

The Grid Leak

April - May - June
2015

www.hvra.org

(Color GL on web site)



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Alvin Swap Meet

May 23, 2015

Details Inside

From The Prez.....

*Bill Werzner ,
HVRA President*

At the bench



With the winter now in its final days – regardless of ground hog predictions, springtime is nigh and it's time to both reflect and look forward. New Year activities began with our annual post holiday party at the Monument Inn on January 3. With over fifty in attendance it was a fun filled evening that began with a wonderful dinner followed by the annual donation auction and door prizes to those with winning tickets. Again, the spirit of volunteerism came through for another successful endeavor. Many thanks to all who donated items for the auction, purchased door prizes, and spent time preparing for the event weeks in advance. Shall we do it again next year? Let us know soon so we can get reservations in soon as things tend to book up a year or more ahead and January 2, 2016 could offer some tight on site competition for us.

From my perspective, our 36th anniversary convention was a resounding success. This would have been impossible to achieve without the dedication and perseverance of our members and spouses who also stepped up to help. Special thanks go to HVRA Vice President, Jerry Sirkin who devoted countless hours planning, organizing, and chairing the convention. Kudos Jerry, for a

job well done! I don't know how we could have done it without you. We also want to express our sincere gratitude to the wonderful Marriott staff for their superb cooperation and hospitality. We look forward to being your guests again next year.

As we swing into spring, here are some of the activities that await us: Basic electronics classes will resume in April with monthly lessons presented on HVRA's web site to run in monthly cycles. Regular monthly meetings will be held in March and April, then in May we have the annual Alvin, TX swap meet. Our mid- summer mega auction will be held in Texas City in July and other public events yet to be announced may be waiting just over the horizon. As special events arise, such as museum shows, exhibits, guest lectures, or possible estate sales; we may be calling on you again for your help and support as you are the life blood of this organization. Thank you all again, and God Bless!

HVRA 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 the next three regular scheduled 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.

June Contest: A musical instrument contest including any home built musical instrument.

Sept. Contest: Any home built from scratch amplifier. This is not restricted to audio amplifiers, but may be RF, servo.,etc. including solid state, tube, or anything else.

Oct. Contest: Golden ears guitar amplifier contest – tube or solid state. The same electric guitar and speaker will be used for all listening. Amplifiers must be home built by the contestant.

Summer Mega Auction July 18 Texas City

Once again we will return to the Doyle Convention Center in Texas City during the annual Tideland's Amateur Radio Society event .

This year we will publish an auction manifest in advance of the July date.

Now is the time to begin rounding up those extra items.

Send lists and photos to
www.werz1943@gmail.com.

We are expecting a load of WW II surplus electronics and will keep you updated on our web site as things progress.

Basic Electronics Classes

April 11 Class #1

"Introduction to Electronics"

This includes basic theory, electrical power, AC, DC, and test instruments, with emphasis on resistors and resistance circuits and how they relate to diagnosing and repairing basic radio circuits. A test (open book) will follow the lesson. Bring a copy of the test to the next regular meeting for review.

May 16 Class #2

"Introduction to Capacitors"

Class 2 will deal with capacitor function, identification, types – polarized and non-polarized, testing, capacitor ratings, and how they function in radio circuits. An open book test will follow so bring a copy of the test to the next regular meeting for review.

June 13 Class #3

"Introduction to Coils and Transformers"

This class will include basic transformer theory, step up and step down transformers, power transformers, output transformers, choke coils, i.f. transformers, etc. Troubleshooting transformer and coil problems in basic radio circuits will be included. Bring copy of test to next regular meeting for review and to have any questions answered.

July 11 Class#4

"Vacuum Tubes"

Now that resistors, capacitors, and coils have been covered, the next chapter will deal with vacuum tubes. This will include their basic function, applications, how to test them, and an introduction to rectification, detection, biasing, and amplification. At this point we will begin with an introduction to how the basic five tube radio known as the "All American Five" operates along with troubleshooting methods and basic alignment techniques.



Steve Scheel's Harman Kardon Citation I & II, won first place in the Hi-Fi contest category

Alvin Texas Swap Meet May 23

HVRA member Mike Payne will once again open the gates in Alvin, TX for all to participate in the annual swap meet.

If you have never participated in one of Mike's swap meets, you have been missing it BIG TIME!

Mike's place is easy to find and the facilities are ideal for a swap meet of the magnitude that this should be. If you are a HAM, a collector, dumpster diver, restorer, or whatever you'll surly enjoy seeing Mike's fantastic collections of everything electronic imaginable.

