



# OK Vintage Radio Collectors BROADCAST NEWS

Online at [www.okvrc.org](http://www.okvrc.org)

Volume XXXII, Issue 9

September 2022



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jim Collings

Our next meeting is Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the clubhouse for the Sonoma Lake housing development in Edmond, 1712 NW 159th St, Edmond, OK 73013. The doors will open at 6PM for dinner, which will be **shredded chicken tacos with brownies for dessert**, with the meeting beginning around 7PM. **The meeting topic is microphones.** I do not think we have had this topic previously. The topic can cover a wide range of equipment, from early telephone transmitters to broadcast mikes to small mikes used with tape recorders. And I guess now there are very small microphones built into telephone and similar modern devices. Everyone should have something to bring, and we should have a wide variety of items. I have a few broadcast mikes to bring, as well as other types. In addition, at the meeting we will make final plans for our swap meet next month on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Midwest City Community Center. We will have the contest this time since we skipped that in April. Don't forget to bring something for the donation auction at the end of the meeting.

### **Newsletter Editor Change**

The club has some challenges ahead that we need to prepare for. The Cadys will be travelling and away off and on during the next year, beginning in January, so they will no longer be able to edit the Broadcast News. Jim Tyrrell has volunteered to take over that duty. We will need to support him and provide content for him to publish.

### **Monthly Meeting Location Change**

Come January 1, 2023, we no longer will be able to meet at the Sonoma Lake Clubhouse. Since the Cadys are residents of Sonoma Lake but will be unavailable to sponsor us, which is a requirement of the [Sonoma Lake Homeowner's Association CC&Rs](#), a new location for our meetings is needed beginning in January 2023. Returning to meeting in a restaurant back or side room is probably what we need to look for. We have not needed to pay for our meeting space in the past, so hopefully this will not create a problem. So, everyone needs to be on the lookout for a location that might be suitable (and not

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## President's Column (Continued from page 1)

expensive). Please advise me of any suggestions. We also are thinking that a change of venue may help to increase our attendance, so please keep in mind that it might be helpful to find an area or place that may be right for a majority of members.

### ***Need for a New Swap Meet Location***

Plans are to move the spring swap meet in April to a new location. The Midwest City location is getting harder to work with, and we must be realistic about the fact that many of us have bodies that are just getting too old to set up and tear down the large size and quantity of tables and chairs. In addition, Midwest City has been forcing us to clean the entire room, normally being required to leave the location much cleaner than when we arrived, or we will lose our deposit. Suggestions for a new location for the swap meets are also welcomed. As we do pay rent for the use of the Midwest City event center, we expect to have to do the same at a new location. Keep in mind that the swap meets do not have to be held in Midwest City, so other cities should be considered, too.

### ***On a Personal Note***

It has been too hot to try to attend any radio meets. Most that have come up are just one day, or even just part of the day, and are too far away to justify the trip. So, I have been concentrating on organizing and selling items that I have acquired during the pandemic. I have a lot to get rid of if there is any hope of having our Christmas Party here. **A volunteer to host the Christmas Party at their home would be a welcome change.** And remember, you won't have to cook; the food is catered (cooked, delivered, and set up) and paid for by OWFI, so if you host, you get to choose the food we eat and don't have to pay for it.

Don't forget our swap meet next month, October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Midwest City Community Center. Start getting your excess, swap, and contest items ready now. If you have a suggested change for the contest categories, let me know. I hope to see you at the September meeting.

***Jim Collings, President***

*It's almost time for the fall swap meet.  
Here's hoping we have perfect weather  
and a huge turnout.*



## August 2022 Meeting Notes

Jim Tyrrell

It's August in Oklahoma, as an unusually hot summer rumbles on. But at least we have been spared the terrible heat wave currently baking my native state of California. The temperature hit a record of 108 degrees F in my hometown of Anaheim. I can only remember a few days when I was growing up there that it broke 100 degrees, unless you went to the desert. Our planet is getting warmer for sure. I went to our neighborhood pool last weekend. It closes for the season after Labor Day. I'm going to miss it!

It was another pleasant if hot summer day for our usual second Saturday of the month OKVRC meeting at the Sonoma Lake club house. We had a modest turnout of about nine members. Our dinner was everyone's favorite, pizza, along with desert and cold drinks. **At September's meeting, we are having pulled chicken tacos and brownies for dessert.**

After everyone was fed, club president Jim Collings called the meeting to order, and discussed some club business. We elected club officers; the same folks volunteered again. Thanks to all of our volunteers. There was further discussion on changing our venue for the spring and fall Convention and Swap Meets, and on the need to find a new location for our regular monthly club meetings starting in January of next year. Our president's column has more details on both topics.

The subject of the night's program was: "Items we have never done a program on." This is a grab-bag of just about anything. Once again, our members did not disappoint. We got to see some interesting stuff!

