

SOUND WAVES

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VRPS Spring 2026



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm a bit late in writing this column, but I was kinda waiting so I could include some of the specifics from our Spring auction....it was yesterday, and I have the specifics...so, I do not have an excuse to delay any longer. The Spring auction was a little later in the season than we are accustomed to, but Spring none the less. A few thoughts on the event. I counted 37 registered bidders...a little down from previous

years, but I think the change in dates from previous years, has a lot to do with that. Folks make plans...and sometimes those plans conflict with our VRPS activity.

I really appreciate the folks who did attend, some of whom traveled great distances to get to Irving. Specifically, I wanted to mention our friends from Oklahoma and several from east, central and west Texas. I realize that travel is an issue these days, so their attendance is much appreciated. Also, I wanted to give thanks to the two ladies who jumped in and helped with the smooth movement of auction items across the auction block. Several of our "normal" helpers were out of town, and Jill and Beverly filled in more that adequately. A big thank you to both these ladies.

At every auction there are always items that stand out to the buying crowd. This sale was no different. The highlight of the auction was a Zenith, a console...and a donated one at that. Wow! What a surprise when I got call on Tuesday before the auction...A north Dallas couple wanted to donate to the VRPS a beautifully restored (inside and out) Zenith. I offered to pick it up and did so just in time to bring to the sale. As you would expect from a restored 1938 Zenith, it was playing very nicely when I walked into the home. This donated item brought \$200 (a bargain price) and sure helped with the positive side of the expense ledger. Look for other top sellers elsewhere in this SoundWaves.

We also picked up a few new members on Saturday, including:

Richard Morehead – Fort Worth, John Semrad – Dallas (actually, John was a member in the 80's, so welcome back John!), Robert Bilbrey – Lake Worth

To all three, I say "WELCOME ABOARD"

Please keep members Wayne Jones, George Potter, Fred Doyen, and Keith McManus in your prayers. Each one of them is experiencing severe health issues.

Continued on page 7

VRPS JANUARY 17, 2026 MEETING NOTES BY MARK WALDEN

Our 2026 inaugural meeting began with a trifecta: Randy James, Larry Lindsey, and Mark Blackwood each taking their turn at the podium. Randy gave the usual welcome and shared upcoming meeting dates and time changes (see VRPS.org for details). Larry continued stumping the audience with his SGITR questions and announced he was passing some of his duties to Mark. Mark introduced himself and outlined his plans for his new role as Program Chairman, including his intention to explain the agenda and the reasoning behind each meeting's topic selection. Both Randy and Mark expressed thanks to Larry for his 10 years of dedicated service to the club. Remarkably, Larry was still the first person on site today — opening the building and bringing in all the meeting equipment.

Larry's unanswered query:

What is the connection between the old TV show Dallas and Catalin radios?

Answer: Cast member Barbara Bel Geddes' father was the famed industrial designer Norman Bel Geddes, who created several notable radio cabinet designs.

The two main technical presentations covered adding Bluetooth to vintage radios, electrolytic capacitor issues, and silver-mica capacitor failure in IF transformers. A brief overview follows.

[A Portrait in Blasphemy by Kelly Casey](http://vrps.org/documents/KellyPres.pdf) see slide show on VRPS website: <http://vrps.org/documents/KellyPres.pdf>

Roland Gooch – Electrolytic Capacitor Discussion & Silver-Mica Failure in IF Transformers

[Electrolytic Capacitors / Silver Mica Failure / Troubleshooting With an Infrared Camera](http://vrps.org/documents/RolandPres.pdf) see slide show on VRPS website: <http://vrps.org/documents/RolandPres.pdf>

FEBRUARY 21, 2026 SPARK GAP RADIOS MEETING NOTES NOTES NOT AVAILABLE.

MARCH 21, 2126 TAIL GATE SWAP MEETING NOTESNOTES NOT AVAILABLE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TAKE NOTES AND PHOTOGRAPHS AT MEETINGS.
PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR MCARUTH99@GMAIL.COM IF INTERESTED.
VOLUNTEER FOR ONE MEETING OR AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.



