



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

FALL SWAP MEET SATURDAY, OCT. 10TH

Our fall swap meet is coming up! It will be at the Midwest City Community Center on Saturday, October 10th, beginning officially at 8:00 AM, but at the recent meets they have had the building open a little earlier. Usually there is a lot of activity in the parking lot before the start. We have the facility until noon, so the main auction will begin at 10:30 so that we can have everything moved out in time. We could start a little earlier if all the swapping has been made. The silent auction will end at about 9:45, and will begin as soon as someone tags an item on the silent auction table. The location is 100 Midwest Boulevard in Midwest City, OK, where the other municipal buildings are, about 2 1/2 miles north of I-40 on Midwest Boulevard. Bring as much as you can for swap, because the more items that are there, the more fun it will be for everyone. I have a full car load of stuff to bring, most of which I do not want to take home. Talk up the meet to all your friends that may have an interest in radio, as the more the merrier. Admission is free!

Julie and I missed our last meeting to vacation in the northeast, but we attended the big meet in Kutztown, PA, at the end of our trip. It is sponsored by the Delaware Valley Historical Radio Club in conjunction with Renninger's. The location has two large pavilions, with one and a half filled with radio vendors. It is the largest meet I have attended, and was larger than last year. We arrived on Thursday about noon, and there were quite a few vendors already set up and selling things, quite a few more than last year at this early time. We didn't set up until the official start on Friday morning, but I purchased several items on Thursday. On Friday morning we got to the meet about 7 AM, just after first light, and everything was in full swing. There were sellers of early battery sets and horns, tubes, AC sets, novelty sets, transistors, catalins, and tube audio equipment. This appears to be the place for dealing in audio equipment. About 1/4 of the dealers had this type of items, and a lot of it changed hands. I knew quite a few people from previous meets, and enjoyed seeing them again. On Friday night there was an auction of items from an estate, but I did not attend as there was a lot of junk, and only a few items I would have interest in. Also, I was told that they did not have a professional auctioneer, so the auction would last a long time and be slow. Besides, I was worn out as it was a hot day. (Last year it was cold!) On Saturday things got moving a

little later in the morning, but there were new vendors, but some who did not return from the previous day. We left about noon, as the activity was diminishing and others were packing up also. I made a few last minute deals, where there was room in the car, and gave away what would not fit. It was a very good meet, and I'll probably be ready to go again next fall. A spring meet in May is also sponsored. But for now I'm still recovering from the long trip, and have yet to check out all my purchases.

We still need someone to be the host the OKVRC Christmas Party this year. It is typically on the 2nd Saturday in December, but could be moved to any time to accommodate the host. Of course it is catered, making it a lot easier for the host. Please contact me if you are interested.

I hope to see everyone at the swap meet. It should be a fun event!

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 09/12/2015

September is here, which means the Fall Convention and Swap Meet at the Midwest City Community Center is only a month away! Time to go through your collection and pick out the radios, phonographs, parts and related items you are ready to part with. Even if you don't want to set up a sales table, you can always enter items in the silent auction. Donations of parts and junk sets to the regular auction help the club as well! So be sure to be at the meet on October 10th, and tell anyone you know who might be interested in vintage electronics to come also!

We had a below average turnout of about eleven members at last month's meeting at Spencer's Bar-b-que. Not sure what game was on, or what kept people away, but those of us who made it had a great time anyways. Club president Jim Collings and wife Julie were out of town and couldn't make it either, so Roger Knop and you club secretary filled in for Jim. Jim was attending the Kutztown radio meet, perhaps he can tell us about it at our next regular meeting.

We enjoyed dinner from about 5:45 to 7:00 before starting the evening's program. As you know by now, we have been covering radio history chronologically the last couple meets. July's program was on 1923-1925 three-knob battery TRF radios, and in August we covered single tuning knob battery TRF Radios from the 1926-1928 time period. This month, we covered early AC TRF radios, made around 1928-1929.

