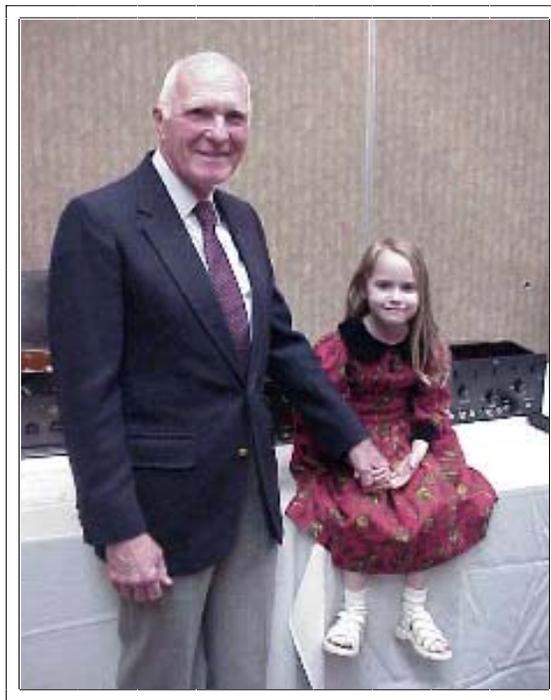


The Carolina Antenna

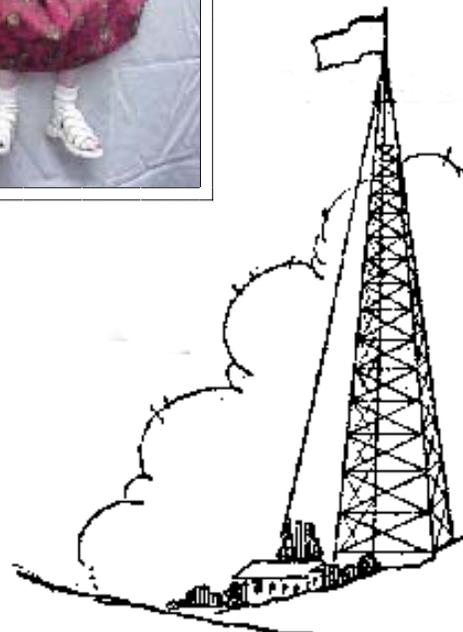
Summer 2003

Volume #9

Issue #1



**Carolina's Chapter
of the
Antique Wireless
Association**



Carolinas Chapter of the AWA
CC-AWA web page: <http://cc-awa.org/>

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The next elections will need to be held this fall, nominations due in September. Election letter mailed in November. CC-AWA Elections are held every two years.

Membership in the Carolinas Chapter of the Antique Wireless Association (CC-AWA) is open to anyone with an interest in old (antique) radios. The only requirement is that you must be a member of the "national" Antique Wireless Association.

By being a member of the CC-AWA you will receive our quarterly newsletter & you will be entitled to free "Registration" for the "Spring Meet in the Carolinas" that is held the 4th weekend of March each year in Charlotte, NC.

Membership dues for the CC-AWA are \$10 per year.

If you are not already a member of the national AWA, your first year's dues will \$25, this includes the \$10 for CC-AWA dues and \$15 for your first year's dues in the national AWA. Mail your dues to membership chairman Robert Lozier - address is listed above.



Issue # 9

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY RON LAWRENCE



WELCOME to the first edition of the CC-AWA's "New" newsletter, *The Carolina Antenna*. Along with this being the first issue, it is also a "Special Edition" Charlotte Conference wrap-up issue that is being mailed to every "registered" attendee of our annual conference. Many thanks to all the folks that have volunteered to bring back a newsletter for the club. Laura Carter, Barker & Judy Edwards, and Lilburne Sheats are the members of the newsletter committee. What with this being the first issue we're not sure yet about the frequency of publication for future editions. I would like to have one at least quarterly; it really depends on the amount of material submitted for publication. It's the committee

member's job to edit and publish the newsletter, not come up with material for it. So it's up to you guys (and Gals) to get those word processors, or #2 pencils busy.

If you get this issue and you aren't a member, but would like to continue receiving it, & get FREE admission to the annual conference in Charlotte, our dues are only \$10. You can find membership information on the inside front cover. Also, a membership application has also been included with this issue of the newsletter.

Best Wished & Happy Radio Collecting.

RON LAWRENCE

Cover Picture

Al Grebe, son of radio pioneer Alfred H. Grebe, and Jamison "Bumpy" Hite, Ernie and Susan Hite's daughter at the 2003 Charlotte CC-AWA meet.

**See review of the conference
on page 5.**



The 2003 "Spring Meet In The Carolinas" is now just a fond memory. I enjoyed meeting many of you in Charlotte and hope to see most of you at other meets throughout the year. During this season, we are all getting ready for the next radio meet to occur. It seems that there is an antique radio swap meet just about every weekend somewhere in the country.

Ron Lawrence, Robert Lozier, Ernie Hite and all of the other members of the CC-AWA who helped put on the Charlotte meet are to be commended. Without their dedication and hard work, there would be no CC-AWA. My hat goes off to these hard-working folks.

We here at the AWA are now gearing up for the annual convention in August. The meet will be at the RIT Inn in Rochester, NY. The dates are August 20-23, 2003. This year's conference theme will be "FM" ("Frequency Modulation").

For more information and details on the annual conference, please visit the AWA website at www.antiquewireless.org. Or visit www.cc-awa.org and click on the link to the AWA. The Rochester meet is one of the largest gatherings

of radio enthusiasts in the country, hosting between 800-100 people annually. Additionally, there are usually over 300 vendors in the flea market. Make plans to be there - you will not be disappointed.

If you have any questions or comments, or would like to help at the annual conference, please feel free to give me a call or send me an E-mail. We are always looking for volunteers to help.

