



IARCHS News

Iowa Antique Radio Collectors & Historical Society

Spring 2003

IARCHS Activities This Summer: Tune in and See What's Going On

Dave Perkins

Well as you can read in the meeting minutes elsewhere in this newsletter, **both** of the club's shows planned for this Summer, the display and demonstration at the Hawkeye Antique Power show and the display and discussions with Steve Gibbons of KRNT radio at the Iowa State Fair, are moving ahead.

While we would like to present a good, well rounded display at both of these events, the main theme for the state fair show will be radios and radio manufacturers with an Iowa connection. And some emphasis will be given to farm radios and the tie in to farm life at the antique power show in Ankeny. Having said that, I think it's also fair to say that both of these are good ideas looking for the support of several good people. I'm sure both event coordinators will be happy to accept whatever assistance we can get from any member to assure IARCHS makes a good impression with the general public; remember this will be the best chance in years for us to reach out to others who may have an interest in our hobby and hopefully add to our membership. Even if people don't choose to join the club, leaving an impression of the historical and

cultural importance of 20th century radio technology is a key part of our club charter. So if you can supply some display items or **much better than that** a few hours of your time, it could go a long way.

EVENT CONTACTS AND PLANNING:

I will be the main point of contact for the show in Waukee that will run July 18-20; my address, phone number and email address are listed in the IARCHS contacts. Ed Kamp is giving me a hand with that and, to that end, he and his wife have graciously offered to host an **important organizational meeting on FRIDAY JUNE 13 starting at 6:30** in their home near Nevada. In fact just seeing and discussing their "home" might be worth the trip. Ed tells me they're converting one of the old small town brick school houses into an apartment and dorm rooms for college students and they've even **offered space for at least three couples who would like to come to the meeting and spend the night.**

Ed and I hope to organize a display of radios and related items, loosely broken down into decades of the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's with as much of a tie in to country & small town life as we can muster. Those providing display items will be asked to also bring display placards or fact sheets to explain the item. I plan to set up my small transmitter and broadcast vintage programming to any of the restored radios on display whose owners would like to show them in operation. What we'll really need, probably as much or

more than radios to display, is a couple people to share in manning the display area. So if you can help out in either way (or BOTH) please plan to attend. OH YEAH! As if the offer of a unique place to stay for the night wasn't enough, the Kamps have also said they'll feed us! "Nothing fancy" I am told, sandwiches and snacks, but if you're at all inclined to join us – PLEASE DO. The Kamps actually live in what's left of the town of Shipley (5 houses and the old school house) a bit Southwest of Nevada (which is east of Ames on highway 30 for those of you outside central Iowa). To get to their place from U.S. 30 near the West end of Nevada, take County Road S-14 south 2 miles, turn right (west) on 260th street and go 3 miles west; immediately after you cross the rail road tracks turn right (north) on Main Street and take that to Center Street. Look for the old school house – the address is 59670 Center Street, but as the saying goes, "You can't miss it." If you've got any questions please contact Ed (at 515-382-3740) or me.

Only about a month after our show in Waukee comes that grand old show, the Iowa State Fair. While we can expect a sizable crowd in Waukee, the potential exposure that IARCHS could get just being in Pioneer Hall on the fair grounds – not to mention the possibility of on air "plugs" from KRNT radio - could really spark some interest in our group and its mission. John Moore has been instrumental in contacting Steve Gibbons at KRNT and promoting the logical tie in between IARCHS and one of the old line AM stations in Des Moines. Mr. Gibbons has responded enthusiastically and is especially interested in having some live discussions with IARCHS members about radio manufacturing and broadcast history in and around Iowa, in addition to a display of radios and radio related items with a tie to Iowa. Because of his interest in and depth of knowledge in this area, Jerry Lange has agreed to assist John in pulling together a program for this state fair show. One of the challenges in having a presence at the fair is its 10 day duration; while John is willing to spend a lot of time promoting the club, it would be most helpful if some members would step forward and help with staffing the display. On a related note, John & Jerry would like to hear from **any member who could supply a camper to park in the campgrounds during the fair to serve as a place to stay for members that help with the IARCHS presentation.** The club will, of course pay the campground fees. If you have pieces in your collection that have a tie in to

Iowa and especially if you can speak at all on this history of those and any other Iowa related radio history, **please** contact John Moore at 515-288-5027 or Jerry Lange (see the IARCHS contact section)

IARCHS Contacts & Commitment

President	Jerry Lange, 790 Kane St. Dubuque, Ia 52001 Crimclov@mwci.net 563-556-3050
Treasurer	Doug Spyrison, 1295 Grove Terrace Dubuque, Ia 52001 Dougsprison@mchsi.com 563-588-2713
Secretary	Dwight Baker 2626 NW 17 th st. Ankeny, Ia 50021 Vtaudio@hotmail.com 515-965-0999
Newsletter	Dave Perkins, 2608 C Reed Ave Marshalltown, Ia 50158 Dperkins@cccglobal.com 641-752-3417

IARCHS is a not for profit club whose purpose statement (as given in the club by-laws) is:

- 1) To provide an organization for collectors and historians of wireless, radio, television and other similar items.
- 2) To promote acquisition and preservation of biographical, technical and historical data, through the collecting of radios, stories, photographs, literature and other related items, particularly with respect to the inventors and early radio pioneers of Iowa.
- 3) To educate and enrich the public knowledge about the historical and cultural significance of radio by means of lectures, discussions, publications, workshops, displays and presentations.
- 4) To encourage and assist individuals in their preservation and restoration of radio and television related items to a condition consistent with the original intent of their manufacturer.
- 5) To create and foster an interest in radio history.

