



Broadcast News

Online at www.okvrc.org

Sep 2014

Volume XXIII, Issue 9

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Our next meeting is Saturday, September 13th at Spencer's Smokehouse & Barbecue, 9900 NE 23RD St., Oklahoma City, OK, with dinner at 6, and the meeting beginning around 7PM. Our meeting topic was decided at the last meeting and is hybrid receivers and electronics. These are items that contain both transistors and tubes. So these represent the fairly short time period when transistors were available, but some manufacturers were using tubes also, and combined the two technologies. There are not a lot of name brand items like this, as most were offbrand. Often the tubes were sub-miniatures. It should be a very interesting topic. In addition, to be sure we have enough examples to talk about, we can include all transistor sets which were the very first ones to use transistors. It may be interesting to compare the other components that changed with these changes.

As many of you know, Dale McLellan, our editor of the Broadcast News, and his wife Alexandria, have moved to San Antonio to be closer to family. We owe Dale a great deal of gratitude for his service to the club in this capacity, and wish to thank him for all the good work. We welcome Raymond Cady as our new editor! Dale has trained him, and even taught him radio repair so that he can take over the business of radio repair for the public. So the best way to help Raymond out as the new editor is to send him articles and material for the Broadcast News. Most of us can write up something!

For this month, here's a review of the ARCI Radiofest meet held in Willowbrook, Illinois last month. (Willowbrook is a south suburb of Chicago). It was a good meet! The meet began at 6:30 on Thursday evening (after registration) with the auction. First on the agenda before the auction's start was the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem. It was a fairly large auction that was conducted by Jim Sargent of the VRPS, with the assistance of Frank Rasada. Almost everything sold and prices were fairly high. I only purchased a few items, and sold all that I entered. The auction is different from all other radio auctions, and I like the concept. The minimum bid was \$25. Rather than charging the seller a commission, the seller pays a \$4 per item fee upfront, whether the item sells or not. Then there is a 5% buyer's premium accessed to the buyer. The auction lasted until just after 11 PM, and pizza that had been ordered was not served, but everyone could go to the lobby and eat a slice, so as not to disturb the auction, for the sake of time. It ended up being a late night, as all the auction items needed to be removed that night.

The flea market officially began at 7AM on Saturday morning, with sales prohibited before that time, but this was not enforced. Everything seemed to be in full swing before then. The number of sellers was less than last year. There was not a group of collectors waiting to see and purchase what I brought as soon as I opened the booth, but eventually all but one of my more expensive items sold, but I had to discount the prices. I did not purchase much, as prices were high, and there were not a lot of parts and smaller items that I like

available. During the day there were several programs presented, and a luncheon for the women. The weather was great!

Friday evening was the banquet. It continued to be toned down from previous years, in that certificates of thanks were handed out during the meal, rather than having formal presentations before the whole assembly. The entertainment was a group emulating the Andrews Sisters. They were very good, but the best part was when they got Olin Schuler, the ARCI president up there to sing to, as it was hilarious. The contest room was open for viewing after the banquet, and there were many nice items on display. More impressive was the display of the theme for the meet, WWI and WWII items. There were many historical items, and I especially liked seeing two early American Marconi receivers.

Saturday morning the flea market was open to the public, and there were new attendees, some with their kids and strollers along, but the offerings by vendors were the same. I had taken flats of parts, and many collectors found items they needed for their restorations. Leftovers were donated to the club for their donation auction. In checking out one of the remote vendors, I found one of the contest items that had won a first place on their swap table, and was able to buy it. You will likely see it at our April meet. I did not participate in the donation auction, as likely I would have brought home a lot of junk. Instead we got packed up. The Hotel is about to undergo renovation, and some of the conditions were barely tolerable, but fortunately everything worked in our room. It is supposed to be very nice for next year.

I had a good visit with Jack Bauman who was a local member, but now resides in St. Louis. There are a number of collectors at this meet that do not attend many of the others, so it's good to see collectors that are not at all the other meets. Overall it was a good meet as I sold a lot, but mainly just getting my purchase price back. Unfortunately, I was unable to purchase as much as I would have liked. Except for the VRPS in Dallas, this is the closest major meet to OKC, just under 800 miles. I would urge everyone to attend next year.

Don't forget our swap meet next month, October 11th at the Midwest City Community Center. Also a volunteer is needed to host the Christmas Party. I hope to see you at the September meeting.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 07/09/2014

August already, Labor Day is only a few weeks away! Soon the summer of 2014 will pass into the history books, the weather will cool off, the leaves fall from the trees, the lawn mower will be put away for the year, and yard work-free weekends will beckon us back to our radio restoration projects. But not just yet! The weekend of our August meeting was hot and unstable feeling, and sure enough on the way over we (Barbra and Mike Swinney were with me) ran into a sudden torrential rain storm and a "parking lot" traffic jam, due to a flipped big rig, on the I-35. So, after looking in the rear view mirror for the OHP, I drove my SUV over the freeway embankment down onto a frontage road, and we made our way to Spencer's via some quiet back roads. Very few things will stop us from making the OKVRC monthly meeting!

