

ARCH CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

Special points of interest:

- Meeting Notes,
Old & New Business
& Hamfest,
Page #1
- Announcements
Page #2
- Show & Tell
Page #3
- Raffle Table & Post-
age Stamps
Page #9
- The Shadow
Page #10
- Coca-Cola Novelty
Radios—
Page #12
- Did You Know? &
Question and Answer
Page #13

*Join us for our next
meeting:*

**June 10th, 2025 at
6:30 PM**

*Maryland Heights
Community Center
300 McKelvey Road,
Maryland Heights, MO
63043*

*Meetings are temporarily
being held at in Mary-
land Heights Community
Center while the Kirk-
wood Community Center
is being re-finished.*

Meeting Notes:

20 Members were present at the ARCH May Meeting.

Notably, club founders Charles and Gloria Jude-
man were in attendance.

The radio collection of Chuck R. was discussed
among members. Chuck, a great club member,
passed away unexpectedly. His daughter did have
several of his radios for sale on Facebook Market-
place. Some radios were sold. Recent conversation with his daughter re-
vealed the remainder will be sold at the West County Antique Mall in Ellis-
ville, MO. (The stall # is not presently known.) More information, when
provided, will be sent to club members.

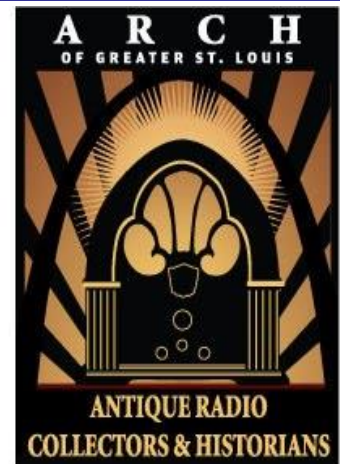
Old & New Business

ARCH Spring picnic will be held at the home of Canio Vaccaro on
Sunday June 1st.

Canio's Home Address:
2040 Pheasant Run Drive
Maryland Heights, MO

Show up at 10:00 AM... and not earlier. Bring a side dish please.
Bring any radio(s) and/or parts you desire to sell or trade with oth-
er club members. The club will provide soda and small sandwiches
for all attendants.

Club dues for calendar year 2025 is again \$20.00 dollars. Please support the club and become a
paying member. Dues go toward the Christmas party, room rental, and club picnic events.



Announcements

Zerobeaters (ZBARC) Washington Hamfest

The 63rd Zerobeater's Hamfest!

July 20th, 2025

Knights of Columbus Hall

1121 Columbus Lane

Washington, MO 63090

<https://zerobeaters.org>

Antique Radio Club of Illinois—2025 RadioFest Expo

Dates: Friday August 1 & Saturday August 2

Website: <https://www.antique-radios.org/>

Expo location:

Medinah Shriners
550 N. Shriners Dr.
Addison, IL 60101

Hotel - on Shriners campus:

Hilton Garden Inn
551 North Swift Road
Addison, Illinois 60101
Discounted Hotel rate is \$119.00. Ask for "Radio Club of Illinois" through July 4, 2025
Reservations: (630) 691-0500



*"Usually, when Harold tries to repair something,
he only makes it worse."*

Show and Tell —May 2025 Club Meeting

Canio Vaccaro - 1926 Orchestrion De Luxe Horn Speaker (Mgfr. Radio Cabinet Company of Indianapolis, Indiana)

Canio procured this speaker from the late club member Stan. The speaker was broken at the base. The “bell” portion of the speaker is made from slats of Walnut and Mahogany. The neck is made of a steel with a thick wrinkle coat finish. The base is solid Walnut.

This speaker sold in 1926 for \$38.00 equivalent to \$686 in 2025. Radio Cabinet Company had a short life. The company only made this speaker and a crystal radio.



The repaired and restored speaker on display.

The speaker had a high impedance Utah driver in the base. The Utah driver no longer worked. Canio replaced the driver with an Atwater Kent driver.

Restoration Actions required....

- 1.) Bond horn back to the base. This action required the metal threaded insert to be removed, cleaned, and reinserted. Use of JBWeld Epoxy securely re-joined the horn back onto the base.
- 2.) Clean all wood components. Howard’s product was used to refinish the wood components.
- 3.) Cleaned and painted/sealed the necks wrinkle coating.
- 4.) Replaced driver and cloth covered wire to the speaker.



