

SOUND WAVES

Published quarterly by The Vintage Radio & Phonograph Society, Inc. www.vrps.org

VRPS Winter 2022

From the President



As I begin to put pen to paper on my end of year 2021 SoundWaves column, I caught myself wondering how many of these I have actually had the good fortune to write...and indeed I do count it my good fortune. Well, if you have been counting as I have, this ends my 21st year as president, and without using a calculator, I quickly surmised that this would be my 84th column. I appreciate the confidence ...and of course the pay raise each year has done nothing to dissuade me in my role as President! Thanks for the continued support.

Now to more traditional things in an end of year column. As you read this, it will surely be 2022, but

I wanted to spend a few lines reminiscing 2021. We lost ten too many old friends this year. We made a whole lot of new friends this year. None of the new friends will make us forget the old we lost, but they give us great hope for a continued strong interest in the hobby and the VRPS organization. This is where I remind those who have not yet sent in their annual \$20 renewal fee, now is a great time to do so. We do not want to lose you. On that subject, a quick reminder that last year we established a PayPal link to simplify paying annual dues. You can find that link on our website, www.vrps.org

On to 2022 - I believe I mentioned this last year in my end of year column, but it is worth mentioning again. We are extremely fortunate to live and be participants in this hobby as we are watching events focusing on the 100th anniversary of so much of radio. WBT, WSB, and locally, WBAP will be celebrating 100 years of broadcasting. Across the ocean, our UK friends will surely be anticipating the 100th anniversary of the BBC. Warren G. Harding made history in 1922 as the first President to broadcast over the airwaves. Atwater Kent, an early manufacturer of radio parts, began producing complete radios for the consumer market. Radios began moving from home built to factory production as more and more companies saw the hand writing on the wall...radio was here to stay...and 100 years later, we are the benefactors.

Join us at a meeting, auction, and swap meet this year.

--Jim

Notes from the October 16, 2021 Meeting

Jim Sargent opened our meeting, fortunately back in our old meeting place in Irving, TX. Turnout was somewhat lower than usual. Jim reminded us to sign up for our upcoming convention in Plano in November, and that the banquet entertainment would feature WRR's Amy Bishop - presenting the history of the station. More than 40 members had already signed up for the convention. Larry Lindsey presented a new SMITR question - what was the name used for the artificial leather covering, found on old radios and other items? George Potter won the award with the answer "Fabricord".

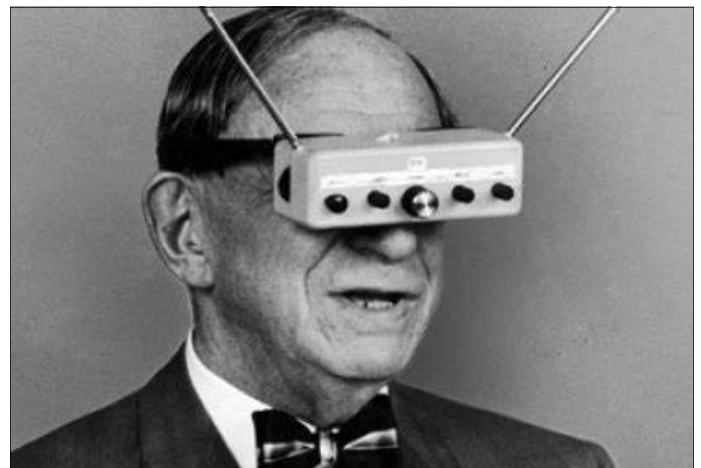
Eric Kirst presented a program about the life and history of Hugo Gernsback. At a garage sale, Eric ran across a 1932 issue of TV News. As a kid, he went to a library and found many readable books by Gernsback. Also, he showed us a number of books that he owns. Eric gave us a brief biography of Gernsback:

