



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

As I write this we are under yet another tornado watch. I hope that no one was adversely affected by the recent storms. Seeing the complete devastation of homes in the Moore area makes me realize that all this radio "stuff" is not important, and that family and friends are. But we can still enjoy our collections, if our priorities are placed correctly.

Frank Karner will lead our program at our next meeting. It will be in two parts. One is about radios that are essentially the same, but have different brand names. He will have an example, and I believe I have one. The most common examples are bakelite sets which are identical except for the brand name. So bring an example if you have one. The second part is on identifying tubes when the numbers are not visible. Most of us have a technique for trying to discern the numbers, but probably with little luck. So it should be an interesting discussion. Bring all your tubes that you cannot identify. I believe I can help with many of them. The meeting is at Swadley's BarBQ on Rockwell and 39th Street (old highway 66) on June 8th. The meeting begins at 7 PM preceded by dinner about 6, on June 9th. Don't forget items for the donation auction.

Julie and I went to the Radio Daze meet in Plymouth, (Minneapolis) Minnesota sponsored by the Northland Antique Radio Club, (NARC), on May 17th and 18th. We had never been to this meet before, and it is relatively close, only about 850 miles from OKC, so we decided to give it a try. We left on Wednesday when there were not any activities scheduled until Friday, so it was nice to travel more leisurely, and have time to relax at the destination before everything started.

The first event was a flea market at the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting on Friday afternoon. It consisted of duplicate and surplus donated items from the museum. Prices were fair, and I bought a few items. All the proceeds went to support the museum. I did not expect much, but was very impressed with the museum! I expected a bunch of 1950's radio and TV station consoles and similar items based upon the museum's name, and what I had seen at the now defunct Texas Museum of Broadcasting, but that was not the case. There are impressive early wireless items, later battery sets, speakers, early AC sets, cathedrals, consoles, audio items, some broadcast items, and even transistor radios. They have speaker phones that you can activate to get narrations at many displays. I had trouble getting Julie to leave, as she wanted to hear them all, and she learned some things about radio operation that she did not know.

Friday evening was the auction, with Frank Rasada as the auctioneer. There were a fair amount of things for sale, and not too much junk. They had a set fee for entering auction items, rather than charging a commission, and the \$10 minimum bid was enforced. There were some nice items

including an original Sparton Bluebird and a Sled. These and other more expensive items went cheap. But ending prices for lesser items were high in my opinion. I purchased a small RCA Catalin radio for less than \$500 and a few other items.

Saturday morning the fleamarket was to start at dawn, but it was raining. It never really stopped until about noon, but collectors were out in the rain before that, getting wet or under umbrellas looking into the backs of vehicles. I finally got the table out at noon and set up, but the previous rain had dampened the event, so it was not well attended. I did not take anything very exciting to sell, so only sold a few items. I only purchased a few things, mainly from one vender. They did not have an auction of donated items for the end, but dumpsters to throw away everything unwanted. I believe they are missing an opportunity to help fund the event. We stopped in the contest room before we left to see the displays. There were some nice items, but the number of displays was disappointing, with only a few more than we had at our April meet. All in all we enjoyed the meet and were able to see some different scenery from our usual trips. We will likely attend again.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting. Be sure to bring something for the donation auction.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 05/11/2013

May is here, and this last Saturday was quite beautiful outside, perfect for a barbeque or picnic somewhere. But a fairly good turnout of about sixteen OKVRC members decided to leave the cooking to the pros and joined us for our monthly meeting and dinner at Swadley's Barbeque restaurant in Bethany. To our surprise we found that our (semi)private room had had the wall and door separating us from the main dining room removed, making our meeting area less private. But we have also learned that a new meeting room is being constructed behind it, which should give us even more space and privacy than the old one. We should be able to use it next month!

We enjoyed dinner from about 5:30 to 7:00 PM, before Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. We talked about last month's swap meet and the upcoming "Summer Sizzler" meet held by our sister club in Tulsa. We then moved on to the subject of tonight's program: Military radios and electronics.

