

The Grid Leak

Oct.-Nov.-Dec.
2014

www.hvra.org

(Color GL on web site)



70th Anniversary of VE Day (1945 - 2015).

WW II soldiers operate field radios

Inside —

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HVRA Convention

February 13-14, 2015

Details Inside

From The Prez.....

We have several important items to cover in this newsletter – the last one for 2014, so I'll keep my remarks brief in order to conserve space.

Where the heck did this year go?

Seems like we were just looking forward to the New Year a little while ago and now we are but days away from the fourth quarter which will include the Christmas and holiday season once again! It seems like the older I get, the faster time seems to travel.

Thanks to the computer age, even though Editor, Dave Moore is happily married and living in Oklahoma and the rest of the crew is in Houston, we still manage to publish "The Grid Leak" as if nothing has changed. So, now let's get on with the important stuff:

Election results:

Bill re-elected by acclamation - was unable to convince or intimidate anyone to accept a nomination, Tom Taylor - Treasurer (we now need someone to step forward and accept nomination for secretary to fill his vacancy) , Gilbert Hedge - Historian, and Reid Shipp - At Large Position I. All nominated were unopposed and were elected by acclamation. Auction was very large and there was no time for Reid's program.

Basic Electronics Classes 2014

There have been a number of inquiries from both inside and outside HVRA this last year, about the possible resumption of radio repair classes. We are trying to find a suitable location where classes can be held on Saturdays as the Bayland Center where we hold monthly meetings is usually booked solid.

One possible location is a city owned facility on Chimney Rock Rd. in southwest Houston. Watch our web site for future announcements.

HVRA Christmas - Holiday Party

Saturday, January 3, 2015

See page 11 for details and registration

*Bill Werzner ,
HVRA President*

At the bench



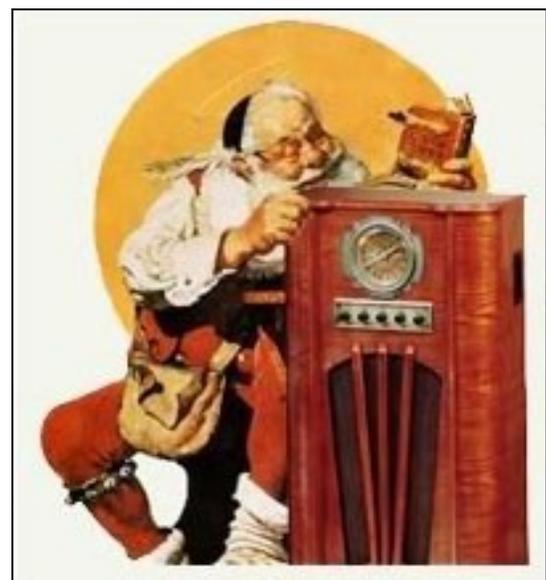
PLEASE NOTE

There will be no regular monthly meetings in November or December due to holiday schedules at the Bayland Center.

HVRA Secretary Needed

This is one of the most important positions on the HVRA Board of Directors roster. HVRA secretary Tom Taylor volunteered to accept nomination for treasurer and was elected by acclamation, leaving a vacancy for secretary.

Someone must step up to the plate to fill this critical position. Criteria required for becoming secretary include: good character, able to record and save meeting records, be computer literate, HVRA member familiar with HVRA operations, able to attend Board of Director monthly meetings, and able to type. We will accept nominations during the Oct. 25 meeting.



1940 Air Terminal Museum Vintage Houston Show

Last October HVRA were invited to participate as vendors during Vintage Houston's annual expo inside Hobby Airport's 1940 Air Terminal Museum. Despite a severe storm that hit the area, it became a standing room only event and we were really impressed with crowd. This was our first attempt to really show our stuff to the general public since the mall show days of yesteryear.

So, we decided to do it again at this nostalgic museum. There was a \$5.00 admission fee at the door, but vendors were admitted free. The museum tour itself was certainly worth five bucks!

With help from members Lance Borden, Mike Monsour, Jim Angus, Bill Werzner, and Dr. Lynn Palmer we manned two tables in two 10' by 10' areas for display and sales. One was reserved for Vintage Sounds and Battleship Texas promotion while the other was for HVRA and Lance Borden's crystal radios that made a big hit once again!

We entertained the large crowds with music from a 1930 RCA, a 1937 "Walton's" Zenith, and a 1949 AM RCA radio. An oscilloscope was connected to show the sound patterns as they danced across the screen. Our small transmitter enabled Lance to tune his crystal radios so that visitors could listen to the 50's and 60's music on each set's earphones – yes his sets were selling too!

