

The Alabama Historical Radio Society

July 2006



A NOTE FROM THE PREZ

June was another great month. Even with vacations, we are still having good attendance at club functions.

Robert's class the first Saturday was on transformers, and the "handout" was worth the trip. Robert does a great job, not only with his teaching, but the color handout was a treasure of information to keep for future use. During class we had a distinguished visitor, "Wimp" Sanderson, who came to pick up his transoceanic and said hello to the class.

On June 15, three of us worked on the display cabinets at Alabama Power. We got three cabinets wired and tested. Bill Tharpe called and said they had completed their part of the wiring and the cabinets looked great. We will complete the job this month.

Robert Matthews continues to improve our website with pictures and radio programs. I was out of town for the regular meeting on the 4th Monday, so thanks to Ron Westbrook for handling the meeting. I hear Joel did a superb job explaining how to do various types of wood refinishing. Thanks Ron and Joel!

We have a new book in our library--I found a book about Heinrich Hertz in a used book store in Virginia. He is the person most people credit with the beginning of radio in 1888. The book explains how he conducted his lab experiments with 10 cm waves. It is quite interesting.

That's all for this month.

Dave



ELECTRONICS CLASSES

N2DS Dave's Homemade Single Tube Breadboard Radio

I would like to bring the members up to date on our electronic classes held the first Saturday morning of the month. We have covered very much material on different parts of the radio. At our next class, we will be working on our breadboard radio. We will be putting a signal into the radio and looking at it on the scope and meters. We will be showing how to read voltage level at given points. Also, we will be putting troubles into the radio and let the students do troubleshooting.

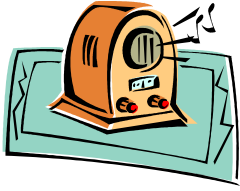
We have been asked when the next class will start. A new class will not start until we complete this one, and I don't see us completing this one until the end of the year. We have had a few students to come in, and I know members are trying to bring them up to date. I want to thank all the students for attending every class; this has allowed us to move along at a good pace.

If any one has questions about the lessons or has a lesson they would like for us to cover on radios, please let me know, and we will work it into our lessons.

Thanks,

Robert Frye
Instructor

Note from your newsletter editor: I am learning quite a bit from you all. Thanks to Google, when I am looking for an illustration for an article, I am usually able to find something appropriate (of course, I run it by my husband Tom to see if I am completely off base.) When I saw the term breadboard radio, I was fascinated to see what it was—since we do homemade bread, I was anxious to see if there was a relationship between the use of the word breadboard in radio and bread making!



DEE'S RADIO SHOWS

Hello Old Time Radio fans.

One of the nice things about writing a column about OTR is that you can write on just about anything that was on Old Time Radio. This month I think I'll go way out in left field, well, maybe not quite that far. Maybe I'll just go out to the pitcher's mound. How many of you remember Dizzy Dean? Born in 1910, Dizzy was a pitcher during the 30's and 40's and after retiring from the mound, he became a broadcaster extraordinaire. He was well known for his total abuse of the King's English. (I wasn't going to capitalize King or English, but this stupid computer made me do it!)

Dizzy was well known for his use of the word ain't. When an English teacher complained about his use of the word, he said, "A lot of people who ain't using ain't, ain't eatin'." Another of his famous lines was "he slud into third." Someone once asked him if he used the products that he advertised and he replied, "Sure I eat Wheaties for breakfast. A good bowl of Wheaties and bourbon can't be beat." Dean began broadcasting play by plays in 1950 and continued for more than 20 years. He died in 1974.

I have fond memories of sitting by the radio with my dad in the evening listening to Dizzy Dean calling the play by plays. Coincidentally, while I am writing this, I am listening to a recording of a Yanks vs. (Brooklyn) Dodgers World Series Game from October 8, 1956. Dizzy is not announcing this game, but I am enjoying it anyway. I have a few baseball games in my collection dating as far back as 1934. If any of you would like copies, just let me know. To my knowledge, I don't have any broadcasts of Dizzy Dean. If anybody out there knows where some are available let me know.

Just a touch of history from my own past, some of you know that I just retired from the Associated Press. I remember when I started work at the Atlanta office back in the early 70's, the AP sent teletype operators to the Braves games to "punch" out the play by play which was put out on one of our sports wires. Local radio stations could get this copy and have someone read the play by play on the air right off the teletype. If the guy was good, and some of them were very good, he could make you think that he was actually at the stadium. I recall listening to an interview on National Public Radio with Red Barber when he told of the guy reading the teletype. A player was up at bat when the phone lines developed a problem. Needless to say the play by play stopped coming in. For the inexperienced broadcaster this would have been disastrous, but for the veteran that Red referred to, he just had the batter keep hitting foul balls till the lines were cleared up. I think that the batter hit a record number of foul balls that night.

Well enough of my rattling. No runs, no hit,s no errors. Well, maybe a few grammatical errors, See you in the dugout.

Dee Haynes

243-4630 or k4hfx@bellsouth.net

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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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

Membership dues are \$25 a year. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Julian at 205-879-3619.

Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 130307, Birmingham AL 35213.

WHO TO CONTACT

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