

# HOUSTON VINTAGE RADIO ASSOCIATION

## The Grid Leak

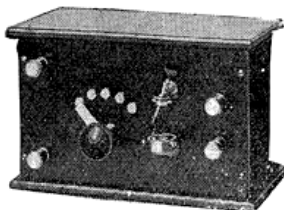
4TH QUARTER: OCTOBER < NOVEMBER < DECEMBER 2023; (INCL. Jan-Feb 2024)

GET READY FOR THE 2024 HVRA CONVENTION FEB. 2-3 MARRIOTT WESTCHASE

FEATURING CROSELY RADIOS (and other Crosley products)



### CROSELY CRYSTAL RECEIVER



No batteries, tubes, or interrupter required. Hook it up and you will receive from hundreds of stations. Complete with battery and interrupter for crystal testing, crystal, etc. Price \$7.00. Phones extra.

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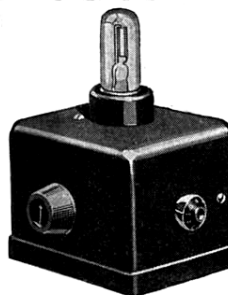
## CROSELY RADIOS

BETTER • COST LESS

### The Crosley 1-Tube "Pup"

The little double circuit single tube "Pup" has already brought happiness to thousands. Probably the greatest distances laymen have heard radio signals is with this set, if the thousands of reports sent to Crosley last winter are any indication.

List price.....\$9.75



Measurements 18 5/8" x 12 3/4" x 30 3/4"

### The Crosley Musiconsole

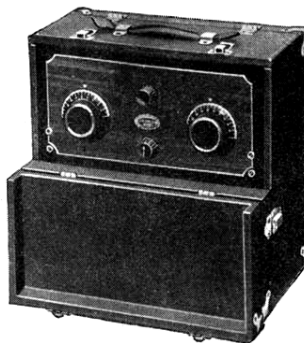
The Musiconsole into which the Musiconone has been skillfully built and adroitly worked into the design, holds all batteries, wires and accessories which make of most radios an eyesore and a despair to many an efficient housekeeper. Two-toned mahogany finish. 24 1/2 inches long inside.

List price.....\$32.00

### The Crosley 4-Tube 4-29 Portable

The four-tube 4-29 Portable is the ideal radio for the person who desires to "take his entertainment with him." The set itself is the same as that used in the popular 4-29 Regular, but it is installed in a leatherette-covered cabinet in which there is ample room for all batteries, headphones, etc. Dealers can install the necessary batteries and tubes so the purchaser can carry his set home, ready to attach the aerial and ground wires and tune in.

List price.....\$33.00



Musicones on page 21

The ROYCRAFT Co.

Page 5



Watch for the Crosley PUP!  
"It's a Sky Terrier"

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- President Message from Joe Gernand
- Upcoming Event Calendar
- Welcome New Members
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- VRPS (Dallas) Convention Announcement
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- Other Radio Clubs

## 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 Meetings 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

### HVRA BOARD MEMBERS

If a Board Member's contact information is not listed, please contact them at [info@hvra.org](mailto:info@hvra.org)

President:	Joe Gernand	N/A	<a href="mailto:info@hvra.org">info@hvra.org</a>
Vice President:	Ric Slater	832-977-6111	<a href="mailto:info@hvra.org">info@hvra.org</a>
Treasurer:	Brett Martin	N/A	<a href="mailto:info@hvra.org">info@hvra.org</a>
Secretary:	Dave Herlinger	N/A	<a href="mailto:info@hvra.org">info@hvra.org</a>
Historian:	Ric Slater	832-977-6111	<a href="mailto:info@hvra.org">info@hvra.org</a>
At Large #1: (Auction Chairperson)	Randy Anderson	281-248-1688	<a href="mailto:rande10493@gmail.com">rande10493@gmail.com</a>
At Large #2: (Contest Chairperson)	Tom Taylor	281-229-2970	<a href="mailto:IHCRAally@yahoo.com">IHCRAally@yahoo.com</a>
At Large #3: (Program Chairperson)	Stephen Truch	N/A	<a href="mailto:info@hvra.org">info@hvra.org</a>
At Large #4: (Estate Coordinator)	Jerry Sirkin	281-844-4124	<a href="mailto:gsirkin@aol.com">gsirkin@aol.com</a>
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## President's Message by Joe Gernand



Here we are, already at the fourth quarter of 2023. This year has been going fast; we've accomplished a lot. We held an Annual Convention in March, a Mega Auction in July, Monthly Meetings, swap meets, and we still have more to come this year. As usual, in the fall, we will have a monthly meeting in October (on the 28<sup>th</sup>) but no meetings are scheduled during the holidays in November or December.

Additionally, we will have a swap meet and an auction in the EPO back parking lot on October 14<sup>th</sup>; more information on the swap meet and monthly meeting can be found in this Grid Leak.

