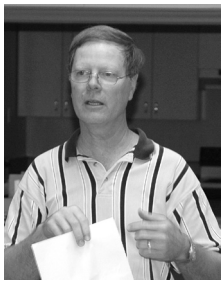
SOUND WAVES

VRPS APRIL 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well hopefully as you read this the eternal threat of snow for 2009/2010 will be over. Wow!! What a winter it was in Texas...and many other parts of the country. The Spring Auction was last weekend. I think it was a success, given the stormy weather that persisted most of the day, not to mention the freezing temperatures...and yes snow that many folks saw. We had attendees from Oklahoma who kept an eye out on the weather in that state fearing that the snow would be worse in that direction. In fact, I think it was. The auction itself was a repairman's version of Christmas. At Shirley's request, I had cleaned out Walton Denney's parts, work bench and tube supply to bring to the auction. By itself this would have been a decent auction. But many folks brought in some really neat stuff including the last remnants of the Walter Mackey estate. Regarding the auction location, I actually think it worked out really well. Many folks told me the same thing. As I write this, I have no commitment from the owner that we will be able to use it again next year, but I have made the inquiry. Keep your fingers crossed that I will be successful. I know we are a ways off from November and our annual convention, but it is never too early to start thinking about items you want to restore and display in the contest. Elsewhere in this issue is a list of the contest categories for you to consider.



Another area I want to mention relates to our first Board of Directors meeting in January. Several changes in leadership were recommended, voted on and passed. Gary Reeves has served as Treasurer for 8 or 9 years. Many factors came into play as he asked to allowed to step down from that role to allow time to take care of other family commitments. The Board agreed and asked Bill Jewell to assume the role. Bill accepted and officially took over the bookkeeping tasks at the Spring Auction. This is Bill's second tour of duty as Treasurer, having served in that role in the 1990's. Also at that January board meeting Cleo Cherryholmes announced his desire to step down from his position of Vice President. I have come to rely on Cleo for wise counsel and as a sounding board over the 10 year period he and I have served our current roles in this organization. Selfishly, I wanted to vote against him stepping down. However, the vote was taken and Cleo stepped aside although he will still actively work on the Board. We are fortunate to have good people working within this organization. Randy James was unanimously elected to assume the Vice President role. He and I will work well together. One other really important vote was taken at that Board meeting. By unanimous decision, Mike McCarty was added to the Board. Your Directors basically exist to do all the mundane, yet very necessary, decision making that keeps this organization going and frankly allows the monthly meetings to be filled with quality programs and not tied down to reading of minutes, Roberts Rules for Order, and voting on various future activities. Next time you see a Board member, thank him for the extra time they spend and additional meetings they attend so that the organization does not get bogged down in the day to day operations.

These folks are listed elsewhere in this (and every) Soundwaves. Until next time, good hunting

VRPS Membership Dues

There has been some confusion regarding the annual membership dues. The dues are $20.00 in the U.S. and $25.00 outside of the U.S. and always expire on November 1 of the current year. Please send them to VRPS, PO Box 165345, Irving, TX 75016.

2010 MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

NOTE: Programs will be held at various locations in Irving, Texas. Make note of the location as they will change from time to time. Senter East, 228 Chamberlain St.; Garden and Arts, 906 S Senter Rd; and Heritage Park, 217 S. Main St.(See map below); will be the locations. Refer to the Web site. Programs start at 2pm. unless otherwise noted. Call us on the cell tellie if you get lost: 972-898-7251 or 972-742-8085.

APRIL 17, 2010 (HERITAGE PARK BLDG)
The vacuum tube revisited. Member Kurt Ehrlich will present our program with a video of Westinghouse's "Electronics At Work." A review of historical tube types, basic tube applications, styles and nomenclature will be reviewed.

217 South Main Street
Irving, TX 75060-2928
(972) 721-2350

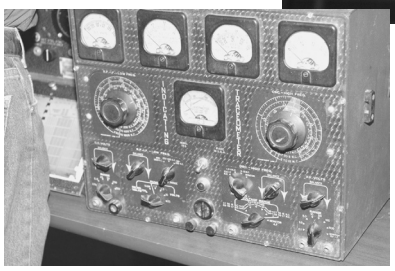
MAY 15, 2010 (Senter East Bldg Parking Lot)
Spring Swap Meet 8am (or earlier) to Noon.