About 16 other OKVRC members made it too. We all enjoyed dinner in the large private dining room we used last month before the night's program. We were happy to have back club president Jim Collings and wife Julie after last month's absence. Our topic for the night's program: Electronic items built from kits.

Kit building was once a very popular pastime. Radio kits became available in the early twenties about the same time as factory built consumer sets. Kits were a way for the radio enthusiast without the knowledge and experience to build a radio from scratch to build his or her own receiver and save some money in the process. Before 1930, when RCA's patent lock on superheterodyne technology was lifted, kits were also a

way to obtain a superhetrodyne receiver without buying one of RCA's pricy sets. By the end of the twenties, the kit and home brew radio building craze subsided. Factory built radios had come down in price, and fewer hobbyists wanted to build the more complicated and dangerous AC circuits. But for hard-core electronic hobbyists, a number of kit companies thrived for many decades providing them a kit version of just about any electronic product they wanted, from televisions to guitar amplifiers. Heathkit was the best known, but there were many others, including EICO and Knight-kit. Few kits are available today, because factory-built Asian consumer electronics are so inexpensive and contemporary electronic products contain items such as surface mount ICs that are difficult to work without special tools and training. But thousands of kit-built items, many of them just as nice as their factory-built commercial cousins, have survived to delight today's collector and restorer.

Since most electronic hobbyists use test equipment and enjoy building kits, it is not surprising that a lot of test instruments were available as kits. Roger Knop brought in a bunch (and was kind enough bring a printed list along). They included the following Heathkit items: a tube tester, two capacitor checkers, a vector scope (used to align color guns on RCA TVs), and a fish finder (can it also convince them to bite?) Roger also showed us another capacitor checker and a signal tracer from Knight-kit. We also got to see an EICO model 535 oscilloscope and a model 221 VTVM. Roger also showed us several other test instruments he built from articles in electronics magazines or completely home designed.

Mike Swinney brought in a five tube Quadraformer battery radio circa 1925. We were trying to figure out if it was a kit, or a factory built radio from one of the countless short-lived small companies that sprang up during the battery set era. We concluded it was most likely a kit since the identification label inside the cabinet was from a cabinetmaker, not the radio company itself. Your club secretary showed a Knight-kit "Ranger II" AM radio in a brown plastic cabinet with a gold metallic grill. It probably dates from the early to mid-fifties, and cost \$17.25 complete and unassembled. Other items brought in by our members included an EICO oscilloscope, a very unusual one-tube home brew (too primitive to be a kit) radio from the early twenties, a circuit breadboarding station from a Bell and Howell electronics school, and an unbuilt FM radio kit. Lots of neat stuff!

We ended the evening's program with our usual donation auction. A Sylvania radio, a loop antenna, a Heathkit oscillator, a Magnavox multiplexer unit, an Emerson radio chassis, a large box of assorted components, a UHF/VHF scanner, a large and impressive Weston ammeter, and a few other odds and ends found new homes.

Stay cool, and see you next month at Spencer's!





Here is our donation for the Oct meet, a beautiful Philco model 49-901



Editor's Note: This month we say goodbye to a good friend and strong supporter of OKVRC. **Dale McLellan** and his wife, Alexandra, have moved to San Antonio, TX. Dale has been a good friend, neighbor, and mentor to me for the past eight years. To everyone in the club, Dale has been a great knowledge resource for anyone who has had a question. Dale asked me to send along his goodbyes and to let everyone know how much he has enjoyed his time with us and that he will miss the company of the club's members.

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.

BOARD:

President	Jim Collings	jrcradio@cox.net
Secretary	Jim Tyrrell	jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Jim Ray	jabray71@hotmail.com

BROADCAST NEWS STAFF:

Editor	Raymond Cady	rcady@uco.edu
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. **If your membership has expired, you are in jeopardy of being dropped from the Broadcast News distribution list, so please send in your dues today.**

OKVRC CLASSIFIED ADS

Send all ads to: 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:** 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 or call (405) 514-8046.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- SERVICE:** Old Radio Restoration and Servicing by Raymond Cady. Let me make it like new again. Email: rcady@uco.edu or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.

**OKVRC EDITOR: Broadcast News
PO BOX 50625
Midwest City
OK 73140-5625**