



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

It looks like our next meeting is coming up already. It will be at Spencer's Smoke House & Barbeque, 9900 NE 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK on July 12th, beginning at 7 PM, with dinner before, about 6 PM. Last month we had a good meeting at this location, in their larger room. We discussed heavy metal sets, with a side note on the evolution of the 201/201-A/01A tube. Frank Karner brought a lot of items for the auction, which were donated by Mrs. Jennings from Bob Jennings' collection. This month the topic will be meters. We will discuss the operation and use of VTVM and VOM meters. I'm sure most of us use these frequently, but there are always additional uses we can learn. It should be an interesting topic. Bring your workhorse meters. Also at this meeting we will have our annual election of officers.

Several of our local members attended the HLARA annual Summer Sizzler in Tulsa on June 28th. It was a good meet as usual, but attendance was down from last year. I sold three larger sets, but they were replaced by new purchases by the end of the meet. The contest had a few nice items, but less displays than previous years. There was not a special item that stood out for me to vote for as the people's choice, so I ended up voting for a piece of test equipment that was in near mint original condition rather than a flashy radio. The meet got stagnant while the judging was going on, as I think all the deals had been made. There were some interesting things in the donation auction which had not been available during the meet, but Julie and I did not stick around for them. I believe everyone came away with something different for their collection, so overall, it was a good meet. I will plan to attend again next year.

Next month I will have a review of the MARC meet in Lansing, Michigan for this column.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 06/14/2014

Well, the Summer Solstice (or Midsummer Night's Eve, as Shakespeare called it), has just passed, so after an unusually cold winter, we can finally gripe about the summer heat! Actually, it has been fairly pleasant so far with enough rain to keep the lawn green without getting a water bill the size of a mortgage payment. As where we will continue to meet, the decision has been reached. We are going to stay at Spencer's BBQ for the time being. There is no complaining about the heat in our new home however, the restaurant's AC is set low enough to keep ice cream rock hard. I'm still wearing my long sleeved winter shirts to our meetings, and some of our members who chose to wear shorts this month looked a bit uncomfortable!

We arrived at Spencer's between 5:30 and 6 PM, and enjoyed dinner before the night's program. Last month we were given a room that was too small, this month we were give a large room

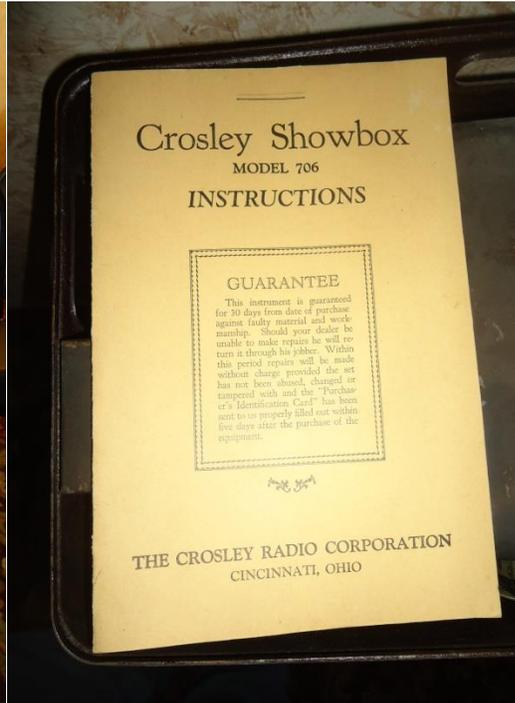
that was more than we needed, and we should be able to use it unless Spencer's books a huge party, in which case we may have to use the small room we met in in May. The food was excellent and the staff brought us hot apple fritters to accompany our meals. I even had enough of my dinner left over to provide Sunday's breakfast. We had heard that Club President Jim Collings and wife Julie might miss the meeting, so we were happy when they were able to join us. Once were finished with dinner, Jim called the meeting to order. After a few announcements, we began the evening program: heavy metal. No that's not "heavy metal" "in the musical sense, (we are all a little too old for leather jackets and spiked hair) but in the radio sense. Metal cabinet radios, to be exact.

Many of us were attracted to radio collecting by the beauty and craftsmanship of the traditional wooden cabinets, or the fantastic, futuristic shapes of the early plastic cabinets. Indeed, radios, like cars, are often sold more by their appearance than performance. But while metal has long been the material of choice for military, commercial and ham radios, it has occasionally found usage in standard home radios as well.

A large number of these metal cabinet radios were made during the period 1926 through 1929, the late battery, early AC set period. The machinery had been developed to stamp out these cabinets quickly and cheaply, contributing to lower costs. They are plain looking compared to their wooden counterparts, but that didn't seem to matter to the consumer. They were sold in huge numbers and, because the cabinets are practically indestructible, many have survived. The largest producers of these radios were Atwater-Kent and Crosley, but many other companies including Silvertone, Stewart Warner, Day-Fan, and Philco made them as well. Most were finished in wrinkle paint and almost all had tops that lifted off rather than being hinged to the back of the cabinet. After this brief "golden era" of metal radios most of these companies returned to wood cabinets, and some years later, plastic as well. But metal continued to be used for some small and portable radios, and is still used extensively today for consumer electronics, since the use of wood has largely disappeared.

Perhaps the thought of dragging "heavy metal" from their cars in the heat scared off the rest of the club, because only Jim Collings and I brought in anything to share. Jim showed a 1924 Federal receiver with a black painted brass cabinet. This is well before metal cabinets became popular. Federal's reasoning for choosing metal for these sets is not clear, but must have provided excellent Faraday shielding. Your club secretary brought in a Crosley Showbox radio, along with a matching Crosley Dynacone speaker. The radio and speaker are familiar enough, but the ornate wrought-iron stand that houses them is a fairly rare item. I have a similar stand at home that holds an Atwater-Kent model 40 and model E speaker. These stands were made by a company in Brooklyn, New York, and the tops were custom designed to fit into the bottom edge of the radio cabinet. While most, like both of mine, house the speaker on a shelf below the radio, a few were made that had a built-in speaker mounted directly underneath the upper section that holds the radio.

We were fortunate to receive a most generous donation of radio parts and related items from the estate of the late Bob Jennings, so we held probably the largest "junk" auction we have ever had. Lots of boxes of tubes, as well as boxes of parts, many radios, some test instruments and more, far too much to list individually, were all up for grabs. A few lots went for a dollar, but the better items brought good money. This has helped the club financially, and almost everyone took something home.





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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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.

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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

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- WANTED:** 2 power converters for battery/farm sets. Restoring 2 oldies for a friend and need two of these so they can power them from 110V. Many 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 jabay71@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 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 414-840-4146 or radioman@wi.rr.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
- 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: 1973 Telex Eight Track stereo cartridge changer, solid state, Model 48D. Holds 12 cartridges. Right and left audio output jacks for connecting to an amplifier. Works and looks good. **FOR SALE:** Noreleco Model 2502 automatic stereo cassette changer. Holds 6 cassette tapes. Has left and right audio output jacks to be connected to an external stereo amplifier. Call and leave bid by contacting Fielding Grigsby, PO Box 2601, Ardmore, OK 73402, 580-223-6072.

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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