



# 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](http://www.okvrc.org)) 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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## 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 next meeting is Saturday, September 11th at the clubhouse for the Sonoma Lakes subdivision in Edmond, [1712 NW 159th St, Edmond, OK 73013](http://www.google.com/maps/place/1712+NW+159th+St,+Edmond,+OK+73013). The doors will open at 6 PM for dinner, with the meeting beginning around 7 PM. Please bring something for the donation auction, plus a bit of cash to bid.

The meeting topic is dual: **Stromberg Carlson and Stewart Warner**. Both are dual name brands which produced radio items from the 1920's all the way up through the Bakelite radio era. So, if we have good participation, we should see sets from the battery set era, wooden table radios from the 1930's and 1940's, and Bakelite radios, some in deco styling. It should make for a varied and interesting meeting. So, bring your sets.

In addition, we will make final plans for our swap meet next month to be held on October 9th at the [Nick-Harroz Midwest City Community Center](http://www.nickharroz.com). I think this is going to be a very good meet; several people have indicated that they are bringing lots of items for sale . . . one of which is a collection liquidation. We will have our annual contest, moved from the typical spring timing. A list of contest categories is included in this edition of the Broadcast News. Be thinking of ideas for publicity for our October meet to share at our September meeting.

### The large radio meets are back!

The Minnesota club (Northland Antique Radio Club), has set their meet in Plymouth, Minnesota, for September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Then the Kutztown meet in Kutztown, PA, will be on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. After having a virtual conference last year, the

~ Continued on Page 2 ~

## *President's Column (Continued)*

*Jim Collings*

AWA's live conference will be held October 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> in Rochester, NY. In addition, several clubs that had to skip their summer meets are having one day events. The Michigan Antique Radio Club will have their Vintage Electronics Expo in Chelsea, MI, on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, while the Antique Radio Club of Illinois is having morning swap meets on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dec 5<sup>th</sup> in Carol Stream, IL. Then the Vintage Radio and Phonograph society will hold their fall swap meet on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> in Irving, TX, and their Annual Convention in Plano, TX, on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. I believe collectors are anxious to get back to the meets to see their friends and exchange merchandise, so I believe all of these will be very good events. Make your plans to attend those that you can.

See you at the September meeting!

*Jim Collings, President*

### **Contest Categories for the 2021 OKVRC Meet**

1. Battery and Crystal Receivers, Pre-1930
2. Tombstone and Cathedral Receivers
3. Horizontal Wooden Receivers
4. Metal Sets after 1926 (includes amateur receivers and transmitters)
5. AC/DC Bakelite or Plastic Receivers
6. Art Deco and Novelty Receivers
7. HiFi Equipment (tube type tuners, amplifiers, etc.)
8. Foreign Made Receivers and Equipment, tube type.
9. Homebrew and Kit Receivers
10. Accessory Items (tubes, speakers, antennas, test equipment, etc.)
11. Phonographs, Acoustic or Electric
12. Open Category, anything that does not fit in another category
13. Best Restoration (Can be displayed in any category, but item will be judged on restoration quality. Documentation of condition before restoration is encouraged.)
14. People's Choice (ballot of favorite display of all who attend)
15. Best of Show (one of the first place winners from the other categories)

## Meeting Report for August 14, 2021

*Jim Tyrrell*

We are slowly winding down another Oklahoma summer, with Labor Day just around the corner. It's hot as hell outside, but the neighborhood pool operated by our homeowners association is nice and cool, so after this is written, I'll head there. I deserve it after spending most of yesterday working in the yard.

Last month (July) had a record low turnout of six members for our usual second Saturday of the month OKVRC meeting at the Sonoma Lake club house, but this month more folks showed up, twelve or thirteen as I recall. The COVID Delta variant is still on the prowl, but our hosts Dorothy and Ray Cady thoughtfully sanitized the room as always. Dinner was once again pizza, everyone's perennial favorite, along with brownies and beverages. Hey everyone loves pizza, and at only five dollars a person? You can't eat at Taco Bell for that little!

Once everyone was well fed, we began the evening's program: cylinder phonographs. If you follow the old definition of an antique as something one hundred or more years old, just about every cylinder phonograph still around meets that definition. We have all admired these ancient audio machines in museums and antique shops, but Club President Jim Collings has an amazing collection of them, and was kind enough to bring in a large and fascinating collection for us to see (and hear!)

