

The Grid Leak 3rd QUARTER: JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER – 2022

TEXAS CITY HAMFEST and HVRA 2022 MEGA AUCTION DOYLE CONVENTION CENTER TEXAS CITY JULY 9, 2022

The Texas City "HAMFEST" will be held in the Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Ave. North, Texas City. HAMs, DX'ers, collectors, tinkerers, and curious individuals will be on hand, swapping and selling throughout the center and parking lots. You will find just about anything electronic among the many tables, trunks, and tail gates. HVRA will have a table inside the air conditioned auditorium distributing newsletters and club brochures to all who stop for a visit. Plan to arrive around 7 AM, or possibly earlier, to get a good place to park as the lot fills up fast. Food and drinks will be available inside. There is an admission charge of \$5.00 to enter the Hamfest area.

The HVRA Summer Mega Auction will begin at 12 Noon in the adjoining Exhibit Room. All Mega Auction attendees not paying \$5.00 for the Hamfest must enter the Mega Auction room through the side hallway door, not through the Hamfest area. Set up of the Mega Auction will begin near 8AM; sellers may begin staging their items at 9AM. Please bring your items through the side hallway door, not through the Hamfest area. Selling and bidding at the Auction is free to all current HVRA members. Non-Members wishing to participate, must pay the HVRA Annual Membership Fee of \$20; this \$20 payment must be made during the registration period and will act as a \$20 credit towards the New Member's auction purchases. Everyone anticipating selling or bidding must register and receive a bid card with a bidder (seller's) number. All items presented for auction must be labeled with an HVRA Auction Control Form and contain the seller's number, lot number and a brief description. No items (bought, sold or passed) can be picked up until the conclusion of the auction, approximately at 4PM, when the check-out process begins. At check-out, all sellers will pay HVRA a 15% commission on each successful sale. Payments can be made by cash, check or Credit Card (3.5% surcharge on CC).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- GENERAL MEETINGS AND
 AUCTIONS
- HVRA MEGA-AUCTION & TEXAS CITY HAMFEST, JULY 9th.
- BOARD ELECTIONS, SEPTEMBER GEN. MTG.



WHATS INSIDE

- OFFICER CONTACT LIST
- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- EVENT SCHEDULE
- REPAIR AND RESTORA-TION ARTICLES
- MEGA-AUCTION
- RADIOS FOR SALE

HOUSTON VINTAGE RADIO ASSOCIATION

Since its founding on November 16, 1978, the Houston Vintage Radio Association has been dedicated to the preservation of vintage radios, electronics, and phonograph equipment.

Our members across the USA have varying backgrounds and experiences but are brought together by a common interest in electronics. Many interests represented in our organization include: preservation and restoration of vintage electronics including tube and transistor radios and TVs, phonographs, telephones and cellular communication equipment, telegraph equipment, HAM radios, amplifiers, PCs, relevant literature, recordings, etc.

HVRA COMMUNICATES WITH MEMBERS ACROSS SEVERAL PORTALS:

- •The Grid Leak is the official Newsletter, currently published quarterly, distributed primarily by email (and by USPS as necessary).
- •HVRA maintains a website, HVRA.org, used for information regarding future events, current activities, contact and operations information, and historical data including photo libraries and past newsletters. Additionally, HVRA information and activity descriptions can be found on Facebook.
- •Our normal means of face to face communication is through monthly Board of Directors' meetings and monthly General Membership meetings located at the Bayland Park Community Center;. We have also used Zoom sessions for Board Meeting from home (as necessary) as well as offsite swap meets at alternative locations.

