



Iowa Antique Radio Club and Historical Society

IARCHS NEWS – Winter 2011

<http://www.iowa-antique-radio-club.com>

President's Message

Hello out there in radio land.

This is my last message as President. I have really enjoyed meeting and working with our good members over the past few years. I am looking forward to President Dwight Baker's term. He is quite knowledgeable on vacuum tube radios and probably has more energy than I do. I express thanks to Tom Zenisek, outgoing Treasurer and Auction chair and to Dwight again for the newsletter production and Secretary duties fulfilled for many years. And thanks to Jerry Lange for taking Treasurer. I am your new Secretary and newsletter editor, out of the pan and into the fire.

2012 Dues are due: Send them to the **new Treasurer, Jerry Lange, 790 Kane Street, Dubuque IA 52001 Payable to IARCHS.** \$10 for the electronic newsletter, \$15 for the mailed paper version.

Winter Meeting: Another meeting is needed to evaluate some of the 2012 auction options currently being researched. Meeting day of 1/21/12 In Iowa City at Peter Seaba's place was chosen. President Dwight will take the reins at this meeting. I kind of hope we can keep the repair education going too and am looking for a volunteer. As you know by my demo at the last meeting, it is an informal sharing of repair knowledge, not an expert last word. Those interested in

attending the meeting should contact Dwight, Peter or me so we can make final meeting arrangements by email.

Call for Articles: As your new newsletter editor, I encourage everyone to continue submitting newsletter materials including your original articles as well as historical photocopies or scanned images. Finished Word documents are great, but I can help scan your images or help assemble your article if you are not sure how. You are the best resource for our newsletter.

Radio Restoration Contest: I get an email solicitation from the Quebec Society for Vintage Radio Collectors (QSVRC) who have sponsored a Quebec province radio repair contest for many years and now want to make it international. They are looking for a photo and essay entry on a basket case radio restoration for the competition, similar to the repair articles in our newsletter. Sample documents from a past contest will be included in this newsletter or next. Final submission date for the coming year is not set yet. An IARCHS judge/local contest contact point is sought. How about a volunteer. Off the top of my head, Dwight's newsletter saga on his Firestone might be a finalist as would Joel's GE console from our Facebook page. This is a chance for an Iowan to win the Olympics of antique radio repair ☺.

Radio Repair DVD Set: A membership benefit courtesy of Curt Lutz of Oklahoma and the Heartland Radio Club (HLARA). Curt has made his 8 DVD set on vacuum tube radio repair available for copying without restriction (freeware). There is a wealth of information, probably over 20 hrs of instruction. The set will be more accessible thanks to Bob Elbert's "Table of Contents" Word document. I am hoping to get the Table of Contents and some of the supporting documents up on our website soon. The set appears to require a DVD player in your computer and Windows Media Player or equivalent. They don't play on the DVD player attached to your TV. A member has reported that the mail labels which were used to label the DVD's might imbalance the DVD in a laptop, so future copies may avoid that. There is a free library loaner set circulating to the club if you want to make your own copies or just view them. I did not write down who I handed them off to, maybe that member could email me. Dave Perkins has volunteered to handle DVD set requests: spam_whole@yahoo.com

Again, thanks for your support during my term and continue to participate in the club.

Doug Spyrison
IARCHS President
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From The Editor

This is the final newsletter that I will be producing – for a while at least! Beginning next year Doug Spyrison and I will trade roles. I will assume the club president role and Doug will become the newsletter editor. I encourage you to send him contributions! It will make his job much easier, and we will have a much more active newsletter. Again I have to apologize for the newsletter being a bit late. I've been swamped at work and have not had much time to work on it. Thank you again to Bob Elbert for part II of his article! We also have a new club benefit you will want to take advantage of if you order radio parts and supplies. Don't forget to pay your club dues so that you remain an active member to take advantage of this. Again, if you can write, or take a picture, or have an ad to contribute – we need you. Nearly everyone has something they can contribute – whether it's stories, helpful tips, service and restoration ideas, what your favorite radio is and why, how you got involved in collecting, history, anything related to radio – send it in. It doesn't have to be professional. **Please contribute items for the newsletter!** Email your contribution to Doug at dougspyrison@mchsi.com or mail it to him at 1295 Grove Terrace, Dubuque, IA 52001. Happy collecting and best wishes for a happy holiday season and new year.

Dwight Baker

New Club Benefit!

We are pleased to announce a new club benefit in conjunction with Radio Daze, a major supplier of antique radio parts and supplies. They are offering our club members an 8% discount on your order, and free shipping if the order is over \$50. This offer requires verification of active club membership so you will want to be sure your club dues are paid.

When you order from Radio Daze, mention the club discount for IARCHS and include my name and email as club president. I will receive a request to verify club membership and once verified, it is good for one year.

Again, when you order from Radio Daze, mention IARCHS and club president Dwight Baker – vtaudio@hotmail.com.

