Your Society has been busy this year and is coming up on one of the busiest times of the year. There are and will be many opportunities for members to participate in events like the Birmingham Hamfest, the Vintage Stereo Swap Day and the Legends of Broadcast. Details of these events follow in this Newsletter.

Dave Cisco and Dee Haynes continue to give historical radio presentations around the area. They could use a couple of volunteers to help with future presentations. You will learn so much more about AHRS and the history of radio, both globally and locally, when you attend and help put on these presentations.

We had our first Board meeting of the year and plans for the coming year, as well as future years, were discussed. We also talked about improving our website, Museum signage, including QR labels for our major display pieces, and increasing income for general operations. Another event that we would like to see more often is the Radio Auction for members.

Speaking of income, membership dues for 2018 are past due so please, if you have not paid them yet, consider doing so now.

Dave Cisco was re-elected as Chairman of the Board, so congratulate him next time you see him.

Thanks for all you do to support our Society!

President Dave
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A group of home-schooled students and parents from Jubilee Academy in Irondale Alabama toured the Shop and the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum in late January. Steven Westbrook, Dee Haynes, Don Letchman and Tom Killian led small groups on a tour of the Shop and then on a tour of the Don Kresge Memorial Radio Museum down the street.

Each member of the tour was provided with a souvenir, new in the box, RCA JRC 9004 acorn tube dated February 1945, U. S. Army for the Admiral Corporation. Each tube box has a label stating that it is a "Souvenir from the Alabama Historical Radio Society." These tubes were used in aircraft altimeters during World War II and we have hundreds of them to give away. They have become popular souvenirs for our visitors. From all indications, the home schoolers enjoyed their tour.

The January Monday Night Meeting program was given by member Michael Spanos on the invention of the light bulb. Forget who you think invented the light bulb, Thomas Edison was one of many working on the early light bulb and was given the most credit based on his efforts. Michael passed around several samples of light bulbs, including a 1909 tungsten filament Edison Mazda Lamp, which Dave Cisco is holding in the following picture. Mazda was the Greek god for light and wisdom.
Dave Cisco holding a 1909 tungsten filament Edison Mazda Lamp with a magazine ad for it.

Michael Spanos presenting the program on the invention of the light bulb at the January night meeting.
The February Monday night meeting will be held at the Shop on February 26, beginning at 6 p.m. Following a brief business meeting, there will be a program that will preview our AHRS Forum to be presented at the Hamfest on March 3. This Forum is about Clandestine Radios and a closer look at the Enigma Machine we will have on display during the Hamfest.

Instructor Joe Miner continues to teach the monthly radio class where he has been covering in detail the operation of the All American Five (AAF) radio, section by section. His February class was well attended and covered a review of the circuit operation of the AAF, Ohm’s Law, Kirchoff’s Laws, audio output circuits and basic radio analysis.

The next radio class is scheduled for March 10, the second Saturday in March, since the first Saturday is the Birmingham Hamfest. Joe will continue the circuit analysis of the AAF and will help troubleshoot any student radio restoration projects. He will additionally review power supplies in old radios.

Instructor Joe Minor explaining the signal path and function of each section of the All American Five radio.

The Shop has been busy, and I caught some new members working on their radios, as well as, some of the regular folks routinely restoring old radios in the following pictures.

Don Letchman working to rebuild an RCA Model 103 Speaker for the Shop radio display.
Don Letchman with finished RCA 103 Speaker with a new grill cloth.

Michael Bainbridge aka Big Mike working on his radio. Big Mike has been under the weather and it is great to have him back working around the Shop.
Jim Rogers working with Ron Studdard on Ron's Globe 700 radio.

Dee Haynes and Hector King from Atlanta working on Hector's console radio.
Jim Rogers and Dee Haynes rewinding a speaker coil.

Larry Lokey, Hop Hayes, Jim Rogers watching Maurice Hill restore a radio with unique problems.
Several opportunities are coming up for our Society to display for, sell to and educate the public about our objectives and to bring in some needed funds. The Birmingham Hamfest is the first opportunity on March 2 and 3 at the Zamora Temple in Irondale, AL.

