

## ***The Grid Leak***

***October/November/December 2017***

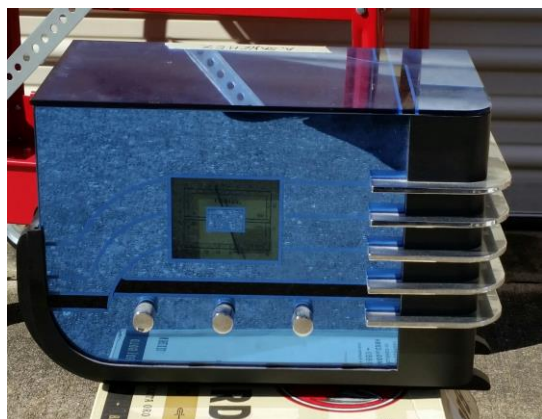
Radios and tubes galore from the Arnie Sanchez Estate (see below), three Fabulous early Zenith Battery sets (from the Gilbert Hedge collection—see inside!) and Much More Will Be offered at our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Auction!



GE "Beehive" Replica AM/FM Radio



Sparton Bluebird Replica



Crosley CR-38 "Sled" (replica of the Sparton Model 557)



Crosley Replica AM/FM/CD table top radio

## ***From The President***

Bill Werzner,  
HVRA President

### **At the bench**



I will keep this as brief as I can as we have a lot to cover in this fall 2017 issue. First I want to thank you all for your support during our annual summer mega auction during the Texas City HAM fest on July 8. This was probably the best attended and most successful event for us there in several years. Our auction handlers certainly got a good workout along with your resident auctioneer and moneywise we came out ahead thanks to the number of attendees and some great donations. As for monthly club activities, our members have contributed time and effort in presenting interesting programs and contributing items for the auctions that follow. Our August 26 meeting had to be cancelled due to a nasty uninvited visitor called Hurricane Harvey. Houston dodged a direct hit, but the incredible rains that followed for the next three days were devastating with an average of four feet of rain in the Houston area. The entire area is still in a recovery mode and will be for some time. Some of us were fortunate and not flooded, but so many more suffered terrible losses in heavily flooded areas. So, as we approach the season of giving, remember our neighbors who were less fortunate and contribute however you can to help them.

Now onto an important topic, club financial matters and what we need to do. As many of you are aware, our long time member and WW II survivor, Bob Wood passed away in December 2009 and willed his collections to HVRA. For the last seven years we have maintained a healthy treasury along with a savings account thanks to Bob's benevolence. Over the years our working cash resource has slowly declined to a point where we will have to tap the savings account unless we make some necessary changes in the way we conduct business. We prefer to keep the savings account intact to be used in the event of some catastrophic event that could befall us. One such event occurred in the mid 1980's when a tornado hit the Houston area and all but eliminated our convention. Years later another weather event brought ice and freezing weather that had a devastating effect on us once again. In both cases we were hit with overhead expenses that nearly wiped out our treasury. Both our previous and current treasurers have presented charts and graphs illustrating this slow, but steady loss over the years. We must act now to stem this erosion from our working capital in order to preserve what we might consider our "rainy day fund". There are demonstrable reasons for this revenue decline: 1. Fewer collectors of vintage radios resulting in less competitive bidding during auctions, resulting in significantly lower selling prices. 2. Increase in expenses for events. 3. An aging membership. 4. Internet competition – i.e. E Bay buying and selling. I'm sure you recall how these problems were non issues a decade or so ago, but today they are staring us in the face. Now we must adapt to these changes, or go the way of the dinosaurs.

Putting this into some kind of perspective, the short term need is raising revenue. One way to do this is to encourage donations of auction items to our club. Another is to simply donate money to some of our events as an individual or on behalf of a business. A recent example is that almost \$500.00 has been donated by members to defray the cost of tickets for our December 15 party. We have also considered whether to increase our convention registration fee and raise the convention seller fees. We have decided to raise the fees for upcoming convention and to increase the seller's fee from the traditional 10, to 15% of sale for the upcoming convention. Other options are being considered for the long haul improvement of our finances, but let us hear from you, with your suggestions. Long term solutions include working within a tighter budget, recruiting new and younger members, encouraging donations, and possibly selling some donated items via the internet. With that said, let's move on to more fun things.

**Bill Werzner, President, HVRA**

## **HVRA Officers**

**President:** Bill Werzner, 713-721-2242, [werz1943@gmail.com](mailto:werz1943@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Jerry Sirkin, 281-844-4124, [gsirkin@aol.com](mailto:gsirkin@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Richard T. Slater, 832-977-6111, [ricslater1750@gmail.com](mailto:ricslater1750@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Mike Monsour, ACOTX, 832-829-2227 [msircg@gmail.com](mailto:msircg@gmail.com)

**Historian:** Steven Pena, [penas@stthom.edu](mailto:penas@stthom.edu)

**At Large # 1:** Reid Shipp, WA5ARI, 281-943-9877

**At Large # 2 and Grid Leak Editor:** Jeff Heller, 281-702-6920 [hellerj1@comcast.net](mailto:hellerj1@comcast.net)

**Webmaster:** Steve Scheel, 281-687-5771, [targeteye1@gmail.com](mailto:targeteye1@gmail.com)

### **HVRA Event Schedule: July through December 2017**

**October 10, 2017** [Monthly Board of Directors Meeting](#) @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St Houston, TX 77074 All members are always welcome to attend.

