ANTIQUE RADIO COLLECTORS & HISTORIANS (ARCH) OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

ARCH CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

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Join us for our next meeting:

Tuesday
June 9th, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Kirkwood Community Center
111 S Geyer Road,
Saint Louis, MO
63122

May 2026 Meeting Notes:

26 Members were present at the ARCH meeting making it one of the most attended meetings of 2026! Two visitors were also present.

A Zenith Tans-Oceanic Royal 7000 was brought in. Joe is asking club members if they would like to restore it. Club discussions occurred regarding this radio.

Dave B. passed out tickets to the National Museum of Transportation in Saint Louis to club members. Dave discussed the museum briefly again and also the importance of donations. Due to donations, the museum was able to pass out $28,000 worth of admissions for visiting school children.

Cookies brought in by a *mysterious* ARCH member were again enjoyed by everyone.

Old & New Business

Club's Spring picnic will occur on Saturday May 30 at Joe's place of business. (Address and information on Page #2 of this newsletter.)

Club dues for calendar year 2026 are $20.00 dollars. (Same price for 10+ years!) Please support the club and become a paying member. Dues go toward the Christmas party, room rental, and club picnic events. Checks can be sent to Roger Cole. Address is found on the newsletter's last page.

Event Announcements (Hamfest & Club Events)

Egyptian Hamfest

Date: June 14th, 2026
Location: VFW Post 4223
Address: 215 Military Road, Saint Louis, MO 63125
Time: 7:00 AM — 12:00 PM
Website: www.w9aiu.org
Note: Event tickets are $8.00 at the door.

ZeroBeatersHamfest

Date: July 19th, 2026
Location: Washington KC Hall
Address: 1121 Columbus Lane, Washington, MO 63090
Time: unknown
Website: http://zerobeaters.org
Note: Event details are not on the club's website yet.

Radio Club Illinois—Radiofest Expo XLIII 2026
Date: Friday July 31st & Saturday August 1st, 2026
Location: Midian Shriners Campus
Address: 570 S. Gary Ave, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
Time: **Various times of events throughout the day.**
Website: www.antique-radios.org

Note: ARCI's 45th anniversary. There is a hotel on the campus of the event. The hotel is having a special room reservation rate for Radiofest attendants. See the website or ask The Newsline Editor (Anthony) for the group code.

ARCH 2026 Spring Picnic

Picnic will be held Saturday May 30th, 2026 at 10:00AM. Picnic will be held at Joe's Tauser's shop/business. Bring a side dish or desert. Bring stuff to trade or sale with other members. Joe has a lot of stuff to sell or trade.

Location:
Joseph Tauser & Associates Inc.
12168 Lackland Road
Saint Louis, MO 63146



"This may take a few minutes."
Tom Henderson
September 17, 1960

Local and National Radio News—Kind of….

Weather Radios



A total of 950 weather radios were handed out for free in North Saint Louis. The radio giveaway was made possible by a Kentucky based disaster relief nonprofit. The radio donation, in total, was worth ~$50,000. Individuals waited in traffic for hours to received their radio. (With gas prices being ~$5.00 a gallon, I ponder if the wait was worth it.)

Weather radios are touted for their ability to provide instant alerting to weather patterns. It is notable that the NOAA's weather radio service started in 1960 as an experimental service. The service expanded and was in in 20 cities in the early 1970s and had reached about 44 percent of the population. Actual staff of the local National Weather Service were heard until "Paul", a digital voice, replaced humans. As computer synthesized voice improvements were made, "Craig", "Tom", "Donna", and then "Javier" were introduced. Computer based voice, compared to human, permit a more rapid creation of alerts.

590 AM—KFNS/KLIS/KEZK

This local AM station was previously known as KFNS. Many would remember past stations slogans, "590 The Fan" or "590 The Man". The station, when sold in 2025, changed its slogan to, "The Lou Information Station". This change occurred as the owner Zobrist Media sold the station to Big Toe Media LLC. Audible discussions on the station, as stated on the stations website, consist of *conversations being held within Saint Louis*. When live broadcast was not occurring, recorded shows related to business, leadership, financial planning, sports, tech, real estate, pets, etc.… were aired.

