

Southeastern Antique Radio Society

Newsletter
www.sarsradio.com

Spring 2018



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President's Message

REED FISHER

SARS closed out 2017 with a Dec. 2 party at Jim and Mary DelPrincipe's home near Dahlonega. We enjoyed a spectacular view, good food and great fellowship.

The first big event for 2018 was the Winter Swap Meet, Sat. Feb. 17, at the American Legion Post 201 in Alpharetta. The Swap was preceded by a Friday night dinner at the Alpha Soda restaurant in Alpharetta. Good food was enjoyed by at least a dozen SARS members and their wives.

Saturday was rainy, but attendance was great. There was a 50/50 raffle hosted by Jim Powell, an auction facilitated by Mark Palmquist and Sam Mashburn and pizza and soft drinks coordinated by Jim DelPrincipe. 31 tables were filled with sellers and their wares and there were plenty of buyers!

The afternoon keynote presentation was given by Brian Harrison, KN4R, of Charlotte, NC. Brian talked on two exciting subjects - WW-II spy radios and the ill-fated Amelia Earhart expedition in 1937. Big thank you to Brian from the Atlanta SARS members!

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Join SARS Now:



Go to our Website at 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

- Members memories continued – how we became interested in fine old radios

Next Time

- Member's favorite grounding philosophies for their radio projects.

Memorable Radio Project of SARS Members Lloyd Tate

Last quarter we shared stories from Jim Powell and Jim Milholland about their favorite radios and project details. Following are more stories of other brave members and their journeys to first sound.

For John Harris, it was a family affair, He and his brother built their first radio in the 1950's, while other kids were rockin round the clock listening to Chuck, Elvis, Carl, and Fats on the radio, the Harris brothers were building a homebrew radio with a coil, antenna, and headphones. Next they used a crystal and continued on in the hobby right up to this very day! John fondly remembers the Zenith radio his mother had been given that they used for many years.

Roger Wiley, proprietor of Rogers Audio and Video, remembers his favorite project with its genesis on the ham radio side. He built a ham radio repeater from scratch! It was tough and not what he expected, but worked through it and knew there was sound at the end of that tunnel. His favorite manufacturer – Hamtronics of course.

Like most of us, Steve Newman has interests beyond old radios, he likes to work on old TVs as well. His favorite is the old Philco Predicta, he likes a good challenge. His favorite radios are Sears old tube models. He can't recall how he started in the hobby, he was always interested as far back as he can remember. Steve just enjoyed taking things apart and figuring out what made them tick. I think we can all relate to that, I know I certainly can. The biggest thing he's learned through the years in this hobby is "patience, patience, patience".

And then there was Mark Palmquist, everyone's favorite dial lens maker. In 1999 Mark inherited a Grigsby-Grunow Model 20 Grandmother clock radio from none other than his grandmother who had purchased it new in 1930. Mark remembers turning that radio on as a boy and seeing smoke roll out the back of it. In 1999 he did not know anything about radios or where to get tubes and parts. Through help from people in the radio club and the purchase of a tube tester at his very first swap meet, Mark recapped that old radio and was thrilled when he first turned it on at 10PM and it was playing "The Shadow" on WSAI in Cincinnati. There was no turning back, he couldn't wait to get started on his next radio project!

Randy Mullinax's favorite radio project was the popular RCA 56X. His son and daughter-in-law had an old shed on their new property and in it was an old radio in pieces, and had been attacked by every bug and rodent you can imagine. First thought – TRASH CAN! However, Randy's wife

threw down the gauntlet and challenged him “you are supposed to know how to fix these things, take it on as a challenge”. Cracked case, missing oscillator coil, wrong tube, rusty chassis – sure why not, challenge accepted! He had to make several parts from scratch including the red dial pointer. After working on it off and on for several months, first sounds was achieved – way to go Randy!

A Stromberg Carlson console with turntable model 5U4 is Aries Kosmetatos’s favorite radio since it was his first to resurrect. It had been in his wife’s family and Aries wondered if he could get it to work – uh oh, the bug bites hard. It was AM/FM, but the unused FM band. It was all new to Aries but he jumped in like a champ and researched and researched and researched. Aries now has a collection of this manufacturer’s radios and others as well – it’s all about the journey, because there’s no end to this awesome hobby! Aries reminds us to pay attention to the value of caps and resistors because the tubes are not supposed to glow violet!

Last but not least, the favorite project for Sam Mashburn, grille cloth supplier to the rich and famous, was an old Zenith, his favorite manufacturer. He found it wondering around the Kutztown, PA radio swap meet at some fair price for sure. Sam noticed that it could be used with several different voltages, so that was a bit unusual, apparently it had been built for international sales. The electronics was pretty straightforward to fix, but the wood cabinet not so much. All the veneer had to be replaced, Sam learned a lot from that project friends, after 6 months of learned, he’s now quite the expert at veneer and wood repair and restoration.

So many stories and so little space, feel free to send us *your* favorite, funniest or worst radio restoration story for all to enjoy!