DISCLAIMER

The sharing of information pertaining to restoration and repairs, of any items, appearing in any form, contained in any of the HVRA communication methods, is contributed by members hoping to help and/or assist others in efforts to advance the education of collecting vintage electronics. Therefore, the reader or listener is advised to contact the contributor for a full understanding of the electronic, mechanical, and chemical risks involved in the information of interest. HVRA is not responsible for the accuracy and safety of any repair or restoration topics presented in any format.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Dues: \$20.00; normally payable prior to the HVRA Annual Convention Membership Applications available at General Membership Meetings or on HVRA.org

President:	Bill Werzner	713-820-1778	werz1943@gmail.com
Vice President:	Lewis Brittain	281-493-0737	britfaml@juno.com
Treasurer:	Brett Martin	713-408-2505	bmartin@TilsonHome.com
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At Large # 3:	Stephen Truch	630-229-1041	stephen@truch.net
At Large # 4	Open (see page 4)		
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HVRA BOARD MEMBERS

From The President..... Bill Werzner

Well, as the old saying goes, you never know what's going to happen next; that happened to me and my wife this week. As many of our members already are aware, I have been and still am an advocate of COVID 19 vaccinations. I had both Moderna shots last year and followed up with a booster last February. My wife did the same with the Pfieser series about the same time. Would these vaccinations absolutely prevent us contracting COVID or one of its variants? Absolutely not! What those shots were said to do was boost our immune systems to prevent complications that could result in possible hospitalizations or worse. With my background in the field of medical technology, and recent experience, I can assure you those immunizations worked as advertised when we both tested positive this week. Tuesday I felt like a bad cold was coming on, chills, fever, runny nose, cough, and just feeling lousy. Within eighteen hours, my wife developed likewise symptoms. The following day, a trip to Walgreens for a COVID test resulted in positive results for both of us. Our doctor put us on anti viral medications and told us to isolate for at least one week. The medications do suppress the symptoms, but we can still transmit the virus to others. So, we will remain sequestered, at least until next Tuesday, or when we test negative. How did we catch it, we have a pretty good idea who we caught it from and no, that person is not a club member! This is one nasty virus not to be messed with so keep up your immunizations, hand sanitizers, and face mask when necessary. My doctor says, "This bug and its cousins are going to be with us for awhile", so maintain your defenses.

Now on to HVRA issues. We are looking forward to an active summer despite the early onset of a June heat wave that feels like August. The Texas City Annual

HAM Fest will be held in the Doyle Convention Center on Saturday, July 9. The center opens at 8AM with coffee, snacks, and sandwiches available near the registration table. HVRA will participate as in the past with an auction starting at 12 noon in the adjacent auditorium. The HAM club requires an entry fee for those who wish to enter the area where sales are conducted, and HVRA requires participants in our auction to be paid members (memberships for HVRA can be purchased on site). If you have not attended this annual event in the past, you will be surprised at the tremendous variety of electronic items and material offered for sale. My advice is put the high cost of gas aside, come on down to Texas City, see old friends, and make some new ones! See y'all the 9th!

July Electronics Classes Will Begin at Electronic Parts Outlet

A series of electronics classes will be held at EPO, 3753 Fondren Rd., Houston, starting Wednesday, July 6 and continuing for the following three Wednesdays (13th, 20th, & 27th). HVRA president Bill Werzner will open the first class on the 6th with an introduction to basic electricity, volts, amps, watts, AC and DC current, storage batteries, volt ohm meters, and how to use them to troubleshoot wiring problems etc. If you know someone who would like to learn the basics of electricity and electronics in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, here is their chance to learn. This class can benefit young and old alike with hands on examples and demonstrations. Call EPO at (713) 784 - 0140 and ask for Chris for additional details. Drinks and snacks will be provided. The first class on July 6th will begin at 10AM and will run perhaps two and a half hours. Bring a note pad and pen, then sit back and enjoy.

3rd QUARTER 2022 EVENT CALENDAR

Monthly Brd Mtgs 7:30 PM via ZOOM; Monthly General Meetings 8–11 AM at Bayland Park will include a Program and an Auction: donuts, coffee, juice and snacks will be available.