**October 28, 2017** [Monthly Membership Meeting](#) Set-up starts at 8:00 am and the meeting starts at 8:30. Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St Houston, TX 77074 (Presentation on turntables.)

**November 14, 2017** [Monthly Board of Directors Meeting](#) @ 6:30 am - 8:30 pm Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St Houston, TX 77074 All members are always welcome to attend.

**THERE ARE NO Monthly Membership Meetings During the Months of November and December**

**November 10 and 11, 2017** [Houston Vintage Exposition at Hobby Airport Museum](#) HVRA will have a display at the Houston Vintage Expo. Come to the Hobby Airport Museum, 8325 Tavelair Street in Houston, nearby the Hobby Airport and help with our HVRA booth as we meet members of the public interested in vintage items. The Expo is held on Friday night, November 10 from 7:00 to 11:00 pm, and on Saturday November 11 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

**November 17, 2017** [VRPS Annual Convention and Auction](#) Many of your fellow HVRA members will be attending the Dallas' clubs annual convention and auction. See [www.vrps.org](http://www.vrps.org) for more details.

**December 12, 2017** [Monthly Board of Directors Meeting](#) @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St Houston, TX 77074 As always, all members are welcome to attend.

**December 15, 2017** [HVRA Holiday Party](#) Please see the details below.

**January 9, 2018** [Monthly Board of Directors Meeting](#) @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St Houston, TX 77074 As always, all members are welcome to attend.



**January 27, 2018** [Monthly Members Meeting](#) Set-up starts at 8:00 am and the meeting starts at 8:30. Bayland [Community](#) Center, 6400 Bissonnet St Houston, TX 77074 (Presentation: Meters and Trouble shooting.)

**February 9 and 10, 2018** [HVRA 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention](#) Please see the details in this issue of the Grid Leak

**February 13, 2018** [Monthly Board of Directors Meeting](#) @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St Houston, TX 77074

## **HVRA News and Happenings**



**HOUSTON VINTAGE RADIO ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Friday, December 15, 2017**

**Double Tree by Hilton Hobby Houston Airport**  
8181 Airport Boulevard, Houston, TX

5:30pm (Cash Bar) 6:15 pm Welcome Remarks 6:30 pm Buffett Dinner  
Cost: \$20 (child 12 & under \$6)

**Menu**

**Soup:** Broccoli Cheese  
**Salads:** Garden, Ambrosia Fruit, Granny Apple Slaw  
**Entrees:** Fried Chicken and Beef Tenderloin  
Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls  
**Desserts:** Peach Cobbler and Pumpkin Pie

**Donation Auction!**

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

***Bring the family for an evening of fun!***

**RSVPs needed by Dec.12<sup>th</sup>.**

Mail to HVRA P.O. Box 31276 Houston, TX 77231-1276.  
Make checks payable to HVRA; Include number of attendees on check.  
Questions – Call Bill Werzner 713-820-1778

Our annual Holiday Party is a way for HVRA to thank its members for their support while offering an opportunity for members and their family members to join other members for an enjoyable evening. Plan to bring items for our fun donation auction with proceeds to benefit the club. And thanks to some of our members who have made personal donations to help defray the cost of the evening by a considerable amount.

## **Results from Annual Election of HVRA Officers**

Our annual election of HVRA officers was held at our monthly meeting on September 23, 2017. Elected to another term as Vice President was Jerry Sirkin. Reelected to another term as Secretary was Mike Monsour, and Jeff Heller was re-elected to At Large position II. As previously announced, our new Treasurer is Ric Slater who was appointed to complete the term of Tom Taylor. The position Ric previously held was HVRA Historian, and Steve Pena was appointed to complete the remainder of the term for that position.

## **Hobby Airport Museum Event—November 10 and 11**

**Submitted by Pres. Bill Werzner:** With cooler fall like weather on the way, now is the time to enjoy outdoor activities. I have always felt that the months of October and November were two of the best months, climate wise, in our area. HVRA will be on hand with our exhibits and sales during Houston Vintage's annual extravaganza at the Hobby Airport Museum, located at 8325 Travelair St., Houston 77061. Bring family and friends for this fun event that will begin Friday evening inside the 1940's art deco terminal building. There will be exhibits, items for sale, museum tour, and music and dancing into the night. This year's theme will be "WW II USO". On Saturday starting around 10 AM there will be outdoor exhibits, vintage cars, airplanes, maybe a vintage fire truck or two, Battleship Texas antiaircraft trailer, along with food vendors etc. Inside the museum vendors will be set up, exhibits, music, dancing, and a style show contest during the afternoon.

A parking lot is located directly across the street. The museum does require a small admission fee that is good all day. If you have not seen the museum before, when you enter it is like going into a 1940's time warp where the exhibits and pictures tell a wonderful story of Houston's aviation history. See our web site at [www.hvra.org](http://www.hvra.org) for additional information as it becomes available.

### **From the Webmaster : Stephen Scheel**

It does appear the monthly club meeting attendance is up and I attribute this partially to the email blasts (reminder) I send out. If you are not getting these reminders or other club related information via email it could be that we do not have your correct email address. Please send your correct email address to [targeteye1@gmail.com](mailto:targeteye1@gmail.com)."

