

# SOUND WAVES

Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society, Inc.

January 2009

## From the President.....

Jim Sargent

Incredibly, another year has come and gone. Seems only a few months ago I was welcoming in 2008. Now the clock is ticking on 2009 and there is not much we can do about that, except enjoy it. As we do annually, in early January your directors will begin to look at our successes and opportunities coming out of the previous year. We had a full plate in 2008, with monthly meetings, auctions, swap meets, a repair session, and convention, we did it all. I suspect you can look forward to a repeat of our busy ways in 2009. Mike Grimes has already made plans for monthly programs to whet your interest. You will want to make these monthly meetings, they are informative and a great way to share knowledge and deepen your passion for the hobby.

Regarding 2009, we may find it necessary to make a few changes, albeit, none that are too taxing on us or the hobby. Expenses continue to eat into our bank account. While we are still quite solvent, we do anticipate the need to bolster our account to keep up with rising expenses. To continue our quality auctions, we will be discussing whether or not it is time to increase the



percentage we charge the buyer to sell an item. We have been at 10% for 35 years. To meet our financial commitments in signing contracts for auction locations, it may be time to start charging 15%. This is still well below the national average auctioneers charge to provide an outlet for your sales and purchases. While none of us like nor want these increases, we might find them necessary. Another option might be to initiate putting a small buyers premium on the sale of items at our auction, say 5%. Obviously, nothing is firm yet, but we will let you know. We will not take these or any changes lightly, but will keep in mind the good of the organization as a whole. Some of you were in attendance at our convention banquet and were present as we used the opportunity to congratulate our patriarch, Chevie Crandell, on the occasion of his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Not too many folks can say they have been sung happy birthday to with the accompaniment of a Theremin. Thanks to all who attended. Sadly, I also report the recent passing of two long time members, Jerry Hall and Ed Adrion. You can read more about them elsewhere in this issue. Until next time, good hunting.



Cleo Cherryholmes, Herbert Haas, and Jim Sargent help Chevie Crandell celebrate his 95th birthday at this year's awards banquet.



Original RCA Theremins are rare but we were fortunate to have two at this year's convention. This working model was Mary Murray's first place winner in the contest. The other belonged to Chevie Crandell.



David Moore's excellent collection of Radiola radios and items was the winner of Best of Show and People's Choice awards in this year's Old Equipment Contest.

## NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER 18, 2008 MEETING

There was a good turnout for our meeting and program, which was dedicated almost entirely to phonographs. At first, however, there was discussion about the radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds", it being near the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Orson Welles' Oct 30, 1938 famous (or infamous) broadcast. It was interesting to learn that subsequent re-broadcasts were also taken very seriously by listeners, causing widespread panic – one in 1949 in Quito, Ecuador (where 3 people were killed) and still another in 1998 in Lisbon, Portugal on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The New Jersey Antique Radio Club provided antique radios for re-enactments of the broadcast at the RCA David Sarnoff Library in 2005 and 2007. (The library website is an interesting place to explore). It is interesting that a Theremin was used during the broadcasts. Jim Sargent discussed our upcoming November annual convention and that Chevy Crandell would be bringing his original RCA Theremin. He also reminded us of the upcoming January program on the functions of each part found in the typical AA5 superhet radio.

Mike Grimes introduced the program for the meeting, shared by Gary Reeves and George Potter. They had brought a variety of phonographs and related items, and members had also brought a few of their own. They gave pointers as to what to look for in phonographs, including things to be wary of. Gary has only recently become an avid collector and has mostly acquired Columbia machines. We learned that the name "phonograph" was patented by Edison and that Gramophone was used in Europe. Gary demonstrated a triple-spring Columbia for us, using a 1904 record. He then played a STANDARD Model A with a very humorous disc record titled "They Gotta Quit Kickin' my Dog Around". He showed us a Columbia "Oxford Jr.", and he also noted that the horns on early machines were sometimes aftermarket units offered by Sears and others. In general, the bigger, the better, producing increased loudness. Because the horns were a separate item, there it is not generally important that it be original. The sound quality varied also, with wooden horns providing a little softer sound. George and Gary discussed the cylinders used with the early phonographs. Edison stubbornly adhered to producing them up until 1929, even though people had quit buying the cylinder machines well before that. Of course the cylinder-type machine still lived on in Edison's Dictaphone transcrip-

tion machine (they are still seen, occasionally). We were reminded of the delicate nature of the old cylinders and their different types. One needs to be careful to not split them by installing them on the tapered mandrel with only enough force to make them barely snug. (There is a so-called "indestructible" type that has steel bands on the ends). We learned that there wasn't a real standard RPM (78) until 1925 and that the speed was dependent on what best suited the subject, e.g. individual Caruso records were to be played at speeds varying from 60 to 80 RPM. There was discussion about accessory items and collectibles such as needle tins, needles, record brushes, needle sharpeners, etc. Gary showed a package of "Osage Orange" needles (see note below). Materials are still available from several sources. For cabinet refinishing, Mohawk products are very good. One of our members, Rick Wilkins, is a good source of parts and an expert at repairs of all types, including reproducers and motors.

