

November 2010



A NOTE FROM DAVE

October was a good month for the most part. Celeste and I got to spend 5 days in Panama City and see how pretty the beaches were (no oil).

The 16th of October was the first (and hopefully not the last) Shelby County Hamfest in Helena. The weather was great and about 300 people were present. Lots of AHRS folks were there.

Dee and I motorized the sled downtown, so no more heavy loads up or down those 16 steps.

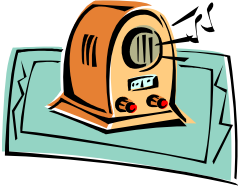
If you missed the October program, you missed a good one. Mike Lord showed us ways to form veneer when reworking a radio cabinet. Everyone was asking for more when it was over.

Dee and I entertained over 70 people at Asbury Methodist Church with our 'Radio History' program. The food was great and we had a great crowd.

We lost a lovely lady on the 28th of October. Sarah, Claude Gray's wife, passed away at 96, almost one year after Claude left us. They will both be missed, but their memory will live with this group for a long time. If you are going to send a memorial, don't forget the Claude M. Gray Memorial Fund set up our group.

That's all for now--be sure to check out the VM article from Steven Westbrook.

Dave



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

Hi Folks,

I've run across another really great OTR site: <http://wamu.org/programs/bb/>. Here's a short quote from the website:

The Big Broadcast

Sun., 7 p.m. on WAMU 88.5 and 88.3 Ocean City; Sun., 6 a.m. on Intersection 88.5-3

Each week, Big Broadcast host, Ed Walker, offers listeners priceless recordings of popular radio programs from the '30s, '40s and '50s. I listened to the broadcast a few days ago. It was the Halloween show and featured some really scary shows such as "Lights Out," "Quiet Please," and the famous "War of the Worlds."

Several other shows were featured to fill out the 2½ hour show. I can't wait till the next show appears on the internet. You don't have to listen to the entire 2½ hours at one time, just remember where you left off and check back in a day or so.

By the way, one of the shows taught me what a "fourble board" is. I'll make you a free copy of "The Thing on the Fourble Board" (30-minute radio show) for anyone who can tell me what a fourble board is. Here's a hint: It has something to do with oil wells.

If you missed last month's Monday night meeting, you missed learning from the master about veneering. Mike Lord gave a great program and showed us some of the secret tricks on how to restore an old radio cabinet. The picture below shows Mike preparing to bend the veneer around a corner.



You know, we have a really huge collection of minds when it comes to restoring old radios. We have literally hundreds of years' experience on the subject from radio theory and chassis restoration to cabinet building and restoring. Our library has hundreds of books that cover from A to Z on old radios. Not only do we do the electronics and cabinetry, we can wind field coils and our latest venture is the rewinding of interstage transformers. Here's a picture of the finished transformer that I did under the watchful eye of Marvin Shepherd.



So, for information on any or all of the above, just drop by or email us. You can get in touch with me personally at the telephone number or e-mail address listed below.

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

V-M Corporation (Voice of Music) by Steven Westbrook

The V-M Corporation (The Voice of Music) was founded by electrical engineer Walter Miller in Benton Harbor, Michigan in June 1944. The company originally manufactured only 78 rpm record changers and labeled them simply as "A V-M Product." The brand name, "Voice of Music," was suggested by a V-M engineer and first used in 1952.

The company made numerous innovations to the record changer, and then expanding their horizons into the manufacturing of amplified phonographs, tape recorders, consoles and other components. However, first and foremost, V-M was a record changer and tape deck supplier to dozens of familiar brand names of their day, such as Zenith, Motorola and Telefunken. These large production volumes helped V-M keep its own Voice of Music brand profitable for many years. After 1965, the trend became clear that American audio companies were going out of business or shifting production overseas. As V-M's record changer volumes declined, it became difficult for the company to remain profitable. Retailing began to change from small "mom and pop" stores (V-M's strength) to large electronics retailers where V-M was under-represented. The end came in July, 1977, when the company declared bankruptcy.

