



# 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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[cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto: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



### Spring Swap Meet!

It's here! Our annual Spring Radio Swap Meet/Show is on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Midwest City Community Center. This is the same location as always, [200 N. Midwest Boulevard, Midwest City, OK](#). The venue has made some changes, and will no longer set up the tables for us. So, the first thing on the schedule is to up the tables. Despite the inconvenience, it does give us a chance to change the layout. The plan is to have the contest tables run in a different direction to keep them separate from the swap tables. We also

need to invoke a new rule that no radios can be brought into the facility until all is set up.

Here is a schedule of events and the approximate timing:

- 8:00 Open for table setup
- 8:30 Official open for swap meet, silent auction, and contest display setup
- 9:45 Silent auction ends
- 10:15 Contest judging begins
- 10:45 Drawings for door prizes and Raffle
- 10:50 Main auction begins
- 12:00 (noon) Tear down of tables and end of meet

I suspect we'll have our normal contingent of Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas collectors, and hopefully some new faces. The Tulsa HLARA also will be represented. Tell your friends and anyone who may be interested about the meet. Print out and distribute the flyer. This meet is one of our biggest sources for finding new members. The more people that attend, the better

*~ Continued on Page 2 ~*

### *President's Page Cont'd.*

the meet will be. Bring things to swap and your nice items for the contest. The contest categories are listed in the last issue of the Broadcast News; I believe they are almost the same as last year, except for an added category for phonographs. Since half the fun of collecting is showing what you have to other collectors and talking about the items, 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 photos, advertising, and other documentation are encouraged, and may be the tie breaker in the judging. This is especially true for the category of Best Restoration, as before restoration photos are needed to show how much restoration was done.

Don't forget the silent auction and main auction as a way to find new homes for your unwanted items. I picked up a donation of radio tubes and about 12 smaller plastic and bakelite radios that will go into the silent auction. Not surprisingly, some of the radios are nicer than the others, but all such donations are welcomed and appreciated.

A donated Philco cathedral radio, which was restored by Raymond Cady, will be the raffle item, and there will be door prizes this year. One of the more significant door prizes is a Sencore oscilloscope. But there will be other door prizes as well.

I am looking forward to the meet, as I have not been to a radio event all year. I had to miss the VRPS auction in Irving, TX, as I was recovering from cataract surgery. It was only the second VRPS auction that I have missed. The other one was when I lived in Abilene, TX, and snow prevented travel to Dallas. I'm sure it was a good

auction. After our swap meet, the next event is a Jim Sargent auction in Garland, TX on April 27th. I haven't seen any photos yet, but it has been quite a while since the last one, so I'm sure there will be some great items available.

I hope to see everyone there. It should be a good meet. See you bright and early in Midwest City. Bring your vehicle full!

*Jim*



Jim Collings' red and green Philmore Crystal Sets that he brought to the March meeting. These crystal sets originally had domes.

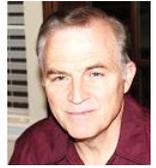


The Sencore Oscilloscope Jim Collings donated for a door prize at the April swap meet.

*~ See the March Meeting Report for more photos. ~*

## March 9, 2019 Meeting Report

Jim Tyrrell



Our long, cold winter is finally retreating; the days are longer and warmer, and the daffodils and other bulbs are blooming in my yard. The trees and lawn are starting to turn green, and the lawnmower will soon end its winter nap. And of course, extreme-weather season is just around the corner, so we will all be watching the skies and the weather report. Everyone please stay safe!

There were no storms in the skies, only cool and mild weather as OKVRC members, spouses and guests met for our March monthly club meeting. Dinner this month was Potluck resulting in a mini-smorgasbord that left everyone happy and well-fed! There was a wonderful Irish stew, zucchini, pizza, and fried chicken with side dishes and salads, and lots of cakes and deserts.

Club President, Jim Collings, called the meeting to order after dinner. We discussed next month's spring swap meet, which features the Contest - always a lot of fun. So start going through your collection and pick out something nice to bring out to display. The various categories for which ribbons will be awarded are listed in March's newsletter along with instructions. The OKVRC website has a copy available, if you need it.) Why not bring in entries for multiple categories?

Ready to do a bit of spring cleaning of your radio collection? Why not set up a table to sell some of your radio and related items. You also might want to enter some of your items into the silent auction. Of course, you also can donate items for the OKVRC fund-raising live auction held near the end of the swap meet.

This year's radio for the raffle is a fully-restored [Philco Baby Grand model 71B](#). You will want to make sure to buy your raffle tickets for that. Also, door prizes are being provided this year. Winners are chosen from the Sign-In list, so make sure to sign in when you arrive. There also will be our regular donation auction. Please be sure to come; it's a great chance sell your stuff or find something nice to bring home.

