

The Grid Leak

Sept—Oct
2012

www.hvra.org
(Color GL on web site)



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Fall MEGA Auction

Saturday—September 29

**Bayland Park
8:30**

From The President.....

In my intro from the previous "Grid Leak" edition I wrote "It looks like summer is off and running with HVRA activities going full bore". That prophetic statement came crashing home during our June 28 monthly meeting that turned into a full blown summer mega auction! We thought this would be a normal monthly general meeting, auction, and basic electronics class.

With the sudden arrival of over 160 auction items that had to be sold, we scarcely had time for our monthly reports and any hope for a program or electronics class had to be scuttled. Like a giant magnet, the auctions bring this group out to the meetings and June 28 was no exception as thirty-two spirited bidders had a field day digging through the many boxes and bidding on items too numerous to mention.

Yes, if you missed this one, you missed one that will long be remembered.

With a dance class scheduled to occupy the room at 1:00 PM, we really had to hustle in order to conclude the auction and clear the room. Everyone pitched in and we succeeded in clearing the room with about ten minutes overtime, so the dance class was delayed by not more than ten or fifteen minutes. Good work guys!

The August 25th meeting will include auction items from several of the estates that we still have in storage along with additional material from members and guests. As I said before, if you think



Bill Werzner , HVRA President

monthly auctions are not worth attending, you're missing out big time!

At Large Board Member, Reid Shipp will be on hand to conduct his monthly program and time permitting, basic electronics class II will follow the auction.

With September only a few weeks away it's time to think about not only our annual fall mega auction the 29th, but also our annual election of officers. This is your chance to lend a hand to HVRA by offering to accept a nomination for one of the four positions that will be open. Some of us have served quite a few years now and would welcome others to step forward, take the wheel, and navigate HVRA through the years. Bill W.

HVRA Electronics Classes

Electronics Classes II & III

Class II will be held August 25 to deal with the power output stage of the same radio we examined in June. The July class II had to be postponed due to the unusually large auction that surprised us all. Class II will open with a brief review of the AC/DC power supply, and then focus on the power amplifier output stages as an intro to audio amplifiers that will be addressed in October's Class III.

We will skip the class in September due to our annual fall mega auction.

You don't need an advanced degree to attend, just basic math, and common sense skills required. Bring writing material for notes and a volt ohmmeter if you wish. We will use the large radio demo board that Bob Wood used for the hands on demos of a working radio.

2012 Radio contests

August—Crazy Container Contest
October—Golden Ears Amplifier Contest

August—Crazy Container Contest - rules
The radio should be built in the wildest enclosure possible. Examples: Ham in a can; vacuum cleaner housing; microwave oven cooking chamber; etc.

October—Golden Ears Amplifier Contest - rules
Amplifier may be factory built, kit, homebrew; tube or solid state. Previous winners may enter this contest. Each amp will need a high level phono jack input. Each amp will be played for 30 seconds using CD of organ music, and 30 seconds of drums and vocals—all at the same level.

Common Rules — Applies to all contests
Previous winning collections/ entries are not eligible.
(ex Oct.)

Meeting attendees will vote on winning collection.
Winner receives a yearly membership to HVRA.

UPDATE ON JULY 28TH MONTHLY AUCTION

Ho Hum just another Mid summer HVRA monthly? Not this time. We put the word out regarding 2 estate sales coming in at random and a walk in guy said he had "some RCA stuff to get rid of". He was sent a check for over \$1500.00 in commission. He is now a member.... We had around 40 buyers show up for all different kinds of lots, SW radios, tuning kits, homebrew stuff in boxes. No one left empty handed. We did over \$3200 in sales. Lots' of transceivers good old fashioned table radios. Mucho variety. I've always said "YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT WILL SHOW UP" - boy was this ever an example of that!

If by chance you have not received any email update reminders kindly email me your updated email address to tomburslem@yahoo.com. Several of you may have me blocked and I want to inform everyone equally...Hat's off to Reid Shipp for his efforts to gather over 66 lots from a Galveston estate. We have more estate stuff on the ledge. Best bet? Just show up at meeting and not hear about what you coulda bought later..... TB



Photos by Konrad Werzner

Saving the Battleship

In gratitude for the Battleship Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife allowing BTARS and HVRA to participate in shipboard events, a jar was set up at our table at the Tidelands Amateur Radio Society event last month for monetary donations to the Battleship Texas Foundation Fund.

