

Southeastern
Antique
Radio
Society



WINTER 1997-98

The SARS Fall Mega-Meet

by Allen Cutts

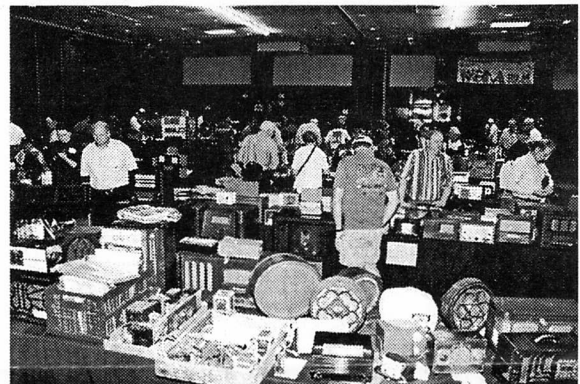
The Southeastern Antique Radio Society (SARS) held its annual Mega-Meet on the weekend of September 26 and 27 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year's event was held in the Howard Johnson Midtown hotel (formerly the Castlegate Hotel). Unlike last year, the swap meet was held indoors, which turned out to be a good move for the club since the weather was not too good that day. The turnout of approximately 70 vendors and over 250 attendees was the largest thus far in Atlanta.

To start things off, there was a dinner that Friday night followed by a presentation by Ron Ramirez, (the author of Philco Radios 1928 - 1942) who spoke on Philco radios and the history of Philco. Afterwards, there was another excellent presentation from the "Golden Age" of radio productions by the Atlanta Radio Theatre Co. In addition, the main hall was opened that night for vendors to start setting up for the Saturday flea market.

Once again this year's flea market brought an incredible variety of items including a large number of consoles, cathedrals, and Zenith radios. With the SARS rule that trading should only start after 8:00 AM, there was an air of suspense all morning prior to that time. As the day progressed, the hall soon filled up as more vendors showed up throughout the morning. The highlight of the day was the grand prize drawing for a RCA console model 211 made in 1934.

This year's radio display theme was Philco and had a large number of entries from such collectors as Ron Ramirez, Rick Taylor, Allan Braun, Kris Gimmy and John Pelham. Highlights of the display included a large number of cathedrals, table radios and consoles, some with remote control. In addition, there were some unusual items such as a Philco Safari TV, which was the first all transistor TV by Philco.

Gordon Hunter, president of SARS, had this to say about this year's successful Mega-Meet: "The results were just about double this year from last. The show seemed to jump from a small regional show to a major one. Overall, I am very pleased." With the big success of the 1997 show under its belt, SARS is already busy with planning the 1998 show, which promises to be an even bigger success.



A general view of the Mega-Meet near its peak of activity.



This view shows most of the Philco radio display.



A seller's table offering a good selection of Zenith tombstones and other desirable radios.

President's Page

Happy New Year! I look forward to this coming year with great anticipation. Last year was just terrific for me, and as a radio collector of just a few years, I'm beginning to feel like I'm starting to mature a little bit. That is, every time I find a radio at a swap meet, or at an antique mall, I don't feel like I'm obligated to give it a good home! I'm actually developing a sense of discretion and patience. So maybe I've graduated from that first stage of radio collecting where you just can't turn down any radio that comes along. I guess that since I'm not a technician, and can't fix every radio that I find, I've reached that stage where I just have to use more unemotional judgment when I have a radio in front of me that needs some work, but it's still a neat radio. Or maybe it's because my little radio logbook has over 150 entries and I don't have any more shelf space. Oh heck, maybe this is all smoke. I need to build more shelves, because I still have a weakness for "good deals." So I guess my new years resolution is to be patient and to work more on upgrading rather than just acquiring. Check me in a few months

I know that others will summarize our great Fall Meet in Atlanta, but I just want to say that it was a huge step up from our meets of the past, and it really will take its place as one of the truly great regional meets in the country. Our members were terrific in volunteering time and effort and it all went along without a problem, the only exception being the hotel accommodations. We're booked again there for the last weekend in September, and so if the hotel will improve itself over the next year, I think we'll be ready for another great event. We've had themes of Zenith and Philco for the last two, so I'm ready for suggestions for the next one. There may be a few events around the country in the next few months, but we'll really get things going quickly in March. We'll have our own Spring Meet on Saturday, March 14 behind the Fairfield Inn at Alpharetta. The format will be just like last year — a no-charge meet that will last from sun-up until noon. The Fairfield Inn has committed to rooms at \$50 per night which is a real bargain for our out-of-town guests and friends. We'll seek to get some local publicity which will bring out more of the general public with old radios coming out of the attics. Lots of really good items came out unexpectedly last year. Then the following weekend will be the big meet at Charlotte. I know that many of us will want to attend that one this year. Hope the auction will be better!

