

Know Anyone Interested In Vintage Radios?

**Then be sure to sure to tell them about the annual
Antique Radio Swap Meet Contest and Auction!**

**At the Midwest City Community Center
100 N. Midwest Blvd
(North of Tinker AFB)**

FREE ADMISSION!

**Sponsored by the
Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors**



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Broadcast News

Online at www.okvrc.org

March 2016

Volume XXV, Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

March 12th is our monthly meeting at the Spencer's Barbeque and Smokehouse, at 9900 NE 23rd Street, OKC. We gather at 6 PM for food and fellowship with the meeting beginning at 7. We will finalize plans for publicity, and brainstorm for other ideas to make our April 9th Annual Swap meet bigger and better. The topic for the meeting will be a presentation by Gary Swymeler on repairing bakelite radio cabinets. It will be a demonstration of the method presented in the article in last month's Broadcast News. I'm looking forward to this! So this is a meeting you do not want to miss. At the end of the meeting we will have our usual donation auction. See you at the meeting!

Here are details for the Swap meet: On April 9th our OKVRC annual meet will be held at the Midwest City Community Center, beginning at 8 AM. This is our big meet with a swap meet, contest, silent auction, and live auction. We have the facility only until Noon, so events need to move along. We get in the door officially at 8AM, but normally they let us in a little earlier. The swap and contest tables will be set up. The event will have free admission, but donations for coffee and doughnuts will be appreciated. The silent auction will end at 9:30 AM, followed by the contest judging with the live auction beginning at 10:30. We usually have many nice items on display, and just coming to see the contest items would be worthwhile, but there are always interesting items in the swap meet and auction. Everyone is urged to bring items to show off for the contest. You may enter two items in each category. The only restriction is that items that won a first place ribbon last year can not compete, but can be displayed. I believe that displaying your favorite pieces is an important part of radio collecting. It makes collecting more enjoyable. It's no fun having a house full of radio items, and never showing them or sharing them with others.

Here are the Contest Categories to aid in your planning:

1. Battery and Crystal Receivers, Pre-1930
2. Tombstone and Cathedral Receivers
3. Horizontal Wooden Receivers
4. Metal Sets after 1926 (includes amateur receivers and transmitters)

5. AC/DC Bakelite or Plastic Receivers
6. Transistor Radios
7. Console Receivers (includes radio/phono combos and televisions)
8. Art Deco and Novelty AC operated Receivers
9. Foreign Made Receivers and Equipment, pre 1957.
10. Homebrew and Kit Receivers
11. HiFi Audio Equipment, tube type
12. Accessory Items (tubes, speakers, antennas, test equipment, etc.)
13. Open Category (anything that doesn't fit in another category)
14. Best Restoration (this can be displayed in any category, but will be judged on restoration quality. Documentation of condition before restoration is encouraged)
15. People's Choice (ballot of favorite display of all who attend)
16. Best of Show (one of the first place winners from the other categories)

Julie and I drove down to Mt. Dora, Florida to the antique radio swap meet sponsored by Renninger's on Feb 12-13th, dubbed the Central Florida Radio Exchange. It was the second year for this event, an effort to establish a large swap meet like at Kutztown, PA. It was not a very good meet. We arrived in the early afternoon to a vacant pavilion, and the pavilion was about 1/5 of the size of the two at Kutztown. We went back later in the evening, and there were a couple of vendors set up, and a few people around. The official opening was the next morning. When we arrived fairly early, there were a few vendors set up and more setting up, but still not a big turnout. The weather was pleasant, but it was warmer here in Oklahoma. Saturday morning there were a few additional dealers, but in total there were only 21 vendors set up counting both days, and some were sharing booth space. Most were selling restored sets at retail prices, and only a couple of people had any parts or tubes. My big sale was a \$30 item, plus some smaller things sold, and I spent about \$300 on small items. I did see and get to talk to several collectors. So it probably was a good meet for the locals, but did not justify a 2600 mile round trip from Oklahoma. I'll wait a few more years for it to get larger before I go again. I expect the meets in the north and east this summer to be much better.

