



September 2010



A NOTE FROM DAVE

Well, August is over, and so is our summer. We can't use the excuse that it is too hot to get out, so let's all get back in the groove and make something big happen for our group! Even though many of us were on vacation the last couple of months, lots of things did happen. Huntsville Hamfest found more of us in Huntsville than in Birmingham. Maurice negotiated himself several good deals on some nice radios and others found those little goodies that everyone needs in their shop.

As you can see from the Powergram's write-up and the picture, we placed three radios in a very conspicuous place in the APCO atrium. If you haven't been down to see them, you should plan a trip at lunch and enjoy the food court and see our wonderful display. The Zenith Spinnette radio we had in the shop was moved to the waiting area at APCO CEO Charles McCrary's office. It really looks good there.

We continue to take advantage of every opportunity to move stuff from Huffman to our storage downtown, so we won't have so much to move when the time comes. We moved three pickups loaded twice in August.

Robert's classes are still going well, with good attendance, even during the summer. Robert still has some health issues, so keep him in your prayers. Next class is the 25th of September.

Dee had the program last month and did an excellent job showing us how to use 'Photoshop'. He was able to take some hair from a lady and put it on a bald man's head. I asked him to do that for me, but that's where the program failed to work. HA!

Keep Saturdays on your 'to do list' and come join the fun every week.

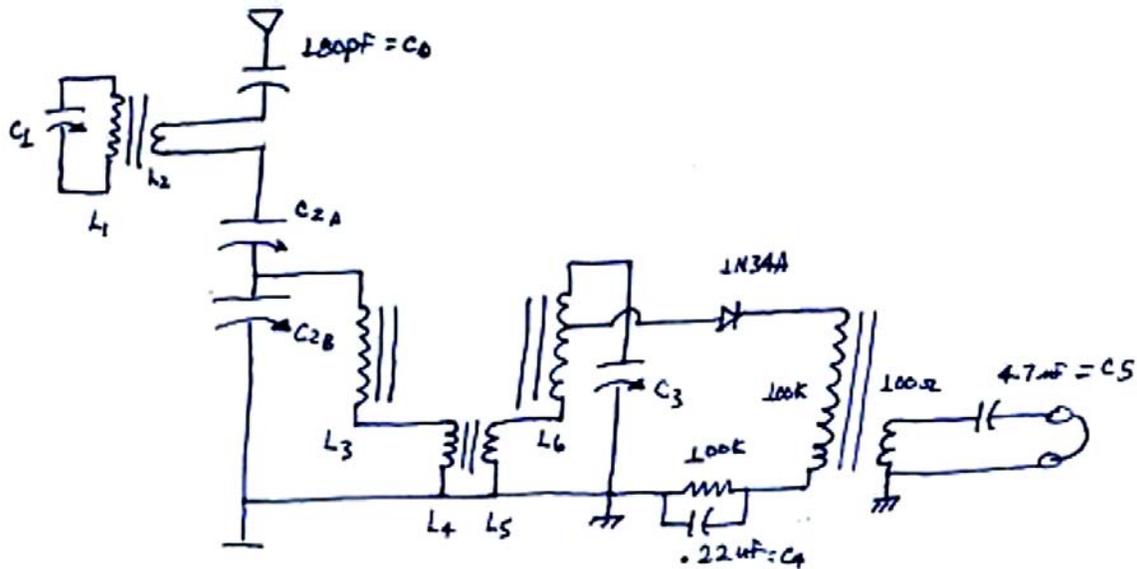
Dave



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

Hi Radio Fans!

I think I'll try something different this month. Who wants to build a Crystal Set Radio? OK, OK everyone! Settle down--one hand at a time. Fall and winter are just around the corner. Daylight Savings Time will be gone, and AM Broadcast Radio will be coming in loud and clear after the sun goes down. I've already started on a new radio that will use variable inductors instead of variable air capacitors. Don't worry, that is not my main project. I still prefer the air variable capacitor. In fact, I dug out a couple of my silver plated caps and plan on building another Crystal Set boat anchor. It is times like these that I wished I lived out in the sticks far away from the 50KW radio station that keeps me from hearing a lot of weaker stations. These stations are known to Crystal Radio enthusiasts as "Blow Torches." I am only about two miles from one.



Above is a tried and true schematic that a lot of enthusiastic builders have used in the past. I have more details on what type of parts to use if anyone is interested in building one of these super-sensitive and selective sets.

Sometime this winter, I plan on putting on a program on Crystal Set Radios, so keep your ears open for the date and time. I will send out details at a later date.

Here's a good site for Crystal Set listeners: <http://www.amlogbook.com/freq.htm>

Another good source for your project is from one of the best experts on crystal sets, Mike Tuggle. Here is a link to his site: <http://www.antiquewireless.org/otb/dxxtal.htm>

See you on the radio,

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

The following article will be published in the next month or so in the **POWERGRAM**, Alabama Power Company's monthly newsletter. The article is about the radios that we installed in the Power Company atrium. We give our thanks to the publisher for his permission to reprint the article in our newsletter.

Vintage Radios Decorate Atrium

By Chuck Chandler

Marvin Shepherd feels right at home at Alabama Power Corporate Headquarters. When the 86-year-old World War II veteran steps inside the glass-ceilinged atrium, Shepherd is never far from one of the many vintage radios he's restored.

"I've been tinkering with radios since I was just a kid," Shepherd said as he watched workers slide an acrylic glass case over his latest masterpiece near the escalators.

The 1939 Scott Philharmonic console radio is valued at about \$8,000. It joins more than 60 others restored by members of the Alabama Historical Radio Society (AHRs) on display in the Don Kresge Memorial Museum and around Corporate Headquarters. When new, the handmade Scott radio and turntable cost as much as a new Cadillac and was known as the "Stradivarius of radios."

"It's just hard to imagine someone would pay that much in those days," said Dave Cisco, one of about 100 members of the society formed in 1989. "I guess if you wanted the very best and you could afford it, that's what you bought."

Shepherd spent nearly two years getting the Scott in shape. "Marvin knows all the secrets," said Cisco, who, like Shepherd, is a charter AHRs member.

Many of the radios in the collection housed by Alabama Power are donated, but six members of the non-profit group pooled their money to buy the Scott for \$3,000 from an estate. It had been stored in a basement, where water dripped onto the top, down the sides and then collected on the floor where it rose to the chassis. The veneer sides fell off, the lid cracked, and the transformers and 25-pound electromagnetic speaker rusted. Shepherd said such a restoration takes skill, time and patience.

It took Shepherd a year to restore the 1941 Zenith Spinet radio with a cabinet resembling an old harpsichord. That valuable model was recently installed outside President and CEO **Charles McCrary's** office.

"I'm working on one or more just about all the time," said Shepherd, who retired 24 years ago.



Pictured above is the Scott Philharmonic radio in its new case in between two small, highly-collectible radios, the Sparton Sled radio on the right and the Fada Catalin radio on the left.

Human Resources Coordinator **Tom Killian** is one of several Alabama Power employees who are longtime members of the society, which has an extensive library. Items include complete collections of the top three industry magazines, thousands of reference and instruction books, and more than 20,000 old radio broadcasts on CD.

"We want to keep the museum growing," Killian said, noting that late retiree Pete Sides left his collection to the AHRS. "Our greatest issue is trying to keep people from throwing away their grandparents' old radios."

For more information about vintage radios and the AHRS, go online to alabahistoricalradiosociety.org.

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.

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