GEOFF BOURNE

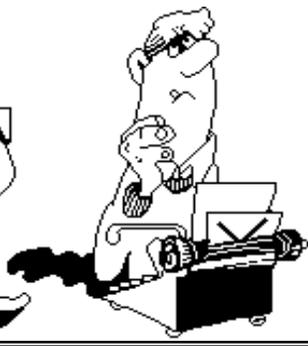
Phone: 304-722-4690

Email: gcbourne@citynet.net





EDITOR'S CORNER



I hope you will enjoy this first issue of the new CC-AWA newsletter - *The Carolina Antenna*. A lot of people have been working hard writing, editing, and designing to put this issue together. We hope to publish a quarterly newsletter so that we can keep you informed as to what is going on in the old radio hobby here in the Carolina's. You the members, however, will determine the frequency of publication. If you want to see a quarterly newsletter, we will need input from you. Write an article about how you got started in the hobby, why you collect what you do, or just introduce yourself.

So you have written an article. What do you do with it? The duties of the

newsletter committee have been divided among several individuals. Laura Carter is doing editing. Please send your articles directly to her. I am handling ads and Lillard Sheats and I are handling design and production. Please refer to the inside front cover for contact information for these people.

The newsletter is an on-going project so please let us know if you like the new changes or what you don't like.

I look forward to working with you over the next few issues.

BARKER EDWARDS

Co-Design and Production Editor

Radio Trivia

The Hamilton Music Store in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, supplied records to Dr. Frank Conrad in exchange for mention of the store's name during his twice-weekly broadcasts from amateur radio station 8XK. Dr. Conrad, an engineer at Westinghouse Electric Company, astounded other amateurs in October 1917 by talking over their Morse code and playing music. They called for their friends



and families to listen and soon Dr. Conrad tired of talking, ran through his entire collection of music, and could no longer prevail on his sons to perform for the listening audience. The music store came to the rescue and radio advertising was born. So was a new term: Dr. Conrad was the first to use the word broadcast to describe what he did for two hours each Wednesday and Saturday.

Calendar of Events

2003

July 26th-Summer Swap Meet,
Valdese NC.

October 25th-Fall Swap Meet,
Greensboro/Jamestown NC.

2004

January 31st-Winter Swap Meet,
Columbia SC.

March 25 to 27-CC-AWA Annual
Conference, Charlotte, NC.

May 8th-Spring Swap Meet,
Spencer NC.

NEW Summer Swap Meet Location

Many thanks go to Richard Owens
for finding a new location and
offering to host the CC-AWA

Summer Swap Meet. Richard and family live in Valdese NC and he has arranged for the club to use McGalliard Falls Park located just off Main Street/Hwy 70 in down town Valdese. The date for the summer Swap Meet is Saturday July 26. Like always the event will start up at around 8AM and should be wrapped up by noon. Admission and vendor setup is FREE You can find detailed driving directions on the clubs web page. You also shouldn't have any trouble finding since Richard is planning the post signs starting on I-40 and leading you right to the park. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss any of the FUN.

CC-AWA E-MAIL REFLECTOR

BY RON LAWRENCE

I'd like to take a minute to tell you about our CC-AWA E-Mail Reflector service. For those of you new to computers and E-mail, this online service is provided by the club and allows you to send one E-mail to everyone that has subscribed to the list!



cc-awa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Our reflector, or "list server", is through Yahoo Groups & it's really easy to use. Just send a blank E-mail to Yahoo and you will then receive a reply, asking you to confirm your subscription request. To do so, just click "reply" to the message, then click "send". The next message you will receive confirms

your successful subscription.

Once you are subscribed, all you have to do to get started is to send a message to -

cc-awa@yahoogroups.com

and everyone on the list will receive the message. Currently, there are roughly 100 members subscribed to the CC-AWA E-mail reflector. Topics for discussion include anything that may be of interest to radio collectors - items wanted or items for sale or trade, meeting notices ... even debates about the best BBQ are welcome!

If you're not on the list already, I highly encourage you to sign up today. It's a GREAT way to keep in touch with the group in between copies of the club newsletter.

Review of 2003 Charlotte Swap Meet

BY RON LAWRENCE.

Hello from the Carolinas!

It seems like yesterday that we wrapped up the 2003 Charlotte CC-AWA Annual Conference - our "*Spring Meet in the Carolinas*". This year, the conference was aptly named, since Friday of this year's event was the first official day of spring.

As always, the conference was three days of "radioing our brains out".

Things started out a little shaky on Thursday morning. Driving to the Sheraton in a torrential downpour, I picked my way around flooded roads while listening to reports on the radio about the local interstates being closed due to flooded roadways. The conference has had a "rain out" contingency plan in place for several years, but never had to use it. As I approached the hotel, I was beginning to think that this year might just witness its first "test run".

The management at the Sheraton fully understands that, like all other antique radio meets, the flea market is our "MAIN EVENT" (whether other event organizers want to admit it or not). I fully believe that, were we to have the forums, auction, equipment contest, everything except no flea market, there would only be about 10% of the regular attendance. By the same token, if we had just the flea market and NONE of the other activities, we would still have 90% or more of the regular attendees. I feel sure that any other event of this type (including

Rochester) would have the same results. The hotel was good enough to move some folks around so that they could fill one of their large ball rooms with tables, and said that they would line the halls of the first floor common areas with tables if necessary to accommodate everyone that might need a space.

Fortunately, the "radio meet gods" smiled on us again. The rain halted about mid-day on Thursday, and we dodged another bullet. Due to the large number of folks that had already gotten to the hotel Thursday morning, we opened the registration table in the lobby almost two hours early. Ernie Hite had his hands full (even with lots of help) most of the day and into the evening, handling early check-ins.

Our Thursday afternoon "Program/Forum" session was dedicated to Restoration/Preservation "Hints & Kinks". Ted Miller, Robert Lozier, Stan Watkins, Larry Dowell and Mark Oppat gave demonstrations of cleaning and saving an original finish, making plastic dial lenses, nickel plating and repairing speaker cones. After the forums, we had a quick CC-AWA Annual Membership meeting before we all boarded the hotel's Airport Shuttle buses for a trip to the "World Famous" Open Kitchen Italian Restaurant for dinner. We almost filled their private dining room with around 34 diners. Last year we had 25 for dinner. If it keeps growing, we may fill the entire place in a few more years.