Gates will open for all at 8 AM.

To get there take Highway 288 South from the I-610 Loop in Houston. Turn left on to Texas Highway 6 and drive to Alvin. In Alvin, turn right on N. Gordon St. (which is also Highway 35), cross the railroad tracks go several blocks, then turn right on Coombs St. At the second intersection turn left on Taylor St. and you are there at 803 S. Taylor.

Basic Electronic Classes to be Posted On HVRA web site hvra.org

The classes will be posted on the HVRA web site as close to the planned dates as possible. There may be instances where postings may be delayed for a few days due to our busy schedules, so please bear with us!

Each class will conclude with how its material relates to diagnosing and repairing actual radio problems encountered in a simple five tube AM radio. That radio schematic will be presented in class #1 and will carry through future classes as we get into radio theory and troubleshooting from antenna to speaker.

After we master the "All American Five", we will advance into the more complex power transformer sets, multi band receivers, three way receivers, FM, mono and stereo amplifiers, and solid state (transistors).

Along the way, starting with class #1 you will be introduced to tools and test equipment relevant to that particular class. We have several volt ohm meters that were donated that are free for the asking.

As classes progress there will be hands on programs during our monthly meetings to demonstrate the use of a signal generator, signal tracer, and oscilloscope to use in troubleshooting.

Share this information with others including students from junior high on up, hobbyists, tinkerers, or those who may wish to advance their job skills. You don't need to master calculus as nothing beyond 8th grade math is necessary, – we keep it simple, and make it enjoyable as we did a decade ago; but now it's on the computer.

2015 HVRA Convention in Review

Jerry Sirkin

The 36th HVRA Annual Convention was held February 13th and 14th at the newly renovated Marriott Hotel, 11th year at this Greenspoint location. Traveling from far, Long Beach, MS and Bartlesville, OK, the mild weather was certainly helpful allowing approx. 125 attendees and families to enjoy the auctions, technical sessions, old equipment contest and banquet.

Auctions are the biggest draw to the convention. This year we were able to supplement the sales with the addition of 7 radios (6 Catalin and 1 Bluebird) for gross sales of \$14,900.00. Thanks go out to Bill Werzner for his forward thinking and Susan and Derek Ross for the photography and publicity. While Jim Sargent auctioned off each of these Art Deco radios, Bill and Derek wrapped and packed each to keep them safe and secure until the winning bidders could take possession. Including the Catalin/Sparton radios, the auctions produced 596 lots (40 sellers on Fri., 44 sellers on Sat.); 541 were sold to 48 buyers on Fri. and 42 on Sat., for total of \$29,628.00. We hope everyone found success as a buyer or seller.

Prior to the Friday auction, members attended three Technical Sessions. Many thanks to Tom Taylor (Capacitors), George Potter (Watterson Radio History) and Chris Varela (Early Houston Radio History) for their hard work preparing material that kept the Tech. session room full to the max.

Prior to the two day auctions, members were able to participate and enjoy seeing the superb old equipment contest items. See separate report by Lance Borden for details. Big thanks go out to Lance Borden, David Moore and all the volunteers and judges taking their time to make this contest a success.

We had four members supplying items at the swap meet. We hope you had time walk through and visit.

The Saturday evening Awards Banquet was attended by 55 adults and 2 children. Our guest speaker, Gilbert Hedge, spoke about radio collection preservation and entertained us with jokes and imitations. All guests left the banquet with positive comments about Gilbert's presentation.

Many guests received door prizes supplied by HVRA (thanks to the Borden and Hedge families for shopping for the gifts). Thanks go to Bill Werzner for supplying the restored Transoceanic radio awarded to Gilbert as guest speaker.

In addition to the activities, attendees were able to purchase HVRA caps and CDs as well as copies of Gilbert's recently published Early History Zenith Radios. Gilbert also donated one copy to HVRA for a Saturday Raffle. Along with the book, raffle tickets also included a chance to win a beautifully 1933 Crosley Cathedral radio restored by Bill Werzner.

The success of any convention is usually carried on the backs of the many volunteers taking their personal time to

assist at all the events. We extend a big THANK YOU Jeff Heller, Dianna Taylor, Vera Palmer, Elaine Moore and Lois Janssen for their help at the registration table (special thanks to Lois for keeping us on the "straight and narrow"); Bill Werzner and Jim Sargent for auctioneering activities; auction handlers Reid Shipp, Jimmie Stewart, Derek Ross, Abedalla Soliman, Mike Slovan and Konrad Werzner (many others behind the scene); Tom Taylor, Kathy Botto, June Clark, Vera Palmer and Jeff Heller for their work with the auction records and payouts; and to Judy Potter, Mike Monsour, Gilbert Hedge, David and Elaine Moore, Lance and Chris Borden, Randy James, Jim Sargent, John Schmidt and Pat Zapalac, for their help at the equipment contest. I apologize if I omitted anyone.

