



# Broadcast News

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## **PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

By Jim Collings

Our August meeting is coming up, August 13th at the Hometown Buffet on NW Expressway near 63rd Street. The actual meeting starts at 7PM, preceded by dinner at about 6. The topic for the meeting is recently acquired items. I've found quite a variety of interesting things recently that I would like to show off, and I'm sure others have found items this summer also. I think this should be a good topic to take a break from our letters of the alphabet radios theme. Of course, we'll have a donation auction at the end of the meeting, so bring something you don't need that someone else may have a use for.

I missed last month's meeting, as we went to the MARC Extravaganza meet in Lansing, Michigan. It was a good meet! Attendance was down a little from last year, but there was still plenty of good stuff. We got to the location early to attend a meeting of the Tube Collector's Society, which was held before the actual start of the meet. I had not been to one and did not know what to expect, but expected about an hour of tube talk, but it lasted much longer than that and was very interesting. Various members showed off tubes, and talked about them. Another speaker talked about sound differences with various tube brands. I also learned about lawsuits being filed against tube dealers by a person who claims to have been harmed by mercury vapor rectifier tubes. It was all very interesting, and I immediately joined the group, as I had never been a member. The rest of Thursday was registration and getting set up for the Friday morning swap meet. We had our flea market spot under the large tent again this year, which is nice because you are out of the sun and rain. (It didn't rain this year, and was a nice break from the Oklahoma heat, as it was in the 50's in the mornings). Also, you don't have to rent a table or bring one with you. The flea market officially opens at 7 AM, and restrictions on earlier selling are enforced. I did not see any violations on Friday morning, but it is hard to enforce. At the start, I could not find anything exciting to purchase, but as the morning went on, things came out, and I ended up purchasing lots of items. Instead of listing them here, I'll bring many to the meeting. By the end of the day, I had spent quite a bit of the money I brought, and decided to be more conservative on Saturday's purchases. Also, I was running out of room in the SUV to take things back. Everything I purchased turned out to be as represented except for some globe shaped 45 tubes. They were supposed to be tested at 70, 80, and 90%. When I got them home, half of them tested below the minimum. Julie ran our flea market space most of the time so I could be out and about, and we sold quite a few lower priced items. Friday evening they had their complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, instead of a banquet like other meets. It was followed by the contest awards and a musical group. We played hooky and had a nice dinner elsewhere, but got back to see most of the contest items. There were some nice items, but not as many entries as last year. The musical group was not as peppy as previous years, so we did not stay to listen. Saturday morning we reopened our booth, but there was not as much activity, and only a couple of new sellers. We loaded up by late morning and were on the road back

home after noon. So, we did not stay for the auction. I did not have any more room in the car. The women of the club had coffee, soft drinks, donuts, and cookies available for donations all thru the meet, which was very nice. There were quite a few collectors there from the east, ones that I see all the time, in addition to local Michigan folks. It was a great meet, and I'll be looking forward to next year's event.

Next month is the ARCI meet in Willowbrook, Illinois, near Chicago. It's quite a bit different, and all the eastern collectors do not make this meet, being replaced by Texans. Jim Sargent from VRPS will be the auctioneer. I'll give a review of it next month.

See you at the August meeting.

### Report for the OKVRC Meeting of July 9th 2011

I usually start out my meeting report with some comment about the Oklahoma weather we are having, and I think I've covered tornados, wind-driven brush fires, floods and snowstorms. Our weather here is certainly "varied"! This month I'll mention the HEAT! Yes we have had record breaking heat for several days, and it's been over 100 degrees most days. Today (Saturday) we hit an all-time record for the date: 110 degrees. But as always, the air conditioning in our private room at the Hometown Buffet here in Oklahoma City was working just fine, and about thirteen or so OKVRC members, spouses and guests braved the heat to get together for our usual monthly meeting.

Club members and guests began arriving before 6:00 PM to enjoy dinner, but conspicuous by his absence was our Club President Jim Collings. He is attending the MARC meet in Lansing, Michigan. I expect next month he will have a great report on all the cool stuff he saw (and bought) at that meet. At the very least, he must be enjoying some much cooler weather.

Tonight's topic was radios whose names begin with "Q", "R", and "S", except RCA / Radiola. Member John Reynolds brought in two fine examples of a Stromberg-Carlson eight band tube portable radio, model AWP-8. Stromberg-Carlson offered this large leather cased portable in several different colors, John has both the tan and grey models. These radios have much more attractive control layouts than the more common portables such as the Zenith Transoceanic. They boast some interesting technical features inside as well. John pointed out that the RF front section is built as separate shielded assembly for better reception. These sets also have a feature rarely seen in portable radios prior to the development of stereo portables decades later: dual speakers!

Your club secretary brought in a Silvertone model F. This is a six-tube TRF battery set from about 1926. It uses three tuning capacitors mounted side-by-side behind the front panel, connected by levers and operated by a single tuning knob. Pretty standard stuff for late battery sets, but this set has a couple of twists. It has an unusual fine tuning control that rotates the stationary section of the first tuning capacitor, and it also has both binding posts and a cloth covered multi-conductor cord for hooking up batteries. Most early battery sets used binding posts, and later battery sets often used the multi-conductor cord. The designers of this set couldn't seem to make up their minds, and included both. The set also includes six matching tubes with Sears Silvertone labels, and attractive gold and purple "getter" oxides on the inside surfaces of the tube glass.

Member Gary Swymeler displayed a Stewart-Warner model 300 battery set from 1925. It is a five tube, three tuning knob TRF with attractive brass ornamented tuner controls. The cabinet of this set is rather unusual. The lid, back and bottom are wood, the front and sides are metal. I noticed the chassis is somewhat similar to the chassis of the 1926 Montgomery Ward's Airline battery set I brought in when we started our alphabetic tour through Radioland. The tube sockets and binding posts are identical. This is because Stewart-Warner built many of the early Montgomery Ward radios. Gary completely dismantled and rebuilt his model 300, and it looks as beautiful as the day it was made.

Thanks to everyone who came despite the heat. See you next month!





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<b>President</b>	Jim Collings	jrcradio@cox.net
<b>Secretary</b>	James Tyrrell	jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jim Ray	jabray71@hotmail.com

**BROADCAST NEWS STAFF:**

<b>Editor</b>	Dale McLellan	rxradio@aol.com
<b>Contributing Editor</b>	Sherry Cowden	cowden416@aol.com
<b>Contributing Editor</b>	Art Hoch	artdrhs@yahoo.com
<b>Contributing Editor</b>	John L Reynolds	tack1@flash.net

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**OKVRC EDITOR: Broadcast News**  
**PO BOX 50625**  
**Midwest City**  
**OK 73140-5625**