<u>July</u>

9th, Sat. HVRA MEGA AUCTION in conjunction with the TEXAS CITY HAMFEST (details in this Grid Leak)
12th, Tue. Board of Director Meeting
23rd, Sat. General Meeting. Program: <u>"Collections (any type) for Show"</u> by HVRA members
<u>August</u>
9th, Tue. Board of Director Meeting. 7pm via Zoom
27th, Sat. General Meeting. Program: <u>"Reproducing Authentic Looking and Working Batteries"</u> by Gilbert Hedge
<u>September</u>

 13th, Tue. Board of Director Meeting. 7pm via Zoom
 24th, Sat. <u>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ELECTIONS</u> (President, Tresurer, Historian and At-Large Positions #2 & #4; Program: "Setting Up A Repair Bench" by Bill Werzner

October

11th, Tue. Board of Director Meeting. 7pm via Zoom 22nd, Sat. <u>General Meeting</u>. <u>**Program:**</u> "Setting Up an Audiophile System"

September, 2022 Board of Directors' Elections The HVRA Bylaws describe the Board of Directors' duties. Below is a list of the positions up for election at the Annual Meeting scheduled for September. If you would like to be considered for one of the following positions, please con- tact Bill Werzner or Lewis Brittain for specific details (see page 2 for contact information). President	Treasurer Position continuedParagraph 3.Shall keep an accounting of membershipdues and assist the Editor in notifying members at leastone month in advance of membership expiration.Paragraph 4.Shall make records available for audits asdirected by the Executive Board and shall make recordsavailable within five days for any special audit.Paragraph 5.The Treasurer shall prepare an annualreport to be presented at the Annual Meeting.Historian
 <u>Paragraph 1</u>. Shall lead the membership in a manner consistent with the Association objectives (ARTICLE II) and these Bylaws. <u>Paragraph 2</u>. Shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board. <u>Paragraph 3</u>. Shall appoint all committees and chairpersons, except for those assigned to the Vice President. <u>Paragraph 4</u>. Shall recommend, appoint, or remove the Association Auctioneer. <u>Paragraph 5</u>. Shall appoint or be chairman of the program committee. 	 <u>Paragraph 1</u>. Shall maintain all historical records of the Association including one copy of each Association publication. <u>Paragraph 2</u>. Shall maintain a copy of the Official history of the Association in a "scrap book along with suitable photographs and newspaper clippings regarding the activities of the Association and its members Representative at Large - Position Two <u>Paragraph 1</u>. Shall serve as <u>Contest</u> or Auction Chairperson at the Annual Show and Auction. <u>Paragraph 2</u>. Shall perform other special tasks as assigned by the President.
TreasurerParagraph 1. The Treasurer is the officer entrusted with the accounts and funds of the Association. These funds shall be maintained in a bank account as approved by the Executive Board. Signature authori- ty on this account shall consist of the President, the Vice President and the Treasurer. Checks issued from this account will require one signature of au- thorization. Paragraph 2. Shall maintain a detailed record of all transactions, collections, and disbursements of funds, goods, and Association dues. These records will be maintained in a form as approved by the Executive Board.	Representative at Large – Position FourParagraph 1.Shall be responsible for working with assessment, coordination, and inventorying of estates that HVRA will assist with liquidation. Paragraph 2.Paragraph 2.Shall maintain the HVRA policy for terms and condition that HVRA will enter into with estates. Said terms and conditions shall be voted on for approv- al by the Board of Directors. Paragraph 3.Paragraph 3.Shall seek assistance from board mem- bers and other club members in the execution of their duties.

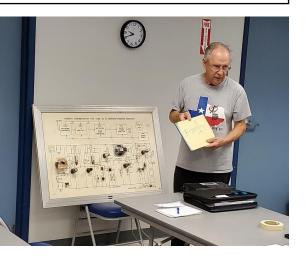
HVRA welcomes our new members : Aaron Poffenberger – Houston

Questions concerning your membership status or renewal date please contact Brett Martin, HVRA Treasurer, at bmartin@TilsonHome.com or 713-408-2505; or, download the renewal form from HVRA.org.