The HVRA Board elections were held during the September Annual Membership Meeting. Four board positions were up for election: Vice President, Secretary, At Large Position 1 (Auction Chair) and At Large Position 3 (Program Chair). I extend my and the club's thanks to the outgoing board members for their service and contributions to the success of the HVRA. I also extend my congratulations to the new board members: Ric Slater, Vice President; Dave Herlinger, Secretary; Randy Anderson, At Large Position 1; and Stephen Truch, At Large Position 3.

I hope you all will join me in congratulating them and supporting them as they execute the responsibilities of these positions. A summary of each new Board Member is in this GL.

We are also in the planning and preparation phases for the 2024 Convention. Our convention will be held at a new location and will have a slightly changed format. These changes are the result of increasing costs. The combination of the new location and a few changes in the convention format are allowing us to retain the substance and quality of past conventions at lower cost. The convention will be held February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 at the Houston Marriott Westchase located near the intersection of Beltway 8 and Westheimer Road.

As in the past we will have Friday and Saturday auctions, a Tech Talk, Old Equipment Contest, and an Awards Dinner. The auctions will be much as they have been in the past. Jim Sargent has volunteered to give us a tech talk on early batteries. After reviewing the results of this year's convention, we have consolidated a few of the Contest categories. The Awards Dinner will be an "order from the menu" dinner; this will give everyone choices for the meal. Further, we will be forgoing the guest speaker and the formal banquet. More on all of these changes can be found in this Grid Leak.

As this year comes to a close, I wish you all a happy holiday season with the joy of family, friendship and fellowship.

### 4TH QUARTER 2023 EVENT CALENDAR

Monthly Board of Directors Meetings at 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.

#### October

10th, Tue. Board of Directors Meeting

14th, Sat. Swap Meet and Auction at EPO beginning at 7:30 – 12 Noon; auction at 8:45am. Over \$100 Door Prizes provided by Vintage Sounds. Location: 3753 Fondren, Houston 77063. Rainout date: Oct. 21st,

21st, Sat. Rainout date for EPO Swap Meet and Auction on the 14th.

28th, Sat. Monthly General Meeting. Program: Collecting Cassettes; What To Do by Stephen Truch

#### November

14th, Tue. Board of Directors Meeting

17th – 19th, Fri. – Sun. VRPS Annual Convention, Doubletree Hotel Richardson, TX. See details inside this GL

**NO GENERAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER**

#### December

12th, Tue. Board of Directors Meeting

**NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER**

#### January, 2024

9th, Tue. Board of Directors Meeting

27th, Sat. Monthly General Meeting. Program: Get Ready To View The Total Solar Eclipse OF 2024 by Dave Herlinger

#### February

2nd and 3rd, Friday and Saturday HVRA ANNUAL CONVENTION See details in this Grid Leak

HVRA 2024 ANNUAL CONVENTIONFAQs

What is the date of the convention? February 2-3.      Where is the convention? Marriot Houston Westchase

What is the address of the hotel? 2900 Briarpark Dr, Houston, TX 77042

What is the phone number or link to make a hotel reservation? 800-452-5110 (Ask for the HVRA rate) or:

Use the following link (press control and enter keys) to register at the convention rate of \$109 + tax.

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1689717529971&key=GRP>

***"Click Availability to book your reservation after clicking on the link"***

Will there be double bed and queen size accommodations? Yes.

Will there be a banquet after the Saturday auction in the evening? There will not be a formal banquet as in the past, but after the Saturday auction, there will be a dinner in the restaurant area of the hotel at everyone's own expense. The contest awards will be given out during the dinner. There will be no speaker or powerpoint presentation for the awards.

What are the breakfast and lunch accommodations?

There are no deals on breakfast (breakfast is \$24.95 In the cafeteria) but breakfast tacos and other similar foods are available in the snack area which includes a Starbucks counter. Lunch will be available in the same snack area consisting of sandwiches, canned drinks etc.

Will there be a tech talk? Yes, Jim Sergeant (President of VRPS, Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society) will be speaking on "Early [1800's] Batteries" for Radio.

Will there be a swap meet as in the past conventions. Yes, it will be in the hotel hallway. There are about 6 tables available from the hotel. You may want to bring a table just to make sure you have one. I will let you know if you get one of the 6 before you come.