This year we were near the bar area where drinks were on the house – yes the mixers were free! The style show was fun as contestants modeled clothes and dresses of a bygone era. Two of the ladies were really outstanding with one dressed as a 1940 Pan Am stewardess and another as a young Marilyn Monroe. Food vendors were also on hand serving up great barbecue, Mexican food, etc.

Will we do it again next year? Well, from that event we gained one new member the 27th, a half dozen or more expressed interest in joining, Lance sold a number of crystal radios, and Vintage Sounds had a run on amplifier tubes the following weekend. If you have not visited the Hobby Airport Museum, you are in for a real treat that will take you back to Houston of the 1940's. To get there take Telephone Road (TX-35) south from I – 610, Hobby Airport is on the left, continue south & turn left on Neuhaus to Travelair St. where the Terminal Museum is located.



Bill Werzner and 2014 contest winner at the Vintage Houston Gala, 1940 Terminal Museum



Lance Borden (r) & Mike Monsuer selling radio kits



Jim Angus and Pan Am stewardess

Antique Radio Club of Illinois “Radiofest 2014”

Founded in 1970, the Antique Radio Club of Illinois (ARCI) is one of the larger and well-organized vintage radio groups in the US. Its summertime extravaganza known as Radiofest is one of the best annual radio shows and I attended the show in late July.

As some of you know, I started my vintage radio hobby by joining the ARCI some years ago before moving back to Houston in 2009 and joining HVRA. ARCI has strong ties to the Antique Wireless Association in Rochester as former ARCI President Dave Bart is on the Board of Directors for AWA. He and his wife Julia are frequent contributors to the AWA Journal and other antique radio forums. Olin Schuler (pictured) is the current president and is a former radio engineer from Motorola and a great guy.

The signature event of Radiofest is the annual auction that occurs on Thursday evening. This auction is

huge with high quality radios all-around. Sparton Bluebirds (two Model 556) and a Sparton Sled (Model 557), a Scott All-Wave 23, a Regency TR-1, high end Zenith consoles, nice repwood cathedrals, and a large selection from the early radio era were found at the auction.

Many of you will recognize Jim Sargent in the picture here along with Barry McDaniel who some may recognize from attending the HVRA February auction. Jim has been the auctioneer at Radiofest the past few years and he really makes his money at this show. **Six straight hours** of auctioning with **no break**, beginning at 6:30 pm until well past midnight, make this auction a test of endurance.

However, ARCI has perfected the ability to cash-out sellers and buyers in a real-time system, so those who don't want to stay until past midnight can leave with their items. Sellers are also allowed to group their items together so they are sold one after the other and a seller can then cash out shortly afterward. The auction proceeds step by step along the hotel ballroom walls that are set up with tables to hold all of the auction items. The auction handlers work with a video camera crew to show each item on the large screen for everyone in the audience when an item is up for bid. A \$20 minimum bid helps to keep the low value items out and Jim Sargent quickly passes an item that cannot make the minimum bid.



WWI Displays (L) 1918 US Army Field Induction Telegraph unit; (R) 1918 Western Electric Airplane Radio transmitter & receiver



Olin Schuler, ARCI president



Barry McDaniel, Jim Sargent, Jeff Heller

I think sellers and buyers overall were very pleased with the results. I thought the prices were very fair and competitive. A very high quality auction overall. I bought a nice Aircastle wooden set along with an RCA 110 "mini" cathedral.

Radiofest also holds an antique equipment contest on Friday, along with six seminars on a variety of topics including radio repair and history. The hotel parking lot also hosts tailgate swapmeet on Friday and Saturday. About 40 sellers displayed their wares and some good values could be found with sellers from all over the Midwest.

Each Radiofest also has a theme and this year included an incredible display from ARCI club members commemorating WWI and WWII. Some absolutely incredible

items were on display including priceless WWI field and aviation communications gear that I have never seen before. I have seen some of the ARCI displays in the past but this year's was the best I have ever seen. I have shared a picture here which only shows a small portion of the display. The hotel that hosts the event is almost fully occupied with radio enthusiasts beginning late on Thursday through Saturday.

ARCI's Radiofest is one of those vintage radio shows that is worth the trip even from Houston. I have never been to the AWA annual meeting to compare, but the ARCI extravaganza has to be in the top tier. If anyone is ever interested in making the trip up there, please let me know.