Some members discussed the items they had brought. Les Sims showed a MICKYPHONE phonograph from the '30s. He also displayed an extremely compact machine that breaks down into a cylindrical package that is only 4 inches diameter and 1-1/2 inches thick, winding with a key. Maybe it is the world's smallest mechanical phonograph. Also very small is the more modern (1980s) novelty phonograph he demonstrated. It takes the form of a Japanese-made toy VW Microbus "SOUNDWAGON" about 4 inches long. It is battery powered and plays a 33 RPM record by driving around and around the record while tracking the groove and delivering sound out of the small holes in its roof. It tracks the groove by the pickup arm steering a small wheel underneath. Ben Hong showed a child's battery-powered phonograph that runs on 4 "C" batteries. The author showed a small "Stewart" all-metal record player from the '30s and played the novelty comic record "Right in Der Fuhrer's Face" from during the world war II years.

Author's notes: I have some records that were family entertainment in the '20s when my father was growing up. Because the phonograph was one of the few sources of entertainment, comic records were nearly as popular as musical ones. The Swedish comic Yorgy Yorgensen is featured on a couple of them – "Yingle Bells" is hilarious!

(continued on page 3)

## WINNERS OF THE 2008 CONVENTION OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST

The Best of Show and People's Choice awards were won by David Moore for his extensive Radiola display . This impressive collection included a Radiola VII, Radiola Grand ,WD-11 and UV199 tubes, ads and other ephemera.

The Founder's Award was won by Mary Caruth for her display of vintage radio related games and toys.

1. The winner for Crystal Receivers was Jim Collings for his Kenrad radio.
2. The winner for Battery Receivers was Bob Slagle for his New York Coil Company radio.
3. The winner for AC Table and Console Radios 1940 or Earlier was Robert Shindhelm for his Radiola 4-L.
4. The winner for AC/DC Type Tube Radios was Mike Grimes for his Majestic Melody Cruiser.
5. The winner for Transistor Radios Pre 1965 was Stan Baker for his GE P766A.
6. The winner for Phonographs and Accessories was won by Gary Reeves for his Columbia Little Music Machines.
7. The winner for Microphones and Reproducers was won by Jim Collings for his octagonal mahogany unit.
8. The winner for Novelty Radios was Bob Slagle for his Majestic Charlie McCarthy radio in black.
9. The winner in the Open Category was Mary Murray for her 1929 RCA Theremin.
10. The winner for Cathedral Radios was Bob Slagle for his Revere Patrician.
11. The winner for Vintage Tubes was Paul Tucker for his extensive display of tubes.
12. The winner for Radio-Phono Ephemera was Gary Reeves for his excellent display of Thomas Edison papers and items.
13. The winner for Character Radios was Cecil Miles for his 1983 Mattel Poochie .
14. The winner for Art Deco and Catalin was David Cox for his 1933 Stewart Warner Model 1261.
15. The winner for the Radiola category was David Moore.

(continued from page 2)

When I first began work after college, I used a Dictaphone machine for awhile to provide the secretary with my business letters. That was in 1954.

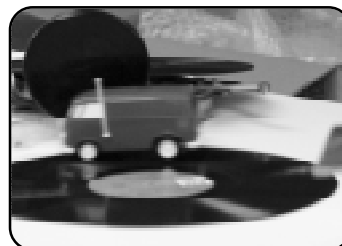
I have a packet of phonograph needles identified as "Genuine Mesquite". We are all aware of the thorns the young trees have here in Texas. The Osage Orange is known as the Beau-d'arc (French for "bow wood") tree here in the South, and they also have very large, stiff thorns, suitable for record playing.

I obtained a SOUNDWAGON on e-bay shortly after seeing Les's, and it is a real hit with people who see and hear it, as it was at our meeting.

Bill McKeown



Bill McKeown demonstrates a small phonograph he brought to the meeting.



Les Sims shows how his SOUNDWAGON works. It plays the record by going around the grooves instead of the record turning.

## 2009 MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

**NOTE:** Programs will be held at the Senter East Building; Irving, Texas, unless otherwise noted. Located in Senter Park, the actual address is 228 Chamberlain St. The park is bounded by S. Shady Grove, Senter Road, S. Delaware, and Chamberlain St. Refer to the WEB site if you get confused. Programs start at 2pm and are preceded by the swap meet at noon unless otherwise noted. Call us on the cell *tellie* if you get lost: 972-898-7251 or 972-742-8085.

