

SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Spring 2024



From the President

Wow, someone tell me how to slow down the clock! Seems like only yesterday we were all cheering 'Happy New Year'. Now the Winter of '23 is history and Spring of '24 has sprung. Course that just continues to make true the saying that 'time marches on'...so as my mom told me often as a kid, "get over it"...so we will. As I look at the calendar,...and at my collection, I realize that because time does indeed keep marching on, most of my collection has reached

the 100 year milestone. How about that! In most cases, they continue to work or have been made to work....just like they did 100 years ago. In my mind's eye, I can imagine the original owner sitting in front of the horn speaker or wearing a pair of Baldwin headphones straining to hear that far away radio station. Yep, we live in a very fortunate time.

Speaking of fortunate times, that brings me to our April meeting. We have the good fortune to offer the VRPS members a visit the Texas Broadcast Museum in Kilgore. We did this several years ago, and it was a rousing success. See below for information concerning this event. Whether this is your first time to see this world class radio and television museum, or you have visited several times before, I encourage you to join us for an exciting and excellent opportunity to get to know the hobby at a different level.

Our Spring auction was great. More that 40 members showed up to buy and sell. The weather forecast was for rain...but, it held off for the most part till the auction was over. Many items were sold, and it was so good to see everyone! In closing, I hope you enjoy the once in a lifetime solar eclipse over north Texas. Happy collecting and see you in Kilgore!

--Jim

Kilgore trip details: Cost to members is \$20, not including lunch, please contact Larry Lindsey (817-312-8761) to sign up, reserve a spot and find out where to meet. Trip limited to 55 attendees.



1/20/24 Meeting Notes

Packing and Shipping was the topic for the day which Randy James presided over. This meeting was informative, well presented and loaded with good information.

The first half hour covered the normal introductions and with Mike Grimes, our webmaster, along with his other board responsibilities, discussing the club's website. As most of you now know, 3 of the 4 Sound Waves newsletters for the year are found as a pdf file on the VRPS.org home page or by using the webpage Sound Waves tab. The Fall convention issue is still being mailed out.

Mike reviewed some of the information available on the site. There is our club history, Sound Waves back to 2007, the club roster for members, upcoming events, member's classified ads, a links page to related sites and a technical page. If you haven't recently, please take some time to check out VRPS.org and its offerings.

Mike also reiterated our need for current members to support and participate in VRPS in order to keep the club strong. Invite friends, neighbors, or coworkers to check us out. Attend meetings, buy & sell at our spring and convention auctions. Donate

an auction item as these auctions are the main source of income for the club. Volunteer to give a meeting program or submit a newsletter article. It was also suggested to send member prospects a copy of the Sound Waves to help garner interest. Mike finished by reminding us this fall we will be celebrating VRPS's 50th Anniversary at our convention in November.

Randy James was the first presenter and for the last 4 to 5 years he has handled the shipping for Sargent Auction Service so he has a lot of shipping experience. Other presenters that either confirmed and/or added to the consolidated suggestions listed below were Margaret Bryant, Patrick Jankowiak, Ed Janssen and Keith McManus. Keith also had a handout of his ideas which was used as a basis for this list.

Packing:

Use a strong box of the appropriate size, not just what is on hand. More cardboard can be added inside to strengthen the existing if needed, especially in the corners for heavy loads.

- Corrugated boxes have ECT, edge crush test ratings, check it. It tells you how much weight a corrugated sheet can withstand when standing

up on its edge. 48+ was suggested for average size radios. These are often described as heavy duty or extra strength.

- Wrap the radio with bubble wrap in two directions. Most preferred the 1" bubble size.
- Have good interior clearance for the wrapped article inside the box on all sides - 2" as a guide.
- Wrap power cord separate from the radio, not against it to prevent scratching finish.
- If possible, remove and wrap tubes separately. Fill the inside open spaces with paper, foam or bubble wrap.
- Fill the 2" clearance gap with packing foam when possible or additional bubble wrap, etc.
- A electric knife such as the meat carving type is very good for cutting foam to the correct size.
- If using packing peanuts don't put them inside the radio and use antistatic versions.
- Use tape that is designed for shipping. Cross tape corners for extra strength.
- Box should be solid after packing is complete. No movement should be felt or heard when moved around.