Many stopped by, and after reading the sign quoted in the following article adjusted their glasses, did a double take, and opened their wallets. We collected \$89.00 and

some cents that was given to Battleship Fund the following week.

As many of you know, the ship experienced some serious problems with leaks in the hull and had to be closed to the public for a week or more until repairs could be made. It was the people of Texas who raised money to save the ship from being used for target practice in 1948. Now we are presented with that challenge once again. Please read on:

Adolph Hitler Saved The Battleship Texas, Why Can't We?

"On the morning of June 20, 1941, we intercepted a radio signal from Commander Muetzelburg, whose U-boat was also hunting in the northern Atlantic: **HAVE SIGHTED U.S. BATTLESHIP TEXAS IN BLOCKADE AREA. ASK PERMISSION TO SHOOT. U-203.** The appearance of the *Texas* was a remarkable challenge by the Americans, who knew that every foreign ship that entered our blockade area was risking destruction. What would be Doenitz's decision? We were all for shooting and sinking the *Texas*. *U-203*, still without an answer that afternoon, asked again for permission to attack. At dusk we finally intercepted and deciphered an important signal from Admiral U-boats, replying to Muetzelburg's pressing demands: **BY ORDER OF THE FUEHRER ALL INCIDENTS WITH UNITED STATES SHIPS MUST BE AVOIDED IN THE COMING WEEKS. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ATTACKS MAY NOT BE MADE ON BATTLESHIPS, CRUISES AND AIRCRAFT CARRIERS UNLESS DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED AS HOSTILE. WARSHIPS STEAMING AT NIGHT WITHOUT LIGHTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY HOSTILE."**

Herbert A. Werner was a German Navy U Boat commander wrote "Iron Coffins", a bok about his life during the war. The motion picture "Das Boot" (The Boat) produced in the 1980's, is based on his book.

Navesink Twin Light House has Radio History

By David Moore



I visit the twin light house recently on a trip to the east coast recently.

It is situated 200 feet above sea level atop the Navesink Highlands on the New Jersey shore just south of New York City. The Twin Lights has stood as a sentinel over the treacherous coastal waters of northern NJ shore since 1828. Named Navesink Lightstation, it became known as the “Twin Lights of Highlands” to those who used its mighty beacons to navigate. As a primary seas coast light for New York harbor, it was the best and brightest light in North America for generations of seafarers. Many a life and cargo were saved by the sweep of its light.

The current lighthouse, built in 1862 of local brownstone as a cost of \$74,000, replaced the earlier buildings that had fallen into disrepair. The unique twin tower design made it easy to distinguish from other nearby lighthouses by one flashing and the other fixed.

The Twin Lights holds a prominent place in American maritime history as the first lighthouse to use the Fresnel lens. Also, the Twin Lights’ elevation made it an ideal spot to conduct other communication activities not associated with the lighthouse. In 1829, the Merchant’s Exchange, a commodity exchange for buying and selling goods, erected a semaphore tower. The tower relayed messages between incoming ships and the Exchange’s office in Manhattan, NY.

In 1899, Guglielmo Marconi placed an antenna and receiving station at the lighthouse to demonstrate his Wireless Telegraph. His first demonstration was reporting on the America’s Cup yacht



races occurring off the tip of Sandy Hook (just north of Twin Lights). This demonstration worked so well he expanded his operations, making Twin Lights the nation’s first wireless station capable of sending and receiving messages on a regular basis.

The United States Army also saw the value of using Twin Lights as a test site for experimental electronics. In the 1920’s and 30’s, various radar devices, developed at nearby Ft. Manmouth, were tested on this site. Many of these prototypes were later used in the early days of World War II.

With the development of automated lights, offshore light towers, radar, GPS and other technological navigation equipment in the 20th century, manned lighthouses gradually became obsolete. While there are still working lighthouses in the US, many have been decommissioned – a fate that befell Twin Lights in 1949 after 121 years of service.

Twin Lights no longer guides ships into New York Harbor, but it stands as a formidable reminder of the important role lighthouses played in the maritime and navigational history of this country.

