



ARCI NEWS

www.antique-radios.org

Affiliated AWA
Antique Wireless Association 

Volume 43, Issue 5
OCTOBER 2022



ARCI CALENDAR

EVENT	LOCATION	DAY & DATE	TIME
Swap Meet	American Legion	Sunday, October 2, 2022	7:30am
Virtual Forum	Your Computer	Saturday, November 19, 2022	10:00am
Swap Meet	American Legion	Sunday, December 4, 2022	7:30 am

American Legion Hall Meetings are located at:

Post 76
570 S Gary Ave
Carol Stream, IL 60188

About ARCI Virtual Forum video sessions

10 AM to 11:30 AM Central time, check-in starts: 9:45 AM Central Time Generally held on the 3rd Saturday in non-summer months

Agenda items (subject to change)

History
Tips & Tricks
Technical
How-to's
Show & Tell
Items for sale
Open chat session

To find out more, email: remote-events@antique-radios.org



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WELCOME TO ARCI

Visit ARCI on the WEB

Website: www.antique-radios.org

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/ARCI.org>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEyMw9QGrcquC1vZBvHWbQ>

Join ARCI

<http://www.antique-radios.org/membershipinfo.html>

-or-

Use the application in this newsletter

Leadership

President	Tom Kleinschmidt
Vice President	Tom Zaczek
Treasurer	Rudy Hecker
Secretary	Jay Stewart
Membership	Elaine Hecker
Radiofest chair	Steve Muchow
Director on-line events	Matt Pollack
ARCI News editor	Maureen Blevins

Contact ARCI

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 630-739-1060



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 Antique Radio Club of Illinois is a registered non-profit in the state of Illinois.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October, 2022



Radiofest 2022

Good news - no rain! Bad news - 104° temperature humidity index for the Saturday swap meet. We were 24 hours away from rain as both Sunday and Monday were wet days.

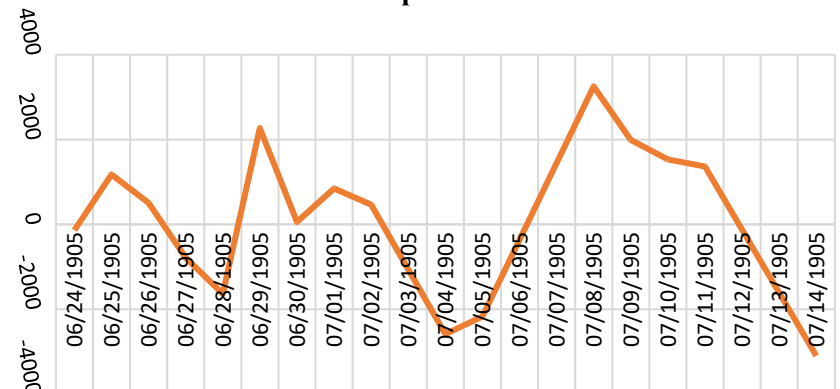
Lots of happy faces and everyone looked to be heat smart staying hydrated and air conditioned. It was great to see many of you at our annual quest to bask in electrons.

Financially we strive to break even. Over the last 20 years we have averaged break even status – see chart. This year we lost money. We keep an adequate financial reserve, so the club covered the loss.

2022 Radiofest financial overview

Revenue: \$11508
 Expenses: -\$14606
 Loss: -\$ 3099

Radiofest profit or loss



2002	(\$137)	2010	\$464
2003	\$1,175	2012	(\$2,588)
2004	\$506	2013	(\$2,171)
2005	(\$784)	2016	\$3,250
2006	(\$1,638)	2017	\$1,990
2007	\$2,267	2018	\$1,531
2008	\$57	2019	\$1,362
2009	\$845	2022	(\$3,099)

The Shriners facility is the main cost item. Being in the metropolitan area, nice venues are not cheap. The main auction is the determiner of profit or loss. Income

from swap meet spaces, donation sales, banquet and so on are important but do not vary as widely as the main auction revenue.

For an overview of the auction see Nick Tillich's report, and on *Radiofest* see Steve Muchow's report. I genuinely appreciate all the effort by Steve and his team to pull-off a well-organized and fun event.

ARCI Website

Periodically we contact everyone on the resource page to verify their information and desires. This round, some have moved on to other endeavors and some have joined in. The goal is to keep this information up to date and viable for club members and the general public. The phone and email requests to the club are evenly split between people looking to get a set repaired and sell or value a set. These resources are important.

The resources page on the ARCI website has distinct categories:

DOCUMENTATION & HISTORY – NEW!!

RADIO & TV REPAIR

PARTS

VALUATION, SALES, DONATIONS, REFERRALS

I really encourage you to explore the links under Documentation and History as there is loads of useful information in both World Radio history and Radio Museum websites.

Here is the link, check it out!

http://www.antique-radios.org/resourcelinks_new.html

A huge thank you to Jim Rajkovic, ARCI's web guru, for the fine job updating this page.

Wrap up

As always if you have a comment or suggestion call 630-739-1060 or email clubinfo@antique-radios.org

See you at the local October swap meet – details inside the front cover.

Tom Kleinschmidt
President
Antique Radio Club of Illinois



ARCI UPDATES

RADIOFEST 2022

photos by Daniel Schoo and Steve Muchow



Brent Jessee



Daniel Schoo with Zenith Royal D7000Y2 TransOceanic



Mary Johnson (l)
Elaine Hecker (r)



Rare DeForest double wing Audion



Steve Bartkowski (left)





Bill Ross Memorial Ham Forum – *“Signals and Noise – a Century of Receiver Innovation”*
 – Guest speaker and author Bob Nickels W9RAN

“Setting Up a Workbench for Repairing & Restoring Vintage Audio Equipment and Antique Radios”
 – Resident audio aficionado Pete Nauseda





The world's most unusual phone answering machine

It has a wire recorder on the top to record incoming messages. It has a 45 RPM record player on the bottom for the outgoing message. It's all stuffed into a carry case with exposed electronics, no nameplate, and it looks entirely homemade. I'd say that was as unusual as it gets.



Karl Johnson



Here is a link to more photos on the club website. <http://www.antique-radios.org/pictures.html>

The RADIOFEST 2022 REPORT

by Steve Muchow, RADIOFEST Chair

A SUCCESSFUL RADIOFEST 2022

Radiofest 2022 is in the books! As anticipated, it was a great event, with the lineup of activities closely following those of past *Radiofests*. Therefore, rather than grinding through an hour-by-hour synopsis of activities, I'd like to offer my thoughts on a few items that were different this year and how the club responded to incorporate changes. As we know, change is often difficult to deal with and the goal is to give everyone a great experience. If you attended *Radiofest* this year, hopefully you found the following changes to be positive ones.

Needless to say, the past 2 years totally upended plans for in-person ARCI meets including *Radiofests* for 2020 and 2021. The addition of our on-line virtual forums during that time greatly eased the situation by re-establishing contact with fellow collectors. It takes months to put together the many elements of a *Radiofest* such as venue, meals, hotel, educational programs, rental items, public relations/advertising, official city approval, website information and volunteers. Early planning for *Radiofest 2022* was tempered by the fact that Illinois county-wide Covid numbers were still fluid and the unanswered question was "will we be back to 'normal' in August and able to hold the event?" After discussions with the Shriners, the hotel, club officers and volunteers, we decided to move ahead.

Several key changes in the club had occurred since *Radiofest 2019* (our previous *Radiofest*) that needed to be addressed for *Radiofest 2022*. For instance, our registration process for decades was based on the use of the USPS (mail). The popularity of mail, fading as an optimal process, had worked well due to a dedicated crew of individuals driven by ARCI's Judy and Ed Huether. Unfortunately, after Judy passed away we were confronted with the logistics for *Radiofest 2022*, and were reminded of the extent of her knowledge and dedication. We also realized that this was the opportunity to 'streamline' the registration process. Tom Kleinschmidt drove the effort to establish an on-line process with the capability of retaining a mail-in registration form if desired. On-line registration was encouraged by offering price perks. Mail-in registration forms were also revised and the registration process was smoothly assumed by Elaine Hecker and Mary Johnson. Overall response to the new flexible registration was great.

