



Broadcast News

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

Our annual meet last month was very good! We had a pretty good turnout, and a lot of equipment changed hands. I received quite a few comments saying that this was the best meet ever, or in a long time. I hope everyone had fun. The weather was perfect. I was disappointed in the number of items that were submitted for display in the contest. We had two rows of tables set up for the contest, and they could easily have fit in one row with room to spare. I was upset that I won so many of the ribbons. I'm happier when there is better stuff than mine on display. I bring diverse and unusual items for all to see, and to possibly attract new members, not to win. (The winners are shown in a table elsewhere in this issue). I was remiss in finding out who the owners are on two Emerson winners, so please advise me to receive recognition. The raffle of the superb General Electric tombstone set which was restored by Raymond Cady, was Eric Coon. He graciously donated the set back to the club and we sold it in the auction. Thanks to Eric for this generous donation. The club appreciates all the donations which help defray the cost of renting the facility. Also, I need to thank all of those who helped out and made the meet successful.

Our meeting this month will be about radios and equipment made on the West Coast of the US. So that includes California, Oregon and Washington. Some companies with facilities there are Echophone, Eveready, Gilfillan, Guild, Jackson-Bell, Packard-Bell, Remler, and Magnavox. So, everyone should have something to bring. **Also, please remember to bring something for the donation auction. Our club depends on everyone's support.**

Saturday, May 6th was vintage radio auction day. There were many auctions going on in several parts of the country. First, Jim Sargent had an auction in Garland, TX. Then the AWA had their spring auction of surplus items at the AWA museum in Bloomfield, NY. The most enticing for me was a two-day sale in Harrisburg, PA, of a large collection. Items ranged from early battery sets up thru transistor radios, including to Western Electric tubes. Then Raymond Cady advised that there was a big auction of a radio collector in San Antonio, TX. In addition, four different clubs had swap meets. I did not attend any of the events, but I did win one item on-line in Jim Sargent's auction.

I guess this is the start of the season for numerous meets and other radio events. Next week is the [Delaware Valley Meet](#) at Kutztown, PA, and an auction of the [Mid America Antique Radio Club](#) in Kansas City. Of course, these conflict with our meeting. The following weekend is the Northland Antique Radio Club meet in Plymouth, MN, and the VRPS Spring Swap meet in Irving, TX. Contact me if you need info on either of these. **See you at the meeting at 7 PM on May 13th at Spencer's Barbeque. Bring a radio to show!**

Realistic....Radio Shack History and Comments

Jim Collings

I recently came across a brochure printed in 1972 that gave some of the history of Radio Shack. It changed my perception of some of the equipment they sold, so I believe it is worth presenting here.

Radio Shack was a single store in the early 1920s, located in Boston. They got into the mail order business, and by 1954 they were a well-known business selling higher quality audio equipment. They were approached by the newly formed Harman-Kardon company about a line of private label audio equipment. They began the relationship and manufactured an FM tuner, an AM tuner, and a matching 10-watt amplifier. These bore the *Realist* name, but due to a camera company also using that name, it was changed to *Realistic*. Their products were well received, and in 1956, High Fidelity Magazine featured the FM tuner stating that it had sensitivity almost equal to units costing three to four times more. The continued success led to the Solo-1 speaker system, and continued growth of the company.

Radio Shack was the first company to have its products made in Japan using its designs and specifications. Other companies simply chose available Japanese products and rebranded them for the US market. One Japanese company that Radio Shack used went on to produce its own product line, which became the familiar Kenwood brand. Radio Shack's goal was to produce well-designed, quality products at reasonable prices, so Radio Shack did not offer higher-priced models that added only minor features to the same base chassis.

In 1963, Radio Shack was purchased by the Tandy Corporation. I also remember when the Tandy Corporation bought out Allied Radio around 1964. By 1972, Tandy Corporation's purchases and growth had increased the number of Radio Shack stores from 9 to 1,500. Recently the company entered bankruptcy, emerged as a private company, and has now filed for chapter 11 again. [USA Today](#) has an article on the bankruptcy filing and store closings.

A while back I found a Realistic tube type amplifier and was surprised at how well made it was, and that it used U.S. and European made tubes, not Japanese. Prices seen on EBay confirm that these are desirable pieces. I had always believed their stuff was junk, but now know that their early equipment is good stuff!

I rode my bike to Radio Shack a lot when I was young. I had to get my free battery using my "Battery of the Month" card. I often tested tubes on their store tube tester. I still use tools which came in a small flexible pouch. They have a very small screwdriver, awl, small Phillips screwdriver, an auger, and a little larger screwdriver which has a wire stripper in the handle. I believe they were give away items to get customers into the store. They are not high quality, but sometimes are still useful, especially the wire stripper. I seldom purchased their parts, as I was not into building electronic units. They always came in packs of several of each part, so you had to buy them all when only one was needed. Eventually nothing of high voltage was available, so I have not been into a store in several decades.