Ray Cady started off the program by showing us the small AM transmitters he and Dale McLellan build and sell (for less than \$100). With not a lot left on the AM broadcast band these days (except perhaps for sports, talk radio, and religious stations), many low-power AM transmitters have been marketed to collectors to allow them to listen to more than just AM content on their vintage AM-only sets. But what Ray showed us definitely goes a step further, because these were designed specifically for us vintage radio collectors. It allows input using any Bluetooth device (cell phone, computer, iPad, tablet, etc.), USB flash drive, and SD card. In addition, FM tuning is built in. Ray demonstrated the transmitter by sending old-time-radio tunes to several different sets in the room. It worked great!



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## August Meeting Notes (Continued from page 3)

Club member Ilana Steinhorn brought in two Hallicrafters amateur receivers, a compact S-38D and a larger, SX-100. These classic sets were the backbone of many Ham Radio stations for decades. She also brought in a National receiver, apparently built for military usage. It seems to use plug-in coils.

Since we have never done a program on solid-state stereo, Jim Terrell (I, your humble secretary) decided to bring in a Sansui AM-FM stereo receiver from 1977. It is in mint condition, and it has all of the original manuals. I picked it up at an estate sale. It works perfectly and is also quite heavy.

In addition, I also brought in a couple of even newer portable sets that I found at garage sales. One is an Electro Brand, eight-band, stereo radio complete with a cassette player and recorder. The maker tried to cram every function possible into this unit, even a clock and a public address system!

I also brought in an Emerson AM-FM cassette mini boom-box complete with a small B&W TV! These eighties items are a little too new yet be called antiques but they are definitely [vintage](#), are fun to have, and can be picked up quite cheap.

Jim Collings brought the highlights of the night. First, we got to see a novelty Lone Ranger AM plastic radio from 1951. We've all seen Charlie McCarthy and Hopalong Cassidy radios, but I've never seen a Lone Ranger set, so it must be rare.

Then Jim showed us a fantastic Western Electric Superheterodyne receiver from the early twenties (**bottom photo right**). Back when RCA had a patent lock on Superhets (pre-1930), the only other legit builder was Western Electric. Their sets were primarily for commercial use (sold to radio stations rather than consumers), and are very rare. Jim's set is in mint condition and uses the also rare, miniature [peanut tubes](#).

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**Ilana's two Hallicrafters. Model S-38D (front) and SX-100 (back).**



**Jim Tyrrell's Electro Brand radio.**



**Jim Collings' Lone Ranger radio.**



## August Meeting Notes (Continued from page 4)

Jim then showed to us a very impressive American Marconi four stage audio amplifier, also from the early twenties. It has a lever switch to switch into one to four stages of amplification, and uses four [tennis ball type of tubes](#). Both of these units are housed in beautiful wood cabinets.

Lastly, club member Harley displayed a very rare and unusual piece of early twenties test equipment given to him by a friend. It is housed in a wood, briefcase-style cabinet; has three large panel meters; and displays an impressive array of switches and brass binding posts. It's a rare find, and Harley got it for free. How great is that!

We finished up an entertaining and informative evening with the usual donation auction. Included was a giant 33 RPM record, which won't fit on any turntable I have ever seen; a flat of speakers; two plastic radios — one an AM/FM Clock Radio and the other an unusual battery powered model; two boxes of tubes; and a Regency VHF receiver. All went to new homes for low prices.

Thanks to everyone who came. See you next month.

*Jim Tyrrell, Secretary*



Jim Collings' American  
Marconi Amplifier



Harley's Tester

### Happy Birthday to our September birthday members!



## SERVICES

### Vintage Radio Repair & Cabinet Restoration

Quality work. Reasonable prices. References available. For chassis repair and cabinet restoration, contact: RAYMOND CADY (405) 820-8014 or [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com) or DOROTHY CADY (405) 206-9985 or [dcady1@gmail.com](mailto:dcady1@gmail.com).

### Need Something Custom Made?

Sometimes you just need something custom made, like new felt for your vintage phonograph platen or a laser-cut duplicate of a wood speaker grill. Check with Rick at 405-595-9685 or by email at [Black85vette@gmail.com](mailto:Black85vette@gmail.com) to see how he may be able to help you out.



## FOR SALE

**Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items** Crystal radio, tube sockets, A-B-C power supplies, radio advertising, boxed parts, & promotional items. Email Dale Boyce at: [boyce.dale@gmail.com](mailto:boyce.dale@gmail.com), or call (414) 840-4146.

**Magnet Wire for Sale** Sizes and prices vary. Call Mike at (405) 376-9473, or send email to [orders@coaxman.com](mailto:orders@coaxman.com).

**AM Transmitters for Sale** Play anything wirelessly on any or all of your vintage AM radios at once with a single plug-and-play transmitter. Contact Raymond Cady at [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com) or 405-820-8014.