A few years ago, I had the pleasure to do business with Gary Stork, who is a V-M historian, collector, enthusiast, and parts supplier. He maintains a website at www.thevoiceofmusic.com, where you can locate all things V-M, including parts, schematic diagrams, sales material, etc. Gary sent me one of his newsletters for V-M enthusiasts and gave permission to allow publication with our newsletter. The link to the newsletter with additional historical information on V-M is listed below.

Quotes & Predictions from Great Men of Science & Radio

Lee De Forest

- "I foresee great refinements in the field of short-pulse microwave signaling, whereby several simultaneous programs may occupy the same channel, in sequence, with incredibly swift electronic communication. [...] Short waves will be generally used in the kitchen for roasting and baking, almost instantaneously" – 1952
- "So I repeat that while theoretically and technically television may be feasible, yet commercially and financially I consider it an impossibility; a development of which we need not waste little time in dreaming." – 1926
- "To place a man in a multi-stage rocket and project him into the controlling gravitational field of the moon where the passengers can make scientific observations, perhaps land alive, and then return to earth—all that constitutes a wild dream worthy of Jules Verne. I am bold enough to say that such a man-made voyage will never occur regardless of all future advances." – 1926
- "I do not foresee 'spaceships' to the moon or Mars. Mortals must live and die on Earth or within its atmosphere!" – 1952

- "As a growing competitor to the tube amplifier comes now the Bell Laboratories' transistor, a three-electrode germanium crystal of amazing amplification power, of wheat-grain size and low cost. Yet its frequency limitations, a few hundred kilocycles, and its strict power limitations will never permit its general replacement of the Audion amplifier." – 1952
- "I came, I saw, I invented--it's that simple--no need to sit and think--it's all in your imagination"
- "While theoretically and technically television may be feasible, yet commercially and financially I consider it an impossibility." - 1926

Edwin Armstrong

- I could never accept findings based almost exclusively on mathematics. It ain't ignorance that causes all the trouble in this world. It's the things people know that ain't so.

David Sarnoff

- Freedom is the oxygen without which science cannot breathe.
- I have learned to have more faith in the scientist than he does in himself.
- Let us not paralyze our capacity for good by brooding of man's capacity for evil.
- Man is still the greatest miracle and the greatest problem on this earth.
- Nobody can be successful if he doesn't love his work, love his job.
- Success, in a generally accepted sense of the term, means the opportunity to experience and to realize to the maximum the forces that are within us.
- The difference between our decadence and the Russians is that while theirs is brutal, ours is apathetic.
- The human brain must continue to frame the problems for the electronic machine to solve.
- Whatever course you have chosen for yourself, it will not be a chore but an adventure if you bring to it a sense of the glory of striving.
- Work and live to serve others, to leave the world a little better than you found it and garner for yourself as much peace of mind as you can. This is happiness.
- The thrill, believe me, is as much in the battle as in the victory.
- The will to persevere is often the difference between failure and success.
- We cannot banish dangers, but we can banish fears. We must not demean life by standing in awe of death.
- We hate those who will not take our advice, and despise them who do.
- What the Human mind can conceive and believe in can accomplish

Edwin Armstrong & David Sarnoff

- Edwin Armstrong, the inventor of FM radio, dressed in his coat and hat, jumped to his death from the thirteenth floor of his New York City apartment building on January 31, 1954. His suicide note to his wife read: "May God help you and have mercy on my soul." Upon hearing the news, David Sarnoff, head of RCA, remarked "I did not kill Armstrong."

Claude Gray

- "Hello! (5) times" "Fair to Middling"

Leon Theremin

- "There was one man who was interested in the color of music, the connection between light and music, and that was Einstein."

MEETING TIMES

We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 at the Alabama Power Building on Parkway East (aka Centerpoint Parkway) in Huffman. The organization's space is accessed from the rear of the building, so park around the back (by means of Huffman Road, which runs parallel to the Parkway). Entry is via the door on the right.

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

FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES

The first Saturday of the month, there are 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 NOW 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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