## **Annual 2018 Convention Contest Features "The Founders of Radio"**

**By: Jeff Heller, Contest Chairman: HVRA 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

To coincide with the theme of our own beginning as a radio club, our contest will feature the **Legacy of Radio's Founding**. Our contest theme features the **"Four Giants"** who contributed to radio's development both technically and commercially. These giants were **Guillermo Marconi, Lee DeForest, Edwin Armstrong, and David Sarnoff**. A special category will allow Contestants to present any radio(s), papers, displays, advertisements and similar material, and anything else that celebrates the contributions of one or more of these "Four Giants" to the founding of radio as it came to dominate the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Use your creativity and your collection to show radio heritage related in any way to these Four Giants that our HVRA was created to help preserve. We will be awarding ribbons and a commemorative HVRA plaque for this special contest category. Any questions? Contact Jeff Heller, [hellerj1@comcast.net](mailto:hellerj1@comcast.net)



### **CHRISTMAS / HOLIDAY PARTY RESERVATION FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 15**

To make it easier for you to submit your reservation for the Holiday Party, please use this form and enclose your check for the number of tickets you need. The event will be held at the Hobby Hilton Double Tree Hotel.

**ADULT BANQUET TICKET \$20.00 each**

**CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS \$6.00 each**

**NUMBER OF ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 12 \_\_\_\_\_**

**HVRA MEMBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE \_\_\_\_\_**

**E MAIL \_\_\_\_\_**

**MAIL CHECK PAYABLE TO HVRA. P.O. BOX 31276, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77231 – 1276**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017**





# *Radio Collector Spotlight*

## *Featuring: Larry Mangione*

By Gilbert Hedge



Larry has been retired for 12 years from the Kroger Company where he worked maintaining their refrigeration systems. He was raised in the Gary Indiana area and became interested in radio at a very early age when his family would sit around listening to old radio programs like The Green Hornet, Dragnet, Perry Mason and the Lone Ranger. He is especially fond of the music from the 1950's.



Larry took an interest in German radios during his tour in Germany during the early 1960's, and returned in 1986 on vacation. He visited a flea market and purchased his first German multi band radio and hand carried it thru customs to the USA. Once back at home he plugged it in and shorted something. Needing some help, he took the set to Vintage Sounds, where he met Bill Werzner, who looked at the set and told Larry that the transformer was open and needed to be re-wound. When Larry came to pick up the radio Bill suggested that Larry join the Houston Vintage Radio Association and attend some of the radio classes that were being offered. He has been a member of HVRA ever since.



The first restoration project that Larry attempted on his own was a Zenith Trans-Oceanic that he bought at a VRPS convention in Dallas. Once home he discovered that the wiring had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. He replaced that wiring and was successful with his first complete restoration project. He was really thrilled with bringing it back to life. What a great milestone for a first restoration! Sometimes he gets help with particularly difficult problems or with a set that needs alignment by bartering. Larry has some interesting test equipment including a unique isolated AC power supply, with amp meter and volt meter, which he built and installed in a nice portable case.



The typical restoration process for Larry is to attend an auction sponsored by HVRA or VRPS and then buy as many radios as his car will hold. When he returns home, he puts them on shelves, which were specifically made for storing radios, in his barn. Then over the next few months he would restore them, one out at a time, so he doesn't get the parts mixed-up or lost. When working on radios, Larry likes to listen to ham operators from all areas of the lower US.



Larry is an avid short wave listener and has a very interesting set up with a wide variety of listening gear. One of the more interesting items in his shop is a really cool antenna switching system along with an antenna amplifier and trimmer. His antenna is an inverted V dipole that is 100 feet long. He says the system works great.



Of particular interest to the antique radio collector is a "Talking House" Radio Transmitter that Larry uses to play music from the 1950's and 60's on the radios that he has restored. I checked on line and found several for sale in the \$50 range.





