



# SOUND WAVES

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## VRPS Winter 2023

### *From the President*



Yep, the calendar is not playing tricks on you... it is officially next year....that is, we have crossed the threshold into 2023. Every year I think surely it will all slow down...I am referring to time of course, because I surely am getting slower...but no, time just seems to go faster and faster!

A quick look at '22, and I can tell you we surely had a great year. Covid, while still around, fell from the first page headlines and allowed us to meet in person, gain new members, and continue to pursue the hobby we so dearly love.

We had a great convention in November. Some say that clothes do not make the man...well, I can assure you that indeed "clothes" do make for a great convention. As you know, we had a last-minute notice from our 2020 convention hotel...letting us know they would not be in business by the time we convened the November '22 convention. A search team was organized, and they went into overdrive to find a suitable last-minute hotel. My hat off to that team. The Double Tree hotel in Richardson is a first-class convention facility and was the answer to almost all of our requirements. Your board of directors is already meeting and making plans for all of 2023, including our 49<sup>th</sup> annual convention. Whether or not we return to the Double Tree is yet to be determined, but it is definitely on the table. If you have thoughts, we want to hear them, preferably in January and not in June. And, just so you know, the board will be looking at ways to improve the expense side of our ledger, including, whether we can still afford to print and mail 200 copies of this newsletter every quarter...and cover all expenses with \$20 annual dues.

Welcome to the new members we picked up in 2022. Take advantage of what our organization has to offer...and that is not a small list.

--Jim

## Notes from the October 15, 2022 Meeting

Larry Lindsey introduced our presenter for the meeting - Kurt Ehrlich, who expanded on his earlier (2011) presentation regarding the history of TV development. He mentioned the names Baird, Zworykin, DeForest and Nipkow as players in the years of mechanically scanning and reproducing images. Logie Baird produced the first closed-circuit TV with his mechanical scanning process. In 1948, the BBC broadcast a TV picture containing 48 lines. Although most approaches used Nipkow's spiral row of holes in a spinning disc, a spinning drum with mirrors mounted on it, or a spinning array of glass prisms were also used. A flying spot of light was used to produce an electronic image signal from a photocell, as used by RCA to broadcast an image on its W2XBS radio station in 1928.

Electronic TV In January 1927 Philo Farnsworth applied for a patent on his idea for an electronic method of scanning an image, creating a signal that could be used to produce an image at the receiving end. This would essentially be the very first electronic TV camera. It would eliminate the relatively very slow mechanical scanning process and produce hundreds of scan-lines in the received image. Philo used synchronized sawtooth-waveform oscillators for both the vertical and horizontal scanning processes at the camera and the receiving end display - a CRT. By 1934 he had improved the sensitivity of his "Image Dissector", as he termed it, and could demonstrate it very successfully. A Russian, Vladimir Zworykin, worked for Marconi and was hired later by David Sarnoff of RCA. Sarnoff sent Zworykin to visit Farnsworth in his San Francisco lab to "harvest" helpful information for RCA's development efforts. (The end of a long story is that RCA eventually had to pay patent royalties to Farnsworth, making him the first ever to receive royalty payments from RCA). At RCA Zworykin discovered that the process of "charge storage" was very useful in developing TV camera tubes that would become useful for TV broadcasting. These tubes would become, the "kinescope", the iconoscope and the image orthicon (1946). He eventually combined the technology of the photomultiplier tube with his earlier design concepts, creating a very compact, sensitive camera tube, the Vidicon - able to use only ambient light for illumination.

In 1940, the RETMA - Radio Electronics Television Manufacturing Association - agreed on a format for the signals use to broadcast public television. In 1941 the FCC approved the format, allowing for 13 channels of TV using 6 megacycles bandwidth for each channel.

Color TV In 1946 RCA developed its concept for color TV broadcast and reception, using only one FCC- allocated channel to carry all needed signals and to be completely compatible with existing black-and-white TV receivers. With their configuration, all broadcasts could be viewed on any TV set, with no display of color. An earlier FCC-approved system, developed by CBS, required 3 channels (one for each color) was



**First Trinitron - model KV-1310, 1968**

abandoned as impractical. The RCA camera used 3 Orthicons, one for each color, and the receiver used a CRT having a shadow-mask and color-dot phosphors. The three electron gun beams were difficult to keep converged on their individual color dots to maintain color purity. The scheme did result in RCA's first production color TV, the CT100. In 1971 SONY developed a CRT called the Trinitron that eliminated the convergent problem. Almost all subsequent TV sets used the Trinitron and were manufactured overseas.