Registration Tent

We got back to the Sheraton just in time for a great presentation by Mark V. Stein on "Modern Radio Design and Popular Culture". The main meeting room sits 200 and it was almost full.

I'd like to thank Mark for a great presentation.

After the Mark's talk ended, we opened the contest room so folks could view the entries thus far. A very special guest that joined us this year was Alfred H. Grebe Jr., son of the founder of Grebe Radio. Al had been to the Charlotte meet before, in 1982. When I got his email saying he was planning to attend this year, I got an idea. I have a Grebe CR-8 that I had just finished restoring. I brought it with me to the conference and got Al to autograph it inside the lid. Ernie Hite liked the idea so much that he also got Al to autograph his CR-9 that he had entered in the contest!

Friday morning started off a little foggy and misty, but there was no rain. We kept to our traditional "LeMans Start". Everyone was forced out of the flea market area until 8:00 AM. There were a couple of individuals that didn't want to leave the area, but our crack security team of Ralph Bartlett and Tom Houghtaling finally managed to convince them that no one would

get in until everyone got out.

By about 10:00, the clouds were breaking up and sun was starting to shine. The reports from those that were shopping indicated there was a bunch of good stuff for sale. I managed to get another piece of Clough-Brengle test equipment that Geoff Bourne brought for me, and a very nice Leutz book that was a gift from a good friend.

Friday afternoon was time for our annual equipment auction. I was really worried that our auctioneer, Brad Jones, might not be able to make it due to the war in Iraq that had just started. Brad is a news anchor with a Greensboro TV station, and he was afraid he might be forced to stay in town. Regardless, Brad, being the trooper that he is, drove to Charlotte late Thursday afternoon, just to bring his PA system for us to use Friday morning. He also managed to get back around mid-morning on Friday to enjoy some of the flea market before the auction. His efforts to make sure we had what we needed, and his continued great job as our auctioneer, made me glad that I had decided to bring back the CC-AWA President's Award. So, this year, I presented it to Brad Jones. The plaque this year, along with the engraved plates, had an auctioneer's gavel mounted on it. Congratulations, Brad: you deserve it!

The auction this year was great. It was what I call a "pure" auction, in that all of the items were things that individuals put in - there was not an estate or other large lot of radios. There were many nice items up for auction, including cathedrals,

tombstones, a nice AK 10 breadboard, and Mcmurdo Silver Masterpiece 5. There was also lots of give and take between the bidders and owners of items when a given piece didn't make the reserve. Many thanks to those that submitted such great items.



Friday night Banquet

Friday evening was our annual banquet. This year, we had 52 join us for a nice steak dinner. Al Grebe, his sister and his cousin joined us for dinner. Afterwards, he told about the saving of the original Grebe Radio building that is now part of a hospital, and which has been named the "Alfred H. Grebe Building". Another piece of radio history saved from the wrecking ball.

Along with Al Grebe, we were pleased to hear a few words from our friend and the new President of the AWA, Geoff Bourne. Geoff and his wife, Gracie, have attended the Charlotte Conference for a number of years, but this is the first year he has attended as AWA President. The last time we were honored with a presidential visit was in 1982, when Chuck Brelsford and his wife attended the event.

Saturday morning, the weather was bright and clear and there was lots of buying and selling going on in the flea market. Things get kind of busy on Saturday morning because along with the flea market, we also have the final contest check-in and judging. Meanwhile, outside, we held another "Radio Rescue" auction at 11:00. All of this is wrapped up with the CC-AWA members' luncheon at 1:00, with 42 of us enjoying a great lunch. All good things must come to an end, and after lunch, it was time to check out the contest awards and start packing to go home.

Up until this year, we have depended on 2-meter ham radios for conference communications. But we've started having a problem with it, since not everyone that offers to help is a ham or doesn't own a 2-meter HT. Before this year's event, we had watched the sale papers and found a really good deal on Motorola FRS "Talkabout" license free hand-held radios. The club purchased 10 radios and they worked great. All the main volunteers had a radio, which made it easier to locate people and get things done. I know they will come in handy for years to come.

Here are the final Conference numbers for 2003, including the numbers for 2001 and 2002 for comparison. Thanks to Robert Lozier for providing the accounting information.

2003 – 301 registered attendees, 135 flea market spaces.

2002 – 330 registered attendees, 146 flea market spaces.

2001 – 317 registered attendees, 130

flea market spaces.

The “registered attendee” number does not include spouses or other family members.

I’d like to attempt to thank the many volunteers without whom this event would not be possible:

Robert Lozier, Ernie Hite, Ted Miller, R. L. Barnett, Tom Houghtaling, Gerald Cromer, Ralph and Jennifer Bartlett, Brad Jones, Malcolm Skipper, Kirk Cline, John Stegal, Everett Hite.

I’m sure I’ve left someone out. If so, please know that everyone’s help is always greatly appreciated.

The next event for the Carolinas Chapter is our “Summer Swap Meet” in Valdese, SC, on Saturday, July 26h, starting at 8 AM and

wrapping up before noon. Detailed information and driving directions can be found on the CC-AWA web page at cc-awa.org.

I’m looking forward to a great radio season in 2003 - see you at all the meets!



Al Grebe autographed some Grebe radios. Here is signing the CR-8 belonging to CC-AWA President Ron Lawrence.

2003 Spring Meet in the Carolinas Programming Report

BY TED MILLER, PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Something that makes this meet special are the programs that acquaint attendees with helpful restoration tips and general topical information concerning the antique radio hobby. This year’s programs were well attended and highly informative.

Stan Watkins kicked this off with his demonstration of the use of Go-Jo hand cleaner to clean and bring new life to old cabinet finishes. With this common product, some amazing results can be obtained with an otherwise unpresentable finish.

The second portion of Stan’s presentation was a demonstration of reproducing knobs by making molds from silicon rubber and casting the knob from a resin-based product.

He actually performed this operation from scratch and passed around the resulting knob for all to see just how effective the process is in producing a finished reproduction knob. Stan shocked the audience when he pulled a Zenith knob from one of the molds and commented on it being the color of chocolate. He then proceeded to eat the knob. As it turned out, it was made of chocolate that he had allowed to set up in the mold!