Last few stats: HVRA picked up 7 new members; out of town guests occupied 65 guest rooms; Saturday cash concession was a success (>70 purchasers).



*Gilbert Hedge got everyone's attention with a Johnny Carson impersonation to open his presentation on Radio Collections Preservation.
(ed. Great job, kudos)*

Man's Gold Ring Found

A ring was found at a recent monthly meeting. Several announcements were made at the meetings without anyone coming forward to claim it. If you are missing a man's gold ring, contact Bill Werzner, 713-820-1778

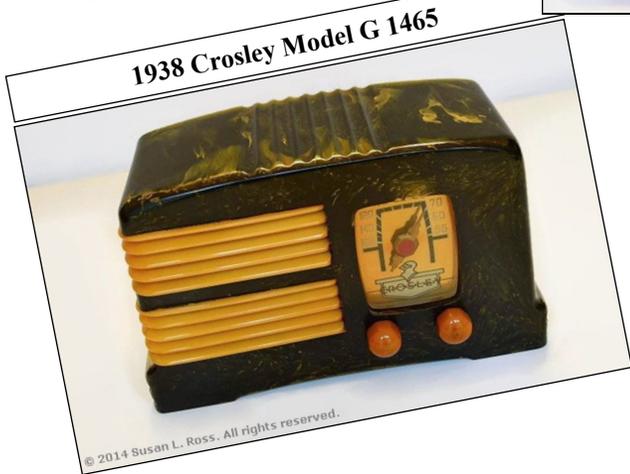
Auction Highlights - 2015



Photos by Susan Ross



High bid - \$2800



Old Equipment Contest - 2015

Best of Show and People's Choice Awards



World War II Display
Art and June Clark



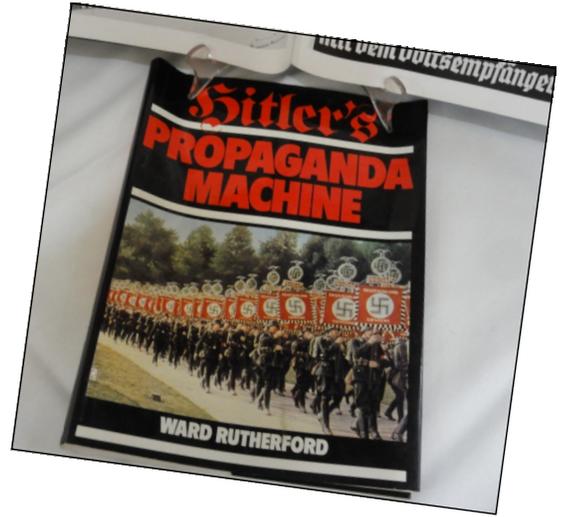
Watterson Radio

Manufacturer Category for 2015 was Watterson Radio. Two beautifully restored Watterson radios with photo support was awarded the Best Restoration entered by Lynn Palmer and Family.





Foreign Radio -- Winner
Volksempfänger Display by Charles Sharpless
 Four Peoples Radio of World War II



1923 Operadio (Gilbert Hedge)



BC-611 (SCR 536) Display (Lance Borden);



CRL Paragon (Bob Botto)



Radiola 28 w/100 A Spkr (Bernard Sampson)

The 2015 HVRA Old Equipment Contest Was A Great Success!

By Lance Borden, WB5REX

The featured manufacturer for this year's Old Equipment Contest was Watterson. Watterson has been in the radio business since 1933. The Watterson Company is still alive today as the J. W. Davis & Company. Located in Dallas, Texas; they are manufacturers and distributors of commercial audio, security, and other products. They are located at 3030 Canton Street, Dallas, Texas 75226. Their website is: <http://www.jwd.com>

In this year's contest there were 47 entries in 22 categories by a total of 21 contestants. This is an increase over last year's contest which had 29 entries in 21 categories by a total of 16 contestants.

The winners of the Best of Show Award were Art and June Clark with their World War II Display. The winners of the Best Restoration were The Lynn Palmer Family with their Watterson Display. The Peoples Choice award went to Art and June Clark their World War II Display.

There were several outstanding displays and the judges commented that it was very difficult to select the winners of the various awards.

The Contest Judges were: Randy James, Dave Moore, Jim Sargent, John Schmidt, and Pat Zapalac.