Notably, the station's line up include the names of past local personalities. Jim Hayes, a Cardinals sideline reporter. Cam Janseen, a former St. Louis Blues player was a contributor of hockey related sports events. Long time St. Louis personality Charlie "Tune' Edwards was heard on the air. Notably, Tony Patrico was back on the air on this station. Tony Patrico was one of the original host of 105.6 "The Point" morning show, "The Rizzuto show". He left the show unexpectedly due to "unethical actions" he was privately behaving in.

The station went off the air on March 3rd, 2026. The license was quickly surrender back to the FCC the next day. Sadly another AM station riding the airwaves has been quieted and gone dark.

Show and Tell - May 2026 Club Meeting

Vernon Roberts — 1933 Philco 19LZ



Vern brought this radio again to a meeting. This radio was brought to a meeting years prior. (Some club members may recall this radio.) This is the 2nd oldest radio Vern has in his extensive radio collection. This is an early chairside radio.

Vern and other members discussed this may be one of the 1st chairside radio models ever sold. The design of the radio placed the speaker facing the user. The choice of speaker placement was not ideal as any chair would potentially muffle the sound.

Two versions of this radio existed. A 19LZ and a possibly the 19LZX or the 91RX. (Editor is unsure which radio model Vern was referring to.) The '19' corresponds to the use of Philco's Model 19 chassis.

Vern discussed that one version of this radio, not this one, employed Philco's Shadow Meter. The shadow meter was Philco's response to RCA's eye-tube. Vern worked to restore this radio in 2005. He had guidance from club member Don Ferguson. Everything was done to Don's high level of electronic restoration. This radio still works today with no issues!

After discussing the radio, Vern placed it on the auction table. He hopes it goes to a good home.



An example of a Philco shadow meter is seen at the top of the dial. The black mark is the shadow.

NEXT PAGE

Unknown ARCH member — RCA Employee badges —1930's era

This is not an item that has ever appeard Before.

Many people collect presidential campaign buttons. These are original radio employee badges of RCA employees.

The badges have the employees picture, an employee number, and the location of their employment. Looking at the picture, all but three of the badges are of women. The locations each differ with places from:
-Lancaster, P.A.
-Harrison, N.J.
-Camden, N.J.
-Indianapolis, I.N.
-Chicago, I.L.

NOTE: I am sorry for not writing the name down of whom brought this to the meeting.



Joe Tauser—Hackaday Website Article — *The Vacuum Tube's Last Stand*



Joe discussed this website. https://hackaday.com Joe discussed the page's article regarding vacuum tubes. The page has an in-depth discussion regarding the tube's final push to remain in use. Enhancements were really pushed in the final years tubes were being used. Tubes were designed to be smaller, consume less electric, and operate at the highest frequencies possible. Different tube designs resolved earlier known electronic limitations. "Acorn tubes" were designed for ultra-high frequency operation in radar's. (These devices allowed RADAR to operate in higher frequencies permitting the ability to see smaller airborne aircraft.) Compactrons incorporated many tubes in one package improving life expectancy. Finally, Nuvistors and subminiature tubes represented the last gasp of thermionic electronic devices. Each of these types of tubes is discussed in the article and numerous videos.

Fred Smith — "Story Time with Fred" — Radio Collection For Sale

Since the April meeting, Fred has sold half of the radios he wants to sell. Fred presented pictures of the remaining items he wants to sell. This is the last week of the radio estate sale. If you want "rock bottom prices", this is the time. Fred went through the below pictures outlining the features of each radio, the model number, and what he did to restore it. I did not write down everything Fred stated… but there are very nice radios and record players still remaining.

Fred's contact information is: (314)605-3122 and fatsatman@gmail.com. He resides in Saint Peters, MO.



Battery TRF Sets



Brunswick AR-5



Credenza







A VE—7-26x radio. This is a record player with an AM radio. Books on the sides are original albums holding records of the area.

VV-XVI

Various other remaining items are several pieces of vintage and modern test gear. There is various test gear from EICO. A battery eliminator notably is for sale.

May Raffle Table







The May raffle table was full of goodies! Radios, records players, restoration tools and components. One of the best auction tables of all time! There was even a NOS Zenith 1L6 tube in the Zenith carboard box on the table! This radio tube is highly prized as it was used in early Zenith Trans-Oceanic and similar rival radios. These 1L6 pentagrid converter tubes are hard to locate today. Comparable tubes can be used but frequency response at high frequencies is slightly reduced.