Will there be a contest? Yes, the categories and rules are spelled out on following pages

**2024 HVRA Convention Old Equipment Contest Categories****All displays should be at least 25 years old except where noted**

Electronica is Electronic devices or technology, considered collectively (oxford)

1. Crystal Receivers and Related Crystal Equipment
2. Pre-1928 Battery Radios
3. Pre-war consumer radio equipment
4. Post-war Consumer radio equipment (tube and solid state) (at least 50 years old)
5. Ugly Radios (by design & those made worse by lame restorations)
6. Vintage Computers and Computing (at least 25 years old)
7. Collectible and Historical Electronica post- 1960, at least 15 years old (Examples include newer radio equipment, portable music devices, transistor radios, Solid state CRT TVs, unique electronics, etc)
8. Vintage / Antique Electronica Pre-1960 (Examples include Telephones, Telegraph, Scientific Test Equipment, Electrical Devices)
9. Tube type Televisions.
10. Kit Radios and Equipment
11. Hi-Fidelity Equipment
12. Amateur Radio Equipment
13. Military Electrical and Electronic Equipment
14. Special Convention Theme: Crosley and all items carrying the *Crosley* name
15. Components, including Vacuum Tubes
16. Open Display

**2024 HVRA CONVENTION OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST RULES**

The official rules for the 2024 HVRA Old Equipment Contest are:

- All contestants must be registered for the Convention and an member in good standing.
  - Previous displays winning First Place in the 2022 or 2023 contests may not be entered in the competitive categories of this 2024 contest. These items may, however, be shown as non-competitive displays.
  - A contestant may have only two displays in any one category, but may enter any number of categories.
  - A display is eligible for only one category *and failure to declare a category prevents competition.*
  - Reproductions must be properly identified.
  - All entries must be in good, clean, showable condition. Equipment that is entered in un-showable condition may be disqualified and removed from the contest in the judgment of the Contest Chairperson.
  - The Contest Chairperson will determine the appropriateness of questions or issues regarding entries and any other rule interpretations.
  - In case of a tie, the judges or Contest Chairperson may request a functional demonstration of the equipment.
  - No fee will be charged for entering the contest.
  - All entries must be in place no later than one hour prior to judging, on the day of the contest.
  - Devices of foreign manufacture may compete in any appropriate category.
  - Contestants must refrain from discussing entries with judges. If judges have questions pertaining to an entry, they will be voiced to the contestant through the Contest Chairperson.
  - The Contest Rules may not cover all issues that arise in relation to the HVRA Old Equipment Contest. The Contest Chairperson has the discretion to make any decisions necessary in relation to Contest to insure a fair and orderly contest.
- Questions about the contest at any time? Contact Tom Taylor, Contest Chairman, 281-229-2970 [IHCRRally@Yahoo.com](mailto:IHCRRally@Yahoo.com)

## 2024 HVRA CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Dear Contestant: Please review this summary of our contest rules and guidelines that are printed on the back of this sheet and if you have any questions, please contact **Tom Taylor**, the Contest Chairman.

**AWARD CATEGORIES:** There are 16 contest categories this year. You must designate on your entry card what category you want to enter your exhibit in (for example, #5 Ugly Radios), and you can enter an exhibit in only one category. You can enter one or two displays in any one category. Each of categories will be given a First and Second place ribbon for the winner. We also have three additional categories you can elect to compete in for greater recognition including **Best Restorations, Vintage Equipment, and Artifacts and Collections**. You must designate on your contest entry card which of these three categories you wish to be considered for if you wish to compete. In addition, each person registered for the Convention can vote on the **Peoples' Choice** award and further each exhibitor can vote on the efforts of a peer for the Exhibitors' Award, worth \$50. Ballots for this purpose are available in the contest room. And finally, there will be a **New Contestant** award for the best exhibit from someone who has not entered our Convention contest previously.

**HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE TOP THREE CATEGORIES:** In the **Best Restorations** category the judges will consider the quality of your work along with documentation showing work done, before and after photos, schematics, history relevant to the radio, rarity, and the overall presentation. *We are looking for the best restoration entered in the contest.* For the **Vintage Equipment** category, the judging emphasis will include information about the history of the radio or manufacturer, how the equipment was acquired, rarity, photos, information about clean-up or refinishing, original ads and similar information. *We are looking for the overall best display of vintage equipment.* And finally, entrants in the **Artifacts and Collections** category can include vintage magazines, software, tubes, toys, signs, photos, fans, radio/tv clocks, books, dolls, boxes, uniforms, mannequins, advertising and similar material related to electronics, radios, and communications equipment. Judges will consider overall quality, information describing history of the items, rarity, how acquired, before and after photos and any other relevant information that help make a good display.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** We will set up all exhibits in the 16 contest categories in the same display area as best we can. You can set up your display as you wish but the Contest Chairman reserves the right to adjust displays as may be needed to assist with limited space in some instances. Please be considerate of others who will also need space to display their items. If you have questions or concerns, see the Contest Chairman. **Be sure to fill out a contest entry card for each of your entries!!** The contest room will be LOCKED when the Contest Chairman or his designee is not present. When the room is LOCKED such as one hour before judging, NO ONE will be admitted. Judging will be conducted beginning at 9:30 am Saturday. NO ONE IS ADMITTED at that time. **The Decisions of the Contest Judges are FINAL!**

