



Broadcast News

Online at www.okvrc.org

August 2016

Volume XXV, Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Our August meeting is coming up, Saturday August 13th at Spencers BBQ, 9900 NE 23rd Street. The actual meeting starts at 7PM, preceded by dinner at about 6. The topic for the meeting is radios made in the 1970's. This was decided at the last meeting, and I was ready to move on to something different than the radios by the decade that we have been doing, but many said they had good examples to bring. So, I am anxious to see these treasures. I can't think of anything in that category in my collection. Of course we will welcome anything off the topic that someone would like to bring to show, or to get advice for restoration. In addition, we will have our annual election of officers at the meeting. As far as I know, all our current officers are willing to serve another term, but if you would like to be an officer, others will likely let you serve. (I nearly forgot about this housekeeping topic). Of course, we'll have a donation auction at the end of the meeting, so bring something you don't need that someone else may have a use for. I know that there will be a complete (less tubes) Atwater Kent Model 20 C receiver auctioned that was donated. I had intended to give a review of the ARCI meet in south Chicago in this space, but a family emergency prevented us from attending. See you at the August meeting.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 07/09/2016

The summer heat is on here in central Oklahoma, and it's been close to the "Century Mark" (100 degrees) a few days, but as my Dad used to say when I complained that our southern Californian home where I grew up had no air conditioning: "Summer is supposed to be hot!" It may be hot outside, but the AC is always plenty cool at Spencer's Bar-be-que in Midwest City. And that is where about fifteen OKVRC members met for our regular second Saturday of the month dinner and club meeting.

Club members began arriving before 6:00 PM, and we all enjoyed dinner until about 7:00, when Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. Jim told us about a big radio met in Chicago at the end of the month. No doubt Jim will make it and tell us about it at

the next meeting! No firm date yet on that radio auction in Tulsa coming up in late summer of this year.

Once the announcements were over, we began the evening's program. If you were present for our May meeting you remember the topic was radios from the nineteen forties. In June we covered the nineteen fifties. For our July meeting we covered (surprise!) the nineteen sixties!

In all our lifetimes, whether we are young or old, we have all witnessed a lot of change. No decade in the twentieth century more exemplifies change than the sixties. If the fifties was the calm before the storm, the sixties was a hurricane. The serenity of the fifties ended as the civil rights revolution, Vietnam War, urban riots, youth counterculture and other issues tore the country apart. As a boy not yet in school, I remember being home with my mom when the phone rang and we heard that President Kennedy had been assassinated. A few years later I stood in my front yard and stared at the black pall of smoke in the sky from the Watts Riots in Los Angeles, about fifty miles from my peaceful neighborhood. But through it all our country held together. Some long overdue changes were achieved, in areas such as equal rights and the environment. And who can forget the greatest triumph of the sixties, the space program! I remember watching the first moon landing; it was the most exciting moment of my young life.

The sixties brought technological changes every bit as vast as the social changes of those ten years. Changes in electronics through the fifties were modest, most TVs were still black and white, if with larger screens, and console radios morphed into "Hi-Fi" with more speakers and better sound. With the sixties, color TV became common, stereo became ubiquitous, component audio systems emerged, and transistors, limited to pocket radios in the fifties, spread all through the electronics world. By the end of the decade, tubes were pretty much history. The sixties also brought the decline of American electronics manufacturers in the consumer electronics market, from the dominance they had enjoyed since the early nineteen twenties. Quality electronics from Japanese manufacturers began to show up in people's homes, starting with small, inexpensive items like portable radios and gradually taking over a much larger share of the market. Companies like Sony and Panasonic became household names, much like Zenith and RCA had been for decades. Many smaller American names went out of business, others switched to offshore manufacturing, placing their names on products built in Asia. Many factories in the US which built consumer electronics closed or were converted to defense work. European radios, which had begun showing up in American homes after WWII, also became less common in US stores. By the end of the decade a huge bounty of electronic products unimaginable ten years before filled our stores, but much of it was built in Asia. American consumers did not care, the products were fun to use and cheap to buy, and people filled their homes with them, a process that continues to this day.

Our club members brought in some excellent examples of sixties radios to share. Jim Rice showed us three examples of the fine European radios that were available to American consumers in the early sixties. We got to see a Lowe Opta Meteor Stereo AM-FM-SW receiver from 1960. I once owned this radio, I got it cheap because the front glass was broken, but it sounded great. Jim bought it from me and amazingly found the correct glass! Jim also showed us a Blaupunkt Stockholm receiver from 1961. It had a stereo decoder for

FM. Lastly; Jim showed us a 1964 Normende six tube “Fidelio C” stereo receiver with four speakers. Those European sets really are beautiful, and great to listen to.

