



# Broadcast News

Online at [www.okvrc.org](http://www.okvrc.org)

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Well, it looks like the hot weather is here! But don't let it stop you from attending our next meeting. It's at Spencer's Smokehouse & Barbecue, 9900 NE 23<sup>RD</sup> St, Oklahoma City, OK 73141. The meeting officially starts at 7 PM with dinner before that. This month's topic will be radio and related items from the 1960's. So this topic would include Hi Fi type sets, as well as normal radios that could be tube or transistorized. We could even see some hybrid sets which have both. These are seldom seen, and are quite collectable. We could have a wide variety of items, everyone should have something to bring. It should be an interesting meeting. Don't forget to bring something for the donation auction!

The Saturday morning of our last meeting was the Summer Sizzler in Tulsa put on by the Tulsa club, HLARA. Julie and I went up on Saturday morning, rather than the night before, as we sometimes do. It is very similar to our spring meet with an ongoing swap, contest and auction. We missed last year, but the turnout seemed about the same as previous years. There were some interesting items in the contest, including some elaborate console radios. I helped with the judging, and there were a few difficult choices. In the swap, I only purchased and sold a few items, but I did make a nice trade of a speaker I did not want to keep in my collection any longer, for a tombstone with a clock in the grill which Julie likes. It was a good meet, and I'll be looking forward to next year's, and would recommend it to any of our members.

### Report for the OKVRC Meeting 06/11/2016

Last month we had a very small turnout for our May Club meeting and dinner, and as it turned out we couldn't get either of the two private rooms at Spencer's Bar-b-que. So we met in a few booths in the back of the restaurant, and everything worked out fine. But this month, we had a much better turnout for our June meeting, and the use of the large banquet room as well. So either way, things seem to work out for the best!

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 discussed some upcoming events of interest to radio collectors, including an upcoming radio auction in Collinsville, north of Tulsa, Oklahoma. There are supposed to be about 800 radios up for auction. I have a feeling a lot of our club members will be there for that! Hopefully we will have the actual date (in September I think) soon. We also got to welcome a couple of new members, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Wilson. They brought in an awesome family heirloom, a stunning Grebe CR-12 receiver from 1921!

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. This month we are continuing our chronological progress through radio history, covering the nineteen fifties. Many collectors like myself, who have been in the hobby for decades, don't collect much in the way of radios built after World War II, preferring sets from the twenties and thirties. But collectors in recent years have realized that a lot of important and fascinating radios, TVs, and phonographs were built in this era, and they deserve a place in our collections.

The nineteen fifties represent perhaps the last decade in which radios were overwhelmingly US built, and, except for a few portables and pocket radios towards the end of the decade, operated exclusively using vacuum tubes. America was fairly peaceful in the fifties, despite the background threat of nuclear war, and probably more stable socially than it has ever been since. In reality, life in the fifties has been compared with walking on the crust of a dormant volcano, one which would explode in the nineteen sixties with all the conflicts over civil rights, the Vietnam war, feminism, the counterculture, and so much more. I remember the turbulent sixties as a little kid. No wonder people have such nostalgia for the fifties, even if they never lived in it. Whether or not it was really like "Happy Days", a dreamlike world of malt shops, drive-in movies, and cool cars, we would like to think it was.

The fifties was also a fairly prosperous decade, and after the privations of the nineteen thirties, and the wartime shortages of the nineteen forties, Americans were willing and able to fill their postwar suburban homes with new stuff, including lots of radios and other electronic devices. Many radios from the fifties have survived, and our club members brought in some to share. Ray Cady brought in a Sentinel 338 radio from 1952, a five tube AC/DC type. We also got to see a 1952 Canada General Electric, built using dip-solder wiring. Jim Rice brought in two nice foreign radios, a 1953 Cambridge International nine tube built by Pye Ltd of Great Britain, and a 1958 Olympic built by Leowe-Opta of Germany. It has three speakers. Jim has some amazing European radios of this era, and they make their American cousins look rather boring! Don Moore brought in two excellent non-radio items, a Sear guitar amplifier from 1954 (remember all that great fifties music?), and a Hewlett-Packard Signal Generator from 1955. I remember actually using similar HP signal generators in our college electronics labs. They were about the only tube-type test equipment still in use there. To generations of engineers and technicians, HP signal generators are legendary. One of HP's first customers for their signal generators was Walt Disney in the late nineteen thirties. They were reportedly used them to synchronize the sound tracks for the animated production "Fantasia".