We will have ten tables of historic displays, radios, test equipment, books and magazines for sale. Also, we will present a Forum on Clandestine Radios, including an Enigma Machine, like those used in World War II. Member Mike Lord is leading the effort on Clandestine Radios. He has built several into small suitcases based on actual information about these radios used in World War II.

AHRS Sales Tables at the 2017 Birmingham Hamfest

The next opportunity will be having a table or two at a local Vintage Stereo Swap Day at Tom's Sound (no relation) on April 7, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the store at 4013 1st Avenue North in Birmingham. I looked through our stored stereo equipment in the Annex and we have enough receivers, tuners, tape decks, record players, and amplifiers to fill a couple of tables. This is another opportunity to clear out some inventory and make a little money.

The next opportunity is the Legends of Broadcast, an event we have conducted the past seven years with great success. Local broadcast on-air and off-air personalities are invited to our Shop for a tour, a nice meal and several hours of story-telling and a lot of fellowship for those present. This year's event is scheduled for April 19, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Shop. This is not a fundraising event, but a fun event.
These are most of the past broadcasters attending the 2017 Legends of Broadcast. Sterling Brewer was there speaking for at least 20 minutes and left before this picture was made (Sterling passed away shortly following the Legends event in April). On the left front are Ed Levin and his wife. Ed told us his story of being kidnapped by terrorists while working as a journalist in the middle east and the efforts his wife made to get his release. This was a very moving story, while most of the Legends’ stories are a little lighter.

On most Saturday mornings, member Tom Hayes from Northport, AL, brings in a radio that he has completely restored to better than new condition. Saturday, February 10, Tom brought in a rare radio impeccably restored. It caught everybody's eye and has created a desire to purchase it for display in our Museum. It is a Search Light Radio by G & F Radio Sales Company made in 1938. It is considered to be very rare by radio collectors who know radios.
Search Light Radio by G & F Radio Sales Company made in 1938 restored by Tom Hayes.

Until next time!

**Tom Killian**
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music.tomdj@gmail.com
About 85 years ago, before there were over 30,000 AM/FM/TV stations, before there was streaming video and audio, and before there was the internet with all of its offerings - there was simply radio. In fact, there were only 10 stations in all of Alabama in the 1930’s and only a few more than 650 in the Northern Hemisphere. Listening to all the available stations in the United States may not have been possible, but the chance of listening to all of them was significantly greater than accomplishing that feat today.

On one of the work days at the shop a few weeks ago, Dave Cisco showed me a Radio Tours Map and suggested that it be included in our newsletter. The map unfolds into a full-size map of the 48 states, Canada and Mexico so it is not feasible to put it all in the newsletter. However, it is practical to highlight the more interesting parts of the map and I will attempt to do that here. If you are interested in seeing the complete map, just see Dave; he will have it in the library and will be glad to share it with you.

Shown first is the cover of the map from World Radio in Boston, Massachusetts. Note that the map cost 10 cents, which was just about the price of a gallon of gasoline, the price of five postage stamps or more than the price for a loaf of bread. Not being a tube person, I was taken by the RCA Cunningham Radiotron tube logo and surprised to read some of the history associated with that brand. If you are interested in the subject, just search for RCA Cunningham Radiotron in your favorite internet search engine and you can find the whole story. Just a little tease here, it involves theft and corporate shenanigans.
The next scan was a description of America’s Latest Game – Radio Tours.

Next came the details for what was required to play this game. Even though the print may be small, this is a pdf document and you can zoom in with your reader to see all the text.
THE RADIO WAVES ARE CALLING!

Have you ever wished to visit California, New York, Texas, Illinois, Florida, Montana, or any one of the 42 other States of the Union? Would you like to spend tonight in Canada or Mexico? Or would you rather pay a flying visit to Los Angeles, Chicago, Salt Lake City, New Orleans, Washington, or any one of the hundred other great cities of America? Maybe you are tired of big-city life and would rather spend an enjoyable evening in some small town—let’s say Albuquerque, New Mexico, North Platte, Nebraska or Bangor, Maine.

