

OK Vintage Radio Collectors BROADCAST NEWS

Online at www.okvrc.org

Volume XXVI, Issue 8



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.

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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
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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

It's been a busy summer with vacations and radio meets. Our August meeting is August 12th at [Spencer's](#). Dinner is at 6:00 PM. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Last month our topic was *Boat anchors* where we lugged in some large heavy items. This month we are going for just the opposite--tiny or small radios and equipment. Since most collectors are short on room, everyone should have some small or miniature items to bring (micro transistor radios, small crystal sets, miniature AC/DC sets, etc.). Many are desirable items, so I am looking forward to a great meeting! **Our donation auction will begin at the end of the meeting, so please bring SOMETHING to donate.**

In July, Julie and I went to the [MARC Extravaganza meet](#) at the Kalamazoo Expo Center (a large indoor facility in Michigan). We hadn't been in two years, but it was as good as ever. In early afternoon I attended the Tube Collector's Association meeting; it was informative but not well attended. The meet started at 4:00. Typical seller's space was a table in a long row of tables. I had reserved an extra table, so I had an official booth at the back of the

hall. We unloaded and set up, and then covered up with tablecloths because selling wasn't allowed before 8:00 AM Friday. Most items were in view though, so I scouted ahead of time and at official opening was able to buy most of what I wanted. [A wide variety was available](#): Battery Radios, Cathedrals, Bakelite sets, Tubes, Parts, Consoles, Table models, and more. Some vendors had stuff priced fairly, but most were priced too high. The auction began at 2:00 with greater participation than other years due to this new start time. A \$7 fee and 10% commission kept me from entering anything. Except for lesser quality consoles, radios sold well. I won a couple of items then went to dinner before the President's Reception.

Saturday morning was more relaxed, but I struggled to sell what I brought. At auction at 10:30 I sold two battery sets at \$10 each and bought some large items at very low prices. We put some things into the donation auction and hit the road before the second auction started. Overall, it was a good meet; the drive home was the worst part. East of Chicago 4, interstates were all under construction tying up traffic for four hours adding two hours to our drive.

Hayes Products Company Battery Radio, 1926

Jim Collings

I recently acquired a [Hayes battery radio](#), and in doing research discovered that it is not very common, so I decided to document this receiver.

The set was made in 1926 by the Hayes Products Company of Grand Haven, Michigan. It appears to be the only set they made per the Collector's Guide. This is very typical as many manufacturers who jumped on the radio bandwagon in 1925 and 1926 right before AC power sets became available, making battery sets somewhat obsolete. But this set has some interesting features. The variable condensers have sliding plates, rather than the common rotating type. This is a two dial set, with two variables tied together, and one by itself. The two together operate a pointer which moves in a slot on the front panel indicating the wavelength in meters, about 220 to 600 meters. The markings refer to an Ensign patent, which I would assume relates to this mechanism. I could not find a relevant patent on Google. I have seen these sliding capacitors previously, but on early AC sets, where all were tied together.

The set is well made and in a quite large walnut cabinet, measuring 30 ½ by 11 ½ inches at the base, and 10 ½ inches tall. Inside there is room for "B" batteries on the sides of the chassis. The inner lid has a Hayes oval brass tag. Surprisingly, there is another, more formal, brass tag mounted on the back of the cabinet, with the full manufacturers name and location. The front panel is wood grained Bakelite, and measures 18 by 7 inches in size. The circuit is a standard TRF type with two audio transformers. The three RF coils are the honeycomb wound type typically seen on Freshman Masterpiece sets, but are mounted under the chassis.

It is an interesting set!



Image 1: Front panel of Hayes Products Company battery radio set.



Image 2: 1926 Hayes Products Company Battery Radio.

Report for the OKVRC Meeting July 8, 2017

Jim Tyrrell

Summer in Oklahoma cruises on, and my combined utility bill for last month was \$360! Despite the high cost of another day in paradise, fifteen OKVRC members braved the heat for our July 8th meeting/dinner at Spencer's. After dinner around 7:00 PM, president Jim Collings called the meeting to order. We held an election of officers, and all who served last year were re-elected. In addition, a new Board position of Webmaster was approved, to which Dorothy Cady was elected. You no doubt have noticed the vast improvements in the club newsletter, including embedded hyperlinks in the electronic edition; you can thank Ray and Dorothy Cady for that. In addition, since the Cady's also attended the June Tulsa meet, they gave us a brief presentation about it.