Tom Taylor and Bill Werzner presenting a May 21st program:

<u>Diagnosing Oscillator</u> Problems in AM Radios

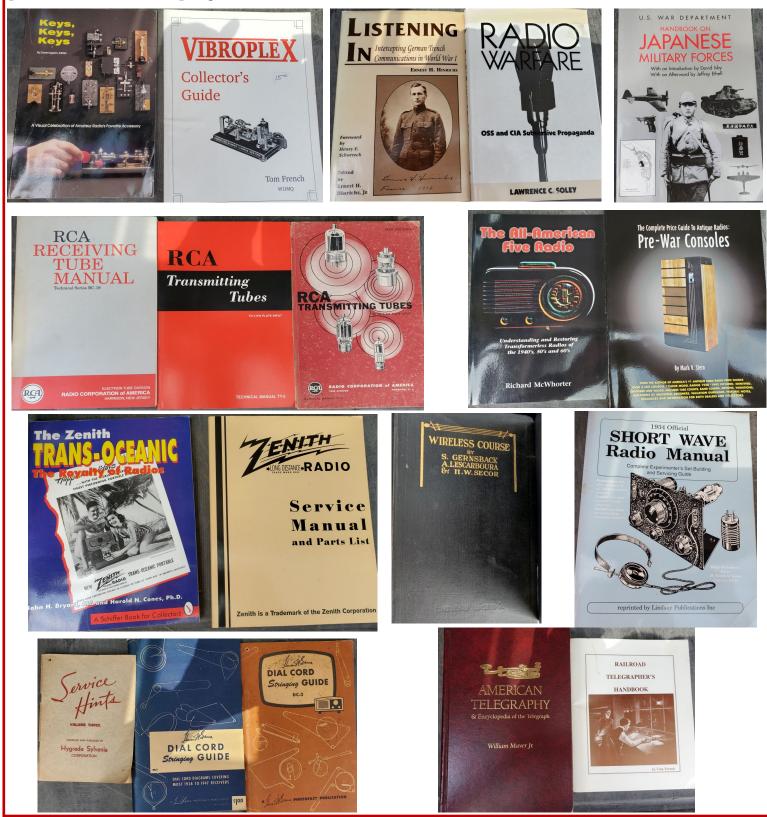


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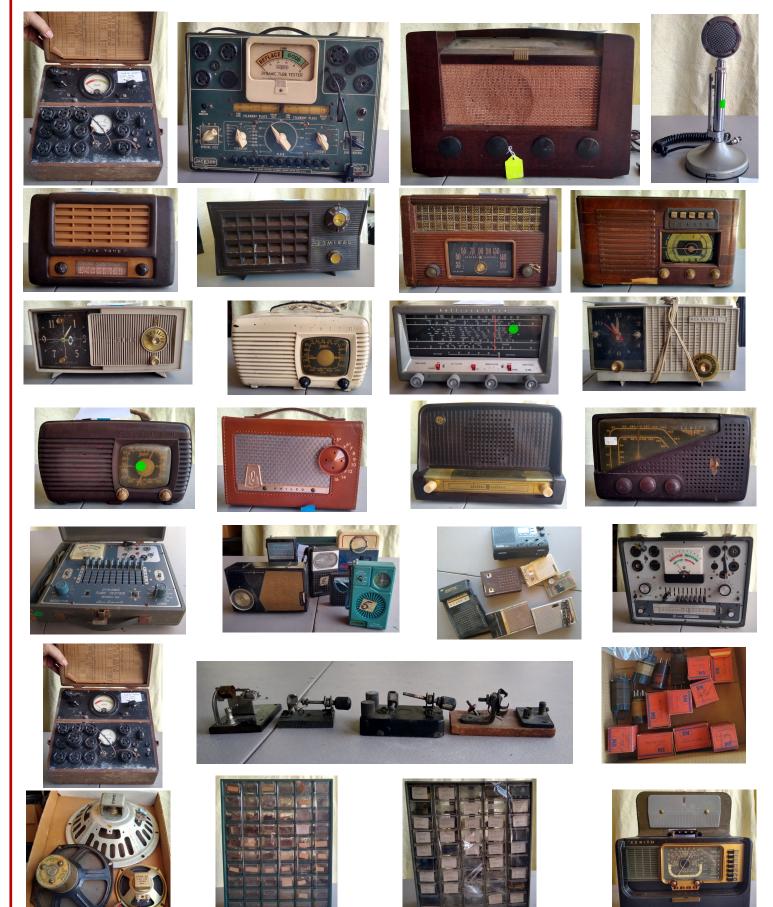
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HVRA BOOK AND PAPER SALE