JUNE 19, 2010 (Garden and Arts Bldg)
Plan for a special sharing meeting in June for a social gathering. Bring pictures of your collections, workshop, displays, and/or special interests. Also, bring your favorite beverage and/or dessert to share with others.

JULY 17, 2010 (Garden and Arts Bldg)
Annual Repair Session 8am to 2pm. Bring your problem radios and our "experts" will be on hand to help.

AUGUST 21, 2010 (Senter East Bldg Parking Lot)
Summer Swap Meet 8am to Noon.
Programs are subject to change, contingent on scheduling conflicts. As always, your suggestions for programs/content are welcome. If the programs do not fit your needs and you want something different, let me know. I need volunteers to organize other programs, so consider presenting a program yourself. Call me anytime or send me an email. Mike Grimes 972-898-7251 (cell), or K5MLG@verizon.net.

PICTURES FROM VRPS SPRING AUCTION.IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO COME YOU MISSED A GOOD TIME AND GOOD ITEMS.



NOTES FROM THE BENCH- FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

From Rich Klarr – starting us off with his set of hints:
1. Cut out round (or oval) covers from cardboard cartons to cover 1. speakers while you're working on a radio chassis or just for storage. (Is there anyone who has never put a finger through a speaker cone?)
2. Use high temperature silicone glue (get from auto parts place) to bond loose glass tubes to their bases (Worked on a pair of 82's). You can do the same for the tip cap on capped tubes. (Mike McCarty and John Butz-Fiscina carefully chip away glass around the tip wire to expose enough wire to solder to, for saving "important" tubes).
3. GO-JO brand hand cleaner works well on both wood and plastic radio cabinets to clean them up, ready for polishing with lemon-oil and beeswax (all natural) polishing products.

4. For speaker cone repairs use Feathering Disc Adhesive II (a very sticky, non hardening, pliable cement) to glue edges of tear together. Use powder from charcoal capsules (from drug store) on cement to render it non sticky on its surface and to make it black at the same time. Note: Sanding disc adhesive is probably the same.
5. Use wine corks as spacers to replace missing ones between chassis and loop antenna. (Randy James – old wood sewing spools work well, too).
6. For patching rubber-covered wire, Altex Electronics in Addison carries GC (General Cement) 10-1762. It will tolerate under-the-hood temperatures in cars, as well. Altex carries lots of parts.
7. If you can round up an RCA Triple Pindex (on e-Bay), they are still very handy for showing tube pins for more than one tube at a time. (Great while troubleshooting).
8. Pilot lamp sockets that have a fiber washer can be repaired by disassembling and chopping off old washer – replace with new one.
9. Many tuning capacitors can be raised up enough to replace their mounting rubber grommets without disconnecting wires or re-stringing the dial. (Randy James says Harbor Freight sells a good grommet assortment).
10. Rubber O-rings can be used for belts for tuning condensers. Auto parts stores or better hardware stores have them (Mr. C's Ace in Hurst has a huge assortment). Mike Grimes says you can cut the ring and then put ends against opposite sides of a really hot razor blade and they will join when you remove the blade quickly.
11. Put a grommet around a new cord going into one of the old, large plugs and slide it into the back of the plug to keep the cord from wandering around in the too-large "cuff" opening in the back of the plug.

