



SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Winter 2026



From the President

Happy New Year!! As I write this article, I am sitting at my kitchen table with one ear listening for the first of what I am sure will be many fireworks...after all, this is early in the evening on New Year's eve. Tomorrow, when I wake up, it will be 2026. Wow, does time fly!! As I write this, I have to tell you I still feel the excitement of vintage radios and have not lost the fascination for the sound that has penetrated the airwaves for the last 100 plus years. Did you get that? A large part of our hobby has now passed the century mark. That in itself is an exciting thought, but to think we can

make our 100 year-old relics do what our grandparents saw and heard them do when in their infancy is nothing short of wonderful. Just think, your grandkids may or may not be able to say the same thing about us and our early computers or even our cell phones... after all, they are becoming collectible in their own right.

Now, moving my thoughts more to 2026, I hope more of our local members will take advantage of our monthly meetings. We have some very knowledgeable members, and even the most experienced collector can learn something, whether technical or historical, at these meetings. Having personally collected early radios and phonographs for over 50 years, I can tell you that I have benefited from our meetings...either from sharing my experience/knowledge or seeing/hearing from others. The old adage, "knowledge is power" is still true today. That applies to our hobby as well, but in this case, I would hope you would not seek "power" for yourself, but rather seek to share your knowledge with other collectors. While on the subject of monthly meetings, I will pass along an addition to our Board of Directors. Mark Blackwood has accepted the exciting task of putting together our meeting topics. As you are no doubt aware, Larry Lindsey has filled that role admirably for many years. He is not going anywhere, but he has asked to step away from he position at least a little while. When your see Larry at a meeting, thank him for his service...and if you were the recipient of one of his "Smartest Guy in the Room" awards...you can mention that as well.

In closing, I am reminded that life is fleeting, and one reality of turning a calendar to the new year is the passing of friends and fellow collectors during the previous year. 2025 is no different. I know I will leave someone out, and I apologize, but remember these who will have a vacant seat at our events in 2026. Dorothy Troise, Cliff Huff, Rich Klarr and David Elia...all long-time members who had a passion for the hobby. May they rest in peace.

Happy New Year and see you at a meeting.

---Jim

Our 51st Convention From An Auction View Point by Jim Sargent

Actually, the title could be misleading. It would lead someone to believe there was just one auction...when in fact, there were four. Anyone familiar with our conventions for most of the last 50 plus years would know that auctions are what we do...and do, and do. Those who have been around a while know that we do auctions because it is a safe way to...well, to make money... the buyer, the seller, the VRPS. We hold our conventions in the fall of the year, a time when you can depend upon the weather to be anything but dependable. Years ago, the VRPS leadership made the decision that, because of the uncertainty of Texas weather in the fall, we would schedule everything inside...and focus on paying for the convention facilities with proceeds from a commission-based auction...or auctions.

If you are fortunate enough to attend other radio meets throughout the country, you will know that our VRPS is not the only convention where items are auctioned. However, we are the only group that focuses almost exclusively on auctions as a revenue stream. We do not sell flea market spaces (a major revenue source elsewhere). For many years now, we have conducted four separate auctions, including a tube and paper (advertising) auction, a test equipment and low-end items auction, a silent auction, and our "main event" auction where, generally, the best items are offered up to all attendees. While we still have a good attendance at our convention...generally in the 125 to 150 range, the average auction sale price has definitely dropped over the last 10 years. A lot of reasons for that, but that is subject matter for a future article. Right now, I want to describe how we still manage to survive as an organization in a down economy. This year's total auction sales were just over \$19,200. Between the buyer and seller commissions, we netted almost \$3000. While that pays a significant portion of our convention expenses, it leaves us in the hole. In recent years we have seen a significant increase in donated auction items...items which a member has given to the club to sell and 100% of the proceeds, plus an additional 5% from the buyer, goes directly to the organization's bottom line. Can you say thank you donor!!

The 2025 convention saw donation sales total over \$1600...add that to the commission sales, and you can see how we have managed to operate in the black for most of our 50-year history. That is not to say we do not depend on other factors, like our raffle radio sales, our donation flea market, and cash donations from club members. Considering all of that, we still have some very nice items brought to the convention auction and members willing to pay up for the privilege of taking them home.