One more last resolution. I will do my best to present to the club a set of by-laws this year with which we will be able to govern our club correctly. Things have been going pretty well as they are, but we need to be a bit more structured if we're going to succeed in the long run. This will also be my last year as President, and if things go as planned with the Board of Directors, we should be holding elections next Fall under our new by-laws. Let's have a great year together.

Gordon



Scribbles from the Secretary

by Joe Howell

Club officers are up for re-election and yours truly is looking for someone to pass this pleasant duty onto: if you can take minutes, type a little and would enjoy expanding your involvement in the club, see me for a box full of literature and the previous recorded minutes. The following 1997 meetings were held at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Norcross.

October 13—Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:15. Attendees numbered 16 with one of those a new face who was introduced and welcomed. Report on The Fall Meet — 66 tables sold (due to expansion by the hotel); opinions centered around "great meet," "poor hotel management/rooms." Next year's Fall meet has been booked at the same facility. Larry Smith provided the Treasurer's report on the meet. Expenses amounted to \$1,850, gross receipts were \$2,356, netting a profit of approximately \$400. Larry was not contacted by the hotel regarding the 30-room minimum (we missed it), *but* the hotel also violated the agreement with several reservation blunders.

Gordon suggested Will's Park for the Spring Meet. Marty suggested coordinating the date with the hamfest schedules. John Pelham requested suggestions for the '98 Show and Tell topics. The invitation from Kris Gimmy [for his October get-together] was reviewed.

Gordon introduced guest speaker Joe Webber, new owner of WGKA, 1190 AM. Mr. Webber described his interest in broadcasting and the "eclectic" format he pursues. He shared with us some of the unexpected trials and tribulations encountered (he is new to the business) as well as his enthusiasm at being able to design his own format (this came through clearly while he spoke; he is having a good time, though a few more dollars in revenue would increase his enjoyment). He is currently looking for a comedic pair to fit into a "Sam and Dave" routine (an opportunity here for you aspiring entertainers). We were invited to drop into the station and visit (no doubt some members will take him up on this — come to think of it, I've never been in a radio station, hmm). Thanks to Joe Webber for sharing his time and experiences with us.

Show and Tell: "L" and "M" radios were the theme and the following came out: Kadette Jewel 3-tube, Airline, Westinghouse, 1939 RCA 96X - Danny. Germanium diode radios (6), ESP cards by Zenith - Barry. Marble and various "M" transistors, Lyric 546T 5-tube bakelite, Majestic table model - John Pelham. Zenith tombstone, Airline 1000 4-tube AC/DC(1937) - Allen. Mitchell clock/radio, Mirrortone, Meteor (1956), Motorola (1950) portable - Gordon. GE identical portable - one tube/one transistor (1956/1957) - Marty.

Adjourned —

Continued from Scribbles . . .

November 10—Gordon called to order at 7:00. Fifteen attending with one new face. Gordon visited Ho-Jo and confirmed our booking for next year; March meet discussed; the week before Charlotte either at the Fairfield Inn or Will's Park. Our by-laws (or lack of) were referenced and that elections were due in November — all officers agreed to continue for another year except Norm and Joe Howell (see my plaintive plea above). Danny announced the acquisition of 180 radios (one lot) and distributed a map and time for a sale at his home (I just spoke to him and it went pretty well - 50 radios sold). Outing to Kris Gimmy's reviewed with five attendees from the club (and a '48 Lincoln ride). Wes attended the Nashville meet; outdoors and cold; only approximately 15 vendors, but the auction run by Ron Ramirez was efficient and fun. Lawrenceville hamfest attended and "lots of tubes" purchased; Charles Pierce won the door prize (a ham radio — what else?). John requested articles for the Winter newsletter.

Our guest speaker called saying he would be late so Show-and-Tell commenced with "Anything Goes:" Zenith 6311 table (1938), Philco 20 Deluxe - Gordon. Stromberg Carlson telephone, restored and working. Pre-WWI spark gap transmitter - Charles Pierce. Zenith portable 1950 - Bob Niven. RCA battery clock sign - Danny Davis. Airline 1939 plastic, Emerson twins 602A FM/636A AM (1949) - John Pelham. Silvertone table unit w/motorized tuning - Barry.

Hugh Jarrett, our guest speaker, arrived. "Big Hugh Baby" WLAC Nashville 1960+. I don't think I can do justice to his talk except to hit a few highlights. I hope he will return as Piccadilly closed on us while Hugh was still regaling us. Prior to becoming a disc jockey, he was with the Jordonaires singing back up for Eddy Arnold, and, beginning in 1954, for a fellow named Presley (many fascinating memories shared with us). He came to Atlanta in '63 for WSB and continued his "Hugh Baby Hops." His career included approximately 12 movies ("Murder in Coweta County", "Bear"). Hugh played a sample of his "voice-overs" and commercials and chatted informally afterward. Sorry if you missed it, and thanks to Hugh Jarrett, and thanks to Gordon for bringing him our way.