Because of the large volume of books, brochures, operating manuals, and many other paper products donated to HVRA, we will attempt to have a Book and Paper Sale. This sale will be scheduled from at 9 to 11AM in the HVRA Auction room. This will be a cash (or check with valid ID) and carry sale with payments due at time of purchase. Below is a sampling of some of the books for sale.



MANIFEST OF SOME OF THE HVRA ESTATE ITEMS FOR THE MEGA AUCTION





"Handler" Volunteers needed for the HVRA 2022 Texas City Mega Auction.

- We need help:
- Prior to the auction to set up tables and place estate items on display
- During Auction:
 - \$ Moving items to the auction table during the auction
 - $\$ Displaying the items while they are being auctioned
 - § Moving auctioned items to the storage tables
- After Auction to help the auction winners collect their items.

Table set up and display will start about 8:00am and the auction will start at noon and will take most of the afternoon.

Handler volunteers, please contact Joe Gernand at joegernand@gmail.com

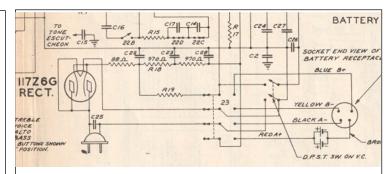
The Trouble Shooter by Bill Werzner "Restoring a Vintage Zenith Transoceanic Power Supply"



I was recently confronted with a problematic Zenith Transoceanic Clipper model 7G605. This is one of the most desirable radios sought by Zenith collectors as it was manufactured in 1941 and has the airplane (bomber) image on the speaker fabric.

The radio was in fair condition, esthetically speaking, although it was missing the loop antenna and the telescoping antenna had been modified. The 7G605 is a challenge to those who delve into restorations, not only due to deteriorated eighty years old plus rubber insulate wiring, but packed in components beneath the chassis that make diagnosing problems especially difficult. Then too, this radio used five 1.4 volt, 0.05 ampere "loktal" tubes that are often troublesome due to pin corrosion. The 117Z6 rectifier and 3Q5 output tubes were octal based, and surprisingly, the 117 volt filament tube tested like new. This was the first time in my many years of repairing radios of this venue, that an original 117Z6 was good. In the past that particular tube was either shorted - filament to cathode, or burned out. Several times I substituted a 1N4007 diode in place of this full wave rectifier tube that was wired as a half wave rectifier, with both the plates and cathodes wired together in parallel. The DC filament current for the loktal tubes is derived from the filtered and stepped down B+ voltage. This filament power arrangement is common in many of the three way receivers from the 1940s and 50s.