The VRPS spring auction will be held at the Senter East Building, 228 Chamberlain St., in Irving, TX (Dallas) on March 19th. It begins at 8 AM, and compliments their annual convention in the fall. It is an auction only, but is worth attending. It's not as large as the auctions during the fall convention, and there are not as many expensive items as in the fall, but there are always a few nice things. There tends to be more parts available and sets for parts or restoration. So it's a good source for getting what might be needed to complete your restoration. The location is a little tricky to find as it is in a residential area, so contact me if you have questions. If you are an early riser you can leave at 3 AM on Saturday morning to drive down. If not, there are motels in the area. It wraps up in the late afternoon, so it can be just a one day trip. It is worth attending.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting 02/13/2016

After complaining about the cold last month, I guess the groundhog heard me and ordered up some nice weather for us. Not only was it fairly warm for our February meeting, it has not really been cold at all this month in Oklahoma. Short-sleeve shirt temperatures in February? Oklahoma never ceases to surprise us. Some are calling this the Year Without a Winter. Could we follow it up with a Spring Without Tornados? We can hope, at least!

We had a fairly decent turn out of about sixteen OKVRC members and spouses at Spencer's Bar-b-que for our February meeting. We enjoyed dinner from about 5:45 to 7:00, and then began the evening's program. Club President Jim Collings was out of town on business (Florida I think, not a bad place to be in wintertime), so your club secretary and club member Roger Knopf did their best to fill in for him.

For several month's we have been taking a chronological tour through radio history, which started with early twenties battery radios and last November covered early (1927-1929) AC radios. January's program was on radios from 1930 to 1933. Tonight's program was to cover 1934 to 1937, but we got a few slightly later sets, so we changed it to 1934 to up-to-the war! We will cover the entire decade 1940 to 1950 next month.

By the mid nineteen thirties, radio was a huge part of American life, to a degree it never would be again after World War Two. Radios had come down in price dramatically, the wide availability of inexpensive AC-DC sets, many in plastic cabinets, made radio a constant presence everywhere in America. And unlike the movies, it was free! If you have not seen the Woody Alan film "Radio Days" you really should. It is a semi-autobiographical look of Woody's boyhood in Far Rockaway (an oceanfront suburb of New York City). It perfectly captures the years just before the war, when radio was at its peak as an entertainment medium. It is also a fascinating and nostalgic look at a time and place gone forever. Buy it, don't rent it, you will want to watch it again and again.

