

SOUND WAVES

VRPS OCTOBER 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I begin this column with a bit of thanks to our Vice-President, Randy James. He and Jeannine had been planning to attend Radiofest, the Antique Radio Club of Illinois (ARCI) meet in Willowbrook, Illinois, in early August. On several occasions he had approached me about going as well. "You need a vacation," he would say. He was right, and I knew it. Beverly and I had not had a real escape from moving and house building in 4 years. Even worse, after having attended the ARCI meet every year from 1981 to 2002, I was definitely having withdrawal pains. I needed to go to a national radio meet and did not think I could wait until November for our own VRPS convention. Long story short, Beverly and I made the trip. It was wonderful. Weather was excellent. So many friends and familiar faces I had not seen in years. It was made even better when we discovered other club members there as well. Ed and Lois Janssen, Tom and Barbara Burgess, David Spivey, Barry McDaniel, Jim Collings, and, of course, Randy and Jeannine. Highlights of the ARCI event included the large outdoor flea market, great contest entries, seminars, and a special display area dedicated to Atwater Kent manufactured products. That was a wonderful display of rare consoles, advertising pieces, breadboards, and automotive parts. My hats off to

Dave Bart, President of ARCI, and his crew of dedicated workers for a really great show. For details and great photos from Radiofest go to their website at www.antique-radios.org/. All of this talk about radio conventions leads me to remind each of you that your Directors have been working hard to insure the upcoming November VRPS convention, our 36th, will be a hit as well. Following the format from previous years, you will find your registration packet with this mailing. I encourage you to register early and avoid the last minute rush. Of course we are always looking for volunteers to man the various events, including the auction (some folks have already stepped forward), the contest area and judging, and the silent auction area, etc. Contact me or one of the Directors if you are willing to help. Many of you return year after year to this annual event. Others of you have never made the trek to Mesquite, Texas, to attend. I will give you the same encouragement that Randy gave me, "you need a vacation!" See you there!

I am never above stealing a good idea when it comes to our radio club. Our friends in the HVRA have for years posted pictures of special items slated for the auction block at their Mega and convention auctions. If you have special items you will be bringing to the auction in November, and you want a little pre-advertising, send Mike Grimes pictures, and he will see that they get posted on our website for all to see before auction time.

This is a reminder that the annual dues are \$20.00 USA and \$22.50 all others and always expire on November 1.

Jim

INTERNET SECURITY

Patrick Jankowiak

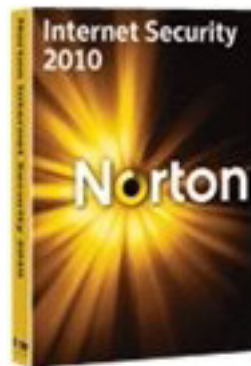
Part !

The most important principle to remember is this: Nothing is Free. Facebook, Google, and 99.9% of the rest, are not “free”. They cost money to run and to use. You “pay” by allowing websites to track your online activities. Cookies, Flash, and JavaScript are the tools that make this happen. You don’t have to pay with your privacy.

Cookies: It works like this: As you use websites, small encoded files called “cookies” are placed on your computer as part of the usual browser communication process. Cookies can temporarily store your login for a banking session, which is good. Cookies can also persistently store a record of every website you have ever visited and exactly what you did there. Any website can read all of your PC’s persistent cookies.

There are two kinds of cookies: regular “cookies” and “LSOs” a.k.a. “Flash Cookies”. Regular cookies are easily deleted but not LSOs. They are huge, persistent, and are hidden from you. Adobe is responsible for these insidious Flash Cookies and tried to keep them secret from the public.

JavaScript: When you visit a site, it may download a small file to your computer called a java script. These are small programs that run silently on your computer. They can slow down the computer. Some help make website menus work or load flash movies (and LSOs). Others are part of a visitor tracking system or cause pop-up advertisements. Some scripts are malicious and can allow a third party to secretly use your computer for crime.



