

The Grid Leak
Jan – Feb—Mar 2016
hvra.org
(Color GL on web site)

HOUSTON VINTAGE RADIO ASSOCIATION

Annual Post-Holiday Party

Saturday, January 9, 2016

New Location!

Double Tree by Hilton Hobby Houston Airport

8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX

6:00pm Cocktails (Cash Bar)

6:30pm Buffett Dinner

Cost: \$30 (child 12 & under \$10)

You may pay on arrival

Menu

Soup

Broccoli and Cheese Soup

Salads

Garden Salad, Ambrosia Fruit Salad

Entrees

Beef Tenderloin, Rosemary Baked Chicken

Sides

Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Country Gravy,
Green Beans with Black Peppered Bacon and Pearl Onions

Honey Glazed Biscuits and Wheat Rolls

Dessert

Peach Cobbler and Pumpkin Pie

\$400 in Door Prizes!

\$100 Olive Garden Gift Card & more

Donation Auction!

Bring one New or Gently used household item and/or one radio related item. No Junk!

Dress casual or come as you are

Bring the family for an evening of fun!

RSVP by January 6

Bill Werzner....werz1943@gmail.com or 713-820-1778

***From The Prez.....
Bill Werzner , HVRA President
At the bench***



As the old saying goes time marches on, but somehow as I've grown older, it seems like it has picked up pace and is now in a fast moving trot. Do any of you feel the same way or is it just me? Looking back over the year, HVRA continued to thrive and maintained an active and growing membership. This is something our members are to be commended for in promoting our club as a fun and dynamic organization. So, let's keep up the good work as we prepare for 2016, and celebrate our 38th anniversary.

Now rather than continue with a diatribe of platitudes and kudos, I want to let everyone know your elected officers hear and respond to your suggestions and complaints. Some petty grievances are easily resolved, but others are more serious, and require changes in the way we have been doing things. Having been President now for quite a few years, one issue that I kept hearing repeated, to the point that it was filling my complaint file, involved our annual convention contest. Other officers were also aware that this was something we needed to address. Basically it involves contest judging and how awards are given. During the November Board of Directors meeting a committee was assigned the task of offering suggestions for improvement. These changes will essentially overhaul the judging and awards procedures that have been in place for decades. The good news is this will provide an objective judging technique, and will no longer have vastly different contest categories competing against each other for Best of Show Award.

Committee member and HVRA Treasurer, Tom Taylor, hit the "proverbial nail on the head" when he said our judging technique was too subjective and we needed to be more objective. All of our contest categories will remain the same as in the past, with first and second place awards given in each of those categories. The judging will begin with the selected group of judges visiting each exhibit and making verbal remarks among themselves, but not assigning first or second place winners. This will be a once over visit requiring only a few minutes visitation. When finished, each judge will be given a scoring sheet that Tom developed. The judges will disperse and each independently, will designate what they feel should be first and second place winners in each category with simple numerical scores. When finished, those sheets will be given to the contest chairperson to tally scores for winning awards.

Now for the major awards, and this is where a big change has been made. Members voted to remove the traditional Best of Show Award and replace it with something more representative of the different entry categories. In doing so, this will end the competition of a radio restoration project with, for example, a vacuum tube collection display. In the past it's been like, "a cat show competing with a dog show," and this is where it was felt that a change was overdue. Three top awards, of equal stature, are being proposed to replace the Best of Show Award as follows:
1. Best Restoration 2. Vintage Equipment Award 3. Best Artifact & Collections Display.

Those scoring the highest judging points in the contest will be declared winners during the banquet ceremony. Contestants will be able to choose which of the three categories they would like to have their entry(s) compete in for a top award. In addition, other awards will be: "Peoples" Choice 1st. & 2nd", "First Time Contestant", and the "Exhibitors' Choice Award". Remember, Delco and Day Fan will be the Manufacturer's Choice for 2016. With the convention now only weeks away, let's get those contest items ready and prepare auction items for sale. Hint; clean auction items bring higher bids as do those shown in the on line auction manifest.

Happy New Year to All!

