



SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Summer 2023



From the President

I believe it's a Randy Travis song that has the line..."old men sit and talk about the weather while old women sit and talk about old men." Sure 'nuf, we old guys have been talking about how nice it is we have an air-conditioned building to hold our VRPS meetings. Summer only just got here, and already we are wishing for winter. Well cooler temps are a few months away, so please take precautions if you are planning to spend time outdoors or in your un-air-

conditioned repair shop. However, in case you get the hankering to hop in the car and visit a somewhat cooler part of the country, there are the usual vintage radio conventions to the north you might check out. My favorite (outside of our own VRPS convention) is in the Chicago suburb of Addison. Held the first weekend of August, this two-day Radiofest event, sponsored by the Antique Radio Club of Illinois, kicks off with a world class auction on Friday evening. The next day is the main event, a wonderful outdoor flea market with vendors filling a large paved parking lot. You never know what will show up for sale...but, you can bet the early bird will find the worm. Collectors from across the country make this an annual "must attend" event.

On another topic, if you have been attending our monthly meetings, you are probably aware that we are picking up new members at almost every event. This is a good thing, to be sure. If you see an unfamiliar face at one of our events, do not hesitate to introduce yourself; both of you will benefit from the introduction.

In closing my thoughts for this issue of the SoundWaves, it is not too early to begin thinking about our annual convention in November. Our website already has some of the information you will want to know as we make plans to gather in Richardson...for our 49th time!! Of course, we will send our normal convention packet information in early October.

Stay cool and happy hunting.

--Jim



April 15, 2023 VRPS Meeting Notes

Larry Lindsey introduced the presenter, long time and current VRPS board member, Bill McKeown. Bill grew up in Benton, MI and started his journey "tinkering", as he puts it, with discarded 1920's and 30's radios in 1947 at the age of 13.

He was taking scavenged parts from the freebies and a occasional new surplus part purchased from a little store called Heath Company, before they supplied kits, and made radios. Bill's presentation was showing Zenith Distribution Sales Training film strips that Jim Sargent recently acquired. Jim reached out to Bill as he has a Standard Model 666CN projector that is used to show this type of film strip. These 6 film strips contained about 600 black and white images. In 1953 they were used along with a Zenith Cobramatic record player for audio and also refer to movies that were also to be viewed in the overall presentation. This was a cutting edge multimedia event of the day.

Being sales training film strips, they were repetition and presented the same material in different ways, which reminded us why Zenith was one of the leaders of the industry. A film strip title page called it "Seven League Boots for Selling", copyrighted 1953 Zenith Radio Corporation.



Some of the included information the slides listed are:

Cobra-Matic - built-in "speedometer" for proper speed. Exclusive features that you can see and hear are the Cobra tone arm, stroboscope indicator and record saver turntable.

Hi-Fidelity radio-phonograph consoles - superb cabinetry, widest possible variety of styles and Zenith's Hi-Fidelity AM-FM reception.

UHF tuner - means tv for everyone, "Built for Each Other", the Instant Automatic Station Selector a Zenith electronic wonder ... with single knob tuning. Other brands need a convertor.

Zenith's UHF transmitter - built in 1946 and allowed 1445 new stations in the U.S.

Short Wave Group radios - for world events they offered these portable models, the Voyager, the Meridian and the King of them all, the Trans-Oceanic. An interesting bit of sales knowledge given is that you can even use them on airplanes which makes for an interesting mental picture of whipping out your T/O in flight.

Standard Portable Group radios - the Universal, the Zenette and the Personal. All with built-in cash registers for sales, according to Zenith.

Zenith Leadership TV Line - unmatched performance superiority with the new Super K chassis. Best of all, the line is loaded with Tell And Vision Demonstration Features. There's a model to fit any size purse.

1954 - a New Measure of Selling Effectiveness - along with the above mentioned features, the Cinebeam Tube that uses 20% less beam current and an essential for good UHF reception, a 41 Megacycle IF Amplifier.

The referenced Zenith key points were and still are key today for professional presentations. They listed the items to bring, what to do before the meeting starts such as set up, adjust and test all the equipment and make sure the dealer had the needed Zenith products on hand and displayed. I personally reflected on how many meetings in the last couple of years I have attended that wasted a lot of time listening to the modern presenters trying to figure out how to get the setup working after the event started.

Bill's presentation materials required rewinding and loading another film strip by hand which took a little time to do. It didn't take long for Larry Lindsey to recognize these were perfect pauses for him to step back up and offer up a question or two to the group.

The first was for his highly coveted Smartest Guy In The Room certificate, as no ladies were present, and was answered correctly by Gary Campbell.

Q - What do these two ham radio call signs have in common, NA1SS & RS01SS ?

A - They were on the International Space Station.

Another quiet moment opportunity was occupied by another of Larry's standby questions.

A - Buddy Holly

Wait, you put the answer first ... that's because Crist Rigotti gave the answer before Larry finished saying the question.

Q - What is the name of a famous rock and roller who wrote a song about his girlfriend that was a ham radio operator and made her famous but only friends and family knew who she was (Peggy Sue)... Her call letters were K5PSG.

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Our meeting concluded with a few very nice show and tells.



Kelly Casey brought 3 excellent working radios.

1)-1936 Atwater Kent 545. Reportedly the last model designed and built by AK. Mr. Kent was apparently frustrated by the success of competitor's inferior radio designs and decided to quit rather than lower his standards. Nice 5-tube tombstone radio that weighs a ton.

2 - 1940 Philco 40-125C. Not particularly rare, but one of the best-looking table radios in Kelly's opinion. The station tag holder is 3D printed. Note - the last button "KNOB" is pressed for manual tuning.