Another decades-old *Radiofest* "tradition" was to assign specific parking spaces to each seller. Again, Judy and Ed would manage this each year based on pre-registration form requests. Each parking space was marked with chalk prior to the swap meet for sellers to identify their reserved spots. The club realized early on that ARCI no longer has the resources to manage assigned parking. However, we agreed that the Shriners parking lot is so large that, unlike some previous host locations, assigned parking is not needed. So it was decided to change to a "first-come-first-served" parking location process. The viability of this process was confirmed on Saturday morning as the swap meet area was busy... but not

wall-to-wall crowded. Sellers overwhelmingly endorsed un-assigned parking as many met up with friends and sold together as a group.

Educational presentations are always held inside the Shriners facility and have consistently been very well attended. So much so that the 50 person limit in the assigned room at previous *Radiofests* typically was exceeded, resulting in a standing room only situation. This year we utilized a larger room with seating for 80 people to provide more “elbow room” and also to allow for better “social distancing”. Two excellent presentations were given this year - both well-attended. The new seating arrangement coupled with a great A/V system proved to be successful.

Due to the extreme heat in the sellers’ parking lot, many were packing up prior to the donation auction and sellers’ raffle. There are several simultaneous activities on Saturday afternoon, and we will be looking into ways to better address the scheduling of these activities.

The Friday Night Auction is one of ARCI’s key attractions and we decided to keep the format pretty much unchanged from the very successful event in 2019. Most of the same volunteers returned this year, including ace auctioneer Jim Sargent. Jim, along with the crew assembled by John Stone and Nick Tillich, again drove us through the evening with another exciting auction. Auction attendance was a bit down from 2019 which was not unexpected given the two-year *Radiofest* hiatus and collectors still easing their way back into the hobby. However, attendees comfortably filled the ballroom and it was a great event! Please see the “ABOUT THE RADIOFEST AUCTION – 2022” page provided by Nick Tillich for details. Thanks to Nick for providing this information and Thanks to Chuck Keysor for providing auction photos.

Once again, those who attended the Saturday evening banquet were treated to a delicious meal and an opportunity to unwind from the past two days and compare notes with fellow collectors. I highly recommend including that as one of the “must attend” *Radiofest* events.

On a final note, I just want to thank all of the volunteers who shared the commitment to make *Radiofest 2022* a success. It’s mind-boggling to consider the number of e-mails and phone calls flying back and forth during the past year. It worked, and to you all ... THANK YOU!!

At the close of each *Radiofest*, ARCI compiles a list of what worked well and what needs to be improved for the next *Radiofest*. We have already begun this list and are planning for *Radiofest 2023*! What was your experience like at *Radiofest 2022*? ARCI always welcomes your thoughts! Contact us at: 630-739-1060 or clubinfo@antique-radios.org.

Steve Muchow, Radiofest Chair

About the Radiofest Auction - 2022

Statistics compiled by Nick Tillich

Here are some key statistics from the 2022 *Radiofest* auction. 103 people representing 19 states participated in the auction this year, which is down from the 135 who participated in 2019. We had 46 individuals who consigned lots, slightly down from the 53 in 2019 (59 in 2018). We had 201 lots consigned, which was a 19% decrease from the 249 lots in 2019 (292 lots in 2018). Despite a late start, the lower lot count allowed us to finish the auction by 10:06PM.

The average sale price was \$213, down from \$260 in 2019 but up from \$170 in 2018.

128 of the 201 lots consigned this year sold. That means there were 73 no-sale lots this year, a no-sale rate of 36%, up from 29% in 2019 (31.5% in 2018). Of the no-sale lots, 39 were radios, 23 were stereo, and 4 were test equipment. The remainder of no sale items were either microphones, magazines, speakers, or phonographs.

The total sales were \$27,260, down 41% from 2019. Here’s how those figures compare with the past 9 years:

Year	Total Sales
2022	\$27,260
2019	\$46,045
2018	\$34,050
2017	\$35,885
2016	\$32,900
2015	\$24,705
2014	\$37,783
2013	\$26,480
2012	\$25,300
2011	\$16,400

Compared to 2019, the percentage of items below \$50 grew slightly, as did the percentage of items above \$250.

The total price of the top 15 priced lots was \$11,750, down from \$22,475 in 2019, and \$12,625 in 2018. ARCI’s donation lots brought in an additional \$205 for the club.

Hammer Price	Lots Sold 2022	Lots Sold 2019	Lots Sold 2018
\$500 or higher	15 (12%)	20 (11%)	15 (7%)
\$250 ~ \$499	21 (16%)	24 (14%)	22 (11%)
\$100 ~ \$249	36 (28%)	58 (33%)	57 (28%)
\$50 ~ \$99	30 (23%)	45 (25%)	46 (23%)
Less than \$50	26 (20%)	30 (17%)	60 (30%)

Top 15 Lots	Hammer Price
Emerson EP-375 5+1 Catalin Radio (red)	\$1,500
Altec 639A Microphone	\$1,200
Western Electric 754A Speaker	\$1,000
Studer A810 Reel to Reel	\$1,000
1936 Zenith 12A58 Console Radio	\$800
1938 Emerson Mickey Mouse Radio	\$800
1970's Pioneer SX980 Receiver	\$725
NESCO BC-98B 1924 Military Receiver	\$700
1918 Deforest BC-14A Crystal Radio	\$625
Sentinel 284NA Catalin Radio	\$600
1953 Zenith R 520URR Military Transoceanic Radio	\$600
1923 Kennedy 110/525 2 Stage Amplifier	\$600
Truetone D712 Egyptian Radio	\$600
Emerson Catalin Radio EP-375	\$500
Hickok 580 Tube Tester	\$500

ARCI 2022 SOLD Lot List

Lot # Sell Price Lot Name

110-3	\$625	1918 Deforest BC-14A Crystal Radio
110-2	\$600	1923 Kennedy 110/525 2 Stag Amplifier
101-4	\$200	1923 Western Electric, Ltd. 44001 Crystal Receiver
106-3	\$350	1924 Atwater Kent 19
110-1	\$400	1924 Federal 59
136-4	\$450	1924 Kennedy 3
112-1	\$400	1930 Jesse French Queen Anne Console
117-1	\$25	1930's Atwater Kent 84 Grandfather Clock
107-5	\$25	1930's Stewart Warner
107-6	\$25	1930's Zenith 807? Floor Model
107-7	\$100	1930's Zenith Chair Side Swall
106-7	\$220	1931 Atwater Kent Model 90
135-1	\$50	1931 General Motors Radio 281
135-2	\$110	1933 RCA 121
122-2	\$250	1934 Fada 262G
114-1	\$800	1936 Zenith 12A58
112-4	\$300	1936 Zenith 5S29 Tombstone

107-2	\$65	1937-38 Zenith 6S223 Radio
136-1	\$800	1938 Emerson Mickey Mouse
112-3	\$300	1938 Zenith 5S228 Tombstone
112-6	\$325	1939 Simplex MT
112-8	\$275	1940 General Electric L570 Catalin Radio
108-2	\$500	1945 Emerson Catalin Radio EP-375
108-1	\$325	1949 Majestic Coca-Cola Tube AM Radio
108-4	\$40	1949 RCA 45x1 Boxed Radio
108-3	\$80	1950 Packard Bell SP 201A Boxed 5 Tube
108-8	\$45	1950/1960 Philmore & Remco Radio Kit & Science Boxed
107-3	\$25	1950's Dumont RA346/RA346 Radios & Covers
107-1	\$80	1950's Hickok 532 Tube Tester
118-3	\$210	1951 Crosley 103-A Orange
106-2	\$600	1953 Zenith R 520URR Military Trans
136-2	\$160	1955 Hickok 539B Tube Tester
136-3	\$475	1957 Fisher 80AZ Power Amplifiers
103-4	\$80	1960's Fedtro INT-2WR 2-Station Intercom w/Baseball Legend
103-5	\$250	1960's Grundig Satellite 5000
108-5	\$65	1970's Pioneer SX525 Boxed Stereo Receiver
120-6	\$725	1970's Pioneer SX980 Receiver
120-3	\$25	1970's Rauland Tax 125A
120-1	\$55	1970's Scott 370R Stereo Receiver
136-5	\$65	2 Boxes w/Tubes (about 60 tubes)
127-2	\$160	Accuphase T-101 FM Tuner
138-3	\$80	Airline 125351
139-1	\$1,200	Altec 639A Microphone
109-1	\$80	American Electric Horn Speaker
102-4	\$160	American Leader Crystal RX w/ORI Shipping Box
127-3	\$20	Antique Radios Collectors Guides (5)
109-2	\$140	Atwater Kent 82 Cathedral
116-2	\$50	Bang & Olufson 5005 Turntable
116-3	\$55	Bang & Olufson 8000 Speakers w/Power Cables
102-7	\$130	Beaver Baby Grand Crystal Set w/Box
145-1	\$450	Bendix 526 Catalin
109-8	\$110	Bristol Horn Speaker w/1 Stage Power Amplifier
102-5	\$150	Brownie #3 Crystal RX Brownie Wireless Co. England
142-1	\$55	Climax Radio