Thousands of people are finding that there is a new way to travel—a method that is thousands of times faster than the airplane—R-A-D-I-O—a method that is so inexpensive that the cost is measured in terms of pennies instead of hundreds of dollars—R-A-D-I-O.

These people are “seeing” the United States, Canada and Mexico by radio. They have found that there are hundreds of good things on the air every day. No longer do they say “There’s nothing interesting on the air tonight,” for they have found that by travelling the ether waves they can have almost any type of entertainment they desire when they want it—from opera to jazz, from the folk-lore of Canada to the Mexican serenade, from big city politicians to small town council men telling why they should be elected, from the chorus of America’s greatest churches to the Negro spirituals of the South lands, from lectures on cooking to university courses. Adventure! The Radio Waves are full of it.

Recent years have witnessed the tremendous growth of the chain broadcasting systems—the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System. But in the meantime, local stations have not been standing still—they have grown in power and prestige. They have good shows as well as good technical equipment. For every radio station affiliated with NBC or Columbia there are two stations that are not.

Many of today’s outstanding chain features were once local station programs—Rise of the Goldbergs, Lum and Abner, Seth Parker, The Mills Brothers, Amos ‘N’ Andy, Rudy Vallée, and a host of others. Those people who know how to travel by radio are listening to tomorrow’s chain features today—for there are hundreds of stars on local stations today who will be the shining lights of next month’s or next year’s chain broadcasting programs.

All of the good programs don’t get on the networks. There’s not room enough for them. During the Fall months all of the important college football games are broadcast, even though they don’t get on the chains. If your favorite college football game is not being broadcast by either NBC or Columbia, you can probably find it on a local in or near the city where the college is located. This is but an example of what you can expect from local stations.

While these radio listeners are discovering the entertainment possibilities of local stations, others living outside of New York, Chicago and San Francisco, the key broadcasting points of NBC and Columbia, are finding that all of the programs presented daily by the key stations at those points do not reach their local stations that are affiliated with NBC or Columbia. But that doesn’t worry them, for they are able to tune in either New York, Chicago or San Francisco, direct—thus getting big-city programs when they want them.

To enjoy radio travel, look well to the following:

1. **You need a good radio set.** A poor radio set will not bring in distant stations. A four or five tube set may do for locals, but to bring in distant stations you need plenty of power. This extra power makes for fine reproduction of local programs and at the same time enables you really to travel the Radio Waves.

2. **Your set must be properly installed and serviced.** Even a good set will not get distant stations unless it has a good antenna system. Every part of your radio set must be in good working order.

3. **You need good tubes.** A good set, properly installed and serviced, is of little value unless it is properly powered. It must have good radio tubes. And good tubes mean either Cunningham Radio Tubes or RCA Radiotrons—tubes designed with reserve power—power that tracks down the weakest radio signal and keeps bringing it into your home so that it can be understood and enjoyed.

4. **The power of the station you want to listen to.** In general, the more power a station has, the further it can be heard.

5. **Atmospherics.** The atmospheric conditions have an effect on radio reception from distant as well as local stations. Strong static, either natural or man-made, will prevent good radio reception.
Since it was not possible to present the complete map here, only the southeastern states are shown below. Note the three stations listed for Birmingham – WAPI on a frequency of 1140 kilocycles, WBRC on 930 kilocycles, and WKBC on 1310 kilocycles. It is interesting to note that all three of these stations still exist today. WAPI is at 1070 KHz. WBRC became WERC and is at home today on 960 KHz. WKBC became WSGN when the Birmingham News bought the station in 1932 and today is WAGG at 610 KHz. Note also on the map is a “performance yardstick” for measuring the success of the participation in the game.
Next comes the tips on touring the stations. Included are the pages that included Alabama, Florida and Georgia as shown on the map.

**TIPS ON RADIO TOURING**

**PROGRAM TIMES ARE THOSE USED BY LOCAL STATION. SEE TIME ZONES ON MAP**

**ALABAMA.** Here the radio tourist can jump from bustling Birmingham to Montgomery ‘the cradle of the Confederacy,’ and then on to historic Mobile, where the influence of Spanish, French, and Southern Colonial appears in the old buildings and homes.

