Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors

Broadcast News

August 2025

OKVRC.ORG FACEBOOK E-MAIL US

President's Column | Secretary's Report | Mark's Tech Talk | V.P.'s Voice

Birthday Wishes | Classifieds | About OKVRC | Membership

Hello and Welcome

The heat is on! Thank goodness for a little relief for a couple of days, right? Well, if you've been trapped inside with your air conditioner at full blast, you might enjoy reading through the newsletter, and the Old Time Radio we have for you to listen to. At the least, it will give you a little bit of respite.

Old Time Radio

Do you like to listen to those old-time radio shows, or podcasts? We are posting here for you a link to a podcast titled, "***The Night American Radio Was Born"*** from ***RUSC Old Time Radio.*** **Click on the image to the right to hear the full episode** of this podcast**,** or copy and paste the following link to your web browser: https://postoffice.msnd25.com/tracking/lc/c306c569-39f4-4a23-b618-d9717de11df6/8b3e2be0-ef17-44a9-9315-a5dae4e6adc1/579fb16a-bd2d-4251-b658-5e5126488f06/

Enjoy!

President's Column

Jim Collings, President

It's time for another club meeting. It's on Saturday August 13th at the Golden Corral, 101 S. Sooner Road, Del City, OK. The meal will begin at 6 PM with the meeting starting around 7.

Meeting Topic

We will continue our Letters-of-the-Alphabet topic for this meeting. However, we will do two letters this time; *I* and *J*. Bring your equipment with a brand name (like the *Jubilee* radio as shown in the picture to the right, but it was manufactured by Philips), or a radio with a manufacturer's name that starts with one of these letters. Other examples include: ICA, Jefferson, Jove, and JBL.

As these brands and manufacturers are not popular with all collectors, we also will open up the topic to include anything else you might like to bring to show off. It could be a favorite, something you just received, or just something interesting, which also goes right along with our "What is This?" sessions. Now may be just the right time to bring in and show to us something unusual, unlikely, unknown, or uncommon.

Business to Discuss

The first order of business at this meeting will be the annual election of officers. If you would like to have a greater role in the club, we encourage you to volunteer for one of the Board positions, or suggest something you would like to do or a committee you might like to join. Your commitment is for one year only, but you certainly can run again.

Contemplation is free, and so was this public domain image.

ARCI Swap Meet

Also at the meeting, I will give a report on the ARCI meet held in Addison. IL (Chicago area). They are making changes this year, so you will hear my opinion of those, which may offer insight for our next meet on October 18th.

Donation Auction

As usual, we will end our meeting with the auction of items that members bring in or have otherwise been donated to the club for fundraising. If you have something you don't need or think someone else might be able to use, bring it in for the auction. It's always a fun time.

See you at our meeting!

Jim Collings

Mark's Tech Talk

Mark McClellan, Marketing Director

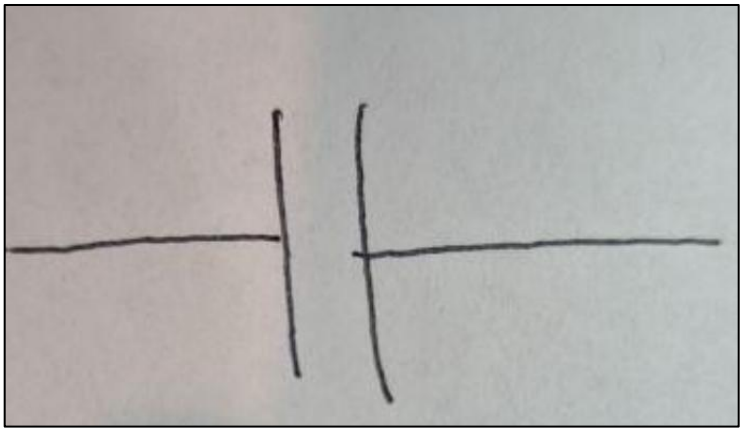
A Recap on Recapping

We've all heard the term "recapping" when it comes to vintage radios, but what does that really mean and when is it necessary? In general, recapping means replacing the old capacitors in a radio. Do we replace ALL of them, or just some of them? How do we know which ones need replacing?