Your club secretary brought in a 1963 General Electric clock radio. This is a classic example of the vacuum tube AM only, analog clock type of clock radio dominant in the early sixties. Member Mike Swinny brought in a nice vacuum tube AM-FM table Zenith model. Club President Jim Collings brought in some examples of transistor radios from this era. We got to see a 1960 Westinghouse six transistor portable, a Fleetwood Globe transistor radio, a Zenith Royal 500H from 1963 with an oval speaker and an unbreakable nylon case, and a Zenith Royal 51 AM-FM transistor portable with a telescoping antenna.

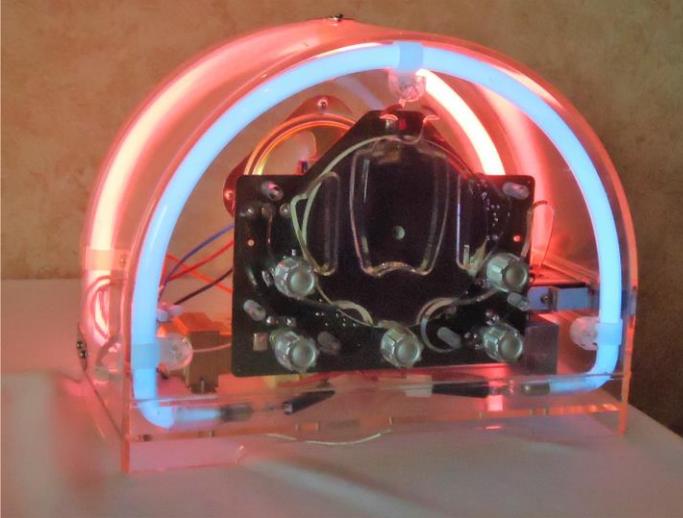
We finished the meeting with our usual donation auction. An aircraft radio, a tape recorder, an Arvin portable, speakers, a Zenith portable, a Nova Tech four band marine radio, and a few other odds and ends went to new homes. See you next month!

Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

This month’s featured item is the King AM-PLI-TONE horn speaker. This is an early horn speaker from about 1922 designed to use headphones as the driver. This is the most common of the headphone horns. In the early days of radio many already had headphones, so this horn provided a way to use the headphones in hand as the driver, instead of purchasing a new horn with a driver included. It saved the buyer on the cost. The earpieces of the headphones are placed on the rubber gaskets on the horn base to amplify the sound. I like the King AM-PLI-TONE, as it is small and well made, from quality materials. The main body is aluminum, while the bell and base are nickel plated brass. Then there is the identifying cast iron weight in the base, which gives it stability. The bell is 6 ¾ inches in diameter, and the complete horn is only 14 ½ inches tall. These are not too common, and are prized by collectors, so they are expensive when encountered. But they are available occasionally, as there were quite a few made.



Pictures from our July 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.

BOARD:

President	Jim Collings	jrcradio@cox.net
Secretary	Jim Tyrrell	jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Jim Ray	jabray71@hotmail.com

BROADCAST NEWS STAFF:

Editor	Raymond Cady	cadyraymond1@gmail.com
Contributing Editor	Art Hoch	artdrhs@yahoo.com
Contributing Editor	John L Reynolds	tack1@flash.net

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.**

OKVRC CLASSIFIED ADS

Send all ads to: OKVRC, Attn: Editor, Broadcast News, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK 73140-5625

Or E-mail directly to cadyraymond1@gmail.com

Advertising policy: Member's ads are FREE. Small donations will be accepted for non-member's ads.

- 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 different sizes available at reduced prices. Contact Mike (405) 376-9473 email: orders@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:** Nice Zenith 12S370 empty cabinet, \$100; RCA Radiola RC (RADA) \$200; Fender Super Reverb Vintage Guitar Amplifier, \$900. Wanted: Tubes and Tube type Amplifiers. Jim Collings, 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013 (405)-755-4139.

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. Optional Bluetooth connection to a smartphone or tablet. Enjoy your music! Only \$85 with Bluetooth or \$75 without Bluetooth. cadyraymond1@gmail.com or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.



OKVRC EDITOR: Broadcast News
PO BOX 50625
Midwest City
OK 73140-5625