

OK Vintage Radio Collectors

BROADCAST NEWS

Online at 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:

Broadcast News Editor, OKVRC
PO BOX 50625
Midwest City, OK 73140-5625

Or via email 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*.

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

Here it is near the deadline for another of my columns! I've been very busy but not because of radio interests. That will soon change as our next meeting will be on Saturday, July 8th at Spencer's Smokehouse and BBQ on NE 23rd Street. Our meeting topic is boat anchors. A traditional ham radio definition of a boat anchor is a large heavy receiver or transmitter designed for military use. From a vintage radio collecting standpoint, it can be modified to be any large heavy radio item. So, bring a large heavy radio to the meeting to show it off. Usually these are well built units that can be very interesting with over engineered parts, and in some cases can be aesthetically pleasing. I'll bring a large set or too. I'm not sure why we selected one of the hottest months of the year to have this topic, but by the start of the meeting at 7 PM, it should be cooled down some. Of course, you can bring anything you like to the meeting; it does not have to match our topic. Also at the meeting we will have our annual election of officers. I have a few items for the

donation auction at the end of the meeting, but more items are always welcomed.

I missed the Tulsa club's annual meet last month. I hope that someone can give us a report of how it went. I was away in Hawaii with a family group, and did not have time to do any radio searching, but I had a great time. There are a few radios and related items on display at the Pearl Harbor Memorial. When I returned, I found that there was a large estate sale of a long time OKC antique dealer who liked radios and phonographs. I overslept and ended up far down on the list of people to enter. Someone I did not know came out with a smile and most of the radios in his arms, while I was still waiting to get in. Someone else got all the phonograph horns which I had my eye on, but I did get a few items at fair prices, and went back the next day for the half-price sale. A box of tubes which I had not seen the day before had some desirable types, but I had to negotiate to get all the tubes rather than paying \$.50 each for selected ones. I had hoped to purchase Radio News and similar

(continued on page 6)

An Abbreviated History of the OKVRC

This historical information was graciously provided verbally by Jim Collings to Dorothy Cady. Any errors are Dorothy's responsibility, and will be corrected if you will email Dorothy at dcady1@gmail.com. Once the revised website is available (mid-July) you'll be able to read the non-condensed version online.

Picture five or six antique radio enthusiasts sitting around sharing a good meal and radio-related conversation when one of them suggests starting a radio club, and you'll know how the Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors club (OKVRC) was formed. In 1992, the group held its first official meeting in Karen McCoy's kitchen where Jim Collings was elected president (and he wasn't even in attendance).

The founding members decided it would be best to make it possible for radio enthusiasts and collectors from around the region to attend club meetings, so Saturday evening was the best choice for allowing them time to come and get back home without interfering with the work week. The second Saturday of the month became a logical choice since Jim Collings was in Dallas, Texas at another radio club's meeting on the third Saturday of every month.

Food and time to just chat with each other, as well as time for demonstrations and sharing information and showing off some of our collections all had to be made room for in the meeting, but so too did a good meal. Hence most club meetings have been held at a restaurant. There was a brief time, however, when meetings were held in a small room in an airplane hanger at Wiley Post airport. No food, but fun anyway, and one member flew in to attend.

The club has met at a bar-be-que place on 63th and May that is now a Chinese restaurant, Hometown Buffet, the Oklahoma Station, Swadley's BBQ in Bethany, and now Spencer's Smokehouse and Barbeque at 9900 NE 23rd Street in Oklahoma City. Meetings are open to members and anyone interested in learning more about the club or just sharing time with other antique radio collectors. Basically, everyone is welcome, and we encourage members to invite guests.

If you ask Jim what one thing he'd like to see happen to the club, he'd tell you that he'd love to see new and younger antique radio enthusiasts and collectors join OKVRC. He'd love to see enthusiasm for antique radios blossom among the younger generations to keep it alive



Report for the OKVRC Meeting July 10, 2017

Jim Tyrrell

What the Health-and-Safety folks at Tinker AFB where I work call “One Hundred Days of Summer” are now upon us, and, yes, Baby it’s Hot Out Outside. But we managed to get about fourteen or so of our OKVRC members to brave the heat and join us for our regular second-Saturday-of-the-month meeting/dinner at Spencer’s in Midwest City on June 10th. 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 upcoming meets and auctions. Then we settled down for the evening’s program: Books related to Radio.

