



# Broadcast News

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

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

It's almost here! Our Spring Swap Meet/Convention is on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Midwest City Community Center. Here is a schedule of events and the approximate timing:

7:30 AM Activity in the parking lot begins

8:00 Doors officially open for swap meet, silent auction, and contest display setup

9:30 Silent auction ends

10:00 Contest judging begins

10:45 Main auction begins

12:00 noon Meet ends (we are supposed to be out by then, but I do not think there is another group renting the facility immediately).

The categories for the contest are listed in the last issue of the Broadcast News. There is a category where almost anything can be displayed. I expect to see a lot of great items in the contest. We will have the People's Choice Category again this year, where each of us can vote for the display which we like the best. Remember, that additional items of support, like advertising, are encouraged, and may be the tie breaker in the judging. This is especially true for the best restoration category, as before photos are needed to show how much restoration was done. Don't forget the silent auction and main auction to get rid of your unwanted items. Tell all of your friends who may have an interest in our hobby about the meet. This meet is one of our biggest sources for finding new members. Be sure to bring a few items from your collection to show off in the contest. Half the fun of collecting is showing what you have to other collectors, and talking about them. The donated raffle item this meet is a General Electric M-61 cathedral or semi-cathedral radio from 1934. It has original finish and was expertly restored to great working condition by Raymond Cady. Be sure to purchase your ticket to win this set, and support the club. We should have good out-of-state attendance.

I attended the VRPS auction in Irving, Tx, on March 18<sup>th</sup>. It was at the Senter Park facility where the monthly meetings are held. The auction got started about 9:30, and was over about 2 PM. It was definitely a buyer's auction and quite a few lots of parts, tubes, literature, and items needing restoration were sold at cheap prices. Many did not meet the \$10 minimum price and ended up as donations to the club, so I believe the VRPS did very well in the auction. There were some nicer restored items that brought higher prices, but still reasonable. Only one of my items sold for more than the \$10 minimum. I ended up spending more than I sold on parts and tubes, but there was less volume. So, it was a successful trip. Quite a few people at the meet indicated that they would come to our meet this weekend.

See you at our meet! Load up the truck, and get there early. The more you bring, the more fun it is!

### **Report for the OKVRC Meeting 03/11/2017**

It's almost here! Next month will be our Spring Convention and Swap Meet at the Midwest City Community Center. This of course it the one time a year where we have the contest, where you get a chance to show off your prize items, and see everyone else's! So start looking through your collection for something really cool that you want to share, and perhaps win that First Prize or People's Choice ribbon. And while you are at it, start collecting items you would like to sell at a table or in the silent auction. It's been a long winter, and with the coming of spring a lot of us collectors who have not added anything to our collections in months are eager to buy. See you there!

The weather was a bit cool but we still had a respectable turnout for our usual second Saturday of the month meeting at Spencer's Bar-be-que in Midwest City on March 11<sup>th</sup>. We all enjoyed dinner as usual until about 7:00, when Club President Jim Collings called the meeting to order. We covered some club business, including our already discussed upcoming convention and swap meet at the Midwest Community Center in April. Then we settled in to enjoy the night's program: Radios from the state of Kansas.

One of the most famous quotes from the Silver Screen, right up there with "Frankly my dear I don't give a damn" and, "Go ahead, make my day" would have to be "Toto, I don't think we are in Kansas anymore". Dorothy wanted to leave her Kansas farm for some place more exciting, and got a bit more than she asked for when she and her home was swept away by a tornado, (something all too common in Oklahoma) and landed Over the Rainbow in Oz. But while Kansas is thought of but most people as just an agricultural state, it did, at one time produce radios! This came as a surprise to me and I suspect a lot of other club members. Fortunately, Club President Jim Collings brought in some radios with Kansas pedigrees to share with us.

We got to see a Steinite one tube set from the early twenties with an exposed tube. We also saw a Stein-Special from the same period. These radios were produced in Acheson, Kansas. Both tube and crystal set versions were sold. Jim also showed us a Steinite Interference Eliminator, a gadget sold in the early twenties that was designed to improve reception on early sets.

Jim also showed us an Aztec cathedral radio from about 1931-1932. Aztecs are rare sets; this is only the second one I have seen in almost forty years of collecting. I remember

seeing one at the Orange County Fairgrounds swap meet about thirty years ago, and I regret not buying it. It resembles similar Echophone cathedrals of that period, with its tuning control located on the right hand side instead of in the middle, and its round speaker grill. I was surprised to learn it came from Kansas, I always assumed these rare sets were from the west coast.

We finished off the evening with our usual donation auction. The nicest item offered were large copies of the “Progress in Electronics” stamp series issued by the Postal Service back in the seventies. I would have liked to frame them to go on the wall in my radio room, but I got outbid. There was also a homemade crystal set, some really cool large transmitting tubes, an oak radio cabinet from the early twenties, a Radiola 44 cabinet, a flat of tubes, lots of books and manuals, a Philco radio chassis, and a lot of other odds and ends. Most items went for a buck or two.

See you at the meet in April!

**The item offered for the raffle this spring will be this beautiful 1934 GE M61 tombstone radio. It has been fully restored, plays very well and would be a wonderful addition to anyone’s collection.**



## Accessory Corner by Jim Collings

### Brandes Superior Headphones

This month’s featured item is something very common, a pair of Brandes Superior Matched Tone Radio Headphones. Brandes began making headphones in the early 1920’s and

continued to make them nearly the same up into the 1930s when they merged with Cannon. They were quality headphones for normal use. RCA included them in their package deals of radios, and they were the standard headphones which mounted inside the front cover on the Radiola II. Some were marked a little differently, but internally they are all identical. Each earpiece has a resistance of 1000 to 1200 ohms, which combined at 2000+ ohms is great for use on early battery era radios and crystal sets. The headbands are covered in black cloth with nickel plated hardware. The elements themselves have an aluminum back and black bakelite cover. The only drawback on them is that the terminals for connecting the wire are open, and on the back. With high output it could be possible to get a shock on your hand when adjusting them to your head. I'm sure that millions were sold, and they are good quality headphones for use, so everyone needs a pair in their collection!



### March Meeting Pictures





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.

**BOARD:**

President	Jim Collings	jrcradio@cox.net
Secretary	Jim Tyrrell	jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Jim Ray	jabray71@hotmail.com

**BROADCAST NEWS STAFF:**

Editor	Raymond Cady	cadyraymond1@gmail.com
Contributing Editor	Art Hoch	artdrhs@yahoo.com
Contributing Editor	John L Reynolds	tack1@flash.net

**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 [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.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](mailto: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](mailto:radioman@wi.rr.com).
- FOR SALE:** Magnet Wire different sizes available at reduced prices. Contact Mike (405) 376-9473 email: [orders@coaxman.com](mailto: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](mailto:scstrong1@cox.net).
- 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:** 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.

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