



Broadcast News

Online at www.okvrc.org

March 2013

Volume XXII, Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

March 9th is our monthly meeting at the Swadley's Barbeque on Rockwell, just south of NW 39th Street. We gather at 6 PM for food and fellowship with the meeting beginning at 7. We will finalize plans for publicity, and brainstorm for other ideas to make our April 13th Annual Swap meet bigger and better. The topic for the meeting will be Art Deco. So bring any items that you think are representative of this style. There are many radios in this category, but other Deco items are welcome also. At the end of the meeting we will have our usual donation auction. See you at the meeting!

Here are details for the Swap meet: On April 13th our OKVRC annual meet will be held at the Midwest City Community Center, beginning at 8 AM. This is our big meet with a swap meet, contest, silent auction, and live auction. We have the facility only until Noon, so events need to move along. We get in the door officially at 8AM, but I'm hoping they will let us in a little earlier. The swap and contest tables will be set up. The event will have free admission, but donations for coffee and doughnuts will be appreciated. The silent auction will end at 9:30 AM, followed by the contest judging with the live auction beginning at 10:30. We usually have many nice items on display, and just coming to see the contest items would be worthwhile, but there are always interesting items in the swap meet and auction. Everyone is urged to bring items to show off for the contest. You may enter two items in each category. The only restriction is that items that won a first place ribbon last year can not compete, but can be displayed. I believe that displaying your favorite pieces is an important part of radio collecting. It makes collecting more enjoyable. It's no fun having a room full of radio items, and never showing them or sharing them with others.

Here are the Contest Categories:

1. Battery and Crystal Receivers, Pre-1930
2. Tombstone and Cathedral Receivers
3. Horizontal Wooden Receivers
4. Metal Sets after 1926 (includes amateur receivers and transmitters)
5. AC/DC Bakelite or Plastic Receivers
6. Transistor Radios
7. Console Receivers (includes radio/phono combos and televisions)
8. Art Deco and Novelty AC operated Receivers
9. Foreign Made Receivers and Equipment, pre 1957.
10. Homebrew and Kit Receivers
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)

Julie and I drove up to Burbank, Ohio to the Estes Auction held on Feb 16th. It had been more than a year since we has attended one of these. The auction featured items from a collection in Colorado, with many items similar to what I have in my collection. Also, there was a National Company two stage amplifier made in Oklahoma City that I was interested in. So I thought it would be good to see how these things were selling. The auction the month before had many similar items plus some very rare early items, so I expected attendance to be lower. I was surprised that the room was filled with buyers! Often in auctions the first few items do not sell very well while the bidders got warmed up, but that was not the case here. The first items sold well and set the tone for the auction. Prices were quite a bit higher than I expected. Early sets similar to my collection sold for good prices, not as high at the peak in the late 1980's, but much higher than recent sales I have seen reported. Even cathedral sets which seem to have lost their appeal were up. Several larger well restored examples sold for more than \$300 each. More common later items sold well also. Even the junker sets at the pre- main auction sale brought good prices. I believe purchases on eBay can be less expensive than the auction for average items. So, we did not purchase too much, and I may have paid too much for some of the tubes I bought. I was outbid on the National amp. So the good news is that radio prices appear to be on the rise! I spoke with several others at the auction about the trend, and they indicated that buyers in that area were stepping up to the plate on nicer items. But, they were not convinced that the trend would last, and may be localized. We'll see at this summer's meets.

The VRPS spring auction to be held at the Senter East Building, 228 Chamberlain St., in Irving, TX (Dallas) on March 16th. It begins at 8 AM, and compliments their annual convention in the fall. It is an auction only, but is worth attending. It's not as large as the auctions during the fall convention, and there are not as many expensive items as in the fall, but there are always a few nice things. There tends to be more parts available and sets for parts or restoration. So it's a good source for getting what might be needed to complete your restoration. There are motels in the area if you are not an early riser to leave at 3 AM to drive down. It wraps up in the late afternoon, so it can be just a one day trip. It is worth attending.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 02/9/2013

Well, February is here already, the shortest month of the year. Only twenty-eight days before the mortgage is due. Better stay out of antique stores, avoid barn sales and stay off EBay. Might run into something I want for my collection and the mortgage will be late!

