



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 12th. Please begin arriving around 6 PM, as the catered meal will be ready to eat at 6:30. The menu will consist of chicken cordon blue and/or salmon. The cost is \$15 per person (\$30 per couple) this year, a reduction from last year, as 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 donations at our swap meets. Please RSVP to the Collings at 755-4139, or jrcradio@cox.net by Monday, Dec. 7. We will have the usual white elephant/dirty Santa gift exchange. So every person needs to bring a gift valued at ~\$10 or more. 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 before Thanksgiving. It was a good meet, very similar to those in the past, and attendance seemed to me to be up from last year. Late Friday afternoon was the tube and paper auction. Some of the better audio tubes went very high, but more common tubes for radio use were very reasonable. The most expensive item was a tube caddy which had three NOS Western Electric 422A rectifiers that sold for \$750. After a short break for dinner, the Friday night auction with lesser items with a \$10 minimum bid began. It was pretty much a buyer's auction, as almost everything went cheap. To end the auction at a reasonable time, some of the lesser items were not put up for auction, as many of them would have passed. I purchased quite a few console radios for parts as they were selling very cheap. The silent auction on Saturday morning was not as large as last year, and I did not get a feel for how those prices went, as I was helping the reporter who was covering the verbal auctions. But it is a nice way to sell smaller items that do not meet the minimum \$10 bid in the later auction. The main Saturday auction began at about 11 AM, and as I expected was a buyer's auction. But a few items did sell well. A Stewart Warner "Spade" set went high at \$850, a white Majestic Charlie McCarthy went for

\$650, and My Atwater Kent 10C breadboard sold for \$800. I believe everyone went away with some good purchases. I came out behind on several of my items, but got cheap replacement items, so it all works out fine. I worked on the computer some, inputting sales during the auctions, and everything went fine, with no glitches. The contest was good, with quite a few impressive displays, but not as many items as in the past. Our members Jim Ray and Eric Coon won first place ribbons. The Saturday night banquet and contest awards presentation was typical of past meets. The Sunday morning swap meet was a little better than last year. There were some items that were brought specifically for the swap, as well as unsold items from the auctions. I sold mostly unwanted parts that came with other items I purchased in the auctions. Overall it was a good meet, and I 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.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting November 14, 2015

November is almost past as I write this, the Thanksgiving leftovers are being transformed into work lunches and late night snacks, and Christmas is just around the corner (don't feel bad, I haven't done my shopping yet either!) But the last OKVRC Club meeting and dinner of 2015 was held this November 14th, at Spencer's Bar-be-que, and I'll tell you all about it in case you missed it.

Turnout was light, about thirteen or so of us made it, I think football on TV was too much of a temptation for some of our regulars. Member and guests began arriving before six PM, and we all enjoyed dinner while waiting for the evenings program to start. About seven o'clock club president Jim Collings called the meeting to order. He gave us some announcements regarding some upcoming radio events in other parts of the country. Then we began the evening's program on wooden horn speakers from the early twenties.

Yes. I know I said in last month's newsletter that we would be covering AC radios from about 1930 through 1933, as part of our continuing chronological study that we started with mid-twenties battery sets several months back. Unfortunately, there was some confusion between Jim and myself about the topic, so we will save the 1930 through 1933 sets for another meeting. Gary Swymeler did bring in one set from that era, and it was too nice not to tell you about. It was an Emerson five-tube AC-DC model AW-250. This compact set is in outstanding condition and it even has the wooden back often missing from surviving examples of these sets. Now, on to Jim's fascination wooden horn collection!

Horn speakers were made from about 1920 to about 1925, when they were replaced by cone speakers. Most were made of metal, hard rubber, or thick papier mache. Only a small number were made of actual (not putty or plastic) wood, perhaps because the difficulty of forming the highly curved shape of a horn speaker in wood. Wood being more fragile than most of the other materials used for horn speakers, surviving examples are scarce. But the beauty and sound quality of these wooden bell horns make them a real find if you run across one.

