



# Broadcast News

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

This month's meeting will be at Spencer's Barbeque and Smokehouse at 9900 NE 23<sup>RD</sup> street, beginning at 7 PM, with dinner at about 6 PM. Our topic will be three dial battery sets from the 1920's. Most were simple sets with three RF stages and two audio stages, so they had five tubes: a detector, two RF amplifiers, and two audio frequency amplifiers. The tubes were generally 201-A's, but sometimes a 200-A detector was used, and toward the end of the battery set era a 112-A was used in the last stage to gain more volume using a higher plate voltage on that stage. The first RF or TRF sets came out in 1923, though Mu-Rad was a pioneer using this circuit a little earlier. It was an improvement over the super-regenerative circuit used earlier, and a way for manufacturers to make sets which avoided using the expensive Armstrong Regenerative Patent. By 1925 there were hundreds of manufacturers using the TRF circuit. The most common brands are Atwater Kent, FADA, King, Freshman, etc., and most of the major brands had an offering. They can be interesting, as there is much variation in the coils, variable condensers, layout, and cabinets. Some used neutralizing condensers to aid in tuning, and were called Neutrodynes, but are essentially the same circuit. In 1926 it was discovered that the three variable condensers could be coupled together to turn at the same time from one dial. So, late 1926 was the end of the era of three dial sets, in favor of one dial. Everyone who has a 1920's battery sets should have an example of a three dialer to bring to the meeting, as they are the most commonly found type of battery radio. We should have a good donation auction at the meeting, as Raymond has advised that he picked up a large group of donated items to be sold over several months.

This month my Accessory Corner offering is on the Westinghouse CB loading coil. Check it out elsewhere in this issue. See you at the meeting!

### Report for the OKVRC Meeting 06/13/2015

It's been a full three months since our last regular meeting, which was in March, so it was great to get together with other club members after such a long absence!

After a record wet month of May, we managed to attract an average crowd of about sixteen or so members and spouses at Spencer's Barbeque in Midwest City for our June

meeting. We enjoyed dinner from about 5:45 to 7:00 before starting the night's program. Club President Jim Collings is still recovering after an operation following an injury he suffered earlier this year, and was not able to join us. So Roger Knopf and I decided to do our best to fill in for Jim. We will all be glad when he is fully recovered and can join us again!

Tonight's program was on "Store Brand Radios"

We all familiar with "Store Brand" products, most of us buy them regularly. Great Value foods at Walmart, Craftsman tools at Sears, and Town Craft clothing (I grew up in it!) from J C Penny's. And we have all bought Realistic and Micronta products at Radio Shack. Many chain stores brought out their own brand of radios as far back as the nineteen twenties, and lots of examples of these survive today, even if some of the stores that sold them have vanished from the American landscape. Our club members brought in an excellent selection to share with the club.

Roger showed a 1939 Airline model 93-BR-420B in dark brown Bakelite, made for Montgomery Wards by the Belmont Radio company. It has been beautifully restored with a new repro dial. We then got to see a five-tube 1951 Silvertone from Sears, also in brown Bakelite. Also Roger showed us a cream-colored Arvin model 840T from 1955. Arvin, made by Noblitt-Sparks Industries, sold radios under their own name as well as for the store names of Sears, Montgomery Wars, and Firestone. They even made radios for Walt Disney productions! Albert D. Silva, formerly of Atwater-Kent, joined the Noblitt-Sparks company in the thirties and had much influence in their designs. Arvin was known as a pioneer in many radio related developments of the thirties and forties, including car radios, radio-phonos, AM-FM, and television.

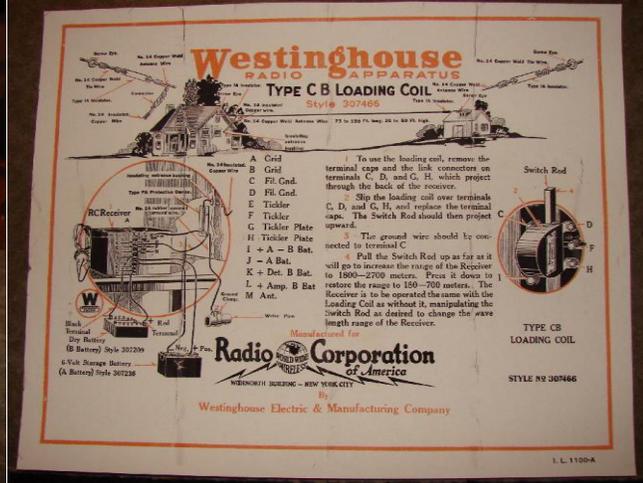
Bill Jones brought in another cream-colored Arvin, a four-tube model 422. It has been painstakingly restored by Bill, right down to a reproduction label for the bottom of the set. Mike Swinney showed us a six-tube Firestone model S-7422-9. Your club secretary brought in two large wooden 1926 radios, a Sears Silvertone and a Montgomery Wards Airline. Both are six-tube TRF battery sets. I am not sure who built the Silvertone for Sears but I am fairly certain that the Airline was built for Wards by the Stewart-Warner company.

We ended the night's activities with our always popular donation auction. A beautiful Triplett model 630 VOM, a reproduction Crosley radio, a book on Silvertone radios, a General Electric portable radio from the forties, and a couple of boxes of assorted electronic parts were offered. Bidding was better than average and several items went for \$5 to \$10. Thanks to everyone who came, and especially those who bid on the auction items. See you next month!

## Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

This month's featured item is the Westinghouse Type CB Loading Coil made for RCA. This loading coil was made to match the Radiola RC regenerative receiver, often called the RADA. The frequency range of the Radiola RC was 160 to 700 meters and covered most of the current AM band. The loading coil was introduced about 1922 to extend the range of the receiver to 1800 to 2700 meters, and enable receptions of time signals, weather, and

additional programming. The hope was to increase the popularity and sales life of the receiver for RCA. The coil was mounted between the binding posts on the back of the receiver. The square bakelite bar was the switch which moved up and down to change bands. (I have a photo with the coil attached to the back of a receiver available by request, but not published here due to space considerations). Surprisingly, these are not seen too often, and I have never seen one available with the receiver. The original cost was \$6, about the same as a 201-A tube. The example shown here is new in the box.



Here are some pictures from our June 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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- SERVICE:** Old Radio Restoration and Servicing by Raymond Cady. Let me make it like new again. Email: [rcady@uco.edu](mailto:rcady@uco.edu) or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.
- WANTED:** Old comics wanted. Send lists to Dan Giddings, PO Box 3961 Glendale, CA 91221-3961
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