HVRA Officers

President: Bill Werzner (713) 721-2242 werz1943@gmail.com
VP Jerry Sirkin (281) 844-4124 gsirkin@aol.com
Treasurer: Tom Taylor N5ACA (281) 996-5835 ihcrally@yahoo.com
Secretary: Mike Monsour, AC0TX (832) 829-2227 msircg@gmail.com
Historian: Gilbert Hedge (713) 726-6964 zen1441@sbcglobal.net
At Large #1: Reid Shipp WA5ARI (281) 943-9877
At Large #2: TBD
Webmaster & Grid Leak Ed: Derek Ross (832) 483-9819 allenross04@yahoo.com

37th Annual Convention and Auction

The 2016 HVRA Convention will be held at the Houston Marriott North, February 12th and 13th. Discounted nightly room rates, \$89, are available thru Jan. 28, 2016. Additionally, \$15 daily breakfast discount coupons are free to all HVRA members and their guests. We will have two featured manufacturers, both related to General Motors Corp.: Delco and Day-Fan. In addition to the auctions, HVRA will sponsor two Technical Sessions designed to educate and assist members wanting to learn more about collecting, restoring and radio history.

The Awards Banquet guest speaker will be Bruce Bramlett, Executive Director of the Battleship Texas Foundation. There will be a video presentation along with some incredible pictures of shipboard electronics from turn of the century to the end of WW II. Just how old is that historic ship? Well, it was launched one month after the Titanic sank in 1912. She was in both WW I, WW II, and fought in both the Atlantic and Pacific. How is she doing and what is her future? – here is your chance to hear first hand, from the expert. I guarantee you will not be bored.

With four estates waiting in the wings, all indications are pointing to a fantastic auction. More are on the way and there are some beautiful and unusual items awaiting buyers. Watch our HVRA web site at www.hvra.org as the manifest continues to grow. What appears in the manifest is typically only a token amount of what will show up in the auctions. If you haven't signed up for the convention and banquet, please do so soon as some room reservations at the Marriott have already been made.

For additional Convention details and registration form, see the HVRA website
(Questions,? please contact Jerry Sirkin at gsirkin@aol.com or (281) 844-4124.

We appreciate you keeping your membership current.

CONVENTION AGENDA

Friday, February 12, 2016:

- 9am: Registration Begins (Lobby)
9am-2:45pm: Auctions #1 & #2 Check-in (Salon D)
10am-8pm: Old Equipment Contest Check-in (Salon B)
10am-2pm: Swap Meet (Salon F)
10am-2pm: Video – “Making Zenith Radios” circa 1928 (Salon C)
12pm-2:45pm: Technical Sessions (Austin Room)
12pm: “Zenith Radios” by Gilbert Hedge
1:30pm: “Serial #2” by John Givens

3 PM – Auctions Begin (Salon C) \$10 Minimum (No Junk Please)

- 3pm: Auction #1 – paper, tubes, test equipment, misc.
6:30pm: Auction #2 – plastic & small radios, speakers, test equipment, misc.

Saturday, February 13, 2016:

- 7am-10am: Swap Meet (Salon F)
8am: Registration Begins (Lobby)
8am-9:30am: Old Equipment Contest Check-in (Salon B)
9:30am: Contest Judging Begins (Contest Room Closed)
8am-10:45am: Auction #3 Check-in (Salon D)
11am-1pm: Cash Concession Lunch (Lobby)

11am – Auction Begins (Salon C) \$20 Minimum (No Junk Please)

- 11am-5pm: Annual Meeting and Auction #3 Including wood and Bakelite radios, Catalans, consoles, items remaining from Friday, misc.
6:30pm: Awards Banquet
Guest Speaker: Bruce Bramlett "The Battleship Texas, Then and Now"

CONVENTION REGISTRATION and AUCTION RULES:

All Auction Bidders must be active HVRA members (\$20, per family).

All Sellers and Bidders (Buyers) must register and receive a registration number.

HVRA Members: Registration = \$10 before 2/1/2016 or \$15 on-site (Only one registration per family or bidder required). HVRA Commission = 10%

Non – Member Sellers Registration= \$25.00. HVRA Commission = 20%

Estate Sales: as per pre-auction negotiated terms

Sellers and Buyers settlements at conclusion of each days auction activities (check-out will be in numerical order beginning with HVRA members).

