



# 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.

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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 is accepted at any of our monthly meetings and our semi-annual club swap meets. Membership payment is due in January for that year.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jim Collings



Our August meeting is coming up; it's August 14th at the Sonoma Lake Clubhouse, [1712 NW 159<sup>th</sup> St, Edmond, OK](#). The actual meeting starts at 7PM, preceded by dinner at about 6. The menu for the meeting is Pizza, at a cost of \$5 per person. The topic we selected at the last meeting was phonographs, and to

divide that further, it will be cylinder phonographs. That saves disc phonographs for a different meeting. This is a little off topic for our radio club, but of interest to many of our members. I will bring a variety of Columbia and Edison cylinder phonographs to talk about. We also need to include cylinder records, as there are various types and speeds that can be confusing to a non-collector. So it should be an interesting meeting.

Also, this month is our annual election of officers. I believe all the current officers are willing to serve another term, but if you would like to serve the club, I'm sure a place could be found for you. Of course, we'll have our usual donation auction at the end of the meeting, so bring something of interest that may be just what someone else needs.

Julie and I attended the [HLARA Summer Sizzler](#) in Tulsa last Saturday. It was a nice meet, and several of our local members were there also. When we arrived about 8:20, the swapping was going on. I was appreciative that there was plenty of help to get our stuff unloaded, and on to a swap table. There were quite a few sellers, and most items changed hands. I was able to find buyers for about half of what I brought, and found a

~ Continued on Page 2 ~

## *President's Column (Continued)*

### *Jim Collings*

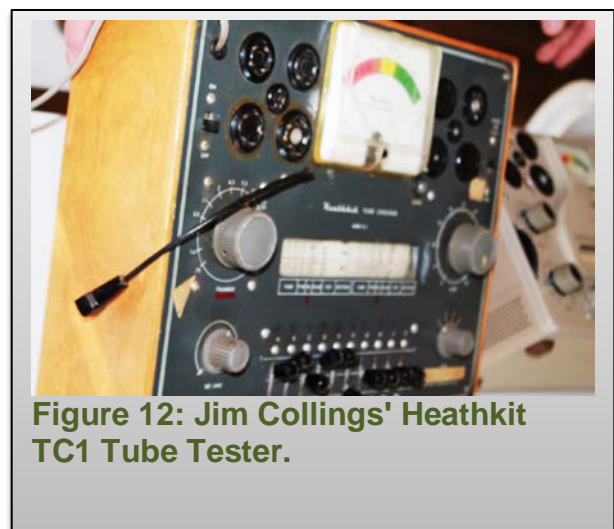
few things I could use. The contest was fairly full, and contained some very nice items, even some that I had not seen before. I helped in the judging, along with David Moore, and David Cox.

There were some difficult choices with the most popular categories being test equipment, wooden AC radios, and Bakelite radios. They raffled off a restored Philco tombstone radio which played throughout the meet. After a free hot dog lunch, they held the donation auction. There were quite a few collectors who stayed for the auction, but most items were bargains. It was a well-planned meet that I would recommend for everyone to attend next year.

There are finally some out of town meets coming up. The [Northland Antique Radio Club](#) has moved their Radio Daze to September 10-11th in Plymouth, Minnesota. This is always a fun meet, and the [Kutztown meet](#) will be the next weekend, Sept 16-18<sup>th</sup> in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Then the [Antique Wireless Association Convention](#) is October 5-9<sup>th</sup> in Rochester, NY. Closer to home, the [VRPS](#) will have their Convention on November 19-21, at the Comfort Inn in Plano, Texas. Now is the time to make plans to attend at least one of these meets. More data is available on their websites.

See you at the August meeting. Please bring cylinder records or phonographs, if you have them. Don't forget the donation auction.

*Jim Collings, President*



## Meeting Report for July 2021

### Jim Tyrrell

Summer is in full swing now, and the storms and winds of spring have given way to the sunny (and hot!) days of high summer. But weather is anything but predictable here in Oklahoma, and unusual amounts of rain kept us a bit cooler than usual for early summer. Unfortunately a warning of severe weather (including hail), on the Saturday of our monthly OKVRC meeting, scared off some of our usual membership, and turnout was the smallest I can remember. Only we six attendees made it this month, but we all had a great time none the less!

Our small group began arriving around six PM at the community club house. Once again club members Ray and Dorothy Cady had arranged the use of the room with the homeowners association, and sanitized it as a Covid-19 precaution. Dinner arrived, pizza, everyone's perennial favorite, along with brownies and beverages. Because of the light turnout, there were lots of leftovers for taking home, too.