The first challenge came when I saw how the replaced filter capacitors were crammed together under the chassis. This was a disaster waiting to happen. The original filter capacitor can had been removed, and a replacement three section unit could not be found. My predecessor had already replaced two other low voltage filters inside a surface mounted metal enclosure. I know purists out there may cringe when they see how I modified the filter capacitor configuration. First, I removed the capacitor can holding ring, drilled out the two rivets, removed old solder that grounded the capacitor. Next I mounted radial lead 47 uF and 22 uF, 250 volt plus a 47 uF, 50 volt capacitor atop the chassis hole via perforated phenolic mounting strip (see photos 1 & 2). When wired in place this worked like a charm, but deteriorated wiring, a weak 1LN5 tube, and a hit and miss potentiometer still awaited my attention. The plus in all of this was the original rectifier tube continued to function well as I prepare to return this collectable radio to its owner.



Schematic showing AC power supply for B+ and 1.4 volt filament supply. The wire going up from the C28 & 970 Ohm junction is the 1.4 volt DC filament supply.



Photo 1 showing filter capacitors mounted on top of Zenith 7G605 chassis.



Photo 2 showing filter wired into circuitry. The inverted "L" wires connect to chassis ground

Battleship USS Texas Update by Bill Werzner

(Battleship Texas volunteer an docent 2005–2019)

I have received a number of inquiries about the status of the battleship recently and here is the latest information I can share with you. HVRA has been actively involved in securing artifacts for the ship for a number of years. We were also active in restoring on board sound systems, 1MC and RBO units, and assisting local HAM groups during annual museum ships weekend events. The ship will be tugged to Galveston probably sometime this fall or possibly late summer as the plans now stand. Massive amounts of a foam like material have been pumped into the below waterline voids to staunch the leaks that were at one time allowing 1500 gallons per minute of seawater to enter the ship. Now that the leaks have been brought under control, the ship remains closed to the public while on deck repairs continue where she sits at San Jacinto. A floating dry dock arrived in Galveston several weeks ago and is being prepared to receive the battleship when she arrives for what will possibly be two plus years of hull repairs. There is no word yet as to where the ship will be sent after those repairs are completed.

I want to add a personal note about the battleship and my involvement with her for fourteen years. I have met people from all over the world while conducting guided tours on the ship. I know many of the people involved with the monument and battleground feel it is out of place where it currently is docked. The uniqueness of the ship, her fabulous history in two world wars, once saved by none other than Adolf Hitler from a German U Boat attack, four European invasions including Day, then to the Pacific to Iwo Jima and Okinawa where her crew were at battle stations a record fifty-four days. In all the battles she was in, only one man was killed and that was at Cherbourg. That ship has a guardian angel - so GOD Bless her and take good care of her. Where should she be taken after repairs are completed? My feeling is dry dock her somewhere in the area of San Jacinto, within walking distance of the San Jacinto Monument and battleground. She attracted thousands of visitors to those sites, many were directed there by me, following my guided tours of the ship. Many visitors I encountered were oblivious to her history. I remember how my tour groups reacted in awe when I told them that in 1939 Hitler ordered. I will never forget the expressions on their faces when I told them, "ladies and gentlemen, you are standing on the deck of that ship, it was the USS Texas. I thought you would also like to hear some of the questions I was asked many times over and over during my tours: "What is that big monument over there for?". "Why are there tombstones out in the park?" "Was the ship here when they fought the battle?" "When they captured Santa Ana did they lock him in one of these compartments on the ship?" "Who was De Zavala, did he fight with Sam Houston?" I'm embarrassed to admit some of these questions were asked by adults from here in Texas. Yes, I directed thousands of visitors to the San Jacinto Monument and battleground, who would have otherwise finished my tours and headed for home. So as the late Paul Harvey used to say at the end of his newscasts, "now you know the rest of the story."