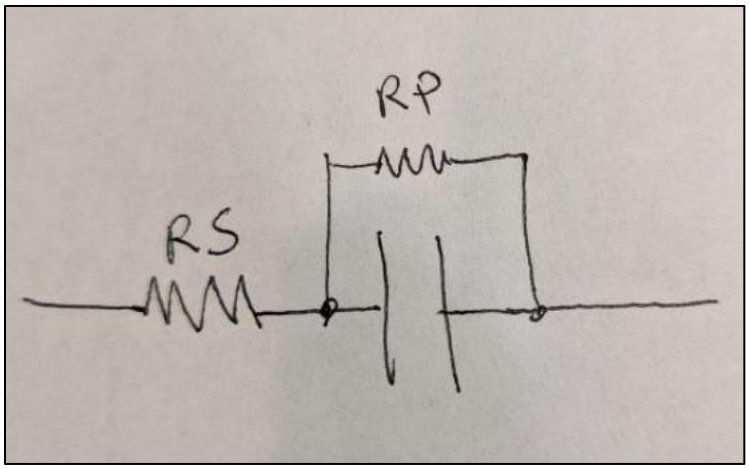
First, some background information: A capacitor is simply two conductors separated by a dielectric layer. The conductors can be metal plates, foil, or a metal film deposited on the dielectric. The dielectric (essentially an electrical insulator) is non-conductive electrically, and can be air (like in tuning capacitors), paper, ceramic, mica, mylar and similar plastics, as well as a chemical paste as found in electrolytic capacitors. The value (capacitance) of a capacitor is determined by the area of the conductors (more area = higher capacitance), the distance between conductors (closer = higher capacitance), and the properties of the dielectric material.

The magic of the capacitor is that when you put a DC voltage across it, the electrons on one of the conductors repel the electrons on the other conductor and the capacitor "charges" much like a battery. Current appears to flow through the capacitor as it's charging and then drops off once it reaches its capacity. If you remove the voltage, the capacitor will hold its charge until you release the energy through an electrical circuit or by shorting the leads. If you put an AC voltage across a capacitor it will constantly charge and discharge due to the constantly changing voltage, so it appears that the capacitor is conducting the

AC. In summary, a capacitor can store electrical energy, it will block the flow of DC (once it's charged), and it will pass AC. Here is the symbol for a perfect capacitor. As you can see in the image below, there's no path for DC to cross between the plates.



But a real-world capacitor isn't perfect. Some DC can flow through it (called leakage), which is represented by the parallel resistor RP in the following image. Think of it like a leak in a tire: a small leak is no big deal, but a big leak is a serious problem. Also, the capacitor will have some internal resistance, which is represented by the series resistor RS. That's like a kink in the water hose keeping the water from flowing fully. New stock capacitors have very low leakage (RP is really high) and very low series resistance (RP is really low).

