

# SOUND WAVES

Published quarterly by The Vintage Radio & Phonograph Society, Inc. [www.vrps.org](http://www.vrps.org)

# VRPS Fall 2024



### From the President

Milestones are measured in many ways...time, distance, sales, attendance....just to name a few. My favorite milestone is measured in anniversaries ...and why not? It takes stamina. But staying power means you have something to offer to the group. For 50 years, the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society has offered its members a venue to learn, not only how to repair and understand why the objects of our collections work like they do, but even more

importantly, what is the history and the people behind those collectibles? In 1974, a group of collectors in the north Texas area had a vision ...50 years later, we are beneficiaries of that vision. By the way, we have two active members who were there in 1974, Jim Collings and Don Lewis. Thanks, guys.

Join us in November at the Double Tree Inn in the Dallas suburb of Richardson.

We will have special gifts for attendees, very nice raffle items, live and silent auctions, a super contest to show off collectibles, a great banquet speaker, and of course, an opportunity for you to renew old acquaintances.



To help us celebrate our milestone, we will be running a video in the registration area featuring 50 years of photos, as well as offering a thumb drive with all of the publications the VRPS has distributed over that time span.

Sadly, we lost two of our longtime members this past July. Jack Savlan (Milwaukee) and Maurice Lambert (Fort Worth) both succumbed to lengthy illnesses. Before his passing, Jack made arrangements to donate his collection to the VRPS. Those items will be sold at our convention auction. Our condolences to their wives, LaRee and Janice.

See you in Richardson.

--Jim

## VRPS 7/20/24 July Repair Session Notes

Cooler than normal July weather and an enthusiastic group provided an excellent start to this years VRPS Annual Repair Session at the Irving Garden & Arts Building. The work stations were staffed by Roland Gooch, Jim Sargent, Bill McKeown, Dave Seymour, Kelly Casey & Ron Carroll.

Recipients of their skilled attention included:



Walter Cappell brought in his Philco 38-3 \$2 auction purchase that was not playing. Jim Sargent worked with Walter for quite a while explaining trouble shooting techniques and test equipment usages. Unfortunately this set needs a lot of that, due to previously undocumented non original work, and a poor schematic. Jim did point out how Walter could continue to work on it in the future and possibly get it working, but that he should probably start off with less complicated sets first to improve his skills before going further. Not a bad investment as Walter got \$200 of training for \$2.



Fred Doyen and his Crosley 03CB with no RF landed at Roland Gooch's table. Using his considerable knowledge and running through his processes, Roland finally identified the culprit. There was a AGC bypass cap missing allowing the RF to oscillate uncontrollably. This was an excellent diagnosis as this wasn't shown on the schematic. Another case of less than perfect previous repairs before purchase. Fred left with a working radio and he will realign it for further improvement.



One of Keith McManus's opportunities was also worked on by Roland. A 1956 Korting 1045 radio which came in with low volume distortion. He found and replaced a bad resistor in the EABC80 plate supply bringing the volume back up and ready to go home. Keith will continue more improvements by recapping and fixing the bass and treble pots that have frozen shafts.

Eric Kirst asked Bill McKeown for help with his Phillips 202 turntable as the motor wasn't running so obviously the platter wasn't going round and round. The motor appeared to be ok but they had no means on hand to check the electronic speed control circuitry and wiring. Bill took this challenge with him to his home bench for further investigation.



Ron Carroll's Philco 34-84B was also checked by Bill. Ron had already replaced the tube sockets as someone in the past had punched the center out of them and this radio currently only hums. As suggested, Ron is checking the voltages and resistance values of the oscillator coils and circuits..

A former club member from the 1970's, J.W. Parker, who has recently moved back to the DFW area, came in with a couple of items to look at in order to help renew his repair skills from the olden days. Dave Seymour explored a

speaker out of his Airline 93BR-421B radio which revealed a broken voice coil wire. Dave suggested for him to first try making a slight splice in the cone and reattach/solder the voice coil wire, and if that doesn't work, replace the speaker as the break is in a very delicate area.

J.W. also asked for Bill's opinion on his Zenith G503 which needs to be recapped. Should he re-stuff the existing or not? Bill suggested in this case he should desolder and replace. Out with the old and in with the new due to the very limited space.



Mark Blackwood's patient was a friend's Halicrafters S-38B communication receiver. Mark had already recapped it with the AM and 1.8 MHz bands now working but not any higher frequencies. After Jim and Dave both had a look, along with some switch cleaning, the villain was most likely a weak oscillator tube. Mark is going to perform that test back at his work bench.