Read more :

<http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=376>

Prepare for the September Fall Mega Auction Now !

We have two storage units still packed with estate items, some of which will be sold on Sept. 29.

Watch our web site for a manifest and photos of these items and any others that members wish to sell.

Here is your chance to clear out part of your garage or attic and make your loved one happy for awhile! “See honey, I’m really not an accumulator like the ones you see on those awful TV programs after all. Now can I move out of the dog house and back into our bedroom?” (That is until I sneak in another load hee hee!). So, if you decide to please your spouse, send a list and, or photos to my e mail address www.werz1943@gmail.com to post in our Sept. listing (from your resident auctioneer).

I Appreciate This Club

By Tom Burslem

I've had a chance to reflect lately on my life and how basically fortunate and lucky I have been. Due to health concerns I have slowed down quite a bit to put it mildly. Seems I have "contacted" Cancer and my journey is closing in on me. I ain't circling the drain yet but after a year of chemotherapy and now radiation treatments I am at times simply very tired. Not to fret nor dwell on the negative too much as I've lived a full life and probably then some. Met some women, drank some very tasty wine, and bought a few cool radios.

What the wine didn't do to me the women did. I actually gave up on both for a full year when I turned 46. No booze and no women for one full year as my own self prescribed therapy. Learning to be alone and sober was very enlightening...Not to mention the desire to pick out furniture with every woman I met finally went away.

One thing I must mention is that I would already be six feet in the ground had I not had a colonoscopy when I did. I had no symptoms other than being tired. So if you get nothing more from this epistle -get this message if you haven't had one lately (or your wife) GO GET IT DONE>>>>. (to get this message out maybe why the Lord keeps me around) You have been warned!

But I'm more fully aware now that our life on this earth is finite. All the money and prestige and ego games are now pointless. Even my old car and all my radios I realize will out live me; albeit in scrap metal or wood dust form. I've reflected on what kind words could be said on my tombstone and came up with "He didn't take no s---t." Or "At Least he had fun" or just "Here's Tommy"...

I made my living as a "closer" salesman; kinda like the guy at a car dealership who finalizes your paperwork and gets you to commit to a certain vehicle or a part charlatan magician who somehow convinces my prey that they need to commit today for something they never considered needing two hours ago. I sold Industrial and Commercial Chemicals. Magic powders and elixirs that always seemed better than whatever you were buying before...My bosses called me "a good shark" for infested waters. But, once a purchase was made you'd never see me again.

The job insulated me from establishing much of a relationship with customers. I was an interesting psychological mix. I could be shy and somehow arrogant at the same time. My Machiavellian nature combined with severe ADHD and a natural mistrust for any authority figure combined with my Psychology Degree and provided detached enlightenment as I studied human behavior from near and far. My personality could wrap around any customer and change like a chameleon depending upon what I perceived a customer needed to hear. And I was angry that upon graduation from College I could work as a social worker for the equivalent of \$20,000 dollars a year. I thought I could make a living as a counselor. Wrong. It didn't take me long to gravitate toward the ultimate career of salesmen. At least I would be compensated for production. But I sure didn't change the world. And after my first divorce I became an expert in chasing skirts. Which, was a hell of a lot of fun-the ultimate close.

What softened my hardened exterior was my contacts with this radio club. It opened my mind years ago when Frank Cooper said we were more like a fellowship than a simple club. Whenever you can get men in a mode of non-competition working towards a common goal amazing things happen. I can recall several times when I have been stuck on some radio or amp repair and asked someone in the club for advice and what an avalanche of assistance I have received.

I had job offers to move out of Houston many times and always my first thoughts were 'what about the club'?

The radios, the amps, the receivers, the speakers all remind me of being back in high school in my private room where I think I had

about eight speakers (mostly handmade) and several pulled amps from consoles and I would listen to music while watching especially the 4 6v6's pull a blue hue on the darkened room...I haven't changed all that much since then. Radios, females and all the trappings they bring; football, usually a fine libation or two...it doesn't get much better than this. I am blessed to not have many regrets. Perhaps I've mellowed with age but I'm not sure I would change that much of my past except perhaps to spend more time with my kids when they were young. I see that now as a Grandparent. I've a 3 and 1/2 year old that upon close inspection, is about the funniest entertainer I know....But I do have the sense that I needed to go through what I did to be as wise as I am now. How else could one appreciate what it is like to be in a bad marriage for eighteen years. After walking away from two houses, two pools, two hot tubs and of course, two wives; one becomes a little punch drunk...and I really miss those hot tubs... Socrates once said; "Men with bad wives become good philosophers..."

