



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

It's certainly hot! Maybe this column will be Kool! At the last meeting we re-elected the previous slate of officers. So the President is Jim Collings; Vice President, Roger Knop; Secretary, Jim Tyrell; and Treasurer, Gene Robertson. Others serving the club are Dale McLellan, Broadcast News Editor; and Jacob Kresky, Webmaster. Thanks to all who are serving and keeping our club going. It was brought up that we are only receiving about two membership renewals per month, so our membership is dwindling. So if you are behind, please pay the \$15 for another year and support your club. Also material for the Broadcast News is needed. All of our members are knowledgeable and capable of writing a small piece on something. Please do it and share with the rest of us!

The topic for this month's meeting is on repair of bakelite radios, including cabinet repair. The video by Bret Menassa will be shown. Jim Tyrrell will bring the CD and a player. We need someone to bring a TV to the meeting with a large screen for easier viewing. If you can help, please give Jim Tyrrell a call at 715-2760. Otherwise we will likely be looking at a 15 inch screen. The meeting is Saturday July 11th, at the Hometown Buffet on NW Expressway near 63rd and Portland. The meeting starts at 7 PM, with time for dinner before. (Normally about 6 PM). I'll suggest a topic for the August meeting, Tube Testers. It can be a hands-on meeting where everyone brings their tube testers and we test a few tubes to see how the testers compare in accuracy, and ease of use. We can also talk about calibration and repair/restoration. I think it can be interesting and informative. Last month's meeting was a good one on Federal receivers, and we had a large donation auction with some nice items donated by John Bryant. Read more about it in Jim's recap of the meeting elsewhere in this edition.

Last Saturday was the Summer Sizzler in Broken Arrow put on by the Tulsa club, HLARA. It was at the same location as last year, so I had no trouble in finding it, especially with the help of my GPS. The turnout appeared to be greater than last year, and all the vendor tables were filled. I sold a few things and got rid of a lot of junk, some that came from our donation auctions. Congratulations to Frank Karner who won best of show with his WLS transmitter and display. I was glad to see this get the recognition it deserves. There were some other nice items displayed in the contest, also. I left a little before noon, before the donation auction started, thus avoiding temptation. It was a good meet, and I'll be looking forward to next year's.

Next month, I expect to review the MARC Extravaganza meet in Lansing Michigan in this space.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting of June 13th 2009

Summer has arrived in full, and it was a fairly hot evening in Oklahoma City last Saturday, as sixteen or so OKVRC members, spouses and guests gathered for OKVRC's regular second Saturday of the month meeting at the Hometown Buffet restaurant in Oklahoma City. The food was good as usual and the AC in our private dining room cold enough to make shorts wearers a bit uncomfortable. We enjoyed our usual three or four trips through the buffet before settling down to club business.

Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and went over some upcoming events of interest: radio meets, sales, and auctions. Since they will probably be over before you get this newsletter, I won't bore you with them. We quickly moved on to the topic of the evening's program: Federal radios.

Federal Telephone and Telegraph was well established in the telephone field when the era of commercial broadcast began around 1920, so like many companies in the electrical and communication fields, they quickly moved into this lucrative new medium. They also partnered with Paragon to supply parts to their operation. By 1922 Federal radios were available to consumers. One of the first was the Federal Junior Crystal Set. This is a large, well-built crystal set installed in a base that closely resembles the base units of the telephones being built by Federal at his time. Perhaps this was done to use existing tooling or parts. In any event, the resulting design is impressive. Jim Collings brought in his Federal Junior to share with the club. Value of a Federal Junior in excellent condition is about \$250 to \$300. Jim also showed us a very early, very small Federal speaker horn, called a Pleophone.

By 1923 Federal was turning out tube battery sets. It is these early (1922-1924) Federals that are the most sought after by contemporary collectors, and command top dollar. They are noted for their large cabinets and front panels covered with an often bewilderingly large number of knobs, since many Federals provided an individual filament voltage control knob for each tube! We had several fine examples of these sets brought in by Jim Collings and Frank Karner, which we were able to admire close up. We got to see a Type 57 and a Type 58 (approximate value \$800 each). These are both are four tube sets. Jim also brought in a Type 110 three tube set (approximate value \$700). The highlight of the evening was when Jim and Frank showed off their Type 59 four tube (approximate value \$1100) and Type 61 six tube (approximate value \$1400) Federals. These were among the largest and most complex sets of the battery set era, and the elaborate array of knobs on the front panel make them most impressive and sophisticated in appearance.

By 1925 the Federal company was falling on hard times, and was taken over by its chief engineer, who came out with the Orthosonic line. Your club secretary brought in two to share, a Type A, a fairly straightforward five-tube three-knob TRF, and a Type E, a huge, ornate and extremely heavy six-tube single-knob set. The Type-E has to be one of the heaviest battery sets ever made, heavier than most early AC sets, and was one of the last made by Federal as the battery set era came to an end.

The Federal name was used by other manufacturers in the thirties and forties for AC sets. Robert Padilla brought in a forties era Federal set to show. Later, in the nineteen seventies a wide range of imported solid state consumer electronics was sold under the Federal name also. So there are lots of Federals out there, awaiting collectors of all eras of radio.

We followed our Federal program with the usual monthly donation auction. With a smaller crowd tonight there was less competition, and lots to bid on. Several radios, an oscilloscope, lots of parts, circuit boards, books, a working DVD player, a graphics equalizer, a military filter/rectifier unit, some power tool parts, a bunch of record albums, books, manuals and even some National Geographic magazines (with the Zenith ads carefully bookmarked) were up for grabs. Most items went for a buck or two except for a new in the box studio type microphone, which brought \$20.