145-2	\$120	Coronado 43-8190 Racetrack
200-2	\$55	Delco 3205 1935
144-8	\$95	Detrola Super Pee Wee 1937
113-3	\$85	Dictograph Speaker DictoGrand R-50
130-2	\$25	EH Scott Nelson Cabinet
113-2	\$35	EH Scott SLRM
132-1	\$400	Eico HF87 and MX99 1963
125-6	\$150	ElectroVoice Aristocrat Loudspeaker
132-2	\$25	ElectroVoice LT-12 NIB
200-1	\$1,500	Emerson EP-375 5plus1 1941 (Catalin)
118-2	\$150	Emerson White Ureq Tombstone
143-1	\$110	Federal 110 1924 TRF battery
119-2	\$40	GE A53 Tombstone
109-3	\$60	General Electric K-64 Cathedral
109-7	\$25	General Electric S-27 Tombstone
102-6	\$160	Get Smart Agent 86 Pen Radio Crystal RX
144-3	\$30	Hallicrafters 1952
143-2	\$120	Heathkit IT-3121 unbuilt
143-3	\$110	Heathkit IT-4244 unbuilt
143-4	\$110	Heathkit IT-5230 unbuilt
139-3	\$200	Hickok 533A
128-4	\$500	Hickok 580 Tube Tester
139-2	\$400	Hickok 580A
113-6	\$50	Horn Speaker
128-3	\$125	International Kadette Jewel
101-3	\$55	Jewett 1925 Coiled Horn
144-5	\$90	Lafayette HA-350 1964
107-4	\$45	Late 20's Pickwick Little Radio
141-3	\$50	Leslie 16 tremolo Speaker
124-1	\$250	Majestic 307 Gothic Console
102-3	\$325	Martian Blair 4 Crystal RX
129-6	\$300	McIntosh C8 Preamp
120-2	\$30	McMartin Lt2000D amp
102-8	\$325	Monarch Gun Radio w/ORI Box Crystal RX
144-2	\$230	Navy Loose Coupler 1912
101-1	\$700	Nesco BC-98B 1924 Military Receiver
127-1	\$25	Philco 200 Console 1934 35

123-2	\$65	Philco 48-861 1948 Tropic
125-1	\$60	Philco 60 Cathedral
131-1	\$25	Prominent 6200 Stereo AM/FM 8Track Clock
130-3	\$25	Radio Books 35to40 Radio TV Collection
138-1	\$55	Radiola III
140-1	\$25	RCA 26 2 units
144-1	\$200	RCA AR1300 RA1400 1921
109-4	\$50	RCA R-4 Cathedral
140-2	\$25	RCA Radiola 25 tabletop with loop and emeter
105-4	\$220	RCA Tuna Boat 1946
101-2	\$210	Saal Eccentric 1925 Cone Speaker
205-1	\$100	Scott Phantom 1938
105-5	\$600	Sentinel 284NA 1946
123-3	\$25	Silvertone Tombstone
144-6	\$25	Sony AMFM tuner circa1970
113-1	\$80	Sparton Shortwave Converter (60)
109-6	\$160	Splitdorf A/C Table Top
138-2	\$25	Sprague TO-5
105-7	\$210	Stewart Warner Dionne Quints
144-4	\$300	Store built breadboard wireless rcvr 1915
126-1	\$50	Stromberg Carlson SR-406 AM FM
139-5	\$1,000	Studen A810
141-1	\$110	Sure S55 Elvis Mic
131-2	\$600	Truetone D712 Egyptian 1937
200-7	\$160	Tubes, 250 (2)
200-3	\$75	Tubes, 2A3 (2)
200-5	\$45	Tubes, 6B4G (4)
200-6	\$150	Tubes, 6L6 (10)
200-4	\$90	Tubes, 7591 (7)
109-5	\$120	Tuska 225 Battery Table Top
129-5	\$1,000	Western Electric 754A 10" speaker reconed
141-4	\$45	Weston Millamp Meter
141-2	\$100	Zenith 10S153 Console
140-3	\$140	Zenith 3R 1923 No Tubes
125-4	\$100	Zenith 7S260 1938
105-2	\$475	Zenith Chrome Clock 1940s
144-7	\$70	Zenith Wood Cabinet AMFM Stereo

ARCI ONLINE

By Tom Zaczek

ARCI VIRTUAL FORUM #22

FORMERLY - ARCI ONLINE MEET

SATURDAY November 19, 2022, 10AM CT

Join in on your computer, pad or phone to be a part of our Virtual Forum Video Meetings. You don't need to be an ARCI member!

New name, same great program! ARCI on-line meet is now ARCI Virtual Forum. There has been some confusion between in-person swap meets and on-line meets. Individuals have gone to the swap meet venue on days of on-line meets, hence the name change in the interest of clarity.

Stay tuned to the emails from ARCI for the registration link for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link required to join the meeting.

IMPORTANT - You need to receive the confirmation email back because this link gets you into the meeting when the time comes. So, if you don't receive the confirmation email it could be that it is in your spam folder.

Reminder: ARCI is now on YouTube. All the prior Online Meets (through May 2022) are available for viewing. You can find the channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEyMw9QGrcquC1vZBvHWbQ>

Check it out! Each video has a "table of contents" (where it says SHOW MORE) beneath the main video window that you can click on and go directly to that topic or presentation, so it's easy to watch just one specific presentation. Visit ARCI's YouTube channel where you can click the free "subscribe" button and get notified when a new video comes out.

AGENDA (may be revised without notice)

9:45 AM – OPTIONAL PRE-MEETING – Time to get logged-in and troubleshoot any access issues.

10:00 AM – Meeting Agenda

- **INTRODUCTION** – *Tom Zaczek*
- **WE'RE ON YOU TUBE** – *Matt Pollack*

- **PRESENTATIONS:** All of the presentations have not been lined up yet for this meet, but this section is where we have several 15-to-25-minute presentations of interest in the areas of radio restoration, company history, and technology, just to name just a few. Let us know if you have an idea for a presentation!
- **SHOW & TELL, TIPS & TECHNIQUES** 1-to-3-minute informal presentation of something you'd like to share with the meeting ... Join in and spend a few minutes to show your item, a helpful tip, radio restoration technique, or how you solved a tough restoration problem.
- **ARCI SWAP MEETS** - An update on the upcoming swap meet and the one we just held
- **ITEMS WANTED----ITEMS FOR SALE**
- If you want to offer something for sale OR see if others have what you're looking for, please use this time to discuss it.
- **OPEN SESSION:** Non-moderated chat session as time permits.

12:00 PM – Close

Planned ARCI Virtual Forum (live on-line) video meets

We have changed the schedule of our meetings! When we started up back in the summer of 2020, there was a whole lot of pandemic and social distancing going on, and very few other radio club activities to take up our time on the weekends. We held these meetings once per month. But what we found out last summer is that we now have more events competing for our precious weekend time as the pandemic has waned. We are going to take the summer off in 2022. Also, in those months where ARCI has an "in person" swap meet, we are not scheduling a video meet.

The November Virtual Forum is the last scheduled meet for 2022! Next year's schedule is to be announced.

Be a presenter!

We have seen so many great presentations this past year by folks that *never* made a presentation before! You can do this! The On-Line meeting team can help you with learning how to make a Power-Point presentation, or prepare some simple photo slides. We can help you dry-run it on Zoom. It's easy!

