



← WhatZit? (details inside)

IARCHS

Iowa Antique Radio Club
and Historical Society

IARCHS NEWS – Spring 2006

I this issue we have a report from our active core group in the Dubuque area, including a request for help that arose from a “show and tell” session; copies of documents from the era of big business radio in Iowa, passed on to me by member Bill Allen, the first part of a lengthy typewritten overview of early radio comedians submitted by member Robert Smith, a report on our club business meeting (such as it was) on March 31 and, **most important of all the date for a follow up meeting for all members to discuss the future status of our club.**

Dave Perkins

IARCHS OFFICIAL STATUS

We need to discuss it

A little later in this newsletter, you’ll find a set of minutes from our rather poorly attended business meeting at the end of march. The largest topic we covered, by far, was a review of the formal, legal status of IARCHS as an organization. Very briefly, after Gene took over as treasurer he asked me about the whereabouts of the files showing that we are a registered not for profit club. I had to admit that I had nothing and was acting on the basis of the status as it was listed in this newsletter for some time. Indeed, several members, including Dwight, our current secretary and a charter member,

have told me that they thought the club’s registration as a non-profit was a fait accompli. However a review of the club’s newsletters and minutes show that a lot of work was done by various members at different times to draw up a workable set of by-laws, but, for whatever reason, the work appears to have stopped there. Unless we have missed something and a member who wasn’t available for this discussion can point to a record of our registration, there really is no point in discussing what happened in the past; rather what we need to do is agree on what our status as an organization should be: either as a properly registered not-for-profit, or as an informal social group to serve as a network for people with a common interest. **So, why does this matter** you may wonder? A reasonable question. The newsletter is not a suitable means to cover this exhaustively, but one significant consideration is liability. If the club is going to sponsor, or even participate in, any public gathering such as the state fair for, say, the purpose of educating the public, as of now, any member who participates does so at their own risk. Clearly there is a need to meet to make a conscious decision and to act accordingly in setting the future direction of IARCHS as an organization. Those of us at the board meeting discussed meeting options, dates and places, at some length. As always, there is no perfect compromise; given the distribution of memberships in the

state, Cedar Rapids might have been a good location, but no one from that area is really active in the club and we needed someone local to spearhead organizing the meeting. Some members have big enough homes to host a good sized meeting (Ed Kamp, for one) but convincing people to drive to a town and home they may have never visited is another barrier to participation; and we need as much face to face participation as we can muster for this discussion. So Des Moines with it's middle of the state location and available free meeting spaces became the best of a set of marginal choices. With that said, please, **please** mark your calendars for

SATURDAY MAY 20, from 1 TO 4 PM
At the FRANKLIN AVENUE LIBRARY
(one of the satellite facilities of the Des Moines library system; driving direction below) to discuss the future status of IARCHS as an organization and the implications of whatever decision we arrive at that day; and we will arrive at a decision that day.

TO GET THERE:
From I-235:

Take the 63rd street exit NORTH
Go to Franklin Ave. TURN EAST
East on to 5000Franklin

A map to this location is on the back cover.

Please make plans to show up and express your support for your point of view on this vital, fundamental decision.

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REMINDER: \$10 ANNUAL DUES WERE DUE IN JANUARY if you haven't already done so, please send your renewal to Gene Dougherty – his address is in the contact list

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As mentioned above we held our annual business meeting on the last day of March. Here are the minutes from that meeting:

I.A.R.C.H.S. Meeting Minutes 03/31/2006

The I.A.R.C.H.S. annual meeting was held Friday, March 31st, 2006 at the home of Dave Perkins.

In attendance were: Dave Perkins, Ed Kamp, Wanda Kamp, John Moore, and Dwight Baker.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Dave Perkins, and minutes from the previous annual meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

Presidents Report: Dave Perkins reported that he needs to follow up with Gene to see how many members have paid their dues.

Treasurers Report: Gene Dougherty was unable to be present. The treasurer's report was distributed and reviewed. The balance as of March 31, 2006 is \$2,265.15. (Secretary note: The balance was obtained from the Treasurer's report by adding the checkbook balance to the Certificate of Deposit balance). A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and approved.

Secretary Report: No additional report.

Newsletter/Web Report: Dave Perkins reported that there have been few contacts resulting from the website.

New Business:

Club Status: Dave Perkins initiated a discussion on what direction the club should move based on a letter from Gene regarding exemption status for Civic Leagues and Social Welfare Organizations (IRS Section 501(c) 4). There was some question as to whether the club had already obtained 'non-profit' status and the past meeting minutes were examined. It was discovered that there was some preliminary work done on organizing for 'non-profit' status, but that it had been tabled because it was felt that the exemption was unnecessary and not worth the time and cost. Dave suggested the club have a get together to try to determine from the members whether we should pursue the move to obtain the legal status, or whether the club

should mainly become an informal social club. After further discussion, Dwight agreed to look for a meeting location in Des Moines as that may offer a better opportunity for more members to be present. Upon failing to secure a meeting location, Ed and Wanda offered the use of their place in Shipley, and John offered a room at his apartment complex. A target date of the second weekend in May was suggested.