**Convention planners have put in a lot of work making sure you have an enjoyable event. Over the next couple of months, we will be looking for volunteers to help at the convention.**

**HVRA WELCOMES BACK**  
**James Bartholomew Houston**

**HVRA 2024 Old Equipment Contest**  
**Judge's Briefing**

Dear Contest Judge: As you may know, our members will vote on a Best of Show award as well as Exhibitors will vote on the best Exhibitor award. We have several other award categories for you to help us judge. In addition to the first and second place awards for each of our 16 contest categories, we have three other awards: Best Restoration, Vintage Equipment and Artifacts & Collections. Each contestant will have designated one of these awards for his or her exhibit entry. Please review a copy of the handout we have provided to each contestant. It explains the awards in more detail with significant information about the criteria that will be considered for these new Top Awards. All of our contest rules are also explained in that handout. We also have a best New Contest Entrant award that you will judge.

We use a scoring system for our judging and our briefing will cover this in more detail. We recommend you first take a tour of each exhibit and display together as a group to discuss amongst yourselves the relative merits of the various entries. After that, you would go back and individually finalize your judging score sheets for each contest category. The contest chairman will follow the judging and later collect the score sheets. The Contest Chairperson will then take the score sheets and arrange for totaling the scores. The Contest Chairperson should work with the judges if necessary to resolve any ties in the scoring by majority vote of the judges.

**Judging Criteria and Scoring for 16 Contest Categories:** We have identified on your score sheet the following criteria for you to use in judging the first and second place awards in each contest category:

- Rare, Unique, Unusual or Interesting item(s)
- Condition or quality of the item(s)
- Documentation and/or Item descriptions
- Authenticity
- Presentation, Showmanship and Contestant Effort

**Our scoring ranges are as follows:**

- 0 Below Expectations
- 1 Minimum Acceptable
- 2 Average
- 3 Above average
- 4 Exemplary; rarely exceeded

**Judging for the Best Restoration, Vintage Equipment and Artifacts and Collections awards:**

Among the categories to be judged are the Best Restoration, Vintage Equipment and Artifacts & Collections contest entries. After you have completed your score sheets and determined the first and second place winners in each of the 16 contest categories, you should review the exhibit cards and your scoring sheet notations to determine winners for these three awards. Scoring is based upon the following criteria for each category:

**Best Restoration:** Quality of the restoration; information about electrical and/or cabinet or similar restoration as appropriate; before and after photos; restoration documentation; schematics; history and other relevant information; rare or unusual item; authenticity; working condition; and overall display.

**Vintage Equipment:** History of radio(s) or other items; manufacturer's information; how equipment was acquired; rare or unusual or unique item(s); clean-up or refinishing; original ads; photos; overall quality of the display.

**Artifacts & Collections:** This category can include a wide variety of radio and electronic items including magazine, software, advertising, mannequins, toys, tubes, fans, radio and TV clocks, novelty items, dolls, boxes, uniforms, and almost anything related to vintage communications equipment and the vintage era. Special consideration is given to the quality of the items; authenticity; how were the items acquired; rare or unusual items; documentation, history, and descriptions; and overall showmanship evident in the display.

**Lastly,** After completing your decisions about these three awards, please see your judging information for a list of the **First Time Entrants** and select a best entrant or display for this award.

Your decisions are FINAL. Thank you and don't hesitate to raise any questions to the HVRA Contest Chairperson.

**HVRA 2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION and MEMBERSHIP FORM**

*(For Questions Please Contact Ric Slater at [info@hvra.org](mailto:info@hvra.org) or call at 832-977-6111 )*

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

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

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

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

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

**All Bidders and Sellers Must Register and Be Active HVRA Members**

<b>Feb. 2 - 4, 2024 Houston Marriot Westchase</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Advance Registration: ** \$20 (Postmarked by 1/10/2024)		\$
On-Site Registration: ** \$25		\$
**Annual Membership \$20: (2/1/2024 – 1/31/2025) NEW		\$
**Annual Membership \$20: (2/1/2023 – 1/31/2025) RENEWAL		\$
Awards Dinner: Sat. Feb 3, @ 6:30pm <i>All guests pay for their own meal and gratuity will be added to each bill automatically. No speaker or Powerpoint for Awards</i>	.....	.....
Swap Meet: 1st Table Free; Additional Tables - \$10 each; Any member needing a table(s) must contact Ric Slater prior to Jan. 20		\$
Grand Totals	.....	\$

**\*\*Only One Registration Required Per Family (One Bidder Number)**

**HVRA Commissions: Individual Sellers at 15%**

**Estates Sales Commissions Pending Pre-Convention Agreements**

**Buyers and Sellers Settlements at Conclusion of Each Day’s Auction Activities**

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION:** CHECKS, PAYABLE TO HOUSTON VINTAGE RADIO ASSOCIATION (HVRA), or CASH MUST BE POST-MARKED BY Jan. 10, 2024 to:

