



# SOUND WAVES

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## VRPS Winter 2018

### *From the President*



Frankly, I am so optimistic going into this new year at the helm of this great organization that I can hardly contain my enthusiasm!! Coming off a really great year, how can I not be hyped? Our convention was one we can look back on with pride. For the first time in 18 years our convention (number 43) was not held in Mesquite. Instead, as most of you are now aware, we moved north to Plano to the Comfort Inn and Suites. No, the hotel is not perfect...but then neither was the last venue, and we made that last 17 years! However, the move allowed us to financially afford a great time of contests, banquet, and of course, auctions. I will be meeting with the host hotel in January to go over our stay and try to address the issues that,

while minor, we will want to see bring some improvement for next year. To set you at ease, we do have a contract to return to Plano in 2018 and 2019.

The number of folks registered for the convention exceeded 150 (a goal we always shoot for). The auction was a huge success, and to top it all off, we added 16 new members at this event. Over the years, our convention has become well-known throughout the collector community. This year we had attendees from all across Texas, as well as Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, California, Colorado, Washington, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. I believe this is not luck, but because we, as an organization, put on a quality event.

I want to thank those folks who worked every aspect of our auction, from the back room (before and after the sale), recording sales (computer and manual), and those pushing the items across the auction block (this is an often overlooked but really important part that John Kushing, Frank Rasada, and others handled flawlessly. Without a doubt, it takes a lot of folks to put on a convention. We can use your assistance next year, whether in the registration booth, the contest room, or the auction, so be a volunteer.

I also want to say a special thanks to the folks who are often forgotten. Our Board of Directors is involved in every aspect of convention planning. Their names are mentioned elsewhere in this issue. Please let them know you appreciate their efforts.

As we enter a new year, our 44<sup>th</sup>, resolve to attend every meeting or event we host. You will definitely enhance your knowledge of the hobby and the technology we embrace so dearly. Come join us and good hunting.

---Jim



## Notes from the October 21, 2017 Meeting

Our meeting was conducted by club president Jim Sargent. He reminded us of upcoming event dates, including our annual convention and our Christmas party – to be held earlier than in the past, from 1 to 5 o'clock. Our program director Larry Lindsey handed out the printed award certificates to earlier SMITR winners. Larry's puzzle for the day was the question "What is an Electrifier"?

The answer: it's a Delco accessory product for use in powering their radios that were made to operate from their 32 volt DC lighting systems. This device – branded "ELECTRIFIER" was a small motor-generator that converted 32 volts dc to both 140 and 70 volts, supplying "B" voltages for their 32 volt radios (the tube filaments were connected in series to use the 32 volt supply directly for the "A" supply). There was quite a bit of discussion about Delco products and appliances and the history of the Delco name. Larry turned the meeting over to Jim for his presentation on radio literature and history.

Jim's presentation focused on a part of our radio collecting hobby that can be a specialty area or a smaller or incidental area of interest to us. Many radio-related publications can be collected: books about the history of radio development; textbooks; handbooks; magazines; construction plans; troubleshooting guides; schematic diagrams; the theory of radio; advertizing materials and many other areas of interest. It seems that Jim has covered them all. He had brought a large number of items from his collection, and talked about each one – starting with the history of discoveries that made the development of radio possible. He showed us a very old publication from 1866 titled "Parker's Philosophy". At that time the term "Physics" had not come into use, but physics was the topic of the book. For one thing, it describes the existing knowledge of electricity at that time.

Jim's collection of "wireless" publications is extensive. The term "wireless" came about because the advent of radio followed the invention and use of the telegraph by many years, and radio was first used for code communication by "wireless telegraph". Jim said that the exact time when we began to use the term "radio" is a

mystery. He said that radio clubs started forming in the '20's and '30's and their publications are very interesting collectibles. We should be on the lookout in antique malls and bookstores for such things as QST Vol. 1, 1915. There were many popular publications, such as Modern Electrics and Mechanics, which in 1913 published a discussion of the reason that the rescue ship Carpathia was delayed due to radio interference while the Titanic was trying to communicate. As time went on, many publishers merged to become bigger ones. Hugo Gernsback was a most outstanding publisher. He was a prolific writer and also wrote and published SCI-FI books. He edited and produced many technical books, magazines and books of schematic and wiring diagrams. Many of these publications are useful to this day for reference or use in troubleshooting. Examples are magazines such as Radio News and Radio Craft.

The advertizing is one of the most interesting features, showing ads for parts that we recognize in our radio collections. Sometimes it is the only way we know the source of manufacture. A source of publications that can be downloaded is: [americanradiohistory.com](http://americanradiohistory.com) – a website that is well organized and a massive source of scanned publications.

Boys were the target of many publishers. Several authors wrote boys' adventure series (e.g. the Radio Boys) featuring the radio as an important theme. There were many how-to books for boys to make their own radio receivers – starting with crystal sets and advancing from there to amateur radio equipment and becoming readers of QST. Acquiring all of the books in a boys' book series has been a common goal for collectors. A popular series is the Radio Boys by Allan Chapman, but the name "Radio Boys" was also used by other authors.