Adjourned 8:45 —

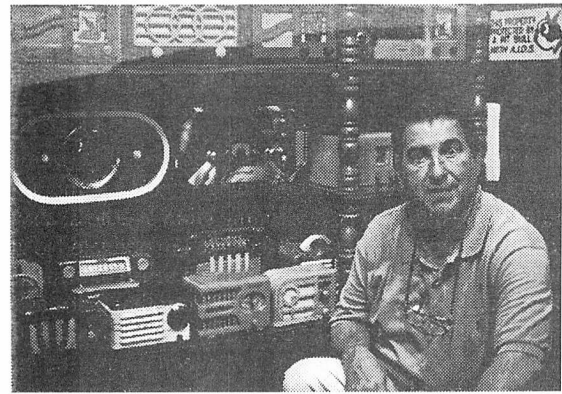
December 8—Cold and sleet produced only 12 members attending. Larry Smith called the meeting to order at 6:45. Announced yearly dues are due in January. Danny Davis thanks all for attending his basement radio sale.

Show and Tell: Philco 60, 1933 - Joe Howell. Philco Mystery Control (refinished by Danny Davis) - Gordon. Old Crow flask (looks like a large transistor radio), WWJ Detroit book, 1922 - Bob Niven. Zenith early FM set, "The Major" - Dave Robison. 1937-vintage periodicals - Steve S.

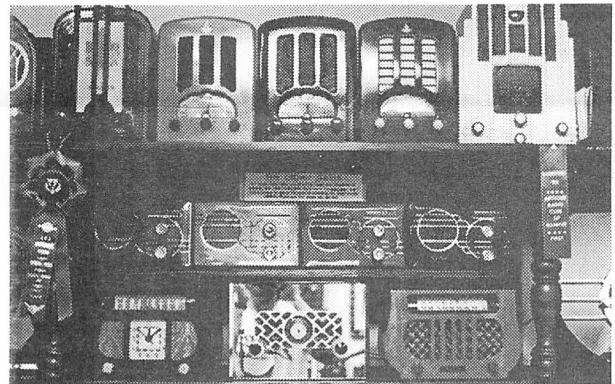
Adjourned —

Support your club!

Meetings each second monday of the month at Picadilly Cafeteria, Holbomb Bridge Road, Norcross, GA. 6:30 P.M.



In October, five SARS members trekked to Kris Gimmy's "mini meet" in South Carolina. Here's Johnny Hubbard, wide-eyed over some of the incredible radios on display.



This is a small portion of Kris Gimmy's awesome collection of rare radios. Too bad the photo's not in color!

An Adventure with a 1941 Lafayette Portable by Blake Hawkins

A few weeks ago, with the prospect of impressing a lady of approximately the same vintage, I took on the restoration of a Lafayette model JS-172, suitcase type, three way portable radio. This is a fairly large machine and weighs 10 pounds without the specified batteries. With them we are talking 16 pounds total. In 1941 you had to have some muscle to carry around a radio. This one has both Standard Broadcast 550 to 1600 Kc/s and Short Wave, 6 to 16 Mc/s.

Of all the types of old radios, my least favorite is the "Three Way Portable." The three ways are AC Power, DC Power, and Batteries. There are several reasons not to like these radios:

- 0 The tubes are very fragile and expensive.
- 1 One misstep and you can instantly blow the entire set of tubes.
- 2 In most of them the wiring and other parts are packed in very tight spaces making component replacement difficult.
- 3 They are high maintenance radios; battery tube life is much shorter than for AC.
- 4 Many, even at their best, don't perform as well as table radios.
- 5 Because of the requirement for filament voltage and high plate voltages, batteries were and are expensive.

If you are a radio collector, then you understand that sometimes emotion takes precedence over logic.

Now, let's get started on the radio:

The tube line up is:

- 0 35Z5GT Rectifier
- 1 50L6GT Power Amplifier for AC and DC
- 2 3Q5GT Power Amplifier for Battery Power
- 3 1A7GT Converter/Local Oscillator
- 4 1N5GT RF Amplifier
- 5 1N5GT IF Amplifier
- 6 1H5GT Detector/1st audio amplifier

It has a loop antenna for standard broadcast and an external antenna connection for short wave. There is a 3-gang tuning condenser, and the inside of the back cover contains instructions for operating the radio, as well as a diagram of the batteries needed and their placement in the cabinet. It used some fairly large batteries, a 1.5-volt Eveready #741 for the filaments and two 45-volt Eveready #762s for the plate supply. There was no diagram of this model to be found in either the Supreme or Rider's books. Several references were used, including an RCA Tube Manual, some text books and Rider's Volume XIII. This radio has a large lever switch located on the rear of the chassis to enable either AC-DC or Battery operation. When on AC, the battery tube filaments (less the 3Q5GT) are in series and the 6 volts to operate them are taken from the cathode of the 50L6GT. Heater power for the 50L6GT and the 35Z5GT comes directly from the AC power line through a large dropping resistor, which gets very hot.