Jeff Heller

HVRA Officers

President:	Bill Werzner,	713-721-2242; werz1943@gmail.com
VP	Jerry Sirkin,	281-376-2725; gsirkin@aol.com
Secretary:	TBD	
Treasury:	Tom Taylor N5ACA,	281-996-5835; tomn5aca@juno.com
Historian:	Gilbert Hedge,	713-726-6964; zen1441@sbcglobal.net
At Large #1:	Reid Shipp WA5ARI,	281-943-9877
At Large #2:	Lance Borden WB5REX,	281-620-6692; wb5rex@earthlink.net
Webmaster:	Derek Ross,	832-483-9819; allenross04@yahoo.com
Grid Leak Ed.:	David Moore KF5FUM,	281-705-3402; wd11@swbell.net

Houston Mini Maker Faire®

Saturday, November 1, 2014
10am - 6pm

Stafford Centre

Bill, Jerry, Tom and Derek: we invite the Houston Vintage Radio Association to display and demonstrate amateur and historical radio at our event. Maker Faire is "a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker movement. It's a place where people show what they are making, and share what they are learning".

Maker Faire is a great place to show off many different dimensions of your hobby -- we'd enjoy seeing a broad representation of "radio,... antique phonographs, telephones, telegraphs, records, ham equipment, and television equipment" mentioned on your website.

We recognize you already participate in hobby-specific shows, but consider that Maker Faire is a chance to reach out to a different audience interested in family-oriented activities and education.

You likely will find some other serious hobbyists with interesting

information that will be useful to you. Also, we're doing all the organizing work and there's no booth cost to you and your membership for participation. Early set-up on Friday afternoon is available.

Please let us know if you're interested or if you have any questions. There's more info available at

<http://www.houstonmakerfaire.com/> .

Registration ends in mid-October. And yes, this invitation applies to any of the other amateur radio clubs in the Houston area, on a space-available/first-come-first-served basis, so please pass this invitation along to them or provide us contact information.

Mike Hinkle and the Houston Mini Maker Faire team

Ahoy Mates from the Mighty T !

Gather yer scurvy bones together and help us aboard the Battleship USS Texas on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014 for the Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony. The annual Christmas on the Battleship will be held on the following Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 AM - 5:30 PM. There will be treats, exhibits, Santa, a telegraph for the little ones' letters to the North Pole.

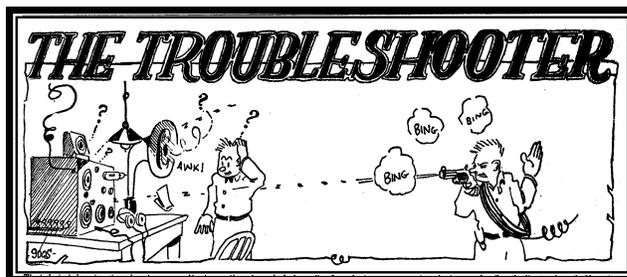
The Battleship Texas docked at the San Jacinto Battleground State Park will open at 10 AM with military ceremonies on the main deck. The Battleship Texas Amateur Radio group (NA5DV) will be operating from the second deck and a telegraph will again be set up down in the mail room for the little ones to send their letters to the North Pole so bring the family. That was a big hit last year as the kids heard their messages tapped out in Morse Code and then heard a response a few seconds later (from a left foot key on the floor).

There will be displays for the public, and if we can muster up some volunteers, I would hope HVRA could provide a table showing some of our era specific radios for the public to enjoy. If interested, contact Bill Werzner, www.werz1943@gmail.com. We will need to hear from you soon so that plans can be presented to the ship's staff in the coming weeks.



“How a Nine Pin Tube Nearly Drove Me Insane”

by Bill Werzner



Once upon a time a long time a customer brought me a beautiful Mc Intosh stereo amplifier for repair. Typical problems for an amplifier of this vintage were out of spec filter capacitors and selenium rectifiers in need of replacement. After a thorough going over testing tubes, transformers, capacitors, and resistors; it was ready for a final “smoke test”. Confident of my repairs after having totally rebuilt the power supply, I was pleased with the beautiful sound that emanated from the right channel.

Then confident the left channel would sound the same way - the #@%&#\$\$\$@#\$ left channel barely emitted any sound at all! It was time to once again - get out and get under – as they used to say in the early days of the automobile.