The speaker horn and base as acquired by Canio.

Canio provided a video demonstration of the speaker working. The speaker sounded good. Remember, this is a 100 year old speaker!

Fred Smith — 1946 Waters Conley portable 78 RPM Record Player

Fred took himself off Facebook Marketplace. (It is addictive.) One day, while watching television, Fred decided he would check Facebook. Saw this 1946 crank windup portable record player. He was surprised with the physical condition of the record player and more importantly the low asking price of \$20.00. (You can not buy much today for \$20.00)

This record player was produced when electrically driven record players were common. Fred conducted some research... His research revealed large areas of the United States, mostly rural, were still not electrified. Planned electrification actions were halted due World War II. Fred also discovered that Conley did produce electrically drive record players starting in 1933. The company became Waters Conley in 1940. This manual player, no form of electrical amplification, was very unique. By 1955, Waters Conley became a phonography supplier for Zenith and also RCA Victor.



The record player did not work well when purchased. It however did have signs the issues were repairable. The cosmetic condition of the player was in very good shape. The largest problem was that the phono arm did not move smoothly from side to side. Playing a good record would result in skips. Adding sewing machine lubrication to the phono arm resulted with a perfect playing of a record. However, the next day all issues with the phono arm had returned. (The oil had simply dripped/run off over time.)

A deep cleaning was necessary. Fred removed all components and sanded the phono arm's bushing by hand. Hand cleaning did not work as well as expected. A Dremel tool, with a sand paper attachment and polishing compound returned smoothness to the bushing/bearing. (A Dremel tool is a great tool for all individuals whom restore radios.)

The metal diaphragm had slight/small puncture marks. He sealed the puncture marks with small dabs of glue.

The player now plays both sides of a record on one crank. This ability reveals the spring has good strength today.

Notice the phono arm on the right. Sound, from the needle and reproducer, travel through the phonoarm to the bottom base of the player. Sound emanates from the grill on the left.



Chris Holland—RCA 1925 Radiola 26 - Super-Het Portable Receiver

This Radiola was shown to the club as he acquired it. Cleaned the case. Application of wax made the case shine. Chris did replace the handle. He was afraid, in the future, the handle would break unexpectedly.

The fact this radio survived many years is remarkable. Chris did replace one tube and the B+ capacitor. All 6 tubes are RCA UX-199s. This is a battery only radio.

Noably, this radio was not made by RCA. The radio was really built by GE for RCA. RCA, in 1925, was involved in legal matters with American Marconi Radio Corporation. RCA was unable to build radios for a short period of time. (Notably, the RCA Radiola 24 was built just 6 months prior to this radio.)

Chris spoke in-depth about the RCA's notorious "Catacomb" assembly. Club members discussed their past experience with the RCA catacomb. RCA's Catacomb was their way to conceal vital radio components. The catacomb consisted of a metal box with all radio parts sealed within epoxy/rosin. Reasons why RCA did this vary. Club members stated that melting the epoxy out is the only way to address any electrical issues within the catacomb. Placing the catacomb into an oven at 275F degrees is the preferred method for any necessary repair. Low temperature heating reduces any fumes to a minimal amount. Full melting at 275F will take a long time. Luckily, Chris discovered the circuit within the catacomb was in good electrical condition.

Batteries for this radio, of course, are not obtainable. Chris used ten 9-volt batteries connected together to form the B-supply. Six D-cell batteries were used for the A-supply.

This radio must have been highly prized by the original owner. This is believed due to the owner's initials, three letters, engraved on a metal plaque in the center.

The radio works today!!



Radiola 26. The tubes are behind the removable brass colored metal oval cover at the top.

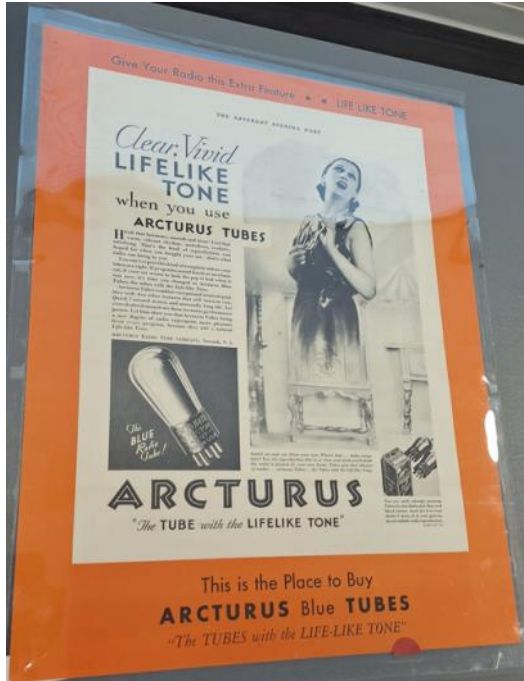


Radiola 26 with the lid partially open. The door contains a loop antenna that is rotatable and removable. The shape of the octagonal antenna is visible within the lid frame.

