

SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Spring 2023



From the President

One fourth of the year is down, and we are off to a great start.... new members, good attendance at monthly meetings, a well-attended spring auction, financial growth. Yep, we are off to a great start in 2023! The only drawback I can think of is the additional monthly expenses we see from two fronts: inflation and the monthly rental fee the city of Irving collects for using their buildings. We

have a plan to address both of these financial stresses...and, I for one, feel very good about where this organization is headed in the short...and the long term. As I look toward the months ahead, I wanted to use this forum to encourage those members, who are within driving distance of Irving, to plan to attend at least one ...if not more of our monthly meetings this year. Larry Lindsey does an excellent job of arranging topics and presenters that will be of interest to our membership. Elsewhere in this issue of The SoundWaves, you will read summaries of these meetings/events since January. Mark Walden (as did his predecessor, Bill McKeown) does a excellent job of summarizing our meetings. However, they cannot begin to capture the complete emotions and side bar comments from participants. You need to be there in person. Upcoming events include our swap meet in May and our radio repair session in July. Both of these are always well received. Make plans to attend a monthly meeting or event. You will not be disappointed. One other thought. Recently, two of our board members have had significant medical issues. Both resulted in lengthy hospital stays and for one, continues to this day. It was good to see George Potter at our Spring Auction. And thank you to Mary Ann Caruth for continuing to edit and publish this publication ...even from her hospital bed. Dedication is a marvelous trait. Thank you for exhibiting that trait to this volunteer organization. [see page 7]

--Jim

1/21/23 VRPS Meeting Notes

Randy James opened the meeting and welcomed about 30 in attendance including three first time visitors. Randy then revealed the new VRPS USB Flash Drive which contains all of the clubs newsletters ever published. A special thanks to club member Ron Carroll for producing them. They are available for \$20 each. All proceeds go to the club.

Some confusion of where the club meetings are now going to held was brought up and Mike Grimes reminded everyone to look at their club newsletter or the VRPS website for that information. You can also refer to the reminder email that goes out about one week before each meeting.

Visitor Ed Elmore requested to do a quick show and tell with his working Zenith Transoceanic 600 asking if anyone knew anything that might help him with it. Needless to say he received several replies ending with Billy Smith saying they most always need the switches cleaned.

Larry Lindsey queried his latest smartest person in the room challenge which stumped the entire crowd and provided another learning experience. Q -The condition of what part in our hobby can be diagnosed by the reflection of light? A -Steel phonograph needles.

Before starting the days program Larry reminded everyone that the club is now allowing the presenters to complete their entire presentation before any comments or questions are taken and then he introduced the main speaker, Dave Seymour. This new procedure proved to allow the



topic to flow better with plenty of time afterwards for questions and comments.

Dave's topic was Early Radio Designs, but he started with his own teaser, guess what's in the case without opening it. He passed the case around to

all present for a external only observation. The answer, well that was at the end of his presentation.

Technical difficulties prevented Dave from showing his slides overhead, yet undeterred, Dave still gave an excellent talk which included displaying radios of each type design he discussed. Highlights are mentioned below but viewing Dave's powerpoint presentation that can be found on the VRPS website under Events has more detail.

Starting with the often beloved Crystal radio, that many of those in attendance have built an example of, he stated that his works best with a long wire antenna that also serves as a capacitor.

TRF - consists of multiple stages of amplification and tuning. These were mainly manufactured while superheterodyne was still being refined and regenerative circuits were just getting started. His Diamond T three wheel example was acquired at a antique mall that was located on top of a hill in his home state of Illinois. On his last trip back he found that a tornado had completely destroyed the building down to the foundation and unfortunately didn't even leave any free parts for Dave to pick up off the ground.

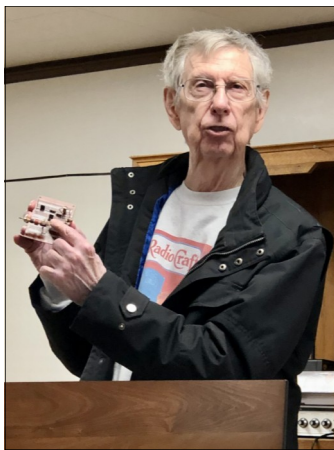
Reflex - this design has the tube to do two things, amplify the rf frequency & amplify the audio thus eliminating one tube which were still expensive at that time. Reflex designs weren't used very long as tubes became less expensive and of better quality.

Pulsed TRF - still has some applications today in items such as garage door openers and security systems where just one very high frequency is needed for operation.

Superhet - continuous to be the workhorse of radios today. It takes the incoming rf frequency and multiplies it with a oscillator and converts it to a lower frequency where it can be more easily processed. This reduces the gain as the rf frequency goes up which is a problem in the TRF design.

Regen - Armstrong's early regen circuit takes some of the output signal and applies it back with the input to make the original signal stronger with more gain out of one tube. Dave displayed and discussed radios that have 4 different ways to adjust the gain. A Tri-City with the resistor method, a Crosley using the tickler coil method, a Trego model that uses a variometer for the coupling to the antenna coil for the regen tuning, and a Radak that also uses a variometer for tuning but not the regeneration. It has a fixed tickler coil and a filament control. Something other club members may identify with, two years ago Dave didn't have any regen radios when he started studying them, he now has the four he displayed.

Mike Grimes stepped in to cover the last design on the list, Single Chip AM. The power and small size that these chips have explains a few of the reasons



solid state displaced the older vacuum technology. A previous club presentation by Mike goes into much more detail on this subject.