### JANUARY 17

This month will be a technical session discussing the inner workings of the tube superheterodyne radio. Members Cleo Cherryholmes and Bill McKeown will explore the purpose of the components and how they work together to provide a functional section in a typical superheterodyne radio. A general discussion will follow.

### FEBRUARY 21

**A Free for All.** Please bring something you think would be of interest to discuss (or demonstrate) with the members of VRPS. It can be a new or old acquisition; anything related to radio, phonograph, electricity, history, or?.

### MARCH 21

**Spring Auction at the Grapevine Convention Center. 6am to 5pm.**

### APRIL 18

**Batteries** have always played an important roll for radio. Early receivers were completely dependent on batteries. This month we will review the functionality of the battery, how they work, and how they were replaced. A short video will introduce the program. If you have an interesting battery or battery eliminator, please bring it to show.

### MAY 16

**Spring Swap Meet.** 8am to 12 noon.

### JUNE 20

Our program presentation will be "the **Alignment** procedure of Superheterodyne receivers" by member Cleo Cherryholmes. An actual demonstration will be performed along with discussion of the necessary equipment and the process. Although some manufacturers' variation in circuitry looks different, the basic process can be followed. A few examples will be covered as well. General discussion will follow.

### JULY 18

**Annual Repair Session.** 8am to 12 noon. Bring your problem sets for our "experts" to help with repairs.

### AUGUST 15

**Summer Swap Meet.** 8am to 12 noon.

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) k5mlg@verizon.net (e-mail)



**VRPS SPRING AUCTION 2009  
MARCH 21, 2009  
GRAPEVINE CONVENTION CENTER  
1209 S. MAIN STREET  
GRAPEVINE, TEXAS  
7AM --5 PM**

**Baymont Inn**

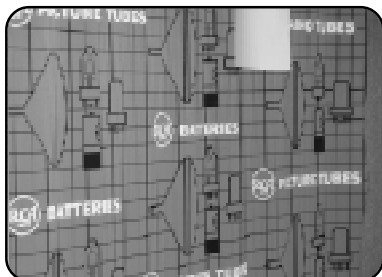
301 Capitol St  
Grapevine, TX 76051  
(817) 329-9300  
baymontinns.com

Don't forget the spring auction. If you need hotel reservations the phone numbers for some hotels are listed to the left, so don't delay, call today.

**Super 8**

250 E Hwy 114,  
Grapevine, TX  
(817) 329-7222

As Jim Sargent explained in his message on the front page, the VRPS's operating expenses have increased. To offset these increases your Board of Directors will discuss options at their annual meeting in January. One option would be to increase the percentage we charge the membership for auctions. This has not been decided yet, but be advised, we may increase the percentage charged to 15% (up from 10%).



This unusual Arkay bar-radio went for \$525.00.

Mary Caruth was the recipient of the Founder's Award for her display of vintage radio games and toys.



Two pictures of RCA items at the auction (with George Potter's head peeking over the top)



Paul Tucker's massive tube entry in the 2008 contest.

## NOTES FROM THE BENCH



Tips on Cleaning

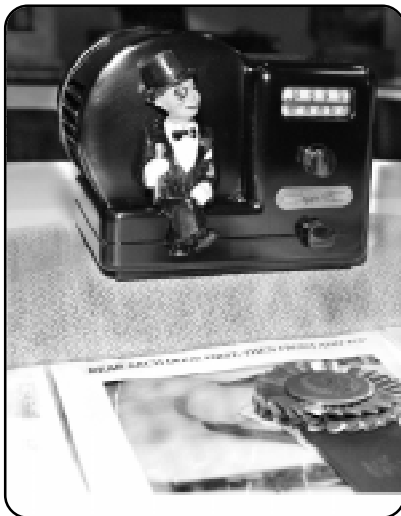
Mike McCarty

Bakelite is impervious to chemicals. Well, almost. Ammonia will attack it. And Windex(tm) as well as many other cleaners have ammonia in them. Using these cleaners on bakelite will dull the finish. The best cleaner is water.

But even water will dissolve many of the inks used to mark tuning dials and tubes. In fact, after WWII there was a brisk business of cleaning and reselling used tubes as new. As a consequence, many of the miniature or peanut tubes were marked with water soluble inks to prevent that practice.

So, be very careful when cleaning tubes. If you use any cleaner, be sure to use water first. When trying it, be sure to try an edge of an inked part where a missing mark will not make the tube unidentifiable.