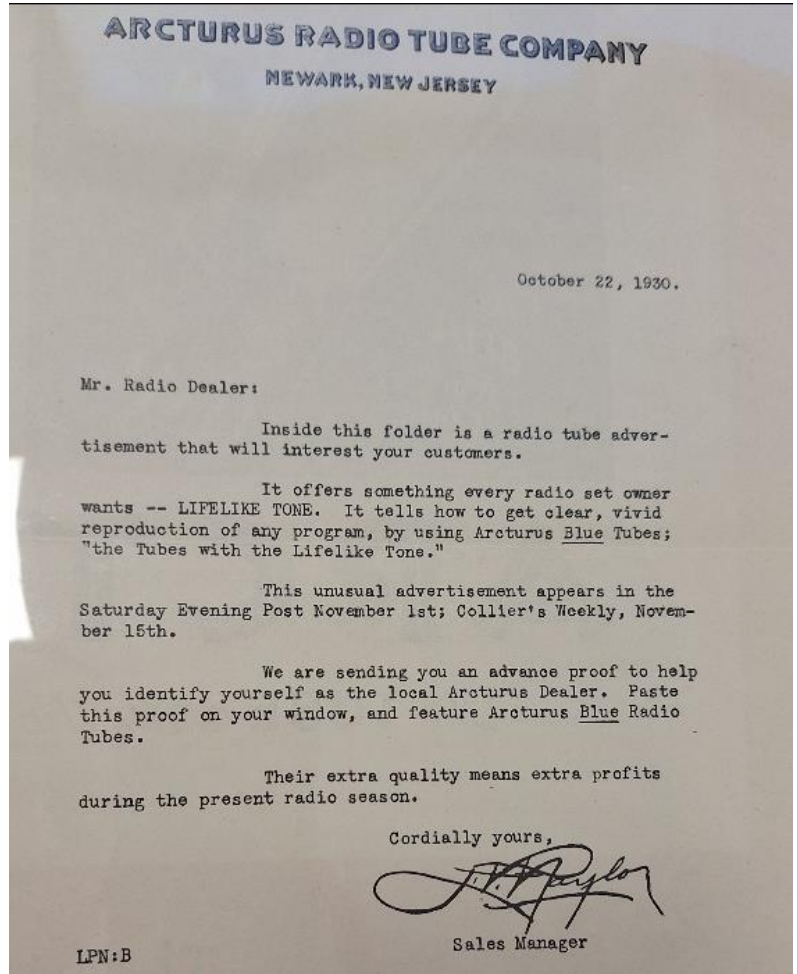
Silas Erns — 1930s Era Poster for Arcturus Tubes

This is a poster that was also advertised within the Saturday Evening Post. This print was mailed to radio dealers. When unfolded, the letter became a poster. This poster has been flattened and sealed. It is in perfect condition.

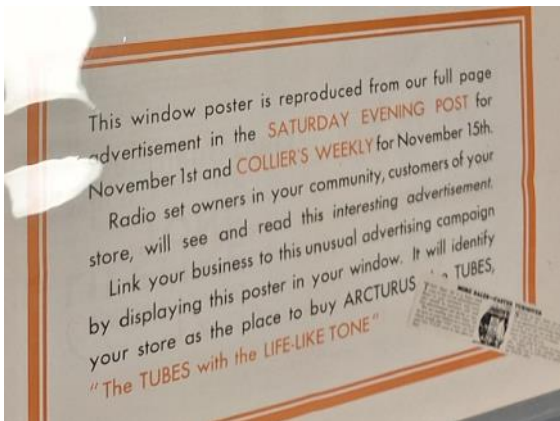
The poster advertises Arcturus “Blue” glass tubes. Many club members held a short discussion about these aesthetically appealing tubes.



The front of the poster.



The letter, on the back of the poster, to radio dealers.