The tubes had already been tested and checked out like new so there should be no problem on top. I checked all voltages with my Simpson meter except for the tube filaments which from the tube test showed no problem. All the voltages were normal and the rebuilt power supply was pumping out electrons. Audio signal injection and tracing with my oscilloscope showed nothing was getting past the 12BH7 on the left channel. This made no sense as all components, tubes, and voltages checked out.

Was this thing possessed by some evil demon, should I call a priest for an exorcism? I had already wasted a day chanting incantations and using every cuss word I knew to no avail.

Being an old Shell Oil scientist of many years, I was determined to find the problem no matter how long it would take.

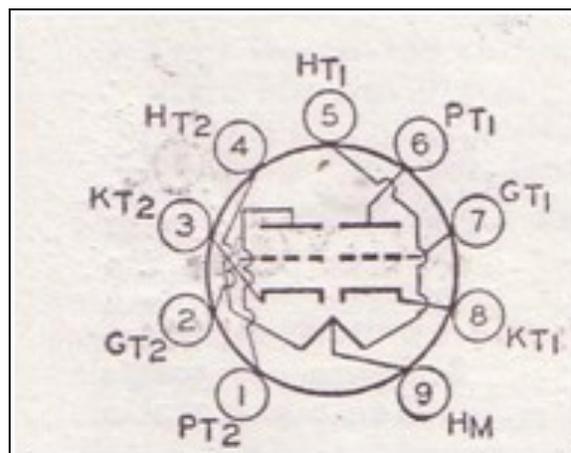
I woke up early the next morning dreading another frustrating day at the bench. Then I decided to lay out a strategy. First I would swap left tubes with right channel tubes while enjoying a cup of coffee to steel my nerves. The tube swap was uneventful until I tried to fit the right channel's 12BH7 in the left's socket. It simply would not fit in no matter how hard I pushed.

Then I noticed a wire inside the socket where pin #9 was to go. That “wire” turned out to be pin #9 that had broken off at the base of the tube! I extracted the wire pin, replaced the tube with a new one, and left channel sprang to life.

How did this problem sneak by me? Well here is the final analysis: [1] Pin 9 is a filament tap enabling the tube to operate either on 6 or 12 volts. [2] My tube tester sets the filament voltage to 12 volts for the test. [3] Lining the tube up in the tester socket, I only looked to seat pin #1 in the socket – therefore the tube tests good. [4] The getter deposit covered the top of the glass tube so I could not see that the filament was not lit. [5] Under chassis voltages EXCEPT FOR FILAMENTS



Mc Intosh 240 Stereo Amplifier



12BH7 dual triode

all tested normal. I should have examined that schematic in greater detail, then I would have noticed that the 12BH7s were wired for 6 volts as were the five 12AX7s.

Another lesson learned from the bench of hard knocks! As the late Bob Wood used to say in our electronics classes, use your God given senses first: sight, smell, hearing, (forget taste), oops – looks like I forgot TOUCH! Yes it was the cold one.

HVRA Convention

February 13-14, 2015

Location: Houston Marriott North at Greenspoint*

255 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, Texas 77060
281-875-4000 or 1-888-236-2427

Room Rates: \$79.00 per night plus Tax (King or 2 Queens)

Dates: Guest Rooms discounted from Thursday, February 12th thru Saturday, February 14th (Check – out February 15th).

****In order to receive the HVRA Guest Room rate discount, reservations must be received by January 29, 2015.****

Free Wi-Fi in Lobby and Guest Rooms

* Overnight guest room will be available at a discounted cost of \$79 (+ tax) only by phone or by weblink; note - Marriott members can register through weblink and receive Reward Points, but not to use points. If using Reward Points, please contact the hotel directly or via Marriott's website.

Featured Radio Manufacturer: Watterson

Preliminary Convention Event Schedule:

Friday, February 13, 2015

Registration: Beginning at 9am

Old Equipment Contest Check-in: 10am – 8pm

Swap Meet: **Salon E** 10am – 2pm, (open to public)

Auction #1 and #2 check-in 9am – 3:30pm

Technical Sessions (3): **Austin Room** 1pm – 3:45pm

Crystal Radios – Lance Borden

Pedigree Capacitors – Tom Taylor

Watterson Radios – George Potter

Open Snack Break (Free): Beginning at 3pm in Lobby

Auctions begins at 4pm (\$10.00 Min. Bids; No Junk)

Auction #1: Paper, Tubes, Test Equipment

Auction #2: Plastic and Table radios

Saturday, February 14, 2015

Registration: Beginning at 8am.