## HVRA Technical and Restoration Articles

### The Trouble Shooter.....

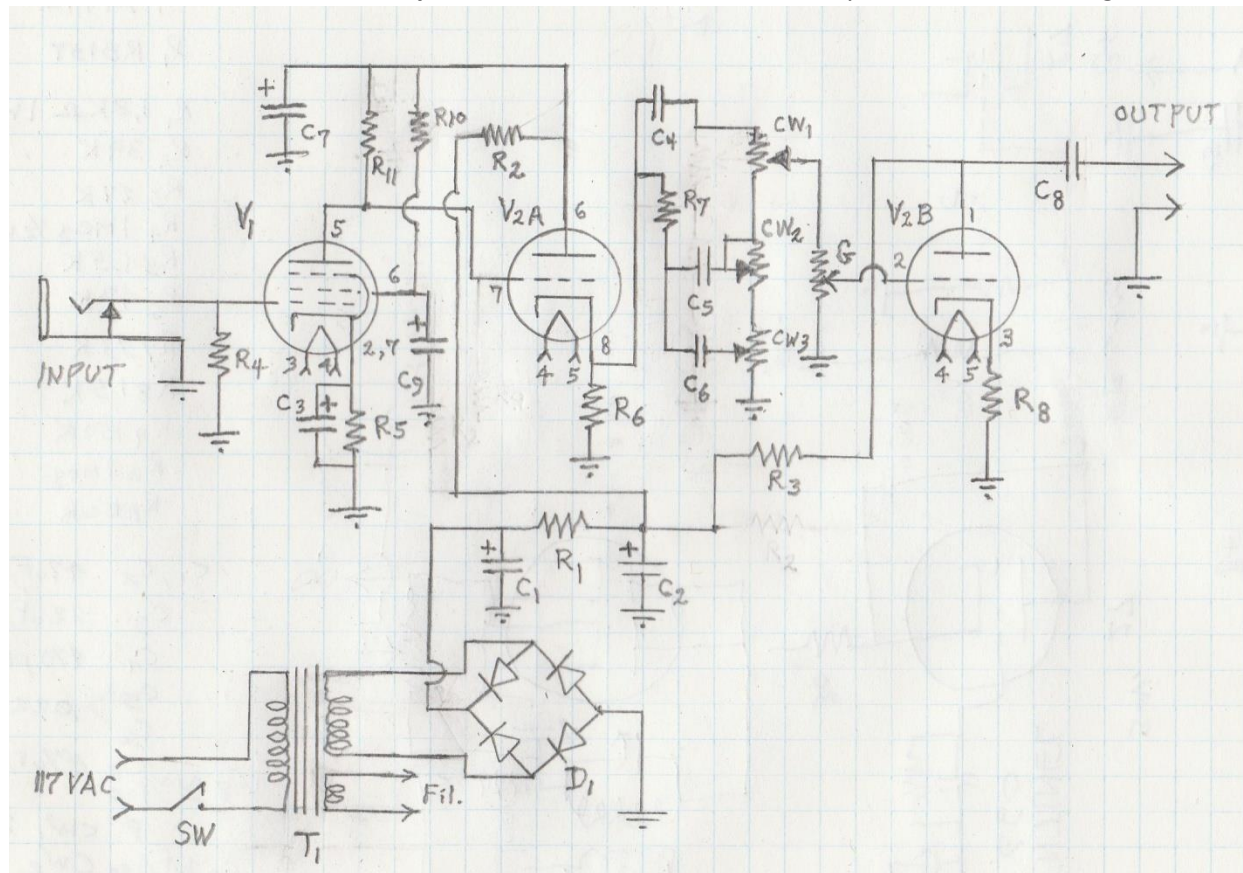
by Bill Werzner

### The Junk Box Preamplifier

A couple of months ago one of our customers at Vintage Sounds was in need of a not too expensive pre amplifier that could amplify sound from two of his older model turntables to be fed into an older amplifier. The problem being, was that the output from his record players was not strong enough to produce a signal for sufficient volume. This was a problem that I had toyed with in my mind for several years. In our business we deal with vintage equipment and I could foresee a problem like this at some point in time. The homebrew preamp he brought in for repair, and I won't go into details, was beyond repair. So, I decided to experiment starting with a schematic I found while surfing around on GOOGLE one evening.

#### Schematic for a Junk Box Preamp

by Bill Werzner, Vintage Sounds, Houston, Texas



#### PARTS

C1, C2, C7 47 uF 250 V. electrolytic  
C3 22 uF 50 V. electrolytic  
C4 470 pF 200 V. ceramic  
C5, C6 0.022 uF 200 V. ceramic  
C8 0.10 uF 250 V. polypropylene

D Full wave diode RB 157  
G 1 Meg. Pot. / switch SW  
R1 1.8 K Ohm 1 Watt  
R2 39 K Ohm 0.5 Watt  
R3 27 K Ohm 0.5 Watt

R9, R11 150 K Ohm 0.5 Watt  
T1 Power transformer P-T442  
117 V. pri. 12.6 V. & 117 V. sec.  
Antique Electronic Supply  
Tempe, AZ

C9 1.0 uF 250 V. electrolytic	R4,R10 1.0 Meg. 0.5 Watt	V1 12AU6, V2 12AU7 tube
CW1 250 K potentiometer	R5, R8 1.5 K Ohm 0.5 Watt	Note, 6AU6 tube used if T1 has
CW2 1.0 Meg. potentiometer	R6 47 K Ohm 0.5 Watt	a 6.3 V. fil. Supply & use 12AU7
CW3 25 K potentiometer	R7 33 K Ohm 0.5 Watt	pin #9 fil. tap for 6 volt supply.

Voltages: B+ at: C2 150.5 V., V1 plate 93 V., V1 (pin 6) 27 V., V2A plate 140 V., V2B plate 84 V.

The author of the article described the preamp as a knockoff version from a Marshall amplifier. With an inexpensive small power transformer, two common tubes and a hand full of common components, this was the chance I had been waiting for. I built this unit on an aluminum bud box one evening at my work bench. Notice how the input signal is fed directly to the grid of the 12AU6 tube. CW1 adjusts treble, CW2 bass, and CW3 is for mid range. When I fired it up with headphones connected to the output, I was amazed at how well it performed when I fed a really weak audio signal into it from a bench radio – I think you will be too. The author of the original design coupled a 22 uF cathode bypass capacitor in parallel with R8, but removed it as the output was too loud! Be careful when you hook this one up – you might blow a speaker cone or knock your neighbors out of bed.

## UNDERSTANDING ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS

by Ron Soyland

One of the least understood components found in radios is the common electrolytic capacitor. These capacitors work on a slightly different principle than a simple paper capacitor.

When certain metals, such as aluminum, are immersed in an electrolyte (conductive solution) and current is applied, oxygen from the electrolyte oxidizes the surface of the metal forming a layer of oxide. This oxide layer is usually highly insulating and will build up as the current flows until it totally insulates the metal, thus blocking further current flow. The insulating oxide layer is extremely thin, about 1/10 the thickness of a sheet of paper. In spite of this thin nature, the capacitor can withstand voltages up into the hundreds of volts.