Report for the OKVRC Convention and Swap Meet 04/8/2013

Jim Tyrrell

Beautiful spring weather greeted our annual Spring Convention and Swap Meet held on Saturday April 13th. The weather was perfect (unlike the cold, rainy weather outside my window this weekend as I write this report)!

Members and guests arrived at the Midwest Community Center before the building opened at eight, but there were plenty of donuts and coffee for everyone to enjoy while waiting for sellers to arrive and set up. We had a good turnout of both buyers and sellers this time, including visitors from out of the area and even from other states. There were three and a half rows of tables, with lots of good items up for grabs. There were a fair number of battery sets, a few early AC sets, a good number of cathedrals and tombstones, and even a couple of floor models. There were also a good number of rectangular wood sets, as well as some plastic sets available. One seller brought in a bunch of very nice horn-type wind-up phonographs, which I could only admire, as they were out of my price range, at least at this time. But he did sell me a really clean Radiola 18, adding to my collection of early RCA sets. I also picked up a small tube-type portable for five dollars, and a couple of small odds and ends. No one seemed to be going home without something for their collection. There were also lots of tubes, knobs, speakers, books, manuals and, and novelty items for sale as well.

Ray and Dorothy Cady were there and brought along the books they had reprinted for the club, *FM Transmission and Reception* by John Rider & Seymour Uslan. Most of us understand AM Radio well, but if FM is a bit of a mystery for you, this book is worth buying (and reading). So, if you were not at the meet, be sure to pick up a copy at one of the monthly meetings. If you can't make it to the meeting, call Jim Collings or Dorothy Cady to arrange a purchase and shipping.

There were a fair number of items in the silent auction, and I brought a good number of items that I priced to sell, and they did. After the proceeds from that, and all of my day's purchases, I spent less than \$25 for the day. A far cry from a year ago, when I spent over \$1000! But I brought home some incredible stuff from that meet.

The one concern I had about this meet was the small number of entries in the contest. was low. I'm part to blame myself, as I normally bring at least one item to enter, but had so much silent auction stuff in my car I didn't have room. There were still some nice items to view, but we still had more ribbons than entries, so I expect we will be awarding the leftover ribbons to the best items brought to show-and-tell at our regular monthly meetings.

Our raffle item was a really beautiful (and big!) General Electric tombstone radio from about 1936. The radio was donated to the club, the restoration work was donated, and the winner Eric Coon, graciously donated his prize to the auction! So this radio has brought in a lot of badly needed funds to the club, thanks to the wonderful generosity of everyone whose hands it passed through.

In addition to the big GE radio, there were lots of interesting donated items in the regular auction. Lots of parts, tubes, junk sets, phonographs, and some test equipment were auctioned off. Prices were reasonable for most items, but the auction still brought in a good amount of money for the club, thanks to the donated GE radio.

Thanks for coming, everyone! This Spring Meet was a great success! See you at the May dinner and meeting at Spencer's Bar-be-que in Midwest City.

OKVRC April, 2017 Contest Winners

Battery and Crystal Receivers, Pre-1930

1. Grebe CR-14 - Jim Collings

Cathedral and Tombstone Receivers

1. RCA 121 - Jim Collings

Horizontal Wooden Receivers

1. Loewe-Opta 4671W "Meteor" - Jim Ray
2. Emerson BL 210 - Unknown
3. Westinghouse H161- Raymond Cady

Metal Sets after 1926 and Ham Receivers

1. no entries

AC/DC Bakelite or Plastic Receivers

1. Emerson 511 - Unknown
2. Westinghouse H161 - Raymond Cady

Transistor Radios

1. no entries

Console Receivers/Televisions

1. Emerson 628 AM/FM/TV - Eric Coon
2. Philco 51-1730 Console - Dorothy Cady

Art Deco Receivers

1. Majestic Charlie McCarthy -
Kent Studebacker

Foreign Made Receivers and Equipment

1. Western Electric 44001 Crystal Receiver -
Jim Collings

Homebrew & Kit Receivers

1. TRF with Resistance Coupled Amplifier -
Jim Collings

Accessory Items

1. Dictogrand Horn Speaker - Jim Collings

Open Category

1. Marella Fan (Dual Blades) -Eric Coon

Best Restoration

1. Emerson BL 210 - Unknown
2. Westinghouse H204 - Raymond Cady
3. Philco 51-730 Console - Dorothy Cady

People's Choice (favorite display of all who attended)

Loewe-Opta 4671W "Meteor" - Jim Ray

Best of Show

Grebe CR-14 - Jim Collings

A Few Pictures from the Spring Swap Meet



About OKVRC

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 to CADYRAYMOND1@GMAIL.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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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

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 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: Antique Radio Restoration and Servicing** by Raymond Cady. Let me make it like new again. Email: cadyraymond1@gmail.com, visit our website at goldenageradiorestitution.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: 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 or call (405) 820-8014. Edmond, OK.
- FOR SALE: 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 or call (405) 206-9985.

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