

SOUND WAVES

VRPS JANUARY 2011

When I was a kid, I used to think how quickly fun things like my summer vacations went by but now the days and weeks



are flying by at hyperspeed. It seems like only last week we were celebrating our 36th annual convention in Mesquite. Good attendance, good auction sales, great banquet. WOW! It was al-

most perfect. I will hit on the non-perfect part later. We picked up new members in 2010, and we lost some old friends. I received word last week that my old friend, Conrad Spivey, had passed away. Other old timers in the organization will remember Conrad in better days when his health would allow him to travel all over the country in search of that elusive old radio or phonograph.

By the time you read this, your Directors will have met to lay out our plans for 2011. Some really good ideas have already surfaced, and we plan to fine tune them in the next few weeks. I hope you and your families have had a great 2010, and may a prosperous and healthy 2011 be just the beginning for you. Let's look for ways to grow the organization and the hobby in 2011. Invite a friend to one of our entertaining and informative meetings. They will thank you. Now, I really hate to close on a sour note, but some things just cannot be sugar-coated. I mentioned earlier that our convention was a tremendous success in many ways. However, we did

have an unfortunate event that was extremely upsetting. Two phonograph reproducers and a small radio were apparently stolen by someone. We feel our fellow members are not just people who share our common interest but, more than that, our friends. Unfortunately, as we all know, any time you have a large group there is a likelihood that you will have a dishonest person or two. This kind of inexcusable behaviour can not be tolerated and I ask that anyone with knowledge of these thefts, including an Edison Opera type L reproducer, contact me directly. This issue and the prevention of a reoccurrence will be a major topic of discussion at the Director's meeting in early January. That being said, I really do look forward to a successful and rewarding 2011 for this organization.

Jim Sargent

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John Copeland; Grapevine, TX
Randy Buss; Kearney, NB
Eric Dickenson; Flower Mound, TX
Tom Forbes; Clayton, NC
Charles Knight; Beaumont, TX
Ricky Miller; Wake Village, TX
Jim Ray; Midwest City, OK
Steve Schnell; Sulphur Springs, TX
Dave Slusarczyk; Bossier City, LA
Robert Voss; Plano, TX

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. will be the locations.. Refer to the WEB site(www.vrps.org). Programs start at 2pm. with a swap meet before unless otherwise noted. Call us on the cell tellie if you get lost: 972-898-7251 or 972-742-8085.

JANUARY 15, 2011

Senter East Building

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.

FEBRUARY 19, 2011

Garden and Arts Building

Transistor applications and repair for radios of the 1950-60s will be presented by Dennis Brady. Many collections contain transistor radios of this era which need attention, and, although most of us are familiar with tube-type problems, we are not comfortable with an approach to transistor equipped radios. Dennis will address these issues from a practical view.

MARCH 19, 2011 Senter East Building
Spring Auction. Note the location. Doors open 6am.

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.

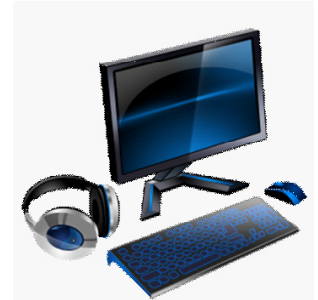


Meet Your VRPS Board of Directors
(left to right)
Blake Dietze, Mike Grimes, Mike McCarty,
Randy James, Ed Janssen, Gary Reeves, Jim
Sargent, Bill McKeown, George Potter, Cleo
Cherryholmes

Not pictured: Ron Daniel, Bill Jewell

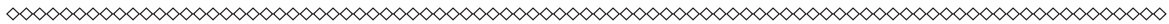
FROM THE VP

Be sure to check the web page (www.vrps.org) on a regular basis. We will be posting pictures from our auctions, meetings, and other items of interest. Several members have had problems accessing the roster on the web page. If you need a current roster contact Mike Grimes for instructions or contact me at randy-jeannine@sbcglobal.net and I will email a copy to you. Just a reminder-the dues are \$20.00 and always expire on Nov.1 of the current year. Look on your Soundwaves mailing label for the expiration date.