Of special concern is the filament power circuit. Since this voltage is derived from the audio output tube, its accuracy depends upon the health of the 50L6GT. Anything, such as an internal short, which could cause the tube to draw more current, would increase the voltage drop across the cathode resistor thus raising the voltage on the battery tubes — yes it could blow the whole string.

There was some under-chassis evidence of poor service work and the 1000-ohm resistor connected to the cathode pin of the 50L6GT was newer than other resistors, a definite red flag. The existing filter capacitor for the low-voltage supply was a 30/50-mfd, 150-volt electrolytic — absolutely not the proper replacement for the 100-mfd, 25-volt unit usually found. It was defective and replaced with a modern 100-mfd 35-volt unit. More in line with current design practice would be to use a 100-mfd, 16-volt electrolytic, as the voltage across it is only 6 volts. After the initial tube and safety checks, the radio was powered up. Monitoring the voltage to the filaments with a digital voltmeter showed slightly over seven volts, and each of the 4 tubes had almost 2 volts where the voltage should be 1.5 tops. Well, the radio works like that, but tube life will be considerably shortened unless something is done.

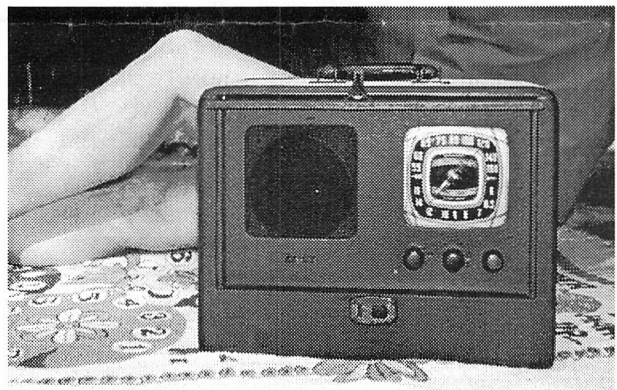
Determined to put things right, I pulled all the battery tubes out (after first unplugging the radio, of course) and in their place clipped in a 1200-ohm, 1-watt resistor to serve as a load on

the power supply while I adjusted it. The target voltage was 5.6. I reduced the value of the 50L6GT cathode resistor in steps, and finally at 220 ohms, I had 5.62 volts. Replacing the tubes showed that I had achieved 1.4 volts, or slightly less, across the filaments. In the usual table radio application, the 50L6GT cathode runs between 7 and 8 volts. In portable radios of this type that is reduced to 6 volts.

Having two output tubes allows the portable radio to have regular table radio sound and volume when using house current yet conserve power when running on batteries. Some three-way portables use the battery output tube only, which gives much lower volume because the 3Q5GT can only put out about 250 milliwatts versus 2 watts from the 50L6GT. The design utilizing both tubes gives optimum performance in each operational mode.

The cathode resistor has been adjusted, but what about the 50L6GT? Will the voltage stay constant as the tube ages ... what if we change tubes? The answer is: the voltage changes depending upon the condition of the tube. I tried three other tubes in this radio and each gave a different voltage. The maximum was 1.62 volts across each 1.5-V tube filament and the minimum was 1.35. The conclusion is, if you replace the power tube in a radio that is wired this way, be sure to check the voltages and adjust the cathode resistor if necessary.

The plate voltages were a bit off too. I read 117 volts on the RF, IF and Converter Tubes and 53 volts on the 1st audio tube. The tube manual says the battery tubes operate normally with 90 volts, and the maximum is 110. The "B" voltage comes off the cathode of the 35Z5GT, and is filtered by pi network consisting of a 30/50-mfd, 150-volt electrolytic and a choke. The voltage at the input of the filter is 131. The output is 117, and that feeds all the tubes. With a little more measurement and some Ohms Law calculations it turns out that a 5600-ohm resistor should give me 90 volts for the three tubes in the front end. A one-watt unit was in stock, so it was installed and everything was working in the correct voltage range.



This is a radio only a collector could love. After some repairs and circuit improvements (see text), it works better than new.

