



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Our next meeting will be on June 11th at **Spencer's Smokehouse & Barbeque**, 9900 NE 23rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73141. The meeting will begin at 7 PM with dinner beforehand, about 6 PM. Last month, the restaurant had double booked their meeting space, and they put us in a small corner which was very cramped, with no extra room for our display or auction items. If our attendance had not been below normal it would have been much worse. It should be better this month. Our topic for the meeting is 1950's radios. I normally think of the consoles which are squared off sets, usually in mahogany, but often found in blonde wood, the new trend for the 1950's. I do not expect anyone to bring a console to our meeting, but there are interesting table models. Some exhibit the beginnings of space age design in plastic cabinets. Often these were available in multiple colors. The topic should yield the display of some interesting sets. Also please remember to bring something for the donation auction.

The Summer Sizzler is the Saturday morning before our meeting. This is the Tulsa club's annual swap meet and contest. It will be held at the same location as recent years at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 6767 S. Mingo, Tulsa. It officially starts at 9 AM and lasts thru the morning. I've always enjoyed this event! It is similar to our April meet with an ongoing swap meet, contest, and auction at the end. Check out their website at HLARA.org for more info.

Julie and I went to the Radio Daze meet in Plymouth, (Minneapolis) Minnesota sponsored by the Northland Antique Radio Club, (NARC), on May 20th and 21st. The first event was a flea market at the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting on Friday morning. It consisted of duplicate and surplus donated items from the museum. Prices were similar to what a similar item would bring on ebay. All the proceeds went to support the museum. The Pavek Museum is very impressive, and is the best radio museum I have toured. There are impressive early wireless items, later battery sets, speakers, early AC sets, cathedrals, consoles, audio items, some broadcast items, and even transistor radios. They have speaker phones that you can activate to get narrations at many displays.

Friday evening was the auction, with Frank Rasada as the auctioneer. There were a fair amount of things for sale, and not too much junk. They have a set fee for entering auction items, plus an additional fee to set a reserve. So, there is no commission charged. I liked this method for the one item I sold, and it seems to work well for their club, limiting the number of items entered, and making them mostly more valuable items. There were some nice items, but I was only able to win two items, despite bidding a lot. Prices were fairly high, and that seems to be the trend now, with better items bringing more money than in the past few years.

Saturday morning the flea market was to start at dawn, with sunrise about 5:40 AM. I had planned to get out there about 6:30, but my alarm did not ring, so it was 7:30. It was plenty early, as most vendors were just beginning to get set up. So, I did my typical thing of scouring the flea market for anything I had to have, and setting up later. Overall it was smaller than at the big meets, but there was plenty of stuff. I sold most of my expensive items, but not much junk. I purchased enough to fill the remaining space in the car, but nothing spectacular. They do not have an auction of donated items at the end of the meet, so I had to bring some things home. I believe they are missing an opportunity to help fund the event. We did not try to see things in the contest room before we left, as we headed for home before it was opened for viewing. We had a good time at the meet, and will probably attend again. It is a change of scenery from the direction we usually go, and we enjoyed a few days in northern Minnesota before the start of the meet.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting. Be sure to bring something for the donation auction.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 05/14/2016

In my report for our March meeting, I praised the large turnout for that month's meeting. Well, for our May meeting, we only managed to attract about ten members. But, as it turned out, if we were going to have a poor turnout, that was the day to have it. The large private room that we normally meet in was reserved for a large wedding party, and the smaller semi-private room in the main restaurant seating area was reserved for another group. So, we met instead in a small section of the dining room nearby. It was just the right size for us!

Club members began arriving before 6:00 PM at Spencer's Bar-b-que, 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, and we discussed last month's convention at the Midwest City Community center. All agreed it was a big success, and makes up for the poor turnout of the fall meet. We even got to welcome a new member to our club, Fred Maggard!

Once the formalities were out of the way, we began the evening's program. The topic was radios from the nineteen forties. This decade covers pre WWII (1940-1941), as well as post-war (1946-1949) sets. Almost nothing was available during the war (1942-1945), due to the fact that all radio companies were pressed into service building electronics for the war effort during those years.