In the most primitive capacitors (up until the mid 1940's) all electrolytic capacitors were "wet" electrolyte types. These capacitors had an aluminum anode that was folded up into a round can and insulated from the can with a cardboard or bakelite insulator sleeve. The outer can was the negative capacitor plate and the folded anode was the positive. The can was filled about 90% full with the electrolyte solution, which was a saturated mix of borax and ethylene glycol.

These capacitors had relatively low capacitance per unit volume for an electrolytic capacitor, the maximum being about 20mfd for a reasonably tall capacitor. The very thick oxide coating of these capacitors was not subject to serious time related dissolving, as were the later capacitor types. Any leakage from electrolyte breakdown was very quickly "healed" the next time power was applied due to the abundance of electrolyte present.

The bane of the capacitor was the slow leakage of the electrolyte, which caused the capacitor to dry out and eventually lose all of its capacity since the electrolyte was effectively the negative plate of the capacitor. As the electrolyte level dropped, so did the capacitance!

The next evolution of the electrolytic was called the "dry" electrolytic. These capacitors were identical in function to the older wet electrolytic but physically they were totally different. Instead of using the outer can as one plate of the capacitor, a second aluminum plate was used, there now being two aluminum plates (made of thin aluminum foil), which were separated by a carefully made paper separator layer. This separator layer was soaked

in the electrolyte, which was the same borax mix as in the wet type capacitor. The foils were rolled up into a tight roll and put in the housing, which served only as a container. (The housing was usually connected electrically to the negative terminal for manufacturing convenience) Thus, a substantially greater surface area could be crammed into a given size can, resulting in a significant reduction in capacitor size. The can was sealed with a rubber disk on the end to prevent (hopefully) the loss of what little electrolyte was present.

This design was instantly popular, the capacitors being substantially smaller for a given voltage and capacitance rating. There was a serious problem with these capacitors. As they aged, the electrolyte did tend to migrate out of the case causing a gradual decrease in the liquid contained in the capacitor. The ethylene glycol is essential in the mix to prevent dissolving of the oxide layer in the capacitor! So as the capacitor aged and dried out, the remaining borax attacked the electrolyte causing it to become weaker, sometimes to the point of being more of a resistor than a dielectric. Some people try to "re-form" these capacitors by applying voltage in a controlled way to plate more dielectric onto the aluminum but this is futile because the liquid concentration is so low. The capacitor will immediately begin degrading again as soon as the power is removed, and will again revert to no more than a resistor that can load down the circuits until something gives. Thus, "re-forming" is an exercise in futility. The liquid content of the electrolyte would have to be replenished also to have this be a viable technique. The old capacitor must be replaced to be reliable.

The next evolution of the electrolytic capacitor was the changing of the electrolyte from the borax solution to what is called a polymer dielectric. Certain organic compounds have a chemical structure that allows them to conduct current. This material is coated in a very thin layer onto the aluminum and current is applied. The oxygen in the polymer forms the oxide layer for the capacitor dielectric when current is first applied at the factory. Since there is no liquid involved, the capacitors do not "dry out" or degrade like the old formula capacitors did. This totally eliminated the severe leakage that developed over time with the old technology. Virtually all capacitors made after 1980 use the polymer electrolyte so no re-forming is necessary. Another benefit of these capacitors is the lifespan of the capacitor is typically 40,000 hours at 25C. (Compared to less than 5 years with the old formula capacitors)

A major disadvantage of the polymer electrolyte capacitor is it has NO tolerance to reverse voltage. Any more than a volt or two applied in reverse will cause the polymer to break down the oxide layer re-adsorbing the oxygen, thus causing the dielectric layer to disappear. The oxide layer will get thinner and thinner until the capacitor will short out the next time full voltage is applied.

A second disadvantage is tolerance to over voltage. The old technology electrolytic capacitor had a "working voltage" and a "surge voltage" rating. The working voltage is the safe voltage that can be continuously applied to the capacitor for long periods of time. The surge voltage is the maximum voltage that can be applied for a short period, like ten seconds or so.

The modern polymer electrolytics have no surge voltage rating! The voltage marked on the case is the maximum that should ever be applied to the capacitor. Thus, you must make allowances in the design to account for surge voltages. This was not necessary using the old capacitors. This is a major difference in the rating of the capacitors made after 1980 and must be carefully considered when replacing capacitors in antique radios.

Typical old technology capacitors were 450 volts working voltage, 525 volts surge voltage. Thus you could use these as the filters of a 400-0-400 transformer power supply and the surge voltage rating would take care of the turn on surge. Not so with the modern capacitors! These are rated at 450 volts absolute! There is no allowance for surge! While these capacitors may take the surge for a few dozen times, the capacitor will fail early if the surge voltage is above voltage marked on the case.



The Chinese “blue” 500 volt capacitors Bill sometimes sells are ideal for these sets that use the 400 volt secondary.

For sets that use even higher transformer voltages, series connected equal value capacitors with equalizing resistors are necessary.

