



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Happy New Year!

It's the start of another year and I hope that it will be a healthy and prosperous one for everyone! I had a good time at the OKVRC Christmas party, and I hope everyone else did also. We enjoyed a great meal, and the dirty Santa gift exchange did not get out of hand, but several items changed hands a few times. My favorite part is the musical jam session at the end. We were shorthanded on musicians, but the music went on until after midnight. If you missed the party, make plans now to attend next year's.

With the start of 2016 it is time to pay the annual club dues. Dues are just \$15 for the year. Several members paid at the Christmas party, and some may have already mailed their payment. If you still need to pay, here's the address: OKVRC, PO Box 50625, Midwest City, OK 73140-5625. Be sure to include your email address and telephone number for the roster. This is less than most clubs are charging....thanks to donations of equipment that we sell at the monthly meeting and our big meets.

Speaking of donations, I picked up the contents of a ham radio estate south of Norman that was donated to the club. My SUV was completely full! I do not have room to store this, so it will all be sold at the January meeting, (January 9th). There are 16 large boxes of electronic stuff which had been stored for quite awhile. Some are related to ham radio, but there are lots of parts and pieces, smaller components, and a lot of books. Unfortunately there are no amateur receivers, and very few tubes. But, this will be the largest donation auction we have seen at a monthly meeting. Bring your large vehicle! The meeting topic will continue our theme of radios by age and type. So the next category is "radios made in the early 1930's". These would be radios which contained a speaker, and would include cathedrals, and early midget compact, and tombstone receivers. Everyone has something for this topic in their collection, so please bring it to share, as I will have a car full of donation items and no room for display radios.

Next month, I'll put together a list of all the upcoming major radio meets, so you can plan a vacation around them. See you at our meeting on Jan 9th at 7 PM at Spencer's Barbecue, 9900 NE 23rd St. Don't miss out on the largest donation auction ever!

Report for the OKVRC Christmas Party 12/12/2015

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! The OKVRC Christmas Party was a great success. Once again Club President Jim Collings and wife Julie graciously opened their beautiful Edmond home to us for the event. For club members it was a chance to once again see Jim's great collection, as well as enjoy each other's company and a really great dinner!

Club members began arriving well before 6PM at Jim's festively decorated home, and as guests arrived, we all enjoyed soft drinks, snacks, wine, and conversation as we waited for dinner. We all checked out the many phonographs, console radios, juke boxes and music boxes Jim has downstairs, and as always, got listen to Jim's twenties vintage baby grand player piano. But few of us could resist going upstairs to see the rest of Jim's vast collection. It is spread across several rooms, and while I have seen most of it before, it never ceases to amaze me.

While we were upstairs, Jim also demonstrated something I have never seen before. He had set up on a table a couple of nineteen twenties vintage spark gap transformers used in early radio transmitters. Jim showed us how the (very) high voltage output of these units can be used to rejuvenate early audio transformers. The high voltage output (sometimes) repairs open transformer windings. He actually fixed at least one during the demonstration. Given that at least half of my twenties battery sets have one or more open audio transformers; it's worth giving a try.

Soon the food was ready, and it was time to feast. The excellent catered meal included chicken and beef Cordon Blue, and salmon with rolls and several different vegetables. For those who saved room, there were several deserts to choose from.

After dinner, we played the "dirty Santa" game. Each guest brought along a small gift, which was placed under Jim and Nancy's Christmas tree. We each then picked a number from a hat, and in that order picked a gift from under the tree to open. The "dirty" part of the game is that instead of picking a new gift from under the tree, you can "steal" an already opened gift from someone else, who then picks a new gift. This gave an advantage to those with high numbers. A lot of fun items were opened, and a few of the better gifts were "stolen" at least once

After the gifts were opened, (and stolen), we continued to enjoy coffee and conversation for a while longer. As nine o'clock rolled around, many guests began to say their goodnights. Jim and club member Jerry Brown brought out their guitars, and played a wide range of musical numbers, from traditional Christmas carols to classic rock. Those of us who stayed really enjoyed listening to the guitar music. It has become my favorite part of the our club Christmas party

Thanks again Jim and Julie for again hosting the holiday event. It was a great evening. I wish each of you a happy and prosperous 2016. See you at next month's (1/09/16) OKVRC meeting at Spencer's Bar-be que in Midwest City!

Why Have An AM Transmitter?

By Raymond Cady

Most of us have many antique radios around our homes. Many of these radios have been restored and play pretty well. Unfortunately our choices on what to listen to on these AM receivers is now quite limited. We have talk radio covering sports, religion and politics, some country music and a few stations from south of the Rio Grande. I have wanted to use my radios for a larger range of entertainment so I looked into a home built AM transmitter. I looked at what was available on the internet for the radio enthusiast and found limited choices. I purchased the Ramsey AM1 radio transmitter kit and assembled the unit as instructed. I found the output frequency difficult to tune and the signal to be weak and distorted. It went back on to a shelf to be forgotten. I looked at the transmitter kit offered by AES (Antique Electric Supply) but did not feel it would be a safe unit to have setting out because it had exposed 120V wiring and connections setting on top of a wooden breadboard. Many people who had experience with the unit complained about weak output. The only solution seemed to be the SStran transmitter kit. The AMT3000 sells for around \$100 and requires assembly using solid state components. The input is limited to two RCA jacks.

While having a conversation with club member Dale McLellan a different solution was created. The new idea was to use an existing and proven wiring schematic and modify it using solid state components. Schematics of home built AM transmitters are available at the Antique Radio Forum in the Homebrew section. One of these was used at the starting point for a new type of AM transmitter. This new unit can use either an AC or DC power supply of 12 – 16V. The power is rectified and controlled using an adjustable voltage regulator. The output frequency is controlled by using an ECS-100AX oscillator chip. The output is powered by an LM386N which is a low power audio amplifier chip. Connected to this chip is the new secret of this transmitter. It is an MP3 module which will allow you to input digital recordings in a variety of ways. The MP3 module will accept and read an SD card or USB flash drive. It has a line input via a USB cable. It also is Bluetooth capable and will pair with a smart phone, tablet or computer. The module also contains an FM tuner and comes with a remote control.

Now I have access to all my music, old radio broadcasts and even FM. Any CD can easily be ripped and converted into MP3 format for playing. For the Christmas holidays I had radios in each room playing music I had transferred to a USB drive and broadcast throughout the house using the transmitter. When I'm working in the garage I pair my phone with the transmitter using Bluetooth and play selections from my phone to my garage radio.

AM Transmitter with power supply, antenna, remote and USB Module



Pictures from the Christmas Party





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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President
Secretary
Treasurer

Jim Collings
Jim Tyrrell
Jim Ray

jrcradio@cox.net
jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net
jabray71@hotmail.com

BROADCAST NEWS STAFF:

Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor

Raymond Cady
Art Hoch
John L Reynolds tack1@flash.net

cadyraymond1@gmail.com
artdrhs@yahoo.com

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 RXRADIO@AOL.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 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.

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