The Contest Helpers were: Gilbert Hedge, Michael Monsour, Dave Moore, Elaine Moore, and Judy Potter.

2015 Old Equipment Contest Results

Best of Show:	World War II Display	Art & June Clark
Peoples Choice:	World War II Display	Art & June Clark
Best Restoration	Watterson Radio Display	Lynn Palmer & Family
1. Wireless	Paragon/Chicago Radio Lab	Bob Botto
2. Crystal Rec	Konsumal (Russian) xtral radio	Bernard Sampson
3. 1920 Battery Rec	Radiola 28 w/100A spk on stand	Bernard Sampson
4. Cathedral – Tombstone – Consoles	Gloritone 26	John Schmitt
5. Table Rec.	Zenith model 5724	David Moore
6. Transistor Rec	Transistor Radios all w/external spk	Bernard Sampson
7. Reproducers Microphones	Magnavox AC-2C amp & R38 horn	Bob Botto
8. Phonographs	Columbia Graphophone B-eagle	Bob Botto
9. Telegraph	Vibroplex “bug”	Bob Botto
10. Kit Radios	Superex DYN kit	Bernard Sampson
11. Scientific, Test Equipment & Small Electrical Devices	Medcraft ECT Unit – Electroconvulsive	Lance Borden
12. Hi – Fi Equipment	Harman Karon Citation I & II	Steve Scheel
13. Amateur	Homebrew AM Transmitter	Bill Werzner
14. Military	BC-611 (SCR-536) display	Lance Borden
15. Replicas & Vintage Style Creations	1940's replica style radios	John Schmitt
16. TV	No entries	
17. Portables	Operadio 1923 (restored)	Gilbert Hedge
18. Ugly Radios	Truetone D2637	John Given
19. Foreign Radios	Volksempfänger Display	Charles Sharpless
20. Manufacturers Cat. Watterson	Watterson Models 78 and 4581 Display	Lynn Palmer & Family
21. Theme – WW II	World War II Display	Art & June Clark
22. Open	Philmore radios display	Bernard Sampson

2015 Convention Photos



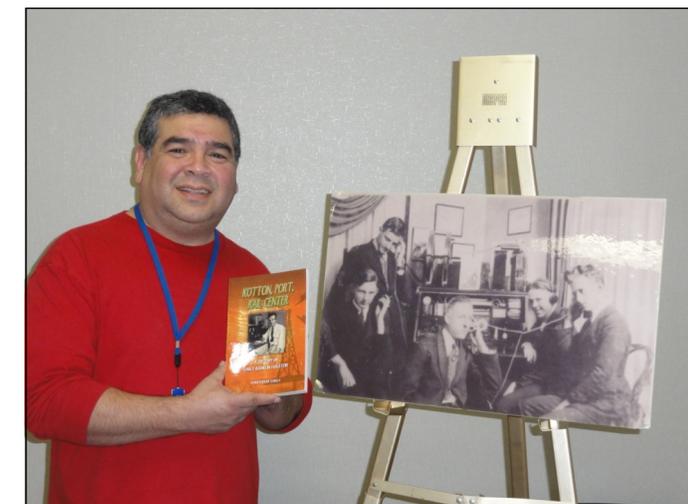
Friendly folks greeted everyone at the convention:
(L-R) Dianna Taylor, Vera Palmer, Elaine Moore, & Lois Janssen.



Auctioneer and HVRA President, Bill Werzner looks for the next bid with the assistance of Konrad Werzner and Derek Ross.



George Potter presented a tech talk on Watterson Radio Co. Watterson Radios were manufactured in Dallas TX.



Author, Christopher Varela, "Kotton, Port, Rail Center" (KPRC) presented updates to his 2004 book.. Many rare photos on display.



Taking a pause at the HVRA Awards Banquet-
The Gilbert Hedge family.
L-R: Kacie, Ryan, Zoey, Shawn, Kayen, Chere, Gilbert



Derek Ross stands guard over the catalins & Blue Bird



Saturday's auction had many exceptional radios - cathedrals, consoles, and highly desirable catalin radios and a Spartan Blue Bird.



HVRA Officers

President:	Bill Werzner,	713-721-2242; werz1943@gmail.com
VP	Jerry Sirkin,	281-844-4124; gsirkin@aol.com
Secretary:	Mike Monsour	832-829-2227; msirc@wildflower.net
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

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

Saturday, Mar. 28, 2015 Monthly meeting 9 AM, program and auction.

Tuesday, Apr. 14, 2015 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM, Pizza served! Members welcome.