**ARIZONA** has 500-watt broadcast stations in Tucson and Phoenix. Most radio tourists will have a hard time getting to these cities, but if you have a sensitive set and good radio tubes you will find it well worth while listening to the stations that are ‘local’ to many a cow-boy and miner.

**ARKANSAS** is famous for its cotton, rice, and oil, and, in former days, for its slow trains. The fastest method of visiting the State today is to tune in KHNS at Hot Springs, which is the last gasp of both pleasure and health resorts because of the curative powers of the springs and the beauty of the surrounding Ouachita Mountain scenery. “Kum To Hot Springs” is the slogan of this 10,000-watt station. On Wednesday nights from 7 to 7:30 there is a variety show known as “Voices of Hot Springs.” The State’s second most powerful station, KLRA, is in Little Rock, the capital. During the political session, try either station for an insight into Arkansas politics.

**CALIFORNIA.** To Western and Mid-western radio tourists, the supreme thrill is “visiting” this land of orange blossoms, giant trees, varied scenery, and movie lots. The two major chain systems originate many programs in Los Angeles and San Francisco which are confined to their Pacific Coast networks and are never heard east of the Rockies except by those who reach out for their radio enjoyment. Pacific Coast Network programs are not hard to get from the 50,000-watt stations, of which there are several in California’s two largest cities. Or for more local color, try one of the other stations, Visit San Francisco’s China Town; be present at a first night in Hollywood. Try “Hi Jinks” some Sunday night from 8 to 9 p.m. over KFWB, or Al Pearce’s Gang over KFI from 2 to 3 every afternoon.

**CANADA.** Did you know that some Canadian stations make announcements in both English and French? The Province of Ontario, and especially the city of Toronto, have a large share of the stations, but don’t miss the ones farther west and north.

**COLORADO** is usually thought of as a mining State, but in late years irrigation has made agriculture the first industry of this vast rectangular empire that slopes away from the Rocky Mountain range down to the flat plains of the east and south. The farmer has taken his place with the miner and the cow-person and sugar beets are an important product of the State. Besides many other minerals, the State makes important contributions of rare radium, tungsten, and helium. Denver, Greeley, and Colorado Springs should be visited by the radio tourist. Try KOA at Denver.

**CONNECTICUT.** Hartford, the capital of the State, is the home of great insurance companies and of two broadcasting stations of importance. WDR is affiliated with the Columbia System; WTIC, a 50,000-watt station owned by Travelers Insurance Company, is a member of NBC. Both stations, however, have noteworthy local programs. Norman Cloutier and his “Merry Madcaps,” called one of the seven of the Nation’s best orchestras by Paul Whiteman, are frequently presented over NBC, but may be heard even more often direct from WTIC. Likewise, Christian Kriens and the WTIC Concert Orchestra of 40 pieces.

**DELAWARE,** producer of high explosives and delicious tomatoes, is a challenge to the radio tourist. Wilmington has two stations. If your set is a good one, and you are not too far away, you may get them.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.** Get the Washington news with the local color. Tune in WMAL, WRC, or WOL in the Capital, or WJZ in.

**FLORIDA.** Radio tourists from most of the Southern States visit the State most often via WFLA-WSAN at Clearwater. “Bob-O-Links,” a male trio heard every Friday at 10 p.m., is a favorite. University of Florida, at Gainesville, offers educational courses, treating many subjects, over WRUF from 6 to 6:15 each evening during the school year. On cold winter nights you may, by tuning in one of the Miami stations, hear the sounds of the geyser of those who dance outdoors under a tropical moon to the melodies of some of the country’s exclusive society orchestras.

**GEORGIA.** “Empire State of the South,” rich in climate, resources, in traditions of the Old South and in the talent to portray them over the radio waves, offers many attractions to radio listeners. Aggressive Atlanta, with its equable climate and many railroads, is in sharp contrast to somnolent Savannah, where days are hot and life is pleasantly leisurely, and from whence sailed the first steamship to Europe from the United States. Regular features at Atlanta’s WSB are the male quartet known as “Daniel and His Brothers of the Lion’s Den.”