HVRA members: registration numbers will be issued based on date that HVRA receives completed registration form and payment. **Non-Member seller:** registration numbers will be issued at registration desk.

For questions, please contact Jerry Sirkin (gsirkin@aol.com) 281-844-4124

Top Three Awards Program

All Contest Categories are eligible to enter one below:

[1] Restorations :

Radios, Phonographs, HAM Gear, Test Equipment, TV , Vintage Electronic Projects, Amplifiers, Vintage Telephones, Telegraph Equipment, Transmitters, Restored Electronic Kits.

Helpful Judging Hints: Present documentation showing work done along with photos, schematics, history, before & after photos, rarity, (working?) etc.

[2] Vintage Equipment:

Radios, Phonographs, HAM Gear, Test Equipment, TV, Vintage Electronic Projects, Amplifiers, Vintage Telephones, Telegraph Equipment, Transmitters, Electronic Kits.

Helpful Judging Hints: Describe items shown, their history, how they were found or acquired, rarity, before & after photos i.e. cleanup or refinish, schematics, history, original ads, original cost if known, etc.

[3] Artifacts and Collections:

Vintage magazines, Software, Tube Collections, Books, Dolls, Uniforms, & Mannequins that are relevant to Radio, TV, HAM, or Military Communications, Magazines, Electronics & Communication Advertisements, Relevant to Radio/TV Clocks, Toys, Photos, Signs & Fans included, etc.

Helpful Judging Hints: Describe items shown, their history, how they were found or acquired, rarity, before & after photos i.e. cleanup or refinish, history, original ads, original cost if known, etc.

More from Reid Shipp...

Entrants in all contest categories can choose which of three groups they would like their contest exhibit or exhibits to compete in for the 2016 Top Awards. For example; someone has restored a Day Fan Radio and entered it along with photos and literature documenting his or her restoration. The same person(s) also entered a beautiful display of radio related novelties and advertisements. Now, they could enter the Day Fan exhibit under RESTORATIONS, and the novelty and advertisement exhibit under ARTIFACTS and COLLECTIONS. They would also be eligible to win first place in both categories. Another example; Clyde Coulomb has a collection of five Philco cathedral radios, but only restored one. Clyde might choose to enter RESTORATIONS or perhaps VINTAGE EQUIPMENT.

Winners of these three categories will receive not only winning grand prize ribbons, but equally valuable gift cards as well. We feel this approach to awarding three top awards, will as they say, "help to level the playing field". Based on science fair judging for comparison, this eliminates a botany contestant having to compete with an electrical engineering contestant for a top prize. It will be a test for a new system to find how well it works and how it is viewed by our members so we will look forward to getting feedback from you.

2016 HVRA OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST RULES

The official rules for the 2016 HVRA Old Equipment Contest are:

1. All contestants must be members of the HVRA and/or AWA in good standing.
2. Previous displays winning First Place in the 2014 or 2015 contests may not be entered in the competitive categories of the 2016 contest. These items may, however, be shown as non-competitive displays.
3. A contestant may have only two displays in any one category, but may enter any number of categories.
4. A display is eligible for only one category.
5. Reproductions must be properly identified.
6. All entries must be in good, clean, show-able condition. Equipment that is entered in un-show-able condition may be disqualified and removed from the contest.
7. The contest committee will determine the appropriateness of questionable entries.
8. In case of a tie, the judges or contest chairman may request a functional demonstration of the equipment.
9. No fee will be charged for entering the contest.
10. All entries must be in place no later than one hour prior to judging, on the day of the contest.
11. Devices of foreign manufacture may compete in any appropriate category.
12. Contestants must refrain from discussing entries with judges. If judges have questions pertaining to an entry, they will be voiced to the contestant through the contest committee.
13. All entries must be greater than 40 years old (1976 and before) except for categories 6, 15, 16 and 18.

