



The Alabama Historical Radio Society Newsletter

January 2009



A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

Well, the New Year has started in spite of all we left unfinished in 08. Last year was certainly a special year for our group. We added several new members, more storage space, had lots of donations, performed for 13 groups of over 750 people, and continued our classes teaching members to fix old radios. It seems that every month of last year had some special memory attached to it.

The Christmas party was attended by 49 members and family. I checked for foundation cracks at the Cisco house after everyone left; fortunately, none were found. What a wonderful time was had by all.

We have much to look forward to in 2009. We will be adding more museum space downtown, Dee and I already have 8 shows scheduled, our Scott radio will be completed soon, and these are just a few of the projects to be worked on.

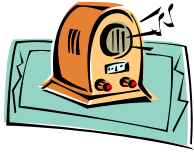
If you haven't looked at our website recently, we have made several changes to improve it. We are averaging over 20,000 hits per month now.

I want to encourage every member to get active this year--find your niche and help us make this year better than 2008 (it will be difficult, but we can do it).

Dues for 09 need to be sent to Julian or brought to a meeting.

Happy New Year to all. See you on Saturdays or the 4th Monday night.

Dave



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

Hi Folks!

Say, let's do something a little different this time. I would like to introduce you to a man named Paul Rhymer. Born in 1905, he grew up in Illinois. While in high school, he won the Merwin Award for short stories. His writing career continued on into the college years. After finishing college, he struggled until 1929 when a man named Clarence Menser discovered Paul and put him to work as a writer for NBC Radio. And, the show Vic and Sade was born.

Vic and Sade were voted the best radio serial by 600 radio editors. Paul's writing was praised by many famous people, including James Thurber, Ogden Nash, John O'Hara, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, James Gould Cozzens, Cliff Arquette, Stan Freberg, Tony Randall, Ray Bradbury, Jean Shepherd and Norman Corwin. Nash and O'Hara both compared Rhymer to Mark Twain, while others have likened him to Charles Dickens.

Sound interesting? Would you like to hear more? Then, listen to Vic and Sade on the following web site:

<http://vicandsade.net/episodes.cgi>

You can also see me for a copy of the shows from our collection. The show is a little unusual in that there are no sound effects. The entire show is done by three actors. The characters are Victor Gook, his wife Sade and their 14-year-old son Rush. The shows are only about 8 minutes long, not including a Crisco commercial at the beginning and end. I've been listening to the shows for a few weeks now. There are a little over 300 shows available. Sadly, there were more than 3000 shows produced, but when the show went off the air, Proctor and Gamble, the sponsors, deciding that there was not enough room to store all the transcription disks, destroyed all but about 350 of the platters. What a shame!

With that in mind, the next time you folks decide to throw away an old radio or a publication about old radio or shows, please call us. We'll take the stuff off your hands plus give you a tax break.

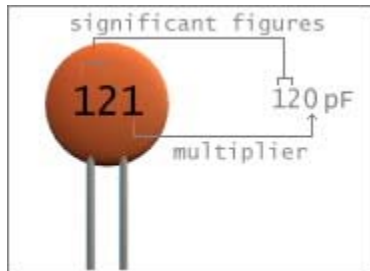
See you next month maybe, from the small house halfway up in the next block.

Dee Haynes

205-243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

Joe Minor, K4JOE, has contributed the following article about capacitor numbers. Many thanks, Joe, for the informational article. His email address is: k4joe1@gmail.com.

A Beginner's Guide to Capacitor Numbers



I do mean a Beginner's guide.... I have been a member of the Alabama Historical Radio Society for about a year, and I have learned much from the members, especially in Robert's class. This will be a review for some of you "old timers."

Capacitors and Resistors are the two most common parts used in electronics. Most of us know the sayings for Resistor Color codes. Remember the Mnemonics (a device to help us remember) for the colors of the Rainbow: Roy G. Biv

With this we come up with:

0 = Black

1 = Brown

2 = Red (**R** for R in **R**oy)

3 = Orange (**O** for O in r**O**y)

4 = Yellow (**Y** for Y in ro**Y**)

5 = Green (**G** for G in roy **G**. biv)

6 = Blue (**B** for B in **B**iv)

7 = Indigo or Violet as used in Resistors (**IV** for IV in **bIV**)

8 = Gray

9 = White

So: Red Red Red would be 222 or 22 and 2 zeros or 2200 ohms or 2.2K Ohms

Now, all you have to remember is Black Brown --Roy G. Biv -- Gray White
That's enough of Resistors, now on to Capacitors.

Capacitors come in 2 main types:

Electrolytic

Non- Electrolytic

Most electrolytic capacitors have the values and voltage printed on them. The Non-Electrolytic capacitors have “weird” numbers printed on them, and this is what we will discuss.

There is not enough room to print the non-electrolytic capacitors with the information that is printed on the Electrolytic. So, Scientific notation was used as a means of identifying the values. Scientific notation is used to express very large or very small numbers.

1 picofarad = 1×10^{-12} Farads (0.000,000,000,001 Farads) (Decimal place 12 places to left, if the -12 was +12, then one would need to move the decimal place to the right 12 places.)

1 microfarads = 1×10^{-6} Farads (0.000,001 Farads) (Decimal place 6 places to left)

For example:

10^2 is $10 \times 10 = 100$

Another way of saying the same thing is 1×10^2 or $1 \times (10 \times 10) = 100$

$1 \times 10^3 = 1 \times (10 \times 10 \times 10) = 1000$

$1 \times 10^4 = 1 \times (10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10) = 10,000$

Now for the Capacitor numbers.

For example, take a capacitor that is numbered 104.

The first two numbers are specific values, with the 1 equal to the first figure.

The 0 is equal to the second figure.

Now we have 10 xxx ...something.

The third value of 4 (in a 104 cap) is the multiplier.

$\times 10^4$ or 1×10^4 or

$1 \times (10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10) = 10,000$

Then 10 (from the first 2 numbers in 104) $\times 10,000 = 100,000$.

This 100,000 is in picoFarads.

To change to microFarads, one must move the decimal place 6 places to the left. Now we have 0.1 uF for the number 104 Capacitor.

For our next example let's use a capacitor numbered 224.

A simple way to remember this is to use the first and second numbers, then add the number of zeros indicated by the multiplier. In this case for a capacitor numbered 224, the multiplier would be 4, so use the **22 and add 4 zeros or 220,000 picoFarads**. Now move the decimal 6 place to the left to change from picoFarads to microfarads, and we get 0.22 uF.

Try These.....

| Code | pF | uF |
|------|--------|--------|
| 102 | 1000 | 0.001 |
| 103 | 10000 | 0.01 |
| 104 | 100000 | 0.1 |
| 202 | 2000 | 0.002 |
| 223 | 22000 | 0.022 |
| 224 | 220000 | 0.22 |
| 332 | 3300 | 0.0033 |
| 473 | 47000 | 0.047 |
| 474 | 470000 | 0.47 |

Some Capacitors use color codes. To learn more about capacitors color codes, voltages and tolerance and such, come to Roberts' class, which is usually held the first Saturday of each month. See you there.

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 DUE

Membership dues are \$25 a year, payable beginning in January. If you have questions about the dues, you can contact Julian at 205-879-3619. **Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 130307, Birmingham AL 35213.**

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