



# Broadcast News

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Our August meeting is coming up, August 9th at Spencer's Smoke House & Barbecue at 9900 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oklahoma City. The actual meeting starts at 7PM, preceded by dinner at about 6. The topic for the meeting is Kits. These can be radios or test equipment or other electronics that were sold as kits. So, bring all your kit items. It would be great to see some unbuilt kits. Kits have been very popular over the years as the builder could have everything needed for the piece, and build it himself at quite a cost savings. I believe it often led the builder to have an interest in electronics, and possibly choosing a career related to electronics. The most common kits were sold by Heath and Knight, but there are quite a few less common brands. It should be an interesting meeting, and I'm anxious to see what shows up. 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 on meters, as we went to the MARC Extravaganza meet in Lansing, Michigan. We did not attend last year as the flea market did not start until Saturday morning, and it would take an extra day of vacation for me to attend. This year they changed it to a Friday morning flea market and Friday afternoon auction, and then more flea market on Saturday morning. It was a good meet! Attendance appeared to be down from last year, as there were not many vendors set up on the far side of the parking lot. Also, there were a few spots under the tent from no-shows. The telephone collectors were included in the meet, and two vendors occupied multiple tables with interesting telephones. Our spot was under the tent, as it saves transporting a table and chair, leaving more room to bring back purchases. The weather was near perfect: dry, sunny, and fairly cool. Thursday afternoon was registration, and in the evening there was a technical session about record changer repair, under the tent. But, we did not hear it as we were worn out from stopping at too many antique malls on the way up. The flea market officially opens at 7 AM, and restrictions on earlier selling are prohibited. But sellers could make a deal and not exchange money until after the start, so it is hard to enforce, and of course there are always pre-arranged sales, where the buyer picks up and pays for an item at the meet to save shipping costs. At the start, it didn't seem to me like there was the usual rush to run to the dealer who had interesting items. I did not sell any of my expensive items, but generally it was lower priced items that changed hands. Activity slowed down in the late morning, as the auction started at 1:15, with a preview of the items at noon. In previous years the auction was on Saturday afternoon, so we skipped it and headed home. So this year we got to attend. Richard Estes conducted the auction, and there were some interesting items, but I only spent \$30 on two items, as prices were higher than I was willing to pay for most items. I did not stay for the very end, as the items that I was interested in had come up. Some of the offerings were seen in the flea market earlier, but many were brought only to sell in the auction. Almost everything sold, with very few passes. Friday evening they had their complementary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. We played hooky and

had a nice dinner elsewhere, but got back to see the display of contest items and listen to the musical entertainment, while having some fruit. There were some nice items in the contest. There are always some unusual items that I had never seen before. The theme was Zenith, and there were some great Zenith displays, but not as many as I would have expected for such a popular brand. Saturday morning we reopened our booth, but there was only one new seller. But, vendors were willing to discount by mid-morning, and I purchased some of the items I had my eye on. Some people from the public came by in late morning when we were starting to pack up, and bought parts. We loaded up and were on the road back home by noon. The donation auction was scheduled to start at 3 PM, and there were some interesting items there that I would like to have bid on. I would have stayed if they would have started it at noon, like other meets. 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 good meet, and I enjoyed seeing a lot of friends and fellow collectors.

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. Bring your kits, and donation items.

### **Report for the OKVRC Meeting 07/12/2014**

The Fourth of July is already a week in the rear view mirror, 2014 seems to be flying by so fast! Just last week we were watching fireworks, this weekend (Sunday night) I'm watching the fireflies put on a pretty good light show in my backyard. It was nearly 100 degrees both days that weekend, but that didn't stop about fourteen OKVRC members and their spouses from making it to our monthly meeting at Spencer's BBQ in Midwest City.

We arrived at Spencer's between 5:30 and 6 PM, and enjoyed dinner before the night's program. They gave us the room we had last May (too small), but since the large room we had in June was available due to another group canceling, we were able to move into it. The food was excellent as always, the portions generous. Club president Jim Collings was away on business this month, so Roger Knopf presented this month's program. We did a program on tube testers a while back, so we decided devote this night's program to another item found on every antique radio collectors work bench: meters, specifically vintage VOMs and VTVMs.

Roger gave us an excellent lecture on the development of meters for measuring electrical current, starting with the observation made in 1820 by Hans Orsted that a compass needle will move in reaction to the presence of a current in a nearby wire and its resultant magnetic field. This observation lead eventually to the development of the galvanometer based on the classic d'Arsonval meter movement. By the beginning of the twentieth century meters to measure current and voltage could be found anywhere electric power was generated, distributed, and utilized. Early radio technicians relied on a grab bag of different meters to cover various voltage and current ranges. For resistance measurements, it was necessary to apply a test voltage to a device, measure the voltage drop, and calculate resistance. What was needed was a single instrument that could measure voltage, current and resistance over a wide range. An answer to that need came with the development of the VOM (volt ohmmeter) and the VTVM (vacuum tube volt meter)

The VOM met these needs but sometimes gave inaccurate readings due to the internal resistance of the meter input combining in parallel with the circuit being tested. The VTVM solved this problem by using a vacuum tube circuit internally to provide a high impedance input circuit that did not load down the circuit under test. This resulted in more accurate readings of voltage and resistance. Starting in the nineteen sixties solid state circuits began replacing the vacuum tube circuits in multimeters. These new instruments were cheaper and lighter; most were battery operated as well, so

they could be easily taken into the field. By the early nineteen eighties LED and LCD seven-segment digital displays had largely replaced the mechanical d'Arsonval meter movements that had served so well for over 100 years.

