

SOUND WAVES

VRPS Winter 2017

From the President



As I type this letter for the first *SoundWaves* of 2017, we are still in the remaining few days of 2016. As such, I have a foot still in the past and yet, I am looking forward to the New Year. 2016 was a good year for the VRPS as we continued our tradition of being a financially strong and active organization, striving to be an encouragement to collectors of vintage radio and phonograph equipment. New members came our way...at last count about 25...and many of them attended their first convention this past November. Our hope is that we will see them, and many others who are new to our hobby, at future meetings, events, and conventions.

The directors will be meeting in the next few weeks to outline our activities for 2017. Larry Lindsey, director of meeting programs, has already put together a really great schedule of meeting topics. These will surely entertain and keep you informed about all aspects of our fantastic hobby. I know I have said this before, but I would be remiss if I did not say it again - if you are anywhere near the Metroplex and do not make a monthly meeting, you are missing a vital part of what our organization can offer to the new, as well as to the experienced, collector. Our memories are not without fail, so I send out a meeting reminder each month...if you are not getting that reminder, the simple explanation is I do not have your correct email. To remedy that, simply drop me an email at bsargent@swbell.net.

While you are at it, if you have suggestions for future meeting topics let me know...or contact Larry directly. One more thing before I close for this first issue -- a few years ago I offered to present a variety of programs for clubs and groups outside of our own VRPS. Since then, I have been privileged to speak to numerous groups, including Rotary International and many of the amateur radio clubs across the Metroplex. My purpose was and continues to be a way to promote the VRPS. I made three presentations in 2016 and would be happy to do the same in 2017. If you know of a group looking for a speaker, I would be happy to discuss. I will see you at an upcoming VRPS event.

Good hunting!

—Jim



September Tailgate Swap Meet



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Notes from the October 15, 2016 Meeting

Larry Lindsey introduced our meeting presenter, George Potter, who displayed a large array of ephemera and collectibles relating to the history of “The Radio Business”. His program covered many historical aspects of technical developments, broadcasting, suppliers, marketers and the listening audience. During the late ‘teens, ham radio operators were one of the markets for radio apparatus, especially the rotary spark gap for their spark transmitters. In the early years of radio broadcast (early 20’s), most people built their own radios from parts offered by more and more suppliers. Many were concentrated around the already-big industrial city of Chicago (but Powell Crosley was a very large parts developer and supplier in Cincinnati, Ohio). KDKA – Pittsburg was the first commercially licensed radio station – in 1922. From that time, the business boomed. Crosley sold shellac-composition radio panels, Atwater Kent sold a 1-tube “pot” for use by homebrew builders, Remler made condensers, Rhome made wire, Cornell Dubilier – condensers. Sears Roebuck sold huge quantities of parts, to the extent that they bought out many suppliers. Their radio station WLS (for ‘World’s Largest Store) stimulated a lot of business for them in the sale of parts, and eventually complete radios. Montgomery Ward – the “Oldest Mail-order House” sold their “ORO-TONE phonograph attachment to add to your Victrola so it would play through your radio. Briggs and Stratton made tuning condensers, sockets, rheostats, etc. under the BASCO name. In 1923 the first regenerative circuits were developed (and patented), providing good reception over longer distances. This development (and Sears) made receivers quite simple and the parts-cost affordable to millions of people. But, for manufacturers, a license to produce regenerative receivers cost \$10,000. Because demand grew so much, radio set manufacturers had to use multiple sources for parts used to make a given radio model. In the radio business, the depression started in 1927 – a little before the big depression of ‘29, partly due to saturation of the marketplace. George displayed a great number of old parts catalogs, along with other advertising material – in some cases with actual examples of the parts.

The SMITR (Smartest Man-or-Ms. In The Room) award went to Jim Sargent for knowing that Edison invented, as examples, a concrete piano and concrete houses.