## A Magnavox 1949 Console (a/k/a “Maggie”)

by Tom Taylor

Recently a portion of Maggie arrived again for steps not taken earlier. Maggie is a 1948 Magnavox console with 3 chassis, a multispeed turntable and the total of 21 tubes that was sold by an HVRA member to another HVRA member and is now seeking repair from *this* HVRA member. I trust this is not considered incest in some bazaar way. A piece like this was the competition in its day and MUST be saved as an example of the post war strength of America! On our first meeting her AM/SW tuner chassis was not traveling with her schematic OR her power/audio chassis so an uncertain recovery for this portion was assured. Once the other two chassis and her turntable were rendered operational this tuner chassis returned with symptoms of poor sensitivity and poor station tracking on the upper end of the BCB. GREAT, I can start to fear the quest for subject matter leading to another GL article. Following a check of other components and the replacement of FEW additional ones I first attended to the IF and then an oscillator adjustment of the BCB with a small variable ceramic capacitor on both the upper and lower ends. Well, no matter how I came at it the variable capacitor for the BCB top end insisted on being dysfunctional, kaput, out of town! On about the 5<sup>th</sup> attempt to find hope I stopped to stare at the five threaded devices holding its metal containment shield in place and picked up my nut driver. Once inside I found what I believe was my 3<sup>rd</sup> ever BAD ceramic variable capacitor as told by a QuadTech RLC Digibridge. I wouldn't sell for any price. So where would a fellow get a replacement for that you ask? Well, drop to the picture below to see where a wealth of candidates have waited for years to be chosen. Sadly only one could be picked to bring new life and with this stock you should know it was an exact match. Moral> Be sure to save all the tail bones, snouts and hooves. Once installed it was 'knock em out John'! Alignment then brought robust authority to this post war example and with it just a flash of what it might be like to have another console in the house where my first wife still lives. Sigh! Time for a little Merlot.



## **2018 Annual Convention Recognizes HVRA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Jerry Sirkin, V.P and Convention Chairman**

**Registration Form is attached to this Grid Leak and can be found on the HVRA website (HVRA.org)**

**Location: Houston Marriott North (Greenspoint Area) February 9 and 10, 2018** For all HVRA guestroom reservations confirmed prior to January 25, 2018, discounted rates will be \$91.00/night (including free Wi-Fi) for Thursday – Sat, Feb. 8th – 10th, check out no later than Sun. AM, Feb. 11th. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-228-9290 or through the HVRA web link (see HVRA.org for the Marriott web link). HVRA has blocked out 65 standard guest rooms (5 for Thursday, 35 for Friday, 25 for Saturday). We will try to have the Marriott work with us to extend the discount cut-off date and increase the number of discounted rooms per night as availability allows; please make reservations early. If your desired room type is not available or if you have any problems making reservations, please contact me. The Marriott is also discounting their buffet breakfast to \$15.00 (including tip and gratuity) for Fri. – Sun. Coupons will be given to all HVRA members attending the Convention and their family guests (you do not need to be an overnight guest to receive this discounted breakfast).

**Theme for this Convention: Four Men Who Were Instrumental In The Development Of Radio – Marconi, DeForest, Armstrong, Sarnoff.** On Friday, HVRA Board Member Jeff Heller will give a presentation addressing this same topic: **Myths, Legends And The Real Story About The Big Four Founders Of Modern Radio – Marconi, DeForest, Armstrong, Sarnoff.** (See additional detail at the end of this Grid Leak edition on the contest.)

Events will include: Contest Room, Three Auction Sessions, Swap Meet, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Displays, Cash Concessions, Awards Banquet Dinner and **Guest Speaker Dan Gallo from Country Legends FM radio station 97.1.** Please see future Grid Leak and website articles for complete details.

The Board of Directors has reviewed ways to present a financially sound Annual Convention to the Membership. In order to continue conducting auctions for this two day event, provide comfortable convention space, contests, tech talks and banquet, we are increasing pre-registration and on-site registration fees by \$5.00 and will increase the commission retained by HVRA from the sale of each lot from 10% to 15% (estate sales will be at an equal or greater commission.) HVRA will continue the practice held since 1978 of retaining a 10% commission from lots sold at auctions held during the regularly scheduled general membership meetings.

**This Convention will recognize the 40 years of HVRA.** In addition to our usual auctions, swap meet, tech talk, and banquet activities, we will have one display room dedicated to the history of HVRA...."how we started" ...."what we've done" ...."where we're going". Please contact me if you have photos of past events or can lend/donate historical HVRA items, logos, banners etc. We need volunteers to assist with the development of ideas, set up and tear down of displays and possibly monitoring any valuable items contributed to this room. Please contact me with any comments.

We need you help with packing, labeling and transporting estate items, setting up convention displays, recording during the auctions (yes, you can still bid), assistance as an auction handler. Additional information about the 2018 Convention will be updated to our website and included in future Grid Leaks. Please direct questions or comments to Jerry Sirkin ([gsirkin@aol.com](mailto:gsirkin@aol.com)) or 281-844-4124.

