

SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Winter 2020

From the President



I know I am not the first to say this, but Happy New Year to each of you. And the bonus in watching the calendar roll over to 2020 is we get an extra day this year. Yep, it's Leap Year!

A quick review of last year, and then we will move forward as we always do, to new heights, new members, and new opportunities to grow the hobby and our collections. Financially, the VRPS entered 2019 in great shape. We exited the year almost even...trust me, in an organization such as ours, that is a really good thing. We do our best to limit the expenses and member cash outlay at all of our events throughout the year.

Our Spring auction, a tradition going back to the first

years of our organization, was a success by all accounts. Great attendance, lots of items to sell, and revenue to the VRPS coffers. The Spring and Summer swap meets were both a winner as well. Lots of items changed hands, lots of good hobby discussion, and best of all, we saw many friends. Our annual repair session in July has been a fan favorite year after year. 2019 was no different. Numerous radios in various states of disrepair came into the room where our talented technicians troubleshot, diagnosed, and in most cases, repaired the radio to functioning status. The best part of the activities mentioned in the previous statement is all of this was done as a teaching opportunity. Our technicians explain each step of the process from troubleshooting to selecting and soldering in the new components. Then there was our 45th annual convention. Wow! It was impressive at all stages - well attended, super contest displays, four separate auctions, a wonderful banquet and equally as wonderful speakers, Jeff Heller on Friday and Bobbie Wygant, our banquet speaker. At 93 years of age, she did not miss a beat and was definitely worth the price of admission. And weren't those blue RCA caps a great convention freebee?

Oh, I would be remiss if I did not mention that every monthly meeting was chocked full of learning, history, technical and entertainment with a focus on radio. Larry Lindsey does a tremendous job of heading these monthly sessions.

Unfortunately, all was not fun and games in 2019. We lost some really wonderful and talented members. Even more, we lost great friends. Jerry Merryman, John Holmes, John Miller, Sonny Johnson, Cleo Cherryhomes and Jake Fleming all departed way too soon. Until we meet them again, may they all rest in peace.

I will see you at a radio event in 2020.

---Jim

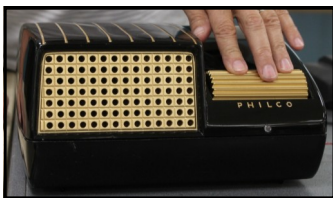
Notes from the Oct 19, 2019 Meeting

Randy James opened our meeting, which was held at the Irving Texas Senter East building. Attendance was good, with 27 members or guests showing up. Randy had Mike Grimes fill us in on our upcoming November convention (November 15, 16 and 17) and other things of interest. He mentioned a TV program "Country Music, 2nd episode – "Golden Age of Radio" which should be interesting. Another program, "Current Wars" is available. It depicts the war between Tesla's AC power system and Thomas Edison's DC system. Another program is one that appeared on KERA Dallas, was released in 2009, and is about Jack Kilby, the inventor of the integrated circuit. The short movie or video is titled "The CHIP that Jack built". It is fun to view. He also credited our Vancouver Washington member Blake Dietze with the printing for all of our Convention needs.

At our meeting in August last year, Mike McCarty had given us a presentation on the topic of using test equipment. He experienced problems with his signal generator, interfering with his presentation. Having fixed that problem, he repeated showing how to narrow down faults in a radio to the stage that is weak or dead. He mentioned that a quick check is to touch the terminals of the volume control with a test lead. If a buzz or hum is heard, the audio portion of the radio is OK.



Our "show-and-tell" program began with Billie Smith showing us an interesting item designed to hold and display a record – perhaps on a sales counter in a record store selling 10 or 12 inch records.



Crist Rigotti showed us his Philco Model 49-901 radio – called the "Secretary" model. It came in either green or ivory colors. It has a unique volume

control in the form of a wide thumbwheel drum that provides volume/on-off control and, when pushed down, changes to pre-selected stations. He had made a new back and was able to get new labels and stickers on-line. The lettering had been filled and wiped to look like new.



Tim Henry showed us his 1951 Silvertone Model 15 six-tube radio. He had made a new loop antenna and Masonite back for it, based on an on-line picture. The cabinet was shined up with a polish made for

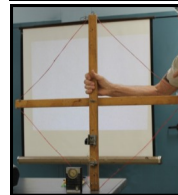
plastic.



Erich Loepke demonstrated his vintage 1954 Westinghouse color TV. It has an amazing picture. He said that only 500 were made, and the picture tubes were made by RCA.



Richard Shanks showed his 1946 Westinghouse push-button wood AC radio set, with original finish and louvered front. When he got it, it needed knobs and a new speaker.



Dennis Brady showed his home-brew loop antenna, made from the sticks that hold political signs in people's yards, etc. He discussed the usefulness of this type of tuned magnetic loop for boosting a weak or

distant signal, and using its very directional sensitivity to exclude interference from unwanted stations. Using it, his wife can listen at night to her favorite station, WOAI – San Antonio. The antenna is wound with 7 to 12 turns of wire and uses an old tuning condenser to select the desired frequency. The radio is placed adjacent to or inside the loop.