HVRA 2016 Old Equipment Contest Categories

- 1 Wireless / Spark Equipment (pre-1925)
- 2 Crystal Receivers – Broadcast
- 3 Battery Receivers of the 1920s
- 4 Cathedral, Tombstone, and Console Receivers
- 5 Table Receivers, Tube
- 6 Transistor Radios
- 7 Reproducers & Microphones
- 8 Phonographs
- 9 Telegraph & Telephone
- 10 Kit Radios
(Can be either assembled or unassembled.)
- 11 Scientific, Test Equipment & Small Electrical Devices
- 12 High Fidelity Equipment
(Hi-Fi Amplifiers and associated devices. Guitar Amplifiers qualify for this category)
- 13 Amateur Radio
- 14 Military Radio
- 15 Replicas and Vintage Style Creations
- 16 Television
- 17 Portable Radios
- 18 Ugly Radios!
(The ugliest radio entered, wins in this category!)
- 19 Foreign Radios
- 20 Manufacturer's Category – Delco / DayFan
Subcategories:
Radio and Radio Related Items
Non-Radio Items
- 21 Open Display
(Anything that doesn't fit in any of the other categories)
**** Note: All entries must be greater than 40 years old (1976 and before) except for categories 6, 15, 16, and 18.**

HVRA Event Schedule: January thru April 2016

Tuesday, Jan. 12 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM, Bayland Park Community Center Library Room, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, TX. Pizza served!

Saturday, Jan. 23 Monthly meeting at Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet 9:00 AM, Program & auction, Coffee, juice, and snacks. **Collections Contest**

Tuesday, Feb. 9 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM,

Friday & Saturday, Feb. 12 & 13. HVRA Annual Convention, Houston Marriott North.

Saturday, Feb 27 Monthly meeting at Bayland Park Community Center 9:00 AM

Tuesday, March 8 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 26 Meeting Location Pending – see the notice below

Tuesday, April 12 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 23 Monthly meeting at Bayland Park Community Center, 9:00 AM

I Wanted One Of Those As A Child Contest

Monthly Meeting Notice!

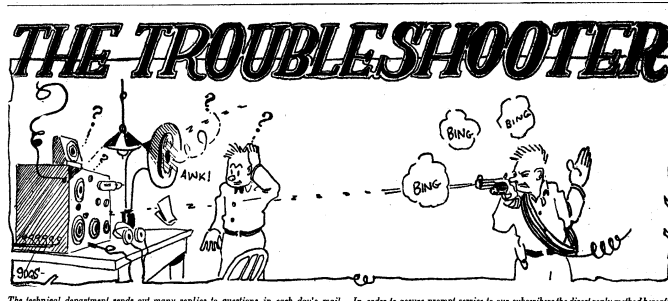
We have somewhat of a meeting schedule dilemma facing us in 2016. For four months next year, the Bayland Center will be closed on the Saturdays that we hold our monthly meetings. These closures are due to holidays; Easter weekend in March, Memorial Day in May, Thanksgiving and Christmas weekends in November and December. Those closures would reduce our annual meetings by one third! Check our web site www.hvra.org for schedule changes as we are considering another location for monthly meetings during the months that Bayland will be closed.

Monthly Meeting Contests

Here is your chance to show your stuff and win a prize for your effort. At Large Board Member, Reid Shipp has planned contests for future monthly meetings. Each contestant will be allowed ten minutes to explain and demonstrate their project prior to the meeting auction. Winners are chosen by non contestant member votes. All contestants must be HVRA members in good standing in order to participate.

January Contest: Collections Contest - Any collection of anything. Previous contest winners are OK!

April Contest: I Wanted One Of Those As A Child Contest - Entry can be something you wanted as a child and still have. It can be something you had as a child but no longer have but purchased or found another one. It can be something you wanted as a child but never had and obtained one later.



A Heads Up Alert – Jumper Problems!

Bill Werzner

If you are involved in restoration and repair, you probably have a set of those brightly colored plastic covered wire jumpers with insulated small alligator clamps on the ends. I encountered problems with a set I was restoring in replacing the burned out power transformer. Several candidate replacement units, that I had in my collection, seemed to fail one after the other as I jumpered them in. No B+, no filament voltage, open / intermittent primary – what the h*** was going on? Had the gremlins invaded my shop, a poltergeist, evil spirit or what?

The intermittent primary was a clue. I noticed as I wiggled the jumper wire around the set would go on and off. I first thought the wire to the primary winding probably had a break somewhere as the jumper wire was from a new bundle. A quick check with my VOM revealed a good primary winding, but an intermittent jumper was causing the problem. I held the clip's jaws open with my needle nose pliers. Pushed back the insulating boot, and found the jumper wire had come loose from its crimping tab in the clamp's base. I repeated this with all the new jumpers in the bundle, and all had their wires "somewhat" secured with a small flimsy crimping tab.