The **IARCHS News** newsletter is published and distributed (more or less) quarterly to all members of record and to similar clubs and organizations at their request.



IARCHS Meeting Minutes 4/4/03

IARCHS Meeting Minutes: April 4th, 2003
Dave Perkins home – Marshalltown, Iowa

Members attending: Jerry Lange, John Moore, Ed Kamp, Doug Spyrison, Anton Vanicek, Dwight Baker, Dave Perkins, Tom Kamp, Jack Sweeney

Jerry Lange called the meeting to order at 7:20.

Doug Spyrison read minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved.

The treasurer's report through the end of February was distributed by Doug Spyrison. As of 3/1/2003, there is a balance of \$2,838.43. For the period of 3/1/2002 thru 3/1/2003 we had interest income of \$54.89 and expenses for mailings, meetings, and newsletters totaling \$564.18. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded, and approved.

There was discussion on rotating the treasurer's functions, or auditing the treasurer's report as is common practice. The signature cards also need to be updated.

Ed Kamp reported on the upcoming Power Show on July 18, 19, and 20 in Waukee. Need radios to display, display cards for the radios, and staffing

for radio display. The building for the radio display will be locked after hours. The consensus was that the staffing will be the most difficult. Dave Perkins volunteered for several days and to be a liaison with Ed. There was a suggestion to call other club members within this area to see if they can help out. Ed indicated that the weekend before the show will be a work weekend to get things ready. There will also be a swap meet May 21st – 24th.

The club brochure design was presented. The brochure design was discussed and minor modifications were suggested. An insert for membership application was requested. A discussion on dues and the wording in the brochure followed.

A motion to re-institute membership dues to \$10.00 annually on a calendar year basis beginning in 2004, and implement a \$5.00 trial membership for new members was made, seconded and approved.

A request to change the wording on the brochure to match the new membership dues information was made. It was also requested to have the brochures printed on a parchment type paper in a quantity of at least 500. A motion to proceed with the brochure and the requested changes was made, seconded, and approved. Dwight Baker will follow up with the brochure printing and getting some copies to club officers.

Dave Perkins gave an update on the Lynn County display. Their target is January, 2004 and they are still defining their virtual display. He was contacted by another person to possibly do a hands on crystal radio program with kids.

John Moore reported on the KRNT radio display at the State Fair. John spoke to Steve Gibbons and Regina Pirtle (Pioneer Hall administrator) about a display of radios. KRNT has a display in Pioneer Hall and a display case. There is a 10X15 space and at least 3 show cases across from the KRNT display. They are looking for an Iowa tie-in. There is full time security at night. There was discussion whether this was a static radio display, or whether it would need to be staffed. The group expressed interest in a display, but concern on what staffing might be required. John agreed to be the contact person. Jerry suggested that John contact Steve Gibbons and try to get more information about what KRNT is envisioning as far as a display, information, people, demo, etc...

Jerry displayed a map of membership location. Membership is concentrated in Eastern Iowa and the Des Moines area. There was a suggestion to have more frequent regional socialization meetings. Jerry will contact persons in the regional areas to see if he can get some interest in sponsoring more frequent socialization meetings. Dave Perkins agreed to tentatively meet in autumn in the central Iowa region.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded, and approved.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30.

Respectfully submitted:

Dwight Baker – Secretary.



The IARCHS board discussing homebrew ahhh...radios.

KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

As noted in the meeting minutes those of us who participated in the last two board meetings think it would be good for the club to have some informal meetings hosted by various members in different regions of the state. It would be particularly useful if someone from the Western half of Iowa could find a time slot where those who could make it to their area could gather. If **any** member would like to host such a get together, please contact me (Dave Perkins) with the date, time & directions.

We have a few announced meetings already to kick this off. First, some of the original-founding members have agreed on a series of meetings for the rest of this year. They are:

Wednesday June 18, at 7:00 p.m.
Jim Coohy , 406 Clarke Drive
Dubuque Iowa
52001 Phone 563-582-2267

Wednesday August 13, 7:00 p.m.
Jerry Lange, 790 Kane St.
Dubuque Iowa 52001
Phone 563-556-3050

Wednesday October 8, 7:00 p.m.
Doug Spyrison , 1295 Grove Terrace
Dubuque Iowa 52001
Phone 563-588-2713

Wednesday December 3, 7:00 p.m.
Jack Sweeney
321 Olympic Heights Road
Dubuque
Iowa 52001
Phone 563-588-1831

In addition to these there are two others so far. The meeting at Ed Kamp's place on Friday June 13 as discussed in the cover article in this issue and:

Saturday September 6, 11 AM
IARCHS BBQ; sandwiches from the grill & smoker and beverages provided. Bring some finger food to share if you'd like.