The Notes from the Bench column this month features a picture of me at my bench. Each issue we would like to post a picture of a different member at his/her bench. Email your pictures to me or mail a photo to me at 5544 Trail Lake Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76133. Hope to see you at the Spring Auction. Look elsewhere in this issue for details. Until then,keep on truckin' and collectin'.

Randy James



HOUSTON VINTAGE RADIO ASSOCIATION

32nd Annual Convention

February 4 and 5, 2011

Houston Marriott North at Greenspoint

255 North Sam Houston Pkwy. East

Reservations:

281-875-4000

800-266-9432

Sara Salinas: 800-875-8991

Internet Reservations:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/HoustonVintageRadio>

Three huge auctions- over 150 radios from the Bob Wood estate.

Technical Sessions

Old Equipment Contest - featured manufacturer is Stromberg-Carlson.

Awards Banquet

Check HVRA website for photos and details:

www.hvra.org

NOTES FROM THE BENCH

USE OF CAPACITORS TO REPLACE SERIES FILAMENT RESISTORS

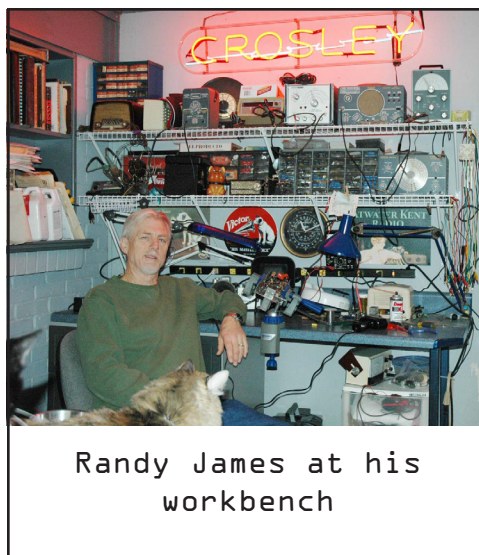
BY MIKE GRIMES

While restoring some of our prized radio acquisitions, often we encounter an AC/DC or battery/house mains set that requires dropping the line voltage to the series filament string. This set may specify a resistor line cord or a discrete resistor to accomplish the task. Line cord resistors are becoming more difficult to find in good condition. Besides, the line cord or resistor will be required to dissipate a great deal of heat, as much as 15-30 watts. This is a lot heat in a line cord or under the chassis (or cabinet) when used in what otherwise may be a small radio. In either case, the heat is not wanted and can cause dangerous safety or functional problems to the radio.

The usual practice is to replace a line cord resistor with a suitable discrete resistor under the chassis and tolerate the heat generated. Another solution is to use a diode-resistor combination. But this solution requires careful selection of the resistor, and limited for small voltage drops. The resistor will still generate heat depending on the additional voltage drop desired. The most elegant solution is to use a capacitor to drop the voltage to the required level (Figure 1). A capacitor can accomplish the line voltage drop with virtually no heat dissipated. The trick is to use the "right" capacitor. First, one cannot use an electrolytic or polarized capacitor. These will be a temptation as they are readily found in this range. Also, in addition, the capacitor must be rated in the 200+ volt AC range; 400+ volt DC is a good rule of thumb if the AC rating is not noted. Often small starting motor capacitors can be found for this application. Room for the capacitor(s) is the downside to this approach. To determine the capacitance requires some math. Generally, for most filament strings, the capacitance will

be between 6 and 8uF. Table 1 is supplied to give a good estimate for a starting point; it uses 300ma for the current and 120v for supplied voltage.