From author Bill McKeown –
1. A way to make replacement plastic dials - Get a digital photo shot of one like it or the damaged original and transfer the image to your computer. "Doctor" the image with Photo Shop, Microsoft Paint or other computer program to create a cleaned-up version or a new image. Measure the distance between two significant features at, or near each end of the old dial and make two reference lines on your "artwork" in the margin just outside the final area to be used. Use the TEXT function, add the dimension between your reference lines, or just make a note of what that final dimension must be. Now make a transparent copy, or have one made by someone who has a laser printer, using the transparent plastic material made for overhead projectors. Reduce or enlarge the image until the dimension matches. Be sure to print with as high contrast as possible. Get at least one spare copy for mistakes and to use as a template for cutting out a mask, if one is needed.. Depending on the dial, make a white paper mask for areas that are to be translucent, so the pilot light will shine through but you can't see through it. Cut the mask with an X-Acto knife, using an extra copy of your artwork taped to the mask material. Cut out two or more blank pieces of the same plastic material and sandwich your new dial and paper mask between them. This provides protection and adds stiffness similar to the original dial. Install in the radio, using a little glue at edges to stabilize the paper mask relative to the dial (if there is a mask).

From Mike Grimes –
1. While cleaning tubes, the trick is to clean them without losing the tube type designation on the glass. It is easy to destroy it and lose track of what type the tube is. A lot of methods popped up from the members, too, besides just being very, very careful. Fogging the glass with your breath will often reveal it when the tube is cold. You can put them in the freezer to cool them. Sometimes a UV light will make them glow and be legible.
2. Use a Water-Pik to clean the plates of a tuning condenser, or put them in the dishwasher. Add alcohol to the cleaning water (not in the dishwasher).
3. Use an embroidery ring to stretch grill cloth during application to the cardboard backing or the retaining ring. Also, use double-sided tape like used for scrap-booking (it's not real sticky) to hold

it temporarily in place.
4. Get a schematic blown up to very-readable size by taking a .pdf or other file to KINKO's, where they can print it out on 11 by 17 inch paper.
5. For AK sets a good match for the gold paint is a Rustoleum American accents gold metallic water-based paint.
6. On Loktal tubes the "bump" sticking out on one side of the base tells you to push toward the bump to disengage the lock.
7. Escutcheons can be cleaned with fingernail polish remover.

From Howard Stone –
1. Tubes can be cleaned with very fine (0000) steel wool.
2. Sometimes when speakers buzz or rattle you can quiet them with a wad of dryer lint stuffed in the right place.
3. If you have a plating kit, you can use a pipe cleaner to hold the solution while doing the plating, e.g. nickel plating. A voltage of 3 to 3.5 volts works for almost any plating.
4. To remove small knobs that are stubborn about coming off their shaft, take a nylon string and keep wrapping it around and around behind the knob, building up string to force the knob off.

From John Butz-Fiscina –
1. Make a useful glue out of scrap celluloid and acetone by letting pieces dissolve. (This makes a glue much thinner that nail polish). When speakers buzz it is often caused by the cardboard that the spider is glued to coming loose from the speaker frame. (The spider is the convoluted fabric diaphragm that keeps the voice coil centered.) Use the celluloid glue sparingly to re-glue it.
2. Use vinegar to clean the dial cord pulley groove so the tension spring is able to slip the cord and maintain tension.
3. Save a piece of plastic scrap from items sold from peg-boards and use to reach between condenser plates for clearance-checks.
4. Make a board with a number of holes in it for insertion of wood dowels strategically placed for jacking up a chassis while working on it. Make an assorment of dowels and lengths. This can prevent damage to tubes and other parts and make a job a lot easier.
5. Save burned out CFLs (the new substitute for light bulbs) and carefully remove the base to access the electronic parts. In particular, there is a filter cap that can be useful.
6. If a tube is no longer available, or for temporary use, you can make an adapter using a tube base that will fit the socket and a new or different socket for the substitute tube to fit into. Examples would be to use a miniature tube to substitute for an octal-based tube or an octal-based tube for a 6-pin, etc.
7. Use olive oil on Bakelite or catalin cabinets. It produces a very nice polish.
8. Save pieces of old speaker cones to use as patches for cone repairs.

From Ed Janssen –
1. Watch out when removing the chassis from a Simplex. The dial is large enough so that a slot had to be cut down into the cabinet. The dial must be removed first!

From Mike McCarty –
1. A quick analysis of a radio's problems can be made by simply touching various points to see if a noise (hum or pop) can be heard. (Be Careful!).

