



December 2012



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DEE

Hi Folks!

Well, we've just about finished up the year 2012, and it's been a very good year. too. Just to touch on a few accomplishments, Dave and I seem to have done more of our AHRS Presentations than we did last year. We also had a rather large influx of used and broken radios that we repaired for folks, bringing in some much-needed donations. Speaking of donations, we've had several. including a rather large donation from Harry Butler of Gadsden.

The year 2012 is the 90th anniversary of WSY and for a short time we had a display set up in the Alabama Power Co. building. Part of this display was a life-size cardboard cutout of a man standing next to a vintage 1920's microphone. We think the man may have been Tom Martin. If you make it to the Christmas party, you will see him in our 1960's radio studio.

Work continues on the 1940's RA-1000 broadcast transmitter. I hope we can finish this project in the coming year. We still need volunteers to work on this transmitter. Just think, you can tell all your friends that you are working on a radio that weighs over one ton.

Our Christmas party this year will be December 27th at 6:30 PM. Please, let's have a good turnout. Bring your spouse, and if you don't have one of those, bring a friend. As usual, AHRS will provide the meat and drinks. Please bring a dish that will serve 5 or 6 people. Email me at ahrs2000@bmail.com and let me know how many people are coming and what you will be bringing.

Last but not least:

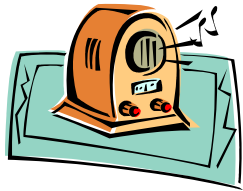
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Here are some interesting links. Check them out.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fCmZHI3Stk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzuK7-DSfcQ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZopRAq9CCw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpGYdgELqZo>

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net



LARRY'S OLD TIME RADIO BITS

The OTR selections this month deal with the time of year that is so special to most of us – Christmas. Unlike television, where we see many of the same specials repeated yearly, radio did not have that option during the Golden Age of Radio. The recording mediums were not of the quality that is seen today and did not allow for repeating shows from previous years. Therefore, some shows were re-created yearly with new material added to the part of the show that was a favorite of the listening audience. Two shows which followed this formula were the Amos 'n' Andy Christmas Show and the Lum and Abner Christmas Show.

In today's world the Amos 'n' Andy show is not considered politically correct. However, in the 1930's and 1940's it was a wildly popular series. Movie theatre operators would reportedly start a movie at a time that would not interfere with the weekly broadcast. Some theatre owners would even play the show in the theatre so that the movie-going patrons would not miss it. While I am not sure when the first Christmas show was broadcast, I do know that there are many versions of it in my collection with the earliest one from 1941. You can listen to this particular show by following the link below. I sincerely believe that no one will find the show offensive by today's standards, but if anyone does please remember that OTR shows reflect the time in which they were broadcast and are a part of our history.

http://www.otronmp3.com/OTR/Christmas/Amos_'n'_Andy-1941-12-24.mp3

The Lum and Abner Christmas show was another tradition. The annual production changed somewhat, but the main story line dealing with the birth of a child remained the same year after year. Lum and Abner, along with a cast of characters, resided in Pine Ridge, Arkansas on the fringes of the Ouachita Mountains and remained on the air for over 33 years. The pair operated the Jot 'Em Down Store, which served as the focal point for most episodes. Again, I am not sure when the first Christmas show aired, but the oldest one in my collection is from 1938. You can listen to this show by following the link below.

http://www.otronmp3.com/OTR/Christmas/Lum_and_Abner-1938-12-23.mp3

In case these two shows do not satisfy your desire for OTR Christmas shows, I have placed about 870 more Christmas related shows (from the collection of an enthusiast in England) in the location shown below. Maybe you can find others that interest you and then develop your own favorites.

<http://www.otronmp3.com/OTR/Christmas/>

So as we wrap up another year. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

Our sympathy goes out to Marvin Shepherd, whose wife of 65 years, Alice, passed away on November 17. She was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed. Please keep Marvin in your thoughts and prayers.

MEETING TIMES

We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 AM in the one-story building at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

It has also been decided to open the shop on Tuesday, as well as Saturday. We have a lot of projects going on and need the extra day to get it all done. So, until further notice, we will be open Tuesdays from 9am till...and on Saturday morning. Note that parking could be a problem on Tuesdays, because it is a business day, and the lot is usually filled, so you might have to find street parking occasionally.

Come to the Monday Night Meetings, TOO, on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM!

FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

Dwight Crider has taken over Robert's classes, and the first Saturday of the month, will teach electronics classes free to members. Topics include test equipment, Resistors and Capacitance testing, Inductors and coil winding, to name only a few subjects!

We hope to see you there!



Dues Are Due

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Tom at 205-967-7000.

Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.

WHO TO CONTACT

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