

# OK Vintage Radio Collectors

## BROADCAST NEWS

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

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### About OKVRC

Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) publishes *Broadcast News* monthly for the presentation of historical information and enjoyment of club members and friends.

*Broadcast News* always welcomes submissions of articles on subjects of interest to radio collectors and restorers, and club activities news.

#### Send Articles to:

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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*.

### OKVRC MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to join us in our celebration of Vintage Radio by sending your \$15 annual membership fee by check to:

OKVRC  
PO BOX 50625  
Midwest City, OK, 73140-5625.

Membership payment also accepted at any of our monthly meetings and our semi-annual club swap meets.

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.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

*Jim Collings*

Summer vacation time is here. It's, warmer and with more daylight hours it's easier to work on our radio projects. I hope we can all find some interesting radio items in our travels, and get a few radio projects completed. Once you do, be sure to bring them to show at one of our meetings. We like to see them and don't care whether they relate to our meeting topic.

Our next meeting is Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at [Spencer's Smokehouse & Barbeque](#) on NE 23rd Street. The chosen topic for the meeting is **radio and electronics books**. This is a broad topic that can include: vintage (or recent reprints of) texts and books designed for learning, price guides, picture books of vintage equipment, and books that tell the history of certain electronic trends, companies, or specific items or types of items. Bring a few that have been meaningful to you.

The one most meaningful to me is [Vintage Radio](#), which is a reprint of the [Greenwood Wireless and Radio](#) book, which was republished in 1973 by Morgan McMahon right when I began collecting. I studied that book and lusted after certain models. So, bring your favorites to the meeting. We will reserve periodicals for a future meeting.

At the July meeting we need to have our annual election of officers. As far as I know, all the current officers are agreeable to serve another term in service to our club. We should be appreciative of their work in keeping the club going, and our events running smoothly. But, if anyone new would like to run for one of the offices, I feel they can be accommodated.

Don't forget the [Summer Sizzler](#), Tulsa club's annual swap meet and contest. It will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 AM at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 6767 S. Mingo Avenue, Tulsa. I've always enjoyed this event! It is similar to our April swap meet and includes a contest and auction at the end. Check out their website at [HLARA.org](#) for more info.

A few weeks ago, Julie and I attended the [Northland Antique Radio Club](#) "Radiodaze" meet in Plymouth, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis. It was a pretty nice meet, but would have been much better if the weather had cooperated. While there were tornado watches here, it was cool and wet up there with a high of 54. Friday morning is the annual flea market at the [Pavek Museum of Broadcasting](#), where they have a tag sale of excess from the museum. As always, I selected a few items. The proceeds support the museum. (Continued on next page.)

## *President's Page (continued)*

*Jim Collings*

The museum is recommended, and is the nicest radio museum I have ever toured.

The auction was Friday evening, run by Frank Rasada from California. There was a limit of 10 items per seller, but still it lasted from 7 to about 11 PM. It started out as a buyer's auction, and I lost money on my first item up, but made up for it with a purchase of a large working Fairbanks Morse cathedral for \$20. There were quite a few items from the estate of one of the active local members, and there were quite a few large Zenith consoles that sold surprisingly well. After that, selling prices were quite a bit higher and it became a seller's auction. They charge a \$5 entry fee for each auction item, with no other buyer's or seller's commissions.

For the Saturday morning flea market, rain was predicted, I got out there early before the rain started, and purchased a couple of items. However, because the rain got heavier as the morning progressed, I never got to set up, but I did sell a few things from the back of the car despite the rain. I found some phonograph items on the way up, and on the way back I purchased a [Crosley "Bonzo" chalk dog](#) in nice original condition. So, overall it was a worthwhile meet.

Don't forget to bring your favorite books and donation items for our meeting, which this month takes place after the Tulsa Summer Sizzler on Saturday, June 10th starting at 7 PM, dinner at 6 PM.

