



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Annual Spring Swap Meet!

It's here! Our Spring Swap Meet/Convention is on Saturday April 11th at the Midwest City Community Center. This is the same location as always, 100 Midwest Boulevard, Midwest City, OK

Here is a schedule of events and the approximate timing:

7:30 AM Activity in the parking lot begins

8:00 Doors officially open for swap meet, silent auction, and contest display setup

9:30 Silent auction ends

10:00 Contest judging begins

10:45 Main auction begins

12:00 noon Meet ends (we are supposed to be out by then)

I hope to see everyone there. It should be a good meet. I have heard from several people from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area who are planning to attend, and I suspect we will have our normal contingent of Kansas and Arkansas collectors. The Tulsa HLARA will also be well represented. Tell all your friends and anyone who may have an interest about the meet. Print out and distribute the flyer. This meet is one of our biggest sources for finding new members. Our metropolitan area is growing and new collectors are coming into the area. The more people that we have attend, the better the meet will be. Be sure to bring things to swap, and some nice items for the contest. The categories for the contest were listed in the last issue of the Broadcast News. There is a spot for anything you would like to display. I expect to see a lot of great items in the contest. Half the fun of collecting is showing what you have to other collectors, and talking about the items. We will have the People's Choice

Category again this year, where each of us can vote for the display which we like the best. Remember that additional items of support, like advertising, photographs, and other documentation are encouraged, and may be the tie breaker in the judging. This is especially true for the best restoration category, as before restoration photos are needed to show how much restoration was done. Don't forget the silent auction and main auction to get rid of your unwanted items. We will again have a raffle. A Majestic "Zephyr" deco bakelite set was donated, and restored by several members for this purpose. The secondary prize in the raffle is a set of Ryder's Manuals on CD's. There is no admission fee, but donations for coffee and donuts will be appreciated.

In other radio happenings, Julie and I attended the VRPS auction in Irving, TX on March 14th. It was at the Irving City building at the Senter Park where the swap meets are held. Attendance was good with many buyers, but not quite as much stuff to auction off as in previous years. Still there were some nice things available. Prices received were generally pretty good, and I was very pleased with the outcome of several items that I sold. Of course, I purchased some items, but came back without a full SUV. So, I guess I could call that successful. I enjoyed seeing and talking to many old collector friends, and advertised our swap meet, handing out all that I had of our flyers. The auction ended fairly early, about 2:15 PM. So, we got back home at a reasonable time.

See you bright and early in Midwest City. Bring your vehicle full!

Jim Collings, President

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 03/14/2015

A lot of us have had our eyes glued to the TV for "March Madness" (Basketball) and might have not noticed the most important annual event on the OKVRC calendar is right around the corner. By the time you read this the own April 2015 Spring Convention and Swap Meet will be less than two weeks away. I say the most important because unlike the fall convention we will be having the contest. It's a chance to show off the most prized items in your collection. There will be a wide range of categories of winners, so if you bring in a few nice items you will almost certainly will a ribbon. Of course there is also the silent and regular auction, the raffle, and the merchandise tables. I'm hoping to add something to my collection that day, perhaps you will sell it to me!

It was a perfect spring day here in Oklahoma, and we had a slightly better than average crowd of about seventeen or so members and spouses at Spencer's Barbeque in Midwest City for our March meeting. We enjoyed dinner from about 5:45 to 7:00 before Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. The upcoming Convention was the major item discussed, and how we can publicize it and perhaps lure in a few newcomers. If you know anyone interested in ANY form of vintage electronics, not just radios and phonos but also TVs, juke boxes, ham radio, vintage stereo, guitar amps, whatever, why not invite them?

When the announcements were finished we settled down to enjoy the evenings program, a display of crystal detectors brought in by Jim Collings.

Almost all of the radios in our collections use vacuum tube detectors; these were the standard from the dawn of broadcast radio to the end of the vacuum tube era in the nineteen sixties. But in the early days of radio (late teens through mid-twenties) crystal detectors were also common. Crystal radios were cheap and required no power. As primitive as “Cat’s Whisker” crystal detectors seem today, they were an actual improvement over some detectors used in the Wireless (pre-1920) era, such as cohere, magnetic, and electrolytic detectors. While we have all seen crystal sets from the twenties (and sometimes later) equipped with Cat’s Whisker detectors, a lot of these detectors were also manufactured and sold separately to be integrated with separate tuning and amplification hardware as part of a component radio receiver setup.

Jim brought in a large collection of these individual crystal detectors for us to see, some from the pre-broadcast wireless era, other from the twenties and a couple even later. These included a Lowenstein type SE183a triple detector sometimes used with IP500 shipboard receivers. Also we got to examine a couple of crystal detectors made by MESCO and A.W. Bauman. Jim showed us a Deforest stand-alone detector identical to that used in the Deforest “Everyman” crystal radio. RCA made a vacuum tube receiver in the mid-twenties called the Radiola V that used a crystal detector. Jim showed us an example of a reproduction crystal detector for a Radiola V. So many of the surviving Radiola V radios are missing the detectors, that reproductions are now available.

Other crystal detectors that Jim showed us include units from Jove, Electro Importing Company (EICO), Pick-a-Tone, Fidelity, Simplex, GW Company, Adams-Morgan, Passent, Freshman, and Philmore. Jim also brought in some replacement crystals in their original manufactures tin boxes. The pictures are sure to be a lot more interesting than any description I can give. Suffice it to say, it’s a lot more crystal detectors I have ever seen in one place in my life!

We finished up a great evening with the auction of the last of a generous donation of radio related items from Mr. Jerry Kincaide. A large selection of radio parts, tubes, books, junk sets and other odds-and-ends were again up for grabs. I usual say right here “most items went for a buck”. But this month the high quality of the items being auctioned, along with eager interest from our club members resulted in many of the items going for three or four dollars! This auction will certainly go a long way towards keeping our club in the “black”.

Thanks to everyone who came, and especially those who bid on the auction items. Hope to see you at the Spring Convention!



Here is the beautiful Majestic 5A410 "Zephyr" radio to be raffled at the Swap Meet



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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Or E-mail directly to RXRADIO@AOL.COM

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- 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.
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