It was a cold evening last Saturday but we managed to coax out of about fifteen OKVRC members for our monthly meeting and dinner at Swadley's barbeque restaurant in Bethany. We enjoyed dinner from about 5:30 to 7:00 PM, before Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. Jim talked about an upcoming Estes radio auction in Ohio. We also discussed a radio for sale on EBay: An ultra-rare 1916 Marconi 106B. I don't remember the price exactly, but it was somewhere around \$15,000 to \$20,000. We all dream about discovering something like that at a yard sale, but the

odds are about as good as the standard antique auto collector's fantasy of finding a Duisenberg roadster parked in a barn. Who knows? You probably have a better chance of finding the radio than the car! Jim also discussed some other upcoming events including the VPRS auction in Irving, Texas, and the AWA meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. Don't think I'll make any of those. If any of our members can, please give us a report!

We usually start off with a show and tell session, where anyone can share a radio-related item with the club even if it is unrelated to the night's program. Dale McLellan brought in a set of two packs of playing cards, still wrapped in their original cellophane, from the Merit Coil and Transformer Company. They were probably something distributed by the company's salesmen to customers. No doubt the company made some of the inductors found in our radios

The subject of tonight's programs: Speakers. In the (very) early days of radio, headphones were the rule. Early sets couldn't put out much volume and professional radio operators used headphones to shut out distractions. Once radios entered the home, speakers were needed so that the whole family could enjoy the program together. Once radios added a couple more tubes for amplification, headphones, (which women hated because they got caught in their hairdos) were relegated to ham shacks and crystal set users. Horn speakers were the standard from about 1920 to about 1925. The earlier horns tend to have a straight neck below the "bell", the later ones a more graceful "gooseneck" design. Coiled-up horns were sometimes used, in free-standing enclosures or inside the few radios of the time with built in speakers. The cone speaker became popular starting in 1925. Early free-standing cone speakers used a cone operated by a driven-armature permanent magnet driver. Later, electrodynamic speakers provide increased volume and better tone. Most speakers since World War II have been the permanent magnet type, but the basic design for a speaker today strongly resembles the style that had gelled by the early thirties

Your club secretary started out with a couple of horn-type speakers. The first was a Murdoch horn from about 1921. This small horn uses an ordinary headphone driver mounted to a cast metal U-shaped tube, then to a cardboard horn. It's fairly primitive. I also showed a Tower "Meistersinger" from about 1925. A metal Crosley "Musicone" speaker from about 1928 was a displayed next. These were often sold with the popular "Showbox" and "Gembox" metal radios sold by Crosley. Then, I showed a 1929 "Peerless" cone speaker in a completely enclosed wood cabinet. This "cathedral" style speaker was about advanced as these early detached speakers got before speakers became a standard built-in for almost all radios by 1930. Lastly, I displayed a circa 1924 device that could be attached to an acoustic wind-up phonograph. It allowed you to play your radio through the horn of your phono.

Jim Collings brought in some very interesting items, starting out with a tiny brass horn made by the American Electric Telephone company of Chicago. It was probably used in a circa 1920-1921 auto intercom. Next, we got to see an early "Deitzen" horn. It has a rather small bell, but a very large and ornate cast metal base. A Western Electric 551 horn designed to hang on a wall was shown next. The most exciting item of the night was a "Radio-lamp" from about 1924. This attractive lamp doubled as a horn speaker! We also got to see a really large Western Electric cone speaker with a reproduction cone from about 1926, followed by a really tiny tortoiseshell horn speaker from about 1924. Jim also showed us some examples of later cone speakers that already come installed as part of a radio rather than as a separate item. These included a Crosley Dynacoil J-type speaker from the thirties and some small speakers of the type used in transistor radios.

Roger Knopf brought in some reproduction speaker cones to show. Since speaker cones often get damaged over the decades, most of us will need to re-cone a speaker sooner or later. It's good to know a source for these replacement items, or better yet, an expert who can do this delicate job for us!

We had a few items for our regular donation auction. A multiband pocket radio, some speakers, a big box of Altoids tins (perfect for storing parts) a ceiling fan control new in the box, a big stack of LP record albums, some telephone relays, a large battery set cabinet, and a few other odds and ends all went to new homes.

See you next month at Swadley's!





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.

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:** 10BP4 PICTURE TUBE, IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION. Thanks, Frank Karner, (405) 769-4656, fkarner@cox.net
- 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:** 1931 AK Cathedral Model 82, near mint, original finish, looks and works great, \$500; 1947 Woolaroc Portable Radio AC/DC, 6 tubes, Model 3-12A/3, works, \$50.00; 1938 Zenith Chairside, Model 6S-249, Chassis 5644, \$500.00. All items listed for sale will require additional shipping or direct pick up separate from sale cost. Contact Fielding Grigsby, 580-222-9408, PO Box 2601, Ardmore, OK 73402.
- 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