As I sit now in my home office I'm still surrounded by my stereo stuff. My new wife (and my last) had me set up more of a display "in a balanced format" on shelves and it looks more civilized than my early bohemian motif from high school days. But I still get a rush when I look at what I have... a couple of Philco table models that I installed new speakers powered by a Sansui power amp. I had determined that restoration was too time intensive on these sets as every wire had worn bare spots and they appeared more like explosive devices than radios on the inside. My Crosley TV cabinet refinished now and gutted with now a 9" color set placed inside...still looks so cool. (I remember as a kid watching The Lone Ranger in black and white and feeling so fortunate to watch TV in older brothers room). The Pioneer solid wood speakers set up through switches going to my Fisher receiver. The adverts set up through a 1974 Marantz receiver and over in the corner my cherished Dynaco ST 70 power amp and PAT Pre amp hooked up to an Accuphase analog tuner (this I pulled from a stack at a Goodwill auction for \$5.00). I have pull out drawers full of Werzner's capacitors.

I know I am a nostalgic ol fool by some people's standards. Especially the way some folks never keep anything old around and sell keepsakes at garage sales. So what. I am who I am and for sure I'm not changing now.

I reflect on my arrogance and my ego. I was like a white collar hippy....All my old bosses would try and ease into my customer base and take credit when things went well and then place blame on me if things went sideways. For all good salesmen their managers are simply parasites on their back. Empty suits. And other top sales people were sharks like me and we would usually find each other if we were both up on our game at the driving range or local bar around 3 Pm many days cause we were too bored with work and it would be too early to go home. I've been sued 3 times for violation of "sales agreement" and twice I've had to contact lawyers to get money owed me. If you change jobs like I did you can't help but have an Alpha side. Some of these West Texas owners that were stupid enough to email me job expenses had to pay up. Like I was too stupid to keep a copy? Just a handshake will do? If I worked for a fortune 500 company mostly, all I ever had to do to scare my boss was to threaten to go over his head and contact his boss cause "I had concerns regarding our communication". The whole company was afraid of the next level of management.... I was told I needed to be a manager cause a Marketing/Sales Pro was "not always a team player". But it was never about the money...always about the power.

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting Policy

HVRA's monthly Board of Directors' are held the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 PM, in the Bayland Park Community Center's library. HVRA members and guests are welcome to attend to discuss club business, offer suggestions, or air grievances.

These meetings enable us to devote more time to our monthly programs, auctions, and plan future events. If you have suggestions or ideas you wish to share, please find time in your schedule to attend one of our monthly Tuesday evening meetings. Major items such as club events, monetary commitments, bylaws, membership policies, etc. are taken before the general membership to be voted for, on or against. Representatives from BTARS also attend as this provides a forum for both organizations to work together on planning future events where we share mutual interests. Yes, at the Board meeting we still serve pizza only \$1.25 per slice as the local pizza wars continue.

Continued from page 5

I once had enough ego testosterone to quit a job cause the owner was an idiot and infer "I was selling wrong". I'd then close on 20-30 deals all at once to make him beg me to slow down. Then I'd quit. I would always take an adversarial approach to owners and bosses. But I was 44 years old. Perhaps I shudda had another job waiting for me before I quit?. No. I wouldn't change a thing. I wanted to see the look on his face when I quit. I never grew up. Never really wanted to. He paid out more in commission to me than he made that year. But he challenged my intelligence. Too much Clint Eastwood in me. But to-days' young rainmakers lack much ego anymore. They have become policy makers. They are too busy being a good boy scout and tattletailing there way through life. After the age of 40 I discovered most fortune 500 companies prefer the image of a game show host to a seasoned maverick; as we aren't afraid to make it rain one day and confront the boss with the truth about why his job is so unnecessary the next.