Dave Perkins
2608 C Reed Ave.
Marshalltown, Ia
641-752-3417

We're 2.5 miles south of M'town on Highway 14 (AKA Reed Ave) per the map sent prior to the last club meeting OR contact me for directions (it's easy to find). Extended family members welcome; some advance notice of your attendance would be appreciated but isn't essential – make a day of it.

Items Wanted / For Sale

AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE: A PHOTOCOPY OF THE SCHEMATIC DIAGRAMS FOR YOUR ANTIQUE RADIO FROM THE OLD RIDER AND SAMS MANUALS, AVAILABLE TO IARCHS MEMBERS COURTESY OF JACK SWEENEY, 321 OLYMPIC HEIGHTS, DUBUQUE IA 52001 . ENCLOSE MAKE AND MODEL NUMBER AND A 4x10 SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE

Ad Policy: Ads up to 100 words in length may be submitted by IARCHS Members and are free of charge. You may request your ad run up to 3 issues, if you don't specify it will run one issue, you may resubmit your ad. Submit your ads by mail or e-mail to the editor. Issue Deadlines: March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1

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Editors' Column: Dave Perkins

I hope you've completed all of your winter restoration projects because, ready or not, the busy summer season is upon us. I finally completed what was an almost total rebuild of a Crosley 148 and just got a good start on my latest Zenith table top when the daffodils came up – so that may be next Winter's first challenge. Speaking of Crosley Radio, my ever expanding interest in the seemingly boundless subject of radio history lead me to buying a 3 CD set that was put together by radio station WVXU and the X-Star network of stations around Cincinnati, Ohio. This CD set, along with a really well put together booklet, covers the rise into prominence of radio station WLW, the half million-watt power house that Powell Crosley Jr. built as a part of his radio manufacturing empire. I have to admit that aside from a vague passing notion that it existed, I was previously ignorant of the place in history that's deserved (if not widely known) for what was called "the nation's station". From 1934 when he got an "experimental" license, until 1939 when the FCC forced him to reduce the station's power to "only" 50,000 watts, WLW had the economic clout to produce programs for both the NBC "blue" network and the Mutual Broadcasting Network that it helped found, *plus* the sheer power to be heard all over the western hemisphere (and the whole world on a good day) as sort of a virtual network consisting of one station. Fascinating stuff; I have to admit I'm hooked. I've now ordered from the same people a set of CDs that won the Peabody award in '94 for reproducing, in real time, 12 hours of broadcasting during "D" day when allies invaded Normandy. Come on out and join me at the show in Waukee and we'll swap stories with the crowd as we give voice to these amazing bits of recorded history through some of the very same radios that might well have played them the first time they were on the air.

Dave

Tips and Tricks

This issue's tip is something that your newsletter editor stumbled upon last winter while battling a common problem in the restoration of older sets.

A majority of battery sets and many early line powered radios used wire wound pots for filament and volume controls. If the wire is intact you can usually open these controls up, clean and lube them with alcohol and mineral oil and have a useable (if not perfect) control. But if, as is all too often the case, the resistive wire element has one or more opens in it, you're usually obliged to find either a N.O.S. replacement or a part that is functionally acceptable if not historically correct.

The Crosley 148 I worked on last winter presented a particularly difficult problem of this sort. The volume control in it is an odd 3-stage wire wound control; it uses three different sizes of wire in a series arrangement so that the rate of change in resistance as you rotate the wiper varies considerably. After careful cleaning and testing it was still erratic and while no break was visible in the wire, I concluded that the bond where one size wire mated to another was intermittent. Nothing in my assortment of parts on hand would come close to working electrically and physically. I did find a ganged (two-section) rheostat in the listed parts for one company that might have worked. But it was an 'oddball' combination and after a couple calls I gave up trying to get a modern part to make this work. So I was stuck with trying to repair an invisible flaw in a 65 year old part - a common enough dilemma that I sure many of you've shared.

I needed to conductively bridge a small area in the wire element; the question was how. Solder was out of the question since it won't adhere to NiChrome wire. I considered a thin layer of some sort of metal filled conductive epoxy but questioned its effect on the resistance in that area of the pot and

how well a really thin layer would stick. Then I hit on a solution that I believe will work for many such problems. In my bench stock of odd stuff, I have some adhesive backed copper tape. Originally this stuff was used in my job to plug RF leaks from equipment when we're testing for regulatory compliance. But I've also seen similar material used to repair or fabricate simple "printed" circuit boards. So it should be available through electronics hobby and supply shops. Regardless of where you get it, I recommend it for wire wound pot repair. Because once the wire is completely cleaned and a small strip of this tape is applied, the pot wiper tracks right over it mechanically and electrically it provided a smooth and low noise shunt around the open in the resistive wire. As an added plus, such a repair is really invisible in an enclosed pot so you can maintain the historic authenticity of your restored radio.



Crosley 148