Saturday, Apr. 25, 2015 Monthly meeting 9 AM, Program, auction, electronics class I review session,

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM, Pizza served! Members welcome.

Saturday, May 23, 2015 Annual Swap Meet 8 AM – Michael Payne's Place - Alvin TX. (No meeting at Bayland Center)

Saturday, June 6, 2015 **** BTARS** - Battleship Texas Amateur Radio Station will be on the air, 10 AM - 5:30 PM. Broadcasting from the ship's Ham Shack on the second deck.

Tuesday, June 9, 2015 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM, Pizza served! Members welcome.

Saturday, June 27, 2015 Monthly meeting 9 AM, Program, auction, electronics class II review session,

Tuesday, July 14, 2015 Monthly Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM, Pizza served! Members welcome

Saturday, July 18, 2015 **Summer Mega Auction, Doyle Convention Center, Texas City, TX.**

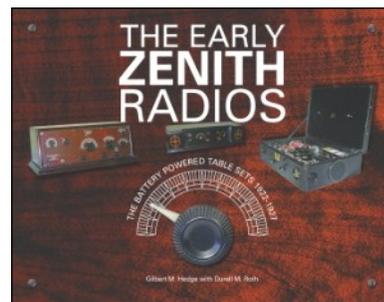
Saturday, June 25, 2015 Monthly meeting 9 AM, Program, auction, electronics class III review session.

Ugly Radio Winner

TrueTone D2637
John Given



The Grid Leak— 11



HVRA member and club Historian, Gilbert Hedge, has written a book covering the table top Zenith radios in great detail. Over 400 color photos, 200 diagrams. 256 pages.

Contact Gilbert Hedge for your personal autographed copy (713-726-6964). Or go to Antique Radio Classified at www.antiqueradio.com

BTARS On The Air June 6

On June 6, the Battleship Texas Amateur Radio Station will be on the air from the HAM station down on the second deck. If you are a HAM, a HAM wannabe, or just an interested individual, you are invited to stop by for a visit. Each year this is a very popular event with area HAMS who also transmit from one of the ships original antennas. The ship opens at 10 AM and closes at 5:30 PM daily. Contact Mike Brannan - mikebranna@aol.com KA5OAX for details.

FOSSILIZED DINOSAUR ROAR FOUND

Dateline: April 1, 2015

MINOT, N.D.-- Wednesday, while digging for dinosaur bones, paleontologists unearthed what experts believe to be the first find of its kind.

It is a piece of fossilized palm leaf from the extinct *Palmas Dimentias* plant. This prehistoric plant had grooved leaves with sharp spines like present-day cactus.

On close examination one graduate student noticed unusual markings in one of the grooves that resembled the oscillations that can be seen under magnification in a phonograph record groove.

Dr. Kenneth Philbrick of the University of Minnesota, who was at the "dig", ran a computer scan of the fossil and performed an audio playback through the laboratory speaker system at the University of North Dakota Paleontology department.

A blood-curdling, animal-like roar was heard through the building when the switch was thrown. Aimee Higgins, a student, said, "It was the most awful sound I've ever heard." Dr. Emily Crenshaw, a zoologist at the university, confirmed that, "the roar is definitely reptilian, and judging from carbon-14 dating of the fossilized palm leaf, must be at least 65 million years old."

Dr. Philbrick said, "We surmised that the recording was made, by chance, when a Tyrannosaurus Rex was roaring as the wind blew the spine from one of the plants along the groove in another's leaf. The vibrations from the roar modulated the scratch like a phonograph record."

The Grid Leak

April - May - June 2015

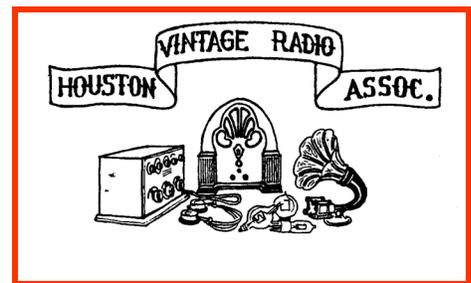
Monthly Meeting— April 25
Bayland Park 9 AM (doors open @ 8 AM)

Alvin Swap Meeting - May 23
Mike Payne's Place - Alvin Tx. 8:30 am

Monthly Meeting - June 27
Bayland Park 9 AM (doors open @ 8 AM)

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

Notice on renewing your membership!
Please check the expiration date by your name in the address label.



Alvin Swapmeet

ALVIN SWAPMEET

Saturday, May 23, 2015 - 8 AM
Mike Payne's Place
Alvin TX