**HVRA, 2951 Marina Bay Drive, Suite 130, Box 168, League City, TX, 77573**

**ON-SITE:** BRING REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK/CASH TO CONVENTION

**HVRA USE ONLY:**

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

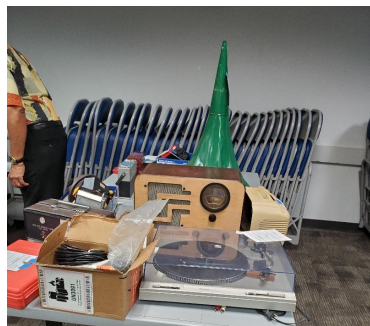
**REGISTRATION (BIDDER) NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Over the next couple of months, we will be looking for volunteers to help at the convention.**



As Joe described in his "President's Message", this past quarter was very busy with opportunities for members to add new items to their collection and for some to decrease items no longer needed. The 3rd quarter Grid Leak described the July Texas City Mega Auction with detailed photos of all kinds of great auction items.

Additionally we had several monthly General Meetings that had auction items far exceeding the norm (yes, good quality...not just odds and ends). The 30+/- members attending these monthly auction got great deal.....Remember to attend and don't miss out on the gems that could add value to your collecting hobby.



Sept. Swap Meet at Mike Payne's Electrojunk in Alvin

### ELECTION RESULTS

This organization is run by volunteers serving on the Board of Directors and by many other volunteers involved in our events. We thank everyone for contributing their time to enable all of us to enjoy the HVRA experience.

**This September, we held our Annual Meeting specifically designed to elect Board Members to 2 year terms.**

Ric Slater replaces longtime member Lewis Brittain as Vice President. Joining HVRA in Feb. 2016, Ric has been active as Historian and Treasurer, and program presenter....please give Ric your support as he prepares the 2024 Convention.

David Herlinger recently stepped up to replace Mike Monsour as HVRA Secretary and volunteered to be elected to a 2 year term. Joining HVRA in the 1980s and previously serving on the Board as well as serving as the Grid Leak editor, David is one of our more interesting members and reaches into his interests in physical sciences and engineering to entertain members with exhibits and stories.

Randy Anderson was elected to replace Joe Gernand in the At-Large Position I, Convention Auction Chairperson. It's a big responsibility and Randy is well prepared. Having joined HVRA in the 1980s Randy took time off for family and work. In 2020, Randy rejoined HVRA and was very visible as an auction handler during the past 3 Conventions. Please lend your support and assist Randy's efforts at the next Convention.

Having joined HVRA several years ago, Stephen Truch became an active member contributing his time assisting our treasurer, volunteering as a program presenter many times and for the past two years serving as or At Large Position III Board Member responsible for developing our General Meeting Programs. As Stephen continues for 2 more years, please volunteer as a presenter and support Stephen in this important position.

During the July, 2023 General Meeting several members brought displays of various "collections" that interest them outside the normal realm of vintage radios and electronics. This was a contest that HVRA has embraced for many years and it gives us all a unique perspective of what our friends in HVRA do with their "spare" time. The first place award was a one year HVRA membership...but after all the dust settled, it was evident that all 6 participants were 1st place winners.



Lance Borden with his "Pop-Pop boat collection. Reacting to steam or chemicals, these little vintage toys propel through water powered by candle or vegetable oil burners.

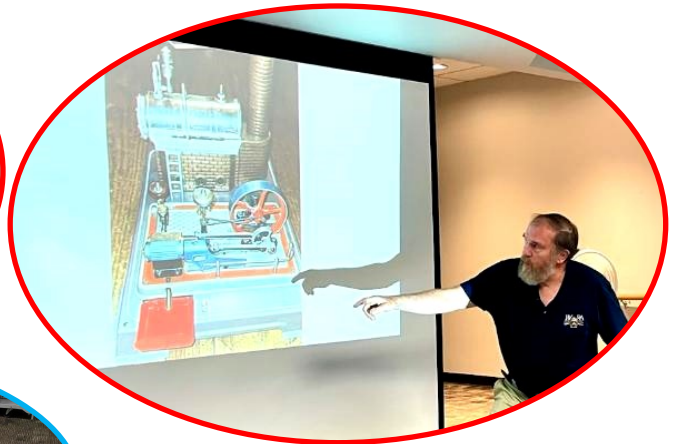
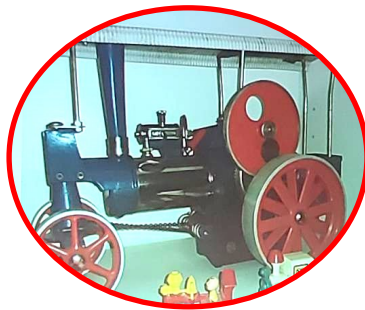


Reid Shipp showing his collection of paperweights and spheres.