Author's note: Lightning struck my color TV antenna years ago. After replacing some capacitors and the antenna balun transformer, the set worked, but the convergence and color purity were destroyed and impossible to restore with all 18 adjustments on the picture tube neck. The built-in degausser feature had failed to get the job done. A standard serviceman's AC loop didn't work either. I had to remove the chassis and demagnetize every steel part.

Bill McKeown



## New Member Spotlight - Valkyra D. & her mom, Carlie

Valkyra displayed a lot of enthusiasm at the auction, impressing member Barry McDaniel from Little Rock. He gave her the radio pictured (that he had just won at the raffle) to encourage her hobby in vintage radios .



**Raffle Radio General Electric K-80 donated by winner to Valkyra to encourage her to be a collector.**



## 2022 Convention Highlights

2022 was quite a year for VRPS. We started out with a massive search for a new venue and location for Convention 2022. Compounding the search, was rapid costs increases for facilities and food service. Directors compiled a list of over 22 locations in the Metroplex and surrounding areas, and settled on the Double Tree Hotel. Our facilities space increased, as did a safe and secure location. Jim Sargent started the auctions, with Jerry James on the computer (he helped VRPS with setup and programming) and Jim Collins from Oklahoma on the other computer. Great to see Frank Rasada and John Kusching from out of town. Mike Grimes and crew, did an excellent job of moving equipment through all the auctions.

Auction results were: Friday auction - \$8,000. Saturday auction including the silent auction - \$17,000 including \$1600 in donations for both days. Overall we brought in \$25,000. We had 123 people attend the convention and 96 for our banquet. Our guest speaker, George Gimarc, American disc jockey, record and radio program producer and author, presented a lively Talk with some of his vast collection of recordings on radio. Randy James our VRPS Vice president, concluded the banquet with the Contest Awards.

Here are a few sets from the auctions. Several 1929-1930 Zenith consoles, a large Majestic 60, Grebe Syncrophase, Deforest F5, True tone console, Atwater Kent console, several 1920's photographs and a Grunow Teledial 12. We had four catalin radios, and some lively bidding on a nice Philco Grandfather clock radio.

One last note here.....mark your 2023 calendars for our Spring auction on March 18th!

--George Potter

## 2022 VRPS Old Equipment Contest Winners

1. Crystal Receivers Pre 1940 / Tom Burgess / Early Radio w/ choice of detectors
2. One Tube Radios Pre 1928 / Dave Seymour / Radak 1 Tube Regen
3. AC Table Receivers Pre WWII / Crist Rigotti / 1936 Philco 60B
4. AC/DC Tube Radios Pre 1960 / Fred Taylor / Pilot Cathedral Radio
5. Transistor Radios Pre 1965 / Mark Walden / 16 Transistor Collection
6. Phonographs & Related Accessories Pre 1940 / Jim Collings / Vicsoma Reproducer
7. Featured Brand- CROSLEY / Tom Burgess / Crosley Reado Fax
8. Novelty Radios-Tube or Transistor / Phyllis Huckaby / Abbotwares Horse Radio Collection
9. Radio Related Ads, Ephemera, & Accessories / Mary Ann Caruth / Complete Set Radio Stars Magazines
10. Television Receivers Pre 1970 / Crist Rigotti / 1948 Admiral 7 inch Television
11. Table Top Art Deco Radios / No Entries
12. Battery Radios Pre 1928 / Tom Burgess / Radio Products MFG. Model 50
13. Foreign Tube-Type Radios / Jim Ray / Sierra Radio Aristona Belgium
14. Kit Radios Pre 1930 / Mark Blackwood / Leutz C-7 Superhet
15. Microphones & Speakers Pre 1960 / Frank Haecker / RCA 77A Microphone w/ Floor Stand
16. Contest Theme – 100 Years of WBAP / Ed Lois Janssen / WBAP Poster & Statue
17. Open Category / Gilbert Hedge / Suitcase Portables