George Potter showed his Clapp-Eastham receiver and two-stage amplifier. One unit has an engraved-and-filled panel, the other,

silkscreened nomenclature. Their trade names were "Blitzen Tuner" and "Blitzen Receiver". Later, in 1924 they became the Radak brand name.



Kurt Ehrlich showed us his Hewlett Packard 200T signal generator, which was designed around the Wien-

bridge Oscillator circuit. It was their number-one product for a long time. The amplitude of the output signal is a very well regulated and nearly perfect sine wave.

Author's Notes: The Wien-bridge circuit makes use of the change of resistance of incandescent lamps with applied voltage, i.e. the hotter the filament, the higher the resistance. This allows the signal amplitude regulation process to work without distorting the nearly perfect waveform. The lamp looks like the 7 Watt ones used in the old night-lights. The simple magnetic loops work well only with radios having a ferrite-rod antenna. More elaborate magnetic loops are available on-line and some provide an output for old radios.

--Bill McKeown



VRPS Convention Auction Highlights



It was great to see many of our fellow collectors and friend's gather again for the VRPS 2019 auction. All of the regional clubs were represented, going all the way up to Kansas City.

We missed both Blake Dietze and Jim Fields up at the front desk, but managed very well with Jim Collings and Scott Roha manning the computers. Jim Sargent who normally whips through the auction equipment, was a little under the weather with a hint of bronchitis, but with timely help from Bill Werzner (Houston HVRA), the auction was on schedule, enabling Jim to continue right on through the Banquet Saturday night.

Mike Grimes and his crew as always did a great job of moving equipment as the auction moved along.

Here's a few stats before we get into equipment sold: We had 139+ registered for the convention and most of those were packing into the auction room Friday and Saturday. A little over \$29,000 was sold for the three auctions, Silent auction plus donations and approximately 1,049 pieces of equipment was handled. There were some interesting magazines in the paper & tubes auction and reasonably priced along with lots of tubes.




















The main auction on Saturday also contained some interesting equipment:

- 1903 Columbia AT cylinder machine which included 4 cylinders for \$350;
- selling for \$75 was a 1923 RADAK R4 (aka Clapp-Eastham) with a tubular battery pack
- Kennedy V with tubes and was "Transistorized" for \$85;
- Philco 70 in good shape- \$160;
- seldom seen PARAGON Type 3 - \$45;
- nice Atwater Kent 708- \$375;
- 1917 Sears Roebuck loose coupler for \$120;
- FEDERAL 57 which came up , didn't get a bid at \$450;
- RADIOLA III with a scarce Amplifier, no tubes, but a nice original finish, decals, cords and good transformers - \$150;
- 3 Crosley book radios, one being a model R- \$120, one- \$65 and the other for \$85;
- GE clock for \$375; not to be beat,
- Crosley lighted sign went for a whopping \$450;
- Music Master horn speaker for \$150;
- Crosley Buddy Boy for \$130 and there were several of these in the auction;
- Zenith 15 tube brought in \$450;
- Zenith 808 - \$160;
- complete RA-DA type RC, not tubes -\$110;
- 3 brass tipped O1A's -\$50;
- Parmak, nice -\$120;
- Emerson 520 catalin - \$120;
- Crosley Grandfather clock -\$180;
- Crosley ACE w/tube -\$80.
- KENNEDY model III with "display" tubes, no handle, final of \$500!
- Mid-year 1924 model, was designed as a home receiver, with a handle for \$111.

Don't forget Feb. 7-8, 2020 is HVRA Houston's 42nd Convention & Auction featuring Westinghouse Radios and KDKA Broadcasting.

--Judy Potter

2019 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners

<p>#1 Crystal Radios - Pre 1940 Bob Slagel / Monarch Crystal w/box</p>			<p>#10 Radio Related Ads, Ephemera & Acc. Bob Diggs / Cunningham Studio Party</p>
<p>#2 One Tube Radios Pre 1928 Tom Burgess / WWII Matsuita Radio</p>			<p>#11 Television Receivers Pre 1970 Crist Rigotti / 1950 Emerson 614</p>
<p>#3 AC Table Receivers pre WWII Mary Caruth / Crosley Repwood TRFs</p>			<p>#12 Table Top Art Deco Radios David Cox / Stewart Warner "Spade"</p>
<p>TIE #4 AC/DC Tube Radios Pre 1960 Bob Slagel / All Kadette Jr. Colors</p>			<p>#13 Auto Radios Pre 1960 Mike Grimes / 1937 Philco Radio for Ford</p>
<p>TIE #4 AC/DC Tube Radios Pre 1960 G.E. Stover / ACA Model 440T</p>			<p>#14 Foreign Radios Ken Stradley / Japanese Regen 404</p>
<p>#5 Transistor Radios pre 1965 Ron Schneider / Realtone Globetrotter</p>			<p>#15 Sub-Miniature Tube or Hybrid Portable Radios Tom Burgess / Collection of Radios w/ Subminiature Tubes</p>
<p>#6 Phonographs & Accessories Pre 1940 / Bill Edwards / Columbia "AQ"</p>			<p>#16 Wireless/Spark Apparatus Tom Burgess / Marconi Style Coherer</p>
<p>#7 Speakers & Microphones Pre 1960 / Bob Diggs / Radio Magnavox Speaker</p>			<p>#17 Contest Theme - RCA David Moore / 1925 Radiola 24</p>
<p>#8 Tube Type Ham Radio or Military Equipment Bob Voss / 1926 Shortwave Kit</p>			<p>#18 Open Category Marvin Herring /Atwater Kent Double Antenna</p>
<p>#9 Novelty Radios Tube or Transistor / Mary Caruth / Star Trek Radios & Memorabilia</p>			



