



SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Winter 2024



From the President

Milestones are everywhere. In this country we tend to measure success by milestones...record sales, low unemployment, the four-minute mile. You know, things that set someone or something apart from others. Well, that is kinda how I see the VRPS....a group that began meeting together on a regular basis in 1974 with a common interest in preserving the history of radios and phonographs. A group that initially identified themselves by the region of the country they

were in - the Southwest Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society. If you were collecting radios

in the seventies (you would have been an early collector), you likely would have found it difficult to find an organization that supported your interest. Yes, there was the granddaddy of clubs, the Antique Wireless Association formed in 1952. And, if you were in northern California, the California Historical Radio Society (CHRS) (also formed in 1974) was a good option. Beyond those three, you would have had a tough time finding a support group. I am proud to tell you that all three are still active and healthy organizations. As the calendar rolls over tomorrow (I am writing this on New Year's Eve) we enter our 50th year. In those early years, we began to see significant growth inside and outside of Texas and the Southwest, thus the farsighted leadership decided to drop the identifier, "Southwest" from the club's name. Your Directors will be meeting in January to finalize plans to celebrate our milestone. Indeed, we should be proud.

I have a lot of pictures but, I surely could use some more from our early years. Not so much stuff, but of people and events...swap meets, auctions, etc. If you have some we can use, contact me. I am also looking for someone(s) who has the time and skill to digitize a lot of photographs and slides for use at our annual convention.

On a sad note, we lost two of our members in December. Richard Beaman and Larry Smith both passed away and will be missed. Please join me in remembering and praying for their families.

Have a great new year!

--Jim



October 21, 2023 Meeting Notes

Gathering outside the Garden and Arts Center to catch up with each other, discuss current projects and picking through the tendered offerings was quite a pleasure on such a beautiful day. It was almost a shame to go inside for the meeting.

Randy James started the ball rolling by welcoming everyone and proceeding thru the normal introductions, mentioning the online Sargent auction and the upcoming November VRPS convention.

Mike Grimes went into further detail about our convention with perhaps the most important reminder, bring someone new to see what it is all about. The same goes for club meetings. Active participation in the club is needed from all our members. Mike also suggested the possibility of adding a listing about club activities if your local area has a news source that posts events. He will help you with the wording for those notifications if you let him know.

Program chairman Larry Lindsey offered his SGITR question for October.

Q - What is a stealth tower?

A - by Kelly Casey - A disguised cell phone tower.

In an effort to make them less of an eyesore, some manufactured towers are made to look like trees, giant cactus, light poles, church steeples and other decorative structures.

Larry then introduced the first of the presenters, Eric Kirst. Eric's presentation revolved around his Edison model D cylinder player that is a family heirloom. It came into his possession during Christmas of 1966 which was a great present as he was already a phonograph enthusiast. His great uncle Arthur had a farm in Michigan who had bought this machine in Detroit around 1908. Eric and his uncles have all tried to permanently fix the model D's spring over the years as it's attachment point is a weak spot. Their suggestion was for him to treat it delicately like an old rubber band and he continues to be gentle with it and it still plays.

Eric continued by reading some of Edison's advertising of the day. One of our favorites included a suggestion that you should buy his machines and give concerts and by charging admission it would pay for itself. Makes you think Edison would be a king on social media.

Eric also covered some of the stages of cylinder development. In 1877, Thomas Edison invented the

phonograph using a thin sheet of tin foil wrapped around a hand cranked metal cylinder but this wasn't working well and Edison moved to other projects. Then Tainter, Bell, and Bell introduced wax as the recording medium after 7 years of experimentation. It proved successful which brought Edison back to cylinders. In 1889 prerecorded wax cylinders were marketed. They had professionally made recordings of songs, instrumental music or humorous monologues that became known as canned music. Eric ended his presentation by playing several of his favorite recordings.

Richard Shanks was up next and brought in 4 phonographs which he also played several records on each of them.



1 - Columbia Grafonola Favorite from 1911. It's a fairly early inside horn phonograph for Columbia. Only first year models use doors instead of louvers over the horn opening. It sold for \$50 in 1911 which is about \$1,620 in 2023.

2 - Pathe model 60 circa 1914 made in NYC. It can play both Pathe discs which were recorded vertically and regular 78 rpm records that are recorded laterally with an attachment. The sapphire ball stylus did not require a needle change every play.

3 - Victor Victrola Orthophonic portable model 2-55 from 1928. Made entirely of steel, no wood.

4 - Columbia Viva Tonal Grafonola model 162 from 1928.

It was interesting to hear how much the quality and sound level varied between the different records on the same phonograph and between the phonographs themselves. Richard explained changing the steel needles after playing each record is a must, so as to not destroy the record, except on the Pathe model.