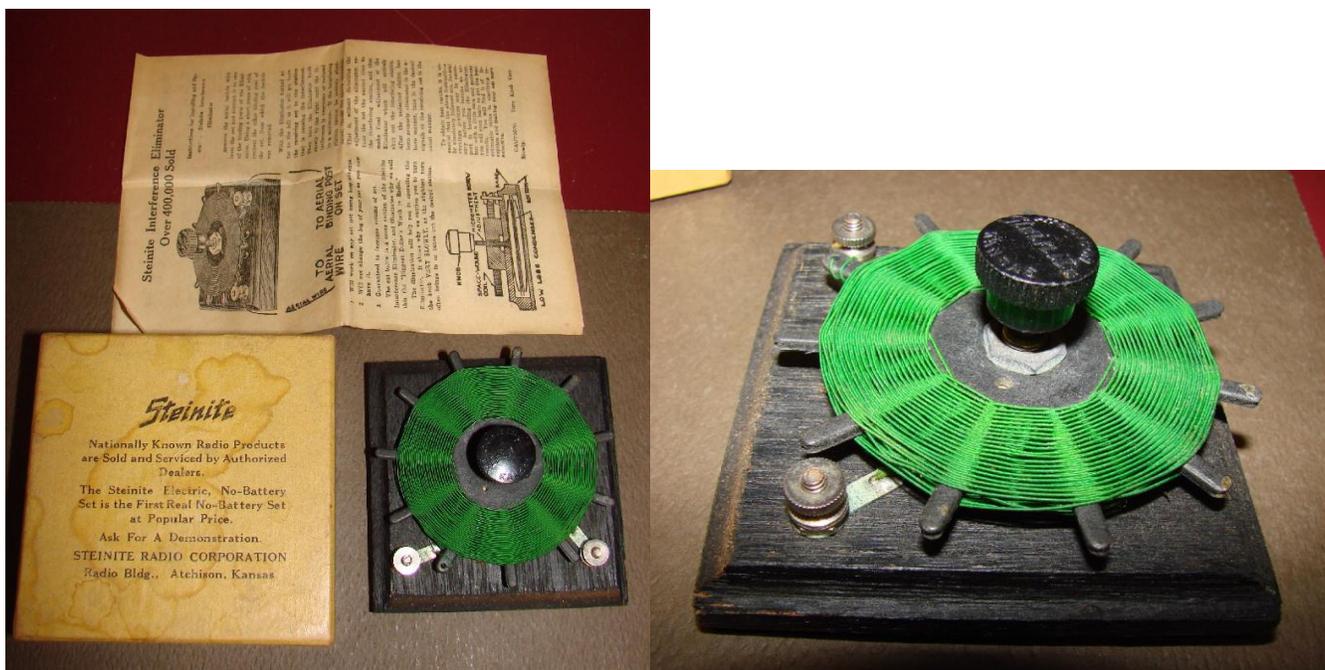
Jim Collings brought in three General Electric model 843 radios, with cool atomic motifs. They were all in different colors, right down to the power cords! Jim also shared a 1955 Zenith Royal 500 pocket transistor radio. This is one of the earliest pocket radios, and it is hand wired, before printed circuit boards. These early transistor radios were also relatively expensive.

We finished the meeting with our usual donation auction. Some various electronic items including a World War Two military radio went home with new owners. Thanks to everyone who came and especially those who brought radios to share. See you next month!

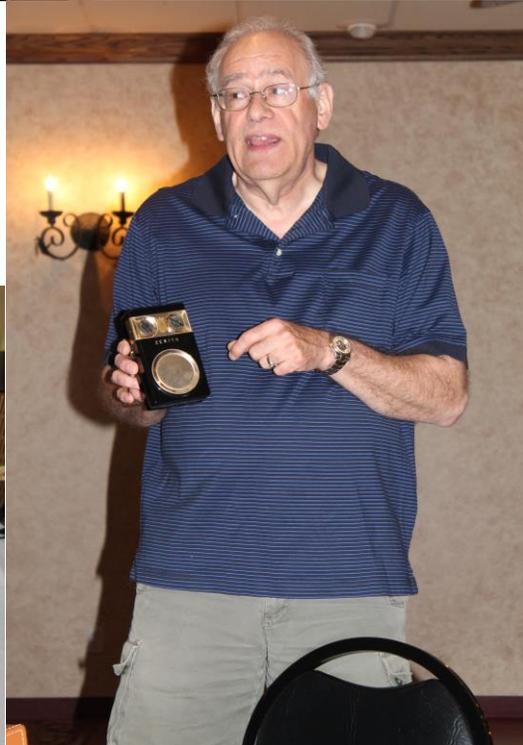
## Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

### Steinite Interference Eliminator

This month's featured item is the Steinite Interference Eliminator. This is a fairly common accessory item made in Atchison, Kansas during the battery set era of the mid 1920's. The original paperwork indicates that more than 400,000 were sold! So, they must have been effective. It is essentially a spiderweb wound coil combined with a capacitor. The capacitor likely has just a few plates and is a compression type, adjusted by rotating the knob on the top of the unit. It is installed between the antenna post on the set and the long wire antenna required for these sets. They are very crudely made, so often they are in poor condition when found. The painted wooden base measures 3 3/8 inches square and has a cardboard bottom held on by tacks. It is a cute little item for a collection of early battery set parts.



## 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](mailto: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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- 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](mailto:radioman@wirr.com).
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- SERVICE:** Old Radio Restoration and Servicing by Raymond Cady. Let me make it like new again. Email: [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com) or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.



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