The third portion of Stan's program was a demonstration of how to replace the potted transformers and other components in Atwater Kent power supplies with a minimal amount of trauma and mess. Stan emphasized the use of a high quality

heat gun (not the family kitchen oven) to melt the potting material (usually tar) and allow access to the faulty components.

Robert Lozier demonstrated the processes of ultrasonic cleaning and nickel plating of small parts. Robert stated if you are serious about restoration, the one piece of indispensable equipment is an ultrasonic cleaner. This cleans by the process of cavitation rather than abrasion and produces a really clean part which is free of corrosion and rust. Robert then demonstrated how parts can be re-plated in the restorer's shop with a minimal investment in equipment. The results were amazing.

Larry Dowell demonstrated a technique he has developed to reproduce the plastic dial lenses commonly found on radio sets beginning in the 1930's. His process involves making a male and female die set from plywood and placing

the plastic sheet material in the die and applying heat. Three springs allow the die to shape the plastic into the convex configuration and his process produces a lens of the correct shape and clarity.

The final presenter, Mark Oppat, discussed the restoration and repair of dynamic speakers. These speakers are common in AC sets and, with his techniques, can be restored to playing condition with a minimum amount of effort.

Thanks to all these men for their hard work. The next time you go to a radio meet, make time to attend the programs that are presented. You just might learn a process or a technique you can use in your restoration and conservation efforts. If you have a topic in mind for next year, or if you would like to be a presenter at this meet in 2004, let me know and I'll pass it along to next year's program chairperson.



Auction Report from 2003 Charlotte meet **BY ROBERT LOZIER**

| <u>Description-Price</u> | |
|--|---|
| Airline Bakelite w/ tuning eye- \$60.00 | (min 15)-\$45.00 |
| AK - 10C breadboard (min 900)-NS | Box lot books-\$5.00 |
| AK 317/337 tombstone-\$140.00 | Box lot tubes (min 25)-\$65.00 |
| AK Model 20 (min 20)-\$40.00 | Box lot tubes (min 35)-\$50.00 |
| AK tombstone (min 20)-\$100.00 | Box lot tubes-\$10.00 |
| AK tombstone (min 50)-\$85.00 | Box lot tubes-\$10.00 |
| AK-37 in aftermarket cabinet (min 80)-NS | Burgess & Radio logs booklets (min 30)-\$20.00 |
| All American radio kit - not assembled (min 100)-\$100.00 | Cine Kaid microphone boom-20.00 |
| Arvin - table model?-\$65.00 | Colonial (min 60)-\$55.00 |
| B&K Frequency counter | Cunningham rainbow G.F. - 201 Qty. 2 (min 50)-\$110.00 |
| | Detrola table model-\$80.00 |
| | Detrola wood table set-\$30.00 |

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Echophone (min 125)-\$160.00 | NRI radio servicer-\$30.00 |
| Edison phonograph & records (min 100)-\$50.00 | Philco 38 (min 60)-NS |
| Emanon bakelite AM AC/DC-15.00 | Philco 38-93 (min 35) -\$35.00 |
| Emerson 646A-\$10.00 | Philco 45 (min 75) -\$75.00 |
| Emerson 744B (min 400)-NS | Philco 48-482-\$25.00 |
| Emerson tombstone-\$70.00 | Philco 76 (min 150) -\$115.00 |
| Fada 160-A no tubes | Philco AM/FM (min 25) -\$10.00 |
| (min 50)-\$50.00 | Philco AM-FM-\$15.00 |
| Fairbanks-Morse 57 | Philco B650 (min 18) -\$25.00 |
| (min 100)-\$80.00 | Philco console 38-7(min 25)-\$25.00 |
| GE advertising clock (min 300)-NS | Philco portable (min 25) -\$15.00 |
| GE Model 861 50's set | Philco wood set-\$45.00 |
| (donation to club)-\$35.00 | Philco, Jr. original white finish- |
| GE Model K-64-\$120.00 | \$40.00 |
| GE model L-613 table set-\$25.00 | Philips B6X19T 1961 tansistor table |
| Grebe AC-7 (min 150)-\$200.00 | model (min 25) -\$25.00 |
| Grigsby Grunow "Shirley Temple" | Premier horn w/ MM driver |
| console-\$70.00 | (min 50)-\$50.00 |
| Grundig AM/FM/SW (min 25)- | Raytheon tube display case (min 25) |
| \$10.00 | -\$40.00 |
| Grunow 470-\$35.00 | RCA 103 speaker (min 75) -\$75.00 |
| Guild Town Crier (min 75) -\$50.00 | RCA 2 WD-11 good filaments (min |
| Hallicrafters S-38-\$35.00 | 75) -\$70.00 |
| Hallicrafters S-40A-\$30.00 | RCA 9X561-\$10.00 |
| Halson "lunch box" (min 25)-65.00 | RCA AM/FM (min 25) -\$25.00 |
| Hanley-Burke Puretone-six | RCA Model 9-X-561-\$20.00 |
| (min 55)-NS | RCA portable-\$10.00 |
| Hickock Model 605-\$55.00 | RCA portable-\$25.00 |
| Homebrew Roberts reflex | RCA superhet AR-812 (min 40) - |
| (min 35)-\$35.00 | \$60.00 |
| Imperial table model? -\$110.00 | RCA SW portable like TO (min 30) - |
| Jackson-Bell Model 62 (min 400)- | \$50.00 |
| NS | Scout battery tombstone-\$35.00 |
| Kent 4 tube midget-\$25.00 | Seeburg Model 200 jukebox- |
| Lafayette capacitor checker (min 25) | \$175.00 |
| -NS | Silver-Marshall w/inlaid cabinet- |
| Magnavox phono/amp -\$20.00 | \$60.00 |
| Mark Stein books (donation to club | Silvertone 225 portable-\$15.00 |
| by Mark)-\$105.00 | Silvertone Model 6424 table model- |
| McMurdo Silver Masterpiece II - | \$75.00 |
| chassis-\$700.00 | Stromberg-Carlson 120 - chassis |
| Motorola pop front (min 35) -25.00 | (min 50) -\$90.00 |
| Music Master horn speaker | Stromberg-Carlson AM/FM |
| (min 200) -\$275.00 | (min 30) -\$40.00 |
| Music Master horn-\$50.00 | Super Phonic "Cremona" phono- |
| Nord Mende AM/FM (min 40)- | \$110.00 |
| \$30.00 | Sylvania portable (min 50) -\$35.00 |
| | Thomas Edison portrait - framed- |