Dave then explained his two home antenna methods - connecting to his attic radiant barrier and a long wire outside.

All of his radios perform best on the long wire and when grounded, but he doesn't have lightning protection yet so the radios are only hooked up when he is listening to them.

Finishing up Dave asked each person what they thought was in the mystery case. Afterwards it was opened to reveal a plethora of currently needed batteries for today's electronics. Four accurate guessers were awarded a delicious Hersey's chocolate bar. An excellent way for the presentation & meeting to conclude, at least for this snack recipient.

Dave's presentation can be viewed @ <http://www.vrps.org/Events.html>

2/18/23 VRPS Meeting Notes

Jim Sargent started the meeting at 10:00am sharp because with our new location schedule comes the need for punctuality due to the time allotted us. He reminded everyone that in 2023 all VRPS meetings will be at the Garden and Arts building, except for the Spring Auction and Christmas party which will be back at the Senter East location. All the members and one visitor then introduced themselves as is customary.

Jim also offered the new club thumb drive for sale that contains all of the club newsletters ever produced thru 2022. Several members purchased their copy at this meeting for only \$20. This specially marked 50th anniversary drive is a limited edition so if you want one, don't wait too long to get yours. It has room for you to put subsequently produced newsletters on it.

Larry Lindsey began by requesting that everyone hold their questions until the end of the presentation, which almost everyone did, then he announced the speaker for the day, Margaret Bryant. She is a new club member that had a 30 year career in broadcast engineering and has a life long fascination with antique radios, tv's, telephones and cars. Larry is most impressed with her ability to drive a model T Ford, as he also can, which operates a lot differently than most cars.

Margaret's presentation revolved around a personal story about her grandfather, Marquis (Mark) Bryant, a ham radio operator in his youth, who was involved in early radio testing by being one of the first to test DeForest tubes in wireless two way communication between an airplane and the ground while in the Army at Ellington Field in Texas. He had enlisted in WWI because of a personnel invitation from Clarence Tuska, of ARRL fame and later of Tuska Radio manufacturing, in October 1917. During WWI the government was looking for amateur radio operators for the armed services. Some of the Army's first radio equipment was loaned to them by a Houston, TX 16 year old ham, Ken Autry, in exchange for airplane rides.



At Ellington Field Mr. Bryant built code tables and taught radio operators and pilots how to send Morse code through a spark transmitter in an airplane. He served in Ellington for a while, then the group got split up and Mark got sent to Carlstrom Field in Arcadia, Florida. He built code tables there too, but before much could be done, he was transferred to Austin and Penn Field. He spent the remainder of his time there teaching cadets how to use the radio. At that time, pilots were being trained to use wireless solely for the purpose of artillery spotting and

sending signals to the guns below to adjust their positioning. Some experimenting was also performed in wireless two way voice communication and a friend of his, Arthur Zipse, was engaged in some of that work in Lake Charles, LA.

In 1952 Mark Bryant was invited to attend a dinner honoring Lee DeForest. He wasn't able to go, but the invitation shows many of the pioneers in radio that would be attending. That Who's Who invitation is in Margaret's photos.

Margaret's powerpoint contains a lot of historic pictures and schematics. Her exhibit included an airplane spark transmitter The most valuable item according to an Antique Roadshow expert is Mark Bryant's WWI era personal airplane helmet that is in fantastic condition. Next up was show and tell.

Mark Blackwood brought an Army Signal Corps radio crystal set receiver type BC-14A manufactured by Liberty Electric Corp. The radio was designed to receive morse code signals from an airplane in 1918 during WWI to direct artillery. It has a label that reads Property of Lieut. Walter V. Beaney.

Howard Stone discussed his two offerings. A Mark III Radio WWI Crystal Tuner by Robert Paul. The British used these in the trenches for the reception of aerial morse code on the battlefields of the Western Front. Howard's research shows this is one of only four known survivors that was originally made with folding legs. Then he presented his Wireless Specialty IP-76 Radio Receiver 1912 Series used by the US Navy from 1910 on. More information on both these sets can be found on his website stonevintageradio.com.

Rick Wilkins explained his Western Electric model SCR-59 radio from 1917/1918. These were mounted and used in the "Jenny" biplanes for communication between ground, air, and other planes in the squadron at the time. It used three VT-1's but sometimes came with three Moorhead tubes which were available as well. Rick says these are excellent working TRF sets.

Since enough meeting time was still left, Dave Seymour used Margaret's projector and swiftly went through his powerpoint schematics that he wasn't able to show at the last club meeting. Margaret and Dave's presentations can be viewed @ vrps.org/Events.html

--Mark Walden

March Auction 3/21/2023 / 49 people registered./ Total sales \$5115 / Approximately 250 items sold / 27 items passed / 47 items donated for a total of \$350



Westinghouse WR-12 \$85



PHILCO 40-140 \$65



VRPS Volunteers



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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 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..**

- **APRIL 15TH - GARDEN ARTS -2- 5 PM -- ZENITH SALES TRAINING FILM STRIPS & SHOW & TELL**
- **MAY 20TH - GARDEN ARTS -7AM - NOON -- TAILGATE SWAP MEET**
- **JUNE 17TH-- GARDEN ARTS -2- 5 PM - VINTAGE BATTERIES 1890-1920 - JIM SARGENT**
- **JULY 15TH - GARDEN ARTS -8AM - NOON -- REPAIR SESSION**