Germanium RCA Console By Tom Taylor

Occasionally there is a call to service a radio out of the ordinary. A recent example of this was a 1957 RCA solid state console, the horizontal wall unit variety. In this case one of the channels was DOA, like a doorknob. A look to the schematic and then the printed circuit boards confirmed this one depended upon germanium transistors, you know the type that leak like an electrolytic capacitor. So, which is first, check the germaniums for good junctions or spend time changing out all those 63 year old pale blue electrolytics, all 12 of them. Inspired by no clear direction I checked the four TO3 output germaniums to achieve no real forward progress. Transistor outputs are historically the culprit for a bad channel. I then started lifting the base lead of transistors on the suspect channel to find that tests showed no shorted junctions and then, using an analog meter in the reverse direction, no leaking junction. Transistor junctions are common to the base lead so a lifted base should allow the freedom to check each junction independent of the other and the circuit while some of it is still connected. Further, it was noticed that the amplifier stages were DC coupled to one another using darlington pairs ie. there were no coupling capacitors between some transistor stages. While darlington pairs offer greater gain than individual transistors AC (capacitively) coupled to the next amplifier, error current in the first one easily shifts operating conditions of the second transistor towards clipping thresholds or even towards their cutoff. Couple that with vintage electrolytics in the area and we have two contributors of error currents that can render a channel unbalance. Changing most of the channel electrolytic capacitors valued from 1.2 uFd to 20 uFd gave a working channel but at this point I failed to follow through with a quality elevated sound check while leaving two original electrolytics behind. Lesson to self, don't jeopardize a reputation needlessly when you don't have the needed replacement parts. An elevated volume demonstration in front of the customer allowed us to hear a mostly restored channel as well as distortion on that channel. Head down. Back to the shop or should I say the wife's utility room in this case. The good news is that this opportunity allowed me another chance to notice that a dark button on the front panel was really a nonworking stereo lamp and that the console itself had a nonworking lamp in the lower right of one of the speaker grill cloths to indicate console power. I hope now to hold my head up on the upcoming return when I add a blue tooth source to his AUX connector and kick up Sirius on my cell phone.

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2022 3rd QTR GRID LEAK

Derek Ross is liquidating his radio collection. Below are a sampling of some of the fine examples to be sold. For additional information, please see the HVRA website HVRA.org or contact Derek at <u>allenross04@yahoo.com</u>.



1948 Philco Radio/Phono Model 48-1256



1938 Zenith Console Radio Model 6-S-254











Panel

Buy, Sell, Trade, & Services Offered

WANTED

Need to refurbish and service a Knight KN735 stereo tube amp. 20W per channel. This is my Dad's stereo amp that he bought new in 1963. I think the last time it was powered up was in the late 1970's. I've cleaned the chassis and I am looking for someone to refurbish the amp, re-cap, tube check, and electrical check. If you're interested in doing this project, please contact me at Rande10493@gmail.com.

Thank you, Randy Anderson

<u>Wanted</u>: Atwater Kent Model 36 radio with matching type "Y" power supply in working condition. Will

purchase either early or late versions (or both if available).

<u>Wanted</u>: Atwater Kent Model K speaker in working condition

Contact: Jerry Sirkin 281-844-4124; gsirkin@aol.com.

<u>Wanted:</u> I'm looking for a Philco D-10 record changer (c. 1947). I can be contacted at <u>joegernand@gmail.com</u>

For Sale

Philco Radio Phono Chuck Harper at Cherry Street Antiques 281-382-3231 106 N. Cherry Street, Tomball, TX 77376



SERVICES OFFERED

Vintage Sounds

Vintage Sounds is located in the Market Place Antique Center, 10910 Katy Freeway, Houston, they service and repair vintage phonographs, radios, telephones, in addition to selling phonograph records, radios, phonographs, telephones, vacuum tubes, books, light bulbs, parts, and so much more. Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 10 AM - 6 PM. HVRA members 10% discount on radio items. (713) 468-4911 www.vintagesoundshouston.com

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

Sargent Auction Service: www.sargentauction.com, Jims@sargentauction.com Jim Sargent, WA5QBR, Auctioneer, TX license 16135 Location: 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 (www.tomgranger@mac.com)

Ace Electronics: 3210 Antoine Drive Houston, TX 77092 713-688-8114 (www.ace4parts.com)

Electronic Parts Outlet (EPO): 3753 B Fondren Rd Houston, TX 77063 713-784-0140 (www.epohouston.com)

Other Radio Related News

Texas Broadcast Museum: 416 E. Main Street in Kilgore, TX. Phone:903-984-8115.