A picture of the rear of the poster.



A picture of an Arcturus Blue Tube.

Dave Kunkle —1960's Era Dime Store Monarch Radio

In the April newsletter, Dave had spoke about his dime store radios. (Is planning to collect all the colors he could find of this style.)

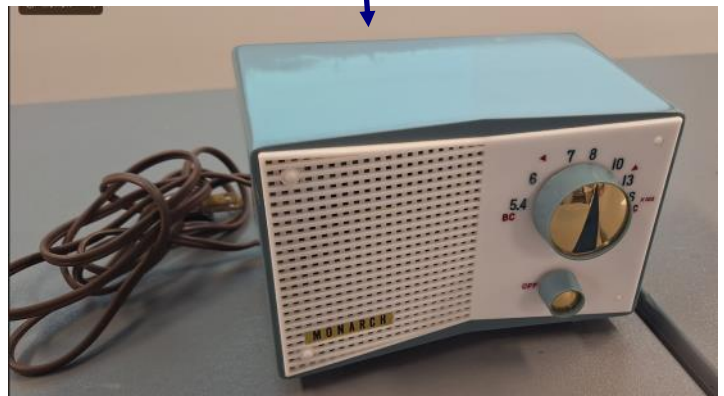
Dave has returned to the ARCH May meeting with one fully restored. Dave has restored the Monarch branded radio. This radio, like the others, is a 5 tube All American radio. There is no hot chassis due to point-to-point wiring.

The cabinet really shines due to wet sanding progressively from 400 to 3,000 grit sandpaper. A final polish of a swirl removal compound provided a deep smooth luster.

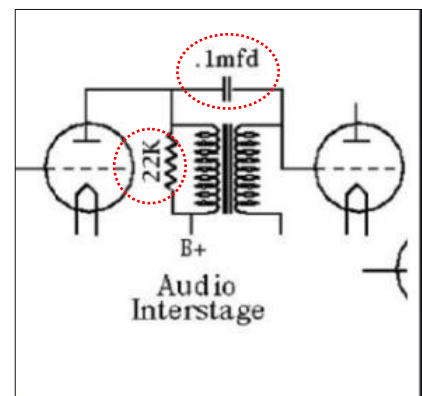
The schematic was not found on the internet. There was however a very small schematic on the back. Dave had to copy the schematic and enlarge the schematic to read it.

The schematic does not show a 1st stage IF transformer. Speaking with radio club members Dave discovered that the radio was built without a 1st stage IF transformer to save cost. The design uses what club members referred to as an "IF Filter". This filter simply joins the two IF stages together across a capacitor. Gain is lost at the expense of reduced manufacturing cost. Another issue was that the IF coil was exhibiting a high impedance. Unwinding the IF coil revealed that the wire was broken. It is believed that years of oxidation had occurred that essentially ate through the wire. Dave employe a similar trick Canio V. recently spoke about. (See Canio's MIRACO Ultra 5 receiver restoration detailed in the April 2025 newsletter.) This trick permits a radio to be restored by electrically bypassing the IF coil and replacing it with a resistor and capacitor. The trick worked! The radio does play now. This restoration trick is not ideal, but when parts are not obtainable, it will get a radio working.

Dave is now off to the next Dime store radio restoration....



You can visually understand why these are call "wedged" radios.



An example of the modification that Dave performed. The addition of the 0.1 mFd capacitor and the 22-k ohm resistor.

Bill Petty —Motorola Bakelite Art Deco AM Radio.

This restored radio really shines today. How? Lacquer! Bill sanded the radio lightly. Once sanded, he spread lacquer on it. The lacquer provides a wet shiny appearance. When doing this, Bill advised not to sand to much as you will get orange peel. (Orange peel is an unwanted textured imperfection.)



Charles Judeman — 1948 Philco Model #49-901 aka “Secretary” Radio

Charles obtained this radio and did not think much of it initially... other than it was different. He put the radio on E-Bay. Someone wrote to him quickly after his posting and stated that his radio was very unique and worth more than the \$9.00 he was asking. Charles pulled the radio off E-Bay. Why is this radio unique? One will notice there is no dial. This was not the reason... What makes it unique is how the radio was marketed and why it was built.