\$55.00
 Toshiba 10TL AM?FM-\$10.00
 Toshiba 7TH wall mount transistor
 radio (min 90) -\$75.00
 Traucel 9TH-\$20.00
 Truetone Console (165) -NS
 Truetone table model D724
 (min 20) -\$45.00
 Unicor MT-1029/URC (min 20) -
 \$15.00
 Utah? Drum speaker (min 125) -
 \$125.00
 Vanguard 888 (min 45) -\$40.00
 West.RA & AK TA unit (min 400) -
 \$400.00
 Westinghouse "refrigerator"
 (min 75) -\$50.00
 Winslow Eng. Megger (min 50) -
 \$40.00

Wurlitzer drum machine (min 500)
 -\$425.00
 Zenith 50's set (min 45) -NS
 Zenith 6volt tombstone conv. To 110
 (min 200) -NS
 Zenith G615 (min 45) -NS
 Zenith portable TV (min 60)-\$35.00
 Zenith small console (min 50)-
 \$45.00
 Zenith Wave Magnet TO (min 100) -
 \$65.00

| |
|---|
| <p>Legend NS - No Sale min-minimum</p> |
|---|

Note: Items sold below minimum were approved by owner during the sale.

The Old Equipment Contestat the 27th Annual
 CC-AWA – “Spring Meet in the Carolinas”

BY ROBERT LOZIER

These annual regional conferences are not, for the most part, just big swap meets. Folks are not likely to drive hundreds of miles for a Saturday morning of open trunks in a parking lot. In addition to the quest for new and old goodies, folks want the opportunity to meet others for friendship and the acquisition and exchange of knowledge on the subject. This is where the value of organized restoration and preservation forums, historical presentations and old equipment exhibitions make for a conference that folks look forward to attending every year.

Again for 2003, just under 30 people came forward to bring fine vintage communications technology equipment to place on exhibition. To them I say many thanks for sharing with us.

Holding an exhibition is the important thing but many of us enjoy the concept of a competition where our equipment is judged by various criteria. Such things as technical significance, social impact, rarity, physical condition and technical documentation are all important factors in judging such a contest. In addition, an entry may serve to showcase the owner’s skill in preservation and restoration, and show the viewer what can be done with an object that might have been dismissed as “hopeless junk”..

This technology we find so fascinating has taken many paths of development through the years. It becomes a challenge for contest organizers to establish categories where apples can be compared to apples, rather than, say, hay wagons. Once I thought up a list of

43 categories without much effort. Experience has told us that it is best to stick mostly to categories where we think participation will be good. However, we realize we must rotate the other categories to keep the exhibitions fresh.

So here are the details of the 2003 Old Equipment Contest at the CCAWA 27th Annual "Spring Meet in the Carolinas":

Pre-Broadcast Receivers & Transmitters:

1st Place - Bob Slagle – Colby Telegraph School Tuner and Audiotron detector

2nd Place - Gary Alley – Penna-Wireless Tuner

1920's Era Broadcast Receivers - Passive Detectors And 1 Tube Sets:

1st Place - Merrill Bancroft – Amrad xtal set and (your choice) of 1 and 2 tube matching amps

2nd Place - Louie Scribner – 1 tube regen homebrew with, British, French & American parts (This entry was operational while on exhibit.)

1920's Era Broadcast Receivers: 2-3 Tube Sets:

1st Place - Gary Alley – Whit-Rad Radio

(This piece was a great example of many very small operations that appeared only for a year or two, mainly folks who thought they could get away without seeking a patent license.)

2nd Place - Barker Edwards—a pair of Montgomery-Ward/TriCities using 01's & 99's

2nd Place - Ernie Hite – Grebe CR-9

1920's Era Broadcast Receivers: 4-6 Tube Sets

1st Place - Ron Lawrence – Federal 61

(This entry was never used. Its original packing materials were still in place.)

2nd Place - Merrill Bancroft – Alan Cardwell receiver

3rd Place - Gary Alley – RICO Type JM

(RF Amp, Detector & audio amp box requiring external tuner)

1920's Era Broadcast Receivers: 7 Or More Tube Sets

1st Place - Charles Pierce – Norden Hauck Model C7

2nd Place - Richard Owens – Atwater Kent 56

1930's – 40's – 50's Era Cathedrals & Tombstones

1st Place - Louis Scribner – French SNR and Russian "Red Star" modern design sets. (These were real eye poppers!)

2nd Place - Barry Ethridge – RCA 40X56 "Worlds Fair" radio w/ other 39-40 fair ephemera

3rd Place - Larry Dowell – DeWald 635

(Another one of Larry's 'heroic' restorations, which have few equals.)

1930's–40's–50's Era Consoles:

1st Place - William Cawley –
Atwater Kent 509

(This was the model with
built-in program timer.)

2nd Place - Geoff Bourne –
Stromberg-Carlson Model
231-R chairside

3rd Place - Larry Dowell –
Delco Model R-1117

1930's–40's–50's Era Catalin & Bakelite:

1st Place - Flavio Chavez –
Stewart-Warner ca. 1939

(This was presented in
conjunction with an
innovative video presenta-
tion on restoration.)

2nd Place - Robert Lozier –
Tesla Model T713

3rd Place - Barry Ethridge –
RCA Model 350 “Little
Nipper” Catalin

Transistor Radios: Early Pocket Sets:

1st Place - Paul Farmer –
Regency TR-1 & versions
of the following model
year.