Many early AC sets bore a strong resemblance to the single tuning knob battery sets that immediately preceded them. They typically utilized the same low, hinged-lid "coffin" style cabinets, and still used a separate speaker. The main difference was the addition of a power supply to convert the AC wall power into the DC voltages needed to power the set, and the replacement of the battery set tubes (O1As or 99s) with AC tubes.

Your club secretary brought in a Brunswick model 5KR from 1928. This uses same chassis as the RCA model 18 AC set. The Brunswick-Blake-Colander company simply bought the chassis from RCA and housed it in a somewhat more ornate and traditional looking cabinet. I also brought in the matching Brunswick model A speaker for the radio, housed in a wood cabinet that looks a bit like a mantle clock and complements the 5KR radio nicely. Inside the speaker cabinet, the speaker itself is the same as the one used in the metal

cabinet RCA 100A speaker, often sold with the RCA model 17 and 18. Both RCA and Brunswick also used the model 18 chassis in a number of console and radio-phonograph combinations as well. I also brought in a Crosley Gembox radio from 1928. This metal cabinet set was designed to compete with Atwater-Kent's popular 40 series metal cabinet AC sets. The Crosley is slightly more advanced, as the tuner is a lighted, multi-turn "window" style, and the power supply is fully integrated into the radio chassis instead of being in a separate enclosure or chassis within the cabinet, as was done with the AK and many other early AC sets. The radio itself is easier to restore as well, as all of the power supply components are easily accessible, instead of being potted in tar like the AK sets. I also brought the matching Crosley Dynacone speaker. It is similar to many of the Atwater Kent metal speakers of the period.

Club member Don Moore brought in a Radiola 17 or 18 (I don't remember which, they are almost identical) that he picked up for a bargain price at one of our auctions. The radio needs restoration, but all of the main components are there. The Radiola 17 and 18 use a sleek, modern style cabinet, much like the Radiola 16 battery set that preceded them. And, as previously mentioned, the model 18 uses the exact same RCA chassis as the Brunswick 5KR that I brought in.

Next, club member Mike Swinney showed us a chassis for a Lincoln console radio from about 1928. It is housed in a pull-out drawer which slides into the rest of the radio cabinet, which he did not bring. It appears to be from 1928, judging by the tube complement (mostly 26's and 27's). All Lincoln sets are quite rare.

There was no donation auction this month. See you next month at the Fall Convention. Don't miss it!

Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

Murdock No. 358 Receiving Condenser



This month's featured item is a simple item, a Murdock No. 358 Receiving Condenser. It is a small bakelite enclosed fixed condenser often used in early crystal radios, especially homebrews. These condensers are sometimes called phone condensers in the catalogs. These were normally used during the wireless era, 1914 to about 1921. This one has tabs under the binding posts for easy attachment of pin plugs from a headphone. When the binding post is tightened, the connection around the pin is secured. Most manufacturers of wireless items offered these condensers, usually with capacitance of about .01 to .02 MFD. The original cost was 50 to 60 cents. I have found quite a few of these Murdocks, new in their original box, so I suspect that a hoard of these was found, possibly in the early 1970's, and distributed throughout the radio collecting community.

Pictures from September 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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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.**

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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:** Stromberg Carlson elaborate console, looks like a block front dresser with doors and Queen Ann legs, unrestored \$100. Zenith 7S240 shutterdial chairside, refinished, working, \$200. Jim Collings, 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013 (405)-755-4139.
- FOR SALE:** Atwater Kent 10B 1928 (aka "Breadboard"). This radio is in pristine condition, has an external power supply. The Breadboard comes housed in a cabinet that has been refinished and this cabinet appears to have been made for the radio. Fielding believes he is the second owner of this radio. Please call 580-223-6072 to discuss details where the radio came from, price, etc and arrange to view the radio.
- FOR SALE:** Collection of 115 radios (100 tube), 2200+ tubes, caps, resistors, horn speakers, Riders, Sams, books, variac, iso transformer, battery eliminators, tube tester, signal generators, extra speakers, old advertisements, spare parts and pieces, etc. Bulk sale, not piecing out. Serious interest only. Call for details...Art Hoch, 620-241-5465.

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