OKVRC Broadcast News

April 2009 *Volume XVIII, Issue 4*

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Jim Collings

It's almost here! Our Annual Swap Meet/Convention is on Saturday April 11th at the Midwest City Community Center. It officially begins at 8 AM, but there is usually activity in the parking lot prior to that, and sometimes the doors are opened for us earlier. I'm looking forward to the swap session, but also expect to see some great items in the contest. I hope we have some interesting displays. Don't forget the silent auction and main auction to get rid of your unwanted items. Tell all your friends who may have an interest in our hobby. This meet is one of our biggest sources for finding new members. Be sure to bring a few items from your collection to show off in the contest. Half the fun of collecting is showing what you have to other collectors, and talking about them. I've had several out-of-state inquiries, so it should be a great meet!

Since my last column, I've been to two radio events. The first was the auction sponsored my Jim Sargent in Mesquite, Texas on Feb. 28th. It was a good auction with fairly good attendance. About half of the items had been photographed before hand and were bid on by internet bidders. They won a few items, but generally the bidders in the room can see the items first hand, and bid accordingly, where the internet bidders had to pay a premium plus packing and shipping. I came back with a car load, mostly lesser items, but I did get a couple of items for my collection. The majority were items not included for the internet bidders, and box lots of assorted stuff. There were several estates involved.

Then last weekend I attended the VRPS Spring Auction in Grapevine, TX. The attendance was about normal for this auction, but the number of items offered was about half of their normal auctions. It was over at about 1:45 (the start was at about 10 AM). It was nice to get back to OKC earlier, and I was glad I did not spend the previous night in a motel. There were a few very nice items offered, but most were lesser items. But, surprisingly, almost everything brought good prices, and there were very few items that did not meet the minimum bid. For the short, 200 mile trip down there, it was worthwhile. Several attendees indicated that they would be at our meet in Midwest City.

I'm currently in Charlotte, NC for the Carolina Chapter AWA meet. It was rainy all day travelling here, with more rain scheduled for tomorrow, so the flea market has been moved indoors. The banquet room, several meeting rooms, and the halls are filled with tables of covered up radios and radio items ready for the official start at 8AM tomorrow. I hope I can sleep tonight!

I hope to see everyone at our annual swap meet. Be sure to bring a load of items for the swap, auction and contest. Tell all your friends who may have an interest, especially those who are not currently

members, but have radios. There is no admission charge, and coffee and donuts will be available. Let's make this our best meet ever!

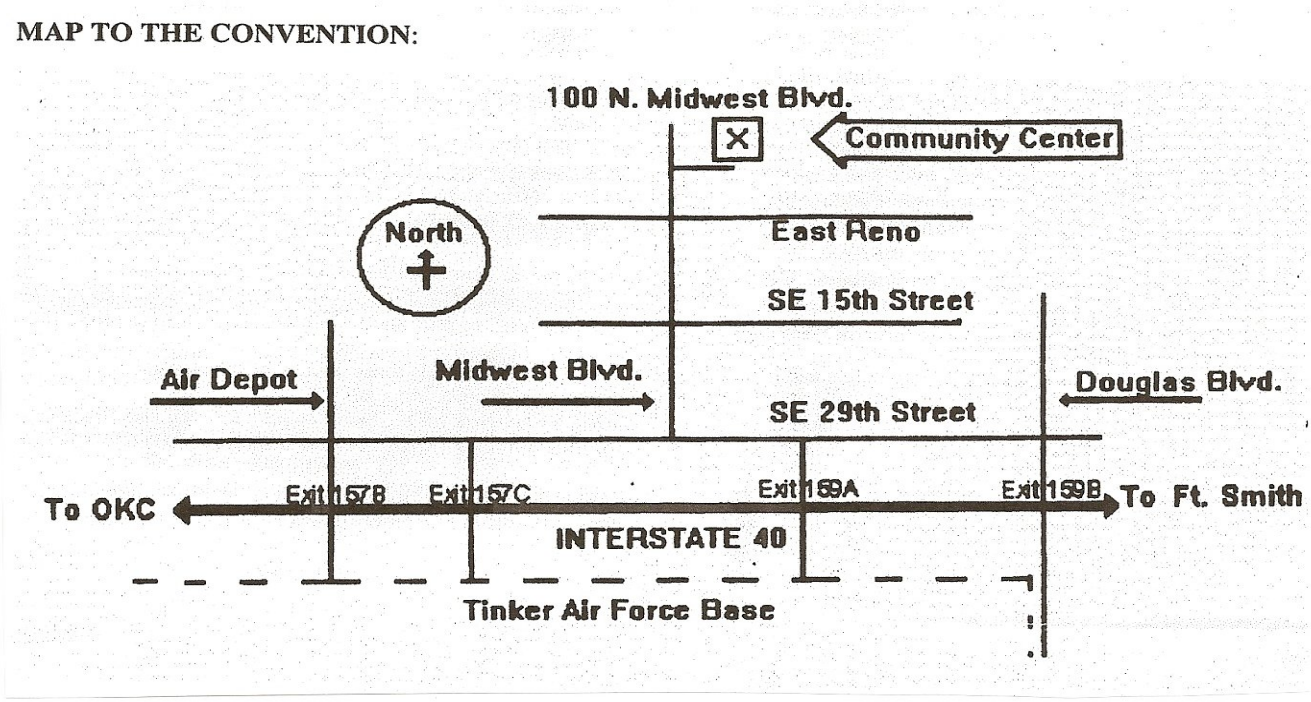
Contest categories for the 2009 Oklahoma meet:

1. Battery and Crystal Receivers, Pre-1930
2. Cathedral Receivers
3. Tombstone Receivers
4. Horizontal Wooden Receivers
5. Metal Sets after 1926 (includes amateur receivers and transmitters)
6. AC/DC Bakelite or Plastic Receivers
7. Transistor Radios (includes novelty transistor receivers)
8. Console Receivers (includes radio/phono combos and televisions)
9. Art Deco and Novelty AC operated Receivers
10. Foreign Made Receivers and Equipment, pre 1957.
11. Homebrew and Kit Receivers
12. Accessory Items (tubes, speakers, antennas, test equipment, etc.)
13. Open Category (anything that doesn't fit in another category)
14. Best Restoration (this can be displayed in any category, but will be judged on restoration quality. Documentation of condition before restoration is encouraged)
15. People's Choice (ballot of favorite display of all who attend)
16. Best of Show (one of the first place winners from the other categories)

DIRECTIONS TO THE SWAP MEET OKVRC Annual Swap Meet, April 11, 2009

Exit Interstate 40 at exit # 159A, turn north (left). At the light, turn west (left) onto SE 29th Street, proceed to Midwest Blvd.(second right), turn north (right), proceed 2 miles to Reno. Continue through the intersection of Reno and Midwest Blvd. Proceed to the next right hand street (about 100 yards). The Convention Center is the first building on the left and the parking lot is on the east side of the Building.

MAP TO THE CONVENTION:



Report for the OKVRC Meeting of March 14th 2009

Spring is slowly coming to Oklahoma City, as about twenty OKVRC members, spouses and guests gathered on a slightly warm evening for OKVRC's regular second Saturday of the month meeting at the Hometown Buffet restaurant in Oklahoma City. We enjoyed dinner from about 6:00 to 7:00 PM in our private dining room. Club President Jim Collings then called the meeting to order at about 7:00. Some upcoming events, auctions and radio shows, including the VPRS auction in Grapevine, Texas were announced for the benefit of club members who might want to attend. Also discussed in some detail was the next month's spring 2009 convention on Saturday, April 11th, at the Mid West City Community Center. Yes, that is Easter weekend, but it's a great opportunity to have some fun with fellow collectors before Sunday's activities with family and church. This is the biggest club event of the year, featuring a swap meet, silent auction, regular auction and contest. Start planning what items you need to hunt for, sell, auction, or enter in the contest. Also, try to interest as many people as possible in coming to the convention, and remind them admission as always, is free.

The topic for the evening's programs was crystal radios. Most of us remember building one of these simple, no-batteries-required devices when we were kids. It's easy to forget that crystal detectors were in the early days of radio, extremely common in commercial, military, and home usage. Before vacuum tube detectors became common and affordable, they were actually a step up from the even more primitive cohere, magnetic wire, and flame detectors. Crystal sets were very popular in the early twenties as radio broadcasting began, as a low cost alternative to expensive battery sets. To people who lived in an age before all of the technical marvels we take for granted today, a simple device that could snatch out of thin air a voice or song from hundreds of miles away must of seemed like pure magic. As more practical and affordable tube radios became commonplace, crystal sets became less common, but were still sold by a few manufacturers such as Philmore, and were often sold to young people in kit or pre-built form. Even today there are crystal set enthusiasts who build crystal sets with elaborate tuning systems, and hold DX'ing contests to see who can pull in the most distant stations.