Thanks to Jim and Frank for bringing in their valuable early Federal sets to share with the club, and to everyone who brought in donations for the auction. See you next month!







NEW*NEW*NEW*** The OKVRC Monthly Breakfast will be held at 8:30 AM, Wednesday morning, July 8 2009, at Cattleman's, 1309 South Agnew, Oklahoma City. This new location is on the right of the first stop light South of I-40 on Agnew.

The Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) publishes the Broadcast News monthly for the presentation of historical information and enjoyment of club members and friends. Articles on subjects of interest to radio collectors, news of club activities, and restoration information are always welcome. Articles should be sent to the Broadcast News Editor, c/o OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK 73140-5625 or e-mailed RXRADIO@AOL.COM. Unless otherwise noted, articles can be reprinted freely, as long as proper credit and reference is given. Electronic copy of articles can be obtained from the editor of Broadcast News.

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MEMBERSHIP:

OKVRC Membership is \$15.00 per year. You are invited to join us in our celebration of Vintage Radio by sending your check to OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK, 73140-5625.

As a service to OKVRC members, the month of your membership expiration date is printed on the mailing label. Below is a sample label:

Expires 10/09

John Q. Collector
1234 SW 56th Street
Choctaw, OK 73123-1234

If your expiration date is highlighted, your membership has expired and you are in jeopardy of being dropped from the Broadcast News distribution list.

OKVRC CLASSIFIED ADS

Send all ads to editor OKVRC, Attn: editor, Broadcast News, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK 73140-5625 Or E-mail directly to RXRADIO@AOL.COM

Advertising policy: Member's ads are FREE. Small donations will be accepted for non-member's ads.

- WANTED:** Transmitters, Receivers, Ham gear, Boat Anchors Radio, Test Equipment, Tubes, Parts, you name it. Call Tom Laszynski at (405) 741-1176 or e-mail me at k8jrm@arrl.net.
- WANTED:** Dial bezel and dial pointer for a E. H. Scott Receiver, Model SLR-H or Navy RBO-2. Also, need metal Identification plate for a Navy RBO-2 receiver. Contact Tom Laszynski at either k8jrm@arrl.net or 405.741.1176.
- WANTED:** Any radio related German items. Especially WWII radios, tubes, and accessories. I'm a buyer also for Grundig, Telefunken radios and tubes from the 1950-1965 era. Frank Karner (405) 769-4656 fkarner@cox.net
- WANTED:** Tubes for my German repair business. need a quantity of these tubes, either good used or NOS please: EF89 = 6DA6; EABC80= 6AK8; EM34 = 6CD7; ECC808 = 6KX8, EM80 =6BR5 EL34 = 6CA7; EF86 = 6267; Frank Karner, e-mail: fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656
- WANTED:** I'M YOUR BUYER for tube amplifiers- music, PA, any type! Also amplifier tubes, tube testers, etc. Frank Karner (405) 769-4656 fkarner@cox.net
- WANTED:** I need some 6FG6 Tubes (European number is EM84) to get me thru the winter's work. Also need a few 6BR5 (EM80) tubes. Thanks! Frank Karner fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656
- WANTED:** Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items: Crystal radio, tube sockets, A-B-C power supplies, boxed parts, radio advertising and promotional items. Dale Boyce (414)353-0734 or radioman@wi.rr.com
- WANTED:** Bakelite case for Philco Boomerang model 49-501 deco radio. Cracked, nice or restorable...whatever condition you have! Frank Karner, 12432 Elizabeth Cove, Midwest City, OK. 73130. E-mail: fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656

- WANTED:** Parts for a 1925 SUPER ZENITH 27. This is similar to the Super Zenith VII, except for the AC power supply, meter. I need the AC power supply (Maybe there are 2 used?) and perhaps some small parts. THANKS! Frank Karner (405) 769-4656 fkarner@cox.net
- WANTED:** RESTORED Philco model 90, good condition and “reasonably” priced. Rod Higgins, (405) 329-3013, hotrod808@sbcglobal.net
- FOR SALE:** ANTIQUE RADIO RESTORATION VIDEOS. Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are currently available. Check my web page for more details and special deals! Go to <http://www.bretsoldradios.com/>
- FOR SALE:** Magnet wire sizes 10 ga to 40 ga. Coaxial cables and antenna wire. Mike LaPuzza, Clear Signal Products, Inc. 405-745-9473 email: wire@coaxman.com
- FOR SALE:** Radio Chassis Holders. These maintenance stands hold a chassis while work on it. Small stand - \$37.50, and Brackets - \$2.50 Plus Shipping. Large stand - \$55.00 and brackets - \$2.50 Plus Shipping. Contact Steve Strong at (405) 634-7547 or e-mail Scstrong1@cox.net.
- FOR SALE:** House wiring antenna networks, “Aircore” choke Baluns, Balun Isolation transformers and amateur 1KW “Aircore” 1 to 1, 1 to 4 and 1 to 9 “pigtail” weatherproof Baluns. L.W. Rousseau (405)842-0125
- SERVICE:** *FIELDING ELECTRONICS, INC.* We restore old radios both electronically and refinishing. Radios must be complete with knobs and dial glass/escutcheons. Fielding Electronics, Inc, PO Box 2601, Ardmore, OK 73402, Phone # 580-222-9408
- SERVICE:** Old Radio Restoration and Servicing: Dale McLellan, rxradio@aol.com or 405-330-1802, Edmond, OK

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