



# Broadcast News

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

As I write this, the weatherman is predicting a few sunny days next week, and an end to the recent stormy season. I'm sure we are all, ready! Our regularly scheduled meeting was delayed due to storms last month, and the alternate date a week later was also cancelled. So for this month's meeting, we will carry the topic forward. The topic is store brand radio equipment. These are radios sold by the big mail order or smaller local chain stores like Firestone, Otasco, Western Auto, Kresge, Goodyear, etc. Also included are Airline and Silvertone radios sold by Wards and Sears. Everyone should have an example of one of these sets to bring. The 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. dinner about 6, on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to bring items for the donation auction, also.

This month I am beginning a column called Accessory Corner, which I hope to continue monthly. Most articles written on radio equipment are written about the receivers themselves. I will focus on items used with the receivers, in an attempt to acquaint readers with items that have not been previously featured. This month is the Jefferson Tube Rejuvenator.

On the morning of our meeting, June 13<sup>th</sup>, the HLARA in Tulsa will hold their Summer Sizzler. This is their big annual meet with a swap meet, contest and auction. It is held in a modern church facility in Broken Arrow. I always try to attend, and have fun. It begins at 8 AM and winds down just after lunch, so there is plenty of time to get back to OKC for our meeting. Let's support our sister club and have a big presence at their meet! If you need more info, you may call me or visit their website, [HLARA.org](http://HLARA.org).

### Report for the OKVRC Non-Meeting May 2015

The last time I wrote a "Report for the OKVRC Meeting of (whatever)" that I didn't actually attend was about four years ago, when the time and date of a friend's wedding made me actually miss a meeting. But I was able to get the report written by talking to those who were able to go. This last May however, I can't do that, because there was no meeting to

report on! For the first time in as long as I have been with the club (over ten years) we actually canceled the meeting, as well as a scheduled make-up meeting for the following Saturday. The reason of course, as everyone knows was the unprecedented rainstorms and extreme weather of the last month. With the conditions changing by the hour we made a tough call (twice) to scrub the meeting because expected severe weather. I myself was driving through Norman a couple days previously when I got stuck in a rainstorm so violent that with the windshield wipers on my car going full blast I could not see anything ahead of me and had to get off the road, narrowly avoiding hitting several other cars in the same predicament.

Our thought in canceling was if the weather did turn ugly as it had so many times already, the chance of even one of our members getting in an accident, caught in a flash flood, or pounded by a hailstorm was just not worth the risk. But today is beautiful, as we turn the page into June tomorrow. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone who can make it at Spencer's Barbeque in Midwest City for our June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The subject will be that of the canceled May meeting, store brand radios. I'm planning to bring in two, a Silvertone (Sears) and a Montgomery Wards (Airline), both from 1926. What are you going to bring? I'll see you there!

## Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

### Jefferson Tube Rejuvenator



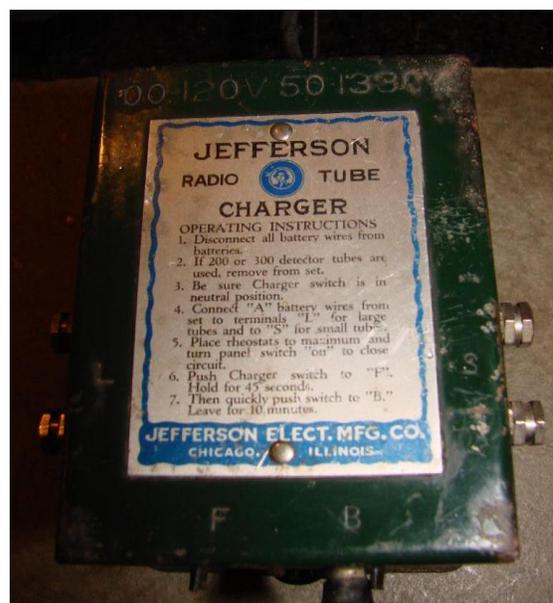
This month's featured item is the Jefferson Tube Rejuvenator. It was made in Chicago by the Jefferson Electric Manufacturing Co. These were made from the mid 1920's probably up until the early 1930's. This is the most common of the tube rejuvenators made. The black paint of the body is not heavy, so it is hard to find one in good condition. The one pictured above is the one I use.

It works by raising the filament voltage above the rated voltage, for 45 seconds (time controlled by the user), and then lowering the filament voltage by moving the switch, to the

rated voltage for a longer time period. There is no plate voltage applied, as the tube sockets only have filament pins. Rejuvenators only work for tubes with thoriated tungsten filaments. So they work for 201-As and type 99 tubes (a lower voltage is applied for the type 99 tubes that have a lower filament voltage). Other types of filaments will be burned out. Thoriated tungsten filaments glow white, not red or orange, so that is an easy way to identify them. New tubes like ST shaped tubes do not have thoriated filaments, and will immediately burn out if rejuvenation is attempted. I'm rusty on my tube theory, but in normal operation electrons flow from the filament to the positively charged plate. By raising the filament voltage (and heat), with no plate voltage, the electrons go back to the filament, thus rejuvenating the tube.

I believe that most 201-A and 99 tubes that test weak are likely caused by use of excessive filament voltage while in operation. I find that rejuvenation works 75% of the time. After applying the high voltage, I remove the tube and test it after about 3 minutes of normal filament voltage, and if not significantly improved, I put it back in and test it occasionally, until the tube has stopped improving or is up to par. If it doesn't improve after about an hour, it won't get any better. Warning: brass based tubes may get worse if left in the rejuvenator too long. I may lose about 1 % of tubes as the filament burns out, but they were probably defective to start with. The success rate is lower for type 99 tubes. I use an adapter for long pin 99's as the socket is for UV types. Only types with a single strand filament, like RCA UX and UV 199s can be rejuvenated. Brands with V shaped filaments do not have thoriated tungsten filaments, and will burn out. I have not put a rejuvenated tube into to use for an extended period to see how long the improvement lasts, but I know they will still test good after being unused for several years.

The photo below shows where Jefferson has taken the rejuvenation principle a step farther. This accessory called a Radio Tube Charger is for rejuvenating all the tubes in your set at the same time. Rather than stating 201-A or type 99 tubes they call them large and small tubes!





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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