(4 sets)

2nd Place - Patricia Franklin
– Imperial 2 transistor
“Boys Radio”

Transistor Radios: Large Multi-Band Portables:

1st Place - Ralph Bartlett –
Zenith collection of R-
1000, R-3000 & R-7000

Transistor Radios: Novelties:

1st Place - John Deloria –
M&M candies theme
radios

(A great reminder that
advertising campaigns
still sink millions into
novelty radio promotions
and they can be fun to
collect.)

2nd Place - Richard Crews –
Blabbermouth

(Talking mouse on cheese
wedge.)

3rd Place - Ashley Francum
– Radios in the shape of
antique gas pumps

Communications Receivers:

1st Place - Richard Owens –
Hallicrafters 5T

(This was their first
superhet design.)

Sound Reproducers: Horn Speakers

1st Place - Merrill Bancroft –
Correyphone

2nd Place - R. L. Barnett –
Jewet

(This was a hybrid horn
with cone resonator.)

Sound Reproducers: Cone Speakers:

1st Place Bufford Chidester
– Grebe 20/20

(There are more hens
teeth than there are Grebe
speakers.)

2nd Place - Barry Etheridge
– L&K Speaker

(These were Danish made
with a map of Europe on
the cone.)

3rd Place - Fred Crews –
Pacent Electric Model B

Military Radio Equipment (Any Era):

1st Place - Geoff Bourne –
RCA Model B – Backup
xtal set for marine use.

2nd Place - Charles Pierce –
Cardwell Frequency Meter
– BC-153

Advertising:

1st Place - Merrill Bancroft –
Silver Marshal dealers
sign

Open Category (No Ribbon Awards – Items Brought Just For Show):

Robert Lozier: Grebe Sets
built 10 years apart

Geoff Bourne: Chimes that
sound the NBC tune.

(From the Museum of
Radio & TV Technology in
Huntington, WV)

Merril Bancroft: Firth
Model 230A Vocatone

Ribbon Award: Best Restoration With Documentation Of Work Required:

Fred Crews for his American
brand cathedral.

Ribbon Award: Best Presentation:

Louis Scribner for his
exhibition of French and
Russian radios.

Senior Class: Pre 1930:

Bob Slagle – NESCO CN-113
receiver

Senior Class: Post 1930

Larry Dowell – Pilot Model
X23 tombstone

Special Awards:

Gary Carter – Carterdyne –
Chirp-O-Matic TNT for
the Old Time Transmitter
contest

Flavio Chavez for
innovation in video
presentation

Best In Show:

Bob Slagle – Colby
Telegraph School Tuner &
Audiotron detector

People’s Choice Award:

Louis Scribner – French
SNR and Russian “Red
Star” modern design sets

Thanks again for your efforts in bringing out all the sets for exhibition. Think about doing this again next year and try to talk one of your collector friends into joining. Collectively, there are tens of thousands of items out there in private collections that would be appreciated by many visitors to our conference.



Amplion ‘Swan Neck’
DeLuxe Horn - 1926

Nickel Plating Old Radio Parts

I thought that plating of re-plating the small parts for our restorations was just too much trouble to go through. I had tried a few times to do some nickel plating, but the part would come out with a dull finish and tended to flake off in some spots. Then, because of the recession in 1975, I found myself out of a full-time job. The only job that I could find to tide me over was a part-time job at an electroplating job shop! The on-the-job experience gave me the opportunity to see what I had been doing wrong in the workshop and how to go about setting up a convenient method of plating at home.

First, you will have to acquire the necessary cleaning agents, plating solution, containers and a heat source. But read on. It's easy and you will most likely have many of the items on hand. I'll first present a check list of materials and then tell you how to go about getting them.

Materials For Nickel Electroplating

1. A degreaser such as lacquer thinner (but remember the flammability problem). You still may be able to find 1-1-1 trichloroethane which will not burn or other safety solvents.
2. Ordinary dish washing detergent
3. Dry acid (sodium bisulfate). This is the dry acid used to lower the pH in swimming pools and spas. Very cheap and a 5 lb. carton will last for years.
4. Acid base nickel plating solution

5. Pure nickel plating anode
6. Stainless steel 'stripping anode'
7. Copper wire (about 22 AWG). Stainless steel wire is even better.
8. D. C. power source
9. Electric hot pot or hot plate
10. 400ml. Pyrex glass beaker
11. D.C. ampere meter 0-2 to 0-10 amps
12. Six Ohm rheostat (if you use a fixed voltage power supply.)
13. My article on the Ultrasonic Cleaning of old radio parts
14. Jewelers rouge & other metal polish
15. Clear brushing lacquer & lacquer thinner

Items 1,2 and 3 - De-greaser, detergent, dry acid:

These cleaning agents are to be used in the same manner as outlined in my article on ultrasonic cleaning. Even if you do not have an ultrasonic cleaner, you can still use the same solutions. Instead of using the power cleaning, you may use a stiff, but very fine, bristle brush such are used to apply glazes to ceramic 'green ware'. You can get various sizes at most craft shops.

Item #4 - Nickel plating solution:

The solution can be purchased from a hobby shop that carries plating equipment for jewelry making or you could even make your own 'brew'. However, I think that a much better plating solution can be obtained from a local electroplating job shop. The commercial electroplater uses a solution that contains

numerous additives that are just not found in hobby solutions. The most prevalent additives are organic brighteners, leveling agents and copper scavengers.

It will be necessary for you to ask the electroplater if he uses an acid base solution (most do) because there are alkaline base solutions which are not suitable for use at home. Also you will need to know the operating temperature of the solution. (A typical plating temperature will be around 125 degrees F.)

These plating solutions can cost a commercial user over \$20.00 per gallon but you can plate a LOT of parts with only a quart of solution. So, ask the guy for a quart and offer to pay him \$10.00 - \$15.00 for it.

Since first writing this article 25 years ago, the Internet has become a force in our lives (for better or worse). You can locate just about anything there and I'm pleased to inform you that there is at least one good supplier of electroplating supplies to the hobby market. Visit Caswell Electroplating in Miniature at <http://www.caswellplating.com>.

Item #5 - Nickel Plating Anode.