### 2022 Old Equipment Contest Awards

**Best of Show & Peoples' Choice Award - Phyllis Huckaby / Abbotwares Horse Radio Collection**



**First Time Contestant - David Brown / Grandfather's 4 Tube Regen**



**Best Restoration - Crist Rigotti / 1936 Philco Model 60B**



**Founders' Award - Mark Walden / 16 Transistor Radio Collection**



## Convention Pictures





## 2022 Christmas Party





## Houston Vintage Radio Association 2023 Convention



As has been the case for so many years the event is to be held at the Houston Marriott North on March 10 and 11, with a swap meet on Sunday morning, March 12. Room rates are \$95 per night, plus all imposed taxes and fees. Reservations can be made from now until mid-Feb 2023. To contact the Marriott you may call 281-875-4000 and mention the HVRA Convention

The auction process will be organized by President Joe Gernand and the Old Equipment Contest by Tom Taylor—their dedication is greatly appreciated. Joe will be needing extra assistance with the auction since he'll be carrying the duties of President as well, so please step up to help. As in past years, Bill Werzner, past president, is planning to take on the task as "Auctioneer". Duane Bradley, former station manager of KPFT Pacifica Houston, has accepted to be guest speaker at the banquet. Featured manufacturer this year is RCA, so be sure to pull out your nicest RCA sets, whether they be battery sets, transistor radios, or CR-100 color TVs, and enter them in the contest. Jeff Heller has agreed to give a Friday morning technical presentation related to RCA—his presentations are always entertaining and informative. [Click here for the 2023 Registration Form](http://hvra.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Registration-Form.pdf) (http://hvra.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Registration-Form.pdf) that you can then fill out and mail in.

### 2023 HVRA Vintage Equipment Contest Categories

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Wireless/Spark Equipment                      | (Examples Include Telephones, Telegraph,          |
| 2. Crystal Receivers & Related Crystal Equipment | Scientific Test Equipment, Electrical Devices,    |
| 3. Battery Receivers (1920s)                     | Television)                                       |
| 4. Wood Cathedrals, Tombstones, & Consoles       | 11. Kit Radios & Equipment (At Least 10 yrs. Old) |
| 5. Wood Table Receivers (Tube)                   | 12. Hi-Fidelity Equipment                         |
| 6. Non-Wood Table Receivers (Tube)               | 13. Amateur Radio Equipment (At Least 10 yrs.     |
| 7. Portable Radios (Transistor & Tube)           | Old)  |
| 8. "Modern" Electronics, 1980s To the Present    | 14. Military Electrical & Electronic Equipments   |
| Electronic Equipment & Electronica (Examples     | 15. Replicas & Vintage Style Creations            |
| Include Vintage Computers, Modern Radio          | 16. Foreign Radios                                |
| Equipment & Recent Unique Electronic &           | 17. Special Convention Theme: RCA & All Items     |
| Computing Items)                                 | Carrying the RCA Name                             |
| 9. Scrap Yard/Fabricated Radio (Working—Must     | 18. Components (Including Vacuum Tubes)           |
| Be Heard 10 ft Away)** see below for more        | 19. Open Display                                  |
| information.                                     |   |
| 10. Miscellaneous Vintage Electrical Equipment   |   |

#### Scrap Yard Radio

A local AM transmitter will be provided in the room for this category. At least one tube must be in powered use for signal handling within the exhibit. For safety sake an arbitrary B+ boundary of less than 90 volts DC is declared. Any line AC voltage must be protected from accidental contact by the designer, any user, a judge or any other human fingers. The finished exhibit will be a working group of components or assemblies producing transmitted audio that can be understood at least 10 feet away. A winning exhibit will appear as if it shouldn't work and offer the most creative scheme for transmitted audio production from a speaker. The goal here is for you to learn, show your creative prowess and have some fun. Orderly appearances, quality parts or precision workmanship are not necessary. In its simplest form this might be a detector followed by a solid state amplifier board. Both solid state or hollow state assemblies are accepted. Detection or amplification can be provided by a component or an assembly using for instance one or more tubes pieced together via dead bug, terminal strips, PCBs, or hot wired out of a chassis.

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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 2023

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

- JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> - GARDEN & ARTS -10AM-NOON- EARLY RADIO DESIGN WITH DAVE SEYMOUR
- FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> - GARDEN & ARTS -10AM-NOON- TBD
- MARCH 10, 11, &12 --HOUSTON VINTAGE RADIO CONVENTION (see page 7 for details)
- MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>-- SENTER EAST - 8AM - 5 PM-- SPRING AUCTION

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