



# IARCHS News

## Iowa Antique Radio Club & Historical Society

Summer 2003

## Showtime!

Dave Perkins

Hopefully many of you reading this are *new members* and to those of you who are, I say **WELCOME** on behalf of all of us in IARCHS.

We had a couple really great shows at the Hawkeye Antique Power show at their grounds just outside of Waukee over the long weekend of July 18-20 and at Pioneer Hall at the Iowa State Fair between August 7 and the 17<sup>th</sup>. Before I offer one more word, I really must thank a number of members for their efforts:

New members Hienie & Kara Folkers of Albia were very helpful in manning and watching over the display at Waukee. Bob & Elaine Smith of Indianola, Anton Vanicek of Muscatine (a.k.a. the Des Moines Register photo star), Dwight Baker of Des Moines and Jerry Lange (club president) of Dubuque all took turns in the display area at the state fair. *Special* thanks go to Ed & Wanda Kamp of Shipley. Ed helped out at

both the Waukee show (where he was only a little distracted by being the antique power club president too) and he offered breaks to those of us in Pioneer Hall during the fair as well. And special thanks go to John Moore of Des Moines who helped out at Waukee as well as organizing the show at the fair. We didn't keep official tally, but I think between the shows at Waukee & Des Moines, John had more hours in the display booth than anyone else. If I omitted anyone, apologies up front and let me know so I can include a humble admission of guilt due to A.A.A.D.D. (advancing age attention deficit disorder) in the next newsletter.

As I said, we had a couple great shows. We handed out over 700 IARCHS membership flyers and probably spoke to two or three thousand people between the two venues. We had a bit more space available at the show in Waukee than we did at the fair:



And I had at least two radios playing classic programs at all times. Including a 6 volt farm radio running off three big glass cased Windcharger wet cells that Ed had supplied. Having a “live” display really added to the impact. Many people stopped to reminisce about the old time programs; I recall one fellow who hung around for the better part of an hour just to listen to Jack Benny, Fibber McGee & Molly and the like. Overall the crowd there was very respectful of the items we had on display – including Jerry’s rare Deforest D6 and Shenandoah Model 5. I believe the antique power show crowd is a great match for the era that IARCHS represents and we should plan to have a display at the Hawkeye show again. (HEY ED, can you do something about the smoke from those steam engines? .... ;^)

While we had a somewhat smaller display area at the fair:



But we did have a couple display cases (including one we’ve added to the club’s inventory thanks to John Moore).



So there was no problem with having a number of smaller items on display for the crowd. And boy was there a crowd. In addition to us being right inside of one of the main entrances of the hall, we were just across the aisle from the KRNT radio booth. They gave IARCHS two or three on-air plugs the first weekend of the fair as well as interviews with John and Jerry the last weekend. During the week the Des Moines Register stopped by and took a picture while Anton was manning the booth and the highlight of our publicity – for me at least – was an interview with Iowa Public Television that resulted in a two minute segment during their fair coverage that aired on Thursday and Friday nights during the week of the fair.

While staffing booth for the 10 days of the state fair is a challenge, the exposure IARCHS got was certainly worth while. Hopefully we can pull this together again for next year.

Our next opportunity to put IARCHS in the public eye will be in conjunction with the Radio Daze presentation with the Linn County Historical Society early next year; more about that will be in the Fall/Winter newsletter.

=====

---

---

## IARCHS Contacts & Commitment

- President** Jerry Lange, 790 Kane St.  
Dubuque, Ia 52001  
[Crimclov@mwci.net](mailto:Crimclov@mwci.net)  
563-556-3050
- Treasurer** Doug Spyrison,  
1295 Grove Terrace  
Dubuque, Ia 52001  
[Dougspyrison@mchsi.com](mailto:Dougspyrison@mchsi.com)  
563-588-2713
- Secretary** Dwight Baker 2626 NW 17<sup>th</sup> st.  
Ankeny, Ia 50021  
[Vtaudio@hotmail.com](mailto:Vtaudio@hotmail.com)  
515-965-0999
- Newsletter** Dave Perkins, 2608 C Reed Ave  
Marshalltown, Ia 50158  
[dave@daveperkins.com](mailto:dave@daveperkins.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 Regional Gatherings

Many members from the Dubuque area met June 18th, 7PM at Jim and Betty Coohy's home in Dubuque. Present were Jim Coohy, Jack Sweeney, Jim Moran, Jerry Lange, Doug Spyrison, Walt Schlichtmann, Tom Klinkhammer, Fred Sear and I think a few more, my memory fails me.