A pure nickel anode is required. This can be obtained from the hobby shop or you may just want to get a few slugs of electrolytic nickel from the job shop. (I drill and tap a 6 x 32 thread hole in the center of the slug and use a stainless steel screw to attach the slug to a 3/8 inch wide strip of stainless steel that makes my electrical connection and can be bent to provide a hook to hang the electrode on the side of the plating bath. I coat the stainless steel parts with silicone rubber to keep current

leakage off of the SS. The easiest way to get the SS sheet is to buy a pair of SS mud flaps at the auto parts store.) Do NOT use bare copper wire to attach your nickel electrodes. The copper will 'poison the bath'. Also, don't use 5 cent pieces as anodes because they are only a nickel alloy which is mostly copper.

Item #6 - Stainless Steel Stripping Anode.

Stainless steel 'Stripping anode'. This can come from the hobby shop or you can use a strip of the SS mud flap mentioned above.

Item #7 - Copper Wire.

Will be used to suspend the parts to be plated.

Item #8 - DC Power Source.

You will need a D.C. source that can deliver up to 4.5 Volts at a current of 1.5 Amps. If you do not plan to do more than a few hours of plating, then three alkaline 'D' cells may do the job for you. I have found that you can pick up used 5 Volt DC supplies at hamfest fleamarkets for less than \$5.00 that will deliver six or more amps. For lower voltage, just run the power supply from a VARIAC or use a 25 Ohm rheostat in series with your plating anode rated for high current. It's always good to monitor the supply current to let you know if the plating current gets too high.

Item #9 - Electric Hot Pot/Plate.

You will have to keep the plating solution heated above the typical working temperature (about 125 degrees F.) The easiest way to do this is to place a beaker full of plating solution in a hot water bath.

I have found one of these small electric hot pots to be ideal for this purpose. They are designed to heat a can of soup or boil water for two cups of coffee. I regulate the pot temperature by powering the hot pot with a lamp dimmer control or Variac.

Item #10 - 400 ml. Pyrex glass beaker.

You could just use any type of glass container such as a wide mouth peanut butter jar but glass beakers cost less than \$3.50 and are available from science hobby shops and medical supply houses.

Item #11 - DC ampere meter.

The meter is required so that you can know the plating current being drawn. The plating rate is directly related to the current density expressed in amperes/sq. ft. of plating surface.

**Item # 14 - Jeweler's Rouge/
Metal Polish**

The jeweler's rouge and other polishing materials can come from a hobby shop or an auto restoration supply house such as Eastwood's.

**Preparing The Part For
Plating:**

Follow the cleaning procedures given in my article on ultrasonic cleaning. With a clean part, you can now inspect it to see if there are any flaws which need to be filled with Stay Brite solder or polished out. An item to be plated can never receive a bright mirror finish unless the item is polished before plating. Remember that most good electroplate is only 0.0003 to 0.0005 inches thick! In most cases the flaws can be removed with just jewelers rouge or a very fine wire

wheel. A 'Moto Tool' is very handy for this task.

After polishing the part, attach a bare copper wire to the part. For very small parts such as nuts & screws it is adequate to suspend the part thru the hole in the nut or hold a screw by looping the wire around the threads. On larger parts such as a tube socket shell or rheostat base you can experience uneven plating if it is suspended from just one point. In order to make the current density more even on the part simply suspend it from two or more points.

The item to be plated must be absolutely clean. You are using an electro-chemical process. Materials such as dirt and oils WILL interfere with the process ! So; repeat the cleaning procedures in the degreaser, detergent and acid making sure to handle the parts by the hanger wires only!

As a final step before plating it is a good idea to re-activate if there is old nickel plate on the part. (If you do this, do not hang the part by bare copper wires because the copper will poison the plating bath. --- Use tinned wire or stainless steel wire.) This is done by connecting the negative side of the power supply to the stainless steel electrode and connecting the parts to be plated to the positive side of the power supply. Turn ON power and increase the current until there is a free flow of gas bubbles from the parts. A minute or two of 'reverse plating' is usually adequate. Longer re-activation will begin to dull the finish to some degree.

Plating The Part:

Make sure the nickel plating

solution is up to temperature then place the part in the solution. The plating bath temperature is not critical. It is only important to make sure that you are above the recommended operating temperature. Low temperatures promote blistering and dull plating. (For example the solution that I use normally operates at about 125 degrees F. so I make sure that the plating bath is up to 140 degrees F or so before I start to plate.)

Make sure that you have reversed the connections to the power supply so that the part to be plated is now connected to the negative side of the supply and the positive side is now connected to your pure nickel anode. Allow a few seconds for the part to heat up to the temperature of the solution before turning on power. The plating solution must be under constant agitation while plating in progress. The easiest way to do this is to stir the solution with the part being plated. Also rotate the part for more even plating.

The current you should use has to be little more than an educated guess. It is important to remember that too high a plating current will result in blistering or a build up of rough nickel on the edges of the part. Too low a current density will result in poor 'throwing' of the plate into the recesses of the part. I can however, give you a few examples:

With a plating temperature of about 125 degrees F., I can plate about ten 6x32x 1/2 inch machine screws with a current of about 1/2 Amp. in about ten minutes.

The shell of a Federal UV type tube socket plates nicely at about 1 1/2 Amps. in about 15 minutes.

The time necessary to build up sufficient plate will vary with the solution used, the operating temperature and the current density used. In general most parts will acquire enough plate in 10 to 15 minutes. You can tell when you have enough plate simply by checking the part for only a second or two every few minutes. You should expect for the part to take on a dull nickel finish for a few minutes. Then the plate will slowly begin to become bright and mirror like. The mirror like areas will be spotty at first but will grow and finally merge together if the part was well polished. As soon as the part is as mirror like as you think it will become; take it out! If you continue to add plate, the finish will begin to get rough along the edges and at the point where the part is suspended.

Now rinse and dry the part completely. If any dull areas remain, but you are sure there is good plate, then you might try to polish out these areas with jewelers rouge and a piece of felt. Do this lightly by hand!