In the late thirties, radios began to change in style and appearance. In the table models, the last of the tall upright "Cathedral" and "Tombstone" radios disappeared and were

replaced by squatter, more horizontal cabinets. These typically had the dial to the right of the speaker, and then above it when the horizontal "Slide Rule" dials began to replace the round "Airplane" dials that had been the norm for about seven years. Plastic radios boomed in popularity as well. These design trends were seen in most of the radios sold in the nineteen forties, both before and after the war. But after the war, radios began to incorporate some technological changes as well. FM began to be included in many sets. The shortwave bands that began to be added around 1933, and had enabled listeners to follow the dramatic events happening overseas, gradually disappeared. Miniature tubes, which allowed more electronics on a smaller chassis, became the norm for all low and medium power circuits.

Our club members brought in a number of interesting forties radios to share. Jim Collings brought in two items, a Zenith model 6S527 receiver in a wood cabinet, his wife Julie won it as a door prize at a VPRS Radio Meet! Jim also showed us an unusual Packard Bell radio phonograph from 1947, the smallest (pre-transistor) radio-phono that I have ever seen. It looks like an ordinary table radio until you lift the top, and inside you find a very small turntable to play your 78RPM records on. Ray Cady showed several nice radios, including a 1941 Philco model PT44 five tube set in a handsome burl wood cabinet, a 1941 Philco model PT2 in a plastic case, and a 1977 Emerson model 540A with an interesting waffle pattern grill. We also got see another unusual item from Ray's collection, 1947 Motorola table radio (not a portable) that designed to run on either AC or Battery power. Roger Knopf brought in an Emerson five tube model from 1941 and a Philco model 46200 from 1946. And lastly, your club secretary brought in 1941 6 tube Zenith model in a black plastic cabinet. A pretty nice selection of radios to enjoy, especially considering we didn't have a lot of space to display them in!

We finished up a pleasant evening with our usual donation auction. Some boxes of tubes, resistors, a public address system amplifier, a chassis from a Wilcox-Gay radio, and a bunch of electronics books all found new homes.

Next month's topic will be, you guessed it, radios from the fifties. We should have our room back, so bring something in and show it to the club. See you there!

Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

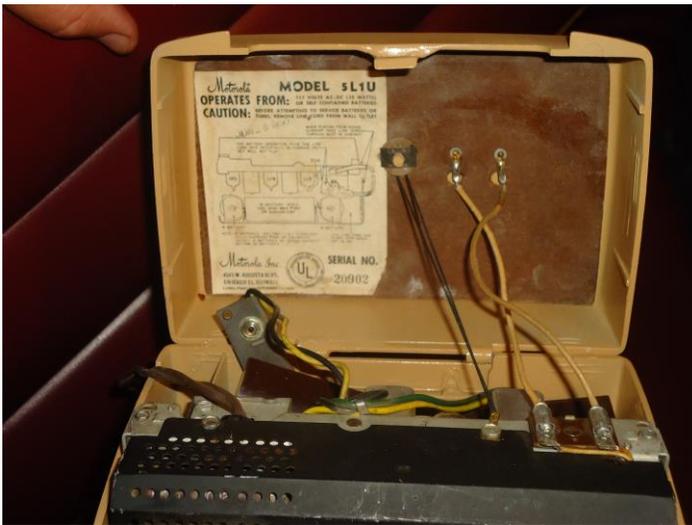
Military J-38 Telegraph Key



This month's featured item is the US Military J-38 Telegraph Key. It was first made for use during WW II, but was made up into the 1950's. It is the most common military key that is encountered. It first came as part of a signal corps radio/telegraph operators training set. It is designed such that headphones can be put in series with the key to learn Morse code. The unusual eye connector is designed to tie the non-conducting third cord from the headphones to the key. These were made by various manufacturers and most are unlabeled as to the manufacturer, except for those may by Lionel (who also made toy trains). Therefore, there are many variations which are of interest to key collectors. I have even seen them without the J-38 designation. The black bakelite base measures 3 by 4 ¾ inches is size. They can work well as a normal telegraph key, and are most commonly used that way. Some hams still use them today. They are relatively common, and can be found at radio flea markets for \$10 to \$20, but usually go for a little more on eBay. The Lionels are the most desirable, and are seldom seen. The example pictured from my collection is new old stock from a foil sealed military envelope. The envelope is dated 2-1954. Earlier examples came in pasteboard boxes, which are rare. If you want a key in your collection, the J-38 is a nice one to own.

Pictures from our May 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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- 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. It will Bluetooth connect 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.

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