Author's Notes: There are reprints available of Parker's Philosophy (e.g. from AbeBooks). At one time, my brother owned a Delco 32 volt, single-cylinder engine-driven generator that ran from kerosene, which most people already had for their cook stoves and lanterns (it's known also as "coal-oil"). He demonstrated it running a 32 volt fan as was used in railroad cars. He also had a 32 volt Delco radio with it. The following link provides a photo of a Delco radio and its accessory Electrifier:

[http://kd4hsh.homestead.com/Delco\\_RA-3\\_1.html](http://kd4hsh.homestead.com/Delco_RA-3_1.html)

Bill McKeown



## 2017 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners

Category Name	Entry	Member
1. Crystal Radios - Pre 1940	Mengel 101	Glen Zook
2. Battery Radios - Pre 1928	1923 Operadio Portable	Gilbert Hedge
3. AC Table Radios Pre WWII	Philco 37	Billy Smith
4. AC/DC Tube Radios Pre 1960	Emerson 126	Glen Zook
5. Transistor Radios Pre 1965	Philco Portable All Wave	Ron Schneider
6. Phonographs & Related Accessories Pre 1928	140 Years of Phonograph	Bob Botto
7. Speakers and Microphones Pre 1960	Peerless Speaker with Headphones	Ray Richardson
8. Tube Type Ham or Military Equipment	Duplex Morse Set ca. WWI	Tom Burgess
9. Novelty Radios Tube or Transistor	57 Bel Aire Radios	Mary Ann Caruth
10. Ads, Ephemera, and Accessories (TIE)	Philco Art Work	Dale Allen
10. Ads, Ephemera, and Accessories (TIE)	102 Radio-Themed Match Covers	Mary Ann Caruth
11. Televisions - Pre 1970	Iconoscope, TV Camera & Tube	Tom Burgess
12. Tube Type Battery Only Portables	French Portable	Tom Burgess
13. Art Deco Radios	Scott All Wave	Eric Coon
14. Vacuum Tubes	Western Electric Tubes	Tom Burgess
15. Homebrew/Kit Radios (TIE)	New Century 2000	Ray Richardson
15. Homebrew/Kit Radios (TIE)	Loose Coupler	Jim Sargent
16. Convention Theme: Magnavox	AC-3 Six Tube Amp	Jim Collings
17. Automobile Radios Pre 1960	Zenith Car Radio	Mike Grimes
18. Open Category	X-Ray Unit	David Moore

### Special Awards

*Best of Show*  
*Scott All Wave*  
*Eric Coon*

*Best Restoration*  
*Emor Sphere Radio*  
*Dale Allen*





## 2017 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners Special Awards (cont.)



**Best First-time Contestant**  
**Several Entries**  
**Mike Millister**

**Founders Award**  
**Zenith Car Radio**  
**Mike Grimes**

**Peoples' Choice**  
**57 Bel Aire Radios**  
**Mary Ann Caruth**





## 2017 Christmas Party



SOUNDWAVES IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE VINTAGE RADIO AND PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY, INC.

PRESIDENT—JIM SARGENT (972) 742-8085  
BSARGENT@SWBELL.NET

VICE PRESIDENT—RANDY JAMES (817) 881-0974  
RANDY-JEANNINE@SBCGLOBAL.NET

NEWSLETTER EDITOR—MARY ANN CARUTH  
MCARUTH@ATT.NET

WEBMASTER—MIKE GRIMES K5MLG@VERIZON.NET

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## V.R.P.S. -- The Early Days

by Glen E. Zook, Charter Member

The Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society can trace its roots back to the fall of 1973 when the late Walt Jackson put a notice on the bulletin board at the old Electronic Center located on Blackburn Street in Dallas, Texas, seeking people interested in antique / vintage radio collecting. Electronic Center was the amateur radio store owned by Wholesale Electronics (located a few blocks away on Ross Avenue). Walt was the manager of Electronic Center and one of the owners of Wholesale Electronics. Within a few days, a couple of people asked about those who collected old phonographs and might those people be included. So, Walt added phonographs to the notice.

When around 10-persons had signed the list, the first meeting was called and the meeting was held, after hours, in the Electronics Center building. By the time the meeting actually took place, there were around 20-people interested in forming a new organization specifically aimed at collecting old radios and phonographs. Several names, for this organization, were bantered around but no name was adopted at the first meeting.

Walt Jackson was also responsible for establishing the monthly "sidewalk sale" in Dallas. There was a vacant lot, with lots of shade trees, next to the Electronic Center building where he started a monthly flea market for amateur radio operators. Of course, the "sidewalk sale" grew until the vacant lot could not hold all the participants. The location was moved down to the Wholesale Electronics location and, over the years, it has moved a couple of times more. Members of the SVRPS started asking about a similar activity before the

Society meetings and soon such became part of every meeting held for an hour, or 2, before the meeting officially started.