A few examples of those auction highlights include the following:

TV-7 tube tester	\$350	Emerson in an Ingraham cabinet	\$300
Zenith model 5-R-317 (glass rod radio)	\$725	Peter Pan small cathedral	\$290
Edison Amberola model X with cabinet & 80 cylinder records	\$500	Edison Fireside cylinder player with horn & crank	\$270
Sentinel wavy grill catalin model	\$500	Emerson model 615B in Ingraham cabinet	\$260
Garod 6-AU-1 catalin	\$400	Zenith small cube model 5-S-220	\$240
Fairchild recording microphone	\$350		

All in all, a good convention... and I look forward to seeing you at our 2026 event.

2025 OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST WINNERS

#1 CRYSTAL RADIOS	THE ORIGINAL BUG	DAVE MOORE
#2 NON RADIO ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT PRE 1940	DAVENPORT MOTOR REPRODUCTION	TOM BURGESS
#3 AC TABLE TRANSFORMER RADIOS PRE WWII	ZENITH 75663	DUTCH USELTON
#4 AC/DC TABLE NON-TRANSFORMER RADIOS PRE 1960	EXECUTIVE BRASS DESK SET RADIO	MARY CARUTH
#5 TRANSISTOR RADIOS PRE-1965	BULOVA 670	LANCE BORDEN
•#6 CONSOLE TUBE RADIOS	VICTROLA PHONO RADIO	KEITH MCMANUS
#8 NOVELTY RADIOS	TUBE, TRANSISTOR	DAVID SPIVEY
#9 RADIO RELATED ADS, EPHEMERA, & ACCESSORIES	EPHEMERA NOTEBOOK	DAVE ALLEN
#10 TEST EQUIPMENT PRE 1950	PHILCO DEALER TEST EQUIPMENT	TOM BURGESS
#11 TABLE TOP ART DECO RADIOS	RADIO GLO	BOB SLAGEL
#12 BATTERY RADIOS PRE 1928	SLAGLE MODEL IV	BOB SLAGEL
#13 FOREIGN TUBE RADIOS	HOTPOINT AUSTRALIAN RADIO	JOHN STANLEY
#14 MICROPHONES & SPEAKERS	AIR CHROME SPEAKER	DAVE MOORE
#15 HOMEBREW OR KIT RADIOS	ALLIED KNIGHT KIT RADIOS	LANCE BORDEN
#16 OPEN CATEGORY	RUSSIAN X-RAY TUBE W/ DOCUMENTATION	DAVE MOORE
#17 SHURE MANUFACTURING	MASSIVE DISPLAY OF SHURE EQUIPMENT	FRANK HAECKER

2025 OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST AWARDS

BEST OF SHOW , VICTOR PHONO RADIO KEITH MCMANUS
 BEST RESTORATION,
 FOUNDER'S AWARD



PEOPLES' CHOICE AWARD BOOK RADIO COLLECTION DAVID SPIVEY



Convention Highlights



November 15th Meeting at Dallas Maker Space. Org // Classes currently available @ www.dallasmakerspace.org



VRPS Christmas Party December 13th



VRPS Christmas Party December 13th



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HVRA 2026 Convention

March 27 & 28

Houston Marriot Westchase
2900 Briarpark Dr. Houston, TX 77042

This Year's Convention Theme is Mid Century (1945-1965)

[Click here for convention flyer](#)

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

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS 2026

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: **tbd**

- JANUARY 17TH -- 9 AM - 11 AM --SENER EAST--ADD BLUE TOOTH TO YOUR RADIO (KEN CASEY) CAPACITORS, WHEN TO REPLACE, REJUVENATE, ETC. (ROLAND GOOCH)
- FEBRUARY 21ST -- 9 AM - 11 AM - SENTER EAST-- SPARK GAP RADIOS (JIM SARGENT)
- MARCH 21ST -- 9 AM - 11 AM - SENTER EAST-- TBD