Share your project and passion with a 10-minute or longer presentation. Send an email to remote-events@antique-radios.org with your topic.

Become a member of ARCI!

These meets are open to everyone interested in antique radio. You do not

need to be a member of ARCI. If you like these meets, your support of the organization is truly appreciated. Please consider joining. Your membership dues help support the club's activities. Please click this link for the membership form: [Antique Radio Club of Illinois \(antique-radios.org\)](http://antique-radios.org) or [membership form editable pdf](#) or use the form on the last page of this newsletter.

I look forward to the upcoming meetings and hope you all get a chance to attend. I encourage you to be a presenter to share your experiences, knowledge, and passions about these old radios!

~ Tom Zaczek

The ARCI Virtual Forum Team: Tom Kleinschmidt, Bill Cohn, Matt Pollack and Tom Zaczek are the ARCI On-Line Meeting Team and can be reached via email at remote-events@antiqueradios.org



Dim Bulb Tester Overview

By Tom Kleinschmidt

A dim bulb tester is a device used to safely power up a radio or other electronic device that is of unknown operating condition to prevent harm to the operator and permanent damage to the radio.

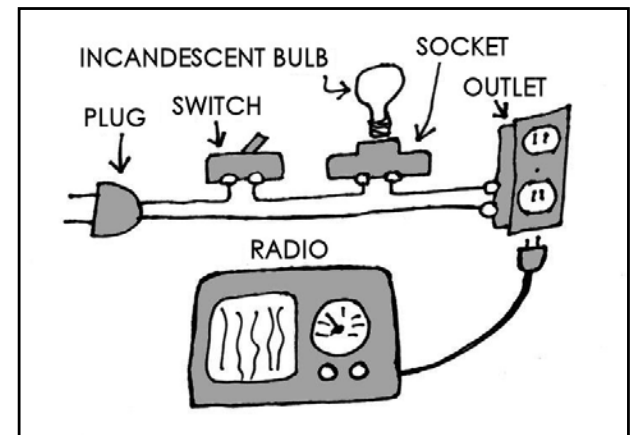


Dim bulb tester - the short explanation¹

In theory, a dim bulb tester probably does a better job of preventing an accidental over-current condition while testing equipment.

The test setup: A light bulb is put in series with the radio. If it lights bright when powered up there is a short in the radio's power supply that must be corrected before proceeding. In normal operation the bulb will glow very dim.

The wattage of the light bulb is determined by the wattage of the radio being tested. The bulb must be around 10% greater to two times the radio's wattage rating. Multiple bulbs can be put in parallel to attain the needed wattage. The bulb must be INCANDESCENT!



It is a big resistor that glows. No other bulb technology will work.

There are many great tutorials on the internet for building and operating dim bulb testers. Here are links to two:

<https://antiqueradio.org/dimbulb.htm>

<https://www.instructables.com/Vintage-Dim-Bulb-Tester/>

Alternate methods to power up unknown condition sets

An isolation transformer does nothing to prevent over-current unless its fused. Even then the fuse has to be in the proper side for the load. It does make a hot chassis radio safer to handle. But that is a different topic for a different article.

Using an Autotransformer as an alternative ¹

A variable autotransformer (Brands : Variac , Powerstat...) can only prevent over-current if the operator is vigilant and monitoring current. An autotransformer with a volt and amp meter is needed.

Method: The operator slowly brings the voltage up while monitoring the current. If the current goes up rapidly or by a lot more than the current rating the operator must cut the power immediately by dialing back the autotransformer rapidly to 0V or switching of AC mains. Typical amperage for an All American five-tube set rated at 60 Watts is less than one Amp. An easy rough calculation for a radio or other load is $\text{Watts/Volts} = \text{Amps}$ in the example above $60 \text{ watts}/120 \text{ Volts} = 0.50 \text{ Amps}$.



Variac variable autotransformer

A dim bulb tester can be made from parts from any home center, hardware store, electrical supply or garage sale. It will keep you and your radio safe.

1. <https://www.antiqueradios.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=312498#:~:text=In%20theory%2C%20a%20dim%20bulb%20tester%20probably%20does,if%20the%20operator%20is%20vigilant%20and%20monitoring%20current.> Or [Antique Radio Forums](#) • [View topic - Put away my dim bulb tester? \(antiqueradios.com\)](#) Post of: Dec Sat 17, 2016 12:00 pm
2. Dim bulb sketch image: <https://antiqueradio.org/dimbulb.htm>
3. GenRad Variac image: <https://www.ebay.ca/itm/Variac-W10MT3A-Autotransformer-Dual-Metered-General-Radio-0-150V-0-10A-/384778871866?hash=item59969ba43a>
4. Dim bulb tester image: <https://www.ebay.com/itm/Dim-Bulb-Tester-DBT-1WS-Current-Limiter/323664602601>

A DOZEN Dim Bulb Testers?

By Don Helgeson

Why would one go to the trouble to conceive, and worse, build a dozen Dim Bulb Testers? I do not know. They just seem to propagate themselves.

It started out simple enough. Just cut the hot lead of an ordinary extension cord and hook a medium base socket in series. OK. Then I got to wiring up a couple of Bud boxes with 150 VAC meters that I picked up at the Saturday morning Bell & Howell employee sale on Touhy & McCormick in Skokie about 25 years ago.



They were calling to me! So I decided to make a Tungar Bulb demo to show at a North West Model Engineers Meeting.

Then I got to thinking - something that I do a lot of these lonely nights since my beloved wife Audrey passed in January - Adding a Dim Bulb Test Circuit is easy.

I converted a box for my son Jim and made up a couple of simple other ones, too. Getting back to the Tungar Bulb Demo device, I added an outboard four inch cast box to the hole where the BX connector is on the side that has an on/off switch, an outlet and a neon pilot lamp. An outside lamp holder fits into one of the 1/2" NP holes and the long cord goes out of another, using the same BX Connector.

The Tungar Bulb unit has a Mogal socket spaced off of the top of the B&H box, along side an intermediate socket. For an indicator bulb a SPDT (three way) switch is on the other side along with a three wire outlet controlled by the Powerstat (variable autotransformer) whose output is indicated by the 4 1/2" Triplet meter that came with the B & H surplus box, long ago.

A little 10 Amp 2.5 Volt transformer seems to light up the Tungar Bulb ok, although it takes a while to glow properly. When the spot switch is thrown to put the Tungar in Series with the indicator bulb, it glows nicely. I use a Gordos "Tungar" Bulb that is mercury filled, looks better to the eye than the Argon Gas filled Tungar

Bulbs. I have tried a 15 amp Tungar Bulb but it heats up the filament transformer, so I do not turn that one on for long.

The Second B&H box is more complicated. It has a J3874 transformer from Packard Instrument that I was given when I taught a Manpower Development Act Course for Electric Assemblers back in 1962 - at the Riverside Brookfield High School, using their electric shop.

When I approached Mr Klein about donating some tools to the course, he stated that he had to turn down requests to donate tools, but told me to see a gent in the back about getting damaged pliers fixed. When I told that gent what I was about, he filled a good sized box with cast off, but useful pliers. We also were able to access surplus at a facility in Aurora - rolls and rolls of wire and Bernard Pliers at five cents each! Needless to say I bought a hundred of them! A bit awkward to use but better than none.

I also contacted the Hexacon soldering folks who donated a couple dozen assorted soldering irons. When the American Beauty folks found out about that, they kicked in with more soldering irons! I was awarded a Vocational Teachers Certificate also.

Mr. Austin Flett went out to the Western Electric Hawthorne works, who heard of our course and told me to send over a couple of my students. By the time they had completed their eight weeks of the 12 week course they were promptly hired on the day shift at Hawthorne's. I was invited to have lunch at the executive dining room - quite an honor.

Since I was not paid between sections of the MDTA course, RBHS put me on as a maintenance man. When the course started up, the superintendent, Dan Anderson of RBHS, announced at a faculty meeting that the whole idea was an excuse to get another Norse on the faculty.

That is about it for my fine 4 1/2 years at RBHS.



BBC Initiates Ukrainian Shortwave Service

by Benjamin J. Sacks

On March 2, the BBC World Service announced that it was restarting four-hour daily shortwave transmissions in English to Ukraine. The decision to resume Ukrainian shortwave broadcasts came after Russian forces began to deliberately target Ukrainian communications equipment, including the Kyiv television tower.