I got an in between job years ago at Radio Shack and the manager was gone for two days and upon his return he was scared that he had been robbed cause most of his stereo equipment was gone from display shelves...I liked to sell demos to not need to dust them and it was a hassle to find stuff in his warehouse. He couldn't believe I sold em out of the box like that. He asked me how I could possibly sell systems without them being in a box and I told him every customer I sold to I simply said "it was the last one in stock". Seems I sold around \$10,000 in stereo equipment in 2 days. I had fun. He thought I was an agent from heaven.

But I had few friends. My co-workers respected me but mostly I looked upon them as adversaries. After all, rainmakers are few and far between.

Thus, I mention the importance of HVRA in my life. Nothing was force fed. All volunteers. All men with varied pasts and experiences that joined together around moldy rusty burned out old radios of various shapes and sizes. No radio related interest was too nerdy nor too weird. Total acceptance. I was at peace with no one to con nor convince my radios were better nor bigger than theirs. In fact, I don't believe I've ever talked about my business outside of radios to anyone in the club. It's amazing how much we don't care about "what do you do for a living". We mainly talk radios.

I appreciate you all indulging me with my little ditty writings. It has provided me an outlet to communicate albeit with run on sentences and syntax errors. In college when I took a creative writing class

HVRA Convention 2013

February 8-9, 2013

Featured Manufacturer—**Collins Radio**

Theme— Art Deco

Vintage Radio & Phonograph Society

Annual Convention
November 16-18, 2012

Hampton Inn & Suites
Mesquite TX

I was told flat out I couldn't write. My professor was perhaps mostly right; but as a Mentor to students, what kind of asinine thing to say to a young kid. Thanks for the inspiration...you putz...

I got a "C" in the course. He can take his milk toast pureed homogenized writing and shove it where the sun doesn't shine. It's a wonder we can think at all based upon our educational system.

Do women understand our club? I doubt it... I was once on a neighborhood tennis team and we had to wait to play and observe two women's teams playing fervently. They had on petite matching uniforms and we watched briefly as they began arguing about whether a ball was in play or not... They got rather bitchy on both sides regarding the ball placement as a teammate friend of mine noted "Look at them competing like thieves...haven't they ever heard of a 'do-over'?" They didn't compete in the same way every day the way men have to. Way too personal. They were so angry. Do women even know how to have fun in groups? It was like listening to a bunch of constipated geese. My team never argued about whether a ball was in or not. Why sweat it? And we weren't dressed in any special team clothes. Mostly, we were all glad to play together without any female close by. I don't recall if we won more than we lost. It just didn't matter. We weren't going to the Olympics...and those women are probably still mad at each other...Way too much estrogen...

And so it is with HVRA. Mostly male testosterone plugged in to sail with the wind instead of paddling against the current. We haven't survived as a club just cause we like old radios.

I am deeply grateful to you all for being a part of my life. I'll keep serving as Treasurer and Top Staff Writer for the GRID LEAK as long as I got the energy. I consider it an honor. As always, the truth is in the details...

Now, I've got this one Bogen amp that starts to clip at about two watts output...got any ideas?

And finally, met any intelligent Democrats lately? Hint-they don't exist. Ha!

I gotta have the final word....LIFE is all about the power...Praise the Lord! Good collecting!

Buy, Sell, Trade, & Services Offered

Huge collection of Sams from Vol I on! Also included are seven or eight file cabinets filled with these collectable volumes from a closed out radio TV repair shop. Call or e mail Andy Lee at www.radiomanL@verizon.net

Radio & Phonograph Sales & Repair including vintage auto radios, battery sets, foreign sets, etc. We also sell and service vintage tele phones and telegraph equipment also parts, new & used tubes, transformers, schematics, books, phonograph parts & needles, records, etc. Vintage Sounds – celebrating our 24th year in business. Open Fri., Sat, & Sunday from 10 until 6 PM. Now located in The Market Place Antiques, 10910 Old Katy Road, in Houston (Located just west of The Room Store on the north side of the Katy Freeway). 10% member discount on radio items.

