



OK Vintage Radio Collectors

BROADCAST NEWS

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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.

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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.

Membership payment is due in January for that year. 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 COLUMN

Jim Collings



May Meeting Cancelled!

Our May meeting is cancelled due to the pandemic. All of our officers agreed that it is too soon to get together, as most of us are in the high-risk category for Coronavirus. Hopefully, we will be able to have our June meeting.

In the meantime, there is radio activity on line, since all the meets are cancelled. Some eBay sellers are listing things that they were unable to take to the cancelled Kutztown meet. Also, I've found that the local estate sales have gone to online format. I seldom go to any of them, but in an on-line format, there is a better chance to get an interesting item, as an early-arriving attendee has not already purchased it. Jim Sargent had an on-line

auction last Saturday, and plans another at the end of May. I was able to win a few items in the last auction. So this is worth checking out.

Also, hopefully you have had time to do some restorations. I have gotten a few things accomplished, but also ran into a stumbling block on one. . . .changing a bad spring on a phonograph. It's a difficult, dirty job I'd prefer to let someone else tackle.

Keep safe and well during these difficult times!

Jim Collings, President



1) Check out Jim Sargent's [Upcoming Auctions](http://www.sargentauction.com/#upcoming-auctions) webpage to see what's coming up (<http://www.sargentauction.com/#upcoming-auctions>).

Thanks to Reader's Digest...

<https://www.rd.com/culture/funny-quotes-about-coronavirus-quarantine/>

A little humor to help us get the rest of the way through this COVID-19 quarantine.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to locate a roll of toilet paper.

This message will self-flush in 5 seconds. Good luck.



Due to social distancing guidelines, I will no longer be shaking hands or hugging.

In lieu of these, you may kneel or bow (from a safe distance). You are welcome.



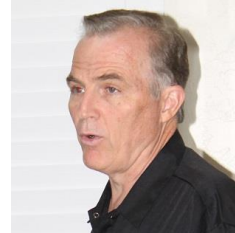
Quarantine has me realizing why my dog gets so excited about something moving outside and going for walks and car rides.

I just barked at a squirrel.



April 2020 Meeting Report

Jim Tyrrell



As we all know, the Coronavirus has temporarily interrupted our planned monthly meetings, so there was no April

meeting and thus no report, and there will not be a May meeting either. We are hoping all will go well and that we will again be able to get together for a meeting in June. In the meantime though, everyone take care.

Jim Tyrrell

V. P.'s Note

About five weeks ago, our awesome secretary, Jim Tyrrell, suffered a fall at home and fractured his left clavical. I spoke with him a short time ago and he is doing very well. His optimistic spirit never fails him. He's not in any pain, and says that his neighbors have been great at helping him out. He has even gone back to work at Tinker.

Miss you, Jim. Continue getting better. See everyone soon.

Dorothy Cadby



Accessory Corner

Jim Collings

British Radio Crystal Tins

This month's featured items are British radio crystal tins. These are interesting items to collect, but not seen too often here in the US. I believe there are numerous brands, and they were produced probably up thru the 1950's.

In Great Britain radio sets were taxed by the BBC, based on the number of tubes in the set. So a radio set with no tubes probably had the lowest tax, making the life of crystal sets much longer than here in the US, where after the 1920's they were mainly novelty items. Remember distances between stations are much closer in Europe, so they could be effective receivers. These are all roughly the same size, about 1¾ inches in length. They are the same size as phonograph needle tins that held 300 needles, which were also sold into the 1950's. The brands featured are: Reactone, Cymosite, Neutron, Hertzite, and Mighty Atom. Some included a [cat's whisker](https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/history/radio-receivers/cats-whisker-crystal-types.php) (https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/history/radio-receivers/cats-whisker-crystal-types.php)



2) Featured British Crystal Radio tins Reactone, Cymosite, Neutron, Hertzite, and Mighty Atom.

along with the crystal. I opened them all to find that four actually have cotton and a [galena crystal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galena) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galena), but no cat's whiskers. The Neutron included some original paperwork! These are fun items to collect, and not expensive. All of them came from radio swap meets at a cost of about \$10 each.



3) Closeup of Jim's Mighty Atom tin.



4) The inside of a Neutron Wireless Tin (found on Ebay 5/8/2020).

Interested in learning a bit more about the Galena Crystal? Check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbEWO_RlgoXU.

1939 RCA TRK-12 Television

Eric Coon

“I’ll get you my pretty, and your little dog too!” ~ *Wizard of Oz*

[View a clip on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ_g6NOo7yo)

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQ_g6NOo7yo)

The TRK-12 utilizes the reflection of the mirror due to the length of the primitive 12” CRT, which was too long for direct viewing. The set was unable to fit through a door, so RCA’s engineers came up with this clever solution. The TRK-12 also featured a 12-tube, 3-Band All-Wave Radio Chassis.

Noted Machine-Age artist [John Vassos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Vassos) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Vassos) designed the cabinet, and the set originally retailed for \$600, the price of a new car. In 1939, \$600 was an elaborate expenditure of cash because television was only available to Americans in **5 cities and for 2-4 hours a week!** The quantity manufactured was 1,779, including the 1940 model. Chairman of RCA, David Sarnoff, gave to [President FDR a TRK-12](#), where it still resides in FDR’s Hyde Park residence, now a museum.

Because of the adversarial relationship between the broadcast and film industries, Hollywood would not allow their movies to be aired during television hours; therefore, I have taken creative license here by showing the iconic screenshot of the Wicked Witch. I do so for two reasons: (1) *The Wizard of Oz* was released in 1939, and, (2) I am extremely fond of the witch’s catcall to Dorothy.



8) From YouTube. See link at top of column.



5) “I’ll get you my pretty, and your little dog too!” Screenshot of the Wicked Witch of the West taken from my 1939 RCA TRK-12 Television.



6) Chassis in Eric Coon's TRK-12.



7) Though not from Eric Coon's TRK-12, this is a closeup of a similar TRK-12’s dial face. (Image from: http://www.myvintagetv.com/rca_trk12.htm. May 2020.)



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BEFORE



AFTER

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Old Comics: Send list of available comics 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.

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Happy Birthday to You!

*Happy birthday to all of our
May birthday members!*

Our Members are awesome . . .

Dorothy Cady

A special thank you to Jerry Myers for donating flannel sheets to the cause of making masks. The flannel has made a great difference in getting masks out to those who need them. Your generosity is appreciated!



8) Image from: <https://www.getgreenbewell.com/washable-cloth-face-masks/>

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