Terms and Conditions (T&C):

Whenever you share something on a website, be aware that the terms and conditions of the website may give

the site owner (and all of his friends) rights to reproduce, perform, and distribute your work. In some cases, T&C may refer to another T&C document that is located elsewhere.

This is called “incorporation by reference”. Always find that other document and read it too.

Privacy Policies: Always read the privacy policy carefully. In some cases, a site may collect and use likeness, name, and e-mail to sell or share. If the privacy policy is only referred to in the T&C, (“incorporated by reference”), then find out where it is, usually buried on the parent corporation’s website, and read it. If a site does not explicitly show you the privacy policy, ask yourself what they are hiding.

Helpful Programs: MVPS Hosts is a free installer that runs once and places a “hosts” file on your computer that tells your computer to “ignore” most advertising servers on the Internet. It consumes no PC resources. It is free here: <http://www.mvps.org> Why is it free? They don’t like ads either.

Anti-virus and Firewall Programs: There are many “free” anti-spyware, anti-virus, etc. programs. Beware that some sites offering these are not legitimate and will claim you have viruses and demand money to remove them. Just be careful. I have been using “Avast” antivirus and “ZoneAlarm” personal firewall for over two years. Both are free for home use and work well. Your mileage may vary.

E-Mail: The network of criminals comprise a multi billion-dollar business. We have all seen the “phishing” e-mails from the bank asking us to log in and confirm an account, and messages offering free money. Just opening one of these can spell infection and disaster. Don’t ever open strange mail. Just delete it.

Search Engines: Many search engines will work without JavaScript or Flash. In that manner, they are as anonymous as they will ever be. Google.com and Altavista.com function well that way.

(Part 2 on Page 3)

Part 2: Control of your Private Internet Experience

In this part, I'll show how using a versatile web browser can help protect your computer and your privacy online. Remember the first principle: Nothing Is Free.

Web Browsers:

Control or be controlled. It is up to the User to take control of almost every aspect of the "user experience". When another entity besides the user controls the "user experience", it leads to annoyances and violations of privacy. No matter which browser is used, some privacy is always lost. For basic control of cookies, a couple of settings should be invoked in almost any browser.

1: forbid third party cookies

2: delete all cookies when the browser is closed.

Mozilla Firefox: This browser is dedicated to a detailed set of controls being in the User's hands. It is "open source", meaning that its programming code is not kept secret; nothing is hidden. Why is it good if it is free? Programmers who prefer that the user control the experience write it. They write and maintain it because they want to be free, and share it as a courtesy and to encourage other programmers to make improvements. www.mozilla.com

Opera: It's a very convenient and functional browser. After reading the privacy policy, I decided not to use it. www.opera.com

Chrome: This is one from Google and it works well, but Google is in the business of collecting, analyzing, and selling massive amounts of information. No thanks. www.google.com

Internet Explorer: This is a top quality browser, but leaves little room for the User to fine-tune anything other than very superficial aspects. www.microsoft.com

There are over 20 browsers from which to choose.

I believe Mozilla Firefox is most likely to help a User

take control and here are a few suggestions to help with the annoyances from the previous article. These are the Mozilla "add-ons".

All of the add-ons are categorized for easy decision making. Searching for "privacy" or "cookies" will find what you need. Some have overlapping functions. Choose what seems best for you from mozilla.com. The following ones do a great deal for improving privacy.

NoScript: Whenever a website wants to run a script, it will show a little icon at the bottom of the window. Clicking on that opens a list of scripts to "allow" or "forbid". Once you set them, they are remembered. An example would be: "allow VRPS.org" and "forbid web-tracker.com". You can browse to any of those sites that NoScript cites and see what it is about, then decide.

Better Privacy: This one finds and stops LSOs since browsers alone are unable to do that for you.

TACO: "Targeted Advertising Cookie Opt-Out" prevents over 100 different online advertising networks from displaying targeted advertisements. You see how you are being tracked at every website.

Many people are attached to one browser or another. Which browser to use is ultimately best decided by the individual. All of these measures may at first seem inconvenient and distracting. Just like there is a price to be paid for freedom, there is a balance to be struck between convenience and security on the Internet.



MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

NOTE: Programs will be held at various locations in Irving, Texas. Make note of the location as they will change from time to time. Senter East, 228 Chamberlain St.; Garden and Arts, 906 S Senter Rd; and Jaycee Center for the Arts, 2000 W. Airport Freeway will be the locations.. Refer to the WEB site. Programs start at 2pm. unless otherwise noted. Call us on the cell tellie if you get lost: 972-898-7251 or 972-742-8085.

OCTOBER 16, 2010 (SENER EAST BLDG)



“On the Air” will be the subject of the program. We will view classic radio videos illustrating how radio shows were put together and brought to the listener. Please bring items which you may wish to share having to do with getting a vintage radio show “on the air.” This would include such items as mics, tubes, sound effects, transcriptions, etc.

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2010 (HAMPTON INN, MESQUITE, TX)

Annual VRPS Convention: Auctions, Contest, Flea Market, Banquet. See enclosed brochure for details.

DECEMBER 4, 2010 (JAYCEE CENTER for the ARTS)

Annual Christmas Party. 5pm to 11pm.



JANUARY 15, 2011 (LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED)

OSCILLOSCOPES: what they do, how they work, and some practical applications to radio restoration, will be presented by our own Patrick Jankowiak. A slide presentation with equipment/radio demos will be used to explain the subject. The “magic” of the oscilloscope should be of interest to all.



Programs are subject to change, contingent on scheduling conflicts. As always, your suggestions for programs/content are welcome. If the programs do not fit your needs and you want something different, let me know. I need volunteers to organize other programs, so consider presenting a program yourself. Call me anytime or send me an email. Mike Grimes 972-898-7251 (cell), or k5mlg@verizon.net.

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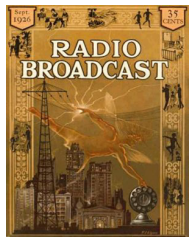
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NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER, 2010 MEETING

Once again we met at the Heritage Park Building on Main St. in Irving, TX. President Jim Sargent urged us to register for the 2010 Convention in November and to make our hotel reservations. He also announced that our website has been brought up to a much more effective status and that we can get classified ads with pictures posted on the site. (There is a link on the website to access an on-line ad form.) This service could



provide more exposure for our high-end items, although the November auctions may be the best place for that. Jim mentioned that our after-dinner speaker for the Convention banquet will be Eddy Robinson who will speak about baseball in the early days of radio. He will speak from

direct experience, since he has been around for 90 years! Our October meeting will be at the Senter East location, and we will learn more about radio broadcasting from a DVD titled "ON THE AIR". Jim introduced Program Director Mike Grimes.

Mike said to bring broadcast-radio related items to the October meeting for show-and-tell, e.g. radios that are in the form of baseballs or transcription-related items. He also talked about our website improvements, which are numerous (take a look!). He also requested ideas for future programs. He then introduced our program presenter Mike McCarty, who presented us with more knowledge about vacuum tubes.

Many of us remember Mike's earlier presentation where he familiarized us with many of the different tube configurations and their properties, from triodes to heptodes and beyond, and also "The Vacuum Tube Revisited", program recently presented by Kurt Ehrlich.

First, Mike discussed tube testing and the various types of testers, and just what it is they measure in determining that a tube is good or bad. The best ones actually test for the tube's ability to amplify a signal, whereas the simplest ones check only total emission levels. In any case, he said,

the business of matching tubes for stereo and hi-fi applications is not necessarily done well by either type. That process is best done within the actual equipment where the tube is used. For his presentation, Mike had brought a complete setup for measuring voltages and currents to quantify the actual performance of a particular triode vacuum tube. He had chosen a tube for which he was able to bring along the manufacturer's design data, including the various plots and charts that are normally supplied for designers of vacuum tube circuits. His setup included a set of meters needed to read each of the data points, and adjustable power supplies for the plate, grid, and tube heater. Prior to using the setup, Mike discussed the different properties of the tube that would be determined from the measurements to be taken - the simple equations that define μ , G_m and R_p . He referenced a book that has proven to be a very good reference for him (see Mike's Note).

