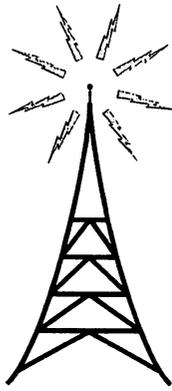


SARS  
RADIO  
CLUB



SPRING  
BULLETIN  
5-2000

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By Bob Niven/Secretary

## GENERAL INFO

Southeastern Antique Radio Society  
P.O. Box 1055  
Tucker, GA 30085-1055  
Club Officers

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### SARS REFLECTOR

sars-refl@g10.com

SWAP MEET on  
JUNE 10th !

## PRESIDENTS PAGE

By Gordon Hunter

If I haven't had the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year, Let me do it now. We're already over one quarter into the year 2000, and so I hope that all has been well for all of you. Since mid October I have been on a very hectic routine. Most of you know that I have a Christmas Tree farm, and the preparation begins in October and ends with the last day of business . usually the second weekend of December. Then it's recovery time for a week or so, and then on to the Christmas holidays, which we spend every year in California with a huge family gathering. Then we were back in Georgia for the New Years celebration. After that, things usually slow down quite a bit. Not this year! On January 10th I began about five weeks of very intensive training with my employer, Delta Airlines, to check out on a new aircraft. I had been flying as a Boeing 727 captain for about 10 years, and I made the choice to move up to the bigger L1011 for the last few years of my career. It's pretty hard to go back to school when you get older, but I managed to cram all the knowledge into my memory to pass the difficult oral exam on aircraft systems. Every time I pass one of those, I wonder how I do it for a liberal arts major. You all know un-technical I am when it comes to radios. Then there were simulator periods to learn procedures and to gain proficiency, and then another "check" ride. Needless to say, I had a very busy winter and my radio hobby got left behind. Bob Niven had to get out a winter news bulletin, and so he did it all himself. And then he also single-handedly (including his team of Marilyn) organized our new winter swap meet at his warehouse in Winder. He gets my vote of appreciation as our clubs most valuable member. And then to top it all off, he and Marilyn even provided a beautiful cake to commemorate my successful completion of training with Delta. Thanks for your kindness and your support.

Contd.. on page 2

President's page contd....

As for our winter meet in Winder-it was a great success! Everyone that I have spoken to since has given it great praise. The indoor facilities were excellent (especially since it was a bit rainy that day) and everyone there had a lot of fun. It was a special treat to have a live broadcast by WIMO, and we all had fun with dozens of interviews. I hope that we can do it again. There's room to expand, and I think that the mid February time was just right and gave us a break before the Charlotte meet. Thanks again to Bob and Marilyn and all our club members who helped in various ways.

The Charlotte meet is always much anticipated by our club members every year, and this year was no exception. We had a huge crowd here, and I think that we all had a good time. The weather was the best that I can remember, and the meet was almost as big as it was in years past. Over the last year or so we have seen a decrease in the size and quality of the big swap meets as the internet has taken a big bite out of the inventory. I think that we nearly all agree that one can most likely get a higher return on selling radios over the internet compared to a swap meet because of the wider range of potential buyers. But I hear from a lot of folks that it is still a lot more fun to come to the meets and interact with people and to renew old friendships. So maybe someday things will swing back to more emphasis on swap meet selling, that is if the supply of radios holds out. That is another subject that we can cover later. Anyway, my own feelings about Charlotte were mixed. I took home fewer radios than I ever had before, and thought that the auction was pretty weak. But overall, I enjoyed it and I will do it again.

Now we move on to the high season where there will be some sort of swap meet nearly every weekend around the country. I hope to make a few of them, schedule permitting, and I know that I'll see some of you at any one that I might attend.

Be sure to circle your calendar for our own summer meet at the new date of June 10th, with a dinner the night before at the Canyon Cafe in Alpharetta. The swap meet will begin at 8:00 AM and go until noon, and we will do it again

in conjunction with the Corvair Club of Atlanta. The Fairfield Inn will host us again and they give a \$50.00 room rate for guests. They really enjoy having us there, and they do a great job with the amenities.

Have a great collecting year, and I'll see you on the trail.