Well, I ended up soldering each one of those connections in the full set. If you have a new set like I purchased recently, I highly recommend you check them thoroughly and solder the wires to the clips. Otherwise, it is just a matter of time until they will work loose and you will blow your mind convincing yourself an evil spirit was taken up residency in that set you're trying to restore.

With older jumpers, connect them to your VOM on low Ohms setting, and wiggle the wires around at the base of the insulation boot to check for intermittent contact. In time, the wires will break around that base due to repeated flexing so be aware of that too. That is easy to correct if you simply cut off about an inch or so of the wire and solder the freshly cut end to the alligator clamp after you removed the small section that was broken.

Good luck with your repairs and as I say, "watch out for those wayward electrons."

Houston Vintage Radio Association

HVRA Publications 1979 – 2010 on DVD

This DVD captures 32 years of HVRA and radio related historical information that may be used for research, finding technical or how to articles, or just reminiscing about old friends or past HVRA sponsored activities.

Menu driven

Approximately 300 HVRA Publications in PDF format

Over 650 articles in 4 pre-sorted lists

A matrix that allows the single click access to any HVRA Publication

Each article, in the sorted lists, includes single click access to the individual HVRA Publication that contains that article.

Single click access to The History Of HVRA For The First 20 Years

\$10 each plus \$4 shipping

RA Publications DVD Order Form			Total
Number of DVD's		X10	\$
	Shipping		\$ 4
	Grand Total		\$

Return to:

Name: _____ HVRA
 Address: _____ P. O. Box 31276
 City/State: _____ Houston, Texas
 Zip: _____ 77231-1276

HVRA Caps Available \$ 15



Help promote HVRA by wearing one of our caps with the new HVRA logo. Available at our monthly meetings & events

Buy, Sell, Trade, & Services Offered

Radio & Phonograph Sales & Repair including vintage auto radios, battery sets, foreign sets, etc. We also sell and service vintage telephones and telegraph equipment also parts, new & used tubes, transformers, schematics, books, phonograph parts & needles, records, etc. Vintage Sounds – celebrating our 30th 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.xtalman.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 Road | Granbury TX 76049

Allen Speaker Service, Speaker re-coning and repair, 919 W. 19th St. Houston, (713) 862 – 2747.

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

More Radio Clubs

Antique Radio Collectors Club of Ft. Smith, Arkansas (ARCC). Paul Tucker, 4700 N. "N" St., Fort Smith, AR 72904. Dues: \$10. Monthly meetings, annual show.

Antique Radio Club of Illinois, www.clubinfo@vintage-radios.org

Collins Radio Association (CRA). David Knepper, PO Box 34, Sidman, PA 15955. No dues. www.collinsra.com

Louisiana & Gulf Coast Antique Radio Club. Phil Boydston, 750 Moore St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Michigan Antique Radio Club (MARC). Don Colbert, MARC, membership@michiganantiqueradio.org.
Pub: The Michigan Antique Radio Chronicle, quarterly. Dues: \$20. Annual Extravaganza and other quarterly meets. www.michiganantiqueradio.org.

New Mexico Radio Collectors Club (NMRCC). Charles Burch, 39 Chaco Loop, Sandia Park, NM 87047.
Pub: *New Mexico Radio Collectors Club Newsletter*, quarterly. Dues: \$12. Annual Sale & Show and monthly meetings. <http://members.aol.com/NMRCC.org>

Texas Antique Radio Club, Ed Engelken, Schertz, TX (830)899-3864, www.EdEngel@gvtc.com

Texas Panhandle Vintage Radio Society (TPVRS). Contact: Elroy A. Heras, 4086 Business Park Dr., Amarillo, TX 79110

Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society (VRPS), Dallas / Ft. Worth, TX Jim Sargent, bsargent@sbcglobal.net , www.vrps.org

The Grid Leak

*January * February * March 2016*

Inside —

- From the President
- Club events/ announcements
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- New Convention Contest Categories

Our website - hvra.org

Notice on renewing your membership!

Please check the expiration date by your name in the address label.