One very pristine looking radio is the 1953 RCA Victrola record player. This is Model 3-US-5 with chassis RC-1130. This radio has an internal record changer and able to play 33 1/3, 45, and 78 RPM records. The raffle table itself has test probes, a magnifying light, battery holders, various transistor AM and shortwave radios, One notable radio is the black Realistic walkie talkie. This radio transmitter appears cosmetically similar to the Realistic Space Patrol walkie talkies both Doc Brown and Marty McFly used in the movie Back To The Future. (I did not check the back of the radio.)

Bing Crosby

"Der Bingle" was, like his friend Bob Hope, a man of many media – a recording and movie star, host of a top radio program and, eventually, a television staple at Christmas.



Portrait of Bing Crosby

Harry Lillis Crosby was born in Tacoma, WA, in 1903. The fourth born of a total of seven children. His Bing nickname came from a character "Bing" featured in a comic strip called, "Bingville Bugle". This was one of his favorite comic strips as a child. (I found a story online that he got this name from going around town as a child yelling "Bing Bing" while pointing a toy gun. I do not think this is true, but it is a comical story. Bing told this story to his radio audience once. It is believed he was just telling this version as it gave listeners a comical image.) The family moved to Spokane when he was three and he went to high school and then began to study law at Gonzaga University, but decided he wanted to become a singer. He and a friend, Al Rinker, went to Los Angeles where they got jobs with Rinker singing and playing piano and Crosby playing drums and singing. Notably, Bing sung while holding a megaphone. Paul Whiteman signed them in 1927 and they toured with his band as the Rhythm Boys until 1930. In 1929, Crosby was dating Dixie Lee (she became his first wife) and recorded a record for her that his brother promptly sent to CBS and NBC. CBS gave him a contract. The first broadcast of Fifteen Minutes with Bing Crosby aired on Sept. 2, 1931. This show eventually reached 50 million listeners at its peak. Crosby was initially not a person that would sing in public. He would rather whistle songs than sing them.

The following year he starred in Paramount's The Big Broadcast and went on to a career of 104 films. He was among the top 10 box office stars for 15 years and was No. 1 in 1944-49. He won the Best Actor Academy Award in 1944 for The Bells of St. Mary's and was nominated for two more Oscars. Among his films were Holiday Inn (in which he sang White Christmas) and the seven Road pictures he made with Bob Hope.

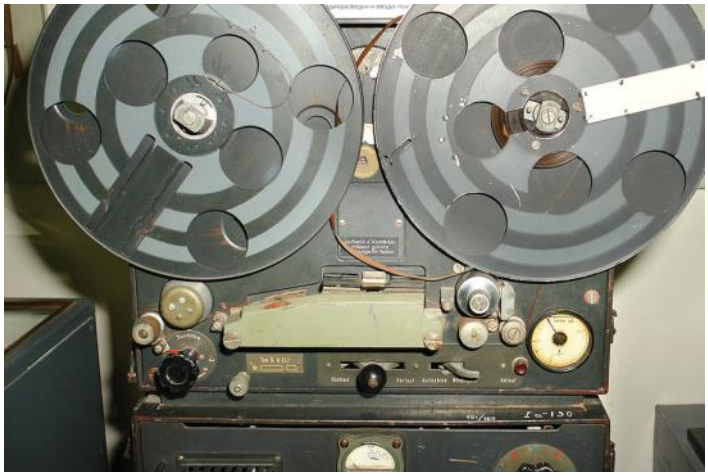
In 1935 Crosby became host of The Kraft Music Hall on NBC, a job he held for 10 years, becoming one of America's biggest stars. This one-hour show featured Bob Burns and Jimmy Dorsey as a bandleader. His music career was also over 51 years, earning 22 Gold Records and 38 No. 1 records, including White Christmas, which was the most successful single for more than 44 years, selling more than 30 million copies.

During World War II, Bing Crosby would entertain the American Troops. He learned to pronounce German from written scripts and read propaganda broadcast intended for German forces. The German listeners gave him the *Germanesque* pet name "Der Bingle". A poll of GIs revealed Crosby topped the list as the person who had done the most for GI moral. He was listed ahead of Franklin Roosevelt, General Dwight Eisenhower, and also Bob Hope.

Bing Cosby - (Continued)

Following Germany's defeat in World War II, the Army discovered the German invention of tape recording. Crosby thought this would be a great way to build up a bank of recorded shows, allowing him more time for golf, his favorite pastime. NBC and Kraft wouldn't hear of it and Crosby walked out for seven months. Kraft took him to court and he returned for the end of the 1945-46 season, but he was then free to go elsewhere.