Since these two concerts ran a bit long, the meeting time was up and concluded. A few members went up to get a closer look at the machines or ask questions with most everyone else helping with the room clean up.

--Mark Walden



Pictures from the Convention by Mark Walden



Convention Volunteers --We would like to especially thank our volunteers (pictured) who made the Convention auction happen:

Top, left to right:

Dave Bertinot, Steve Nance, Dave Cox, & Christos Dimitriadis.

Below: back row, left to right:

Mike Grimes, Scott Kennedy, Jerry Sirkin, Ed Janssen, Russ Craig, Bob Diggs, Randy James

Front Row:

Wayne Jones & David Cox.



2023 VRPS Awards Saturday November 18, 2023



#1 Crystal Receivers Pre 1940	No Entries
#2 Ham, Military, or Telegraphy Eq.	1st Place: Tom Burgess SCR74A WWI Spark Transmitter
#3 AC Table Receivers pre WWII	1st Place: Dutch Uselton
#4 AC/DC Radios Pre 1960	2nd Place: Dale Allen Abbotwares Z477 Horse
#5 Transistor Radios Pre 1965	1st Place: Mary Ann Caruth Cowboy Radios
	2nd Place: Larry Lamia Collection of Transistor Radios
#6 Phonographs & Related Acc. Pre 1940	1st Place: G.E. Stover Emerson Model 888 Pioneer
#7 Featured Brand - Emerson	1st Place: Richard Shanks Columbia Grafonola ca.1911
	2nd Place: Valkyra Dimitriadis Emerson 738 B
	1st Place (TIE): Ed Janssen 6 Emerson Cathedrals
#8 Novelty Radios-Tube or Transistor	1st Place (TIE): Jon Stanley A Collection of Emerson Radios
	2nd Place: Phyllis Huckaby Collection of M&M Radios
	1st Place: Mary Ann Caruth Muppet Radios
#9 Radio Related Ads, Ephemera, & Acc.	1st Place: Konrad Werzner WWII US Navy School Photo Album
#10 Test Equipment pre 1950	1st Place: Thomas Burgess Bendix Oscilloscope
#11 Table Top Art Deco Radios	2nd Place: Dave Seymour Grunow 501
	1st Place: Walt Zaleski Emerson 520 Catalin
#12 Battery Radios Pre 1928	2nd Place: Jim Sargent ACME Y-1 & Y-2
	1st Place: David Moore Ozarka Portable
#13 Foreign Tube-Type Radios	1st Place: Thomas Burgess Rees-Mace Portable
#14 Spark or Wireless Equipment	1st Place: Thomas Burgess Radicon Radio Controlled Bus
#15 Reproducers	1st Place: David Moore Brass Speakers
#16 Open Category	2nd Place: G.E. Stover RCA 45-EY-2
	1st Place: Fred Taylor Zenith 7S363 Console
#17 New Category -- Ugly Radios	2nd Place: Mike Grimes Truetone 225D28
	1st Place: Richard Shanks Westinghouse H-204A

Best of Show---Thomas Burgess Radicon Radio Controlled Bus



2023 VRPS Awards Saturday November 18, 2023 (continued)

Best Restoration ----- Fred Taylor Zenith 7S363 Console >>



^First Time Contestant & People's Choice ---- Valkyra Dimitriadis Emerson 738 B

Founders' Award -----David Moore Brass Speakers >>

Don't forget:
Houston Vintage Radio Association

HVRA 2024 Convention

February 2-4
Houston Marriot Westchase
2900 Briarpark Dr. Houston TX 77042

**This Year's Convention
Theme is "Crosley"**



Link to HVRA Convention:

<http://hvra.org/index.php/2024-annual-convention/>

2023 VRPS Christmas Party Saturday December 9, 2023 SHOW & TELL



WANT AD:

NEEDED: The dual-speed tuning mechanism (little block of spindles and tires behind the tuning knob) from the ATWATER KENT 112, 318,447, 559, or 577. I am missing the high-speed spindle on mine.

These are the Atwater Kent Models which switch between high speed and low speed tuning by moving the knob upward or downward.

If you have one you can salvage, please contact Eddie at sameaw@msn.com or (806) 777-7530.

Eddie Watts

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MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS 2024

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, 1000 Senter Road; 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 20TH -- HOW TO PACK YOUR RADIOS-- 1PM - 5PM GARDEN ARTS
- FEBRUARY 17TH -- TBD -- SEE WEBPAGE FOR DETAILS (EVENTS PAGE)
- MARCH 16TH -- SPRING AUCTION -- 8AM -4PM --SENER EAST