The business meeting was brief; Jerry Lange briefed us on the upcoming IARCHS displays at the Hawkeye Antique Power Show and State Fair. Jim Coohy is a veteran knowledgeable radio collector and his radio room was filled with fine examples of classic radios which had been carefully refinished and were in great working condition. Jim even played his working Edison cylinder record player for us. There was ample time to trade stories, tips and ask if anyone knew where to get a few needed parts and other supplies. The snacks were great and those who could stay were treated to a short tour of the historic building including a visit to the third floor deck with a grand view of the city. (submitted by Doug Spyrison)

On Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup>, Ed and Wanda Kamp drove over from Shipley to join Dave & Willi Perkins at there home south of Marshalltown for Bar-B-Que and to review how the IARCHS displays had gone over the

preceding two months. A bit later we were joined by new member Robert Seeber of Sigourney who brought along a Radiola AR-812 he's in the process of restoring. Eventually we got him a needed schematic that's sure to help. Which still leaves the mystery of the 5 terminal conical part he found loose in the cabinet. Speculation settled around it being some kind of add on, external audio transformer – but maybe Robert can bring it to some of the upcoming gatherings so other IARCHS members can take a shot at identifying it.

**UPCOMING REGIONAL MEETINGS INCLUDE:**

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

If **any** member would like to host such a get together, please contact me (Dave Perkins) with the date, time & directions.

**Items Wanted / For Sale**

**FOR SALE; two items** 7 tube Airline console (model unknown) very solid 1940's deco, cabinet original finish & grill cloth both good. Rectangular dial w/ push buttons. Missing one of 4 knobs, some sound when powered up. ALSO a 1959 Zenith, ivory colored plastic table model (some cracks). 7C02-7C06 chassis; works great. Make an offer for either or both. GENE FULLER 1944 N TIPTON ROAD, MUSCATINE, IOWA 52761-9760 563-263-4976

**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



+++++

**Editors' Column: Dave Perkins**

**WOW** it seems like only a couple weeks ago I was writing about wrapping up last winter's project and here it is almost autumn again. What a summer that was though. I spent more hours "talking radios" with people than I have in the last three years combined and you know what, I loved it; not only the older folks who inevitably reminisced about a simpler time when radio played a major role in providing a window on the world (or the only role in the case of most of those in their 70's and up), but also the kids who still can be and were intrigued by a "magic eye" tuning tube and my claim that you can make a

radio out of wire, earphones and a rock... I got more than a few looks of disbelief on that last part until I demonstrated a cat's whisker detector.

And I expect to get a chance to use that line a few more times this year when I meet with the Linn county historical society to help them work out a hands on crystal set project for use in their upcoming radio daze program early next year.

The displays were a lot of work to be sure, but the results were gratifying; in addition to the good will IARCHS got from countless conversations and demonstrations, our membership is now over 100 people. I had hoped for a 2% return rate from all of the flyers we handed out and it seems we may have just exceeded that. Now what we need is to get together, especially the new members, and keep up the active involvement of a good number of people throughout the year. To that end I have a **special request to all members new and established alike:** AT THE BACK OF THE NEWSLETTER IS A MEMBERSHIP LIST, **PLEASE** VERIFY YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS AND GET ANY CORRECTIONS TO DOUG SPYRISON. Email addresses seem to change all the time and sometimes area codes change too (mine was out of date when Doug sent out the invitations to our Bar-B-Que). We're still spread pretty thin in some areas of the state and being able to keep in touch is quite important.

I hope you're enjoying the nice fall weather; it's long been my favorite season – especially if August was as hot as it was this year - but get those fall chores done and line up your next project; ole man winter will have us inside with our tubes, schematics and test meters before you know it.

Dave

---

### **Important club meeting notices and related topics:**

At the gathering on October 8<sup>th</sup> at Doug Spyrison's home, one of the topics of discussion will be the possibility that members plan their informal gatherings like this on a Friday night or over a weekend to make it easier for members from outside the immediate area to attend. Be sure to check for changes and newly announced

meetings in the next newsletter and get to one in your area if at all possible.

Many club members are aware that Gene Harris has retired from his business. While they weren't affiliated with the club in any way, the radio auctions he held in Marshalltown served as a convenient event for the club to gather and hold a business meeting sometime that same weekend. The latest news on that is that Tom Harris has purchased the business and he's tentatively planning on a radio auction next April. At this point it appears, equally tentatively, that the next IARCHS general meeting will be at that time as well. Members can expect a definite announcement about this no later than the next newsletter. Meanwhile if anyone is aware of an event of a suitable nature and location that could serve as an additional inducement for a general club meeting, please pass that on to one of the club officers. Direct mailings are always a possibility if there is some need to get in touch with everyone regarding a meeting or other event.

---

### **Tips and Tricks**

Just after I took over as newsletter editor Mr. Ludwell Sibley sent me a very large file of information that was extracted from early service manuals. Not surprisingly, a lot of that information is potentially useful in restoration projects and from a historical perspective, it's all interesting. So I'll put something here – in its full length if possible – from time to time

#### AID IN STRINGING DIAL CABLE

Most of the difficulty in stringing dial cable is caused by its slipping off the first pulleys while it is being put on the later ones. This can be prevented by taping it to each pulley with cellophane tape. For those cases where it has to be pulled through in order to locate the pointer, etc., a cardboard strip on top of the cord, held in place with the tape, will allow the cable to slip enough for the required adjustment. (Sylvania News, June-July 1951)