Borden Radio Company website: <http://www.xtalan.com> Antique Radio Schematic Service included in website. Crystal radio kits for sale. (281) 620 - 6692

Sargent Auction Service: www.sargentauction.com | Jim@sargentauction.com Jim Sargent, WA5QBR, Auctioneer | TX license 16135 | 200 Thomas Rd, Granbury TX 76049

Paul Wishnow, Certified Appraisals – for insurance, estates, divorce. “The Antique Man” can be heard Sunday afternoons 1 – 3 PM KNTH Radio 1070. Office at 5615 Richmond Ave., Ste. 145 in Houston. Phone (713) 666-2222 or go to www.theantiqueman.com

EPO Electronic Parts Outlet, New and surplus electronic components, come by and check out this incredible store! 3753 Fondren Road, Houston, TX 77063. Go to www.epohouston.com

Tom Granger Restorations, radio and phono cabinets. (281) 338 – 8277. www.tomgranger@mac.com

Blue and Razz Scrap call Jesse Robinson (713) 870-1998 “You call, we haul-free” Old appliances, TV’s, Scrap metal, etc. Houston, TX 77074.

HVRA Event Schedule:

Location for all events: Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, TX Coffee & snacks available at regular meetings.

Saturday, August 25, 2012 Monthly meeting 9:30 AM, auction, program, & class #2; Crazy Container Contest.

Tuesday, Sept 11, 2012 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30

Saturday, Sept 29, 2012 Fall MEGA Auction 8:30 AM, Annual Meeting—Election of Officers

Tuesday, Oct 9, 2012 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30

Saturday, Oct 27, 2012 Monthly meeting 9:30 AM, auction, program, & class #3 cont., Golden Ears Amplifier Contest

Tuesday, Nov 13, 2012 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM,

NO MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER

Saturday, January 5 HVRA Christmas-Holiday Party Monument Inn.

HVRA Convention—February 8-9, 2013

AWA Review –

Wireless Equipment of the Titanic: A commemorative Overview

By Eric P. Wenaas and Parks Stephenson

Abstract –

This article describes the Marconi wireless equipment used on the Titanic based on Marconi documents, photographic evidence from only known photograph of the Marconi Room, and from video images taken during two expeditions by James Cameron to the wreck in 2001 and 2005. The images from the wreck are startling in terms of their clarity and completeness in mapping the Silent Room where the transmitter apparatus was installed. The stills extracted from the videos presented here provide a comprehensive view of what equipment was used on the Titanic and exactly where it was located.

Detailed 3-D computer generated models were made of each piece of Marconi equipment and placed in the correct location according to available evidence. Two-dimensional models were rendered to allow interpretation of the wreck photos. We now know that the equipment of the Titanic’s sister ships Olympic and Britannic do not represent the configuration on the Titanic.

Ed – this well researched and excellent article documents actual evidence of the 100 year old wireless equipment located on the Titanic. The remarkable side by side photos of the Marconi equipment exposed to the harsh conditions captures the Titanic’s final moments.

AWA Review available on CD or print. Write AWA Museum Store, PO Box 421, Bloomfield NY 14469-0421

Annual Election of Officers Sept. 29

Nominations for President, Treasurer, Historian, and At Large Position #1 will be taken starting at 8:30 AM. Members elected to these positions are expected to serve two years, attend both regular and monthly board meetings, and adhere to the responsibilities of their office as defined by HVRA bylaws. Nominees must be paid members in good standing with a willingness to volunteer for HVRA.

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The Grid Leak

September—October, 2012

Monthly Meeting—August 25
Bayland Park 9:30 AM

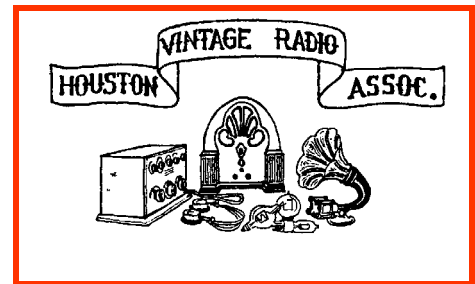
MEGA Auction / Meeting— Sept 29
Bayland Park 8:30 AM

Monthly Meeting—Oct 27
Bayland Park 9:30 AM

www.hvra.org *(Check out the fresh new look)*

Notice on renewing your membership!

Please check the expiration date by your name in the address of this newsletter. It should show your membership expiration date.



HVRA
Mega Auction
Sept 29