Thomas Edison, of course, invented the first primitive cylinder phonogram using foil cylinders in 1877. Business models came out years later, followed by home models. Jim showed us an Edison Standard model and a slightly smaller Model B from around 1899. Edison brought out the key-wound Gem model soon after to compete with Columbia—the only other company building cylinder machines. Jim also showed us a Columbia model BX Eagle; a Columbia model Q; and his favorite Columbia, the Model AA, which is in an attractive cabinet with most of the works underneath. We also got to see a Columbia model AT, designed to compete with the Edison Standard and Home models; a more ornate Columbia machine, a model BE that plays both two- and four-minute records; and a 1909 Columbia model BB. While Columbia's model names may be monotonous, the machines are beautiful!

By 1910 disc machines were beginning to appear, and the cylinder's dominance was soon over. Edison made an internal horn cabinet model called the Ambrola from 1915 to 1921, an example of which Jim operated for us. It used a diamond



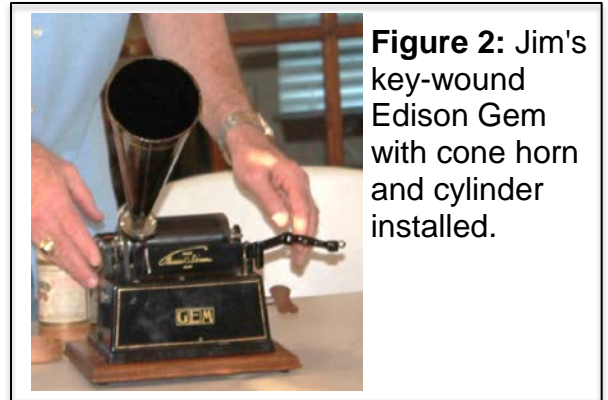
**Figure 1:** Jim's Columbia Model AA.

stylus and was housed in a cabinet with a lid, all the works concealed, and the speaker opening on the front, just like most acoustic disk machines. Disk machines took over the home market, but wax cylinders were still used in commercial dictation machines for many years after, until replaced by Dictabelt equipment, and ultimately, magnetic tape.

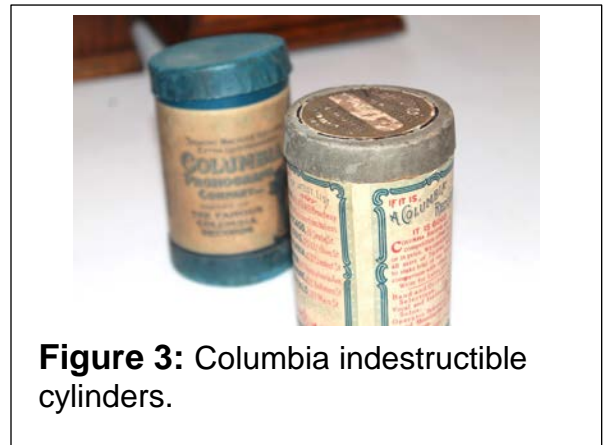
Jim also showed many of the different types of cylinder types used over the life of cylinder phonographs, from early wax types to harder celluloid models. That discussion is beyond the scope of this brief article, but the pictures of them and the phonographs will hopefully give everyone who was not able to attend the meeting some idea of the scope of Jim's wonderful collection.

We ended a wonderful evening with the usual junk auction, several boxes of radio parts kindly donated by club member, Ilana, went to new homes. Thanks to once again to Ray and Dorothy for getting the room ready, and Jim for bringing in his awesome collection of early cylinder machines to share. See you in September!

*Jim Tyrrell, Secretary*



**Figure 2:** Jim's key-wound Edison Gem with cone horn and cylinder installed.



**Figure 3:** Columbia indestructible cylinders.



**Figure 4:** The cylinder collection that Jim brought in to share with us during his presentation.



**Figure 5:** (Counter clockwise from lower right) Raymond, Ilana, Maggie, Robert, Jim C., Julie, Jerry, Jim T., Barbara, and Mike. Not shown- Dorothy (taking pics).



## 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:

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### We offer:

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

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Play anything you want on all of your vintage AM radios with just one transmitter. Plug-and-play. **Affordable at \$95.** To use, just plug in the transmitter, turn on your radio(s), tune them to the frequency that matches your *AM Transmitter*, and choose your source (FM station, USB, SD card) or connect via Bluetooth with your smart phone, MP3 player, or computer.

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***Happy Birthday to our September  
Birthday Members!***



***You're only as old as the dances  
you probably still love to do.***

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