Jim showed us two Music Master wooden horns, one fourteen inches in diameter, another eighteen inches. We also got to see a very striking Amplion horn, the sort where the bell is composed of numerous “petals” of wood. These were made and sold in England as well as in the United States. Jim then showed us an Orchestrian (I hope I got that right) with a small cloth grill inside the composite neck. Next we saw a Medodytone by TrueTone, and last of all, a beautiful wooden horn with a Utah driver, which Jim believes to be home built. Jim won it on E-bay, and expected it to be, based on the photos, much smaller than it was. When it arrived, he was pleasantly surprised by what he got.

Club member Ray Cady showed us an AM transmitter that he has designed and should be available hopefully for collectors soon. Given the poor quality of most AM radio programming today, many of us have AM transmitters to allow us to listen to some decent music on our vintage sets. Rays unit goes a step further, and can accept music stored on digital media. Perhaps we can get a full write up on this device in our newsletter soon.

We finished up a most enjoyable evening with the usual donation auction. A box of tubes, a Victor R32 tuner, a Philco chassis, and a few other odds and ends went to new homes.

Don't miss next month's OKVRC Christmas Dinner at club president Jim Collings home! You can expect a wonderful meal, and lots of fun and fellowship, and loads of fantastic radios to look at. See you there!

Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

Moorhead/DeForestAudion /Marconi VT Tube



This month's featured item is the Moorhead Tube, also known as the Marconi VT. This is an early tube that came out at the end of WW I, 1919, and was popular until the UV 200 and UV 201 became available in 1921. (These are much better tubes). The tube on the

left is embossed on the envelope: Moorhead SE 1444, (the Military designation), S. F. CAL. (San Francisco, California). Usually these have unmarked Shaw bases. It is an amplifier tube, and most have a colorful gettered envelope, but usually more golden than the example picture here. Most of these which are encountered today have a burnt out filament. Early examples were reported to have a 75% defect rate in manufacturing. The filament voltage on both these tubes is 4 volts. The other tube is embossed ER on the envelope for Electron Relay. It is a detector tube with clear envelope. The base has the Marconi "GLOBE" emblem steel stamped on one side of the base with smaller Trade Mark Fleming Patent. The other side is stamped Deforest Audion with patent numbers and Sold Only For Amateur and Experimental Use.

Later, examples of both of these were sold under the A-P (Atlantic or Pacific Radio Supplies Company) brand name, referred to as the type VT. They were typically stamped on the base Class I or Class II, depending on how much emission they showed, with Class I being the best tube. These tubes are sometimes encountered today, often found in early sets like the RCA Radiola (RC) RADA. Examples with good filament continuity are worth about \$100, and open filaments about \$20. They have a unique shape making them a nice tube to add to your collection.

Pictures from November Meeting





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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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.**

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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.
- 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: cadyraymond1@gmail.com or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.
- WANTED:** Old comics wanted. Send lists to Dan Giddings, PO Box 3961 Glendale, CA 91221-3961
- FOR SALE:** Giant Zenith 12S370 console, original finish, \$600; Atwater Kent 10C (4700) breadboard, nice working, \$800; Crosley 50, \$75, Crosley 52, \$75; Burns black celluloid horn, perfect, \$300; RCA AeriolaSr, \$100; Paragon RA-10/DA-2, \$800; Get these before they go to the VRPS auction! Jim Collings, 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013 (405)-755-4139.
- FOR SALE:** Seven different vintage keys (Morse Code) mounted on 2 display boards with Telegraph Collectors Guide. Won blue ribbon in 2008 with OKVRC. I am asking \$300.00 for these vintage keys. Call 580 223-6072.
- FOR SALE:** Rare military version (olive drab in color) Zenith Transoceanic Radio, Model R-520/URR. Has "USA" stamped on one end. Identification plate has been removed and radio is in good condition. I have an instruction book (157 pages) for this receiver. I am asking \$1200 but will consider a reasonable offer for this radio. Call 580 223-6072.
- FOR SALE:** Would you like to play your digital music collection on your antique radios? You need an AM transmitter. This transmitter has USB and SD card connections plus a built in FM tuner. It will Bluetooth connect to a smartphone or tablet. Enjoy your music! Only \$75 cadyraymond1@gmail.com or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.

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