Once we finished discussing the upcoming convention, we started in on the night's program: radios of every color except black, white and woodgrain. Such a criterion excludes almost all wood and many plastic and metal radios, but our members managed to bring in plenty of colorful radios to share. Ray and Dorothy (our wonderful hosts at Sonoma Lakes) brought in a late fifties Philco table radio model D579124 in matador red.



They also showed a turquoise early fifties Silvertone model 300G and a 1937 Crosley model 628B in red Bakelite.

Jim Collings displayed a red Jubilee crystal set from the twenties along with two Philmore crystal sets in red and green,

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# *Interested in vintage radios?*

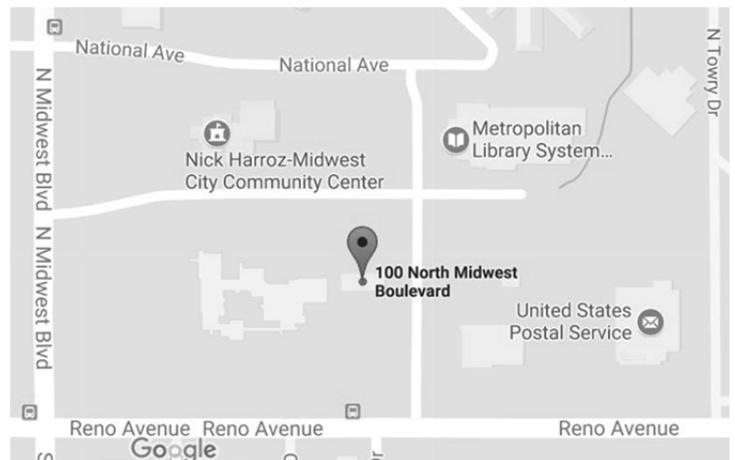
Join us for the spring 2019 Antique Radio Swap Meet, Contest, and Auction.

## **Free Admission!**

**Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

### ***Where:***

Midwest City  
Community Center  
100 N. Midwest Blvd.  
(North of Tinker AFB)  
Midwest City, OK



### ***What:***

Raffle tickets for a fully-restored antique radio, door prizes, fresh coffee, donuts, and many antique radios for sale. There also will be a silent auction, live auction, and contest!

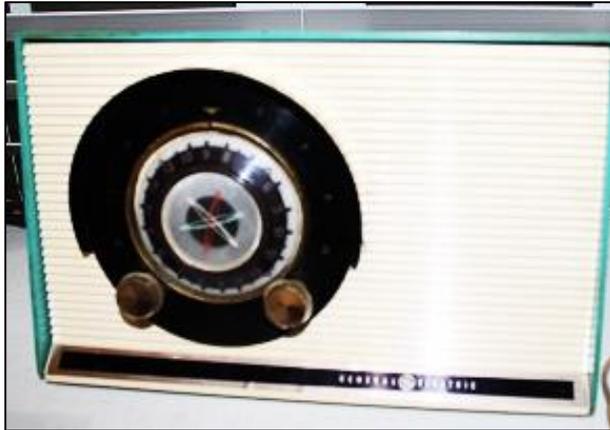
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[WWW.OKVRC.ORG](http://WWW.OKVRC.ORG)

## March 9, 2019 Meeting Report Continued

probably from the thirties. Jim showed his General Electric model 862 turquoise table model radio from the late fifties that has a cool Atomic logo. Also, he showed



a tiny tortoiseshell loud speaker from the late twenties, and a maroon and gold 1962 Zenith Royal 500 transistor pocket radio.



In addition, Jim brought along a large Majestic horn speaker from the mid-twenties, in yellow celluloid. We all have horn speakers in our collections, almost always black and made of metal, pressed wood or rubber, but a yellow celluloid example is extremely rare. (See Jim's photo at the start of the President's Column to also see his Majestic horn.)

Finally Jim showed us a yellow RCA Catlin set from about 1937. Jim explained the material was white when new, but gradually changed to its now very attractive butterscotch color. We also learned that blue Catlin turns to green with age.



Club member Elena brought in several colorful items, mostly from the late fifties and early sixties including a bright blue Sylvania cabinet speaker and a brown and white Truetone clock radio with two-tone gold accents. We also got several other table sets, including a blue Emerson, and a brown and white Philco with dual speakers. Also, Elena showed us a green Magnavox set with chrome trim.



Other Elena radios included a grey and white dual speaker Philco, a brown and white Coronado Jester, and a Westinghouse clock radio in bright flamingo-pink. A colorful collection indeed! Thanks to everyone who came. See you at the swap meet!

## Novelty Radios

Dorothy Cady



Flea markets, garage sales, Craigslist, Goodwill, antique stores, abandoned storage units, online and live auctions, radio collector meets, and any other place we can think of is where we antique radio lovers go looking for radios to give them a new home in ours. If we're lucky, we come across a novelty radio, and if we're observant, we may even recognize it as one. Sometimes that is easy to do; other times these novelty radios look so much like the product they were created to promote that it's easy to pass them by or dismiss them without thinking of them as potential radios. Take one of the most replicated novelty radios for example, the Coca Cola bottle.

