



January 2013



NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DEE

Hi Folks!

It seems like yesterday when I was writing a newsletter for January 2012, and now it's 2013. Why does time travel so fast? The only time it seems to travel slowly is when I am sitting in the doctor's waiting room. When I'm having fun, the clock just whizzes by. Don't you wish it was just the opposite?

Just like yesterday, Dave and I went to Bethel Baptist Church to do an AHRS presentation. We had loads of fun and met some really nice people. The food was great. I had fried chicken, collards, and steamed cabbage. I decided that since I had three items on my plate that I should have three desserts. It's a good thing we did the program before eating. Thanks to Maurice for making all the arrangements. I hope that 2013 will bring many more opportunities for "AHRS Presents."

Here is a short list of accomplishments for 2012.

Our first annual swap meet and tailgate party was a huge success. We had folks come from all over the Southeast. We plan on doing it again this year and maybe we just might do it twice in 2013.

The 90th Anniversary of WSY Radio took place in April shortly after the tailgate party. The power company gave us temporary space in the hallway on the main floor. They gave us a nice display platform and also provided a life-size cardboard cutout of a man standing next to a vintage 1920's microphone. The display remained for over 2 months.

Also on the list of successes was the Birmingham Fest at the Zamora Temple. Hamfest is just around the corner, so we need to start thinking about it, as well as our 2013 swap meet which should be scheduled for mid April.

Next came the 2nd annual Legends of Broadcast Gala. We had a big crowd and Marilyn's Deli and Dog did the catering. Several of the folks asked us to do it more than once a year. Maybe this year we can accommodate their wishes.

I don't want to forget the big 2600-pound transmitter we have in the shop donated to us by a friend who owns WYEA in Sylacauga. Work is coming along "very slowly" on its restoration. At the rate we are going, it may be the year 2020 when we get it finished. Any volunteers?

Robert Frye, our beloved electronics teacher moved to Loxley, Alabama, and we threw a party to bid him farewell. Robert has returned on several occasions to visit. Keep the visits coming, Robert, we miss you. Also, thanks to Dwight Crider for taking over as our new teacher.

We had our Christmas party on December 27th. I don't have the exact count, but it was over 60 people. I don't think we could have gotten another person in our building. What a crowd! It was good to see Tom and Patsy Desaulniers of Conway, Arkansas. Thanks, Patsy, for your service throughout the years for publishing our newsletter.

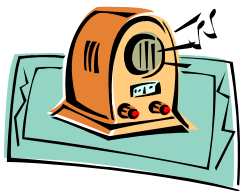
Our ham radio station now resides on a beautiful wooden desk donated by John Truitt. It is a great improvement over the table we had been using. We have made several contacts on the new equipment, including several European contacts.

Our library has added several new sets of shelves; one set is occupied by a large collection of books donated by Harry Butler.

I could go on and on about the improvements we've seen over the last year. Thanks everybody for a very successful year.

Dee Haynes

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LARRY'S OLD TIME RADIO BITS

Just as the Alabama Historical Radio Society exists to preserve our radio heritage, there is an organization that exists to preserve the heritage of our old time radio shows – The Old Time Radio Researcher's group. As detailed in the opening sentence of their website, "The OTRR Group is a community of enthusiastic fans, avid listeners, and strong supporters of "Old Time Radio." The group's goals include restoring, preserving and sharing the classic shows from what is commonly known as the "Golden Age of Radio" (1930-1960).

For each individual radio series, the OTRR group strives to provide collections that are of the best quality and complete as possible. When they have every show that is known to exist for a particular series, the series is certified as Complete. A series which is certified as Accurate means they do not have all of the shows that are known to exist (some shows still exist only in private collections). Each certified series is available for distribution to the many OTR enthusiasts, and are distributed at a very reasonable price – zero dollars. All anyone has to do is download the files or participate in a mail distribution via Yahoo Groups.

The certified series are found at

http://otrr.org/pg05b_groupreleases.htm

On this webpage under the section entitled “**OTRR Series Distribution,**” there are several ways to see sorted lists of the current certified series. Each link listed in that section will lead you to a list containing links where you can download the individual shows for listening at your convenience (Singles Availability). If you are a collector, you can even download every show that is part of the certified release (ZIP Availability). If you see a notation that a series is “Not available on archive.org,” that means that due to possible copyright issues the shows are not made available on archive.org and were only distributed via mail distribution. However, if you are interested in any of those unavailable shows, just let me know since I have most of them in my collection.

