



Broadcast News

Online at www.okvrc.org

April 2012

Volume XXI, Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

It's time to dust off your display radios and gather your items for swap! Our Spring Swap Meet/Convention is on Saturday April 14th at the Midwest City Community Center. Here is a schedule of events and the approximate timing:

7:30 AM Activity in the parking lot begins

8:00 Doors officially open for swap meet, silent auction, and contest display setup

9:30 Silent auction ends

10:00 Contest judging begins

10:45 Main auction begins

12:00 noon Meet ends (we are supposed to be out by then, but I do not think there is another group renting the facility immediately).

Here are the categories for the contest:

1. Battery and Crystal Receivers, 3 tubes or less, Pre-1930
2. Battery Receivers, 4 tubes or more, Pre-1930
3. Tombstone and Cathedral Receivers
4. Horizontal Wooden Receivers
5. Metal Sets after 1926 (includes amateur receivers and transmitters)
6. AC/DC Bakelite or Plastic Receivers
7. Transistor Radios
8. Console Receivers (includes radio/phono combos and televisions)
9. Art Deco and Novelty AC operated Receivers
10. Foreign Made Receivers and Equipment (must be tube type)
11. HiFi audio equipment, tube type.
12. Accessory Items (tubes, speakers, antennas, test equipment, etc.)
13. Open Category (anything that doesn't fit in another category)

14. Best Restoration (this can be displayed in any category, but will be judged on restoration quality. Documentation of condition before restoration is encouraged)
15. People's Choice (ballot of favorite display of all who attend)
16. Best of Show (one of the first place winners from the other categories)

I've added a category for audio HiFi equipment as this is starting to be of more interest to collectors. I expect to see a lot of great items in the contest. For the People's Choice Category, each of us can vote for the display which we like the best. Remember, that additional items of support, like advertising, are encouraged, and may be the tie breaker in the judging. This is especially true for the best restoration category, as before photos are needed to show how much restoration was done. Don't forget the silent auction and main auction to get rid of your unwanted items. Tell all of your friends who may have an interest in our hobby about the meet. This meet is one of our biggest sources for finding new members. Be sure to bring a few items from your collection to show off in the contest. Half the fun of collecting is showing what you have to other collectors, and talking about them. We should have good out-of-state attendance.

I attended the VRPS auction in Irving, Tx. on March 17th. The auction is scaled back from the previous larger ones held in Grapevine, but there were less items to be sold, so it worked out fine. Bidding began at 9 AM with a trailer load of donated electronic equipment, mostly military. I took quite a few items, and got good prices for several items. Of course, I purchased some things, but came back with more room in the SUV than when I went. Many of my purchases were phonograph related items. So, it was a good auction with many items selling for reasonable prices. I enjoyed seeing and talking to many old collector friends, but I believe Kent Studebaker was the only other attending collector from the OKC area. The auction ended fairly early, about 2 PM, so I got back with time to regroup for the Carolina chapter AWA meet in Charlotte, NC.

Julie and I left on Tuesday morning headed for North Carolina, and made very few stops at antique malls getting to Charlotte. I was anxious to get there in time for the Tube Collector's Association meeting at 9 AM on Thursday. We made it and I enjoyed this meeting, but it was not as informative as the last one I attended in Lansing, MI. Concurrent to this meeting and additional seminars with topics related to radio collecting, was another ballroom devoted to enigma machines and collecting. This was a new feature, and probably the first international meet related to collecting and documenting these machines. It was dubbed the Charlotte International Cryptologic Symposium. I believe there were nearly more attendees for this than the radio programs. There was some spill over for the radio people, as we attended a talk by the daughter of Joe Desch, and viewed a PBS produced movie about his top secret work in cracking the enigma code and manufacturing these machines at NCR in Dayton, OH during WW II. It was quite interesting, and an important little known part of our success in winning the war. Also the ballroom was open for viewing the various enigma machines at times. Most of these were top-secret equipment not normally encountered, and very rare. Many were foreign. The flea market began at 8 AM on Friday morning. They have a shotgun start with everyone out of the flea market area until 8, and then everyone rushed in to unpack and begin selling. I purchased a few items during the initial rush. The weather was perfect and warm. I sold all but a few of the items I brought. The flea market lasted until 1 PM, when the auction began. The auction was fairly large, but I purchased just a few tubes. Items were selling at fairly high prices, a contrast to last year when items sold cheap. It was surprising that early battery sets were selling very well, even without tubes. In recent nearby auctions these have been a drag on the market. Friday evening was the banquet, but we were unable to pre-register to get tickets for any of the eating events. The contest room was open for viewing afterward. The contest was impressive with many interesting one of a kind items, but was not too large. I was impressed, as always, by several entries of Merrill Bancroft. He specializes in equipment of obscure manufacturers from the early 1920's. These are the type of things like a receiver

with matching amplifier that you may see in a very small ad in one of the trade magazines, where probably less than 50 were every made. Saturday morning was rainy, and if I started to unload to set things on the table the rain would return. Some vendors with tents were open, but where I saw something of interest on Friday, hoping to make a deal on Saturday, they did not unload. The radio rescue auction started early about 10:30 under a tent. This was mainly donated items, and items where the seller was willing to sell for whatever the item brought. It was slow, and prices high, so after I won the item I wanted, I left and finished packing the car for the trip home. The sun was starting to shine, so I expect some more vendors opened up, as there was a \$500 cash drawing for those still open at noon. We headed out, and made it home on Sunday night. We were thankful for a safe and productive trip.