As long as mankind has been waging war on his fellow man, there has been an urgent need for forces to communicate in real time with their commanders as well as other units. Poor communication has lost battles and entire wars. None other than Napoleon said "The secret of war lies in the communications". Armies have tried for centuries to come up with better ways to stay in touch. The ancient Chinese general and military philosopher Sun Tzu suggested torches should be used for signaling at night, and "drums, gongs, flags and pennants" by day. A bigger challenge was sending information over long distances. Traditionally, this was done using foot and mounted messengers. As technology advanced in the last couple centuries, new and faster methods were developed. During the American Civil War, Union Armies installed telegraph lines along their paths as they advanced into the Confederacy. And in India, the British Army used the heliograph to flash messages from mountaintop to mountaintop. But it was the introduction of radio, less the 125 years ago, that completely revolutionized military communications. Now forces on land, sea, and in the air could send and receive dispatches day and night, instantaneously, free of physical connections. This transformed the military world like no invention since gunpowder, and gave rise to the concept of unified Command, Control, and Communication, or C3 for short.

Military radios, usually heavy, always expensive, rarely attractive, and often classified, were unlikely to ever end up in anyone's living room. But outdated and excess equipment sometimes ends up on the military surplus market, and these devices may find their way into collector's hands, often after they have served a second tour of duty in an amateur radio operator's ham shack. OKVRC

members have a few, and brought them to the meeting to share with us. Jim Collings showed us a BC14A World War One Crystal set receiver. This unit was based on a French design, and built for US forces by three American companies; Jim's was built by DeForest. Jim then showed us a SCR-122 wavemeter from about 1920, made by National Electric Supply. The next item Jim shared with us was a BC989B military receiver from 1929. This radio has a built in clock! This accessory makes a lot of sense for military applications. Also, we saw a Western Electric CW52063A aircraft transmitter from World War Two. Lastly, we got to see a 30 to 42 MHz FM transmitter panel from about the time of the Korean War.

Your club secretary brought in a Detrola AM-SW table set from World War Two. This is not a military radio per say, it was a "moral receiver" built for sale or distribution to servicemen for off-duty entertainment. The metal cabinet is very rugged (and heavy), and has a carrying handle, and, on the back, a place to spool up the antenna. My next door neighbor was kind enough to loan it to me, she got it from a relative who served in the US Navy.

John Reynolds brought in something I had never heard about: a military grade Zenith Transoceanic receiver. These are distinguished from there commercial cousins by a different color dial and case. But the real difference is inside. The chassis is built with mil-spec components including all the capacitors. John's unit has all the original capacitors and still works perfect! Stanley Caesar showed us an item with an identifying plate reading "CAA". This stands for Civil Aeronautics Administration, which dates it to before around 1957, when the CAA was replaced by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). Mike Swinney displayed a Hammond SP-600 JS26 multiband receiver of Korean War vintage. This receiver was used by the government, and was also sold to private users as well. It receives a wide range frequencies up to 54 MHz

We finished up the night with our usual donation auction. A nice vintage Walls soldering gun, a large box of resistors, two boxes of tubes, several ARRL manuals and a Rider's index, an isolation transformer, a pair of (Motorola and Admiral) clock radios, and a flat of meters and parts all went to new homes.

See you next month at Swadley's!





A beautiful 1939 Montgomery-Wards Airline model 93BR-715B unrestored radio was donated to the club last month. It will be refurbished by Dale McLellan and presented at the Fall Swap Meet to be raffled off at the end Meeting. The raffle ticket price will be determined and be offered before and during the Swap Meet.



Restoring a 1940 Philco Dial Scale



With most of the paint already flaked off, I found that the glass was molded or etched, So, I decided to try a technique that worked well on an auto radio dial. Basically, I used Testors (tm) model paint, and squeegee'd it on with a razor blade. Keeping up even pressure, I wanted to only have a slight film left on the clear areas... When the paint had dried, I went back with a new razor blade, and carefully scraped the glass to remove the last of the film. It didn't take all that long... Pic 3 shows the dial almost done. Pic 4 is just before final cleanup of a few rough areas, and re-installation.





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:** Zenith 12"/14" speakers, part numbers 49-149 and 49-150. These are used in the Zenith models 12-U-158 and 12-U-149 consoles. . These speakers used the "Acoustic adapters" or mache type "Beehive" over the back of the speakers. I will buy the speakers with or without the "beehive covers" , or will buy a "Beehive" cover by itself. THANKS! Frank Karner fkarner@cox.net . (405) 769-4656
- WANTED:** Tube Testers! Interested in models from Hickok, Triplett, Sencore, B&K, Heathkit, Mercury, Jackson, Precise, Stark, Marconi, Realistic (Radio Shack). Contact Jim Ray, email jabray71@hotmail.com or call 405-514-8046.
- 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
- 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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