The first audio tube usually has about 45 volts on the plate; as the voltage here was 53, I just left it alone. The 50L6GT was happy with its 117 volts. Next, the set's other resistors were checked and all were OK. Not so with the tubular capacitors. Some had been replaced, but four of them were still original, and they looked and tested pretty bad. Three of the caps were mounted to the RF Amplifier tube socket which was covered by the oscillator coil. That had to be removed for the repair. The original condensers were marked only with a part number. No manufacturer's name, no value. Fortunately, Rider's Volume XIII had a "Lafayette" section and had noted the part numbers on the radio diagrams next to the actual values. Lucky shot, that.

Six condensers later, the radio is again powered up and is working. A little touch up on the Intermediate Frequency Transformers improved performance slightly. The dial calibration was good so none of the oscillator trimmers needed adjustment. A listening test showed that there was no reception below 650 Kc/s. The general test for the quality of the converter/oscillator tube in battery portables is performance on the low end of the broadcast band. If it works down there with a filament voltage of 1.1 volts then you have a good tube. When the voltages were high the original tube worked OK, but now its age was showing. Another 1A7-GT fixed the problem and we now have a properly operating 1941 model portable radio.

On the broadcast band, selectivity and sensitivity are quite good and there are stations all over the dial both day and night. The shortwave performance is only fair. For any shortwave at all, you must add an external antenna. There are both antenna and ground terminals for this hookup. I operated it with a 10-foot piece of wire, and it would pull in the major broadcasters in the 49-meter band and some of them in the 31-meter band at night. In the morning, 16 and 25 meters were active, but only about 5 stations total. With a proper outdoor shortwave antenna, it should be OK.

The real test was a backyard picnic with the lady friend. With '40s music from WGKA playing, during a late Summer Sunday afternoon, a pleasant time was had by all.

References: "Ryder's Perpetual Service Manual Volume XIII", John F. Ryder Publisher, 1942
"RCA Receiving Tube Manual," Technical Series RC 16, RCA Tube Department, 1950
"Elements of Radio Servicing," Marcus and Levy, McGraw-Hill, 1955
"Servicing Portable Receivers," Text 43 B, National Radio Institute, 1957

Restoring Old TVs by Marty Reynolds

Old TVs: Don't be frightened, don't be bashful, don't be scared — be prepared. - T. Lehrer

Introduction

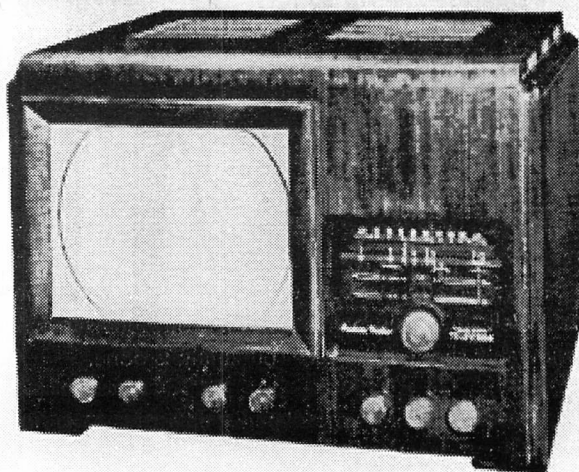
Friends have hounded me for keepsake TV overhauls for several years. And if they'd bring the chassis & CRT/deflection assemblies over to my house, I've occasionally melted. I'm one of the optimist types that believes that if the major trouble areas are corrected, then because of wide original design margins, the thing will work like hell for years. In fact it will get better as service heat drives out moisture. But fixing what's wrong demands some very direct troubleshooting and a little understanding of how things work.

Part 1, an optimist's idea of B&W TV operation

A TV is a critter whose parts count precludes the complete capacitor change-out process (unless you can afford to send it to a NYC 'lab' that charges \$500-\$650 for this as starters). But how do you know what's wrong in there? Well, first it's necessary to know a TV is a radio that receives four signals at once:

- i. AM (SSB) video
- ii. Horizontal sync pulses at approx. 15750 kHz
- iii. Vertical sync spikes at approx. 60 Hz
- iv. FM sound on a separate carrier 4.5 MHz above the picture carrier

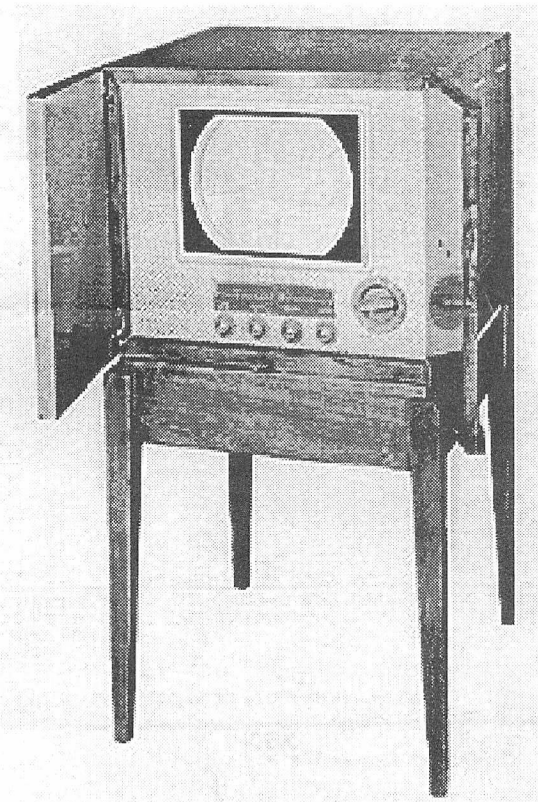
The TV's tuner brings in the VHF or UHF signals, converts the selected one to a 21- or 43-MHz IF, peels part off into a 4.5-MHz ratio detector for FM sound & either diode or grid-leak (power) detects the video AM. (Power detection, shades of an American Bosch TRF!)



