

# Southeastern Antique Radio Society

Newsletter  
www.sarsradio.com

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Caution: Performing repairs on radios can be dangerous. SARS assumes no responsibility for accidents resulting from any information contained in its website or newsletters.

## Editor's Message

LLOYD TATE

Greetings Fellow Members and Guests, Our fall swap is over and thank you as always to the Golden Corral. As the cold slips in, we are now looking forward to our antique radio winter swap meet at a new location this year, the American Legion Post in Alpharetta.

Please join me in thanking Jim Powell for his multiple years of service as our club president. It is important for all to consider becoming involved in our club, the ongoing health of any organization depends on people willing to share just a little time and offering their leadership.

Hearty congratulations and big thank you to our new incoming president, Reed Fisher! Reed will lead us in 2018, please offer him your assistance with activities this coming year.



*"We have a new facility for the February 17<sup>th</sup> antique radio winter swap meet."*



## Join SARS Now:



Go to our Website at [www.sarsradio.com](http://www.sarsradio.com) for complete information on how to:

- Become a member
- Have fun at monthly dinner meeting
- Attend triannual swap meets for great deals – buy, sell, trade

### In This Newsletter

- Dwight Hill shares his copious notes with us from a recent radio club presentation on valuable cabinet refinishing from our local Mohawk products representative
- Members memories – how we became interested in old radios

### Winter Swap Meet Details

- Sat. February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- Seller set-up 9:00 AM
- Sales start 10:00 AM
- American Legion Post
- 201 Wills Road
- Alpharetta, GA 30009

*Notes from Southeast Antique Radio  
Society Mohawk Products  
Presentation  
Dwight Hill and Lloyd Tate*

As the last of the donuts from breakfast and pizza from lunch was gobbled down, we all sat down to hear how we might improve upon our woodworking side of radio restoration. As the lights dimmed, we all turned on our thinking caps to perhaps pick up some new tidbit for our cabinet restoration projects. Following is a collection of notes which are not in any particular order, but we hope you find value from.

When refreshing (not re-finishing) a lacquer finish:

- Clean it
- Sand with 400 or 600 sandpaper
- Glaze if desired to fill light scratches
- Apply toner if you want for color
- Finish with lacquer (consider water based if desired)

See the many descriptions below of Mohawk products and how they can be used for refreshing or refinishing your wood radio cabinet.

**Mohawk Acetone:** use acetone to remove urethane finishes.

**Mohawk "Quick Clean":** use to remove oils and silicone based finishes, labels, and glues from wood surfaces prior to applying a new finish. Also removes unwanted glaze during the glazing process.

**Mohawk "No Blush" and "Super Blush Retarder":** use for white water spots or rings in lacquer finishes. To remove water rings, use 400 grit sandpaper, then 600 grit sandpaper to level scratches in the finish. Then dust with Super Blush Retarder.

**Mohawk "Perfect Blend":** use for touch-ups to existing top coats.

**Mohawk "Scratch & Mar Resister Polish":** designed to make finished wood surfaces more resistant to scratches and marring. Use this when you complete a piece. Comes in tints.

**Mohawk "Blendal Sticks":** use to cover discolorations and marks in wood grain like a cigarette burn (made from pigment powder). After use, spray with **Mohawk E-Z Vinyl Sealer** or **Mohawk Burn-In Sealer**. You can also use the **E-Z Vinyl Sealer** as a wash coat for soft woods.

**Mohawk Vinyl Sealer** can also be used as a sanding sealer.

**Mohawk “Brush Tip Markers”**: for creating wood grain lines and color to small defects.

**Mohawk “Finisher’s Glaze”**: to fill in light scratches. Use this glaze for quick and easy touch-ups, finishing applications, refinishing, and expedient application on carvings and into corners. It may be used anywhere you would typically use a bulk glaze. Apply generously over a sealer or finish coat. Remove excess as needed with a soft cloth or brush to achieve the final desired effect of color. Allow to dry (approximately 20-35 minutes) before applying a topcoat.

**Mohawk “Block-out Toner”**: use Block-Out to uniform off-color spots on furniture of all types. Problems of redness, darkness or shading can be solved using Block-Out. Use the orange toner to give a “pop” to the grain of the wood.

**Mohawk “Tone Finish Toner”**: used throughout the industry for quick efficient professional touch-up or building up dark edges. Contain finely ground, non-fading pigments for color repairs that last. Toners adapt to various methods so as to blend in spot repairs. Adjustment of sheen is achieved with a topcoat of clear lacquers available in gloss, satin, flat and dead flat.

**Mohawk “Ultra Classic Toner”**: used where extreme transparency and clarity is required. Fade resistant and non-bleeding dyes are used for the entire color line. These toners can be used for making small touch-up repairs, or for shading and toning an entire article. Use the appropriate clear lacquer aerosol if the sheen level needs adjustment.

Final note, not Mohawk specific, when refinishing down to bare wood or for new wood projects, consider using very light cut of shellac and pumice as grain filler. Good luck and here’s to making things beautiful again!

## *Memorable Radio Projects*

*Lloyd Tate*

When we think about our hobby of collecting and/or resurrecting antique radios, the technical aspect – the challenge of bringing a mysterious radio back to life and making it look almost new again is a big driver of what we do. For many of us, there are one or two projects that stick out in our memory. This article is based on recollections from members at a recent Southeast Antique Radio Society dinner meeting. They were asked via a questionnaire about favorite radio or manufacturer, most memorable project, the background of the project and details. Following are the stories of these brave members and their journeys to first sound.

A favorite radio of our outgoing president, Jim Powell, is a 1928 Radiola model 60 with a speaker table. Jim likes Radiola’s, he also has a model 18 and was very happy with the ease of chassis restoration.

The model 60 was acquired from the original owner's niece, so that's always cool when you come across something from the original family. It was in rough shape but showed promise. It was easy to get it playing well, but tough to refinish and fix the all the trim. Be that as it may, two months of hard work paid off, everyone always comments on how nice the results are.

The sense of fulfillment from restoring something that had a known family history was very enjoyable and gratifying. The cherry on the top came when Jim sent the family a video of the radio playing, their feedback was of amazement and appreciation knowing that it was in good hands.

Jim Milholland, another member of our club, loves Atwater Kent radios so much so that he has five of them ranging from 1924 to 1938. His most memorable project was a model 20C from 1925 which he bought at a swap meet along with a later model from 1937 as well. The 20C was a good value because it had all its tubes, at least that how it was rationalized – as one does. Jim's first impression was that the 20C was attractive, in that radio sort of way, plus it was historic. In addition, Atwater Kent quality is legendary. The 1937 model seemed to be a good value as well because it had been re-capped and was operational – it wasn't.

Jim worked hard and ultimately that 1937 radio was producing beautiful sound once again. His diagnosis found that the previous owners work had to be redone, this took several weeks but well worth it because everyone enjoys a good lesson learned. The biggest thing Jim learned from this project was how to correlate the schematic diagram to the actual wiring, always a challenge with antique schematics, even for the professionals.

Stay tuned next for our next newsletter to hear more from our members on their favorite radio stories!