The math in the table goes like this: first add up the required filament voltages, VL (sum the tube voltages in the series). Next, determine the vector voltage drop required, VC (SQRT (120*120-VL*VL)). Determine the filament current required; look it up in a tube manual. All the series tubes should have the same current rating (typically 150ma or 300ma). The capacitive reactance XC is derived from VC/filament current. Finally, the required capacitance is determined by our old friend: $C=1/2*\pi*f*XC$, all times 1,000,000 to get to microfarads. If the tubes are rated at a different current than 300ma, Table 1, XC, will have a different value and will need to be recalculated. Note that the voltage drop thru the capacitor is inversely proportional to the



Randy James at his
workbench

capacitance.

From the table you can see that the voltage drop is sensitive to small values of capacitance. Make as close an estimate as possible with available capacitors; perhaps two caps may have to be used to get close to the desired value. Run a test by checking the total voltage across the filament string as you slowly bring up the radio supply voltage on a power stat. If you reach the desired filament voltage before full line voltage has been achieved, decrease the capacitance slightly and test again. Find a cap value that does not drive the filament string over the desired value a full supply voltage; somewhat under is better. Place the capacitor(s) in a suitable location. Try this solution; you will like it.

For detailed discussion refer to

"The Old Timer's Bulletin"/August 2001(14), or www.nostalgiaair.org/references/Articles/TheFlash/Flash01.htm

(See last two pages of newsletter)

2010 VRPS CONVENTION OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST WINNERS

1. CRYSTAL RADIOS- Both of these items were awarded 1st place ribbons.

David Sassine- K&S Homebrew

Mary Ann Caruth- Detefon radio w/headphones & Galena detector

2. BATTERY RECEIVERS-PRE 1928

David Sassine- Federal #200 w/horn

2nd Place-Larry Lamia-Ozarka 3 tuber

3. AC TABLE RADIOS-PRE WW2

Mary Ann Caruth-Airline 93BR-715A w/roller dial and tuning eye

2nd Place-Jon Butz Fiscina-Westinghouse WR-209

4. CONSOLE RADIOS

Robert Shindhelm-Howard 118

5. AC/DC TUBE RADIOS

David Spivey-Display of Majestic radios

2nd Place-Ron Schneider-Andrea Spacemaster Deluxe (T-O lookalike)

6. TRANSISTOR RADIOS-PRE 1965

Walt Zalesky-O.M.G.S. Suburbia-mint in box

2nd Place-Mary Ann Caruth-G.E. Mickey Mouse radio

7. PHONOGRAPHS AND RELATED ACCESSORIES-PRE 1928

Charles Knight-Edison Opera w/mahogany horn

2nd Place-Larry Lamia-NOS 35 mm. Phono System

8. LOUDSPEAKERS-PRE 1930

Tom Burgess-Display of Oro Tone shell speakers

9. MILITARY AND AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT

Cecil Miles-WW2 display-Receiver, Transmitter, German field phone, Expendable radio jammer

10. NOVELTY RADIOS

Mary Ann Caruth-"Outhouse" display w/different color "John" radios

2nd Place-Ed & Lois Janssen-Atlas "Talking Battery"

11. OPEN CATEGORY

Richard Lantrip-Atwater-Kent 1,000,000th radio celebration promo

2nd Place-Tom Burgess-Display of history of Pacific Semiconductor

12. ART DECO RADIOS

Randy James-RCA 96X1

2nd Place-Mary Ann Caruth-Zenith SR 312

13. FOREIGN RADIOS

George Potter-Loewe 333 w/OE Orts-Empfanger

2nd Place-Larry Lamia-Nordmende BX6315

14. RESTORATION CATEGORY-Both of these items

were awarded 1st place ribbons

Howard Stone-Marconi 16

Gilbert Hedge-Zenith Super Portable

2nd Place-Andy Anderson-Point-of Purchase Coca Cola radio

15. MANUFACTURER'S CATEGORY-WESTINGHOUSE

Howard Stone-BC98A receiver

2nd Place-Jim Sargent-Westinghouse RC w/original box

I would like to extend my appreciation to all who served as judges in the contest. There were many excellent items to pick from, but you handled this difficult job with great care.