He was born in Luxembourg in 1884 and died in 1967 in the U.S. At the age of 19 he came to the U.S. In 1906 he made and sold crystal sets in Manhattan. He received a 1907 patent related to making dry-cell batteries. He became his own publisher and created "Modern Electronics" and "Amazing Stories". He established the "Electrical Importing Company", a business supplying radio parts to experimenters and builders, with ads in many of his publications. He wrote and published many of what could well be the first science fiction stories and books, and he was considered to be quite eccentric. He published "Radio News" magazine, went bankrupt, and sold it to Rider. He left Rider in 1931 to publish his own creations. Eric read an example of a science fiction story by Gernsback, with wild predictions about what would be true in the year 2660. Doctor's visits by remote television was one prediction. Eric talked about and showed copies of Radio News. A 1923 issue featured "Radio reaches Japan". An October '23 issue talked about the "explosion" of the phonograph" and the difficulty selling the advantages of Radio. In the August 1932 issue a large advertisement featured a spinning disc or CRT Television receiver console with a price tag of \$295 (about \$5200 in today's money). The August 1935 issue featured an article about the new Armstrong FM system. His Radio-Electronics and Science and Mechanics magazines featured many construction articles, making them very popular. Since 1953, an organization of sci-fi writers has presented, in their World Science Fiction Convention, "HUGO awards". The awards are named in honor of Gernsback, because they believe that his Amazing Stories were the first sci-fi writings.

The author brought and showed one of Gernsback's publications - "Official Radio Service Manual and Complete Dictionary of all Commercial Wiring Diagrams". It is copyrighted 1930. It has a large beginning section of educational information about operating principles and radio servicing procedures. The majority of the book contains wiring diagrams for nearly all radio sets made from the early 1920's up to the year of publication. It includes schematics of early kit superhets and radios made by almost all manufacturers. It is a great source of information before Riders existed.

Mike Grimes gave us the name of the website for the Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors-OKVRC club and suggested that we check it out. It is: <http://okvrc.org/> Mike brought and showed us some of his Gernsback books. He said that Gernsback spread the word about radio and by 1908 over 200,000 radios were built from plans that he published, in one publication or another. One of Mike's books is a re-print made in 1990 of a 1922 book.

Jim Sargent showed us a 1905 copy of Modern Electronics and a coil-and-tuning-condenser shown in Gernsback's Electrical Importing Company 1912 catalog. Jim pointed out that Gernsback kept



Hugo Gernsback's 'Teleglasses' - 1963

everything simple for everyone.

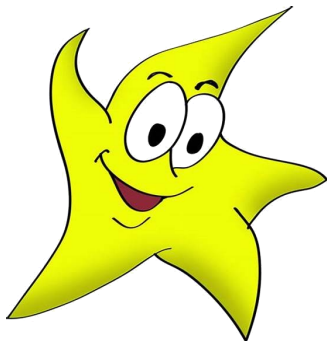
Eric Kirst pointed out a link to a website that offers free downloads of scanned publications from the '20's on up. The site is: worldradiohistory.com Many of Gernsback's publications are available from this site as PDF files.

Bill McKeown

2021 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners (photos below & next page)

1. Crystal Receivers Pre 1940 / Bob Slagle / Splitdorf Crystal Receiver
2. One Tube Radios Pre 1928 / Tom Burgess / Early one-tube radio on loose coupler
3. AC Table Receivers Pre WWII / Mike Millister / 1937 Emerson
4. AC/DC Tube Radios Pre 1960 / G.E. Stover / 1951 G.E. Radio Display
5. Transistor Radios Pre 1965 / Lance Borden / 1965 Channel Master
6. Phonographs & Related Accessories Pre 1940 / Marvin Herring / Sears 1939 Suitcase Portable
7. Radios from Western Radio in Kearney Nebraska / Bob Slagle / Tiny Mite Advertising Display
8. Tube Type Ham Radio or Military Equipment Pre 1960 / Tom Burgess / BC 68 WWI Radiotelephone
9. Novelty Radios-Tube or Transistor / (TIE) Dale Allen / Trophy Baseball Display
9. Novelty Radios-Tube or Transistor / (TIE) Phyllis Huckaby / Snoopy Radio Display
10. Radio Related Ads, Ephemera, & Accessories / Brian Dermody / Walter L. Greene Artwork
11. Television Receivers Pre 1970 / Crist Rigotti / Philco Seventeen II Television
12. Table Top Art Deco Radios / Bill McKeown / Grunow Model 511
13. Battery Radios Pre 1928 / Gilbert Hedge / Crosley Portable Radio Display
14. Foreign Radios / Lance Borden / 1959 Normende Transita
15. Homebrew Radios Pre 1930 / Tom Burgess / Super Regenerative Receiver
16. Kit Radios Pre 1930 / Mike Grimes / David Grimes Kit Radio
17. Microphones Pre 1960 / Mark Walden / Nine Vintage Microphone Display
18. Contest Theme- 100 Years of Broadcasting / Keith McManus / First Sporting Broadcast Display
19. Open Category / Dave Allen / Belmont Boulevard Pocket Radio