According to Steve Johnson, author of "What's it Worth: Novelty Radios" (Electronic Products, October 2012), "There are well over 100 novelty transistor radios with the Coca-Cola theme . . . such as soda bottles . . . with many early examples commanding high prices." That is just one example, and there are many others.

The 1948 Westinghouse Little Jewel radio model H-126 is another novelty radio shaped and painted to match the Westinghouse refrigerator of that same era, which means they came in an assortment of colors. There is a legend (and some websites still reference this today) that Westinghouse gave away one of these radios to every customer who purchased one of their refrigerators, and in a matching color. However, several radio restorers across the country (including Mike Simpson in West Port, PA) say that there is no known evidence to back up this legend. Since refrigerators were not made during WWII, once the war was over and production of refrigerators resumed, there was a high demand for refrigerators. As a result, there would have been no real need for Westinghouse to give away such a high quality radio in order to induce sales. According to Mike Simpson on his Analog Dial website, "This is a six tube radio. The outer case is made of over 24 different parts (not including the grille cloth and knobs) and there are almost 50 components that make up the circuitry." In addition, [antiqueradios.com](http://antiqueradios.com) states, "From everything I have read, these radios were offered in 4 colors. Ivory, Pastel Green, Dark Green, and Burgundy/Maroon."

Jim Collings recently picked up an ivory colored one of these Little Jewel radios at a collector's sale and gave Raymond Cady the opportunity to purchase it from him. Another OKVRC member, Dale McLellan, has one of his own. I wonder how many other OKVRC members have one of these Little Jewels, or for that matter, any novelty radios.

If you don't have one of your own, you might want to keep an eye out for them next time you are looking for antique radios. And in the meantime, you might want to check out these websites to see what else you can learn about novelty radios. Also, don't forget Pinterest.com, ebay.com, and websites like them in your search for novelty radios.

- [Antiqueradios.com](http://Antiqueradios.com)
- [Jim's Antique Radio Museum](http://Jim's Antique Radio Museum)
- [Ben Martin's Novelty and Transistor Radios](http://Ben Martin's Novelty and Transistor Radios)



## OKVRC Classified Ads



### √ For Sale

1940 Wurlitzer 700 Juke Box. \$2,500. Contact Jim Collings, (405) 755-4139 or [jrcradio@cox.net](mailto:jrcradio@cox.net).



**Radio Chassis stands.** \$37.50 small / \$55 large. These maintenance stands hold a chassis while working on it. Prices do not include brackets at \$2.50 or shipping. Contact Steve Strong at (405) 634-7547 or send e-mail to [scstrong1@cox.net](mailto:scstrong1@cox.net).

**AM Transmitter.** \$85 with Bluetooth, \$75 without. Play your digital music collection on your antique radios with an AM transmitter. Comes with USB and SD card connections and built-in FM tuner. Bluetooth option lets you connect to a smartphone or tablet. Contact Raymond Cady (405) 820-8014 / [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com).

**Magnet Wire.** Sizes and price vary. Contact Mike at (405) 376-9473 / [orders@coaxman.com](mailto:orders@coaxman.com).

### √ Services

**Quilted Radio Covers.** Protect your antique radio from dust, water, and other damage, and show off your radio pride with a quilted radio cover custom made to your needs and color preferences. For more information or to request a custom order, contact Dorothy Cady by phone or text at (405) 206-9985. Or check in with her at one of our monthly club meetings.

**Antique Radio Restoration and Servicing.** Edmond, Oklahoma. *Let me make it look and run like new again.* Contact me at: [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com) or (405) 820-8014. Visit my website at: [goldenageradiorestitution.com](http://goldenageradiorestitution.com).

### √ WANTED

#### **Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items**

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.

#### **Tubes and Tube-type Amplifiers**

Jim Collings, 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013 (405)-755-4139, or [jrcradio@cox.net](mailto:jrcradio@cox.net).

**OKVRC BOARD:**

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# A Vintage-suitable Calendar

Dorothy Cady

While researching various radio-related material online, I ran across this 2016 post in the Retrotechnologist blogspot written by Roberta X. Here is what she wrote:

I needed a calendar for my mostly-vintage hamshack. 1932 and 2016 share the same calendar, but buying an old one in intact shape and ripping each month off seemed too destructive to me.

So I made one.

The backing sheet is card stock. The calendar pages look crooked -- the paper fasteners that hold them are a bit loose in the punched holes. It straightens out when hanging. The printer output does not look like hand-set type, but might pass for offset printing or lithography.

Below is the image she included.



What an awesome idea, right? Is anyone else thinking “sexy-tube-radio-calendars” as a possible OKVRC fund raiser?



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



## OKVRC CONTEST ENTRY

CATEGORY

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MANUFACTURER

---

MODEL NUMBER

---

YEAR

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COMMENTS

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