Jim Collings brought several nice crystal sets from his personal collection to share with the club. The first was a BC14A military crystal set from about 1918. This was a very well built set with brass hardware and an elaborate tuning apparatus. Three American companies (Liberty, General Radio, and DeForest) built these sets based on a French design. Jim also brought in a 1921 Areiola Jr. crystal set, built by Westinghouse but sold under the RCA name. It uses a Paracon bi-mineral detector instead of the "cat's whisker" detector used on most early crystal sets. Also displayed for us was a 1922 DeForest "Everyman" set with plug-in coils for changing wavelength, and an enclosed cat's whisker. Also from Jim's collection we got to see a "Marvel" crystal set, once part of the famed Ralph Munchow collection. Other sets Jim brought in included a Federal Junior, built on a base like the desk telephones Federal built back in the early twenties, plus sets from Monarch, Steinite, Du-Wa, Howe, Jubilee, Metro, and Philmore.

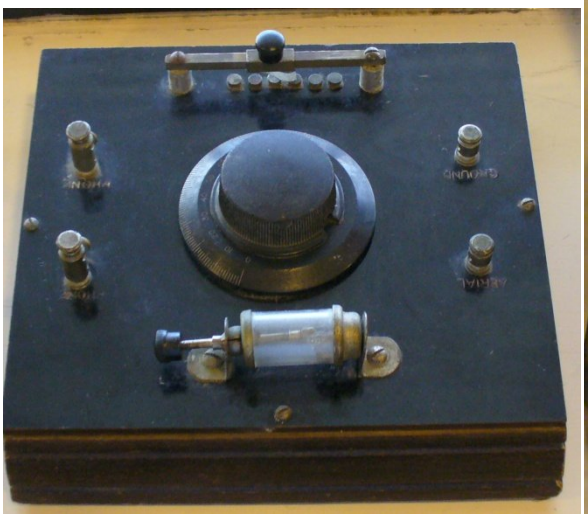
Frank Karner also brought in an interesting item to show to the club- a huge transmitting tube that was a gift from a neighbor. The gentleman who gave the tube to Frank was at an air base in France when Gary Powers landed there in his U2 spy plane shortly before flying his last flight over the Soviet Union. The tube is supposedly from Powers' plane, but the type of tube seems unlikely to have been used in any plane that small. Still, it is an interesting story!

We concluded the meeting with the usual donation auction. Thanks to the generosity of several club members who brought in some really nice items, the quality of stuff we got to take home (and the amount of money raised by the club) was much better then usual. Several radios (including a nice Zenith Royal portable), flats of tubes, bags of capacitors, some speakers, a 19" rack mount chassis, several field cases for electronics, a mint condition tube caddy, unused bottles of Novus plastic polish, a "boat anchor" size military signal generator, a military VOM in a nice fitted case, and a large collection of radio magazines and literature all went home with club members.

Thanks, Jim, for bringing in your crystal sets. And special thanks to those who brought in all the great stuff for the donation auction.

See you next month at the convention!

Jim Tyrrell, Secretary, OKVRC



NEW*NEW*NEW* The OKVRC Monthly Breakfast will be held at 8:30 AM, Wednesday morning, Apr. 8, 2009, at JIMMY'S EGG, 3741 NW 39th St, Oklahoma City.**

The Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) publishes the Broadcast News monthly for the presentation of historical information and enjoyment of club members and friends. Articles on subjects of interest to radio collectors, news of club activities, and restoration information are always welcome. Articles should be sent to the Broadcast News Editor, c/o OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK 73140-5625 or e-mailed RXRADIO@AOL.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.

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MEMBERSHIP:

OKVRC Membership is $15.00 per year. You are invited to join us in our celebration of Vintage Radio by sending your check to OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK, 73140-5625.
As a service to OKVRC members, the month of your membership expiration date is printed on the mailing label. Below is a sample label:

Expires 10/09

John Q. Collector
1234 SW 56th Street
Choctaw, OK 73123-1234

If your expiration date is highlighted, your membership has expired and you are in jeopardy of being dropped from the Broadcast News distribution list.