Chances are if you pursue anything in life with a lot of interest, whether it is your profession or hobby, sooner or later you will have acquired a small library on the subject. While you can get a lot of information for free on the Internet, many of us have been in this hobby since the Goggle guys were in high school, and have acquired a lot of books, some of the older ones of which are collectable as well as a great source of information.

Books ending up on radio collectors bookshelves (though most of our bookshelves likely are full of radios) can be divided into categories. A few of them are:

1) *Contemporary Books on radio collecting*. Sometimes called “radio porn,” these are the books full of pictures that we all have pored over looking for items in our collections or ones we’re searching for next.

2) *Repair books on Radios*. These include books published back in the thirties and forties for repairmen of the era, as well as contemporary repair guides for collectors. While the newer restoration guides are more useful for collectors, the older books contain useful theory as well as practical information that may come in handy today.

3) *Period reference works*. This includes books like Riders Manuals, Sam’s

Photofacts, and Beitman’s most-often-needed schematics guides. Again, many are on-line, but here’s nothing like having your own.

4) *Books on radio history*. These books might cover the personalities who built radio, like Tom Lewis’s [Empire of the Air](#), and other’s old radio shows and programming that people depended on in the pre-TV, pre-Internet era. Some of these books are old, some more recent, but all are fascinating.

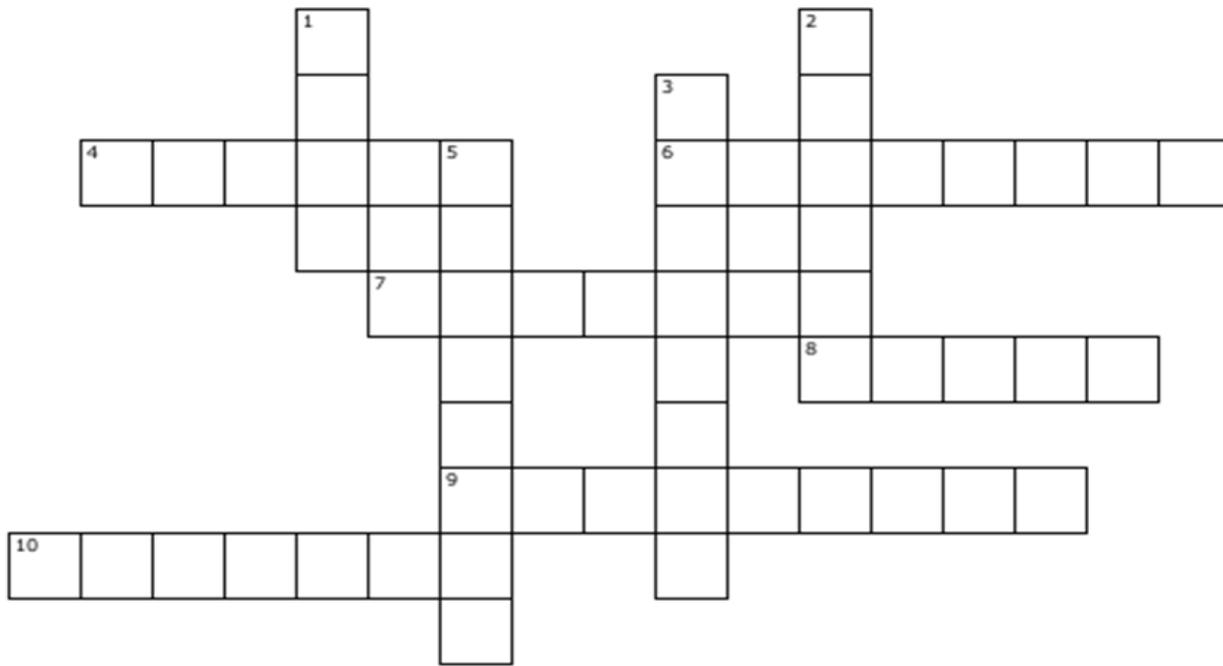
Club members brought in a number of books to share and pass around. Your club secretary brought in Morgan McMahan’s now forty year old books; [Vintage Radio](#) and [Flick of the Switch](#). I remember ordering them from Walden Books back when I was in high school and waiting six weeks in that pre-Amazon era. I also brought in some other contemporary guides to repair and restoration, such as [How to Repair Old Time Radios](#) by Clayton Hallmark and [Old Time Radios!](#) by Joseph J. Carr, as well as some examples of vintage radio repair guides from the thirties and forties. Each has a lot of useful information for today’s collector.