3 - 1946 Silvertone 6001. All-metal chassis 4-tube design that performs way above expectations. Not original knobs... Uses the same chassis as the venerable Arvin 444A. It is similar to an AA5 design but has no IF amplifier, so it only has one IF

transformer Kelly explained.

Dave Seymour brought an unbranded regen radio. It was especially interesting as it is hinged so that the entire chassis flips out of its cabinet for easy access.

George Potter displayed his recent "barn find", a single tube Magnavox amplifier from 1924 which he says was usually used for driving a horn speaker. This is his third acquisition of this type in his forty-eight years of collecting radios. He was extremely pleased when it came time to pay for it as it actually was one tenth of what he thought the price would be.

Paul Di Bernardo who is relatively new to the hobby, brought in his 1946 Zenith Consoltone Model 5D027 radio. He electronically restored it and after reconstructing the cabinet, also refinished it. He said he currently gives his restored work away to family and friends.

--Mark Walden



May 20, 2003 Swap Meet -- No photos available



June 17, 2003 Meeting Notes

There is nothing quite like 80% humidity and 90+ degree weather to bring everyone inside early and ready for the meeting to start. Jim Sargent kicked it off by welcoming everyone. Our own personal introductions revealed visitors, new members and regulars in attendance.

Larry Lindsey challenged the group with his smartest person in the room offering for this month. Mike Grimes gave the correct answer, after a short pause and a couple of incorrect guesses by others, netting him the longed for SGITR certificate. It will be presented to him at the next club meeting.

Q - When will we get the same symptoms as an incurable disease when we work on our radios?

A - When we get shocked

Larry went on to explain the question was referring to tetanus (lock jaw) which is the disease that is characterized by muscle spasm caused by bacterium.

Jim Sargent was the speaker for the day and expounded a bit about his main radio collecting interests that lie in the 1919-1923 battery radio era which provided a natural progression to his collecting and studying of early batteries.

Volta invented the first true battery in 1800. It stored and released a charge through a chemical reaction and became known as the voltaic pile. The voltaic pile consisted of pairs of copper and zinc discs piled on top of each other and used salt as the electrolyte. Batteries provided the main source of electricity before the development of electric generators and electrical grids around the end of the 19th century. Continued improvements in batteries brought about electrical advances, from scientific studies to the advancement

of telegraphs and telephones. Jim's battery presentation outlined that the 1860-1920's era batteries fall into 4 basic categories with 2 main types: Primary, which can't be recharged, and storage, which can be renewed. Inside of those 2 types are wet cell and dry cell batteries. Wet cell were the first produced and some of the early batteries weren't covered so you got to enjoy the toxic fumes and mess for no extra charge.



Jim displayed several early batteries and started with his wet cell versions. He had a Sampson No. 2 that Tom Burgess had reproduced the zinc element in it and Jim had made his own battery "juice" for it by obtaining sal ammoniac at a local pharmacy. Today Jim poured this juice, that he made 20 years ago, into the Sampson and it generated enough amperage to ignite the attached light bulb for the remainder of his talk. He then moved on to a Bunsen cell, made by Western Electric in the 1880's, that is composed of a zinc anode in diluted sulfuric acid separated by a porous pot from a carbon cathode in nitric or chromic acid. Next up, a plunge battery, by F.C. Otto & Sons, who were makers of fine medical quack devices and batteries for them in the 1800's. The anode was plunged down into the liquid to produce the electricity and pulled back up to stop it. Last of Jim's wet cell versions was a Edison-Lalande. It was

Edison's first commercial battery.

Jim then moved on to his dry cell batteries. In 1886, Carl Gassner obtained a German patent on a variant of the Leclanché cell, which came to be known as the dry cell because it does not have a free liquid electrolyte. Instead, the ammonium chloride was mixed with Plaster of Paris to create a paste. In 1887, he received a U.S. Patent for the same device. The first mass-produced model was the Columbia dry cell, first marketed by the National Carbon Company in 1896 and then they improved it by replacing the



Plaster of Paris with soaked coiled cardboard. Similar refined versions are still in use today. Jim brought several #6 batteries to show, but his crowd stumper question, "what is the name of this battery?", revealed a #8 cell. So far he hasn't found any additional information on this one and has never seen another. His #8 has a use by date of March 2, 1904 stamped on it. If you have one, let him know. Jim mentioned that all of the dry cell batteries he brought were tested and still registered some voltage but no current.

Jim also collects radio related books and he brought his earliest one from 1866, Parker's Philosophy, which covers natural and experimental philosophy that includes battery theory. He suggests everyone look for a copy but not in the electrical section.

A little meeting time was left so on to Show and Tell.

Mark Blackwood brought his recent auction acquisition a Philco B battery. It's 24 cells produced 48 volts. Mark also asked his own question to the group. "When did 1/2 of the U.S. homes have electricity?" His answer was 1924.

It's not too early to make your reservations for the convention. See the link on the webpage or call 1-866-568-0896 .Be sure to tell them you are with the VRPS [Group Rate: CDTVRS for the special rate and free breakfast!

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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..**

- JULY 15TH - GARDEN ARTS -8AM - NOON -- REPAIR SESSION
- AUGUST 19TH - GARDEN ARTS -- 2PM - 5PM -- AMAZING STORIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RADAR
- SEPTEMBER 16TH - GARDEN ARTS-- 8AM--NOON -- TAIL GATE SWAP MEET
- OCTOBER 21ST - GARDEN ARTS -- 2PM - 5PM -- TBD
- NOVEMBER 17TH--19TH DOUBLETREE HOTEL IN RICORDSON -- VRPS CONVENTION