## WANTED

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

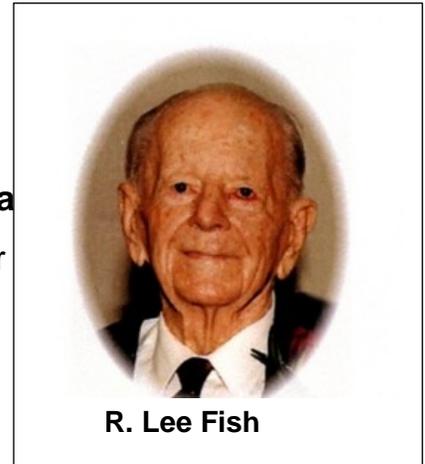
**Tubes and Tube-type Amplifiers Wanted** Call or email **Jim Collings** at (405) 755-4139 or [jrcradio@cox.net](mailto:jrcradio@cox.net). Visit me, by appointment, at: 14704 Carlingford Way, Edmond, OK 73013.

OKVRC membership includes free classified ad postings. If you'd like to include an ad, send it to the Newsletter Editor (email: [cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com)).

## Raymond Lee Fish and Oklahoma Radio

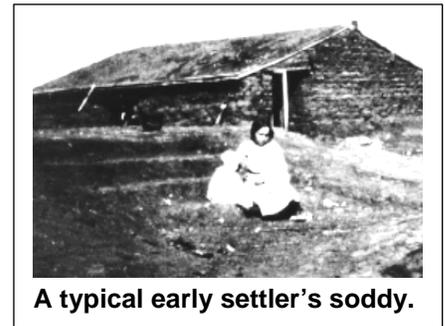
Dorothy Cady

During our August meeting, Steve Davis spoke to us about a gentleman named *Lee Fish*. He shared with us that Mr. Fish, *Lee* as his friends knew him, was a friend of Wiley Post, a pioneer aviator, and **operator of the first commercial Radio station in Oklahoma City**. Fish has been honored for his contributions to Oklahoma City by the Oklahoma Historical Society, which had a display on Fish and his life at their Oklahoma History Center. If you are not familiar with the Oklahoma History Center, it is “an eighteen-acre, 215,000 square-foot learning center exploring Oklahoma’s unique history of Native culture, pioneers, aviation, commerce, and more” (from <https://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/>). So, of course a R. Lee Fish exhibit fit right in, and Steve shared that it was very informative and interesting to see.



R. Lee Fish

Unfortunately for all of us, Mr. Fish passed away at the age of 103. He was born in Kingfisher in 1904 in a sod house. In addition to flying round with Wiley Post, being a pioneer aviator, and an early radio man, Lee taught electronics until he retired. He was laid to rest in Sunny Lane Cemetery in Del City, Oklahoma in 2007. (Thank you to the Oklahoman for some of the facts related to Mr. Fish. Information was retrieved from: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/oklahoman/name/r-fish-obituary?id=11184777>.)



A typical early settler's soddy.

According to *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, “Early settlers built their first shelters from what was available, thick prairie sod. A typical [\[Oklahoma\] sod house \(soddy\)](#) was about fourteen feet by sixteen feet in size with a seven-and-one-half-foot-high wall, a low-pitched roof, a central side door, and one or two windows. Interior walls were often finished with plaster or covered with newspapers, and canvas was often suspended from the ceiling to make the space lighter and to improve cleanliness. Furnishings were sparse and simple, but prized lace curtains or an heirloom piece of furniture were not uncommon in these humble dwellings.”

We just want to say thank you to R. Lee Fish for bringing radio to Oklahoma City, as well as for all of his other contributions to Oklahoma and its residents.

## About OKVRC

Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) publishes the *Broadcast News* to share historical information, and provide enjoyment for club members and friends.

We like to keep up with our members and always welcome submissions of articles on subjects of interest to radio collectors and restorers, and club activities news.

Please send articles to:

**OKVRC News Editor**

**PO BOX 50625**

**Midwest City, OK 73140**

**or email to:**

[cadyraymond1@gmail.com](mailto:cadyraymond1@gmail.com)

Unless otherwise noted, articles may be reprinted freely, as long as proper credit and reference is given. An electronic copy of most articles can be obtained from the editor of the Broadcast News.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

You're invited to join us in our celebration of Vintage Radio by joining us and signing up at a meeting, or by mailing your \$15 annual membership fee check to:  
**OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK, 73140.**

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### WEBSITE & MEETING INFO

[www.OKVRC.org](http://www.OKVRC.org)

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month (except April and October) at the Sonoma Lake subdivision clubhouse:

[1712 NW 159th St, Edmond, OK](http://1712NW159thStEdmondOK)

April and October are our swap meet months; they replace our regular meeting for those two months.