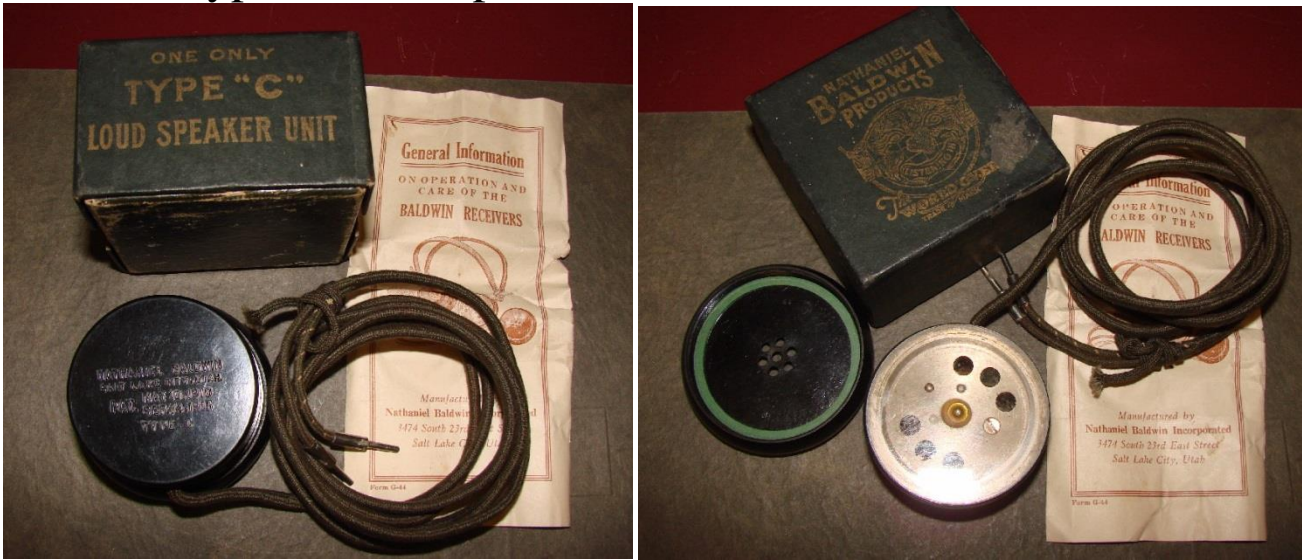
Club members brought in several radios from this era to share. Club member Jack Gobin brought in a 1937 six-tube Philco model 37-620B from 1937. It features 3 bands, pretty typical for that era. By the mid-thirties most mid-range table models and small consoles had the AM broadcast band, the (now obsolete) police and air band, and one shortwave band. More expensive sets added additional shortwave bands. Your Club Secretary brought in a Philco "Skyscraper" model from 1937 (sorry I don't have the exact model number) If it looks familiar to you, I brought it in when we had our "Art Deco" program a while back. It's a favorite of mine because of the bold, confident styling of the cabinet. It has (surprise) three bands.

We also got to see a five-tube General Electric model 5T from 1934. Member Jim Langford showed us a 7-tube Philco model 42-350 from 1942. It has a curved front and a band around the bottom. Roger Knopf brought in a tiny four-tube Montgomery-Wards Airline from 1939, in a plastic cabinet. Lastly, we got to see a General Electric model K64 from 1933. This set will be raffled off during the Spring Convention and Swap Meet. That's less than two months away! Plan on attending, it's a great opportunity to exhibit your prized radios in the contest, find something to add to your collection, or sell something you are ready to part with. Start planning now what you are going to bring to exhibit, or to sell.

We wrapped up the evening with the usual donation auction. A code oscillator, a Power Shifter (battery eliminator) and a small table radio were sold. We also had boxes of tubes and resistors, several radio chassis, a magnifier, boxes of parts, a radio collectors guide, a couple of amplifiers, and some cool 1935 issues of Popular Mechanics up for grabs. Everything found a new home, and the club raised some needed funds.

Next month we will have a presentation on bakelite repair. See you then!

Accessory Corner by Jim Collings Baldwin Type C Loud Speaker Unit



This month's featured item is the Baldwin Type "C" Loud Speaker Unit, or headphone unit. This is one earpiece or half of a set of headphones. It shows a patent date of 1915, but I do not think they were readily available until about 1921, and were produced thru the 1920's. This was available as one unit rather than a set of headphones because it was less expensive. The headphones were \$12 a set, and I suspect these single units sold for about half that. In the early 1920's homebrew sets were common, and most everything except for the earphone could be made by hand, saving a lot of money compared with a manufactured set. So the earphone had to be purchased, and one unit was the cheapest way to go. The single unit could be placed in a washtub or similar enclosure, and acted like a loudspeaker. Also these were used by some manufacturers as horn drivers, or their horns were designed to hold a single headphone unit like this. This is a 1000 ohm unit as the more familiar pair is 2000 ohms. With the mica diaphragm which did not need adjustment, it was among the best reproducers available. Of course, a pair of these headphones is most often encountered, and they were affectionately referred to as "Baldies" by listeners. The earliest examples had light green colored wire (often faded to tan), while later versions had the more typical brown tinsel cord wire. These are still among the best headphones made, and are often the first choice for listening, especially for crystal set listeners. Many were made, so they are easily found, at about \$30 or less, today.



This beautiful GE K-64 cathedral above will be raffled off during the Spring Meet

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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