Swap Meet: **Salon E** 7am – 10am (open to public)

Auction #3 Check-in: 8am – 11am

Old Equipment Contest Check-in: 8am-9:30am

Old Equipment Contest Judging: 9:30am

Auction #3: 11am; Wood Radios, Consoles (\$20.00 Min Bid)

*Cash Food Concession in Lobby

Awards Banquet Dinner: 6:30pm (\$25.00)

*** Auction Buyers must be active HVRA members ***

New This Year

**\$10 Buffet Breakfast discount coupons for Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be available for each convention attendee and each family member. Overnight guests will receive coupons at check-in; non-overnight attendees will receive coupons at the Convention Registration Table.

** **FREE Friday Open Snack Break:** located in convention lobby beginning at 3PM

** **Cash Concession** - In order to facilitate a faster lunch service for Saturday, the Marriott will have a Cash Concession set up. Pre-made sandwiches (i.e. Ham & Cheese, Roast Beef) and Chicken Caesar Salads, along with chips, soft drinks, yogurts, cookies, etc will be sold in the Convention Lobby. We are negotiating prices of \$7 for sandwiches and Caesar salad; \$1 for others; final prices will be published in the January mailer. However, if you preregister, please check the box indicating if you plan on eating from the cash lunch bar. HVRA will need a final count by Feb. 7th. Additionally, the Marriott restaurant will be open for carry-out items off their menu.

For additional information; contact Jerry Sirkin (gsirkin@aol.com) 281-844-4124

Old Equipment Contest

WW II

70th Anniversary of VE Day
1945 - 2015

This special old equipment contest will feature communications equipment and memorabilia and ephemera related to that era.

-- Watterson --

Manufacturer's Choice Chosen for HVRA Convention

Watterson radios will be the manufacturer's choice for the Feb. 13 & 14, 2015 convention. Now is the time to plan for the big one in February. Watch our web for more details.

HVRA Event Schedule:

Location for all events: Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, TX Coffee & snacks available at regular meetings - Pizza served at Board Meetings

Tuesday, Oct. 14, Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM, Pizza served!

Saturday, Oct. 25, Monthly meeting, Program, auction, electronics class III.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM, Pizza served!

Friday – Sunday, Nov.14 – 16, VRPS annual convention, Hampton Inn, Mesquite, TX

Saturday, Dec. 6, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony, 10 AM – HAM Station NA5DV on the air!

Tuesday, Dec. 9, Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM, Pizza served!

Saturday, Dec. 13, Christmas on the Battleship Texas, 10 AM to 5:30 PM

Saturday Evening Jan. 3, 2015 Annual Holiday Celebration – Dinner, Program, & Auction at the Monument Inn, La Porte, Texas

Saturday Evening Jan. 24, 2015 Monthly meeting, Program, auction

Friday- Saturday, Feb. 13-14, 2015, HVRA Convention.

2014 - Meeting Contests

October — Golden Guitar Amplifier Contest

Tube or Solid state. An attempt will be made to provide a musician with guitar.



PLEASE NOTE

There will be no regular monthly meetings in November or December due to holiday schedules at the Bayland Center.

VRPS Convention! ***November 17, 18, & 19***

The Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society will hold their annual convention, two day auction, and swap meet Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Hampton Inn & Suites,

1700 Rodeo Drive, Mesquite, TX 75149. For reservations call (972) 329 - 3100

HVRA Bylaws Changes Approved

HVRA bylaws were last updated in 2013. According to Article X (#10) "Bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting and a notice of the amendment(s) appears in the Association's regular publication. HVRA member, Jimmie Stewart has taken the task of reviewing the current Bylaws. He presented these recommendations during the August 12 Board of Directors' meeting:

Jimmie reminds us that HVRA is classified as a 501 C7 non-profit organization. As such, we will perhaps need to add another ARTICLE describing how HVRA monetary funds will be distributed, should the organization disband. According to Jimmie's findings, the money, according to law, cannot be distributed to members or individuals, but only to another non-profit organization(s). This is a matter that will be presented to the general membership for recommendation should this ever occur. Thank you Jimmie for taking the time to review our Bylaws! Although Jimmie is not an elected Board member, he regularly attends our monthly Board of Directors' meetings offering valuable input and sometimes playing devil's advocate. This is the kind of participation we need from our members as the Board meetings are open to all members – so join in, share some ideas, and enjoy the pizzas with us.