While almost all of us now own a Digital Multimeter and use it in our work, many of us have vintage VOMs and VTVMs around, and like our tube checkers, and they can still be used today. Our club members brought in many of these instruments to share. Jim Rice brought in a Heathkit model 1M-5218 VTVM from the early sixties, and a Triplet model 630 VOM. Roger Knopf brought another Triplet 630; this must have been a popular model. Your club secretary brought in a RCA Senior Voltohmyst model WV-97A VTVM and a Knight VTVM, model unknown. I also showed a pocket analog solid-state multimeter brought recently at a dollar store, "Model KW-8810" it says, no brand name, certainly Chinese. And it does work, not bad for a buck!

Bill Jones brought in a RCA Senior Voltohmyst model WV-65A. This unit is battery operated unlike most VTVMs, and is fully operational. We also got to see an Eico model 221 VTVM, a Precision Apparatus Series 80 VOM, and a Simpson Model 260 VOM. A fascinating assortment of vintage electronic instruments, most perfectly functional and quite useful for working on equally vintage radios!

There was no donation auction this month, so we had a little extra time to talk about some possible topics for programs at future meetings. If anyone has an idea for an interesting topic that we haven't done recently, please send a message to any one of the club officers. We did manage to pick a topic for next month's meeting: vintage electronic devices, built from kits. So if you have a radio, TV, test instrument, guitar amp or other electronic appliance built from a kit, please bring it along. And if you have an unbuilt kit that has survived intact, bring that in as well! Next month's program should be lots of fun.

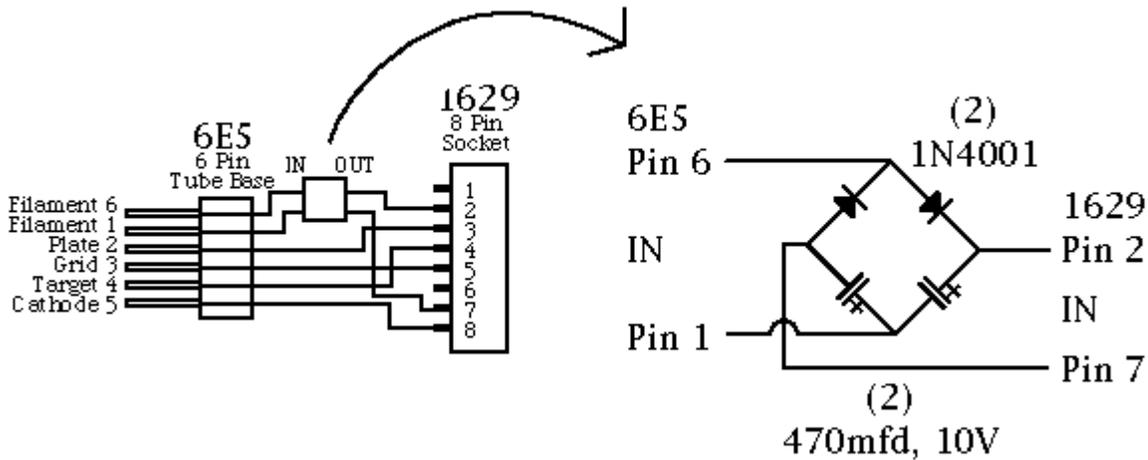
See you next month, at Spencer's!



Zenith Pictures from the MARC Extravaganza

## Tech Tip - Eye Tubes

The 1629 tube can be used to replace 6U5, 6E5, 6G5, etc. tuning eyes if you make an adapter and increase the filament voltage to 12 volts. At first it seems like another filament transformer must be added but this is not necessary. The 1629 as well as most tubes will operate on AC or DC for the filament voltage. For AC radios you can make a simple voltage doubler that will convert the 6.3 volt filament of the original tuning eye tube to over 12 volts DC for the 1629. To make the doubler two 470 mfd capacitors and two 1N4001 or similar diodes are required. See the diagram below:



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:

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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:** 2 power converters for battery/farm sets. Restoring 2 oldies for a friend so need 2. Can power them from 110V. Many thanks! Frank Karner. [fkarner@cox.net](mailto:fkarner@cox.net) (405) 769-4656.
- WANTED:** Tube Testers! Interested in models from Hickok, Triplett, Sencore, B&K, Heathkit, Mercury, Jackson, Precise, Stark, Marconi, and Realistic (Radio Shack). Contact Jim Ray, email [jabray71@hotmail.com](mailto:jabray71@hotmail.com) or call (405) 514-8046.
- 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 [k8jm@arrl.net](mailto:k8jm@arrl.net).
- WANTED:** Dial bezel and dial pointer for an 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) 840-4146 or [radioman@wirr.com](mailto:radioman@wirr.com).

- FOR SALE:** A friend has two radios for sale, as I recall they are both very nice condition and I went thru them 4-6 years ago. (1) Grundig-Majestic 7000 series, plays well, and (2) a 1960 Magnavox AM-FM Stereo with 4 speed player. This was from the Golden days of Magnovox stereos. Ad submitted by Frank Karner. Please Contact Forest Musyka. Cell: (405) 117-1020, e-mail is [obmuzyka@yahoo.com](mailto:obmuzyka@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 working 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).
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- SERVICE:** Old Radio Restoration and Servicing by Raymond Cady. Let me make it like new again. Email: [rcady@uco.edu](mailto:rcady@uco.edu) or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.

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