



August 2009



### ***A NOTE FROM THE PREZ***

July turned out to be a very busy month. John Outland, Ed Boutwell, and I went to Montgomery on the 10<sup>th</sup> and spent most of the day with Pete Sides. Pete really enjoyed the visit, but has since had a fall and is now in a nursing home. We are trying to get everyone to send cards encouraging him to get well enough to go back home.

Robert Frye had class on the 11<sup>th</sup> and, for a summer month, we had a good attendance. Dee has written extensively about the Railroad Museum below, so I won't steal his thunder but we spent lots of time and had fun doing this project.

Dee and I had the program for the Birmingham Aero Club on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Southern Museum of Flight. We had about 60 people in attendance, and they fed us very well. There were 6 of us from AHRS that attended. The interview Don Kresge had done with Glenn Messer in 1993 was a big hit as part of the presentation.

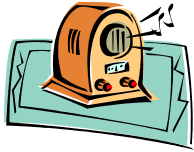
We had several boxes of magazines and books donated for our library. If anyone has time to assist Dee in the cataloging, he would really like some help.

We had two new members join this month. We continue to grow.

Marvin Shepherd is working on our Philharmonic radio every chance he has to come to the shop. It's looking GREAT; hopefully we will be able to show it off soon.

That's all for now. Come out and join the fun every chance you get.

*Dave*



## **DEE'S RADIO SHOWS**

Good things happen when we work together to accomplish a project, and so completes our display at the Heart of Dixie Rail Road Museum in Calera, Alabama. Thanks go out to Martin F Jue of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. for donating the MFJ-447 keyer, which drives the authentic railroad sounder on long-term loan from Hop Hays. Hop also loaned a railroad key, which sits under the finger of Bruce, our mannequin dressed in period clothing. By the way, Joel Tilman found and ordered Bruce, our mannequin. The keyer is driven by a solid state device designed and built by Kyle Owen. Triggered by a motion detector donated by Mike Husband, the keyer will sound out in Morse Code a message programmed by Mike Lord, which identifies The Alabama Historical Radio Society as the creator of this project. The driver is timed so that the sounder goes off no sooner than 3 minutes after the previous message. If you attended the club meeting on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, you got to see the results of our labors. Those in attendance for the installation at the museum were Dave Cisco, Hop Hays, Kyle Owen, Mack White, and I.

Pictured below, Kyle helps install the equipment he designed behind the desk. Only one final detail will wrap up the display and that is a placard that will give us credit for the project. I don't think that very many people will be able to read the Morse Code.



A lot of names were mentioned in the paragraph above, and it goes to show you that much can be accomplish when we all get together on a single project.

I can't leave the newsletter without mentioning the old radio show that I am listening to now, namely Si and Elmer. This was a daily serial that ran around 12 minutes about two old codgers who have taken a correspondence course to become private eyes. They get into all kinds of trouble. The show was written and aired somewhere around 1931 or 1932. I checked with Tim Hollis about the show, and he said that Lum and Abner were on the air first. It seems that "hick" shows were very popular in the early 30's. They seemed to glamorize the simple life, which was, of course, the best medicine for the heart of the depression era. If you would like to listen to Si and Elmer, go to the following link.

<http://www.archive.org/details/SiAndElmer>

*Dee Haynes*

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## ***MEETING TIMES***

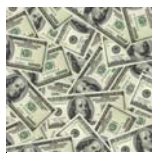
We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 at the Alabama Power Building on Parkway East (aka Centerpoint Parkway) in Huffman. The organization's space is accessed from the rear of the building, so park around the back (by means of Huffman Road, which runs parallel to the Parkway). Entry is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

**Come to the Monday Night Meetings, TOO, on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 INFORMATION***

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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