BEST OF SHOW
AWARD-Gilbert Hedge-
Zenith Super Portable



FOUNDER'S
AWARD-Richard
Lantrip- Atwater-
Kent 1,000,000th
Radio Celebration
Promo



PEOPLE'S CHOICE
AWARD-Cecil Miles-
WW2 Display

NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER, 2010 MEETING

Once again we met at the Senter East building in Irving, TX. Mike Grimes introduced our program "Broadcasting", consisting of videos and members showing broadcasting-related items they had brought. We watched a DVD "On the Air" sponsored by Chevrolet Motor Division, General Motors Sales Corporation. This film, from 1937 - features a popular violinist, Rubinoff. The film explains how radio works using clever illustrations and explanations and explains in simple terms how the individual parts of a radio function. It uses graphic illustrations of the wave that "carries" the sound and the wave that is being carried. It also goes into the detection process and the final process of converting the "carried" wave back to the original sound. Another film "Back of the Mike" shows how the sound effects for radio programs were created. For example, the film producers used a Western, based on the theme of a band of robbers holding up the coach carrying the "Flying B" ranch payroll. Of course there were plenty of sounds of horses' hooves in that film. It was amazing to see what types of things were (and maybe still are) used to make the sounds.

Ed Janssen showed us some 33-1/3 RPM records of themes from radio shows and a book "Radio's Beautiful Day".

Cleo Cherryholmes described his experience with a real "buy-of-the-year" in a Little Rock antique mall. Offered in a popcorn box was an RCA 77DX microphone with a cloth covering bag having the RCA logo printed on it. This very popular and excellent microphone is much sought-after. Replica studio-props appeared on the broadcast desks of Larry King and David Letterman. Cleo said that he saw such a microphone on e-Bay priced at \$1700.00 and indicated that he got his for a bargain price.

One member showed a broadcast-station two-track tape player that employed one track for cueing and the other for material to be broadcast. It was used until the mid-80's at an Iowa FM radio station. Jim Sargent mentioned that he has one cartridge of the type of tape used.

John Selvidge talked about his medium-wave loop antenna. It has a very hi Q, so it can be very selective on ground waves. It reduces noise from wiring and thunderstorms and provides a way to null out an interfering station. His antenna came from KIWA Electronics in Yakima, WA (they are at <http://www.kiwa.com/>).

George Potter described his trip to Pine Ridge Arkansas (near Mena - home to the VRPS Lamia brothers) to the Jot-Em Down Store, looking for memorabilia. (Pine Ridge was a "waters community" in reference to the mineral waters there). Lum and Abner grew up in Mena, where there is a memorial to them in Janssen park. From 1931 to 1967 they had the most popular radio program.

Gary Reeves brought a book of artists' caricatures of performers such as Fibber McGee. They are autographed prints or lithographs. He also showed us memorabilia such as applause cards and a very large Western Electric horn-style microphone - resembling a horn speaker.

Billy Smith brought a DeForest 511 and a Western Electric 211 from 1921 (used as repeaters).

Mike Grimes described the Western Electric clocks that were used to synchronize program changes throughout the radio networks. They were set up to accept a synchroniza-

tion pulse at the beginning of each hour. He showed a Universal Spring carbon microphone and an RCA 74B “velocity” microphone. Mike also told us about his recent trip to Florence, Italy where he saw the grave of Guglielmo Marconi (as well as those of Michelangelo and Galileo). He reminded us that a reservation is needed to visit the Marconi Lab museum.

Eric Kirst showed us a transcription record that includes a complete radio program - both the advertising and a news program about a B-29 crashing in the mountains.

Jim Sargent showed a record with a program presented by the W.D. O’Daniel Flour Co. of Ft. Worth, featuring Pat O’Daniel and His Hillbilly Boys. The program was for broadcast on KRLD on 7-5-1937. The record contains a tuning track that could be played just before the broadcast, allowing the band to tune up prior to the actual broadcast.

Also shown were:

A photo of a collection of microphones that all have “flags” of their radio station call-letters.

A transcription record carrying the program “Hop Harrigan” for Wednesday, May 21 1947.
A record commemorating the 50th anniversary of radio station WRR.