Gordon

### **Post Script-Death of a Dear Friend**

On April 3rd, thousands of Atlantans lost a very dear and beloved friend when WGKA signed off for the last time as the child of Joe Webber. This station was either loved or hated because of its quirky format, but it gained probably one of the most loyal listening audiences of any radio station in the area. I happened to have been one of those who truly loved the station. I had nearly every radio in my house that was working tuned in to 1190 on the AM dial as well as all of my car radios. There was no other radio station in the metro Atlanta that played music from sun up to sundown. There was something for everybody. If you didn't like a piece or a particular type of music, then you just waited until the next selection. Joe Webber had a great sense of humor, and he would compose all sorts of vignettes and characters that would have you laughing. He was really inventive and had a very good supporting cast. It was certainly a very special radio station that was probably unique in broadcasting today anywhere.

When I heard that Joe Webber had decided to sell his station, I went through wide range of emotions; disbelief, hurt and anger. It was because of those feelings that I realized how much that I let WGKA become part of my life. I listened to it every day that I was in town. Including Joe Webber

Post Script contd..

I had come to meet and know most of the DJ's and staff, including Joe Webber. I probably became one of the stations biggest boosters and I had even come to appreciate and enjoy the variety (others say quiriness) of the musical format. I realize that the radio station was a sentimental whim of Joe Webber who had enough disposable income to buy the radio station and run it for pleasure. I don't know if he ever made a profit, but I feel like he was approaching that level as his loyal fan base was growing rather rapidly. I know that his overhead must have increased over the last few years as he hired some very competent staff such as Station Manager Mike Rose and DJ Lee Garen. But still, I truly believed that he was doing all of this because he really enjoyed it and had the financial resources to continue. So it was a shock to me when he decided to sell out to a very large offer and to give up his dream (and mine). I can't always fault a man for selling out a principle for an offer he couldn't refuse (obviously) but I thought that Joe Webber was somehow above this. And to even rub salt into the wound, He not only sold off his station, but he sold out the format of the "Voice of The Arts". For a man that didn't want his staff to play Christmas music around the holidays, what did he do but but sell out to a Christian Network that plays "Solid Gospel". I happen to be a Christian person, but I can tell you that I can't stand the new WGKA. It is awful. So I leave 1190 AM with some bitterness and anger that has turned Joe Webber from a hero into a villain. He has betrayed my loyalty and I feel at a loss. And yet, as I said in a last minute e-mail to Joe, that I still admired him as a person, but I was angry with him for what he did for the loyal fans of WGKA. Oh well, I'll survive, and hopefully something else will turn up that will fill the void, but at least I feel better about paying my last respects to the "Voice of The Arts", and getting my feelings off my chest. It was great while it lasted.

#### **A tribute to Bill Johnsons late wife**

We have been missing Bill Johnson (the real or first Bill Johnson) at our SARS events and meetings for a while. I had known that his wife had not been in good health the past several

years, having worked closely with Bill when he was our clubs Vice-President. He shouldered most of the effort in several of our recent Fall Mega Meets when they were held at the Senior Citizens Center and then at the Castlegate. With increasing responsibilities at home, Bill asked to step down as our VP and we all understood. I called Bill early in April to check on him and to invite him to our monthly meeting when he told me that his wife had passed away about a month ago. He said that he is doing better now after that great loss and that he would like to get back into club activity and pick up with old friendships.

I had never had the pleasure of meeting Bills wife, and he told me that I would have really liked her. She was a very special lady. She was Marguerite Cofield Johnson and was born and raised in Atlanta. Bill met her later and they formed a great partnership. They had five children, and now there are nine grandchildren. Only one son lives in Atlanta. Two other children are in St. Louis, and two are in California. Bill is very proud of his family and they have done very well in their lives. Bill and Marguerite have been in several areas of the country in their careers, but have lived here in Atlanta since 1977, and I think that Bill will stay here.

Bill, on behalf of the members of our club, we send you our heartfelt condolences and we want you to know how much we love and appreciate you. We look forward to seeing more of you in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Gordon Hunter, on behalf of all the members of SARS radio club

Secretary Notes:

February 14, 2000

No meeting due to Valentines day.

March 13, 2000

Meeting called to order by Marty Reynolds due to the absence of Gordon Hunter, with 20 attending. We discussed the February Meet at C-Tech. The General consensus was that it was a successful meet. It was well attended by both vendors and buyers. Gordon estimated 80 to 100 people in attendance. WIMO AM radio 1300 KC had a live remote broadcast.

Karen Dean and her husband Bill were at the meeting as guests. Karen is writing a freelance article on antique radio collecting for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, it will appear in the Personal Technology section on a future Sunday edition. We will try and give members a heads up on this date.

The SARS summer meet was discussed and voted to be on June 10th at the Fairfield Inn in Alpharetta.

We viewed a video of the Winter meet that included the "Royal Hopper" swing dancer group.