See you bright and early at our meet in Midwest City. Admission is free, but donations for the coffee and do-nuts help defray the costs of renting the facility. Bring your truck.....full!

Jim Collings, President

I've just been informed that the Hometown Buffet on NW Expressway where we have been holding our meetings has been shut down. So we need to find a new meeting location. So, if anyone has any suggestions, check them out and advise. The location can be anywhere in the metro area, and does not have to be associated with a restaurant, but that is preferable. I do not think we should change our 2nd Saturday of the month meeting time. Fortunately, we have until May to find a location. Any ideas are appreciated

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 3/10/2012

Spring has sprung, as they say, and today (3/21) I had to perform for the first time this year, the dreaded suburban ritual of mowing the lawn. But two weeks ago tonight it was raining fairly hard here in Oklahoma City, but it was a warm rain, so we still had a good turnout of nineteen OKVRC members, spouses and guests for our usual meeting at the Hometown Buffet in Oklahoma City.

Early birds started dinner in the main dining room, since our private room had not yet cleared. By about 6:15 it was ready, and we moved in, and continued to enjoy dinner and conversation until about 7:00, when Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. We heard some announcements about upcoming events, such as the VRPS Spring Auction in Irving, Texas. It's over by now, but it will be interesting to hear what items came up for bid. Jim also reminded us about our own OKVRC Convention at the Midwest City Community Center on April 14th. By the time you read this, it will be right around the corner. Everyone try and bring in at least one favorite item from your collection to put in the contest. Also, if you are not going to have a sales table, why not use the silent auction to sell off your unwanted radios and parts? The small sales commission helps the club, and couldn't we all use some extra cash?

The subject of tonight's meeting was Western Electric, known today as Lucent technologies. We have had many excellent programs over the years covering the many brands of radios we all have in our collections, but most of us have nothing labeled "Western Electric". In fact, the only thing any of us might have in our homes by that name would be a telephone! That takes us back to the roots of Western Electric. Best known as the manufacturing arm of the Bell Telephone company, it was founded way back in 1869, over a half century before the inception of broadcast radio brought radios into living rooms around the world. Western Electric also helped develop many new technologies including improved amplifier circuits, loudspeakers, and sound motion pictures. Indeed, radio itself might not gotten off the ground without many of the technologies that came from Western Electric.

So what does Western Electric have to do with radio? Back in the nineteen twenties the RCA Corporation had a patent lock on the now ubiquitous superhetrodyne radio circuit. Prior to 1930, if

consumers wanted a superhetrodyne they had to buy it from RCA or build a kit. Western Electric was licensed to build superhetrodyne equipment for commercial customers. Since commercial users were far fewer in number, Western Electric radio receivers were built in much smaller numbers, and are especially sought after by modern collectors.

Because of the heavy rain Jim Collings decided not to bring his valuable early Western Electric sets in. Instead, we got to see some excellent examples of early Western Electric horn and cone speakers. Jim started with a small “howler” speaker on an oak base. These were commonly used on trains. Also, we saw a howler with a bell horn designed for home use. Next, we got to see a model 193W public address horn, and a tiny 182A “Shawphone”, typically used with intercoms. Then we got to see a large 10D horn, and a 518W horn, commonly used with those Western Electric amplifiers with the three “tennis ball” tubes. Jim showed us several more horns, including models 521W (brass, gooseneck), 521SW (composition material, straight neck) and a 543W (cheaper model without a weighted base). Last of all, we saw a model 560AW, a 24” wide, early cone speaker, in mint condition

It’s always fun when our members bring in unusual items for show-and tell. Club Member Nick Little brought in two reel-to-reel tape recorders to show. Home recording was possible with some early 78 RPM turntables equipped with record cutting arms (mostly in RCA consoles) as well as wire recorders, but it was not until the development of tape recorders in the post war years that home recording really became common. Nick showed us a Webcor Statesman (vacuum tube, 7” reels) and a Lloyd’s (solid state, battery operated, 3” reels). Tape machines never were a big threat to LP records until eight-track tape cartridges and cassette tapes were developed in the sixties, which allowed tape to be used as a convenient distribution medium for music. I still remember using a small 3” reel-to-reel tape recorder when I was a kid to record songs off the radio and play “secret agent” with my friends!

We wrapped up the evening with the usual donation auction. Several bags of capacitors, a Zenith table radio, a Philco “hippo” radio with a damaged case, a Cal-Rad intercom unit, some computer cables, an eight-track player, and a Stewart-Warner chassis were up for grabs. Most items went for a buck.

See you at the April OKVRC Convention!







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.