Why do these four-hour daily transmissions matter so much when the world supposedly has moved away from radio and adopted social media and the internet? Isn't shortwave an obsolete, century-old technology that harkens back to memories of World War II and the Cold War?

Shortwave Remains Relevant

Despite its age, shortwave remains an enduring tool in the global fight against disinformation. In part, this is due to its unique broadcasting qualities. FM and broadcast television can only travel to just beyond the horizon. But shortwave can travel vast transcontinental and transoceanic distances. It accomplishes this feat by bouncing between the ionosphere and the earth—over mountains, skyscrapers, and digital firewalls.

It's this last obstacle that's most important here. Russia is demonstrating that it can destroy Ukraine's television and FM broadcasting infrastructure. It can use hackers and such Kremlin-affiliated subversive agencies as the Internet Research Agency to take down or otherwise block internet sites of Western and Ukrainian media agencies seeking to provide accurate information about the conflict. Cellphones only have limited range; they need towers to transmit longer distances. Russia has demonstrated that it can shut down cellphone communications in areas of Ukraine it has captured or is shelling, including nuclear power plants.

What about satellite reception? In theory, satellite reception can break through these issues. In mid-March, Starlink CEO Elon Musk sent "a truckload of satellite dishes" to Ukraine to provide "space internet service." But Russia can identify the satellite signals, seek to jam them, and locate those who have the dishes in Ukrainian areas now under its control.

This leaves shortwave, the venerable analog signal infamous for how it fades in and out as each wave is received. Shortwave cannot be hacked. It cannot be bombed or otherwise destroyed because it is being transmitted from far outside Ukraine. Shortwave is notoriously difficult to jam, despite Russia and China's best efforts. The shortwave signal is always drifting slightly, making it difficult to precisely focus jamming equipment. The shortwave signal can also be more powerful than that of the jammer, effectively overriding the interference.

Shortwave only works if people listen. Fortunately, many Ukrainian families

likely still have old, often cheap Soviet-era shortwave sets in their basements that can be powered by batteries or wall sockets. They are usually small and can be easily hidden from prying eyes. Some can even fit in a pocket. Shortwave radios can also be brought in as nonlethal aid.

BBC Response

The BBC World Service is also waging an information war with Russia on shortwave. While the BBC is officially targeting Ukraine, its shortwave signals can easily be heard in southeastern Russia. Broadcasting in English deliberately targets Russia's youth, many of whom speak at least some English. This decision to broadcast to some parts of Russia could be critical, as Russia has blocked the webpages of the BBC, Germany's Deutsche Welle, and other Western media agencies. Russian officials have effectively forced their expulsion from the country through a draconian disinformation law that could see journalists imprisoned for up to 15 years for spreading "falsehoods" that did not subscribe to the official government line.

The few independent or opposition Russian radio and television outlets have all but shut down to avoid the retribution of Roskomnadzor, the official Russian media regulator. As Russia returns to a Cold War era of information control, the BBC is dusting off Cold War tactics to win the information war for a second time. Shortwave has proven time and again that it can provide reliable information when and where it's needed most: in authoritarian regimes, in human assistance/disaster scenario situations, and in wartime. Czech dissident and later President Vaclav Havel, amongst others, praised the U.S. shortwave station Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty for its role in ending the Cold War. Perhaps it's time for the United States to consider whether RFE/RL should return to its roots and follow the BBC's lead in restarting shortwave services to Ukraine and southeastern Russia.

Source:

B. J. Sacks, Why the BBC World Service's New Ukrainian Shortwave Service Matters, The RandBlog, Mar. 25, 2022. This commentary originally appeared on United Press International on March 25, 2022, Outside View. See <https://www.rand.org/blog/2022/03/why-the-bbc-world-services-new-ukrainian-shortwave-service.html>.



Reprinted courtesy of [Proceedings of the Radio Club of America, Spring 2022](#)

VOA and RFE/RL Broadcasting in Ukraine

The Voice of America's (VOA) Ukrainian service is employing a cross-platform, digital-first strategy. The service's coverage focuses on U.S.-Ukraine relations, U.S. foreign policy toward Ukraine and the region, as well as American life and achievements in democratic governance, business, health, science, and technology.

VOA Ukraine

VOA Ukrainian provides fact-based reporting, essential to counter the spread of misinformation and disinformation in the target area. VOA Ukrainian routinely comes up in the polls as the most trusted source of news among Ukrainians. The Service is often the medium of record regarding policy pronouncements by U.S. officials. Since its establishment in 1949, VOA Ukrainian has been a vital source of news, information, and analysis of major international and regional affairs. Serving as a model of balanced, credible and impartial coverage, the service has had a major influence on the development of the Ukrainian media market since Ukraine gained independence in 1991.



Today, VOA Ukrainian's daily TV broadcasts, special TV interactives with affiliates, weekly programming and web output are carried by more than 50 national and regional TV stations. VOA reports are reprinted in major Ukrainian digital media sources. Through its regular and ad hoc interactives, VOA Ukrainian serves as a "Washington Bureau" for many major media players in Ukraine.

Programs and Features

VOA's television programming includes:

- Chas-Time – A daily 15-minute TV news and information program broadcast nationally by Channel 5 Monday through Friday. It features international news, stories on developments in the United States, and newsmaker interviews on U.S.-Ukraine relations.
- Studio Washington – A daily five-minute news segment broadcast.
- TV Interactives - VOA Ukrainian produces special reports and live interactives for major TV affiliates in Ukraine. The service's Chas-Time and Studio Washington TV programs, as well as its numerous special live TV reports, are carried by over 50 national and regional TV stations throughout Ukraine.

- VOA Briefing – A social media show, 5 days per week, twice a day for 30 to 45 minutes on Facebook and YouTube.

VOA Ukrainian actively engages its audiences on the web and all major social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

Global Audiences Turn to VOA

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine got underway at the end of February, audiences in Eastern Europe and around the world turned to VOA’s television, radio, websites and social media sites for factual, on-the-ground reporting.

The response from VOA’s audience has been extraordinary. Since the beginning of the invasion on February 23, VOA Russian reports nearly 17 million video views on social platforms, a 159% increase from the previous period, while VOA Ukrainian reports 5.7 million video views, an increase of 87%. VOA Russian garnered more than one million engagement actions across its social media platforms in that time. Traffic to both websites has soared, with VOA Russian’s site growing 146% and VOA Ukrainian’s site increasing 94% since the invasion.



VOA television services are available on multiple platforms.

Shortly after VOA Russian set a one-day traffic record across all platforms on February 24, Russian regulators announced their intention to block VOA and other independent news outlets. As a result, not only did the use of circumvention tools suddenly soar in Russia in recent days, but golosameriki.com set another one-day site traffic record on March 3.

Interest in the invasion of Ukraine is not confined to just these two countries. Other regions where VOA broadcasts that are typically disinterested in news from the region are suddenly transfixed. Since the beginning of the invasion, the story has generated 178 million video views and more than 18 million engagement actions, across VOA’s hundreds of social media accounts. For example, reporting on the subject in Africa has generated more than 17 million video views on social media on an account that typically averages about 125,000 views in a similar period. Across Latin America, interest in the story drove the vast majority of the

12 million video views on social media platforms used by VOA Spanish since the invasion, an increase of 125%.

This historic growth is due to the extraordinary work of VOA journalists in covering this story. Responding to the critical need for timely and accurate information, VOA Ukrainian expanded its programming, featuring twice-daily live briefings and dozens of live interactives. As the Russian troops were crossing into Ukraine, VOA Russian was live on the air with two special digital programs featuring reports with people at risk and experts providing analysis. A special edition of Current Time America, and a live feed from the U.N. Security Council generated more than 3 million views on VOA Russian’s Facebook page alone, with the service’s website garnering nearly 2 million views.

Since the Russian invasion, both language services deliver critically important programming daily, including live coverage with simultaneous translations of remarks by President Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, U.S. lawmakers’ reactions, special live discussion shows, and reports from Ukrainian diaspora protests in New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Seattle, Miami and London in support of Ukraine.