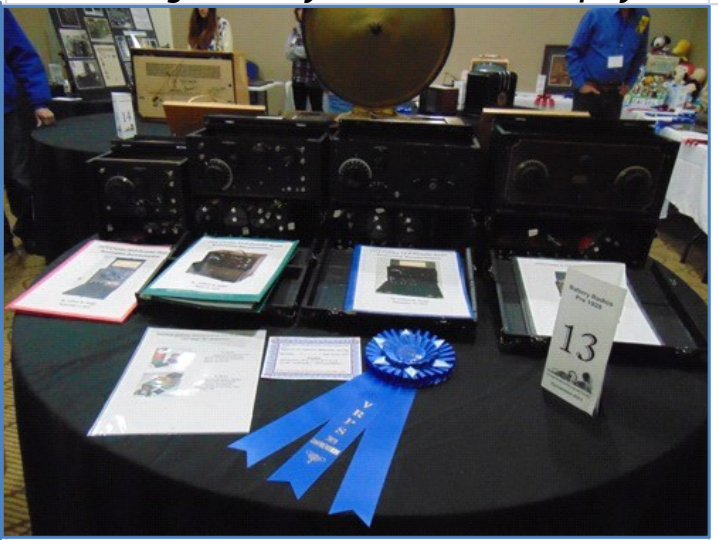


Old Equipment Contest Awards

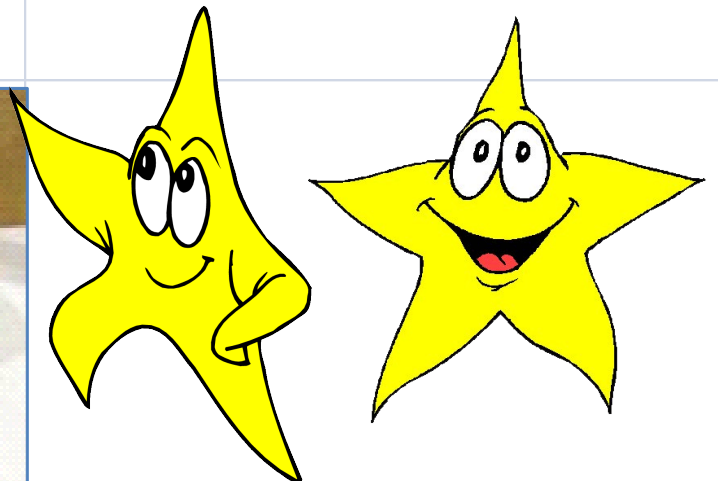
Best First Time Contestant
Phyllis Huckaby / Snoopy Radio Display



Best Restoration, Peoples' Choice & Best of Show
Gilbert Hedge / Crosley Portable Radio Display



Founders' Award / Bob Voss
Western Radio Novice Transmitter & Receiver



Convention Pictures



More Convention Pictures





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Please check the expiration date on the mailing label, if it has expired, you are past due.

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MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS 2022

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 if you get lost: 972-898-7251 or 972-742-8085.

Programs are subject to change, contingent on scheduling conflicts. As always, your suggestions for programs/content are welcome. 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..

- JANUARY 15TH - SENTER EAST -2- 5 PM -- EARLY TELEVISION WITH KURT EHRLICH
- FEBRUARY 19TH - SENTER EAST -2- 5 PM -- TBD
- MARCH 19TH-- SENTER EAST - 8AM - 5 PM-- SPRING AUCTION
- APRIL 16TH - SENTER EAST -2- 5 PM -- TBD

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

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