



December 2013



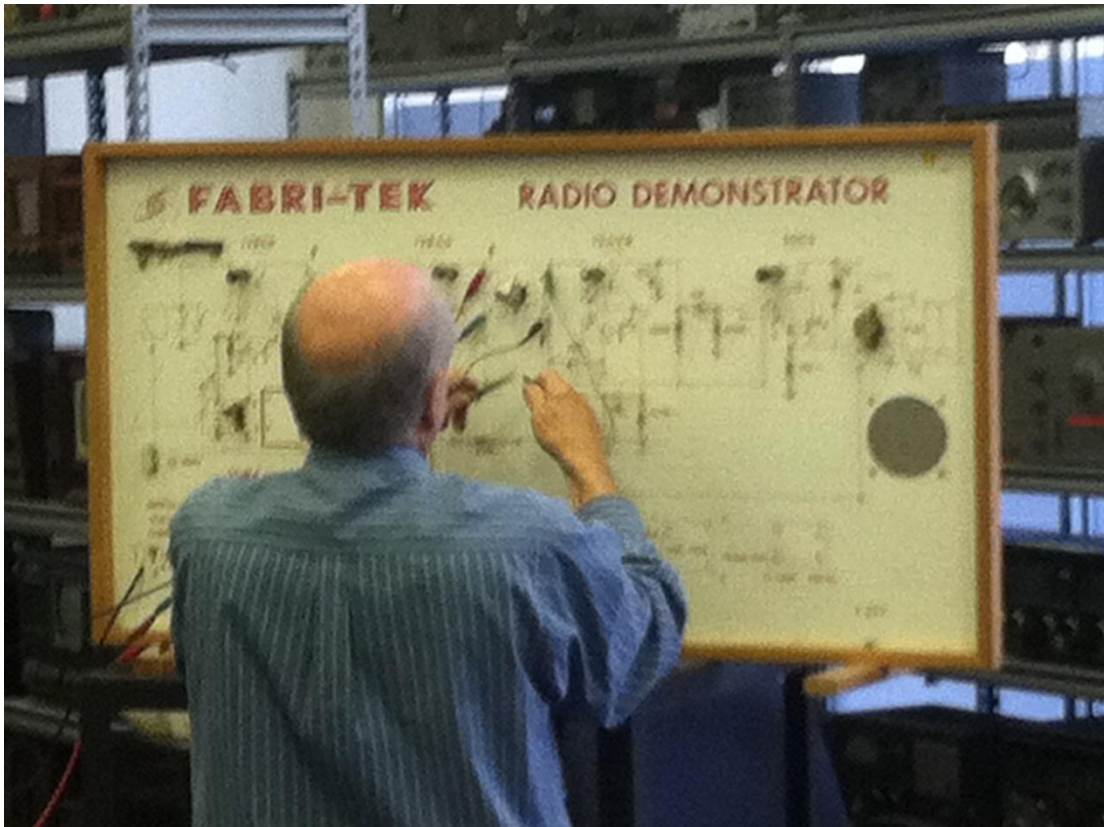
NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM

Hello, All!!!

As the calendar year comes to an end, I continue to look back where we have been and look forward where we are going. In past newsletters, I have reviewed several events and how they enhanced our objective, also found in the November Newsletter. We are on a good course to make this twenty-fifth year one of great success! The Board and membership will soon be reviewing the 2014 calendar to set up dates for more Society events. Some dates are set, such as the Freeze Fest on January 4 from 8am until 2pm at Locust Fork High School. The Old Radio Show is set for February 22 at 7:30pm at the Virginia Samford Theatre in Birmingham, and the Birmingham Ham Fest is set for March 1 and 2 at the Zamora Temple in Irondale. We plan on having eleven tables, five for historical displays and six for sale items from our Society and members. In preparation for the Ham Fest, we will need some work parties to check out the equipment we plan to sell. We plan to have the equipment working, minimally, with a copy of the service information attached to each piece. The sale of this surplus equipment will provide money for purchase of repair supplies and, hopefully, several new collectable and rare radios for our Museum. If you know of a rare radio we need for our Museum, please let me know what it is. Other dates will be in April for Swap Meet and Legends of Broadcasting and some other Ham Fests around the area, and Dayton and Orlando. If you know of an event we need to put on the Calendar, please let me know.

Just when you think you have technology harnessed, it escapes! We set up for Robert's radio class last Saturday, with a good turnout (see picture) and for the first hour or so, we could keep Robert on SKYPE about two or three minutes before his signal would dropout. While we chased that rabbit, Dave Cisco set up a signal generator, IF coil and a scope to illustrate how tuning the primary and secondary coils in an IF effects the signal. Dave also set up the Radio Demonstrator to further show the effects of a properly tuned IF coil on a working radio. The improvement was dramatic!





Finally, member Phil Sasnett took pity on us and hooked up his I-Phone hot spot, so we could have Robert for the last hour of class without interruption. Some days it takes a village to get things done. Thanks Dave and Phil, and thanks, Robert, for hanging in there!

At last Monday night's meeting we had a program put on by member Chris Story. Chris has many old radio interests, but one that he has jumped full speed into involves old military equipment--green stuff as he says. He has a collection of vehicles and radios, fixed, mobile and portable. He is a member of a group that has similar interests in military radios, equipment and vehicles. The need for manuals on this equipment has led him to create a website, radionerds.com, which states "...is a completely free and open resource for radio restoration information. Our goal is information preservation, not control and restrictions." Chris is driving some of the folks on e-bay nuts as they try to sell the manuals for big bucks that he is providing free to the public. It makes interesting conversation. I have asked Chris to write about his website and the issues surrounding his quest for these military manuals. It is an interesting story! Maybe we can get it in the January Newsletter.