The video AM signal path has two RC or LRC filters to bandpass filter the sync pulses. These are amplified. The filter/amplifier pairs are each called "sync separators." And it's their outputs that are used to *stop* either the horizontal or vertical oscillator every cycle. These circuits are called "blocking oscillators" in ole-timey books, and it's this "stop-then-go" property that allows picture synchronization. Simple and neat, huh?

The vertical oscillator feeds the vertical amplifier, which is coupled to the deflection coils (or plates, in an electrostatic set). The horizontal oscillator goes into, say, a 6BG6G horizontal output amplifier that's connected to the primary of the high-voltage transformer (flyback) and in series with a husky diode (the "damper") that prevents negative pulses from the from feeding back into the horizontal output tube. From there, B+ goes through the horizontal yoke coils for deflection. When things get going in the horizontal department, the inductive kicks in the flyback primary will boost the B+ and get rectified by the damper. How clever. (Does this sound like "Dem Bones?" Flyback bone connected to the damper bone, damper bone connected to the yoke bone, etc.)

The above, which I hope wasn't gibberish, only applies to magnetic deflection sets. Electrostatic sets just couple the horizontal sync through an RC network to the right deflection plate set.



Part 2, a fixer-upper: '49 Admiral 12X12 case study

This section will provide an example that shows some fast de-bug and restoration tricks:

- i. current-limited "pre-juicing" the circuits to re-form electrolytics and indict shorted/leaky paper or mica caps
- ii. using Scotchbrite to polish contacts
- iii. the usual non-necessity of a "line-up"
- iv. some neat parts-reduction circuit tricks

The subject Admiral TV rolled out of my debris studio recently. The cabinet was very nice, but the inside ... *ugh*. I bet this thing ran for 20 years before retirement — one Admiral tube was left with almost no emission.

EMT work commenced by pulling all the tubes except the 5U4, whose B+ connection was then seriesed with a 20-kilohm wirewound resistor between it and the rest of the circuit, to "bring the caps back" and identify the bad paper ones. A dud electrolytic can section showed right up and was disconnected. Then a series of hi-leakage caps emerged — evidenced by odd drops across resistors, etc. Changing those out brought it to power-up time some two hours after start.

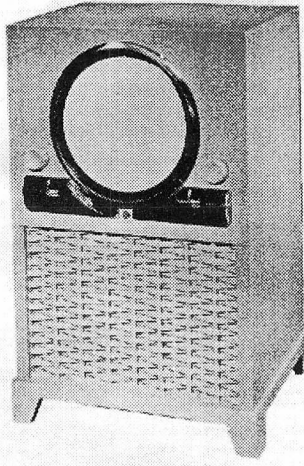
Note: You can jumper the plate & cathode of the damper diode to "snoop out" the 15-kHz paper-capacitor group downstream toward the horizontal output! Bad stuff is often there too ... and that capacitor group, together with the yoke and flyback primary inductance controls magnetic decay in the yoke, and hence the sweep width.

Then I pulled the series wirewound resistor and the damper jumper, re-tubed with original tested tubes (duds marked with a red pen), and shot it Georgia Power. It worked right away! The sensitivity was awful, and picture linearity and sync stability were poor though.

Detailing time. I substituted OK used tubes for obvious no-emission examples. The poor stability and bad linearity were due to bad capacitors in the vertical oscillator feedback / vertical amplifier coupling circuitry. Change-out got it in OK shape. Clean-up did wonders for the set's appearance too.

But the standard coil tuner was touchy, and carbon tet (real stuff) only stupidly soaked everything. This thing was so old there wasn't even a tuner bottom cover, so then came Scotchbrite. It took only five minutes to pretty-up all 12 channels worth of "dual strips / contact buttons."

Total time spent was 14 hours over three nights, plus six



paper caps, five tubes, one electrolytic, and 10 cc of 10W30 to neutralize mouse pee corrosion (MPC) all over the chassis. Though I have a sweep generator, and waveforms from the Sams folder, no alignment was required — so slug tweakers take note! The whole set's now rock solid and probably ready for years of service in a 1950s retro bar — or until the 12LP4 picture tube goes out.