A Solid-State Filter Choke or Field Coil Replacement

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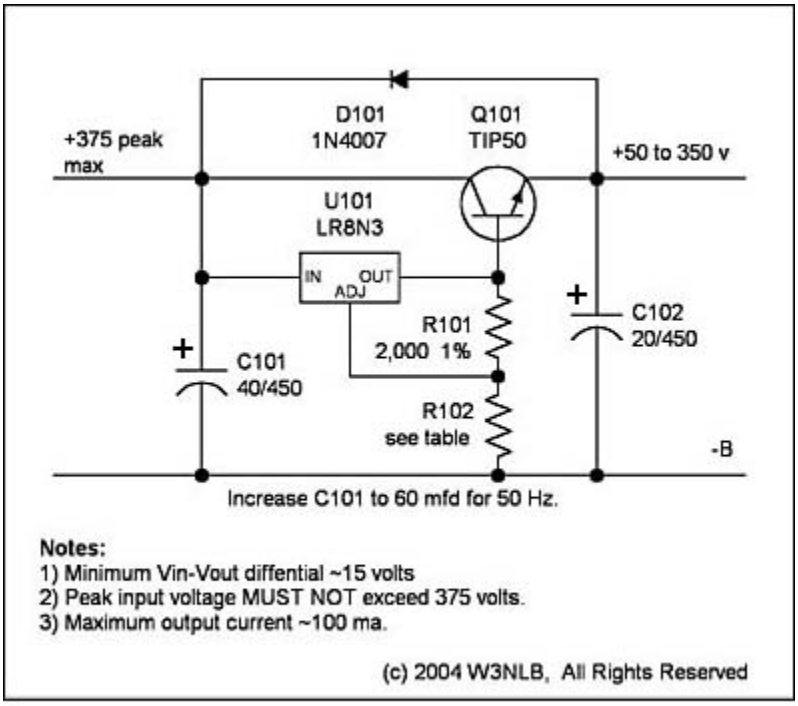
Please send correspondence directly to the above address, including SASE for reply.

This month's contribution comes from Leigh Bassett, W3NLB (Laurel, MD). It's a circuit designed to replace the filter chokes and capacitors in sets where the originals are beyond salvage. The device should be especially useful for replacing open chokes in radios like the metal-box Atwater Kents. It can be built on a small PC board and installed in the power pack case after the original bad components have been removed. dko

This simple circuit provides a regulated output up to 350 volts and 100 mA. Ripple content of the output is essentially zero. Substituting the circuit for a filter choke or field coil in a radio costs less than $2. The output is set by changing a single resistor, or a variable resistor can be used.

At the heart of this high-tech marvel is the Supertex LR8N3 three-terminal regulator. Rated for input up to 450 volts and output up to 400 volts, it can supply up to 10 mA of current. The device comes in a TO-92 plastic transistor package. Increased current capacity is provided by using the LR8 output to drive the base of a TIP50 power transistor, housed in a standard TO-220 package. With a minimum beta of 30 for the TIP50, the combination can supply up to 100 mA continuously. In most applications, the pass transistor will not require a heat sink. For example, in a circuit with 50 volts differential across the TIP50 and 100 mA load, the pass transistor is only dissipating 5 watts. The TIP50 is rated 40 watts dissipation.



Leigh Bassett's hi-tech filter network or field coil replacement.

The metal tab of the TO-220 case is the collector, which is connected to the DC input in this circuit. If a heat sink is required, a suitable insulated mounting kit must be used.

The actual current capacity from the supply depends on the input-output voltage differential across the LR8 and the amount of current which it must supply to the pass transistor. The LR8 can supply up to 10 mA, but it is protected from both over-current and over-temperature conditions by internal circuitry.

The minimum input-output voltage differential across the LR8 is 12 volts. Therefore, the input voltage at the low-point of the ripple should exceed the desired output by at least 15 volts, allowing for the base-emitter drop in the pass transistor. Increase the size of the input capacitor if needed to achieve this.

Note the limit of 375 volts peak input to the regulator. This is measured at the crest of the ripple waveform and insures that the components will not be damaged in the event of line voltage excursions.

As a replacement for a filter choke or field coil, the active regulator provides 60 Hz ripple suppression in excess of 60 dB with only 1uF. of capacitance on the output. In the circuit presented here, the value should be greater than 66 dB due to the larger output capacitor and the 120 Hz. ripple frequency.

Output voltage is determined by the value of R102. The table below gives values for various outputs. The supply can also be made adjustable by replacing R102 with a 500k ohm potentiometer in series with a 75k ohm, 1% resistor.