Last, but certainly not the least, Keith McManus spread out his 1928 Freed-Eisemann NR 80 radio and external speaker. This radio originally had several parts that were pot metal and are no longer usable. Along with Ron Carroll's 3D printed parts and a couple of custom metal pieces they are in the process of producing a kit to bring these

radios back to life. This one is already playing but the new tuning dial and shaft mount weren't aligning just right. Along with Kelly Casey's help these three gentlemen identified what new part needed a bit of tweaking and will be remade back at the home shop. They plan to offer these kits to others interested in bringing their sets back to full working order also.



## 8/17/24 VRPS Meeting Notes

An August afternoon meeting in Texas and it was a bit hot, what a surprise, but that didn't dampen the parking lot pre-meeting meeting. There were freebies, a few sales and general repair and radio talk. As the group gradually moved inside many acknowledged appreciation for the gift of air conditioning.

Randy James started our introductions and then brought up this years convention honoring the clubs 50th Anniversary and that the sign up forms and hotel links are now available at VRPS.org. He also mentioned the search committee was narrowing down the location for our 2025 convention site reminding us we are having to change due to huge rate increases at our present location.

Mike Grimes spoke about the qualifications needed for a new convention site and asked that anyone who wants to do some of the legwork on a new location to contact him or Dave Seymour, the search team. As of this writing a choice has now been made.

Larry Lindsey awarded last month's SGITR certificate to who was also the day's speaker, Margaret Bryant. He also offered this month's question.

Q - Created in 1990, what was the name of the first internet search engine? No one had the correct answer.

A - Archie

Being a skilled and seasoned presenter, Margaret came up and introduced herself as a history buff, geek and 30 year veteran of the radio industry, then started her presentation "The Story of a Small Upstate NY City that was a Pioneer in Early AM, FM, and TV ... And the people and unlikely events that made it happen".

Her history lesson centered around the Southern Tier Region of New York State she called the triple cities area, Binghamton, Johnson City and Endicott. Their combined population during the 1920-30's totaled 106,460 compared to an early Dallas at 260,475 people. One of the areas major employers was Endicott-Johnson Shoes who not only had several local plants but also built homes, playgrounds and parks for their employees along with providing free medical care. One of the unique things they supplied the area with were carousels, of which, 6 that were built between 1919-1934 are still there. Other companies in the area were doing the same type things.

Margaret's tribute included a 1-1/2 hour talk accompanied by 80 powerpoint slides which was informative and entertaining. It's breadth can not be covered properly in this small space but an attempt to note some of the highlights are listed.

From 1922 to 1928 the U.S. government authorized approximately 45 portable AM radio stations of which some would go from city to city for a short while and hire out to broadcast from various locations being paid for by locals like the Weeks and Dickinson Store in Binghamton for different promotions. These events were also being viewed in person so it garnered interest in listening to and buying radios.

C.D. Mastin, a performer and voice teacher, was in charge of finding local talent for the portable radio station that went to Binghamton by using newspaper ads. His found talent included the mayor. After broadcasting from the Arlington Hotel for two weeks, they left town, but soon came back in February 1926.

As the number of permanent stations increased, the portables began to be seen as a nuisance, as their mobility made it difficult to control the interference they caused by transmitting on the same frequency. On May 10, 1928, the Federal Radio Commission specified that all portable stations which had not found permanent homes would have to cease operating by July 1, 1928.

Interest had been sparked and the owner of the Elvin Theater in Endicott, J.R. Goranflo, a Jehovah's Witness preacher, had helped WKGB-AM set up their equipment. He contacted local hams Lyle Howitt and Harvey Wood who ended up getting a license to operate WNBF-AM out of the Elvin Theater with a full 50 watts of power. The first show was 15 minutes and played after the feature picture was shown. As they grew and moved to another location to broadcast they needed \$1,200 to continue but banks weren't much interested in loaning money to the risky radio business so they sold out to J.R. Goranflo on April 26, 1927. He incorporated that May with shares worth \$2,500. WOKT-AM moved from Rochester, NY to Binghamton in October 1927 but failed in 6 months as advertisers still saw radio as a fad. Sept. 6, 1932 Wylie B Jones Ad Agency (John C. Clark), who also made and sold medicine, purchases WNBF for \$25,000.

March 29, 1941, the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement reassigned many AM frequencies. May 24, 1940 the FCC announced the establishment of FM radio on 40 channels on 42-50 MHz. Oct 13, 1940 the FCC grants 15 stations the first construction permits for commercial FM operations. March 1940 WNBF-AM applies for an FM station. May 13, 1941 WNBF-AM granted an FM (W49BN) license and according to the station the area had about 1000 FM receivers. They believe when the war is over FM will take over AM radio. As we now know, that won't happen for quite a while.