After you polish the part, clean it in the degreaser and get the part absolutely dry with a heat gun. If the part is steel, it is a good idea to give it a thin coat of brushing lacquer. In even the best nickel plate, there will be microscopic pitting of the plate that will leave minute areas of the base metal exposed to the air. Rusting will start and the iron oxide crystals will push up and fracture the nickel plate. The lacquer coat will seal these pits and retard the corrosion/rusting process for many years.

Give nickel plating a try.

Note: Make sure, if you are re-plating, that the part has just nickel plate on it and not silver or chrome plating. I have noticed that some of the RCA tube socket shells are chrome over nickel plate. Some

Kennedy dials are silver plated while others are nickel plated. And of course the Aeriola Sr. And Jr. Dials are silver plated.

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RUBBERIZED SUPERGLUE

Something new to me...

Some 10 or 15 years ago, I was dusting in my old display room and pulled down a Williard "B" Battery Eliminator for cleaning (one of those units with a full wave chemical rectifier). After some heavy duty dusting, it was ready to go back on the shelf. Much to my total disgust, I lost my grip on the thing and it went crashing to the floor!



From near mint to near trash in a fraction of a second. Well, I did not have the time to fix it and so it sat with its front face caved in for many years. While I was away on a business trip this past winter, a new dehumidifier in the room developed a leaking drain line that caused an explosion of mold. The Willard and a couple hundred other items had to come off shelves so that I could clean them with chlorine bleach. When it came time to put the Williard unit back on the shelf, something told me that this was the time to fix the face.

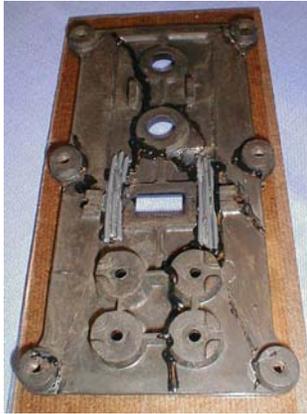
In the past ten years, I discovered that there were super-fluid versions of Superglue (cyanoacrylates). I

found that it was possible to repair ordinary cracks in Bakelite with this glue. For places where chips were missing, I discovered that you could use a file to grind up Bakelite into a fine powder and pack the dust into the joint. You touch a drop of the super-fluid glue to the powder and it instantly saturates the powder. The stuff is rock hard for filing and sanding in less than 20 seconds. That works fine for Bakelite, but the front panel of the Willard unit turned out to be molded hard rubber.

Superglue does not harden in the presence of hard rubber but it can be forced to adhere and cure if one surface is pre-treated with a curing agent. Ok, I had a plan; get out the Superglue and the curing agent and start putting the dozen or more shards back together again. However, I was soon stopped in my tracks on the project.

The problem with most superglues is that they have a relatively short shelf life. My supply on hand had turned almost solid and it was a Sunday afternoon. My usual source of this type of superglue, as well as the curing agent, is a hobby supply shop called Action Hobbies in Matthews, NC. I was not going to find them open.

I decided to go to a nearby auto parts store and look for some kind of superglue so I could at least put a few of the pieces together. In looking through the racks, I spotted a blister pack of BLACK Superglue. Cool! The product is distributed by Devcon and goes under the brand name Griptonite. The fine print says that the glue is filled with rubber that provides some flexibility to the joint. I thought that this stuff just



might be an excellent choice for this particular repair project. So I bought two tubes and headed home.

After supper, I started on my hard rubber puzzle. Since this panel had to fit into a cutout in the side of the steel cabinet, I needed to make sure that all the joints were tight and the assembly flat. To make sure that would happen, I made a fixture from a piece of Masonite tile board cut to match the cabinet cutout. I then covered the surface of the tile board with clear plastic box closing tape to keep from gluing the panel to my fixture. I primed a few surfaces (only one surface of each joint!) and checked the fit. There is usually a need to use an Xacto knife to clear tiny fragments from the joint to obtain the tightest fit. I opened a pack of the Griptonite and found that the tube was already cured solid! Ditto for the second pack. % # @ & * ! Stopped in my tracks again!

Later in the week, I finally got to stop by Action Hobbies on the way home from work to stock up on glue.

Much to my surprise, they also carried Griptonite in 2 oz. bottles. Great! I was soon on my way to making the Willard panel whole again.

As usual, there were small chips along edges of the joints and these were easily filled with the Griptonite, then cut down and polished to match. I found out that I did not find all the shards years ago. Fortunately, the largest missing part was part of a rib about the size of a one inch length of toothpick. It was an easy task to coat the area with the curing agent (which is dry in seconds) and then lay down a track of the glue. Wait a minute and then apply more curing agent and apply another track of glue. With each pass, you build up the track by 0.015" to 0.025", so the process goes quickly. With the use of the Xacto knife, jewelers files and 400 grit sandpaper; I soon had a rib that matched the others almost perfectly.

Hard rubber tends to take on a dingy yellow-brown color at its surface, so I used a very stiff hog bristle brush to work in black rotten stone to even out the color. I then finished off the job with a shot of clear, low sheen acrylic lacquer. It is highly unlikely anyone will notice that the panel of this battery eliminator was ever broken into more than a dozen pieces.

Give this stuff a try on your next rescue mission!





Ads are free to club members collecting and restoring equipment for personal use. Please give your full name, address, zip, and either a phone number, or email address. If you want your ad to run for more than one issue, please submit the ad again. The CC-AWA is not responsible for any transaction and reserves the right to edit any ad submitted. All

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| | |
|--|---|
| <p>WANTED-vintage homebrewed amateur gear, especially transmitters and modulators. Interesting Clough-Brengle test equipment and a Clough-Brengle model 87 transmitter.</p> <p>FOR SALE or TRADE, Johnson Viking Invader 2000 transmitter, good condition except missing power supply.</p> | <p>Ron Lawrence kc4yoy@trellis.net P O Box 3015 Matthews, NC 28106 704-289-1166</p> |
| <p>WANTED, Early version of the Kellogg 401 ac tube with brass base. Need not be operational-for display only.</p> | <p>Ted Miller 935 Polo St Kannapolis, N. C. email - ccawa@juno.com</p> |



Be sure to visit the
 CC-AWA's web site!
<http://www.cc-awa.org>



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