From Randy James –
The forums on antiqueradios.com offer many hints, tricks and methods shared by forum participants.

Bill McKeown

COMMON PRODUCTS THAT CAN BE USED TO CLEAN AND REPAIR RADIOS.

NOTES FROM THE JANUARY 16, 2010 MEETING

Club Vice President Cleo Cherryholmes opened the meeting, announcing new meeting places and the fact we were not going to be at the Grapevine convention center for our spring auction. Randy James admonished us to share our restoration and repair tricks by sending in notes, pictures, sketches, etc. for inclusion in our NOTES FROM THE BENCH feature.

Mike Grimes reminded us that the February meeting topic would be Hints and Kinks, consisting of members sharing their restoration and repair skills with pictures, words, and examples. He then introduced the topic of the day's meeting – George Westinghouse. Westinghouse built up a huge industry, first around an air brake for railroad cars, but was forced out by too much indebtedness in 1907 when the banks called in all of their notes. His company forced out Edison's D.C. power generation systems and eventually was building nuclear power stations as well as all types of power distribution and generation equipment. Westinghouse pooled with RCA on patents and from 1922 up to the 60's manufactured radios and TV's under both names. They produced far fewer consumer products than RCA, over the years. There are not many collectors of vintage Westinghouse radios and TV's. The most collectable seems to be the "Refrigerator" radio.

Mike showed us a portion of a very interesting DVD about George's life and career. He was born in 1846 and grew up learning much in his father's shops working on steam engines and other things. He considered his experience in those shops to be vital to his development of mechanical skills and inventing new things. While growing up, the Foremen would let him work in the shops and also gave him his own space. His father would not let him enlist in the Union army around April 1861, but two years later he enlisted as a private. Afterwards he went to college, but ended up back at his father's shop. A chance acquaintance revealed a serious problem in the railroad business – stopping trains. Railroad men had to go from car to car and manually apply the brakes, taking sometimes 2 miles to get it stopped. Out of thin air George thought of a way to use air pressure to release the brakes on all the cars at once, by connecting air pressure lines to each car from the previous one and onward to the next. The idea was triggered by a French air hammer that worked through 3000 foot long lines. It was a hard sell but tests and impressive demonstrations brought business. The Westinghouse Air Brake company was chartered in 1869. Westinghouse and his family settled in Pittsburg, PA, where he became interested in natural gas and founded a natural gas company. His remarkable inventiveness resulted in many patents related to the natural gas business, including drilling and distribution apparatus.

George became interested in the new business of generating electricity, leading him eventually into conflict with Thomas Edison who was dogmatic about using direct current (DC) power generation. With Edison's scheme it was impossible to transmit power over any useful distance. Westinghouse recognized that the alternating current (AC) transformer was the key to stepping up voltage, sending it long distances, and then stepping the voltage back down to usable levels. He bought a significant transformer patent and founded the Westinghouse Electric Company in 1886. He had hired Nikola Tesla in 1884 and bought several of Tesla's patents which were key to devices for generating, distributing and utilizing AC power – including motors and generators. While George was promoting and selling AC power generation and equipment, Edison entered into a ruthless campaign opposing the idea, playing on the dangers of high voltage. His publicity included the staging of a death-sentence electrocution of a convict and the electrocution of an elephant (This "footage" on the DVD was difficult to watch). Edison was playing on his popularity, mainly derived from his invention of the phonograph. The issue was settled by the advent of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. In a bitter competition, Westinghouse won the contract to provide electric lighting for the Fair. Edison (with G.E.) refused to supply the light bulbs to their competitor, so Westinghouse used a lamp covered by a Sawyer patent, instead. They managed to produce 250,000 of them in six months and were ready for the Fair. They needed changing often but got the job done. Westinghouse moved ahead on generating power at Niagara Falls. In 1894, Buffalo, New York became lit by AC power from the falls. Westinghouse went on to

produce many products that created, transported or used electricity, included electric locomotives. In 1920 Westinghouse built station KDKA, which first broadcast from the Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing Company building George Westinghouse always maintained a good relationship with his employees. In the 60 companies he started, there was never a strike. They were well paid and among the first to get a work-week reduced to 5 ½ days – from 6. When a Westinghouse employee invented something, the employee's name would be on any patent that was issued - unlike Edison, who took credit for all inventions coming from his workforce. George Westinghouse is often credited as being the one person most influential in creating our present life style.