Bill McKeown



PICTURES FROM THE
OCT. MEETING





REMINDER -- SPRING AUCTION 2011
PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF LOCATION

MARCH 19, 2011
Senter East Building
228 Chamberlain St
Irving, TX 75060
Doors open 6am

VRPS, INC.
PO. BOX 165345
IRVING, TX 75016

SOUNDWAVES IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE
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VOLTAGE DROP CAPACITOR TABLE
(Assumes Line Current to be 0.300 A in all cases)

Filament Capacitive Voltage Add Up (VL)	Voltage Drop Across C (Vc)	Capacitive Reactance C (uF)	Capacitive Reactance C (VL) (Vc)	Capacitor Voltage Add Up (Xc) (uF)	Filament Voltage Drop Across C (VL) (Vc)	Voltage Drop Across C (Xc) (uF)	Filament Voltage Drop Across C (VL) (Vc)	Voltage Drop Across C (Xc) (uF)
11	119.49	398.32	6.65	51	108.62	362.08	7.32	
12	119.40	397.99	6.66	52	108.15	360.49	7.35	
13	119.29	397.65	6.67	53	107.66	358.87	7.39	
14	119.18	397.27	6.67	54	107.16	357.21	7.42	
15	119.06	396.86	6.68	55	106.65	355.51	7.46	
16	118.93	396.43	6.69	56	106.13	353.77	7.49	
17	118.79	395.97	6.69	57	105.60	351.99	7.53	
18	118.64	395.47	6.70	58	105.05	350.17	7.57	
19	118.49	394.95	6.71	59	104.49	348.31	7.61	
20	118.32	394.41	6.72	60	103.92	346.41	7.65	
21	118.15	393.83	6.73	61	103.34	344.46	7.69	
22	117.97	393.22	6.74	62	102.74	342.47	7.74	
23	117.78	392.58	6.75	63	102.13	340.44	7.79	
24	117.58	391.92	6.76	64	101.51	338.36	7.83	
25	117.37	391.22	6.78	65	100.87	336.24	7.88	
26	117.15	390.50	6.79	66	100.22	334.07	7.93	
27	116.92	389.74	6.80	67	99.55	331.85	7.99	
28	116.69	388.96	6.81	68	98.87	329.58	8.04	
29	116.44	388.14	6.83	69	98.18	327.26	8.10	
30	116.19	387.30	6.84	70	97.47	324.89	8.16	
31	115.93	386.42	6.86	71	96.74	322.47	8.22	
32	115.65	385.52	6.88	72	96.00	320.00	8.28	
33	115.37	384.58	6.89	73	95.24	317.47	8.35	
34	115.08	383.61	6.91	74	94.47	314.89	8.42	
35	114.78	382.61	6.93	75	93.67	312.25	8.49	
36	114.47	381.58	6.95	76	92.87	309.55	8.56	
37	114.15	380.51	6.97	77	92.04	306.79	8.64	
38	113.82	379.41	6.99	78	91.19	303.97	8.72	
39	113.49	378.29	7.01	79	90.33	301.09	8.80	
40	113.14	377.12	7.03	80	89.44	298.14	8.89	
41	112.78	375.93	7.05	81	88.54	295.13	8.98	
42	112.41	374.70	7.07	82	87.61	292.04	9.08	
43	112.03	373.44	7.10	83	86.67	288.89	9.18	
44	111.64	372.14	7.12	84	85.70	285.66	9.28	
45	111.24	370.81	7.15	85	84.71	282.35	9.39	
46	110.83	369.44	7.17	86	83.69	278.97	9.50	
47	110.41	368.04	7.20	87	82.65	275.50	9.62	
48	109.98	366.61	7.23	88	81.58	271.95	9.75	
49	109.54	365.13	7.26	89	80.49	268.31	9.88	
50	109.09	363.62	7.29	90	79.37	264.58	10.02	

FIGURE 1 Series Filament String with Capacitor on next page

FIGURE 1 Series Filament String with Capacitor

