



# Broadcast News

Online at [www.okvrc.org](http://www.okvrc.org)

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

### President's Column March 2012

It's time to get your contest items ready for our annual spring meet. It's at the Midwest City Community Center on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8AM, and ending at noon. We will have our usual contest, swap meet, silent auction, and live auction. I'll publish the contest categories in next month's Broadcast News, but I do not expect a change from last year. So, there will be a category for anything you wish to display. Let's talk this up and try to get everyone who has an interest in our hobby to attend. The greater the attendance, the better the meet will be for all of us.

This month's meeting topic will be the manufacturer, Western Electric. I'll bring a variety of horns, etc. for display and discussion. Feel free to bring anything you have. The meeting will be on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Hometown Buffet on NW Expressway, beginning at 7 PM with dinner before, generally about 6 PM. We will be finalizing plans for our big April meet, and will especially need help with publicity. Don't forget to bring something for the donation auction.

As far as upcoming events, the VRPS is having their spring auction on March 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in Irving, Tx. at the Senter East Building, 228 Chamberlain St., the same as last year. It is in a residential area, so if you have not been there, it's best to use a GPS device to find it. The start time is 9:15 AM, as a trailer load of donated parts and unrestored radios will be sold before the main auction. It should be a good auction. It's not as big as the fall convention auctions, but there are always some good items as well as restoration parts available. Contact me for more details.

I attended a 2 day, Jim Sargent auction last weekend in Quinlan, Tx., east of Dallas. A collector who was not associated with any radio clubs, and who began collecting in the late 1970's, donated everything to the Arms of Hope children's charity. Friday all the poorer items were sold from an empty house that was about to be restored. But there were a lot of good items, just dirty. Almost everything was selling at reasonable prices. I purchased enough to fill my vehicle, but needed more room for the next day, so gave away a lot of sets after salvaging the parts I needed. Saturday was the good stuff. There were numerous catalin sets, some in very nice condition, and there were some unique items that I had never seen before. A portion of the items were available for internet bidding, so those items tended to sell at higher prices, but generally prices were fair with many good buys. I ended up with the car not overly full, and regretted not buying some of the smaller tombstone sets

which were selling at great prices. But, I don't have room here at home for what I bought, so it is probably for the best.

See you at the meeting. Don't forget to bring your ideas for our big meet, and items for the donation auction, plus any Western Electric items you have for display.

### **Report for the OKVRC Meeting 2/11/2012**

Perhaps I spoke too soon in last month's report when I mentioned we were having the "winter that wasn't". As it turned out, the weekend of our February meeting was actually cold! But it was dry, and with no snow or ice to impede us from driving, we had a good turnout of seventeen OKVRC members, spouses and guests for our usual meeting at the Hometown Buffet in Oklahoma City.

As always, we enjoyed dinner from about 5:45 to 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, on March 17th. Jim also told us about the auction of the Jim Sargent collection, which is taking place on-line. We were also reminded to start planning for (and advertising) the April OKVRC Convention at the Midwest City Community Center on April 14<sup>th</sup>. We also learned about the liquidation of an old radio repair shop in Kansas, great deals on parts and stuff for anyone willing to make a long trip!

The subject of tonight's meeting: Hints and tips related to the radio restoration hobby, in other words, tricks that we have learned over the years, as well as problems we hope someone else might have an answer for. Your club secretary started out by asking for help with a problem: how to restore plastic radio cabinets. Not ones that are cracked or broken, just ones that have become faded and weathered looking over decades of exposure to sunlight and the elements. To illustrate, I brought in two Zenith table radios from the early fifties: an AM radio in mint condition and a badly faded AM-FM model. I was hoping to find out a way for the second radio to be made as nice looking as the first. Several club members offered suggestions, but cautioned that it might not be possible to get the Bakelite material underneath all the way back to its original luster, since under the top finish, Bakelite (unlike Plastikon and Catlin) material contains a lot of "filler". The recommended way to restore a roughened plastic finish is to polish the cabinet with compounds of increasing fineness: starting with 0000 fine steel wool, or 600 sandpaper (used wet), followed by Brasso, rubbing polish, Novus # 3 plastic polish, lastly #2 Novus. The Brett's Old Radios restoration DVD #4 covers plastic radio restoration in detail; I'll bring the club's copy to the March meeting in case anyone would like to take it home to watch.

Dale McLellan brought in a tiny 1932 two-tube "Kadett" radio in a plastic cabinet. The delicate plastic grill was broken; Dale has restored it to like new condition. Members also gave us tips on how to restring broken dial cords, while dial cord can be found in different thicknesses, .03 dia works well for most radios. Tips were offered on the way to replace phonograph drive belts, often an ordinary O-ring of the same diameter can be slipped onto the pulleys. It was recommended that the surface of the pulley be sanded to increase friction with the belt. Bleach can be used to clear dirt out of cracks and crevices in Plastikon cabinets without dissolving the plastic. Roger Knop brought in a homemade filament tester box and a gadget to straighten bent tube pins. Jim Collings showed us a homemade adapter to convert long pin 99 tubes to work in early sets with UV-199 sockets. Jim Rice explained how to restore the small electrostatic loudspeakers found in some postwar German radios, and showed us some examples of his work. In summary, we all learned something by sharing with other collectors some of the knowledge we have acquired over years of collecting and restoring. That alone is a good reason to belong to OKVRC!

We wrapped up the evening with an auction of donated goodies. Several boxes of parts, a wood Zenith table radio, a cabinet from a 1924 Freed-Eisemann FE-15 radio, a Rider's index, RCA Pictoguides, QST magazines, a soldering gun, and several boxes of solid state portable radios and tape players found new homes. Most items went for a buck.

See you at next month's meeting!



Applying household bleach to dirty crack in Plastikon Cabinet





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:

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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:radioman@wi.rr.com)
- WANTED:** RESTORED Philco model 90, good condition and "reasonably" priced. Rod Higgens, (405) 329-3013, [hotrod808@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hotrod808@sbcglobal.net)
- WANTED:** Philco item: Cabinet 38-1X for 38-1 chassis. .Reasonable price please. Email: [artdrhs@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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
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