“The Voice of America offers audiences in eastern Europe accurate reporting from the ground and access to a balanced, comprehensive coverage on how the conflict resonates in the U.S. and around the world” says Acting VOA Director Yolanda López. “True to its history and mission, VOA is providing the people of Ukraine and Russia, as well as all its worldwide audience, reliable news in this critical time in history.”

VOA Ukraine Resists Shortwave Broadcasting

A grassroots funding effort is underway to raise money to transmit VOA programming into Eastern Europe through shortwave radio, a more dated form of technology that can circumvent Russia’s crackdown on tech companies.

To date, the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), the parent agency for VOA and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) has chosen not to transmit the programming in the region through shortwave radio. But organizers behind a crowdfunding campaign have already secured one station in Florida to share VOA’s daily English programming about Ukraine within days of the effort’s launch.

Shortwave radio may not be the most popular way for the public to gain information in the digital age, but supporters of the effort said that during a crisis like the war in Ukraine, it’s critical to use a method that can break through the Kremlin’s obstruction of outside media. “In times of crisis if the content is compelling, the audience will go where they know the information is,” said Gerhard Straub, the former director of the broadcast technologies division at USAGM. Straub, who retired from the USAGM last January, has been providing technical assistance to supporters looking to transmit VOA and RFE programming into the Eastern

European region.

Within two days of launching an online fundraising campaign, the supporters of the group “Shortwaves for Freedom” raised \$2,495 of the \$10,000 goal and have transmitted VOA programming through a station in Florida. Since VOA material is public domain, it can be downloaded off the website or listened to during live broadcast at 4 p.m. ET through the Miami Radio International station. Jeff White, the general manager at Miami Radio International, said after “Shortwaves for Freedom” reached out, his station started playing VOA’s “Flashpoint Ukraine” program. There are also plans to expand the transmission and play programming in Ukrainian.

The effort began after a number of current and former VOA staffers became frustrated that existing infrastructure wasn’t being turned on to reach people in Russia, Ukraine and Poland through shortwave radio, a veteran VOA staffer told The Hill. The staffer compared shortwave radio to a flashlight in a blackout. “As long as your electricity is on and your lights are on, you don’t need that flashlight. But when the electricity goes off, that flashlight becomes something very critical,” the staffer said.

Kate Neiswender, a California-based lawyer involved in organizing the crowdfunding campaign said it was a “logical step to take.” “It’s just such a logical step to take. Until the VOA and its various entities decide to move forward, we’ll be there doing this shortwave or medium wave transmission as long as necessary.” White said the station is committed to keep up transmissions, whether the money is there or not. “We’re not doing it for the money, we’re doing it because it needs to be done,” he said. “It can’t be stopped at borders, it doesn’t need permission, it can’t be cut off like a satellite. It’s the only medium that’s really direct communication from the transmitter to the listener, wherever they may be,” White said.

VOA has a history of using radio to spread information dating back to World War II, and it expanded the use of shortwave during the Cold War. Even as it has expanded into digital mediums, USAGM still has the capability to transmit through shortwave if it chooses to do so, Straub said. There’s a transmitter in Greenville, N.C., that was designed with the capability to broadcast to Ukraine and Russia, he added. Globally, the VOA is still using shortwave broadcasting and even expanding it across parts of Africa, he added.

A spokesperson for VOA referred The Hill to USAGM for comment. USAGM spokesperson Laurie Moy said USAGM content currently reaches audiences in Russia, Ukraine and the region through TV, FM and medium wave radio, digital and direct-to-home satellite. “We have and continue to expand transmissions to bring unbiased information to light at this crucial time. Any grassroots effort to enhance the distribution of our programs affirms the work our journalists do,” Moy said in a statement. Moy also said USAGM determines transmission strategies based on audience research and delivers programming on the platforms “where it will have the highest impact.”

Unlike VOA, the BBC resumed its shortwave broadcasts in Russia after its websites were blocked in the country. VOA and RFE’s sites were similarly blocked by the Kremlin.

“People see shortwave as being an obsolete form of communication. The fact is, it’s not obsolete. It’s out there. It’s useful. It’s easy to fire up an old shortwave transmitter and be able to receive information in this fashion,” Neiswender said. “It’s very much a doable thing. And when people in Russia find out that this information is out there, they’re going to start pulling their short waves out of their attics,” she added.

RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service: Radio Svoboda

Meanwhile, RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service, known locally as Radio Svoboda, continues to operate, providing accurate and balanced coverage of local, regional, and national news and events. Operating out of a bureau in Kyiv with a reporting network that extends to the front lines, it is available on its website, social networks, radio, and TV.

Radio Svoboda is among the most cited media outlets in Ukraine (Fall 2020 survey) and has earned a high level of trust from its audience. One in 5 Ukrainians report watching the Service’s reports on popular Ukrainian TV channels. The Service is distinguished for its investigative TV programs, whose high impact reporting on corruption among Ukraine’s political elites has informed official investigations, led to high-level dismissals, and promoted greater public accountability in Ukraine.

The Service’s Crimea.Realities website, launched in 2014 following Crimea’s illegal annexation by Russia, is one of the peninsula’s only independent news sources and is unique in reporting in the Ukrainian, Russian, and Crimean Tatar languages. In 2020, it received on average 2.5 million monthly visits.

- Radio Crimea.Realities can be heard on nearly the entire Crimean Peninsula on 648 AM frequency.
- The Donbas.Realities unit provides exclusive reporting from the frontlines of the territories held by Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Reporters with the Ukrainian Service work at enormous risk. RFE/RL contributors Stanislav Aseyev and Oleh Halaziuk, who were released in a prisoner exchange in December 2019, were tortured and held virtually incommunicado for over two years by Russia-backed separatists in Donetsk. Crimean contributor Mykola Semena, whose conviction was vacated in January 2020, spent 2 1/2 years under house arrest after a Russia-backed court found him guilty of “separatism.” Members of the Schemes investigative team have been subjected to assault, doxxing, and online threats.

Following the armed attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation on February 24, 2022, the Partner Organizations to the Safety of Journalists Platform have been documenting attacks on journalists and other media workers, as well as

other efforts to restrict coverage of the war. As of April 6, 2022, at least seven journalists and media workers have been killed while covering the war or because of their status, and at least ten have been injured. At least three journalists and media workers have gone missing or been taken hostage.

Sources:

The Hill website, Grassroots effort uses shortwave radio to broadcast VOA in Ukraine, Russia, Mar. 8, 2022, <https://thehill.com/policy/technology/597411-grassroots-effort-uses-shortwave-radio-to-broadcast-voa-in-ukraine-russia/>.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty website, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service: Radio Svoboda, <https://pressroom.rferl.org/rferl-ukrainian-service-radio-svoboda>.

Safety of Journalists Platform website, Safety of journalists and media freedom following the armed attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation, <https://fom.coe.int/pagesspeciales/detail/1>.

U.S. Agency For Global Media website, Global Audiences Turn to VOA for Coverage on Russia's War on Ukraine, Mar. 5, 2022, <https://www.usagm.gov/2022/03/05/global-audiences-turn-to-voa-for-coverage-on-russias-war-on-ukraine/>.

Voice of America website, Mar. 2022, <https://www.insidevoa.com/p/6433.html#:~:text=VOA's%20Ukrainian%20service%20is%20employing,%2C%20health%2C%20science%20and%20technology>.

Reprinted courtesy of [Proceedings of the Radio Club of America, Spring 2022](#)



Short wave radio has been used in conflicts going back to the First World War, and is now being used in Ukraine.

WGN Microphone

by Barry Janov

From the moment I spotted the enormous RCA Type 77-A microphone with its archetype WGN radio station flag, I hoped to own it one day.

The 77-A microphone, which looks like a cannon shell and sits atop a three-legged metal floor stand, is among the rarest of microphones.

The RCA microphone has a unilateral design that set the standard for ribbon microphone production for the next 40 years. And as a child, I listened to WGN radio.

When I first saw the microphone, I was enjoying dinner at Don Roth's, a Blackhawk restaurant, one of the most venerated eateries in the Chicago suburbs.

The Blackhawk restaurant - famous for its steaks and signature spinning salad bowl - showcased big band memorabilia from the 1920s through 1940s. The memorabilia included the microphone, displayed prominently inside the entryway.