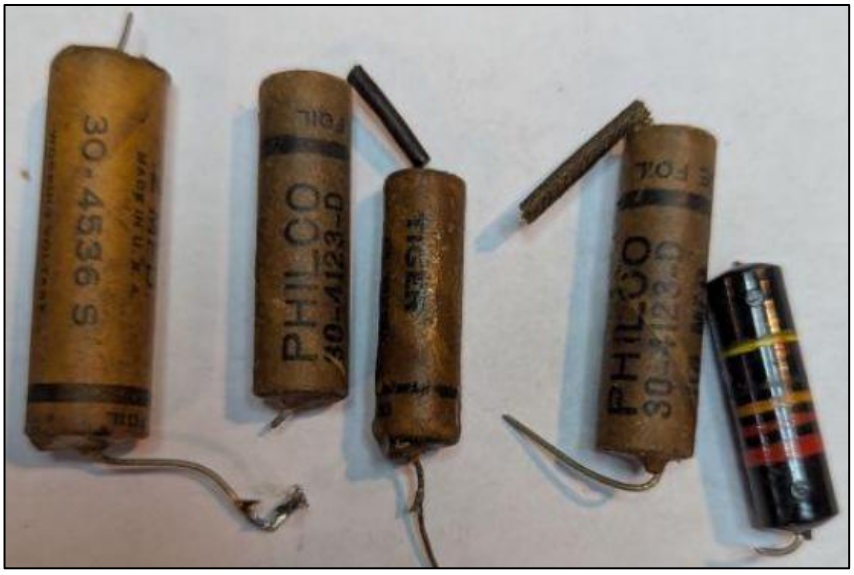


Certain types of capacitors, as they age, will gradually see an increase in leakage and/or an increase in series resistance which will ultimately lead to problems with the functioning of your radio, and can even lead to damage to other components such as tubes and transformers.

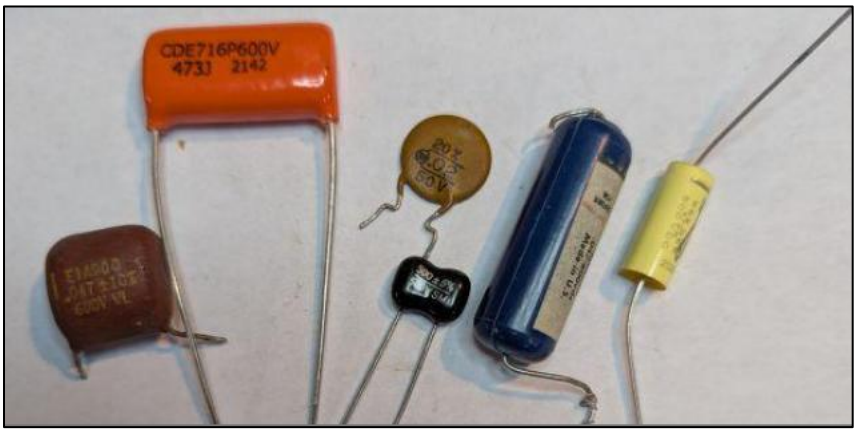
Here are the bad actors which generally need to be replaced:

- Electrolytic capacitors: These come in many form factors, but in vintage radios are usually mounted on the top of the chassis in aluminum cans. Also, sometimes under the chassis in cardboard tubes. The electrolyte in these capacitors degrades over time causing leakage and high series resistance. Electrolytics are used as power supply filters and bypass capacitors so they are critical to the operation of the radio. Symptoms of bad lectrolytics in the power supply will cause loud humming, and the excess current flow from leakage can damage rectifier tubes and power transformers. Always replace. You can leave the original cans on the chassis to maintain the original appearance and mount the much smaller replacements under the chassis on terminal strips.

- Foil/paper capacitors: These are the most common capacitors in vintage radios and are easily identifiable by their tubular shape and the wax coating. The paper dielectric degrades over time due to moisture absorption and erosion from natural acids in the paper causing a severe increase in leakage. Sometimes foil/paper capacitors are encased in plastic and look more like film capacitors (see image below), but don't let that fool you. A Google search of the brand will usually let you know if they are foil/paper or film types. Other hidden foil paper types are the tar potted capacitors such as in the Philco Bakelite blocks and in even older radios. Many of the capacitors are tar potted in a large metal can. Always replace! They leak like crazy and can cause tubes to draw too much current causing premature tube burn out and distorted sound.



What can we ignore? Mica, ceramic discs, tubular ceramics, and film capacitors are almost always good and don't generally need to be replaced. (See image on following page.) These capacitors age very well and don't exhibit any problems with leakage or series resistance.



Hope this Recap on Recapping information helps you next time you need to consider whether and/or how to recap a receiver.

Mark McClellan

"Charles, do you think we should have someone take a look at the radio? I can't hear a darn thing on it."

"No, Mary. I am sure it will work fine once you stop rocking on the cord."