So find a show that interests you and enjoy some time with old time radio.

Larry Lokey

larry@otronmp3.com

Our sympathy goes out to Margaret Holder, whose husband, Dave, passed away on Tuesday, December 11. Please keep Margaret in your thoughts and prayers.
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Antique Radio Repair January 4, 2013

By Robert L. Frye

I first want to wish each of you a very Happy New Year!! I will take a minute to say the annual Radio Club Party was great and was so good to see each of you. For you that are not aware, we have moved to Loxley, Alabama. This was a necessary move in order for us to get in a one-level home and be closer to my family, as I have recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's. This has given me many challenges, but we have faith that God will be with both me and Margaret.

Now, for a bit of information on radio repair.

Repairing of 1948 Bendix radio – with many problems. First, tested all tubes on my Military Tube Tester - which is very accurate. Two were found to be bad. I replaced them, next replaced all the capacitors then the AC line cord.

Plugged the radio into the AC – the tubes lit up – but no sound or Dial Light. I replaced the Number 47 Dial Light, and it worked. Next, I made Voltage Checks, and the voltage readings were good. At this time through my sixty years of repair, I begin to think I may have an Oscillator problem. Below is an outline on how to make “quick” checks to see if Oscillator is working. This test requires no test equipment – only a good working radio.

- Step 1. Get a good radio that plays (transistor radio is what I used).
- Step 2. Set the good radio around 1600 on the dial – no station – so the radio is quiet.
- Step 3. Turn the non-working radio on and open the tuner fully open.
- Step 4. Start turning the tuner on the non-working radio counter clock-wise.
- Step 5. As you turn the tuner on the non-working radio around mid-range, you should hear oscillations in the working radio. This indicates that the oscillator is working in the non-working radio.
- Step 6. Still not working – I got out a new set of tubes. Started replacing the RF Amplifier Tube that had checked good on my Military Tube Tester. As soon as tube was replaced, I got a very weak sound.
- Step 7. Putting my hand over the antennae – the volume came up much louder.
- Step 8. Two things came to mind, one is that the antennae is broken. I ran a resistance check on the antennae and “yes” it was open. Repairing the open antennae the volume was much louder. Then tuned to a weak station and peaked up the second IF Transformer (always start with the second IF Transformer). Then moved to the first IF Transformer. and the volume was about normal. Then peaked the RF on the tuner and the sound was great (I did not turn the Oscillator Screw on the Tuner because the frequency was “OK”).
- Step 9. This radio needed a new volume control – which I ordered from Antique Radio Supply and replaced the control. After using my grinder to make a flat shaft due to ARS sending a round shaft, it then fit correctly.

Below is information only – I have an AM Radio Station about two miles from where my home is. I could pick this station up over half the dial - I thought I had an alignment problem, then I realized on the other half of the dial that I was picking up stations correctly. Then I realized I was so close to the station and it was bleeding over – after relocating the radio – it worked fine.

I hope this “trouble shooting” of the oscillator circuit, broken antennae, bad tubes that check “good” and touching up will help you in the future in your trouble shooting.

Robert L. Frye, KJ4MIC,
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Former Instructor AHRS and now South Alabama Liaison for AHRS

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.

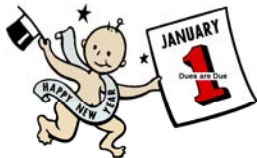
It has also been decided to open the shop on Tuesday, as well as Saturday. We have a lot of projects going on and need the extra day to get it all done. So, until further notice, we will be open Tuesdays from 9am till...and on Saturday morning. Note that parking could be a problem on Tuesdays, because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



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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Editor's Note

Tom and I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Christmas Party on the 27th. It is hard to believe that I have been doing the newsletter since January, 2006. It is always exciting for me to read the articles that are submitted; there have been lots of interesting articles over the years. I hope that many more of you will write articles for the newsletter in the upcoming months. If you are ever headed for Branson, Conway is on the way—stop by for a visit.