The chassis is best cleaned with water and perseverance. If that doesn't work, then mild alkali is the next step. Use soap-less clear ammonia in water, diluted at least 50%. If that doesn't work, then try a mild acid like distilled white vinegar diluted again at least with an equal amount of water.



Bob Slagle's first place winning Majestic Charlie McCarthy radio was meticulously restored with documentation.

## OBITUARIES

We always hate to hear of friends who have passed away. However, I believe the Soundwaves is an appropriate outlet to let you know when these things happen. Please make note of these two members of our family that are no longer with us.

Blake Dietze writes concerning Gerald "Jerry" Hall who passed away just before Thanksgiving: Jerry became interested in antique radio collecting in the late 90's when his wife bought him an un-restored but complete 1930's 10-tube General Electric Console from my stock. Jerry's long time love of antique automobile restoration and prior family experience in a Radio/Television repair shop provided a perfect match for his new and renewed interest in antique radio collecting hobby.

Jerry's experience in auto body repair and painting was certainly evident in his radio cabinet refinishing; each was a work of art. Jerry was a retired Southwest Airlines pilot and enjoyed his hobby both in Dallas, TX and his second home in Florida. With his wife Shelia at his side, both enjoyed their VRPS family and radio collecting. Together they were constantly dragging home another treasure; I will miss him greatly and am privileged to have called him my friend.

Also, our condolences to Linda Adrion on the passing of her husband Ed.

Ed began showing up at our auctions and conventions in the 90's. He took a liking to the finer aspects of radios, particularly those that were pleasing to the eye. He was retired for the insurance business.

Following heart surgery last January, Ed just never fully recovered. He passed away this past August. I was privileged to talk with him on several occasions during the year and he was aware of his failing health condition. He made arrangements with me to disperse of his fine radio collection via auction. We will be honoring that request in late February of this year. See further details on page 8.



Boat anchors aweigh! From the auction- this National television.

### HOUSTON VINTAGE RADIO ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The Houston Vintage Radio Association will hold it's Annual Convention on January 30th & 31st, 2009 at the Greenspoint Marriot Hotel, 255 N. Sam Houston Parkway E., Houston, Texas. Call the Houston Marriott North at Greenspoint at 1-800-228-9290 or 281-875-4000 today and tell them you are with the Houston Vintage Radio Association.

Convention, Equipment Contest, Three Auctions, Banquet and Sunday Morning Swap Meet!  
The manufacturer's category for 2009 is Emerson.

FOR INFORMATION SEE THE WEB SITE AT  
[WWW.HVRA.ORG](http://WWW.HVRA.ORG)



Thank you for your interest in attending our event. We have worked hard to ensure that your experience is as fulfilling and enjoyable as possible. We are very pleased that you will be joining us and look forward to seeing you soon.

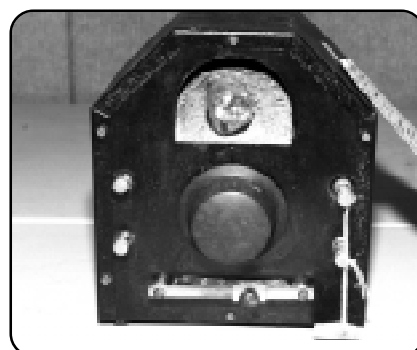
#### Pictures from the Christmas Party 2008



Eric Kirst enjoying a moment with Mike Sherman at the banquet.



Mike Grimes' first place winning Majestic Melody Cruiser



This unusual crystal radio was auctioned off.

SOUNDWAVES IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE  
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## Another Great Radio Auction

Saturday, February 28, 2009 – 10 am Central

at the VFW Hall, 509 W Main St  
Mesquite, TX 75149

Sale items include estate and consignment radios and accessories. This sale will offer a nice range from transistor to early battery, from cathedral to console, from AK to Zenith. Early phonographs, novelty and advertising items as well as a really nice Scott Philharmonic 30 tuber. Many nice HI-FI turntables, audio components, including McIntosh, Fisher, etc. Most items will be offered without reserve. Don't miss this sale!

Check the photo line up at [www.sargentauction.com](http://www.sargentauction.com) More items being added up to sale time. Pre-auction (starts at 9 am) for lesser quality items and parts will be conducted on site prior to and after "main event".

You may bid live for items in the "main event" auction via [www.NAAlive.com](http://www.NAAlive.com) Shipping services will be available or make your own arrangements for removal/pickup. All items will be sold "as is, where is". Preview of sale items available Friday, February 27, 4pm to 8pm and day of sale 8am to 10am.

Terms: Cash, check, Visa, Mastercard, and Discover

5% Buyers Premium for premises sales, 10% if sale via internet.

### Sargent Auction Service

Jim Sargent, WA5QBR – Auctioneer, TX license #16135

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