## **HVRA 2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION and MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*(For Questions Please Contact Jerry Sirkin at 281-844-4124 or [gsirkin@aol.com](mailto:gsirkin@aol.com))*

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Ham Call: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Feb. 9 – 10, 2018 Houston Marriott North	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Member Advance Registration: ** \$15 (Postmarked by 1/27/2018)		\$
Member On-Site Registration: ** \$20		\$
Family Membership: \$20 - New		\$
\$20 – Annual Renewal		\$
Awards Banquet Dinner: Sat. Feb. 10 @ 6:30pm	.....	.....
Chicken Dinner: \$30 per Adult		\$
Child Plate (12 and under): \$15.00		\$
Vegetarian Dinner – \$30.00 per Adult		\$
Vegetarian Dinner - \$15.00 per Child		\$
Swap Meet: 1st Table Free ; Additional Tables - \$10 each; Any member needing a table(s) must contact Jerry prior to Feb. 9th		\$
Grand Totals	.....	\$

- **\*\*Only One Registration Required Per Family (One Bidder Number)**
- **All Bidders and Sellers Must Register and Be Active HVRA Members**
- **HVRA Commissions: Individual Sellers at 15%; Estates Sales at 15% or Greater Pending Pre-Convention Agreements**
- **Buyers and Sellers Settlements at Conclusion of Each Day's Auction Activities (Numerical Order)**
- **Bidder Number is Based on Date that HVRA Receives Your Registration Form and Payment**

Friday & Saturday Cash Concessions by The Marriott including sandwiches, salads, fruit, cookies and drinks.  
Plan to Purchase the Cash Concession? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION: CHECKS (or CASH) MUST BE POSTED BY JANUARY 27, 2018 to:**

**HVRA P.O. BOX 31276 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77231-1276**

**ON-SITE: AFTER JAN 27, 2018, BRING REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK/CASH TO CONVENTION**

### **HVRA USE ONLY:**

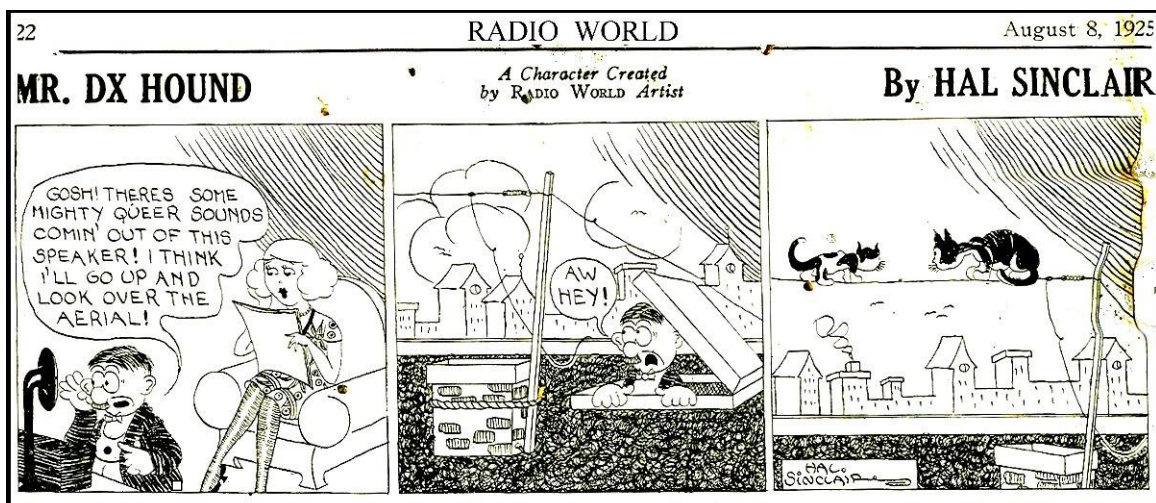
**DATE RECEIVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHECK NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CASH:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION (BIDDER) NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_



## On The Lighter Side of Radio

*The Grid Leak welcomes your submissions that highlight the lighter side of vintage radio, from cartoons to historical and vintage articles and related materials.*



Cartoon Submitted by Ron Soyland

### **A Fishy Story....**

**By Steven Pena, HVRA Historian**

It was not without some small degree of disappointment that I heard the birds chirping that Saturday morning, announcing that, though it was still rather dark outside, it was already time to rise for our July club meeting. My wife reminded me that I was to take her to an estate sale after lunch, and that there was no artful squirming out of it this time

The club meeting was enjoyable; we learned how to make a radio dial at home, and as an added bonus, how to erase a watermark. Afterward we joined another club member for a nice plate of barbecue at a place nearby. On the way home, however, I was reminded about the estate sale; so off we went. I was milling around the rooms of the old house where the sale was when out of the corner of my eye I caught sight of a late-40s console. There are a lot of late-40s consoles so I passed by it and went on milling about and hoping my better half found only inexpensive things to interest her. On about my third time through that same room (it was a house built in the 40s also) I glanced at the lonely console and noticed the dial sported the familiar flying dove of the Fisher Company. This puzzled me, as I had thought Fisher consoles dated back no earlier than the 50s. On closer inspection I found that not only was it a Fisher, but a sort of special edition console called the "Anniversary," and boasting something in the neighborhood of thirty tubes. On the back it had a sticker, stating that it was from the Fisher Co. in NYC to a family in Corpus Christi, TX, with the address appended. I believe these units must have been custom ordered. I stood and stared at it a moment. Pouring into my mind were thoughts of just exactly how to word a statement, the meaning of which would be, more or

less, “this sixth console will be our last...promise.” The trouble of course was that I had used the same line when we got our fourth, and when we got our fifth. I wondered if it were possible that I might begin to lose credibility at some point.

