



December 2014



***NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM***

Hello, All!

It is that time of year, beginning with Thanksgiving, when we become festive and the act of selfless giving of time and gifts causes us to feel good about ourselves. Of these things, the gift of time is the most important. Most of the folks I know, have, at one time or another, and now more than ever, given their time to school programs, both academic and sports-related, church related endeavors, senior citizen's organizations, civic clubs, social clubs, community outreach programs and so on.

My wife and I recently attended a matinee Holiday Show put on by a local theatrical company in Birmingham. There were two acts featuring about 15 plus songs and skits each, all holiday related. There were about a dozen adults and about forty-five children, aged five through their teens, who sang and danced their hearts out. They spent many days and hours rehearsing for the two-and-one-half-hour show. Most of them volunteer their time and enjoy entertaining folks. The program put the attendees in the holiday spirit.

We have a dedicated group of Radio Society members who give their time regularly to make us successful and to fulfill our objectives. We have shown their pictures over the last year mentoring new members, teaching radio class, presenting historical radio programs to senior and historic organizations around our area, giving guided tours of our Museum and Shop to various groups interested in learning who we are and what we do. All of this takes time, not just at the time of presentation or tour, but in preparation for these events so they convey the most information possible and are truly meaningful for the participants. We commend and thank several of the most tireless of these members, Dave Cisco, Dee Haynes, Dave Johnson, Marvin Shepherd and Mike Lord, for their efforts, individually and collectively. And thanks, especially, Patsy Desaulniers, who edits this Newsletter each month. She makes our contributors, including Dee Haynes and Larry Lokey, look good!

The sheer number of radios and equipment makes it hard to know what we have, and Vice-President Steven Westbrook has been cataloging everything he can find in an effort to identify our inventory. This is helpful for insurance and allows us to know what models are missing in our collection so we can acquire these missing models. All of our

officers, directors and committee members are volunteers and contribute their time to our Society to further our mission. We appreciate all of our members. We know that they all do what they can to support our Society as volunteers. Thank you!

James Spann, Meteorologist for local TV Channel 33/40, gave his time to our Society and to the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club at a joint meeting on December 4, at our Shop in Birmingham. He gives his time freely to the community and getting on his schedule is difficult. Thanks to our member, Dee Haynes, for arranging this presentation. There were over 50 members of both organizations who attended and enjoyed James' weather history, his humor and his expertise on all things weather.

He also spoke about life, growing up and how amateur radio influenced his life (he is a "ham"). There was an article in the ***Birmingham News*** dated November 9, 2014, by Leigh Morgan, AL.com, in which James discussed his personal and professional life, much of which he covered in our December 4 program. Below are some pictures from this event.



**James Spann speaking to the group**



**James Spann telling his story with humor**



**James Spann reliving his DJ days in high school**

We continue to receive donations like the one pictured below from Mrs. William R. Hill (Bernice). Mr. Hill was a retired Nuclear Engineer from Southern Company Services, who passed away in 2012. He was also active in the Civil Air Patrol. Not in the picture is a Military TV-7U Tube Tester similar to the one we use at the Shop, only this one is in much better condition! Looks like an upgrade is in order! Also, not shown, is a working 1929 Graybar 330 wooden case radio, similar to a Radiola 60, and in museum condition. We continue to be blessed by generous donations by our friends!



Part of the W. R. Hill donation

Harry Butler, one of our members and a Legend of Broadcasting, wrote an article for ***The Gadsden Times*** in the September 28 issue about the Rev George Creel Family donating a vast stock of vintage radio tubes and photographs of antique radio equipment to our Society. We featured David Creel and his wife in a recent Newsletter on these donations. This Times article followed that and mentioned the 1914 business letter from David Sarnoff when he was an executive of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company. David Sarnoff later founded the National Broadcasting Company and the Radio Corporation of America. This letter and the photographs are on display in the broadcast area of our Shop in Birmingham. You can find this article by searching for Harry Butler on ***The Gadsden Times*** Internet site.

Our 2014 Christmas Party will be on December 29, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Shop in Birmingham. This Party will take the place of our regular fourth Monday night meeting in December (which would be the week of Christmas). The Society will supply the ham, turkey, rolls, dressing, drinks (water, sweet and unsweet tea, coffee, soft drinks), plates, napkins, utensils, red solo cups, salt and pepper. Members will bring salads, angel eggs, vegetables, desserts or whatever their food specialty might be. We usually have one or two mystery dishes each year, but they are all good! There has been a sign-up sheet on the conference table at the Shop since mid-November and 40

folks have signed up so far. We had around 65 attendees last year. You can send me an email if you plan to attend, but have not signed the sheet at the Shop. Name, number of attendees, and food item you are bringing, are the things I need to know for the party. We are limiting this party to adults. Thanks!



**2013 Christmas Party**

Robert Frye's next Radio Class is scheduled for January 10, the second Saturday in January. Normally our classes are on the first Saturday of the month, unless there is a conflict with a holiday or the instructor's schedule. Come learn how to repair old radios! Classes start at 9 a.m. at the Shop in Birmingham.



**Robert's December 2014 Class**

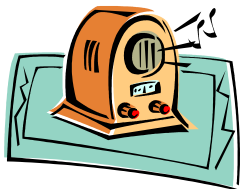
As the calendar year comes to an end, we look forward to a bright new year with new members, new Monday night programs, more radio class students, more donations, upgraded museum displays and continued opportunities to educate the surrounding community groups on all things old radio and our mission to preserve this rich history.

We wish each of you Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy and Safe New Year!

### *President Tom*

205-967-7000

[music.tomdj@gmail.com](mailto:music.tomdj@gmail.com)



### **OLD TIME RADIO BITS**

Hello Folks!

It's the season to be jolly, and I'm sitting here listening to my favorite internet radio shows.

<http://radio.macinmind.com/>

Christmas was a great time to be listening to the radio. Most of the shows from comedy to mystery featured a Christmas theme. I remember *Dragnet*, *The Cisco Kid*, *Our Miss Brooks*, *Amos and Andy*, and *Jack Benny*, to mention only a few. Many of these shows were repeated over the lifetime of the radio show.

Here are some of the shows. First, *Amos and Andy* with their annual Christmas show. Click the link below and in the dark gray box on the right of the screen scroll down to the 50<sup>th</sup> show and listen.

[https://archive.org/details/Amos\\_N\\_Andy](https://archive.org/details/Amos_N_Andy)

Next, *Our Miss Brooks*. Click the link below and in the dark gray box on the right, scroll down to the number 16 show, *The Magic Christmas Tree*. Click to listen.

[https://archive.org/details/Our\\_Miss\\_Brooks\\_190\\_Episodes](https://archive.org/details/Our_Miss_Brooks_190_Episodes)

Next, *Dragnet*, a popular police show. Go to the link below and the dark gray box on the right. Scroll down to show number 23.

[https://archive.org/details/Dragnet\\_OTR](https://archive.org/details/Dragnet_OTR)

Now you have the idea. Look for other Christmas shows just by looking for a show in late December of the year in which you are interested.

Have a Merry Christmas and I hope to see you at the Christmas party.

*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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

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