Using his setup, Mike took voltage and current readings for variations of plate voltage, grid voltage and plate current and tabulated them for later analysis. He described the set of three relationships between grid voltage, plate current and plate voltage as slices taken through a three-dimensional graph, with each test condition equivalent to the readings obtained in the plane of the slice. Once the data was obtained, the values for μ , G_m and R_p for the tube were

calculated, based on their analytic relationships.

The results compared very well with the manufacturer's specifications! Mike discussed the fact that only the internal plate resistance is part of the picture, as far as the tube properties - it's up to



the designer to choose how much to use as an external "plate resistance" in the circuit design. The effect of external resistance is included in a so-called "load-line" that is used for design purposes. He also explained why G_m is not generally a very useful factor for triode vacuum tubes.

Author's Note: Mike's presentation reminded me of a day I sat in a college electronics course and the professor hit us with a "pop quiz". We were to determine a load-line for a triode vacuum tube amplifier stage. Something I didn't learn in that college course was that Mu is determined only by the physical dimensions of the parts of any particular tube, to my surprise – something I just now learned from Mike.

Mike's Note: The book is "Vacuum-tube and Semiconductor Electronics" by Jacob Millman, Ph.D., Professor of Electrical Engineering, Columbia University, copyright 1958, part of the McGraw-Hill Electrical and Electronic Engineering Series. That series is an excellent set of University level texts, and any time I come across one at a used book shop that I don't already have, I purchase it.

Bill McKeown

WATCH THE WEB SITE FOR PHOTOS AND DETAILS FROM JIM SARGENT'S AUCTION BACK IN JULY 2010. THIS AUCTION INCLUDED ITEMS FROM JOHN BRYANT'S (the author of the books on Zenith TransOceanic radios) AS WELL AS OTHER ESTATES.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

This year we will be having a special exhibit on display at the Convention for everyone's viewing enjoyment. Since we will be having baseball legend Eddie Robinson as a speaker at the Banquet, we would like to have an exhibit of radio-related baseball items. If you have any of these items and would like to display them, please contact Jim Sargent or Randy James (contact info is elsewhere in this issue). We hope to make the idea of a special exhibit an annual Convention event

Paul Rogers will be accompanying Eddie Robinson at the Banquet and will assist in the presentation. Below is a bio on Paul.

The former Dean of the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University (1988-97), Paul is Professor of Law at SMU and of counsel to the firm of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell where he specializes in antitrust law. At SMU, Paul has served as the university's faculty athletic representative, reporting directly to the university president, since 1987.

Paul has co-authored four baseball books, two with Hall of Fame pitcher Robin Roberts, *The Whiz Kids & the 1950 Pennant*, (Temple University Press: 1996) and *My Life in Baseball* (Triumph Books: 2003) and another with Bill Werber titled *Memories of a Ballplayer: Bill Werber and Baseball in the 1930s* (SABR: 2001). His forthcoming book is with Eddie Robinson and is titled *Lucky Me - My 65 Years in Baseball*. It will be published by the SMU Press in early 2011. Paul has also published articles and book reviews on baseball and sports history in *The National Pastime*, *Elysian Fields Quarterly*, *Spitball: The Literary Baseball Magazine*, *Nine: A Journal of Baseball History*, *Legacies*, *Texas Total Baseball* and many other publications. He has also served as president of the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) since 2000 and is on the Selection Committee for the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame. He was the first chair of SABR's Deadball Committee's annual Larry Ritter Award for the best baseball book each year devoted to the Deadball Era (1900-20). He served on the Advisory Committee for the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum's special Texas Baseball exhibit in 2003-04.

Paul was managing partner of the Highland Park Blue Sox of the Texas Collegiate League, a summer wood bat college league for premier professional baseball prospects from colleges throughout America, from 2004-06. He has a BA and a JD from the University of Texas at Austin and an LLM from Columbia University.