Output Voltage	R102-k ohms
350	572
325	531
300	490
275	449
250	408
225	367
200	326
175	285
150	244

PARTS LIST

Ref	Part No.	Mfr. and Description	Vendor	Price
D101	1N4007	Fairchild 1000 PIV/1A. rectifier	Mouser**	$0.05
Q101	TIP50	ST Micro NPN HV power transistor	" "	$0.80
R101	RN55D	Vishay 2k ohm, 1/8w., 1% resistor	" "	$0.16
R102	RN55D	Vishay 1/8 w., 1% resistor*	" "	$0.16
U101	LR8N3	Supertex HV 3-term. regulator (TO-92)	" "	$0.82

Total parts costs = $1.99

Prices are single-piece online as of 12 February 2004.

* Value from table above.
**Mouser Electronics - www.mouser.com
Data sheets available at onsemi.com (TIP50) and supertex.com

OKVRC CLASSIFIED ADS

Send all ads to editor OKVRC, Attn: editor, Broadcast News, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK 73140-5625 Or E-mail directly to RXRADIO@AOL.COM

Advertising policy: Member's ads are FREE. Small donations will be accepted for non-member's ads.

WANTED: Transmitters, Receivers, Ham gear, Boat Anchors Radio, Test Equipment, Tubes, Parts, you name it. Call Tom Laszynski at (405) 741-1176 or e-mail me at k8jrm@arrl.net.

WANTED: Dial bezel and dial pointer for a E. H. Scott Receiver, Model SLR-H or Navy RBO-2. Also, need metal Identification plate for a Navy RBO-2 receiver. Contact Tom Laszynski at either k8jrm@arrl.net or 405.741.1176.

WANTED: Any radio related German items. Especially WWII radios, tubes, and accessories. I'm a buyer also for Grundig, Telefunken radios and tubes from the 1950-1965 era. Frank Karner (405) 769-4656 fkarner@cox.net

WANTED: Tubes for my German repair business. need a quantity of these tubes, either good used or NOS please: EF89 = 6DA6; EABC80= 6AK8; EM34 = 6CD7; ECC808 = 6KX8, EM80 =6BR5 EL34 = 6CA7; EF86 = 6267; Frank Karner, *e-mail: fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656*

WANTED: I'M YOUR BUYER for tube amplifiers- music, PA, any type! Also amplifier tubes, tube testers, etc. Frank Karner (405) 769-4656 fkarner@cox.net

WANTED: I need some 6FG6 Tubes (European number is EM84) to get me thru the winter's work. Also need a few 6BR5 (EM80) tubes. Thanks! Frank Karner fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656

WANTED: Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items: Crystal radio, tube sockets, A-B-C power supplies, boxed parts, radio advertising and promotional items. Dale Boyce (414)353-0734 or radioman@wi.rr.com

WANTED: Bakelite case for Philco Boomerang model 49-501 deco radio. Cracked, nice or restorable...whatever condition you have!

Frank Karner, 12432 Elizabeth Cove, Midwest City, OK. 73130. E-mail: fkarner@cox.net (405) 769-4656

WANTED: Parts for a 1925 SUPER ZENITH 27. This is similar to the Super Zenith VII, except for the AC power supply, meter. I need the AC power supply (Maybe there are 2 used?) and perhaps some small parts. THANKS! Frank Karner (405) 769-4656 fkarner@cox.net

WANTED: RESTORED Philco model 90, good condition and "reasonably" priced. Rod Higgens, (405) 329-3013, hotrod808@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE: ANTIQUE RADIO RESTORATION VIDEOS. Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are currently available. Check my web page for more details and special deals! Go to http://www.bretsoldradios.com/

FOR SALE: Magnet wire sizes 10 ga to 40 ga. Coaxial cables and antenna wire. Mike LaPuzza, Clear Signal Products, Inc. 405-745-9473 email: wire@coaxman.com

FOR SALE: Radio Chassis Holders. These maintenance stands hold a chassis while work on it. Small stand - $37.50, and Brackets - $2.50 Plus Shipping. Large stand - $55.00 and brackets - $2.50 Plus Shipping. Contact Steve Strong at (405) 634-7547 or e-mail Scstrong1@cox.net.

FOR SALE: House wiring antenna networks, "Aircore" choke Baluns, Balun Isolation transformers and amateur 1KW "Aircore" 1 to 1, 1 to 4 and 1 to 9 "pigtail" weatherproof Baluns. L.W. Rousseau (405)842-0125

SERVICE: ***FIELDING ELECTRONICS, INC***. We restore old radios both electronically and refinishing. Radios must be complete with knobs and dial glass/escutcheons. Fielding Electronics, Inc, PO Box 2601, Ardmore, OK 73402, Phone # 580-222-9408

SERVICE: Old Radio Restoration and Servicing: Dale McLellan, rxradio@aol.com or 405-330-1802, Edmond, OK

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