CARS Swapmeet Hamfest

Location: Pooler, GA

Website: <http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/>

06/03/2017 Atlanta Hamfestival

Location: Marietta, GA

Website: <http://atlantahamfest.com>

06/17/2017 Knoxville Hamfest & Electronics Exhibition

Location: Knoxville, TN

Website: <http://www.w4bbb.org>

11/11/2017 Montgomery Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2017

Location: Montgomery, AL

Website: <http://www.w4ap.org/news/Hamfest.htm>