Eric Stehl had several movie posters and a variety of stories to accompany his exhibits

Dave Herlinger attempting to make a rabbit shadow on the screen while showing us some examples of his steam engine collection (continued on page 11)



Jimmie Stewart showed a variety of CRT testers



Ron Soyland showed a movie of his recently acquired tube collection that caught everyone's attention. His collection can be better appreciated by going to his Glasslinger YouTube page titled "Huge Vacuum Tube Collection."



(continued from page 9) More from David Herlinger’s collection contest discussion of his love of steam engines and astronomy.

The locomotive was made by the Ottaway Amusement Company in 1947. I restored it to operating condition in 1986 and ran it in my backyard Pine Cone and Mosquito Railroad on my three daughters’ birthdays and on July 4 when the girls were growing up. It is coal-fired and operates just like a full-sized steam locomotive. I’m in the process of tearing it down for another restoration. It has a tender for carrying water and three coaches with four seats each. The track gauge is 12 inches and the locomotive weighs 800 pounds.



coaches with four seats each. The track gauge is 12 inches and the locomotive weighs 800 pounds.

The large reflecting telescope was made by Cave Optical in 1964. It was given to me by the original owner 40 years ago. A few years back, I completely restored the fiberglass tube and had the 12.5 inch diameter front surface primary mirror stripped and recoated with a modern aluminized and quartz overcoated surface that is over 98 percent reflective in the visible spectrum. I added an electric clock drive that allows the massive scope follow astronomical objects as Earth rotates on its axis. It is located in a small roll-off roof observatory I share with a fellow retired physics teacher at the Houston Astronomical Society Dark Site near Columbus, Texas.



Capacitor Nomenclature in Keeping Up With The Times (Submitted by Bill Werzner)

Microfarrads, Nanofarrads, micro micro farrads, picofarrads.

To convert microfarrads (uF) to nanofarrads (nF), multiply uF times 1,000

To convert nanofarrads (nF) to microfarrads (uF), divide nF by 1,000

To convert micromicrofarrads (uuF) to picofarrads (pF), 1.0 uuF = 1.0 pF

To convert picofarrads (pF) to micromicrofarrads (uuF), 1.0 pF = 1.0 uuF

Another way to remember this is one microfarrad = 1 / 1,000,000 (one millionth)

And one micromicrofarrad or one picofarrad = 1/1,000,000,000,000 (one trillionth)

uF	nF	uuF	pF	nF
100	100000	1,000	1000.0	1.0
47	47000	470.0	470.0	0.47
10	10000	100.0	100.0	0.10
1.0	1000	50.0	50.0	0.05
0.1	100	25.0	25.0	0.025
0.047	47	10.0	10.0	0.010
0.01	10	1.0	1.0	0.001
0.001	1.0			

**HAM TALK**  
**THOUGHTS and ADVISE**  
**from**  
**Tom Taylor**

So why would you not want to talk to people in other states or countries. It might be that to put a signal out requires a little skin in the game, a little venture into the unknown where other listeners might hear you. Some of the answer may be a perceived technical challenge without a mentor.

Well, you can first test the waters so to speak by just listening to the signals in the high frequency, HF, ham bands, AKA 3 to 30 MegaHertz, MHz. You can do this with many portable or stationary receivers that have a Beat Frequency Oscillator, BFO, because today's radio voice is in Single Sideband, SSB. However, for the money it takes to buy some of those receivers you can also buy a used piece of ham equipment called a transceiver that allows both transmission and receiving capable of several modes of communication. Yes, for less than \$150 you can buy used major brand transceivers like Yaesu, Icom and Kenwood providing both transmission and receiving of Single Side Band and Continuous Wave, CW, AKA coded signals in morse. For that matter, most of those rigs can be used for teletype and digital mode exchanges using your home computer and minimum additional cost. Ham radio manufacturers support a very diverse marketplace and the newer full feature glitz transceivers can top \$2,000 if that's your appetite. However, for the used values mentioned you can work all the United States and at times, on some bands, all the continents. For greatest range expect to use one of the many digital modes or CW brass pounding as they say. That is where the reward really is for the purists in the hobby. With the approaching peak to solar cycle 25 you don't even need a separate Radio Frequency, RF, amplifier.