Bill McKeown

2016 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners

<u>Category Name</u>	<u>Entry</u>	<u>Member</u>
1. Crystal Radios - Pre 1940	Pandora Crystal Receiver	Mary Ann Caruth
2. Battery Radios - Pre 1928	Marconi	Gilbert Hedge
3. AC Table Radios Pre WWII	Atwater Kent Model 447	Mike Grimes
4. Transformerless Tube Radios Pre 1960	Capehart	Ron Schneider
5. Foreign Radios (Tie for First Place)	Volksempfänger	Randy James
5. Foreign Radios (Tie for First Place)	Zauberdose	Mary Ann Caruth
6. Transistor Radios Pre 1965	Zenith Transistor Radios	Larry Lamia
7. Tube Type Audio Equipment	(No Entries)	
8. Phonographs & Related Accessories	Edison Phonographs	Bill Edwards
9. Speakers and Microphones Pre 1960	ACME Speaker	Dave Seymour
10. Tube Type Ham and Military Equipment	Hallicrafters S38	Dave Seymour
11. Novelty Radios - Tube or Transistor	Dr. Pepper Radio	Frank & Mary Rasada
12. Radio Related Ads, Ephemera, & Accessories	Dick Tracy Wrist Radio Ephemera	Mary Ann Caruth
13. Televisions - Pre 1970	Three G.E. Televisions	Jody Everett
14. Open Category	Grandfather Clock	Billy Smith
15. Art Deco Radios	Silvertone Beetle	Jim Sargent
16. Vacuum Tubes	ZAHL Radar Tube	Tom Burgess
17. Homebrew/Kit Radios	High School Radio	Dale Allen
18. Convention Theme Radios (Edison)	Stock Ticker, etc.	Bill Edwards

Special Awards

Best of Show
Edison Phonographs
Bill Edwards



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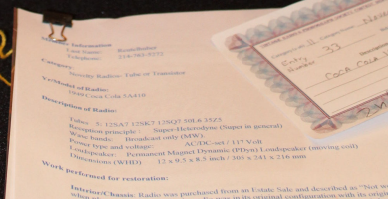
Special Awards (cont.)



People's Choice
Stock Ticker
Bill Edwards



Founder's Award
'34 Westone Radio
Bill McKeown



First Time Contest Entry
Coke Radio
Eric Reutelhuber



Best Restoration
Zauberdose
Mary Ann Caruth





NEW COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM—There is a new destination in town, well not exactly in town. “The Texas Museum of Broadcasting & Communication” is located in Kilgore, TX, about a two hour drive East on I20. It spotlights broadcastings’ golden age for Radio and TV. Ample displays of tube-type equipment of both vintage radio and TVs, it also has microphones, TV cameras, operating consoles, phonographs and more. Working mock-up broadcast studios, hands-on displays and a remote TV van highlight the experience. The museum is a non-profit organization led by executive director and founder Chuck Conrad. Owning their own building, being supported by donations and the city of Kilgore, they are well positioned for success. I recently had an opportunity to visit and was duly impressed. It is well worth a trip. Only open Friday and Saturday, they will take appointments after hours. For more information see their web site at www.txmb.org.

— Mike Grimes



2016 Christmas Party



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SOUND WAVES

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS 2017

NOTE: Programs will be held at various locations in Irving, Texas. Make note of the location as they may change from time to time. Senter East, 228 Chamberlain St.; or Garden and Arts, 906 S Senter Rd. Maps are located on the WEB site, www.VRPS.org EVENTS page. Programs start at 2pm. unless otherwise noted. Call us on the cell tellie if you get lost: 972-898-7251 or 972-742-8085.

JANUARY 21 — KURT EHRLICH — "MAKING RECORDS" — SENTER EAST 2PM

FEBRUARY 18 — JIM SARGENT — "ARTIFACTS OF THE TELEGRAPH ERA" — GARDEN AND ARTS 2PM

MARCH 18 — SPRING AUCTION — SENTER EAST 9am-5pm

Note: HVRA Convention is February 10, 2017 - February 11, 2017 in Houston

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 anytime or send an email: **Larry Lindsey email: pipilindsey@tx.rr.com telephone: 817-312-8761..**