After WWII, Crosby witnessed a demonstration of a German broadcast quality reel-to-reel tape recorder. The recorder was called a "*Magnetrophon*". Crosby, understood the importance of this recorder. Importance was due to the recorder reproducing a very realistic recording with little to no noise. German engineers had initially employed a DC bias signal to the magnetic tape. The bias, increased high-frequency response of the tape. Notably, a specific German recorder had a strange issue that caused it out outperform other recorders. Engineers looked into this "failure" of a recorder. It was discovered the DC bias circuit was not injecting a DC bias but infact an AC bias. This AC bias had further improved the fidelity of recordings. This final setup, employing AC bias, had improved recording so well, that recordings exceeded the audio quality of radio transmitters. Notably, Hitler used this model of machine to broadcast his own recordings. Due to the high fidelity of these recordings, listeners would believe Hitler was somewhere he was in fact not presently at.



A German Magentrophon

Being impressed with these magnetic recording, Crosby invested $50,000 into a company called Ampex. Ampex took on the challenge of building copies of this recorder. Ampex, at the time was a six person company. These copies would become the Ampex Model 200A. Years later, this company would be the world leader in tape recording. Due to Crosby's investment, Crosby had first insight and ability to use the companies products.



Bing Cosby, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen, and Danny Kaye in 1954 "White Christmas"

With the ability to record high quality…. Crosby tried to persuade NBC to allow him to tape his shows. Taping his daily show would permit him full control over what is heard by the public. Taping would also permit him not to have two separate live shows, back to back. (He would have a live show for East Coast listeners and then hours later, on the same day, have another live show for West Coast listeners.)

Bing Crosby (Continued)

Notably, In 1948, American polls declared him, "The most admired man alive". He beat Jackie Robinson and also Pope Pius XII in this poll.

Third-place ABC (formerly the NBC Blue network) welcomed him, giving him everything he wanted. With Philco radios signed as the sponsor of "Philco Radio Time". This show is recognized today as being the first pre-recorded radio program aired on a major USA radio network. Crosby booked Bob Hope as the guest for that first broadcast, on Oct. 16, 1946. This show as an immediate hit. But after that, the numbers dropped off. However, sales of Philco radios were increasing so the recorded format stayed.

In the 1950s, as both radio and music changed, his involvement with a radio show finally came to an end in 1956. In 1948 he had made his first appearance on television, and in 1957 he hosted the successful Edsel Show special with Frank Sinatra and Rosemary Clooney that led to an ABC-TV contract to host two specials a year. In 1964 he starred in an ABC sitcom that lasted just one season. He also hosted some 30 episodes of ABC's Hollywood Palace variety show during the period from 1964 to 1970 and his annual Christmas specials until 1977.

His "*Bing Crosby Productions*" produced television shows for the networks and syndication, including Hogan's Heroes, Ben Casey, World Series of Golf, Rebound, and Slattery's People, as well as several made-for-TV movies.

Bing Crosby died in 1977 of a sudden fatal heart attack after finishing 18 holes of golf in Madrid, Spain. His last words while on Moraleja Golf Course were, "That was a great game of golf, fellas." He died having 300 hit singles and a net worth of $50 million. PBS reported the Crosby recorded more than 2,000 songs during his career. 396 recording were in the charts and 203 of these made it into the top #10. Nobody in American music history has scored more #1 hits. He topped the pop chart 43 times (More than the Beatles and Elvis Presley put together). The 1948 issue of Music Digest stated half of all recorded radio airplay that year to play Bing Crosby tunes. (Editor's note: Since he was early investor in AMPEX, I wonder how much of this was due to his recordings being the first.)

Crosby was a 25% owner of the Pittsburg Pirates baseball team. The biggest moment during his ownership of the Pirates came during the 1960 World Series. Crosby had decided to not watch the final game because he considered himself a bad omen. If he attended the game, the Pirates would lose. He had Game #7 of the World Series recorded via kinescope. He simply did not want to watch the game. This game, Pittsburg Pirates versus New York Yankees, would be later nicknamed "The Best Game Ever". No known visual recordings of this game were known to exist. His kinescope recording was found, after his death, in the wine cellar of his estate. (This recording can now be watched on YouTube.)

In 1983, his son published a memoir called, "Going My Own Way". This book portrayed Ning as a strict and abusive father. Other siblings, after the book being published, downplayed this behavior of Bing.