Before we began the night program, Jim Collings brought in a great item for show-and-tell. While most people remember [Nipper](#), the Victor Talking Machine Company's (aka RCA Victor aka RCA) dog that is the model for the painting titled *His Master's Voice*, fewer remember the headphones-wearing dog called [Bonzo](#) that served briefly as the Crosley Radio Company's mascot beginning in 1925 to promote the one-tube Crosley "Pup" radio. Well, Jim found one of the few surviving, intact, and not - repainted ceramic (original condition) versions of Bonzo in an antique shop during a recent trip he and Julie took back east. Nice find, Jim!

The night's main program was on "[Boat Anchors](#)," a set that is unusually large or very heavy, or is in a metal cabinet. (Some definitions also include a set that needs a lot of work to get it going or that is somehow just plain different.) Attendees got to see many boat anchors, including a Stromberg-Carlson Model 601 "Treasure Chest" battery radio from 1927 (formerly of the Dr. Ralph Munchow collection) that Jim Tyrrell, club secretary, brought in. Jim stated that it "is the heaviest (table) battery set I've ever seen, and one of the most beautiful."

The insides are built on a cast-iron frame that you could drive a truck over, and the set weights about sixty pounds. This radio cost \$210 in 1927 dollars, but was obsolete within a year or so with the advent of AC sets. "I know why it probably survived, no one wanted to carry it out!"

Jim Collings brought in a 1924, eight-tube, Leutz Superhetrodyne radio, for which RCA held a patent lock on until 1930, although Western Electric made receivers for commercial use. All makes except RCA are rare. Jim's radio is one very, very long set, with a fascinating array of knobs and controls. You'd need a long table just to set it on.

Jim Ray brought in one of his wonderful post-war German radios, a [Telefunken Opus Seven](#) in an unusual blonde cabinet. It has no less than six speakers producing a wonderful sound, and they get great FM along with excellent shortwave.

Jim Lankford showed us a six-tube Shenandoah Super Six from 1926, built by Steinite in Kansas City. I didn't write fast enough to get all the details nor list all who shared their radios (apologies).

Hey, four Jims who brought in boat anchors! Did any non-Jims remember to bring something? Why yes, yes they did. Don Moore brought in a 1952 [Hallicrafters](#) general coverage shortwave receiver. It covers all frequencies from the broadcast AM band up to 44 MHz. It has the beat frequency oscillator (BFO) control for receiving CW. Don demonstrated detaching the metal cabinet from the rest of the radio for servicing. These sets are very rugged and practical, almost mil-spec in quality and design.

We finished up a great evening with our usual donation auction. A Zenith sailboat grill portable from the late thirties, a Garrard record turntable, an RCA farm radio in an excellent cabinet, Jensen speakers, a Zenith transistor portable with radio directional ability, a Windsor portable, some computer accessories, and several boxes of tubes and parts all went (cheap) to new homes. (You're missing out when you miss the meeting.)

See you next month!

July 2017 OKVRC Meeting Photos



Left: Jim Tyrell's Stromberg-Carlson Model 601 radio.
Right: Jim Ray's Telefunken Opus Seven radio.



Left: Jim Colling's 1924 Leutz Superheterodyne radio.
Right: BONZO



Left: Jim Lankford's 1926 Shenandoah Super Six.
Right: Don Moore's Hallicrafters shortwave receiver.



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.

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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.

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Bakelite Cabinet Restoration Tip

On March 19, 1998, George R. Gonzalez - a member of the antiques.radio newsgroup - was asked by Ken Martin how to give his RCA 68R1 Bakelite radio cabinet more shine.

Mr. Gonzalez recommended using Auldwood Scratch Cover. "It's light and translucent, yet can impart a deep dark coloring. . . . It wipes on easily . . . then wipes off with no streaks. . . . The graying tinges [on Bakelite cabinets] are completely eliminated and you get a nice deep brown. It does wonders on old brown knobs that have faded to gray. Makes them look like new.

Mr. Gonzales also warned Mr. Martin that any wax currently on the radio may have to be stripped off first to ensure that the [Auldwood Scratch Cover](#) could seep into the bakelite. In addition, he could not assure Mr. Martin of the longevity of this fix, but reassured Mr. Martin that the radio he had used this technique on was still looking good after one year.

As we know, this approach is a shortcut to shining up and restoring a Bakelite cabinet. Mr. Gonzales states that, "the right way is to polish up the surface with a proper buffing wheel and abrasive . . . [but] if you don't have the time or inclination to do that, the scratch cover is an adequate fallback method."



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