Pay attention to the shippers packing requirements if you plan on getting insurance as it's an easy way for them to not pay on a claim if not followed.

Shipping:

Most of the meeting attendees rated the major carriers from best to worse as FedEx, USPS, then UPS on the bottom. Mainly due to their experience with UPS damaging packages then not paying damage claims.

Keith, who also ships a lot, uses pirateship.com, and has found that it's an excellent way to lower shipping cost. This service is available to use with any of the above mentioned carriers and is said to cost up to 50% less. You buy online and print your own label, then simply drop the package off at the appropriate shipper and usually avoid standing in line.

Larry Lindsey had just enough meeting time left for his SGITR question. It was not correctly answered.

Q - What thing would take about 648 AA batteries to run for one day.

A - A human being

--Mark Walden

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2/17/24 Meeting Notes

It was Show and Tell time in Irving, TX and Jim Sargent was back at the helm. This continues to be a very popular meeting. And why not, with a lot of us finding and fixing, it begs for some of it to be revealed to others. But before the main offerings cranked up, Jim briefly talked about two enticing upcoming adventures, the March Spring Auction and our return to the Texas Broadcast Museum in April.

Larry Lindsey, program director, the guy you contact to do a meeting presentation, started with his SGITR question that wasn't correctly answered.

Q - Who at the meeting is an electronics expert AND also a geophysicist? (several attending are the first)

A - Billy Smith - he worked at ARCO for 20 years

Larry then started introducing the 13 presentations that I've summarized below, with a little help from my friends.

Richard Shanks -

RCA Victor 26BP portable radio. It appears this model debuted a couple of months before the Pearl Harbor attack and soon went out of production due to the war manufacturing changes. Although this radio is fairly rare, John Isbell in the audience has two of them.



Bill McKeown -

Western Radio Corp. model 54 branded GREBE on front metal plate. It's an early 30's superhet radio having a power transformer and a 5-tube lineup. The radio cabinet is solid maple, with a bird's-eye maple veneer front panel. Bill checked and found out that maple can be called curly, wavy, tiger-striped or bird's-eye, depending on how it's sawn.



Eric Kirst -

Acoustic Research turntable that he hasn't cleaned or lubricated yet but the motor seems good. It's a belt driven heavy platter design.



Jim Sargent - [not pictured]

WWI era machine gun clinometer made by Atwater Kent and cards issued with Sunripe Cigarettes that depict wireless apparatus's.

Dutch Uselton -

1957 EMUD T7. It has AM, FM and SW. He rebuilt the cabinet with birch plywood because this ebay purchase arrived damaged.



Kelly Casey - [next page]

A braille multimeter, yes for the sight challenged. Once the tone goes away the dials are read by braille for the measurement. He acquired it at one of our spring auctions.

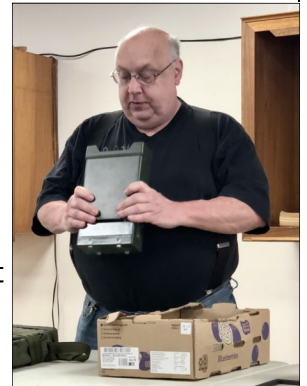
He also displayed the bluetooth module he makes and adds to radios. Powered by 120VAC, but you can also use an old USB cord, and power it from a USB charger. The



board he uses comes with a micro USB power jack and a 3.5mm audio out jack, although Kelly wires directly to the board. Contact Kelly for more information.

Patrick Jankowiak -

Two military Racal TRA-967's. The transceiver operates on FM, covering 30-70MHz in 25KHz steps. Power output is about 1.5 Watts. They work well on the 6 meter ham band and use either 10 C cells or 12 Volts DC. This model comes with two portable antennas and a BNC connector for a 50 Ohm antenna. A handset or a separate microphone and headset is normally used, but he added a small powered speaker that will plug in like a handset.