Bing Crosby (Continued)

Bing Crosby is one of 33 people whom have three starts on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He has a star for motion pictures, radio, and (advancements) in audio recording.

An article in a 1945 Life magazine called him, "An American Institution".







Quotes attributed to Bing Crosby:

"Oh, listen a lot and talk less.
You can't learn anything when you're talking."

"When I'm worried and I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep.
When I fall asleep, I am counting my blessings."

"Frank (Frank Sinatra) is a singer who comes along once in a lifetime,
but why did he have to come in mine?"

"There is nothing in the world I wouldn't do for (Bob) Hope, and
there is nothing he wouldn't do for me…
We spend our lives doing nothing for each other."

"There's no labor a man can do that's undignified - if he does it right."

"We'd dub the one that came off best into the final transcription.
It gave us a chance to ad lib as much as we wanted, knowing that excess ad libbing
could be sliced from the final product."

"My golf is woeful but I will never surrender."

Unique Radios

Two notable vintage transistor battery radios….



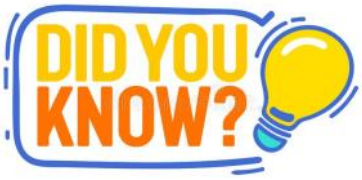


Radio #1: ***Western Auto***
A Western Auto transistor radio advertising the use of 16 transistors. A total of 16 transistors would make this a "good performing" radio. However the power from a 9-volt battery would not result with a long operation time period.

Radio #2: ***Sound Bites Radio from Tiger Toys***
This late 1990s novelty FM only radio was something I wanted. I just never saw it for sale in my small town. I am sure this radio was expensive…. This radio is housed within the pictured base. The base has no speaker. The base does however holds a lollipop. When a person bites down on the inserted lollipop, sound is heard in your ears via the vibrations passing through the teeth. This is called "bone conduction". This product reportedly failed shortly due to limitations of sound quality and many users felt uncomfortable having their teeth rattled.



Other products followed, such as the Lollipop Star, used the same principle as this FM radio. These products however could only play one song saved in a memory chip. It is reported a toothbrush was later manufactured using the same technology, but that also failed.



In 1990, advertising agency "Ammirati & Puris" (A&P) mixed the old with the new to give RCA brand a refurbished image and a much-needed boost. A&P brought back "Nipper" the dog, the familiar pooch who has appeared in RCA's ads since 1929, and then, to showcase RCA's next generation of products, and to complement "Nipper", introduced a Jack Russell Terrier young puppy "Little Nipper". The name "Chipper" won a contest that RCA sponsored in 1991 to name the puppy dog: it connoted several ideas: "*a computer chip; a chip off the old block; chipper, happy and upbeat, and (most importantly) it rhymed with "Nipper"*. "Chipper", of the next canine generation, in advertisements, was staring not at gramophones, but instead was enjoying new, high-tech electronics. "Chipper" represented the new breed of high-technology, design and innovation inherent in RCA products. "Chipper" stood for being more up-to-date, while "Nipper" was enduring and reliable and stood for the company that invented color television.





Question: *Mrs. Marion Stokes was afraid current history would try to be re-written in the future. As a result, Mrs. Stokes decided to perform an action to ensure history is never re-written. What was the action she took to ensure this?*

Answer:

Mrs. Stokes is known for recording, saving, and also archiving hundreds of thousands of hours of televisual (television) news coverage. At the time of her death, three storage lockers and nine rental properties stored her 71,000+ video tapes and other printed media.

She, a librarian and a civil rights demonstrator, was convinced details in the news would be rewritten in the future. Started recording in 1979 multiple different news outlets. Recording continued until her death on December 14th, 2012. Along with recording, she saved newspapers, periodicals over a period of 50 years. How did she afford this? She bought stock in Apple computers when it was a early struggling company.

A documentary film called, "Recorder: The Marion Stokes Project" was created in 2019.

Question for the June ARCH Newsletter:

Whose voice was on the 1st voice transmission to be heard from a spacecraft? What year did this occur? Hint, Sputnik was launched in 1957 followed by USA's *Explorer 1* satellite in 1958.

Radio Quote Of The Month:

"Somebody just gave me a shower radio. Thanks a lot. Do you really want music in the shower? I guess there's no better place to dance than a slick surface next to a glass door."

-Jerry Seinfeld.

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