Activities: John had contacted an individual at What Cheer regarding a possible display. He received an enthusiastic response, but reported there would be a charge of approximately \$85 to \$95 for the booth.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Dwight Baker – Secretary

UPCOMING REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

May 12, 2006

Jim Moran
3942 Aurora St.
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
Phone 563-556-1914

May 20, 2006

Whole club meeting

Franklin Avenue Library
5000 Franklin Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
Phone 641-752-3417 (Dave Perkins)
For more details; see map on the back cover for directions.

July 14-16, 2006

Annual Radio Show in conjunction with the Central Hawkeye Antique Power Show in Waukee **items to display and assistance manning the booth are requested from any and all members.** Please contact Dave Perkins

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

IARCHS Contacts & Commitment

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IARCHS is an informal 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.

Next we have a regional meeting report from our members in the Dubuque area that includes a request for information regarding the device pictured on the cover of this issue:

Here are a few interesting tidbits from the last 3 bi-monthly meetings:

Jack Sweeney's Philco 16B cathedral from 1934 11 tubes with shadow tuning. Jack says it needed a replacement tuning coil and none could be found so he hand wound 1000 ft of #40 wire to build his own and ended up with the proper 1300 ohms of resistance needed. Works fine now, feels like 50 lbs, so it is no portable.



At the next meeting, Jack presented the spark gap device. Jack would like to know if anyone knows anything about this device. Present on the board are the spark gap electrodes, a telegraph key, knife switch, rotary switch and what appears to be a tuning coil. Brass plate reads "Northeast Electric"

Contact Jack at 321 Olympic Heights,
Dubuque, IA 52001 563-588-1831
mrradio3@mchsi.com



Finally, Jerry Lange displays his missing but found again collection of early radio magazines.



On 1/20/06, Jerry promoted the idea of local groups assembling historical radio displays for display at local historical museums or other venues. Details to be worked out.

Doug Spyrison reporting.

Editors' Column: Dave Perkins

It was a dark and stormy night....

I considered using that classic bad opening line to discuss the poor showing at our annual business meeting on what really was a somewhat damp, nasty evening. But the truth is, the weather wasn't all that bad. A total of four members, counting Ed and Wanda Kamp as two members, made the trek to review the reports of the club's operation and to discuss our plans for the coming year. While those who were there were interested and engaged, it is difficult to know how well our individual and collective points of view and decisions reflect those of the club at large. I truly believe that everyone wants to "do the right thing", the challenge is to discern what that is. Since taking over as club president, I have received some heartfelt, hand written letters, sometimes in an obviously shaky hand, expressing thanks for my effort to keep things going and in appreciation for what little entertainment can be gleaned from the reminisces brought about by the newsletter. I'm well aware that a good many of our members are well beyond retirement age and many do not feel up to traveling to club events despite wishing that they could. I am grateful for the feedback and really relish the chats I have had with people like these who really lived through the golden age of radio, when they can make their way to one of the shows or other events where we might gather. I am also very aware of the time pressures on all of us, including our members who have reached "retirement" only find that they're somehow busier than ever. If we are to officially become a loose knit informal social club of individuals with a common interest in all things regarding antique radio, that is

tied together only by an occasional newsletter, well so be it. In practice that's what IARCHS is today for the most part, so we really should acknowledge this to the public and to ourselves then plan and act accordingly. I have said it before, but that doesn't diminish the truth: this is your club so it's up to you to decide how it should be run and seen by the general public. We, the board members, need your input.

Dave

What follows on the next several pages requires a bit of explanation.

The first couple pages are excerpts from several that were sent to me by Bill Allen. As you can see from the letter, this dates from 1930 when the Central Broadcasting Company of Iowa was seeking to consolidate WHO in Des Moines and WOC in Davenport, including a solicitation to buy shares at \$100 per share, a good price for many stock shares today, let alone in the leading edge of the great depression. This certainly illustrates the powerhouse that was the business of radio at that time.

Finally we have a great overview of the many radio comedians and comedy acts that were a mainstay of entertainment for several years. According to his cover letter, IARCHS member Robert Smith put together a multi-media program to present at a Quester meeting and what we have here is a typewritten adaptation of his script. While the sheer breadth of the topic prohibits him from getting to the level of detail on any one performer that we have had in the past from Sherry Cowden, his overview makes one realize how many great talents we have had, and now lost, in the morass of 21st century broadcast "entertainment."