There are hundreds of pieces of vintage paraphernalia related to radio and TV broadcasting.

Admission is \$6.00 (\$5.00 for seniors and military vets).

Edington Family Museum of Atwater-Kent Radios: 550 Roosevelt in Silsbee, TX. Please contact Jimmy Edington for appointment at 337-476-4328 (atwaterkentsrus@gmail.com). Jimmy, a long-time collector and original HVRA member, has re-purposed a beautifully restored hotel to display his outstanding collection of Atwater-Kent radios and related products. See his website, www.atwaterkentsrus.com.

More Radio Clubs

Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club www.dvhrc.com

Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors (OKVRC) President: Jim Collings, PO Box 50625, Midwest City, OK jcradio@cox.net; \$15 annual dues. Monthly meetings, annual show.

Antique Radio Club of Illinois (ARCI) www.clubinfo@antique-radio.org

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

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

New Mexico Radio Collectors Club (NMRCC). Monthly newsletter and members meeting (with flea market, auction and theme program). Dues: \$20. For more information contact John Anthes, jpanthes@comcast.net Club website: http://newmexicoradiocollectorsclub.com

Texas Antique Radio Club (TARC), Doug Wright, Canyon Lake, TX. wrightdouglas70@yahoo.com

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

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

Canadian Vintage Radios Society (CVRS) Contact Gerry O'Hara 226 Dallas Road Victoria V8V1A5 Canada (gerrycohara@gmail.com) 604-671-6062; CVRS Website: canadianvintageradios.com

A Note From the Editor

As editor, I enjoy the opportunity, each quarter, to gather information of interest to the HVRA membership and disperse the Grid Leak newsletter by email or snail mail. In this endeavor, I utilize the telephone (landline and cell), the computer and printer and all the related softwares, books for research material, and of course, the old fashion pencil and paper. In the background, I might listen to a baseball game on the TV, comforting music on my record player, and speakerphone conversations with other members contributing to the Grid Leak. All of these "media" and communication machines take up space, need occasional operational attention, and are rarely together in the same room to be used all at the same time. Then I look over to my smartphone.....it has everything and does everything, all inside a wafer thin case. My received emails contain Grid Leak articles from contributors; I can save those tidbits in a file system on my phone. When I need research info....tap, tap, tap on my smart phone's keyboard.....or just say "Google show me a zenith model XXXX radio.....and there it is in microseconds. And yes, TV and radio are also available on my smartphone.

There is a point to this conversation. As we collect and restore vintage electronic equipment from as far back as the 1920s, we should always recognize the historical complications of research and manufacturing that were physical and temporal barriers to the development of radios and communications items well before the age of computers and smartphones.

That's what makes this "hobby" so interesting. The historical look back at an age of conveniences far less than today; the interaction with other collectors to reveal unique characteristics of the manufacturer, their radios and suppliers, and the marketing and legal avenues necessary to make a profit and a successful business.

The electronic tools of today gives us answers almost as quickly as our questions can be typed. I urge those with the computer skills to connect to the Antique Radio Forum, open up the various electronic publication websites, look into the research and restoration capabilities of YouTube, Facebook radio group discussions, and the many other websites that are as close as your keyboard. Just observing (even without bidding) some of the electronic auctions will expand your knowledge and, maybe even, invigorate your collecting interests.

Yes, this was a wordy article composed of information and thoughts familiar to all of you.....but hey.....I had to fill up this space with something.

Good collecting to all of you and have a great summer. Regards, Jerry Sirkin Grid Leak Editor