The original location of the Blackhawk in downtown Chicago gained recognition during the Prohibition Era by mixing food service with dancing. To attract customers, owner Otto Roth, broadcast live big band performances called "Live! From the Blackhawk!" on WGN Radio, 720AM, a radio signal that reached 38 states.

After Otto passed away in 1944, his son, Don Roth, took over the restaurant. Don Roth continued the tradition of combining entertainment with food service by making "food the show" with his spinning salad bowl.

The downtown location closed in 1984. Don Roth and his wife, Ann opened a second Blackhawk Restaurant in the Chicago suburb of Wheeling and decorated

the new dining room with photos and memorabilia from the original Chicago location. The microphone was added to the collection at that time, loaned by long-time favorite WGN sportscaster Jack Brickhouse.

Don Roth passed away in 2003 and Ann Roth closed the restaurant in 2009, after nearly nine decades in business. It was then that I expressed my interest in purchasing the microphone and learned from Ann Roth that the microphone belonged to the Brickhouse family.

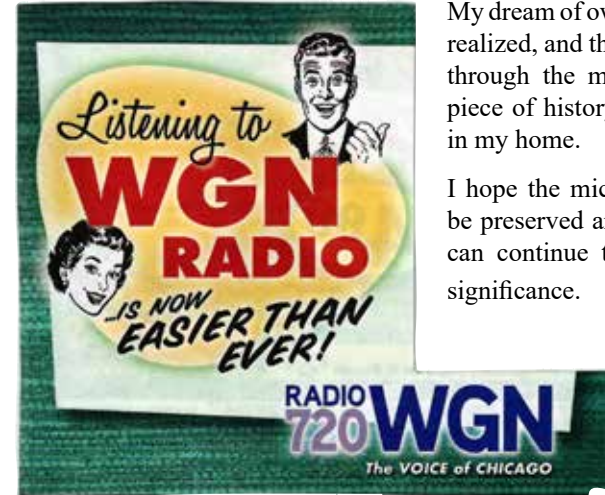
I contacted Jack Brickhouse's widow, Pat Brickhouse, and she agreed to sell both the microphone and stand. I picked up the microphone and the stand from the restaurant, took them home, and hooked up the microphone. It worked perfectly.

Pat Brickhouse later visited my home. She brought literature about the microphone and an official bill of sale.

We took pictures of ourselves standing next to the microphone.



Later, long-term WGN employee Charles A. Sengstock certified the 77-A microphone as authentic, telling me it likely broadcast big band music at WGN Radio.



My dream of owning the microphone was realized, and the sounds - once broadcast through the microphone - endure as a piece of history on a three-legged stand in my home.

I hope the microphone will continue to be preserved and that future generations can continue to celebrate its historical significance.

January 21, 2010

My husband, sportscaster Jack Brickhouse, received this original 1936 RCA 77A microphone with its three-legged, metal floor stand and call letters from WGN executives in Chicago, IL. Jack presented the microphone to his friend, Don Roth, when Don opened Don Roth's Blackhawk Restaurant in Wheeling, IL. The microphone, along with other memorabilia from the 1920s - to - 1940s was on display in the restaurant until it closed on Dec. 31, 2009. In January 2010, I sold the microphone to Dr. Barry Janov to display in his private collection.

Signed on the 21th day of January, 2010

Patricia Brickhouse
Mrs. Jack Brickhouse

More about the RCA Type 77-A microphone: <https://coutant.com/rca77a/index.html>

Chicago's Very Own Celebrating 100 years of radio

WGN Radio was founded on May 19, 1922 by Thorne Donnelley and Elliott Jenkins as WDAP. Purchased by Col. Robert R. McCormick and the Chicago Tribune in 1924, it was assigned the call letters WGN. In the August issue was a brief timeline of their first 50 years. Here is the timeline of their second 50 years. Happy Anniversary WGN!

1973

July – Milt Rosenberg becomes the permanent host of Extension 720. Previous hosts, mostly on a rotating basis, included Dan Price (the regular host for a time), Norman Ross, Jerry Tolbert, Bob Cromie, Jack Brickhouse and Orion Samuelson.



1974

January 2 – WGN wins the President's Trophy at the 85th Annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, for a float called "Happiness is a Golden Anniversary," to mark the first 50 years with the WGN call name.

April 1 – Bob Collins joins WGN Radio as a new afternoon host.



*Bob Collins in the WGN Radio studio
(Marlene Wells/WGN Radio)*

1975

October 1 – On the night of the Ali/Frazier "Thrilla in Manila" bout, a group of sports journalists from print media gathers in a WGN studio for the debut of a new program. The Sportswriters, featuring Ben Bentley, Bill Jauss, Bill Gleason and George Langford among others over the years, would be a fixture on WGN until 1993, usually on late Sunday afternoons. Years later, some people would say they could still smell cigar smoke in Studio C.

1979

May 25 – Larry Schriener reports from the scene of the worst aviation disaster in U.S. history, as American Airlines flight 191, a DC-10, loses an engine and crashes shortly after taking off from O'Hare Airport, killing all 271 people on board and two on the ground.

1986

January 26 – Wayne Larrivee, Dick Butkus and Jim Hart are in the WGN booth in the Louisiana Superdome as the Chicago Bears beat the New England Patriots 46-10 in Super Bowl XX.

July 7 – In a heavily promoted schedule change that includes a live television broadcast, Wally Phillips and Bob Collins switch shifts, with Bob taking over the morning show and Wally moving to afternoons.

August 3 – WGN returns to the old neighborhood yet again, as the radio station departs from the shared facility on Bradley Place and moves back to Tribune Tower. The new space includes the Showcase Studio on Michigan Avenue, where spectators can gather to watch WGN's talent in action through large street-level windows.

1987

May 18 – The Spike O'Dell Radio Experiment premieres on WGN, weekdays 3:00-7:00pm.



Spike O'Dell Publicity Photo

1989

June 21 – Roy Leonard broadcasts from Moscow, inside what was, at the time, the Soviet Union.

1990

August 28 – Steve Bertrand and Rod Sierra provide eyewitness accounts of the devastation caused by a massive tornado in Will County that destroyed large parts of Plainfield.



September 7 – The WGN family organizes a five-hour benefit concert event at Joliet's Rialto Square Theater to help the victims of the Plainfield tornado. Over \$130,000 is raised from the live Tornado Aid event.



1991

October – WGN hosts its first annual Pumpkinfest food drive, a day-long event featuring a live broadcast. The event would continue for several years, raising money and food for Chicago's needy.

1995

August 26 – Sam Weinstein broadcasts the final edition of his Tenpin Tattler bowling program. The show, sponsored by Weinstein's "Universal Bowling and Golf Specialists" shop, had aired on WGN since 1966, after originating on WCFL in 1935

1996

November – WGN goes online for the first time with the debut of “The Spike O’Dell Web Experiment.” Over the next year, development of the complete wgnradio.com website would continue.

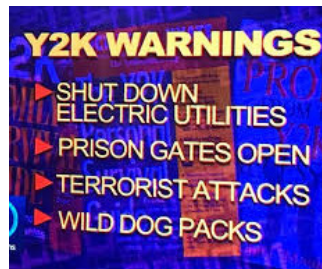
1997

September – John Williams joins WGN as the new afternoon host.

1999

March 26-27 – Hundreds of Girlfriends gather at the Chicago Hilton & Towers for the first annual Kathy & Judy Convention. The event, hosted by Kathy O’Malley and Judy Markey, includes seminars, entertainment and a chance for fans of the show to meet one another.

December 31 – WGN staff members gather at WGN’s downtown studios and the suburban transmitter site in anticipation of possible chaos caused by the Y2K computer bug. Midnight passes without any major glitches anywhere in the world, so the extra staff enjoys a bit of champagne from paper coffee cups and then heads home.



2000

February 8 – Morning show host Bob Collins, piloting his private plane just hours after the conclusion of that day’s program, dies following a midair collision. The grieving station staff holds what amounts to an on-air wake to share their thoughts with his many equally stunned fans. Four days later, WGN carries a live broadcast of his memorial service from Holy Name Cathedral.