So, what kind of antenna is needed you ask. For receiving, any length of wire or for that matter any conductor will do, the longer the better, be it rain gutter, guard rail, line cord, phone or Ethernet wire etc. If you want a ground rod consider rebar bought or even found on the road, or conduit or cast iron pipe for that matter. Getting the picture? However, for transmitting we want to keep the Standing Wave Ratio, SWR, low so the antenna must be resonant and  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength at the chosen frequency will do. For 40 meters AKA 7.3 MHz that's about 32 feet of wire either side of the coax feed point. Wire of all nature, stranded, solid, 16, 14 and 12 as well as larger and smaller American Wire Gauges, AWG, is regularly used on any and most of the HF bands. Resonate antennas ensure most of the power provided at the transmitting source is radiated not reflected back to the transmitter from which it came. Other antenna examples include a hand built vertical with tubular metal material on 15, 10, 6 and even 2 meters. Although wire can be bought at Ace, Lowes and Home Depot, spools of that wire can be found for around \$20 at ham-fests and garage sales. For the Very High Frequency, VHF, {30 to 300 MHz} bands of 6 and 2 meters, 50.1 and 146 MHz respectively, the manufactured antennas are preferred out of convenience and a good buy for as little as \$10 used in some cases. If u can solder with a small propane torch, there is a great performing "J" pole design using  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch copper pipe that can be easily built for 2 meters. Directive antennas often called beams or yagis can be bought new for \$130 to well above \$350 depending on your preferences. Like a flashlight these antennas put the signal at the target. Since any conductor will work, hams have always built them for FAR less. That my friend is part of the reward. Your initiative and your ingenuity become the limiting factor, not the cost.

To transmit on a ham frequency, you will need an FCC license that is easily acquired with a test and about \$10 by a local Volunteer Examiner, VE, frequently available at many of the ham-fests. Once your ticket arrives in a few short weeks later you are free to get on the air and explore a hobby that has existed since at least the mid 1920s. It all begins with that first purchase and a bit of reading. Direct your attentions to the Amateur Radio Relay League, ARRL, and a podcast "QSO Today", as well as web sites QRZ.com and QTH.com. Once you are a league member subscribe to that monthly magazine "QST" where you can visualize all the avenues, contests, and equipment open to you.

**What do pigs like to listen to? HAM radio**

**A walkie talkie invited a lump of coal to dinner and a movie. Radio-carbon dating**

## VRPS 2023 CONVENTION in DALLAS NOVEMBER 17—19

- The 49th Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society (VRPS) Convention will be held at the Double Tree Hotel 1981 N. Central Expressway Richardson, Texas.
- The theme for this year is Emerson Radio
- There will be 4 auctions: *Two Live Auctions on Friday, Silent Auction on Saturday, and a Main Live Auction on Saturday.*
- Judged Contest (opens early Friday and continues into Saturday)
- Awards Banquet Saturday Evening
- Flea Market Sunday Morning

[Go to http://www.vrps.org](http://www.vrps.org) for reservations and more information

The theme for the 2023 Convention contest is Emerson Radio. Here is the list of contest categories.

1. Crystal Receivers Pre 1940
2. Ham, Military, or Telegraphy Equipment
3. AC Table Receivers Pre WWII
4. AC/DC Tube Radios Pre 1960
5. Transistor Radios Pre 1965
6. Phonographs and Related Accessories Pre 1940
7. Featured Brand- Emerson
8. Novelty Radios-Tube or Transistor
9. Radio Related Ads, Ephemera, and Accessories
10. Test Equipment Pre 1950
11. Table Top Art Deco Radios (Includes Catalin, Chrome Front, Others)
12. Battery Radios Pre 1928
13. Foreign Tube Type Radios Pre 1960
14. Spark or Wireless Equipment
15. Reproducers Includes Microphones and Loudspeakers
16. Open Category (Radio Related Items Not Belonging In Other Categories)
17. New Category- Ugly Radios ( Must be as it came from the factory- no repaints or modifications)

### WE ALL NEED A LAUGH

I never thought orthopedic shoes would really work for me, but I stand corrected.

My son was chewing on an electric cord, so I had to ground him. Its OK though. He's conducting himself properly.

Once upon a time there was a king who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible king, but he was a great ruler.

You drop something when you were younger, you'd just pick it up. But when you are older, you just stare at it a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.

Buy, Sell, Trade, & Services OfferedWANTED

**Wanted:** 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).

**Wanted:** Atwater Kent Model K speaker in working condition. Jerry Sirkin 281-844-4124; gsirkin@aol.com.

I am trying to help others by providing a service that will help those who are trying to acquire items that have become no longer or un-sourceable. As I would like to help build a collection of items that can help you to return a radio back to a working condition. If you are needing an item that is needed to complete a radio maybe I can CAD design, and 3d print it. Currently I have 21 items listed on the website, and have been printed and used on radios like, Bulova, Grebe, RCA, Philco, Delco, Silvertone, Tempo-Tone, and others. There are more items but I have not added them. I do not intend to be in competition with those to sell knobs as a business but I have also created about 100 knobs which are not posted, but will provide a list to those who are interested. Some items can and some cannot be reproduced, but I am willing to try. If we are successful in creating an item, I will when offer for sale on my website.

Ron Carroll (lottaradios@gmail.com)

Lott, Texas

From Brian Rogers, Author

Dear Houston Vintage Radio Association,

Please allow me to call your attention to my recently published book, "Adventures in Old Time Radio, Revised Edition."