**IDAHO** contributes lumber, minerals, cattle, sheep, large-sized potatoes, and several interesting radio stations to the country. KIDD at Boise offers you some of the atmosphere of the great open spaces.

**ILLINOIS.** Chicago, the metropolis, thinks of itself as the City of Destiny, and one glance at a relief map of the Western Hemisphere gives the reason, for here is the natural capital of the richest and most productive valley of the world. This greatest railroad center of the Nation is also its second greatest radio broadcasting center. In 1893, Chicago’s World’s Fair gave the impetus which started the country up out of the slough of depression; again in 1933 this indomitable city defies the spectator and has another great exhibition as unique as was the first. Countless good programs originate in Chicago each week. Try the Argus-Titan.

*Hollywood premieres are something to sit up nights listening to.*

Dance Hour every night over WGN at 10:30, or the Palmer House Ensemble at 1:15 Sundays. WBBM is always good. Or reach out to Moosehead, where you may get the pianist, Moissey Boguslawski, or to Rockford, where WIFV presents the ”Rhythm Kings” each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5 p.m.

**INDIANA.** The Hoosier State, is justly proud of the contributions its authors and poets have made to American literature. Typical of the State are the Owensboro Barn Dance from Stations WSRT-WPAM from 8 to 9 p.m. Thursday evenings. “Uncle Jim and His Dandelion Frolics” from WIND each Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Melodie Dinglehooper’s Little German Band from WGAF.

**IOWA.** “where the tall corn grows” and where there are more autos per thousand people than in any other State. Travel to the interesting points in the State with Cheerful Stan, the Standard Oil Service Man, in the “Hitting the Highways” program from 8 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays over WOC-WHO. For real old-fashioned melodrama, tune in on the Tent Show of the Air presented by KKO in Des Moines.

**KANSAS** might be called the Crouching State, its entire history reflects the spirit of the abolitionists of Yankee Puritan stock who settled the State during the troublous days when slavery was a vexing political issue. KFKC, the University of Kansas station at Lawrence, offers courses in Elementary French Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:45, German Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:30. Listen to Organ Melodies from KBBI, Abilene, 5:30 p.m.
Of course, if a distant station was received on a frequency, the Kilocycle Index was required to help identify the station. This is only a part of the listing.
Since this tour is presented by the RCA Cunningham Radiotron, it is only fair to present the ad associated with the sponsor.

![Radio Tubes Ad](image)

I must admit that I enjoyed looking at this souvenir from the past and thank Dave for showing it to me.

Until we meet again in the theatre of the mind....

**Larry Lokey**
larry@otronmp3.com
Website - otronmp3.com
SATURDAY MEETINGS

We meet every Saturday (unless a Holiday weekend) at 9:00 a.m., at the one-story AHRS Shop at the corner of 8th Avenue North and 18th Street, (1801 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Birmingham, AL 35203). Use the rear (Southeast) entrance.

SHOP ON TUESDAYS

The Shop is open on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. until around 11:30 a.m. when we go to Marilyn’s Deli and Dog for lunch next door. Note that parking can be a problem on Tuesdays, so you may have to find street parking occasionally.

REGULAR MEETINGS

We meet on the fourth Monday night of each month, too, at 6:00 p.m. 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 radios. 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!
Membership dues are $25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Treasurer Mike Woodruff at 205-823-7204. Dues can be mailed to AHRS at P.O. Box 131418, Birmingham AL 35213.

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2018 HAMFEST AND SWAP SCHEDULE

03/24/2018 | Ides of March Hamfest
Location: Union City, TN
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://reelfootarc.com

10/20/2018 | Tennessee State Convention (Hamfest Chattanooga 2018)
Location: East Ridge, TN
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.w4am.net
More: Southeastern hamfests; WA7BNM Contest Calendar; Contest Corral; QRP Contests; State QSO parties; Special Event Stations; North America SOTA events; DX Bulletins