Charles explained that this radio was used by secretary's. While sitting at their desk, a secretary could use her foot to change stations and also the volume. Volume control is achieved through the serrated drum roller. The rolling direction would alter the volume accordingly. Depressing the roller would advance through 6 user pre-defined stations. (Stations were set by six individual tuning slugs.) Notably, a user could determine the station by looking at the color of the pilot lamp under the word “Philco”. Light would shine through a wheel of six distinct colors. The color corresponded to the station. Advancing the station would thus advance through the colors.



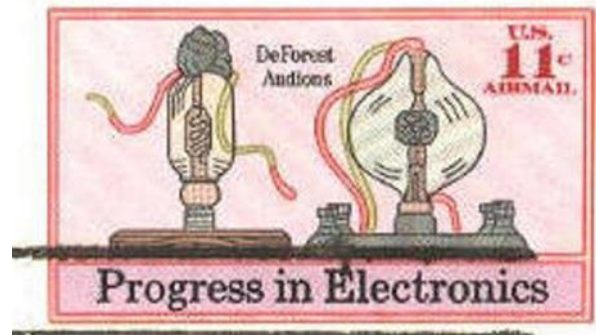
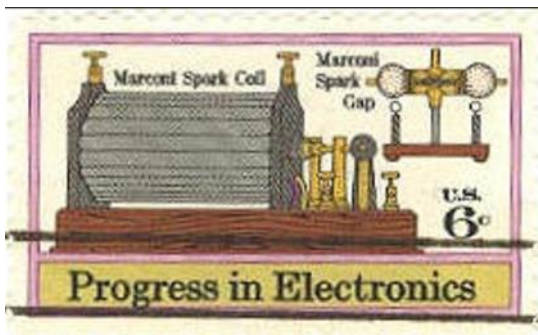
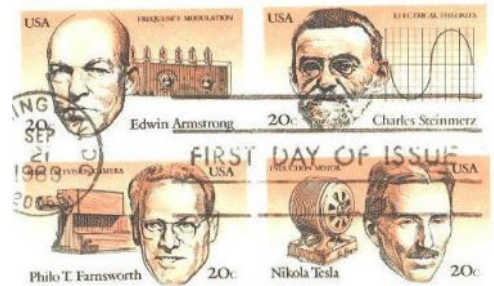
Raffle Table

Editor's Note: There were more items on the table that appeared after I took the below pictures. (A bake light radio from Bill Petty was one item.) Getting a radio off the raffle table is a great way to start the hobby. Get a radio and repair it... or use it for parts!



Radio Related Postal Stamps

The cost of mailing a First-Class letter will be increasing from 73 to 78 cents on July 13th. Let's look back at some USPS stamps that featured radios technology...



The Shadow

Editor's Note: When I was (more) actively restoring radios, I would listen to old radio shows while restoring. One of the shows I enjoyed was "The Shadow". This was a great show for the radio... but not for television. (The mind is a better at creating the image of "the shadow" than TV can. A 1994 movie from was made call "The Shadow". The movie, with Alec Baldwin as Lemont Cranston, was a commercial failure... but I thought it was okay. A franchise based on the movie did not occur due to the poor success of the film.

The Shadow was originally a narrator for the 1930 radio program "Detective Story Hour". Due to public interest, a comic book (or magazine) was created by magazine publishers. A radio drama series was started on September 26, 1937.

The Shadow is probably the best remembered radio crime fighter of all time. But it was more than a super hero show. It was also a hardcore crime/horror series with supernatural elements. The Shadow himself was a cruel dispenser of vigilante justice with a haunting laugh. For the first several years, he wasn't a character in the story at all, but an omniscient narrator/host, very similar to *The Whistler* (and a decade ahead of his time). He narrated *The Detective Story Hour*, a general crime anthology for Street & Smith's *Detective Story* magazine, the publishers behind *The Shadow* magazine. The Shadow was an active character in those stories, and the pulps sold like gangbusters.

Around 1937, the show's sponsor (Blue Coal) agreed to let the Shadow play the principal role in the radio plots as well... on a trial basis. The results were golden and the trial was made permanent.

A large variety of actors voiced the role of *The Shadow* through its long run. James LaCurto was the first but quit after a few weeks to go on to Broadway. Frank Readick played the host after that for several years. Orson Welles played the Shadow in 1937, until "The War Of the Worlds" made Welles too famous for the role in 1938. (Interestingly enough, Agnes Moorehead played "his lovely companion", Margo Lane.) Bill Johnstone played the invisible crime fighter until early 1943. Bret Morrison replaced Johnstone in April of 1943 until 1944. John Archer did it for about a year, followed by Steve Courtleigh for a couple of months in 1945. Bret Morrison then returned from 1945 until 1954.