1946 Wylie B. Jones changes its name to Clark Associates (WNBF). Feb 6, 1948 Clark Associates granted a TV license and expects to incur heavy losses for quite a while but will eventually be worth a lot of money. They are on the air with a test pattern in October 1949. With about 2,300 TV sets in the area, on Nov 8, 1949 was their first live broadcast. In 11 months WNBF-TV was in the black but their FM station was in trouble and on August 11, 1952 ceases operation.

1955 Clark Associates sells WNBF-AM, and WNBF-TV to Triangle Publications for \$3 million.

Due to questions and comments from the audience, Margaret's talk shifted to other broadcasting topics such as why a lot of stations are going away and shifting to online, but ... we are out of time and please show up for our next presentation.

A few of Margaret's slides are shown here:

## WKBG-AM

December 18, 1925 Set up at the  
Weeks and Dickinson Store in  
Binghamton

December 20, 1925 First week of  
broadcasting



## Radio Station Here Is Now Accepted as Proven Institution

Binghamton Fans Tune in on WKBG and Hear Programs on a Par with the Best the 'Foreign' Studios Have to Offer

### SKEPTICISM SCATTERED BY HUGE SUCCESS

The Binghamton Press Radio Broadcasting Station WKBG, operated in cooperation with Weeks & Dickinson is now accepted by the radio fans of this section as an institution, even though its stay here is but temporary.

When the first announcement was made that Binghamton was to have a fully-equipped radio broadcasting station, the news was taken with a grain of salt by many people. So often have attempts been made to establish successful broadcasting here, without success, that most people were skeptical. It was with this feeling of skepticism that many radio enthusiasts tuned in on station WKBG to hear the next program Sunday night. But all skepticism was wiped out when they discovered that here was a real radio broadcasting station, fully equipped, and capable of delivering vocal and musical numbers on a wave band of 215 meters without mechanical interference or distortion.

The next question was, "Can this station find enough interesting and entertaining amateur talent to deliver three programs a day?" That doubt also was soon wiped out when the applications for places on the broadcasting programs began to pour in from all sides.

The interest which the people of Binghamton and surrounding territory are taking in the new broadcasting station is evidenced by the hundreds of telephone and telegraph messages received each day and the many personal visits made to the studio at the Weeks & Dickinson Hotel.

The big thing which may be ac-

Mayor John A. Giles at the Microphone, When Radio Station WKBG Is Formally Opened



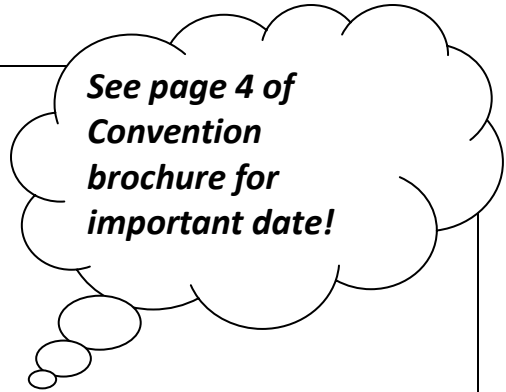
## The second week, WKBG broadcast from the Arlington Hotel





Sept 20, 2024  
Swap Meet





**See page 4 of  
Convention  
brochure for  
important date!**

**SOUNDWAVES IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE VINTAGE RADIO & PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY, INC.**

PRESIDENT—JIM SARGENT (972) 742-8085 BSARGENT@SWBELL.NET  
VICE PRESIDENT—RANDY JAMES (817) 881-0974 RANDY-JEANNINE@SBCGLOBAL.NET  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR—MARY ANN CARUTH MCARUTH@ATT.NET  
WEBMASTER—MIKE GRIMES K5MLG@VERIZON.NET  
TREASURER--DAVE SEYMOUR FLIER7161@AOL.COM OR (940) 735-4493 (FOR CHECK REQUESTS AND QUESTIONS)

**2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MARY ANN CARUTH	MIKE McCARTY
MIKE GRIMES	BILL MCKEOWN
RANDY JAMES	GEORGE POTTER
ED JANSSEN	JIM SARGENT
WAYNE JONES	DAVE SEYMOUR
LARRY LINDSEY	MARK WALDEN

# **SOUND WAVES**

## **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](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..**

- OCT 19<sup>TH</sup> GARDEN-ARTS; IRVING, TX - 1--4 PM EARLY VACUUM TUBES, PATENTS AND SCAMS (OR SCIENTISTS, LIARS AND FRAUDS WITH JIM SARGENT
- NOV 15--17<sup>TH</sup> DOUBLE TREE -- 50TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
- DEC 15<sup>ST</sup> SENTER EAST -- CHRISTMASPARTY --1--5 PM