. Although they weren't as big as others in appliance manufacture, they were still very large, and as the DVD reminded many of us, we remember the slogan "You can be sure, if it's Westinghouse". Westinghouse featured their talking robot "ELEKTRO" at the 1936 New York World's Fair and in 1940 added a robot dog named SPARKO .

To complement the theme of the meeting, members brought Westinghouse products to show and discuss. Ed Janssen brought a cathedral WR14 "PORTO" Radiolette. He pointed out that there are nuts behind the knobs that hold the chassis in the cabinet. Mike Grimes showed a Radiola R.S. made by Westinghouse in '22 or '23. He also showed an RCA similar to the Radiola Sr. 2-tube set. Bob Bonchak showed a 1950 Plaskon AM/FM set that has a style resembling the Cincinnati train station. John Butz-Fiscina said that he has a Canadian-made Radiola IIIA that has the Westinghouse name instead of RCA. John showed two Westinghouse transistor radios. The author showed his ivory colored version of the popular Westinghouse "Refrigerator" radio. Walt Zaleski showed his clean WR256 5-tube wood A.C. set having its tuning capacitor inside the chassis, protected from dust. Gary Reeves showed his Westinghouse Aereola Sr. 1-tube radio with a WD-11 tube. It has a very nice history included with it, having come from our late member John Alford.

Bill McKeown

VRPS CONVENTION 2010 CONTEST CATEGORIES

It's that time again! Time to start getting those entries ready for the 2010 Convention Old Equipment Contest! Please note the new categories for this year.

1. Crystal Radios

2. Battery receivers- Pre 1928

3. AC Table Radios- Pre WWII

4. Console Radios

5. AC/DC Tube Radios

6. Transistor Radios- Pre 1965

7. Phonographs and Related Accessories- Pre 1928

8. Loudspeakers (Horn or Cone) - Pre 1930

9. Military and Amateur Radio Equipment

10. Novelty Radios - Tube or Transistor

11. Open Category- Radio or Phonograph Related Items Not Fitting in Other Categories

12. Art Deco Radios

13. Vacuum Tubes

14. Foreign Radios

15. Restoration Category- NEW CATEGORY! Entry must include documentation (pictures, etc.)!

16. Manufacturers Category- WESTINGHOUSE

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You mean there is a history of HD TV?

By George Potter

Just when you think there is something new out there here comes the history buffs!

While we will start with 1936, TV goes back to 1925 when the Bell Labs had a color receiver in some working form. That's when" Felix the cat" was shown in black & white on a crude TV receiver.

Here's some info to think about:

1936- The British created a 405-line B&W TV. It was considered high definition in comparison to previous mechanical and electronic television systems.

1941- In the US, a 525-line NTSC system was introduced and comparable in definition, to the British 405-line.

1958- Russia (USSR) created the "Transformer", the first high definition television system capable of producing an image composed of 1,125 lines of resolution. Now considering it was a military secret, which was developed for conferencing between military commands, it was never commercialized for the public. Besides there weren't too many that had TV sets in Russia then.

1969- NHK Japan first developed high definition television. This technology was not commercialized for nearly 30 years.

Now you think that there would be a standard. In 1983 an International group met to to set an international standard, but never was finalized. Although what did come from the group, was an agreement for a common aspect ratio of 16:9 for HD. We have plasma and liquid crystal display (LCD)

Even today there are various cables you must use to bring you HD and you need a VHS or Blu Ray with the proper chip to give you the best HD picture.

Remember the VHS/Beta fiasco back several years ago? Well just when you switched your VHS system (after ditching Beta format), now Blu Ray is in the picture. My advice is wait a year or two and things will settle after the fallout. I do admit to still having 2 brand new Betamax tapes in the wrappers. Getting rid of my Betamax, well that was something else to behold!