Chris doing his thing!

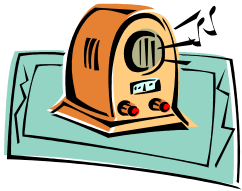
The Society Christmas Party is coming up on December 30 at 6pm at the Shop in downtown Birmingham. We have about fifty folks signed up and their food dishes listed. I will send this list out to each of you in a bcc message to help you plan. Also, if you have not signed up to attend, please send me an e-mail (music.tomdj@gmail.com) with your name, how many will attend, you and ?, and what food you plan to bring. This Party has been a great event in the last few years with fellowship, good food, old stories and just seeing folks you don't see that often. The Christmas Party will take the place of the usual Monday night meeting on the fourth Monday of the month. December 30 will be the fifth Monday.

So, from us at the Old Radio Shop, have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!! On Dave and Dee and Steven and Mike! On Ed and Reggie and Marvin and Mack! That and a 500-cubic inch Hemi should get the sleigh there!

So long until next time!

President Tom

205-967-7000 or music.tomdj@gmail.com



OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Hello all Old Time Radio and Theatre Organ Fans!

As with all things man-made, there comes a time when the man-made things break down, and it happened in old time radio as well. On a few rare occasions, a radio show was not able to start on time, and the dreaded “Dead Air” would pass through the intricate circuits of your old Philco. However, most big radio show productions had a backup plan – the organist. Many of the shows in the 40’s and 50’s were produced in large studios complete with pipe organs. A good example of this problem can be found in the “Our Miss Brooks” episode of November 28, 1948. If you would like to listen to this episode, go to this link: <https://archive.org/details/OurMissBrooks>. Look for the date above in the upper right-hand corner. Click, listen and enjoy a brief musical interlude on the mighty theatre organ.

Here are a few more words about my internet radio. I’m really having a ball with this thing. Up until a few weeks ago, I was listening to OTR exclusively without seeing what else this little jewel can do. This past October, I mentioned that my postman was buying his own internet radio. I asked him the other day how his listening was coming along. He said that he was having a blast with it. He had discovered how to listen to police, fire and other things that only people with scanners could do in the past. So I tried it and had no trouble finding all kinds of two-way traffic on VHF and UHF.

Wonder if HAM radio is on the internet? Let me know. Well, I couldn’t stop with the police and fire. Since I love theatre organ music so much, I did a search and found The American Theatre Organ Society’s own internet radio station. I’m listening to the ATOS station right now as I write this.

Back to OTR, I have a button on my radio that plays British OTR. I probably have a little English blood in me because I love British humor. One of my favorite TV shows was “Yes Minister,” which later on became “Yes Prime Minister.” Now I’ve run across a radio show which probably was the predecessor of that show.

It's almost 7:30 P.M. and time for the Jack Benny Show. Understand that on tonight's show, Jack is going to fire the Sportsman Quartet. Can't miss that one, so as Jack said on several occasions, "We're a little late folks, so goodnight."

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

Radio Repair

By Robert Frye

This will be the last repair article for 2013. Hope they have helped you in your repair. We will be teaching how to check and replace Selenium Rectifiers with silicon diodes. First, before plugging the radio in, let's check to see if we have a bad rectifier or bad filter capacitors. If the radio has been sitting up for a long period of time, you can be assured the electrolytic capacitor (filter capacitor) will be bad.

Electrolytic capacitors are a type of fixed capacitor requiring observance of polarity - hence the polarizing indication (+ and -). If the polarity is not observed, the capacitor breaks down and becomes a conductor. This type of capacitor should not be used on alternating-current circuits.

Let's make a check to see if the filter capacitors are good or bad. Take a volt and ohm meter (digital or analogue meter), put the meter in the ohm position - place the common lead on the chassis in most cases, or place the common lead on the ground lead of the capacitor, then the positive lead on the cathode of rectifier. You should read one meg ohms or more. If you read a low ohms, then replace the filter capacitors.



Can multi-section electrolytic capacitor, Axial electrolytic capacitor and Orange drop capacitor

Now, let's check the diode or diodes (full-wave rectifier). Both digital and moving coil (analogue) multi-meters are suitable for diode testing and in many cases will have a special "diode test" range usually marked with a diode symbol. This range should always be used when testing diodes or any other semiconductor device. The reason for this is that the meter tests the diode by applying a voltage across the diode junction. The normal voltages used by the meter on other resistance ranges will not be high enough to overcome the diode's forward junction potential and so will not make the diode conduct, even in the forward direction. This would give an indication that the diode was open circuit (very high resistance). If the diode range is used, the test voltage applied by the meter will be high enough to the forward junction potential and the diode will conduct. Therefore, in the forward direction (meter positive lead to the diode anode), the diode's resistance can be measured. The actual value will vary from device to device and from meter to meter, so a precise value cannot be given. With a good silicon diode, however, a reading in the forward direction of about 1k Ω could be expected, rather less with germanium diodes. With the meter leads reversed, an out of range (infinity) or open circuit reading (usually indicated by a display something like "1." on a digital meter) should be expected. If the requirements are not met - meaning if the diode is not good – replace; and if the diode is a Selenium rectifier, it can be replaced with a silicon diode (which is cheap).

Three things you need to do:

1. Make sure the diode has the correct amperes and voltage to meet the requirement to find the requirement - look at the radio diagram.
2. Observe the polarity.
3. Check the cathode voltage--if it's too high, add about a 150 ohm resistor in series. This should correct the voltage.



Selenium rectifier and Silicon diode rectifier (1N4001)

Robert Frye, Instructor

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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). **Robert's next class will be on January 11, the second Saturday of the month, because the Freeze Fest is on the first 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 John Outland at 205-354-5258. **Dues can be mailed to AHRs @ P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.**

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