## *Restoring the Stag on a Zenith Transoceanic*

*Dorothy Cady*

While Raymond does the electronic repair of antique radios, I often take care of the cabinets. A couple of months ago, he asked me to work on the stag (that's what Zenith calls that leather-like fabric cover, but you know that) on his personal transoceanic radio. It was full of little holes and tears and strings. I decided to take on the challenge, and so began my work with a quest for information on how to go about making her (I call all the radios that) beautiful again. The most useful article I found is the [H500 Restoration Guide by John Kopp](#). (You're probably aware of Badrestorer's work.) It walks the reader through restoring that model from start to finish. Since I just wanted to restore the stag, I was most interested in trying out his suggestions in Chapter 6.

I began by giving his Transoceanic a good cleaning using a soft shoe cleaning brush and Kiwi saddle soap, as per John's recommendations. That did a great job of removing the gunk. Once it was dry, being a sewer, I chose not to follow John's recommendation to burn off the strings with a lighter and instead pulled out my trusty sewing scissors. Note, however, that I did not cut strings that crossed holes unless they were not attached on both sides. I wanted to use them to help stabilize those areas when I repaired them.

Next I went to work on the holes and loose stag, where I also did not follow John's recommendation to use white glue or JB Weld. Instead, I used [Titebond Genuine Hide Glue](#), which is what radio manufacturers originally used to attach veneer and grill cloth to their radios. Also, John Kopp says that white glue is harder to sand once it is dry than is the JB Weld, but that JB Weld was harder to apply. I'd become adept at using hide glue to repair veneer patches on radio cabinets, so I chose to use that. Since it is a dark brownish color anyway, it blends in well, and was easy to sand. In addition, I believed it was a more authentic way to make the repair on an antique radio.

First I filled in all holes, large and small, and glued down all torn flaps. Once the glue was dry, I sanded it smooth with 240 grit sand paper and a light touch. I then applied over all of the stag a coat of [Angelus Brand Jet Black Leather Dye](#). (You have to buy this product online or from a local shoe repair store.) I finished the stag with a light brushing from a soft shoe brush. The previous holes and tears are now invisible, and the entire stag looks almost new.

*Report for the OKVRC Meeting May 13, 2017**Jim Tyrrell*

It was a beautiful spring day here in Oklahoma, and we managed a fairly good turnout for our usual second Saturday of the month meeting at Spencer's in Midwest City. We enjoyed good food and conversation as usual until about 7:00 PM when president Jim Collings called the meeting to order. We covered some club business, including the results of last month's club Swap Meet at the [Nick Harroz-Midwest City Community Center](#). All agreed it was a success with good attendance, and the meet paid for itself. The only concern was the small number of items brought for the contest. We club members have great collections, so let's all resolve to bring a nice piece to show next swap meet!

A couple of months ago, we covered Radios from the state of Kansas. For April's program, we chose to [Go West](#) and covered radios from the Golden State, California! Your club secretary is a native Californian, having grown up in Anaheim only a couple of miles from Disneyland. I remember when Orange County actually still had a few orange groves. Growing up there meant going to the beach three or four times a week during summer vacation, and trips to Disneyland. Admission was cheap then so visits were common and many of us kids actually got bored with the place. I agree that Southern California, or SoCal as we called it, was as close to paradise as any place on earth for working class families; they actually could afford houses back then. Today overcrowding, high prices, crime, and smog mean it's not the same place that I grew up in. But it remains special for anyone who has lived there. How many places can boast summer almost year round?

California hosted a fairly impressive radio industry, yet consumer electronics are no longer manufactured there due to foreign competition and the high cost of doing business there. Many companies, like [Magnavox](#) and [Echophone](#), once built radios there, however

Club members brought in several items from California manufacturers: Jim Collings brought an Echophone Model F from about

1923. This radio was built in Long Beach, California. and is an unusual five-tube regenerative using 99 type tubes. Echophone radios were built in several locations in California, including Sunnyvale, which today is the heart of Silicon Valley! Jim also brought in a Radiette by Keller-Fuller and an unusual, very-early Echophone Cathedral radio from about 1926-1927. This set is a battery set using O1A tubes! I had heard that a few cathedrals were built in the late battery set era; this is the first one I have actually seen.

Your club secretary brought in a similar looking Echophone cathedral from about 1929; this is the more common AC powered version. I also brought along a Magnavox horn with "Oakland, California" directly below the famous lion's head logo. This is an early (straight neck, as opposed to the later goose neck) horn from about 1922. I picked this up at the [Rose Bowl Flea Market](#) in Pasadena, CA, back when I was in high school. (Since I was working as a busboy at a coffee shop back then, it was a lavish expenditure at the time.)

