



# Broadcast News

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

# OKVRC Christmas Party!!

Our Christmas Party will again be at the home of Jim and Julie Collings, 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013. The date is Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please arrive around 6 PM, as the catered meal will be ready to eat at 6:30. The cost is \$15 per person (\$30 per couple) this year, a reduction from the past. The OKVRC is again subsidizing a portion of the meal. This is made possible thru purchase and sale of items in our monthly donation auctions, and any gain after expenses at our meets. Please RSVP to the Collings at 755-4139, or [jrcradio@cox.net](mailto:jrcradio@cox.net) by Monday, Dec. 8th. We will have the usual white elephant/dirty Santa gift exchange. So everyone needs to bring a gift valued at ~\$10. These have been a lot of fun in the past. We are hoping for a big turnout, and of course all are welcome. Call if you need directions. It's one of our few events where the women are especially included and get to socialize.

Julie and I attended the VRPS meet in Dallas (Mesquite) the weekend of Nov 14<sup>th</sup>-16th. It was a good meet, very similar to those in the past, and attendance seemed to me to be a little more than last year, despite some obvious absences. Friday morning check-in began, along with unloading for the auctions and contest. Before lunchtime, Olin Shuler of Illinois gave an interesting presentation with insights from Motorola where he spent his career. On Friday afternoon the auctions began, with the tube and paper auction. There were less tubes and more paper than in previous years. Prices were reasonable. The auction ended in time to grab a bite to eat before the Friday night auction which is designed for less expensive items with a \$10 minimum bid. This auction had fewer items than in the past, and some items brought some nice prices. Common items sold for reasonable prices. The silent auction on Saturday morning was fairly large as more tables were set up, but seemed to end too early, at 9 AM, as many potential bidders never made it to the auction area. But it is a nice way to sell smaller items that do not meet the minimum \$10 bid in the other auctions. The main Saturday

auction began at 11 AM, There were some nice all original items which sold at high prices, but most of the more common stuff went at fair to cheap prices. I was disappointed at the prices for a couple of my items. An interesting note was that consoles did very poorly. Many sold for just the \$20 minimum, if they sold at all. A few very nice Zeniths were the exception. The auction stopped at about 5 PM to give everyone time to get ready for the banquet after paying for and removing all of their purchases. There were some unsold items which did not make it to the auction block, but most were low value items, many of which would not have brought the minimum bid. Some were items that were purchased in the Friday auction for \$10, and the buyer was trying to make a profit by running them on Saturday, hoping they would sell for \$20. I purchased some nice horns and a loop antenna for my collection in the Saturday auction. There was a change this year (which I advocated), where buyers paid a 5% premium, and the sellers paid a 10% commission instead of the 15% charged to sellers in the past. I worked the computer and moved sets during the auctions, and everything went fine, with no glitches. Bill Werzner of Houston helped Jim Sargent with some of the auctioneering, and did a good job. Total sales for all the auctions was about \$30,000. The contest was good, with quite a few impressive displays, but there was room for additional items, and a few categories with no entries. The Saturday night banquet and contest awards presentation was typical of past meets. It was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the VRPS, and I received an award for being the only remaining active charter member. A barbershop quartet sang a few numbers for entertainment, but it was very short, with just two familiar songs. The Sunday morning swap meet was a little better than last year. I did find a couple items to purchase, but only sold one book. I was unable to give away the junkiest items that I didn't want, that came along with other items I won in the auctions. There were some items that were brought specifically for the swap, as well as unsold items from the auctions. Overall it was a good meet, and we will plan to attend again next year.

Please make plans to attend our Christmas Party. The more the merrier, and I'm sure it will be a fun time. Julie and I are looking forward to seeing everyone. We may have a jam session toward the end of the evening if anyone wants to bring their musical instrument. Everyone is welcome to stay to listen or sing along.

### **Report for the OKVRC Meeting 11/09/2014**

November is here already, and we have just had our last regular meeting for 2014. The Christmas party is just around the corner, and then we will be having our next first regular meeting in 2015. The year has sure gone by fast! The weather was warm and pleasant for our regular second-Saturday-of-the-month meeting (unlike this weekend where it's freezing) so we had a pretty good turnout of about eighteen members and spouses at Spencer's Barbeque in Midwest City. We even got to welcome a couple of new members to the club.

We enjoyed dinner in the large private dining room from about 5:45 to 7:00 before Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. We started out with a recap of the last month's convention and swap meet at the Midwest City Community Center. We all agreed it was a success, not just because of the good turnout, but because a large number of the items offered for sale actually were sold. The consensus was that most sellers priced their

items to sell, rather than trying to get top dollar. The raffle of two antique radios was a big hit too. We also discussed possible ways to encourage even better turnout at the swap meets and our regular monthly meetings.

Our topic for the night's program: Miniatures. We had a program a couple years ago when we were meeting at Swadley's Barbeque called Small Wonders, where we brought in particularly compact vintage radios. This time, our members brought in a variety of miniature electronic devices, not all radios, and even a few relatively recent, but all interesting none the less!

Jim Colings showed us a tiny "Dragon Fly" Ampilon horn speaker from around 1923. This Ampilon is US made; we have all seen the larger and very desirable wooden Ampilon horns made in England. Jim also showed us a very tiny "Teletone" speaker made of translucent celluloid, dating from the twenties as well. We also got to see three small table radios from Jim's collection; an RCA Catalin, a Fada, and one of unknown make. Mike Swinney showed us a "Honey Tone" pocket radio from the late fifties early sixties. It has a fold-out stand for the radio, a feature only very early shirt-pocket size radios had.

Your club secretary brought in four tiny table radios to the "Small Wonder" program a couple of years ago, so I didn't want to bring them in again. So I scrounged up in a few other items that would qualify as miniatures. I showed a Sony Trinitron 5-inch color TV from about 1983. Sony revolutionized color TV in the early nineteen seventies with their "one-gun" picture tube, which gave a slightly sharper picture than the conventional three electron gun tubes. This set was given to me by a friend when he returned to California recently. It has all of the original accessories and documentation, and I believe it was the smallest Trinitron set made. I also brought in a small Arvin metal (mid-late thirties) set that I picked up at last spring's swap meet. It is small for sure, but what is remarkable is that it has only two tubes instead of the usual four or five used in most very small table models. I also showed a Coby AM-FM pocket radio someone gave me; it's a one of the smallest I have ever seen.

Roger Knopf brought in bunch of cool miniatures. He showed us a small Japanese tube-tube table radio from the early sixties. The name was missing but I recognized the brand as "Continental" since I have similar model at home. We also got to see a small GE clock radio, and a mini Pepsi cooler radio, a mini jukebox radio, and a mini Fada clock radio.

We finished up an enjoyable evening with our usual donation auction. Items offered included the chassis for a Woolerock table radio (made in Oklahoma), a flat of speakers, two clock radios (one with a CD player), a box of computer boards, a box of early small CRTs, and a restorable Hallicrafters 528A receiver. Most items went for a buck or two.

See you at next month's Christmas party. Don't miss it!





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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