March 6 – After filling in for several weeks, Spike O’Dell officially becomes WGN’s new morning host - a position he accepts with deeply mixed emotions. Each year, Spike and the rest of the morning crew raise a toast to Bob Collins on February 28, Bob’s birthday. On March 6, Steve Cochran also joins WGN’s full-time staff as early afternoon host.

March 29 & 30 – Pat Hughes and Ron Santo broadcast from Tokyo, Japan,

as the Cubs play the Mets to open the season. First pitch for both games is at 4:00am Chicago time.

April 17 – Following several months of renovation, a completely rebuilt Showcase Studio opens on Michigan Avenue. The studio is more popular than ever and is in use on most weekdays almost continuously from 9:00am-9:00pm, and for many shows on weekends.

2001

September 11 – Morning host Spike O’Dell and news anchor Tom Petersen provide descriptions of video images of smoke pouring from New York’s World Trade Center. Petersen reads one of the first bulletins, indicating that “a plane crashed into one of the towers.”

2003

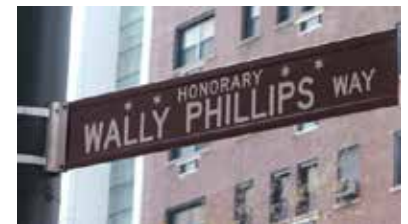
September 22 – Inspired by a conversation on the John Williams Show, three dedicated Cub fans travel to Houston to attempt to “Reverse the Curse” by transferring the infamous Billy Goat curse from the Cubs to the Astros. As John’s fans listen, thanks to a cell phone, a goat named Virgil Homer is refused access to Houston’s Minute Maid Park and a curse against the Astros is read. Although it appears for a while that the Cubs long World Series drought might finally come to an end, the Cubs would eventually lose 4 games to 3 to the Florida Marlins in the National League Championship Series.

2004

April 21 – One day after a deadly tornado outbreak causes major hardship in areas including Utica, IL, WGN Radio and the McCormick Tribune Foundation set up the Utica Tornado Relief Campaign. Listeners donate via phone, mail, and online, raising over \$370,000 after a 50 cent on the dollar match by the Foundation.

June 1 – WGN marks the 80th anniversary of its call letters with a commemorative CD.

October 21 – The corner of Rush and Delaware is designated “Honorary Wally Phillips Way”. Wally joins other WGN Radio figures, including Bob Collins, Jack Brickhouse and Paul Harvey, who have received this type of honor..



2005

September 8- Spike O’Dell broadcasts live from the Chicago Historical Society for the first stop in the WGN Radio Hometown Voices Tour. This monthly

RENEWALS

DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU WILL EXPIRE?

Or, more specifically, your ARCI Membership? The address label shows your expiration month. It takes time to process renewal requests, so please renew at least one month BEFORE the month indicated on the label. This also helps ensure that you will continue receiving your *ARCI NEWS* without interruption.

Look on the last page of this newsletter for the renewal form.



BUSINESS CARD ADS

We invite all of our members to scan and send in your business card to be included in *ARCI NEWS*. For \$80 your card will appear in the next 6 issues! Your card will be seen by approximately 400 people per issue and up to 1,000 people at *Radiofest* where we make additional copies of *ARCI NEWS* available at no charge. If interested, please scan your card and send it to clubinfo@antique-radios.com and mail a check for \$80 to Rudy Hecker, A.R.C.I., P.O. Box 1139, LaGrange Park, IL 60526

Thank you all for your continued support of ARCI!!!



CLUBBING AROUND

EARLY TELEVISION FOUNDATION CONVENTION

<http://www.earlytelevision.org/>

ANTIQUÉ WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.antiquewireless.org/>

WISCONSIN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB, INC.

www.warci.org

NORTHLAND ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

www.northlandantiqueradioclub.com

MICHIGAN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

<http://michiganantiqueradio.org/>

INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY

<http://www.indianahistoricalradio.org/>

MID-ATLANTIC ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB (MAARC)

www.maarc.org

THE COLORADO RADIO COLLECTORS CLUB

<http://coloradoradiocollectors.com>





ARCI

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

Membership Option	Dues	Benefits
Annual Membership	\$ 25	Full benefits: <i>ARCI News</i> subscription, Fee Discounts, Events, Seller Privileges at ARCI Events.
Spousal Annual Membership	\$ 10	Discounts at Events.
Student Annual Membership	\$ 5	Must Be 18 or Under, Full Benefits.
Lifetime Membership	\$ 340	Full Membership Benefits For Life (non-transferable)

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ARCI AND SEND TO:

Antique Radio Club of Illinois
P.O. Box 1139
LaGrange Park, Illinois 60526

EMAIL DELIVERY OF ARCI NEWS? **YES or NO (circle one)**

PRINT DELIVERY OF ARCI NEWS? **YES or NO (circle one)**

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Application Date: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____



It's magnified tuning... we put it (plus an exacting vernier tuner) on our most powerful shirt-pocket set to help you pinpoint more stations.

Shirt-pocket AM Radio has 8 mighty transistors that pull in more stations than any other shirt-pocket set we sell

\$15⁹⁵

Just 2 1/4 x 4 1/2 inches deep, yet this portable has more power and sound-improving features than any other Sears shirt-pocket radio. Medium 2 1/4-inch speaker gives rich sound. Large ferrite rod antenna adds extra measure of station-pulling ability. 2-power magnified dial and accurate vernier tuner assure "no-station" tuning every time... and it's easy on your eyes. Styled in plastic case with scratch-resistant vinyl covering. Die-cast metal front protects chassis... hidden cushion of foam rubber (beneath vinyl covering) adds extra ruggedness. Radio plays up to 90 hours on one battery (No. 6422). Choose from four distinct colors, each with rich silver-gold-color metallic trim. Comes complete with battery, earphone, and detachable wrist strap in attractive package.

87 J 5206—Black 57 J 5209—Brown
57 J 5210—Teal 57 J 5211—Olive
Shipping weight 1 pound..... \$15.95



A compact AM Radio larger than our shirt-pocket sets... with the richer sound of a 4-inch oval speaker and special music-voice tone selector

\$21⁵⁰

Engineered for years of listening enjoyment indoors or out. Break-resistant plastic boasts tone improving die-cast metal. 1/2" slide-rule tuning pipework stations... la ferrite rod antenna adds pulling power. Radio only 3 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. deep. Plays 100 hours on set of 3 batteries. Metal carry handle swings down to hold radio in upright position. Includes radio with rich silver-metal trim, black top-grain cowhide earphone, jack-type external antenna, antenna wire and batteries (No. 6447) in handsome package. From Japan. 7 1/2" x 4 1/2" x 1 1/2" in. dimensions.
57 J 52121—Black and silver color
57 J 52131—Beige and silver color
Shipping weight 1 pound 10 oz. Cash \$21



Enjoy clear AM... and get case, earphone and battery

\$9⁹⁵

Shirt-pocket radio is just 2 1/4 x 4 1/2 in. x 4 1/2 in. deep. Rugged plastic case, silver-gold-color metal trim. Built-in rod antenna pulls in stations. With easy thumb-wheel tuning... the 2 1/4-in. speaker. Packaged with rugged black leather case, earphone and battery (No. 6422). R plays up to 90 hours on 1 battery. 57 J 5202—Black 57 J 5203—Mint
57 J 5204—Teal 57 J 5205—Olive
Shipping weight 1 pound..... \$9



Good, clear local AM radio reception

\$5⁸⁸ without battery

Shirt-pocket radio packs a built-in ferrite antenna that brings in local stations loud and clear. Real plastic case set-off by silver-color trim. Full 2 1/4-inch speaker... thumb-wheel tuning. Radio size only 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches deep. Plays up to 90 hours on mercury battery (sold below).
57 J 5201—Mint... weight 1 1/2 oz..... \$5
Mercury Battery for above. Radio uses 57 J 6422—shipping weight 2 oz.....



Standard Radio Earphone

95¢

Earphone for use with radios on opposite p. Reversible metal clip holds earphone in place. Plastic case. Imported from Japan.
57 J 6500—Shipping weight 4 ounces.....

About the cover: WGN - "Chicago's Very Own" is celebrating a very special Anniversary this year - 100 years of radio!



ARCI NEWS

Antique Radio Club of Illinois

PO Box 1139

LaGrange Park, IL 60526