**Southeastern Antique Radio Society**

**2022 President’s Message**

Greetings and a happy 2022 to all our SARS friends and members. Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Dwight Hill, and I am the newly elected President of the Southeastern Antique Radio Society for 2022. I am honored to have been nominated for this position and humbled to have been elected. Since joining SARS in 2016, I am following in the footsteps of some outstanding former presidents. I could never match Jim Powell’s kindness and friendliness, Reed Fisher’s radio and engineering knowledge, or the late Jim Milholland’s professionalism and attention to detail. The best I can do is simply try to keep us going in 2022. With that being said, I want to personally thank Jim DelPrincipe, our Vice-President, for filling in and keeping our club going following Jim Milholland’s passing in July. For six months, Jim DelPrincipe was our President, Vice-President, Web Master, lead communicator, and head cook and bottle washer! Thank you, Jim, for your dedication to the club!

Looking back on the past year, I have realized that SARS has a lot to be proud of. Did you know that 2021 marked the 30th birthday of the club? We have long-time members like David Martin, Charlie Pierce, Paul Squires, and Don Patterson to thank for that. Secondly, I am proud of how we as a club came together in 2021 to keep our spirits lifted and our antique radio interests alive despite the Covid pandemic. Thanks to Lloyd Tate’s leadership, we were able to continue meeting regularly via Zoom conferencing. It was during this time when I learned that I truly have a face for radio! Those Zoom meetings worked so well for us that we managed to plan and hold a successful swap meet at Wills Park in Alpharetta on March 27th. Like the Covid vaccine, that swap meet was a good shot in the arm to keep our radio relationships and interests alive. (Speaking of which, a big shout out goes to Julie McCall of Radiopup for having the exact FADA dial needle I had been looking for. I had the center red hub from it but was missing the dial needle itself. Believe it or not, she had the exact dial needle…and it was missing the center hub! I couldn’t believe it! It was a match waiting to happen!)

Our Zoom meetings continued through June until Saturday, July 10th, when we were finally able to meet again in person at the Golden Corral in Cumming. We had seventeen in attendance that day and it was good to see those again who had attended. (Since that date we have continued to meet monthly on the second Saturday of the month for breakfast/brunch meetings in Cumming, though attendance has been fairly weak.) On June 12th, we held our Spring Swap Meet, but this one was in the parking lot of the American Legion Post in Alpharetta. The day was sunny and warm, and the enthusiasm was just as hot. On October 9th, we held our Fall Swap Meet, again in the parking lot of the American Legion post. Both swap meets were deemed a success as there were many buyers and sellers at each. Photos of the Fall swap meet can be seen on the SARS website: [www.sarsradio.com](http://www.sarsradio.com).

At the November club meeting the officers for 2022 were elected. In case you missed it, our Officers for 2022 are: Dwight Hill - President, Jim Del Principe - Vice President and Internet Webmaster, Paul Hart - Treasurer, Mark Edwards - Secretary, and Mark Palmquist – Director of Membership. Since that time, Gordon Hunter has been elected to Director of Publicity.

In December, Paul Hart coordinated and led us through an auction on the first phase of Jim Milholland’s radio collection. The auction of four radios went very well and generated a lot of interest in the radios as well as the auction process for radio collections in the future. For Jim’s collection, it was agreed that 50% of the proceeds would go to the club, and the other 50% to Jim’s widow, Ellen. Stay tuned to the SARS Club News for information on future auctions of Jim’s collection.

As I look ahead to 2022, I am excited that we have already set a date for our Winter Swap Meet; March 5th, 2022, inside the American Legion Post in Alpharetta. Look for more details to come, and please take the opportunity to volunteer to help with the event. Volunteering is a great way to get to know other friends and members of the club, especially when you are wearing your official SARS name badge. What’s that? You don’t have a name badge or have lost your name badge? Well did you know that we have a new supplier for our club’s name badges and we are collecting names of members in good status (membership fees paid) who need a new badge? It’s true! And the new badges are free! So, if you need a new badge, please contact Jim DelPrincipe at: radiokd1i@gmail.com so we can add your name to the list.

As mentioned earlier, our monthly breakfast/brunch meetings are now being held on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 9:00 AM, at the Golden Corral in Cumming, GA. Are Saturday’s bad for your schedule? Is the Cumming location too far a drive for you? Are Covid concerns now an unfortunate part of your life? The SARS officers would like to know.

Perhaps things with the club will never be the way they used to be “pre-Covid”, but your feedback and perspective are important. Covid restrictions and fears have shaken our membership and meeting attendance over the past year, and they are still lingering as different Covid variants are emerging. Regardless, we really want to hear your thoughts and suggestions about the club and how we might make improvements and increase participation. Remember, SARS is your club! Please let us know if you have any ideas for changes, activities, or events that you would like us to consider for 2022. You can email us through the SARS website at: webmaster@sarsradio.com or you can email me directly at: dwight.hill311@gmail.com.

Let’s have a great 2022, and I will see you at the next SARS event!!

Dwight Hill

SARS President