Secretary's Report

Jim Tyrrell, Secretary

July, the high point of summer is almost over, fall will be upon us before you know it. I celebrated the Four of July attending the Edmond Liberty Fest parade in downtown Edmond (see image to right from the Liberty Fest website), which was great despite a bit of rain on the parade at times, and watched the fireworks at Hafer Park that night. The next day I enjoyed a great barbeque and pool party at a friend's home in Choctaw. A great weekend for sure.

A week later, it was time for our regular second Saturday of the month OKVRC club dinner and meeting at the Golden Corral Buffet. We had a modest turn out of about ten members; the crowds at the restaurant were a bit smaller too. I think folks might have been a bit exhausted from the festivities of the previous weekend, or were busy battling the flooding. As for me, I never miss an OKCVRC meeting unless absolutely necessary. Good food, good friends and antique radios. What's not to like?

After dinner, Club president Jim Collings called the meeting to order, and brought us up to date on upcoming events and club business. He told us about the upcoming meet for the Chicago club, the Antique Radio Club of Illinois. He is going, so I'm looking forward to hearing his report on the ARCI meet at next month's meeting (and hopefully in our September newsletter, too).

For a few months now, we have been working our way through the alphabet, bringing in radios and radio-related items whose brand names or manufacturer begin with a different letter each month. In our July meeting, we were up to the letter *H*. There are not a lot of items under that letter of the alphabet except for Hallicrafters in the classic Morgan McMahon radio book, but out club members managed to bring in some interesting items to share with the group.

Jim Collings brought in a very cool contemporary item, a Hypersonic AM-FM-Cassette radio in a clear plastic cabinet with neon lighting. A lot of fun to look at and listen to. I assume it was made some time in the eighties. Radios don't have to be ancient to be fun and collectable! Jim also showed us a Hertzite crystal box and a Cymex brand galena crystal, both from the early twenties; a Howe crystal receiver from 1924; and a Holtzer-Cabot phono adaptor for use with Bose equipment.

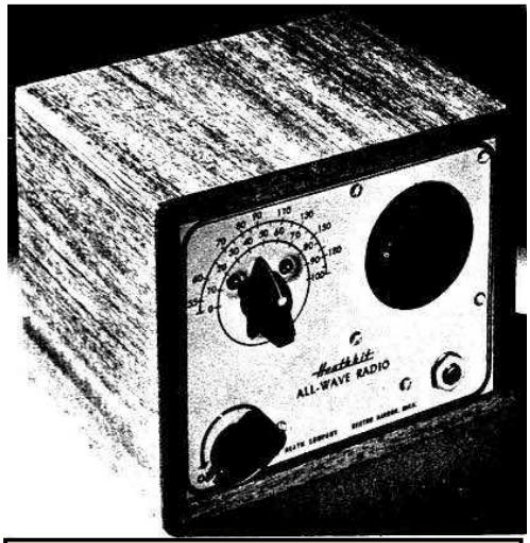


Figure 1: The Heathkit K-1: 3-Tube All Wave Receiver shown with optional mahogany cabinet that became available after January 1949 (Heath Co. photo)

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I was hoping someone would bring in something from Heathkit. While I built a couple of cheaper Radio Shack kits sold under the Archer brand name, I could never afford anything from the Heathkit line as a kid. Jim brought in one of Heathkit's first items, a three-tube amplifier, the K1 model. Don't remember anything with tubes in any of the Heathkit catalogs I used to look at when I was young! The image to left is from the Internet archive at the web address shown below:

https://web.archive.org/web/20180508140913/https://www.w6ze.org/Heathkit/Heathkit_080_K1.pdf

Your club secretary brought in another Hallicrafters item, a model TW-2000 multiband portable receiver, one of many large multiband portables brought out in the fifties to compete with the popular Zenith Transoceanic line. To the left is an image of the TW-2000, but since there were no photos available of the July meeting, this image to the right is of one taken from an Ebay listing to give you an idea of what the Hallicrafters TW-2000 looks like.

We finished up our night with the usual donation auction. A couple of boxes of parts, and some Sam's Photofact folders were about all we had; everything went for a buck or was given away.

Thanks to everyone who came. See you next month!