Orson Wells as "The Shadow"

The Shadow (continued)

There were plenty of murder victims in *The Shadow*, but the guilty were always caught or better yet, killed via some sort of poetic justice. The criminals often had very morbid and mysterious ways of killing. They might use a specially designed house of death, or a killer mirror, or a supernatural disguise, as John Dunning recalls in his book.... "(I) vividly remember an episode when the Shadow tracked down a murdering scarecrow. When the killer's coat was ripped off, revealing nothing but straw, the implications were so terrifying that (I) couldn't sleep in an unlighted room for weeks."

Who knows what terrors lurk in the minds of kids? *The Shadow* knows!

Editor's note, I was shocked to discover Agnes Moorehead was the voice of Margo Lane. I was surprised because Agnes Moorehead was to me "Endora" whom was the mother of Samantha on the ABC television show *Bewitched*.



Agnes Moorehead voicing Agnes



Novelty Coca-Cola Radios

One of the largest areas of interest to many collectors is anything distributed or licensed by the Coca-Cola Company. Just about everything, including vintage advertising items, old bottles, point-of-sale items, toys, and radios, are sought after by collectors. Some items are truly rare, while many others are collectibles produced in mass quantities, reproductions of earlier items, or fakes (typically known as fantasy items). Radios licensed and distributed by the Coca-Cola Company are no exception.

There are hundreds of different Coca-Cola radios that were licensed, copied, and faked on the market. Of course, some of the originals licensed by Coca-Cola and distributed to vendors as promotions are very valuable while the more recent items manufactured by the thousands as collectibles have little or no value.

One of the earliest Coca-Cola radios was manufactured by Crosley Radio Corporation for the Coca-Cola Company. It was shaped like a classic Coca-Cola bottle and stood 2 feet tall. (See Figure #1)



Figure #2: The Coca-Cola Cooler tube based radio.



Figure #1: The 1933 Crosley Coca-Cola bottle radio. Tubes were located upside down on the bottom. Made of Durez which is a form of Bakelite hard plastic.

Novelty Coca-Cola Radios (Continued)

The Crosley Coca-Cola bottle radio was manufactured in 1933 for the Coca-Cola Company. It was made from Bakelite and contained a vacuum tube AM radio. Unfortunately, the radio circuitry was not the best and the bottle performed poorly as a radio. Nevertheless, this is most likely the rarest Coca-Cola radio and by far the most sought after by both Coca-Cola memorabilia collectors as well as radio collectors. As far as value, prices at auction vary but are usually well over \$2,000 if the bottle is in good cosmetic condition. Collectors' books list this radio's value over \$7,000, but that may be wishful thinking unless you find one in the original shipping box and never used. Because this early bottle radio was designed primarily for display, it is more important to most collectors that it is in its original condition. Rebuilding the radio to working condition with non-original parts may actually decrease its value.

As with many other Coca-Cola items, the 1933 Crosley Coca-Cola Bottle radio was copied. A reproduction was manufactured that looked similar but has distinct and easy-to-spot differences. The bottle cap on the original radio has a split between the front and the back while the copy has a one-piece cap glued to the top. The bottom of the original is open, showing the radio chassis, while the copy has an enclosed bottom with the power cord opening in the center. Although the copy is a fake and was never licensed by Coca-Cola, it is rare and has some value. I would expect one of these reproductions in good cosmetic condition to sell for several hundred dollars at auction.

There are also later transistorized AM Coca-Cola bottle radios that were the size and shape of a typical Coke bottle. These usually sell for between \$10 and \$20 as they were sold as collectibles by the thousands.

Point Of Purchase Displays Inc. produced a radio in 1949 in the shape of a Coca-Cola Cooler. Measuring about 12 inches wide and 9 inches tall, this was also an AM-only vacuum-tube radio. This cooler radio is not as rare as the original bottle radio produced in 1933 and is quite easy to find today. In good working condition with no chips or cracks and with the original back in place I would expect it to sell in the \$350 to \$600 range depending on the condition of the red paint and white lettering.