VRPS APRIL 18 SHOW & TELL MEETING NOTES BY ANONYMOUS

Although the weather did not encourage attendance, thirty brave members showed up for the meeting to share their presentations for “show and tell.” The following summary is a brief description of their offerings.



First presenter was Dave Seymour showing off his neat compact crystal set which was considered one of smallest of the era (1920). Named the “Baby Beaver Grand,” it came in a small package with a unique tuning having 22 select taps on the internal inductance coil. The set was marketed as an early manufactured crystal receiving set. Dave described and showed a picture of the internal coil.

Kelly Casey brought his “find” from the VRPS Convention bargain table that he described as a parts kit ready for restoration. The portable Philips wooden cabinet (1952) with slotted panels and thumb wheel tuning was beautifully restored (see pictures). A real show piece.



Next, Margaret Bryant had two items. First she described a side specialty of collecting broadcast studio signs of which she brought examples. The wooden framed lighted “No Admittance Studio in Use” from WMAQ was an example. She worked at several radio and TV broadcast station which allowed collection of surplus signs. Second was a set of advertising, “NBC” chimes that she won in a contest held by an Industrial Broadcast Magazine (Early in 1960s).

A very nice Columbia 360 mono-record player was brought to the meeting



and demonstrated by Richard Shanks. The completely self-contained player in its nicely restored, walnut cabinet was demonstrated using a mon-HiFi LP record with remarkable tone and quality. Supposedly, Columbia marketed the unit to improve sales and promote their “Long- Play record.”

Kurt Ehrlich brought a nice early tube-type audio amplifier by Muzak. The amplifier incorporated a distributed sound system capability to allow many speakers to be driven at once. The company has a history as the “Wired Radio Company” from the 1922 era.



J W. Parker brought two very early tube testers. A Simpson (1931) model 300 and a Read-Rite 7A were discussed as accommodation sockets for very early and later tube pin configurations.



Walt Zaleski showed his Brewster 9-1084 (1946) radio in an attractive Bakelite cabinet with an unusual step dial design from Meisner. It had a nice polish finish as Walt explained.

As usual Ed Janssen brought a surprise for our event: a bag of many, many dirt-dauber nests. As he describes it, all came from one radio "find" with no indication on the outside of trouble. Surprising the radio played before removing the "daubers."

Mark Blackwood brought a foreign tombstone radio by Pye Ltd. Type Q/MM.

The company was involved with supplying many electronic items for military use during WWII. Examination of the circuitry indicates a TRF front-end with a regen-detector(?). A very unique design. Admittedly, Mark had not opened up the cabinet or removed the chassis for examination; another inline project.

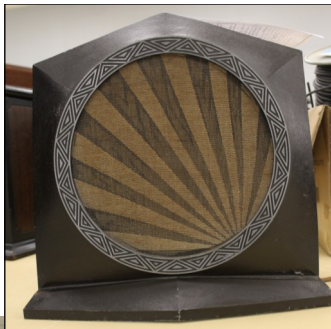


May 16, 2026 Highlights of the Spring Auction



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- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Zenith Console model 6S254 | \$200 |
| 2. Meteor cathedral sold by Sears | \$170 |
| 3. Philco cathedral model 90 | \$170 |
| 4. Emerson midget radio with doors | \$120 |
| 5. AK cathedral model 944, nice | \$120 |
| 6. Zenith table set with old and new FM | \$100 |
| 7. General Electric bakelite table set | \$80 |
| 8. Hickok tube tester model 534 with manual | \$75 |
| 9. Emerson radio with Ingraham cabinet | \$75 |
| 10. Boxes of fiber dial belts | \$70 |
| 11. Ecophone radio | \$60 |
| 12. Philco cathedral model 43 | \$50 |
| 13. Heathkit Signal Tracer | \$50 |



The Convention is fast approaching! October 23,24,25 at Grapevine Convention Center. Watch website for details. Get your contest entries ready now! The theme radio manufacturers for the 2026 VRPS Convention are Stromberg - Carlson and Setchell - Carlson.