In summary, don't turn your back on grandma's TV. You can at least get it going one night right after dinner this way using this simple, proper technique! That's less time than is needed to "shotgun replace" all the parts in an All American Five table radio. And give grocery store Scotchbrite a chance on silver contacts!

A Post-Script

There sure were some neat circuit tricks in this thing. Two examples: The 6AS6 audio output tube is also a series regulator for all the IF and RF tubes. The focus coil is used as a choke (like a speaker field coil), spanned by a wirewound potentiometer that's the focus control. You gotta respect the competitive design process.

Dont miss the ...
SARS Spring Meet
Saturday, March 14, 1998
Dawn till Noon
 Outside, in the rear parking lot at
 The Fairfield Inn
 11385 Haynes Bridge Road
 Alpharetta, GA 30004
 (770)663-4000
 Rooms are available at \$50/night plus tax.
 Mention the SARS Spring Meet.

How to Drive a Collector to Drink — a Non-Collector's Guide

by John Hagman

Part I - Describing and Pricing

Those of you who have a old tube radio kicking around the hall closet should know: All of these are really valuable! Collectors want to snap up your cracked and non-working GE clock radios for hundreds of dollars! So here are some guidelines for the non-collector on describing and pricing old radios.

1) Go to the nearest antique store, and see what they get for a restored, guaranteed Philco cathedral. Even better, talk to a friend who knows a friend who heard of a guy who gets \$600 for them. Take 60% of that as your price for any radio old enough to use tubes, figuring yours needs a few "touches" and that ought to be the right adjustment.

2) Here's a guide to condition descriptions. Strict use of these is particularly important if you live far, far up a dirt road and are selling an old console requiring pick-up.

a) Good condition. This means there is still enough veneer and unruined metal left to identify it as a radio.

b) Very good condition. No tubes but no rust on chassis. Dial missing, cap plates bent. Cat used grille for scratching post 1974-1990. Most veneer still glued down. Plastic radios with no holes larger than one inch.

c) Excellent condition. Has all tubes. Hums but no stations, smell of burning plastic, makes crackling sound in chassis. Has most of the original knobs. Veneer still shiny, brush marks OK.

d) Mint condition. Still works.

3) Always set your reserve price on [the Internet auction service] eBay really high — at least \$100.

4) Since no one you know has a radio like yours, always describe it as "rare and unusual." "Antique" means old enough that your family did not have one new.

5) For date of manufacture, look on the most obvious label — where it says "Patents." Find the oldest date and use that one (usually 1925-33). Don't look at the newer dates on there — they're just extra ones.

6) When taking photos for eBay, make sure they are fuzzy and from far away. Make sure you get the best angle and any holes, missing back, etc. aren't visible.

There. Now you're well on your way to turning that household clutter into gold. Thanks, and good luck!

Part II of a continuing series of articles exploring the ins and outs of radio collecting for the non-collector. In today's story my friend

Radio John put his months of collecting experience to work for regular folk. Here's his advice.

When you have old radios for sale, and a prospective buyer calls, be sure to have the radio's "pedigree" available. This is a history of what this radio has meant to your family, how Ann Emma used to listen to John Gambling as she was making her trademark sugar cookies, the decor of every room it has been a part of since 1938, etc. Collectors are fascinated to hear as explicit and detailed a story as possible. It would be best to type it out as well so that it can be enclosed in the radio's cabinet for future historians.

Beware of radios with sketchy or incomplete histories. A woman in a spooky old Victorian house with 40 cats sold me a Majestic 666 "Ritz" console for \$100 — which seemed like a steal per the Bunis price guide. When I got it home and brought it up on the Variac, it even worked fine. But when I checked all the capacitor and resistor values, they're all .0666 or .0033 or 99.9 or something! The B voltage for the tubes is 333 volts. And sometimes when I'm laying on the couch nearly dozing, I swear I keep hearing barely audible newsmen saying "Oh, the humanity — Oh this is terrible!" or "...was violently and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces..." or "The president's motorcade was fired upon this afternoon in Dallas..." Now I'm thinking of putting it on eBay 5-day auction — or hiring a radio exorcist. Maybe this is like the Hope diamond of home appliances.

I have prepared genealogy charts for all my radios. If you visit the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City, they have Rider's Manuals going back to the 17th century and church records from Europe that go back before then. This is how I found out my family heirloom crystal set came over on the Mayflower. It's so old the cat's whisker is from a real cat. My GE K-62 was hand soldered by General Electric himself! And I have an Automatic table radio so old it's a manual. So know your radios' family trees. It's what makes a boring old piece of junk a valuable collectible!