As with the early bottle radio, the cooler radio was also copied. It is very easy to tell the reproduction from the original. Where the original Coca-Cola cooler radio was AM, the later reproduction is AM/FM. The reproduction also has a cassette player, which may be accessed by lifting the lid of the cooler. The reproduction is very common and there are usually several for sale at any time online. Most Coca-Cola and radio collectors are uninterested in this reproduction and typical selling prices reflect this. It's not hard to find one for around \$30 to \$40 in like-new condition.

Novelty Coca-Cola Radios (continued)

There is a version of the original cooler radio that has a clock face in the front between the volume and tuning controls. Although the clock covers some of the Coca-Cola lettering and looks like it was added on later, it is original. Although collectors books list this as somewhat higher in value than the original plain AM cooler radio, I would expect it to sell in the same price range even though it is a little harder to find.

Crystal radios that need no batteries were also popular in the 1950s. A small crystal radio you can hold in your hand in the shape of a Coca-Cola cooler is an interesting find. It contained an earphone and a wire with an alligator clip which the operator could connect to a larger metal object to act as an antenna. There are several newer versions of this crystal radio but an original from the 1950s may sometimes be found in the \$150-\$250 range. Most newer versions sell below \$100.

Several transistorized Coca-Cola vending machine radios were produced from the 1960s through the 1990s. The early 1960s versions have some value, but may be found for under \$100 on occasion or even less at yard sales. Most of the later vending machine radios are plentiful and may be frequently purchased for under \$50. These were manufactured as collectables not as promotional items, so their value is generally less.

Figure #3: The Coca-Cola Cooler radio solid state re-make. A tape deck is under the top lid.



Figure #4: The mini version of a Coca-Cola Cooler radio.

Small Vending Machine transistor radios





Safety capacitors are found within many A/C powered radios. (Always replace these first when restoring a radio.) These capacitors filter out electrical interference and other abnormal impulses. When restoring a radio, why should you not replace a safety A/C capacitor with a normal electric capacitor? A true A/C safety capacitor is designed to fail open and not closed/short. If a capacitor connected across the AC lines fails short, a fire may result. Use the correct type of capacitor!



Question: *What was Thomas Edison's most lucrative/profitable invention?*

Answer:

Thomas Edison is well known as the inventor of the first commercial incandescent light bulb. Notably, the base of screw in lightbulbs is still known as an "Edison base" or "Edison Screw". Radio Club members are fully aware he created many methods of recording the human voice. The phonograph was one of his popular voice media inventions

Edison's "Edison battery" was however his most lucrative product. Today this battery is also known as a Nickle-Iron (Ni-Fe) battery. These batteries are well known for their long service life. How long? The batteries are expected to have a service life of 30 years but many 60+ years old are working well. Required maintenance consist of only topping off the electrolytic fluid. Batteries can operate through a wide varying temperature ranges, will tolerate high discharge rate, while containing no heavy metals. Henry Ford used this battery in his Model Ts. The battery was also used in early (1920s) fully electric cars.

Question for the June Newsletter: *What medical issue did Thomas Edison have that would permit him, as he believed, to work without interruption?*

Radio Quote OfThe Month:

"I love listening to games on the radio... you can't see what's going on."

- Andy Townsend sports commentator

www.archradioclub.com

Antique Radios
Collected—Restored—Repaired
For You or For Me

Don Ferguson
3501 Huntington Lane
St. Charles, MO 63303
Phone: 636.441.9487
Cell: 314.616.4294

donfergy@att.net



President

Joe Tauser
314-616-0745
2206 Hoppe Hill
High Ridge, MO 63049
joe@jtauser.com

Vice President

James Richter (KD0BXU)
Crestwood MO 63126
jmsconcept@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Roger Cole (AD0TR)
608 W. Washington
St. Louis, MO 63122
Roger.b.cole@gmail.com

Secretary/Newsletter

Anthony Rossetti (KB8TFW)
304-629-9016
1221 Lakeview Lane
O'Fallon, IL
WVUgeek@yahoo.com

Tubes, Tube Adaptors, Aluminum & Cardboard
Capacitors, Glass and plastic dial covers.

DIALCOVER.COM

Bill Turner
1117 Pike Street St. Charles, MO 63301
(636) 949-2210

Gary Micanek

Schematics, Factory Services & Instruction
Manuals, Many other paper items.

(636) 227-7046
Micanek@att.net

Joe's Capacitor Stand

- Metalized Polyester Axial Lead &
- Electrolytic Capacitors
- Custom Battery Eliminators
- Schematics—Riders & Sam's

Joe Tauser (314) 616-0745