Jim Tyrrell

The image to the right is not Jim Tyrrell, but you get the idea. Right? The image is from: https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3b39715/.

V.P.'s Voice

Dorothy Cady, Vice-President

A Woman Pioneer of the Radio Industry

Shown in the following photo, Mary Texanna Loomis was born on a homestead in Texas on August 18, 1880, but from 1883 was raised in a middle-class lifestyle in Buffalo New York. She was well-schooled, interested in music and languages (including mastering French, German, and Italian); and had an enthusiasm for sports that included: swimming, skating, and horseback riding. She became a talented soprano and sketch artist, and thanks to her grandfather's influence and attention, became skilled with various tools and mechanical devices, which developed into an interest in science and the new tools of the industrial age.

Mary Texana Loomis with her radio apparatus in the Loomis Radio College, Washington, DC.

During World War One, Loomis was a Red Cross volunteer and a secretary in a wireless school. Thanks to her cousin, Dr. Mahlon Loomis, who was the first person to both send and receive wireless signals, she mastered wireless telegraphy and earned a U.S. Department of Commerce license in 1919.
In 1920, after the armistice of WW1, she founded the Loomis Radio College in Washington where she was a lecturer and wireless teacher of radio operation and engineering. She also authored Radio Theory and Operating, today regarded as a classic of early radio technical literature, and was a member of the Institute of Radio Engineers. She earned a reputation for setting high standards for students, and thus also attracted students to her radio college from the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Library of Congress photo of the Loomis Radio College.

The depression in 1929 was hard on the nation and on the Loomis Radio College; so too was the competition it had from the Capitol Radio Institute, which opened in 1932. Despite Loomis' best efforts, by February of 1933, the college was out of business.

Within a few years, Loomis moved to San Francisco and listed (likely in the 1940 census) her occupation as a stenographer. She passed away on June 7, 1960. Even today, radio collectors and enthusiasts have much to thank Loomis for when it comes to radio. She certainly deserves to be remembered and respected.

Resources/Research

Resources/research for this article includes the following websites, if you want to read more about Mary Texana Loomis.

- http://www.theradiohistorian.org/loomis/loomis.html
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Texanna_Loomis
- https://loc.getarchive.net/topics/loomis+mary+texanna
- https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6679388M/Radio_theory_and_operating

Dorothy Cady

HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REST YOUR EYES FROM ALL THIS READING.

Birthday Wishes

In poems that you may read about the month of August, change is in the air, and there is a feeling that summer is waning. But for the lucky folk born in August, another year is just beginning. So have a very joyous birthday and another wonderful year!

Classifieds

- Custom Laser Printing OFFERED by Rick at Black85vette@gmail.com
- Radio Repair and Restoration, and Radio AM Transmitters OFFERED by Ray and Dorothy Cady at 405-820-8014 or cadyraymond1@gmail.com
- Briggs & Stratton (BASCO) radio items WANTED by Dale Boyce at radioman.boyce.dale@gmail.com or call (414) 840-4146
- Tube and Tube-type Amplifiers WANTED by Jim Collings at (405) 755-4139 or we find our radiojrcradio@cox.net
- Old Comics WANTED by Dan Giddings, PO Box 3961, Glendale, CA 91221

About OKVRC

Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) publishes the Broadcast News to share historical information, and provide education and 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 the newsletter publisher at: cadyraymond1@gmail.com, or mail it to: OKVRC Newsletter Publisher, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK 73140.

Unless otherwise noted, articles may be reprinted freely, as long as proper credit and reference are given. An electronic copy of most articles can be obtained from the OKVRC Newsletter Publisher.

OKVRC is open to exchanging monthly newsletters with other non-profit radio organizations. If your organization is interested in an exchange, contact the OKVRC Newsletter Publisher.

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Membership

You're invited to join us in our celebration of Vintage Radio by attending and signing up at a meeting or swap meet, or by mailing your Name, Address, Email Address and phone number to: Secretary, OKVRC, PO BOX 50625, Midwest City, OK, 73140. Free membership in 2025.