"Cat" Lynn Styrene
790 Fada Lane
East Bakelite, Vermont

Taken from the rec.antiques.radio+phono Internet newsgroup. Used with the author's permission.

SARS 1998 Show and Tell Schedule

- January:** 'Q' and/or 'R' radios (Quidley, Remler, R.C.A., etc.)
- February:** Radios without vacuum tubes
- March:** 'S' radios (Setchell-Carlson, Stewart-Warner, Stromberg-Carlson, etc. Even radios without hyphenated brand names, like Silvertone, are welcome.)
- April:** Non-radio antiques (like phonographs, watches, etc.)
- May:** 'T,' 'U,' 'V,' and/or 'W' radios (Trav-Ler, Wilcox-Gay, etc.)
- June:** Radio paper and paraphernalia
- July:** 'X,' 'Y,' and/or 'Z' radios (like Zephyr, etc.)
- August:** Repair and diagnostic equipment (tube checkers, voltmeters, signal generators, etc.)
- September:** 'A' radios (like Atwater Kent, Addison, etc.)
- October:** Your favorite radio bought at the SARS Fall swapmeet
- November:** The newest (most recent vintage) radio in your collection
- December:** Anything goes month!

CLASSIFIED ADS

Free to SARS members

FOR TRADE: 1946 FADA Bullet 1000. Butterscotch with original parts. No cracks or hairlines. Radio plays. Has NOS cloth covered AC cord and Kris Gimmy made dial lens. Uses older All-American 5 lineup (12SK, etc.)... Will trade for an R-390 military receiver. No junk please. Charlie Milton, 505 Sampson Dr. Frankfort, Ky. 40601. Tel: (502) 695-0819. E-mail: cemilton@aol.com.

WANTED: Arvin tube shields. They are cylindrical metal, with spring tabs that fit into slots in the chassis. See a picture on the web at <http://jpelham.home.mindspring.com/617shiel.htm>. John Pelham, 1185 Bend Creek Trail, Suwanee, GA 30024. (770) 476-0473. E-mail: jpelham@mindspring.com.

WANTED: Any information on "Tradio" coin-operated radio; not in any of my books. Especially would like a schematic and data on the coin mechanism (which does not work - if you have a spare, super). Joe Howell. 770-729-8428.

FOR SALE: Six tabletop radios in fair condition. Most power up, but none work. Good restoration projects, or parts sources. Tube list for each available. Will consider trade for console unit(s) or "wanted" items listed below. Philco Transitone, late 40's (48-214?), ok case, bad cord & grille cloth, 5 tubes, \$20.00. Philco 42-321, ok case, bad grille cloth, \$20.00. ULT Regal Radyne, Early 50's? A mess! Good for parts only, \$10.00 obo. Philco 49-1405, lift-top lid w/ inner phono, no power or sound, case ok w/ some nicks and scratches. Phono decent, \$30.00. RCA Victor 9-x-571, slide rule cracked, missing right knob with bad backboard and cord. Case ok, upper "bull horn" louvres, \$30.00. Zenith 6-D-612, 1942 brown plastic portable with handle, wrap-around grill bars, 2 knobs, 6 tubes, \$30.00. J.B. Lightfoot, 284 Alexander Road, Ringgold, GA 30736, (H) 706-965-7947 (W) 423-266-7335. E-mail: j.b.lightfoot@worldnet.att.net.

WANTED: Consoles of all makes, models, shapes and sizes. Especially interested in distressed, CHEAP, Philco 1200 through 1700 series circa 1946-53. Double door units and center door models preferred. If they are missing electronics, I will consider them. Your throwaway junk is my project! Also horizontal hi-fi stereo consoles of the 50's and 60's, atomic-age furniture, Grundig tabletops, victrolas and tube-amps also wanted. J.B. Lightfoot, 284 Alexander Road, Ringgold, GA 30736, (H) 706-965-7947 (W) 423-266-7335. E-mail: j.b.lightfoot@worldnet.att.net.

WANTED: Special reversed volume control for RCA T80 (Bunis 3rd edition p. 202). RCA part no. 33512. I'll buy an RCA RC416 radio or chassis to get this part. Also used in model T64 and T65. John Pelham, 1185 Bend Creek Trail, Suwanee, GA 30024. (770) 476-0473. E-mail: jpelham@mindspring.com.

WANTED: Radios for my collection: Zenith models 811, 835, 5R317 or 6D317, 12S267. Emerson 613A or 645 plastic "fantenna" portable. Coronado 43-8160 (small bakelite with center round dial). John Pelham, 1185 Bend Creek Trail, Suwanee, GA 30024. (770) 476-0473. E-mail: jpelham@mindspring.com.

SOUTHEASTERN ANTIQUE RADIO SOCIETY

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