Margaret Bryant -

833 tube used in a GE XT1A 1kw AM transmitter. It was the first transmitter she worked on around 1977. The transmitter was a 1948 vintage.

Roland Gooch -

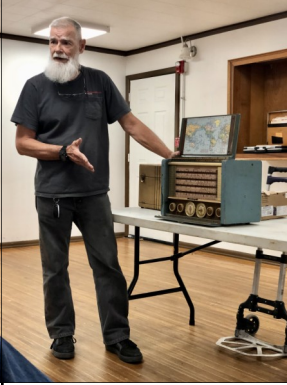
Homemade test equipment

1. Board for clamping a radio chassis on edge and tilting it up for easier access for repairs.
2. Small guitar amp modified to serve as a universal test speaker



with

- (a) 2, 4, 8, & 16 ohm 100 watt dummy load resistors for measuring output power in amps under test,
- (b) 25 watt output transformer and filter choke for substitution for speakers in cabinets,
- (c) a set of cables with 4, 5, 6, & 7 pin plugs to connect the chassis to the test speaker,
- (d) an extra volume control added in series with the original to allow use as a signal tracer and turntable testing.
3. A clip-on voltmeter probe with a 1 meg resistor close to the clip to eliminate loading in RF circuits. This allows reading AVC voltage clipped on the grid cap of an RF or IF tube without detuning the circuit while doing alignment with chassis setting on the bench.
4. Voltmeter probe made from a plastic pen and a long corsage pin for reaching test points deep under circuitry where a standard probe cannot easily reach.
5. A demodulator probe similarly made for tracing RF & IF problems with the modified guitar amp.
6. A small voltage doubler power supply that can plug in to the B+ pin of the rectifier socket and check the total leakage current of all the filter caps at once. A neon lamp indicates charging and will go out if the current is low enough to proceed with the radio on. It is current limited in case of very bad filter caps.



John Isbell -

Stromberg-Carlson model AWP-8 multi-band portable that he picked up at a garage sale. It still had all of the original paperwork including the sales receipt from 1957.

Silvertone 6651 battery powered radio phonograph with electrically amplified pick up and spring motor turntable obtained at a local antique store.

Crist Rigotti -

Philmore one tube receiver that he wants to restore but hasn't found the model number or schematic for it. He has seen a similar model in a advertisement by Lafayette, but is still looking for assistance in his search. The chassis is a mess and components can't be simply swapped out.



Fred Doyen -

Model 303C AM/FM tuner c.1956.

Model A433A Remote Amplifier, 1951, used with single amplifier and no tuner, for phono, TV, other tuner, etc.

Model A333A 20-27 watt amplifier, 1951.

All manufacturer marketing and technical documentation (schematics) were shown.

Fred was a lab instructor at UTA and the dean asked them to clear out a storage room. Fred obliged, at least with the ones he could pick up. They had been obtained by the 4 year Arlington College in the 1950's for electrical engineering instruction.



Mike Grimes -

Silvertone 4486 c.1937 which he picked up for parts at the HVRA auction. Words are hard to come by that describe the multiple improvements that had been made to this still sometimes working radio. It seemed the meeting favorite was the added speaker that was fastened along with the non working original to a 2x4 and attached to the radio cabinet by screwing thru the sides from the outside.



Larry Lindsey -

Covered reuse of plastic water bottles that were cut and used for multiple purposes such as pvc pipe end caps and extension cord securement. They are flexible but tough.



--Mark Walden



From the March 16th Spring Auction



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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..**

- APRIL 20TH -- KILGORE, TX MUSEUM VISIT -- 8 AM -- 4 PM
- MAY 18TH -- SWAP MEET GARDEN ARTS 8 AM -- 12 NOON
- JUNE 15TH -- TBD -- GARDEN ARTS -- 1 PM --4 PM