HVRA INFORMATION
MEMBERSHIP -- 2015 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____
 STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____
 AREA CODE: _____ PHONE #: _____ HAM CALL: _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

IF THIS IS TO JUST UPDATE YOUR HVRA INFORMATION:
 Please send your updates to Jimmie Stewart at jimmietex@netzero.net

2015 HVRA CONVENTION February 13 and 14, 2015
HOUSTON MARRIOTT NORTH AT GREENSPOINT
2015 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

	NO.	TOTAL
2015 HVRA CONVENTION		
REGISTRATION: \$10.00 (ADVANCE):		\$
(\$15.00 AT THE DOOR):		\$
MEMBERSHIP: \$ 20.00 (NEW):		\$
\$ 20.00 (RENEW):		\$
AWARDS BANQUET: \$25/ PERSON		\$
FIRST SWAP MEET TABLE: (FREE):		\$ 00.00
ADDITION TABLES: (\$10.00 EACH)		\$
		\$
GRAND TOTAL:		\$

**THIS YEAR YOUR BID NUMBER IS BASED ON THE DATE THAT HVRA RECEIVES
 THE REGISTRATION MONEY.**

Saturday Cash Concession lunch

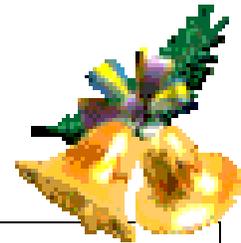
THIS YEAR the MARRIOTT NORTH will have box lunches and salads on Sale Saturday
 Participating in Cash Concession Lunch Yes: _____, No: _____; Number: _____
 Need to know by February 7th. Please send numbers to Jimmie Stewart at: jimmietex@netzero.net

Before February 1, 2015: HVRA
 Mail Form and Check to: P.O. BOX 31276
 HOUSTON, TX 77231-1276

FOR HVRA USE ONLY: DATE RECEIVED _____ BID # _____
CHECK # _____



January 3, 2015
 Saturday, 6 PM



2015 HVRA Annual Holiday Celebration

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____
 STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ AREA CODE: _____ PHONE #: _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

2015 Annual Holiday Celebration Saturday, January 3, 2015, 6 PM
 Monument Inn, 4406 Independence Parkway South
 Located next to the Lynchburg Ferry (south side)
 For directions, information please call 281- 479-1521

2015 HVRA Annual Holiday Celebration	NO.	TOTAL
LYNCHBURG DINNER PACKAGE (select one of the following entrees) Fisherman's Platter, Broiled Tilapia Pontchartrain with Pontchartrain Sauce, Chicken Breast with Sautéed Onions, Mushrooms and Red Wine Sauce, Grilled 10 oz. Angus Rib-eye Steak Vegetarian/ Order off the menu \$30.00 WITH TAX & TIP		\$
Children's Menu FOR KIDS UNDER 10 Choice of: Fried Shrimp, Fried Catfish, Chicken Fingers, or Hamburger. Served with French Fries \$10.00 WITH TAX & TIP		\$
Dessert CHEESECAKE WITH CHERRIES, BANANA FOSTER CAKE, CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE \$6.00 each WITH TAX & TIP		\$
GRAND TOTAL:		\$

THIS YEAR YOUR BID NUMBER FOR THE PARTY IS BASED ON THE DATE THAT HVRA RECEIVES THE Annual Holiday Celebration MONEY.

Before December 15, 2015: HVRA
 Mail Form and Check to: P.O. BOX 31276
 After the 15th bring to party: HOUSTON, TX 77231-1276

FOR HVRA USE ONLY: DATE RECEIVED _____ BID # _____
CHECK # _____

The Grid Leak

Oct - Nov - Dec - 2014

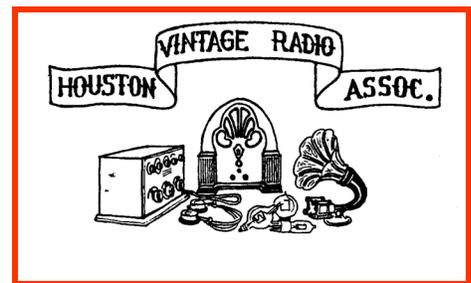
Monthly Meeting— Oct 25
Bayland Park 9 AM (doors open @ 8 AM)

Christmas Holiday Dinner/Auction
Jan. 3, 2015, Monument Inn, La Porte
5:30 PM

HVRA Annual Convention,
Feb. 13 & 14, 2015

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 label.



christmas - Holiday Dinner
January 3, 2015