2026 Contest Categories

1. Crystal Radios
2. Non-Radio Electrical Equipment
3. AC Table Radio Pre 1940
4. AC/DC Tube Type Radios
5. Transistor Radios Pre 1965
6. Phonographs and Related Accessories
7. Novelty Radios Tube, Transistor, or Hybrid
8. Radio Related Ads, Ephemera, Etc.
9. Art Deco Radios
10. Table Battery Radios
11. Foreign Tube Radios
12. Microphones and Speakers
13. Amateur and Telegraph Equipment
14. Open Category (Radio-related items not fitting any other category)
15. Portable Radios
16. Stromberg Carlson and Setchell Carlson Receivers



Book Review by *Patrick Jankowiak*

"The shielded four-electrode valve, theory and practice"

Captain H. J. Round, M.C., 1927. 114pp. Read or download at the internet archive:

<https://archive.org/details/shieldedfouelec00roun/mode/2up>

The volume, containing 54 illustrations, is intended to relate the author's experience in handling Screen-Grid valves as well as three years with the new Shielded Screen-Grid valves.

The book is important because it relates to the very beginning of shielded valves. The roles of a shield grid in receiving valves has not received as much attention as have the valve classes themselves: Diode, Triode, Tetrode, etc.. This has been an unfortunate omission. The shield carries as an important technical story as the Screen Grid.

The timeframe was one in which 50 meters (6MHz) was considered very short wave. Triodes presented challenges to stability and high gain in that spectrum. The new shielded 4 grid valves were a great improvement because it reduced capacitances between tube elements, especially grid to plate, and plate-to-outside, as described. This book is contemporary to the development and a great read.

Some very old English tubes of the time are illustrated, as are receiving sets built around them, which serve enlighten the mysteries of the shielded 4-electrode valve:

V.24 type Valve issued 1916, a Triode, for comparison.

F.E.1 type Valve issues 1920, An unshielded Tetrode, for comparison.

The Shielded Valve used by Hull (U.S.A.).

The Shielded Valve used by Marconi, the D.E.S. 625

Several types of receivers are detailed in general, indicating where the shielded 4-electrode valves are best employed.

Receivers:

- multi-dial T.R.F
- Single-dial T.R.F.
- Reaction (Regenerative)
- Reflex
- Superheterodyne
- Resistance-coupled HF amplifier with detector

Today an archetype may be observed in the 32, in which it appears that a perforated screen is mounted outside of the plate and internally connected to G2.

There are much newer shielded tubes, i.e. Television I.F. amplifier tubes, and those with more elements and more pins on the base. The 'modern' shield usually connects to a separate pin or the cathode. Was the shield-screen grid used in high production directly heated 4-pinner like the 32 connected to the signal-earthed Screen grid for lack of another pin for the shield? In any case the Shielded Valve is a timeless accomplishment.



Continued from page 1

FYI, we recently made a donation to the Texas Broadcast Museum in Kilgore. This is a tradition your board of directors started several years ago and are proud to continue. If you have not made the trek to east Texas to visit this museum, then I encourage you to put it on your bucket list.

See you at a meeting in the near future.

-- Jim

Click to read article!

Vetted

12 Best Backup Hand-Crank Radios for Emergency Preparedness

Considering the top backup hand-crank radios for emergencies can ensure you're prepared; discover which models stand out for durability, power, and features.

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SOUND WAVES

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:

- MAY 16TH -- 8 AM - 5 PM --SENER EAST--SPRING AUCTION
- JUNE 20TH -- 1 PM - 5 PM - SENTER EAST-- WORKING WITH POT METAL & SELENIUM RECTIFIERS
- JULY 18TH -- 9 AM - 11 AM - SENTER EAST-- ANNUAL REPAIR SESSION
- AUG 15TH -- 1 PM - 5 PM - SENTER EAST - HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT OF FM RADIO