Show and Tell was held.

After show and tell Karen conducted several informal interviews with several members.

Bob Niven suggested a co-venture with the Experimental Aircraft association that has periodic Hanger Dances at Brisco Field in Lawrenceville.

Meeting adjourned.

April 10, 2000

Gordon Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:57 P.M.. Fourteen members attending. New attendee, Dave Riggs introduced himself. Gordon discussed the Charlotte show. Even though the Internet has taken a lot away from the Swap Meets, it was still a good show. The consensus was that Saturday was a wash with no new vendors. There is a trend afoot to make the meets shorter.

The SARS summer meet is scheduled for June 10th at the same Fairfield Inn location in Alpharetta, 8:00 AM to 12:00 P.M.. This will be combined with the Atlanta Corvair Club. Dealers will be allowed to set up space but not display any merchandise until 8:00 AM. "NO SALES" prior to 8:00 AM. Vendor space is \$10.00 for unlimited spaces and as usual buyers are free.

There will be a "No Host" dinner the night before at the Canyon Cafe at 7:00PM as we did last year.

Frank Lindaeur reported a treasury balance of \$1037.00 . Add submittal and material for the newsletter was requested.

The 1999 Dayton Hamfest was discussed by Marty Reynolds. Marty had a great time buying and selling radio stuff.

Lee Garen was the guest speaker and he discussed the last few days of WGKA, 1190 AM and his future plans in talk radio. His program will be syndicated on a phase in basis in a number of large metro areas. The passing of WGKA's radio format will be dearly missed by many loyal listeners. Keely Brown will be on the air for two hours on Sundays 1:00 to 3:00 and she is looking for sponsors or advertisers to support this. Joe Webber has retained a spot from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. on Sundays for a one year period.

Lee gave a very interesting and detailed on WGKA's final days.

Show and tell and then meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

# SARS

SOUTHEASTERN ANTIQUE RADIO  
SOCIETY

## SPRING OUTDOOR MEET

8:00 AM to 12:00 P.M.

June 9th & 10th, 2000

Friday night "No Host Dinner" at The Canyon  
Cafe at 7:00 P.M.

Saturday Flea Market from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00  
P.M.

11385 Haynes Bridge Road  
(exit 9 on GA Hwy. 400)

Alpharetta, GA

Special rates for attendees at the Fairfield Inn  
(770) 663-4400

Vendors (**unlimited space**)- \$10.00  
(this is a tail-gate event)

Amateur radio operators invited to buy or sell  
HAM gear as well.

Held at our usual outdoor location in back of the  
Fairfield Inn

Combined this year again with The Atlanta  
Corvair Club.

**Buyers have FREE  
admission!**

**NOTICE: SELLERS SET UP AT 7:00 AM,  
NO EARLY SALES. BUYERS ADMITTED  
AT 8:00 AM**

Call Gordon Hunter for more information at  
(770) 475-0713

OTHER EVENTS  
and Miscellaneous

## ATLANTA HAMFEST

Saturday June 2 & 3, 2000

At Jim Miller Park, Marietta, GA

Friday gates open at 3:00 PM-6:30 PM  
Vendors and tailgaters at 9:00 AM

Saturday gates open at 8:30 AM to 3:00PM  
Vendors and tailgaters at 6:00 AM

Call Charles Golsen @ (404) 252-3303 or Ben  
Dasher @ (404) 869-6959

**NO CALLS AFTER 9:00 PM EST PLEASE!**  
Talk in at 146.820 MHZ

## DAYTON HAMFEST

May 19, 20 & 21, 2000

Dayton, OH  
Hara Arena

This is the granddaddy of all Hamfests!  
get more info at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)

**Steve Davis** would like to hear from you all.  
His E-Mail address is:  
<http://stevedavis.home.mindspring.com/radios/>

Carl Ridlehoover (one of our members) is  
selling out his collections.  
He has two lots:

Lot A is old radios including Philcos, RCA,  
Zenith, Atwater Kent, Halicrafters, Reel to Reel  
recorders, parts and some tubes. \$1000.00 for  
the lot, bring a truck!

Lot B is wind-up phono parts including some  
complete units. Bring a truck! \$1000.00  
Call Carl for more info (912) 745-6939  
He lives in Macon, GA.  
or see Bob Niven for a partial list.

Southeastern Antique Radio Society  
P.O. Box 1055  
Tucker, GA 30085-1055



JOHN PELHAM  
1185 BEND CREEK TRAIL  
SUWANEE GA 30024