The second meeting was held early in 1974. By that time, Walt Jackson had amassed a list consisting of a single type written page that had 3-columns with 11-names and addresses in each column, a total of 33-names. Walt proposed at this 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting that these 33-persons would be "Charter Members" of the new organization and the motion was passed. "Somewhere", I still have my copy of this original list. At this 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, several names for the organization were discussed and, finally, Southwest Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society was adopted.

As the Society grew in numbers, the Electronics Center building was too small to handle the crowd. At the time, I was the President of the Richardson Wireless Klub (K5RWK), the local amateur radio club. That organization was meeting at the Texas Power & Light Company building in Richardson (Texas). TP&L, as a "public service", had a large meeting room that occupied over half of their satellite office in Richardson. There was seating available for over 100-persons and there was no charge for using this room. So, arrangements were made for the Society to utilize this room, once a month, on late Saturday afternoon and evening.

The SVRPS met at the Richardson location for several years until TP&L closed the office and the meeting room was no longer available. Bob Sullivan, who lived in Irving, then made arrangements for the Society to meet

at various locations in that city.

Early in the life of the Society, a monthly newsletter, "The Reproducer", was established. The earlier editions were handled by Walt Jackson and Bob Sullivan. Then, I was appointed Editor / Publisher and George Potter handled the printing. Every month there was a meeting of the executive committee of the Society and at that meeting the addressing of the newsletter was done prior to the actual mailing.

The very first Convention was on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1976 held at the Ramada Inn – Dallas East in Dallas, Texas. Of course, the equipment contest was one of the main highlights. There were 14 contest classifications:

1. Crystal Sets
2. TRF Receivers (pre-1930)
3. Regenerative Receivers (pre-1930)
4. Super Heterodyne Receivers (pre-1930)
5. Components and Assemblies
6. Loudspeakers (horn, etc.)
7. Homebrew and Kit receivers (pre-1930)
8. AC Table Receivers (post 1930)
9. AC Console Receivers (post 1930)
10. Classic Receivers (Scott, McMurdo-Silver, etc.)
11. Ham Gear (pre-1940)
12. Phonographs, Outside Horn
13. Phonographs, Inside Horn
14. Telephone / Telegraph

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Convention was held on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> of August 1977 at the Royal Coach Inn in Dallas. The contest categories were the same with the exception that the Telephone / Telegraph category was eliminated and the category "AC Receivers (pre-1930) was added.

From that time onward, annual conventions were held. Also, eventually, as the group outgrew the original area encompassed by New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, the "Southwest" was dropped from the organization's name and the Society became the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society.

I have, stored in my garage, the sign that was used at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual convention to identify the group that was placed, in the entry way, of the hotel at which that convention was held.

At the early conventions, there was no restriction as to if a unit, that had won 1<sup>st</sup> place the year before, could be entered again. The Mengel Etherion crystal set, that I entered in the 2017 contest that won 1<sup>st</sup> place, was the exact unit that won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the 1976, 1977, and 1978 convention. Then, a restriction on entering such a unit was restricted to not being able to be entered if the unit had won 1<sup>st</sup> place the year before. So, I did not enter the Mengel in 1979. But, at the 1980 convention, the Mengel was entered and, again, took 1<sup>st</sup> place! Then, a restriction banning any unit that had won 1<sup>st</sup> place was enacted. That restriction lasted for several years.

At the early conventions, actual trophies were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> place winners. I cannot remember just the details, but, someone on the executive committee had a "connection" and was able to obtain the trophies very cheap.

Since I have not found my list of "Charter Members", I cannot verify how many of those persons are still members. There are those who joined the organization soon after the official chartering of the organization who are still members but are not of the original 33 that appeared on Walt Jackson's "official" list. I have been told that there are 1, possibly 2, besides myself who were truly "Charter Members" of the Society. I have looked at the membership list that appears on the Society's website. Although I recognize several names of the "olde timers", I do not see any of the names, of the original 33, that I recognize.

I also have, in my attic, the metal plates that were used in the offset printing of "The Reproducer". It was my intention to bring those plates to the 2017 Convention. Unfortunately, I was not able to get into the attic to retrieve them.

The Society has "officially" existed since early 1974 and soon will be celebrating 44-years of being. Hopefully, there will be many more years to come of the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society.

VRPS, INC.  
P.O. BOX 165345  
IRVING, TX 75016

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## **MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS 2018**

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](http://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 20 — BILL MCKEOWN — EARLY COLOR TELEVISION — GARDEN AND ARTS 2 PM**

**FEBRUARY 17 —GEORGE POTTER — COMMUNICATIONS IN SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS — SENTER EAST 2 PM**

**MARCH 17— SPRING AUCTION — SENTER EAST 9 AM-5 PM**

**APRIL 21 -- MIKE GRIMES & DAVE SEYMOUR -- CHEMICALS IN RESTORATION -- SENTER EAST 2 PM**

**NOTE: HVRA CONVENTION IS FEBRUARY 9 & 10, 2018 - DETAILS AT <http://hvra.org/index.php/2018-annual-convention/>**

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](mailto:pipilindsey@tx.rr.com) telephone: 817-312-8761..**