I also brought a Guild "Spice Chest" radio from the early sixties (see page 4 for photo). The [Guild Radio and Television Company](#), located in Inglewood, California, built radios and a few radio-phonographs, housed in nostalgic styled wood cabinets. Items sold by Guild included a radio built into a cabinet styled like an old crank wall telephone, a sewing box, a tea kettle, even a small roll-top desk. The Spice Chest is actually the only radio in my collection that belonged to a family member (my great aunt from Minnesota), so it occupies a special place of honor in my collection. It also works very well and I often listen to it when I am working in the kitchen.

We ended the evening with our usual donation auction, which included an army foot locker full of tubes, an EICO FM Tuner, an ICOM Power Supply, a box of various radio parts, a CB radio, a Stewart Warner chassis, a clock radio, and a few other odds and ends. The locker of tubes brought an impressive price of \$21, most everything else went for a buck or so.

**See you at the July meeting!**

*A Few Pictures from May's Meeting*



Jim Tyrrell's Guild Spice Chest radio



Jim Colling's Keller-Fuller Radiette F12 radio



Jim Tyrrell's 1929 Echophone cathedral



Jim Colling's Echophone Cathedral radio  
circa 1926-1927

## OKVRC Classified Ads

### Services

**Antique Radio Restoration and Servicing** by Raymond Cady. Let me make it like new again. Email: [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com), visit our website at [goldenageradio restoration.com](http://goldenageradio restoration.com) or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.

### Sales

**AM Transmitter.** 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.

**Electronic components for antique and vintage devices.** We sell capacitors, dial lamps, vintage cassette and reel to reel belt kits with instructions, and more. **SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER for OKVRC members only** -- 15% discount on all our products for the month of June. Use Coupon code NEWJUNE at checkout then click Recalculate. Visit WJOE Radio, LLC, at [www.wjoe.com](http://www.wjoe.com).

**Collection of Radios.** I am selling a large percentage (approximately 125 sets) of my collection of antique radios, 1920's through late 1950's. I would prefer to sell them as a lot, but will consider single sales. You can reach me by e-mail at [garyswymeler@att.net](mailto:garyswymeler@att.net), or you may call my cell phone at [405-570-0098](tel:405-570-0098) between 8 AM to 7 PM only, please!

**Custom Quilted Radio Covers.** You've spent all this money and given lots of loving attention to your antique radios. Now it's time to protect them from the careless water glass or coffee cup while still showing off their beauty. If you're interested in a custom radio topper for your beauties, email Dorothy at [dcady1@gmail.com](mailto:dcady1@gmail.com) or call/text (405) 206-9985. View some of my work on my [webpage](#).

**Magnet Wire.** Different sizes available at reduced prices. Contact Mike at (405) 376-9473 or email me at [orders@coaxman.com](mailto:orders@coaxman.com).

**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).

**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.

### WANTED

**Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio item.** Crystal radio, tube sockets, A-B-C power supplies, boxed parts, radio advertising and promotional items. Email Dale Boyce at [radioman@wi.rr.com](mailto:radioman@wi.rr.com) or call (414) 840-4146.

**Old comics.** Send lists to Dan Giddings, PO Box 3961 Glendale, CA 91221-3961.

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*On the Air with OKVRC's Jim Collings*

Jim Collings has been OKVRC's president for several years now. The club would not be what it is today without him and all of the Board's dedication. Read the [NewsOK](#) article about Jim, and be sure to say thank you to him for all he does for us.



*New OKVRC Website Coming in July*

We soon will have an updated website with lots of resources, articles, links to radio-related events around the region, featured members and links to their websites, and much more.

The current website will remain in place until mid-July, and then there will be a sudden switchover, so keep checking back at OKVRC.org. We're working hard to make it better for you!



A special thank you to [Tom Sammon](#) who has been maintaining our website all of this time. Without him we wouldn't have a website at all. He's also been of tremendous help getting files and preparing for the transfer. You're the best!



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