It is a collection of broadcast radio history articles I have written over the past decade for "Great Lakes Monitor," the six-times-a-year publication of Michigan Area Radio Enthusiasts (MARE).

A previous edition was published in 2016. The revised edition contains all the material in the 2016 edition plus nearly double more.

The text, laid out in 500- to 800-word chapters, has received good reviews.

I enclose a link to the publisher's website, [xlibris.com](http://xlibris.com). It is also available at Amazon.com

Sincerely,  
Brian Rogers

**Sitting at home with nothing to do? Are all of your restoration projects completed? Do you still have questions about difficult electrical repairs to your prized radio(s)?**

Well, fear not Mr. Collector. The HVRA CD - ROM awaits your attention. Indexed for easy use and filled with 31 years of HVRA Grid Leak articles your answers and vast amounts of general vintage radio information is just a small investment away. Each CD is \$10

Please contact Ric Slater, HVRA Historian and you will be rewarded with more information than one man should ever know.

SERVICES OFFEREDVintage 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](http://www.vintagesoundshouston.com)

**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 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](http://www.tomgranger@mac.com))

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

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

**Electronic Supply Company of Texas City** 1524 Texas Avenue, Texas City. 800-451-7532; 409-945-4401; [www.electronicssupply.com](http://www.electronicssupply.com)

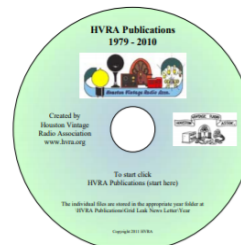
Every nature of major brand wire and associated interconnects for data for video/audio signal transfer; handheld instruments for troubleshooting and process monitoring as well as both digital and analogue panel instruments; Unique items include the Fox n Hound Circuit Tracer, Insulation Tester, IR Thermometer, RTD measurement and communications diagnostic; variable lab quality power supplies for the bench and fixed voltage for remote location.

**Lonesome Frog Records** Market Place Antiques 10910 Katy Freeway #208 Houston, TX 77043 Bill Syrell, Owner 832-724-0634; [wsyrell1@gmail.com](mailto:wsyrell1@gmail.com)

**SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!**  
**STEREO RESALE SHOP**

Vintage and Pre-owned Stereo Equipment

<https://soundsgoodtomehouston>



Houston Vintage Radio Association  
Introduces

HVRA Publications 1979 - 2010

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

Menu driven  
Approximately 300 HVRA Publications in PDF format  
Over 650 articles in 4 pre-sorted lists

A matrix that allows the single click access to any HVRA Publication  
Each article, in the sorted lists, includes single click access to the individual HVRA Publication that contains that article.  
Single click access to The History Of HVRA For The First 20 Years

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](http://www.atwaterkentsrus.com).

## More Radio Clubs

**Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club** [www.dvhrc.com](http://www.dvhrc.com)

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

**Antique Radio Club of Illinois (ARCI)** [www.clubinfo@antique-radio.org](http://www.clubinfo@antique-radio.org)

**Collins Radio Association (CRA)**. David Knepper, PO Box 34, Sidman, PA 15955. No dues. [www.collinsra.org](http://www.collinsra.org)

**Michigan Antique Radio Club (MARC)**. Don Colbert, MARC, Pub: The Michigan Antique Radio Chronicle, quarterly. Dues: \$20. [membership@michiganantiqueradio.org](mailto:membership@michiganantiqueradio.org). Annual Extravaganza and other quarterly meets.  
[www.michiganantiqueradio.org](http://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, [jjpanthes@comcast.net](mailto:jjpanthes@comcast.net) Club website: <http://newmexicoradiocollectorsclub.com>

**Texas Antique Radio Club (TARC)**, Doug Wright, Canyon Lake, TX. [wrightdouglas70@yahoo.com](mailto:wrightdouglas70@yahoo.com)

**Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society (VRPS)**, Dallas / Ft. Worth, TX. George Potter  
[vrps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vrps@sbcglobal.net), website: [www.vrps.org](http://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](mailto:gerrycohara@gmail.com))  
604-671-6062; CVRS Website: [canadianvintageradios.com](http://canadianvintageradios.com)



## WEBMASTER WANTED

HVRA is looking for a Webmaster to manage the HVRA webpage ([www.hvra.org](http://www.hvra.org)). Please contact Joe Gernand or Steve Scheel for additional information at [info@hvra.org](mailto:info@hvra.org)

## REMINDER

### NEW HVRA MAILING ADDRESS

HVRA  
2951 MARINA BAY DRIVE  
SUITE 130 BOX 168  
LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS 77573

### **A police officer called the station on his radio.**

"I have an interesting situation here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."

"Have you arrested the woman?"

"No, the floor's still wet."

I went to a garage sale the other day, they had a radio with no volume control I just couldn't turn it down.