There are also many books on the history of radio that are worth reading, and having on your shelf. I brought in several, the oldest being the *Story of Radio* (1927). [Border Radio](#) tells the colorful and fascinating story of the so-called “[Border Blaster](#)” radio stations that once broadcast into the US with a much as one million watts. Such transmitters were said to be heard in people’s copper downspouts near the station, and could be picked up by radio listeners in Norway! I also shared a coffee table type book, [The Early Zenith Radios](#), by Gilbert Hedge and Durrell Roth, which covers black dial Zenith sets from early through late twenties. If you own or plan to restore a twenties Zenith, you need this book!

No junk auction at the June 10th meeting, as nothing was brought. See you in July! **If possible, please bring something for auction!**

OKVRC Radio History Crossword

Try your knowledge of radio history on this crossword puzzle. You can work it on the printed version of the newsletter, or go online to [Crossword Labs](#) and fill it in there. (You'll find the answer key there as well.) Enjoy!



Across

4. This company was founded as Helios Electric Company, and was a pioneer in battery, radio, and television production.

6. Stated by this man in 1938 when asked to explain radio: "You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat."

7. City where the first radio news program was broadcast on August 31, 1920 by station 8MK, today station WWJ owned by the CBS network.

8. Proved that electricity can be transmitted in electromagnetic

9. This man is the creator of FM radio, and among other things, the superheterodyne circuit.

10. In 1864, showed in theoretical and mathematical form that electromagnetic waves could propagate through free space.

Down

1. This company believes that its 1924 system was actually the first two-way, voice-based radio telephone.

2. Company that introduced the first portable radio in 1924.

3. Credited with being the father of American radio.

5. Oliver Lodge had predicted in 1894 this portion of a mile to be the maximum transmission distance for radio waves.

If you need a little help with this crossword puzzle, try these websites:

https://transition.fcc.gov/omd/history/radio/documents/short_history.pdf

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philco>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zenith_Electronics

<http://earlyradiohistory.us/sec001.htm>

OKVRC Classified Ads

Service

Antique Radio Restoration and Servicing by Raymond Cady. Let me make it like new again. Email: cadyraymond1@gmail.com, visit our website at 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 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. Visit WJOE Radio, LLC, at www.wjoe.com.

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/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.

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.

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 or call (414) 840-4146.

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

Listen Online to an Old-Time Radio Show



If you'd like to listen to an old time radio program, clicking the image above will take you to a [Five Minute Mystery on OTR Radio](#). Go ahead. You have five minutes to spare for a little R & R. Right? This month's mystery is *Zombie!* (Requires [RealTime Player](#).)

BOARD:**President:**

Jim Collings
jrcradio@cox.net

Secretary:

Jim Tyrrell
jptyrrell@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Jim Ray
jabray71@hotmail.com

BROADCAST NEWS**STAFF:****Editors:**

Raymond Cady
cadyraymond1@gmail.com
 Dorothy Cady
dcady1@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
 Visit us at:

www.okvrc.org

On the Air with Radio Actress, Virginia Gregg

Do you recognize this woman? (Hint: She's not an OKVRC member.) It's not a surprise if you don't recognize her, though. She has a memorable voice if a less-recognizable face. Ms. Gregg was a prolific female radio actor. She appeared in shows like *Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar*, *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*, *Let George Do It*, and the *Jack Benny* show. If you'd like to learn a little more about her, visit her website at: <http://www.viriniagregg.com>.

(Image and information provided by www.viriniagregg.com.)

President's Page (continued from page 1 . . .)

magazines from the late 1920's at half price, after purchasing only the best ones the first day, but someone had scooped all those up. Of course there was a general line of antiques and the place was pretty bare the second day.

The Radio Meet season has begun with the [Michigan](#) meet later this month, [ARCI](#) in August, the [Kutztown](#) meet in September, our swap meet in October, and the [VRPS](#) meet in November. I hope to bring you reports on all of those events.

See you at the next meeting with boat anchors, and goodies for the donation auction.

OKVRC EDITOR

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