Once everyone was well fed, we began the meeting. Club President Jim Collings made a few announcements, including the upcoming Summer Sizzler radio Meet in Tulsa on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We then began the evening's program: Tube Testers. Surprisingly, most period radio repair guides in my library don't give a large amount of coverage to these handy instruments. The feeling among some radio professionals was that a capable radio repairman should be able to diagnose down to the faulty stage without testing all the tubes. But for most of us, a tube checker is very useful tool when getting a set to play. It's also a great help when going through that box of tubes you found at the swap meet, to help you decide which ones to file away in your tube cabinet, and which ones to toss.

Your Club Secretary brought in one tube checker to show: a Philco model 7050 from the early post-war period. Nothing remarkable about it, other than it's brand, a name known and beloved across the radio collecting world.

Jim Collings brought a large collection of instruments to share. Jim first showed us a Triplett 3413A from the late fifties. We also got to see a Heathkit model IT17, and a Heathkit TC1 in a wood cabinet. Jim then showed us a TV-7 military tube tester. These rugged units are a Hickok design. Next we saw a B&K model 600, from the sixties and an EICO 635 from the late sixties, capable of testing television CRTs as well regular tubes.



**Figure 3: Jim Tyrrell's Philco model 7050 Tube Tester.**

Jim saved the best for last. I always thought production of tube testers ended decades ago, but it turns out there are some very capable instruments being made today. Jim showed us a fairly new Amplitrax AT1000 tube tester he acquired. These fully digital instruments do away with the array of knobs and lever switches found on old tube testers, using an alphanumeric display to allow the user to select the tube to be tested from a vast database in the instrument, run a comprehensive test of functionality, and display the results. These state-of-the-art instruments are expensive, but if you test a lot of high-end tubes, they are probably a good investment. As for myself, I'll stick to my old Philco for now. It cost me ten dollars at a garage sale in California about thirty years ago, and has given me faithful service ever since.

We only had a few items for our usual donation auction: a small timer, a tube caddy, and a Zenith "racetrack" dial plastic table model.

We called it a night about eight PM, as the storm was approaching. As it turns out, the storm was pretty mild, but, as they say, better safe than sorry. Thanks to those who could make it, and especially to Dorothy for getting the room ready, and to Jim for bringing in his great collection of tube testers to share. See you in August!

*Jim Tyrrell, Secretary*



**Figure 4: Jim Collings' Amplitrax AT 1000 Tube Tester.**



**Figure 5: Jim Colling's TV-7, V model Tester.**



**Figure 6: Jim Collings' EICO Tube Tester. An attachment can do CRTs.**

## Heathkit Tube Testers

"Heathkit introduced their first tube tester model (TC-1) in 1948. The TC-1 is an *emission tester* and was so successful, the identical testing platform was used in all their additional models except the TT-1. The differences in the 5 subsequent *emission testing models* are only mechanical and cosmetic. The only electrical difference was the addition of a leakage test switch beginning with the TC-3. The TC-3 also introduced new roll chart mechanism that prevented back lashing and binding of the roll-chart, this same, excellent new alteration was used *in the rest of Heathkit's emission testing models.*"

*Heathkit Tube Testers information found at the Radiolaguy.com website:*  
<https://www.radiolaguy.com/info/About%20Heathkit%20tube%20testers.htm>

## WANTED

### Tubes and Tube-type Amplifiers:

Jim Collings, call (405)-755-4139 or send an email to: [jrcradio@cox.net](mailto:jrcradio@cox.net). Or visit me by appointment at: 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013.

**Old Comics:** Send list of available comics to Dan Giddings, PO Box 3961, Glendale, CA 91221-3961.

**Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items** Crystal radio, tube sockets, A-B-C power supplies, radio advertising, boxed parts, & promotional items. Email Dale Boyce at: [radioman@wi.rr.com](mailto:radioman@wi.rr.com).

## SERVICES

### Have a vintage radio that need restoration or repair?

Ray Cady at (405) 820-8014, [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com), or visit our website at: [goldenageradiorestoration.com](http://goldenageradiorestoration.com)

### We offer:

- Reasonable prices, high-quality chassis repair, and quality cabinet restoration (wood, Bakelite, plastic & metal).

## For Sale

### Magnet Wire

Sizes and prices vary. Call Mike at (405) 376-9473, or email: [orders@coaxman.com](mailto:orders@coaxman.com).

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***Happy Birthday to our August Leo  
and Virgo Birthday Members!***



**Hope you have the chance to take advantage of our remaining summer days! Live, laugh, and love for tomorrow it may snow, hail, rain, blow, or all of the above; after all, it is Oklahoma (or not).**

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