



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

This month's monthly meeting will be on November 12th at Spencer's Barbeque, our normal meeting place. The actual meeting starts at 7 PM with time for eating before. We are beginning a new set of topics based on the location of where the radios were manufactured. So, for this meeting we will make it easy...California. So, we will feature radios and equipment made in California. This would include early manufacturers like Kennedy, and later ones like Jackson Bell. I'm sure there are many others, so everyone should bring something made in California. It should be a fun meeting. The business to be conducted at the meeting will be about the Christmas party. We still need someone to host it in their home. It is normally held on the 2nd Saturday in December, our normal meeting time, but can be moved to meet the host's schedule. Hopefully a volunteer will come forward. I hope to see everyone there, and don't forget our donation auction at the end of the meeting.

Our Fall Swap Meet last month was a success. Attendance was fairly good, considering our normal conflict with the Texas vs. OU game. I took a lot of items, and got rid of most things, but I had them priced pretty cheap. I was glad to see them go to new homes. The raffle of the donated Freed-Eisemann NR-7 radio netted the club just over \$100. The auction at the end of the meet was not very spirited, with no high priced items, but the club appreciates the bids and donations. We ended a little short of covering our expenses for the facility, but should make up for it at the Spring meet. I think everyone came away with some different items from what they came with, and there were plenty of bargains. Everything went smoothly, and we were out of the building in time to see most of the Texas game. Thanks to all who attended, and a special "Thank You" to those who helped make it a success.

Last Sunday was the auction of items from Curt Lutz's collection, held just north of Tulsa in Collinsville, OK. Several of our members attended. There were more than 400 items sold with no reserve, with many bargains. But the items which Curt had restored went for good prices, while junk sold accordingly. The auctioneers had never sold radios before as they were cattle oriented, so they had trouble getting things going. They started with plastic and bakelite sets, trying to get \$30 or so each for them at first, with very little interest, and buyers were bored. Finally they got to some wooden sets and realized that if they started at \$10 or

so, the bidders would be active and things would sell better. I was able to restrain myself, and did not come away with a full car load, as I have no space to put things. Others from our club were less restrained.

On November 18th thru 20th is the annual VRPS convention in Mesquite, Tx, at the Hampton Inn Convention Center. (The same location as previous years). This is one of the largest radio meets in the country, and it's right here in our area, so everyone should try to attend. It differs from most meets, as it is auction oriented. Almost everything that changes hands is thru the auction. That means that everyone has an equal chance to purchase items, and eliminates the luck factor of being at the right place at the right time, (finding the item as the seller unloads it). Friday afternoon the tube and paper auction starts at 2:45 PM, and with a short break for dinner changes to the Friday night auction of items with a minimum bid of \$10 or more. It was originally designed for bakelite sets, but now almost anything can show up, including valuable items. This auction usually lasts until 10 PM or later. Saturday the main auction starts at 11 AM (after the 8:30 to 9:00 AM silent auction), and runs until about 5 PM or so, to allow time for preparation for the Saturday evening banquet. This auction is designed for the nice stuff, with a minimum bid of \$20. Junk that should have been in the Friday auction may not get put up for bids. There is a contest of display items which is judged on Saturday morning, and the theme for this year's convention is Edison. Everyone should try to attend, even if just for the day on Saturday. Contact me if you need more details.

Report for the OKVRC Convention and Swap Meet 10/08/2013

We held our Fall Convention and Swap meet on Saturday October 8th. The weather was excellent (summer just does not want to end) and the turnout was pretty good too!

Members and guests were arriving at the Midwest Community Center before the building opened at eight, and there was plenty of donuts and coffee for everyone to enjoy while waiting for sellers to arrive and set up. There were about three rows of tables, not as many sellers as we typically have in the spring but still respectable for a fall meet. There were a fair number of table models: battery sets and early AC sets from the twenties, a few cathedrals and tombstones from the thirties and a better than average number of plastic and Bakelite sets from the forties and fifties. There were no floor models except for a small post-war Philco in respectable condition that went for a bargain price of only ten dollars. There was also a fair amount of tubes, knobs, speakers, manuals, and test equipment for sale as well.

The silent auction had a few nice items as well, with the nicer ones bringing in several bids. I got outbid on the one I tried to get. I almost bought a nice early battery set until I found a major flaw in the front panel, and another large battery set I liked I just could not figure out where I could put it. So I thought this would be one of the rare and sad times where I bring nothing home for my collection. But as it turned out that was not the case, I'll tell you why in the last paragraph!

After the silent auction was over, we moved on to the regular auction. Many interesting items were donated, but with the exception of an early thirties Majestic radio

chassis, most everything was from the sixties on. There were a lot of small consumer electronics items right up to recent stuff including weather radios, computer parts and video game components. There was one item I wanted, a pair of Radio Shack 3 watt walkie-talkies from the late seventies. They were like new in the boxes, but the young son of one of our members wanted them too, and I couldn't bring myself to bid against the lad, he grabbed them for five dollars, a real bargain. I picked up a nice clock radio / telephone combo unit from the early eighties for a buck. It cleaned up beautifully and is now in service in my guest bedroom.

I said that I did not go home without a new addition to my collection although I purchased nothing. How did I manage that? Well, as you know we often raffle off a radio at our meets. It adds fun to the event and raises extra money for the club. This time the prize was a very sharp Stromberg-Carlson NR-7 battery set from 1924-1925. I bought three tickets and actually won! Now I can no longer say "I've never won anything in my life". The radio didn't include the six 01A tubes needed (they were duds) but I found six good CX-301A's in my tube cabinet. Now the NR-7 is housed in an oak lawyer bookcase I use to display twenties battery sets with. It looks happy in its new home.

Thanks for coming, those who made it! Try to come to the November dinner and meeting at Spencer's Bar-be-que in Midwest City. I don't know yet what the program will be on, but we should learn about the club's plans for the Christmas Party. You won't want to miss that.

Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

Zenith Radio Headphones



This month's featured item is something I recently found that I had never seen before, but have heard of, a pair of Zenith Radio Headphones. These appear to have been produced to go with radios in the Transoceanic series. The headband is covered in a rubber material, like wire insulation, and the phones measure 8 ohms. Data on the internet says these were made for the military, but they have no military designations, so I do not believe this is true. They appear to be a typical pair of headphones from the late 1940s or early 1950s, but are marked with the Zenith insignia on the black bakelite backs. I do not believe many of these were made, so here is another item to be on the lookout for to add to your collection.

Fall Swap Meet Photos



Fare Radio Sales, Lima OH

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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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.**

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- 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@wi.rr.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.

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