To my pleasant surprise my wife (saintly woman she is) thought the beautiful old wood was just lovely and declared we should buy it. But I decided to call a couple of trusted club members in order to insure that a 1947 Fisher was indeed rather rare, as I suspected. (Later, I learned from a Fisher enthusiast online that only five of the Anniversary editions are known to exist.) So I went back the next day and found it was still there. Though it was priced a good bit higher, I offered the gentleman \$65 and he said, “Deal !” We rented a Home Depot truck and the two of us brought it home.

The moral of this story is always listen to your wife..... no, not really, that's not the moral; the moral is simply--  
-Never forget, a nice old vintage piece could be anywhere.

.....

## **Special Items That Will Be Offered For Sale at our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention by HVRA Member Gilbert Hedge, author “The Early Zenith Radios”**

### **1923 Zenith 4R (Early Version) Radio**

- SN 1080
- Fully restored and working with tubes
- Reproduced and functional “C” battery with internal replaceable batteries
  - Includes original power cable with Jones multi-plug connector
  - Reproduced decal on top



## 1924 Zenith 3R (Late Version) Radio

- SN 337392
- Fully restored and working with tubes
- Reproduced and functional “C” battery with internal replaceable batteries
- Includes reproduced power cable with Jones multi-plug style connector
  - Reproduced decal on top



## 1924 Zenith Super-Portable Radio

- Fully restored and working
- Reproduced and functional “A”, “B” and “C” batteries, including instructions for replacing internal batteries
  - Includes “D” battery adaptor
  - Missing leather on handle
- Same radio used in Chapter 6 of “The Early Zenith Radios”, by Gilbert Hedge and Durrell Roth





## **A Technology Story: Reprinted with Permission from Electric Radio, August 2017**

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If auto manufacturers had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, a major automotive manufacturer issued a press release stating: If we had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics: 1) For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash...twice a day. 2) Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car. 3) Occasionally, your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this. 4) Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you have to reinstall the engine. 5) Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast, and twice as easy to drive—but would run on only five percent of the roads. 6) The oil, water temp, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light. 7) The air bag would ask, "Are you sure?", before deploying. 8) Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna. 9) Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner. 10) You would press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.



## **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](mailto:clubinfo@vintage-radios.org)

**Collins Radio Association (CRA).** David Knepper, PO Box 34, Sidman, PA 15955. No dues. [www.collinsra.com](http://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](mailto:membership@michiganantiqueradio.org). Pub: The

Michigan Antique Radio Chronicle, quarterly. Dues: \$20. Annual Extravaganza and other quarterly

meets. [www.michiganantiqueradio.org](http://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](mailto:www.EdEngel@gvtc.com)

**Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society (VRPS), Dallas / Ft. Worth, TX** George Potter, [vrps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vrps@sbcglobal.net), [www.vrps.org](http://www.vrps.org)

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

## Local Sources for Radio and Electronic Parts

**EPO (Electronic Parts Outlet)**, 3753 Fondren Rd., Houston 77063 (713) 784-0140 [www.epohouston.com](http://www.epohouston.com)

**ACE Electronics**, 3210 Antoine Dr., Houston 77092 (713) 688-8114 [www.ace4parts.com](http://www.ace4parts.com)

**Vintage Sounds**, 10910 Old Katy Rd., 77043. Tubes, parts, records, etc. open Fri. Sat. & Sun.

**Allen's Speaker Repair**, 919 W. 19<sup>th</sup> St. Houston (713) 862-2747

**NEW: WJOE Radio, LLC: Joe Coco**, the webmaster for the New England Antique Radio Club, recently announced that he is offering HVRA members a 15% discount during the month of July on his extensive stock of capacitors, dial lamps, vintage cassette parts and other vintage electronic parts. Check out his products at [www.wjoe.com](http://www.wjoe.com) and enter NEWJULY at the check-out. We anticipate offering a gift certificate from WJOE Radio at an upcoming HVRA meeting for a lucky attendee!

## Buy, Sell, Trade, & Services Offered

**Vintage Sounds** 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 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 Beltway 8 on the north side of the Katy Freeway, and next to Athena Gun Range). 10% member discount on radio items. (713) 468-4911

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

**Sargent Auction Service:** [www.sargentauction.com](http://www.sargentauction.com) | [Jims@sargentauction.com](mailto:Jims@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](mailto:wwwtomgranger@mac.com)

**Escutcheons For Sale** **Tom Taylor** has an extensive collection of escutcheons for sale. Nearly a dozen each Philco and Zenith PLUS Air King, Airline, Columbia, Courier, Glorytone, Majestic, Pacific, RCA, Silvertone, Stewart Warner, Traveler, Westinghouse etc, several with the glass. Tom Taylor [IHCRally@yahoo.com](mailto:IHCRally@yahoo.com)

**For Sale WWII BC375 aircraft Liason transmitter** unmodified with all the tubes (filaments good or I replace), with original cables and connectors and the tuning unit inserts for each band segment. \$600 Add the original 24 VDC dynamotor and a WhoopA 28 VDC power supply (choice of two) for another \$100. One time listing here then off to the magazine classified. **Tom Taylor**, [ihcrally@yahoo.com](mailto:ihcrally@yahoo.com)

## ***The Grid Leak***

*October/November/December 2017*

**Website – [www.hvra.org](http://www.hvra.org)**

**From The President**

**Upcoming Club events calendar and club news**

**Member Technical and Troubleshooting Articles**

**The Lighter Side of Vintage Radio**

**Annual Convention Report: HVRA Celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary in 2018**