2020 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners Special Awards

Best of Show



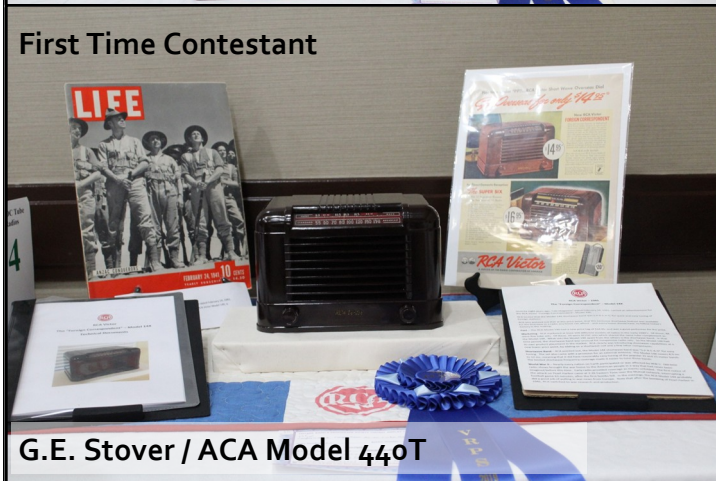
David Moore / 1925 Radiola 24

Best Restoration & People's Choice



Mary Caruth / Crosley Repwood TRFs

First Time Contestant



G.E. Stover / ACA Model 440T

Founders' Award



Bob Slagel / All Kadette Jr. Colors



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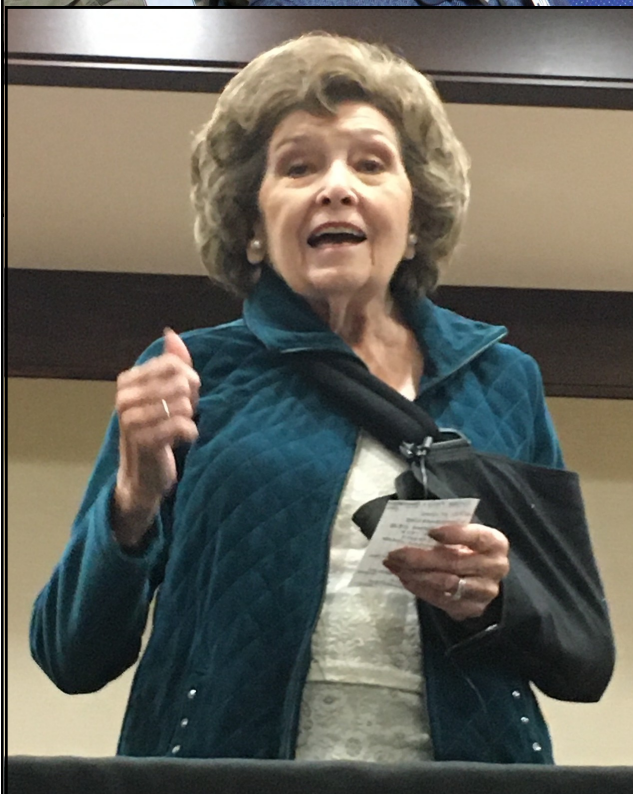
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More Convention Pictures



★ 2019 Christmas Party



Please check the expiration date on the mailing label, if it has expired, this is your last issue

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MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS 2020

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 18TH - SENTER EAST -1 PM SOCIAL 2PM MIKE GRIMES PRESENTS A PROGRAM ON AM NOISE
- FEBRUARY 22ND - SENTER EAST -1PM SOCIAL 2PM -- TRICKS OF THE TRADE (NOTE: 4TH SATURDAY)
- MARCH 28TH-- SENTER EAST - 8AM -- SPRING AUCTION (NOTE: 4TH SATURDAY)
- !!! NOTE: PLEASE CHECK DATES - NOT ALL MEETINGS ARE ON THE 3RD SATURDAY THIS YEAR!!!

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..




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