President	Jim Collings	jrcradio@cox.net
Secretary	Jim Tyrrell	jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Jim Ray	jabray71@hotmail.com

BROADCAST NEWS STAFF:

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

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:

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

Expires 10/11

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

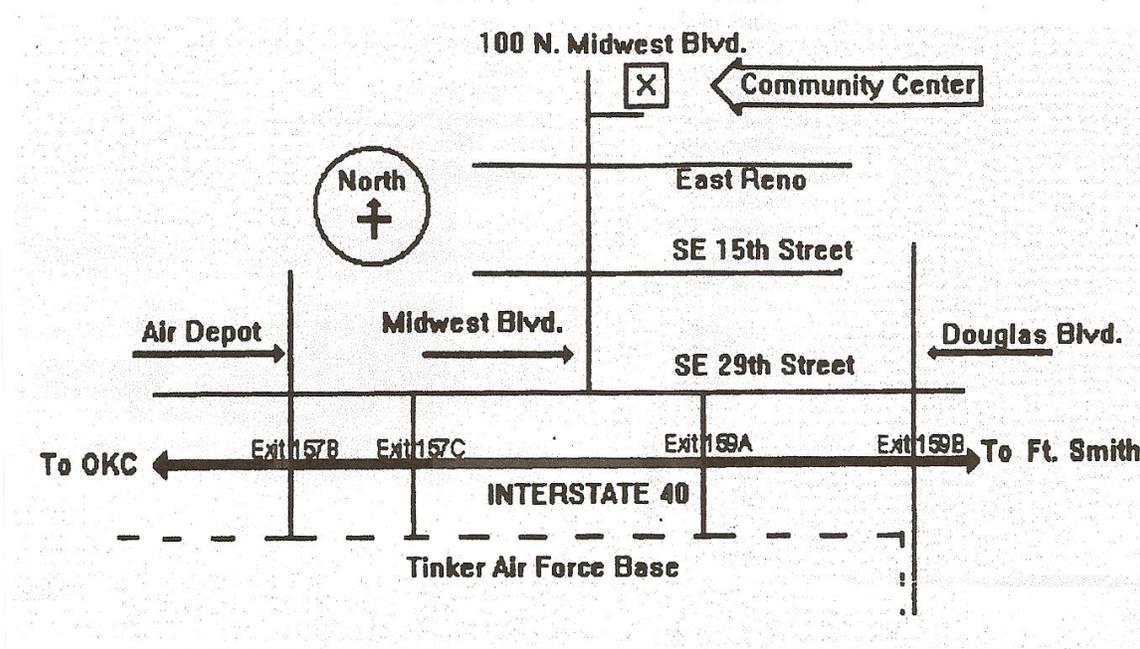
Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors Presents Our Annual Spring Swap Meet and Auction Saturday, April 14, 2012 8AM-12Noon



DIRECTIONS TO THE SWAP MEET

Exit Interstate 40 at exit # 159A, turn north (left). At the light, turn west (left) onto SE 29th Street, proceed to Midwest Blvd.(second right), turn north (right), proceed 2 miles to Reno. Continue through the intersection of Reno and Midwest Blvd. Proceed to the next right hand street (about 100 yards). The Convention Center is the first building on the left and the parking lot is on the east side of The building.

MAP TO THE CONVENTION:



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:** Well-Gardner O-C Series chassis shown in Riders 5-1. My band selector switch has broken wafer switches. Fielding Grigsby, PO Box 6201, Ardmore, OK 73402, 580-22-9408.
- WANTED:** Stewart Warner Model 102, A, B, or C chassis, 6 tubes and dial - must be restorable. Shown on pages 2-4 and 2-5 of John F. Riders perpetual troubleshooting manual, Volume II. Fielding Grigsby, PO Box 6201, Ardmore, OK 73402, 580-22-9408.
- WANTED:** AC 110 volt "interlock" power cords as used on early day TVs etc. with two "ears" for mounting... non-polarized type. I'll buy 1 or a bunch! Frank Karner fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656
- WANTED:** 6BR5 EM80 tubes, 1 or more. Also I buy anything by Jackson Bell, plus I buy tubes, tube testers, vintage electronic gear. THANKS! frank karner fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656
- WANTED:** 1946 Philco, model 46-420, complete, unrestored (doesn't have to be working, but no cracks or broken areas in the case). John Reynolds @ jhreynolds8787@yahoo.com
- 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:** 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:** RESTORED Philco model 90, good condition and "reasonably" priced. Rod Higgens, (405) 329-3013, hotrod808@sbcglobal.net
- WANTED:** Philco item: Cabinet 38-1X for 38-1 chassis. .Reasonable price please. Email: artdrhs@yahoo.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
- FOR SALE:** Army-Airforce Operating and Preventive Maintenance Manual for Radio Sets AN/MPN-1 and AN/MNP-1C. Purpose: locating in space all aircraft and objects in the vicinity of an airfield. Dated 1950. \$35.00 shipped. Fielding Grigsby, PO Box 6201, Ardmore, OK 73402, 580-22-9408.
- 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