<http://www.radiodaze.com>

CLUB DISCOUNT DETAILS:

- **8% discount off order amount**
- **FREE SHIPPING** (ground services of Radio Daze choice) on orders over \$50. Orders under \$50 will be assessed a \$5.00 shipping charge. If expedited shipping requested - fees will apply.
- **Club Membership will be verified with Radio Club you designated when you placed**

order (only verified once and kept on file for future orders - verified again at beginning of next year)

*****Discounts will be applied after order is placed - so if payment is made by Paypal, the customer will receive a refund to their Paypal account. If paid by Cash, Check, Money order or Credit Card - refund will be mailed to them with order or taken off the order before the Credit Card is charged.***

Winter Club Meeting Minutes

A fall/winter club meeting was held on Saturday, November 19th at 11:00 at the home of Peter Seaba in Iowa City. In attendance were Pete Seaba, Doug Spyrison, Dave Perkins, Bob Elbert, Tom Zenisek,, Dave Huseman, Jerry Lange, Keith Lowe, Dwight Baker, Anton Vanicek, Robert Seeber, and Allen Ross. All that attended would like to thank Pete for hosting the club meetings at his house. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 by Doug Spyrison. Minutes from the last meeting were passed around. A motion to accept the minutes was seconded and approved. Tom Zenisek distributed copies of the treasurer's report. The balance as of 11/16/2011 was \$4,009.57. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made and approved. There was nothing brought up under old business. New business: Since Tom may be moving, the annual auction was discussed and potential ideas suggested on how to best handle it. Wears Auctioneering has been very good to work with, but we may want to look for an auction facility with a building and staff. The advantage would be advance storage of auction items. It appeared to be advantageous to keep the auction in the Cedar Rapids area as it has been there for several years and may be better attended now that it is more established. Pete volunteered to check on a couple auction facilities and report back at the next meeting. A tentative meeting date was set for January 21st at Pete Seaba's home at

11:00. A request to fill the existing officer positions was made. It was very quiet for a while!! Jerry Lange volunteered to serve as treasurer. Doug and Dwight agreed to swap roles. No one volunteered for the vice president position. A motion to accept the officers was seconded and approved. . Items dealing with the treasurer's duties were handed off to our new treasurer Jerry Lange. There was discussion on the possibility of setting up a group to discuss repairs. New collectors struggle with items that many advanced repair people take for granted. Perhaps something could be set up for beginning club members. Several ideas were kicked around and discussed. A motion to adjourn was approved and a group of members proceeded to dive into the hands-on alignment seminar conducted by Doug Spyrison. I neglected to note the time the meeting was adjourned, but it was approximately 12:45.

Treasurers Report

Balance 11/20/2010	\$2,827.29
Income:	
Membership Dues Paid:	\$485.00
2010 Auction Proceeds:	\$1,292.28
2010 Auction donations to Club:	\$ 90.00
Interest Income	<u>\$ 3.54</u>
Total	\$1,870.82
Expenses:	
Newsletters:	\$70.78
Auction Expenses:	\$617.76
Balance 11/16/2011	\$4,009.57

Yet another Old Diamond in the Rough Saga

as exaggerated by Bob Elbert

Part II

In our first exciting episode of Bob finds a Diamond. You may remember that contrary to his enviable troubleshooting skills, he was not able to bring his prize find to life and was left puzzling what might be the problem. Of course I should have been measuring the B+, injecting signals here and there, doing continuity testing and lot of other heady electronic tricks to find the problem.

But no, I decided to re-read some troubleshooting articles and some reference material in Elements of Radio and check a few other favorite places when I have problems like this. I just haven't evolved as a radio repairman to the fancier methods of troubleshooting.

I inspected the underside of the chassis and tested some resistors that I may have forgotten to check. I inspected all the solder joints that I made replacing capacitors and resistors. I looked very closely at other connections and find a couple of wires I should replace. I put new dial bulbs in. I then tried powering it up again but with the same results. So again I give up and walk away from the bench a beaten man. I started to work on the bakelite case with Novus #3 and after a couple of hours while "watching" TV it really begins to look nice. I placed it on my dresser in the bedroom and the other day my wife noticed it and remarked. Did you buy a new radio? That was a good indicator that perhaps I had gone far enough in polishing it. But I still had the electronics

problem.... A few nights later while laying in bed trying to fall asleep it came to me. This is a push-button set. For some reason I recalled when I was having so much fun stripping the beautiful turquoise paint off the push buttons that one of them had the letters "Dial" stamped into it.

I thought hmmm. Could that be why I was not getting any reception? I told you I was not much of a technician didn't I? A day or two later when I could return to my radio room I punched the dial button and powered up the radio for the third time. It was a Charm! It plays beautifully! Duhhhh!

I ordered a repro dial cover from <http://artdecoradios.ecrater.com/p/6542668/tube-radio-dial-covers-detrolazenithphilcoemersonfada> and a repro back from

<http://www.radiobacks.com/>

Tom Z was so kind to sell me two replacement knobs from his knob collection. Thanks Tom!

Now that the set is playing I turned my attention to cleaning the chassis. I used hundreds of cotton swabs dipped in a 50/50 mixture of distilled water and 90 % rubbing alcohol. I usually use two at a time until I can't see that they are picking up any more crud. I also used electronic contact cleaner that I spray into an old shot glass to dip from to get the greasy really grimy stuff.

Once in awhile I think about the lives of the owners of these old radios I restore. I'm in the firm belief that most of the owners of these now antique radios were painters who smoked and usually had mouse problems in their homes.

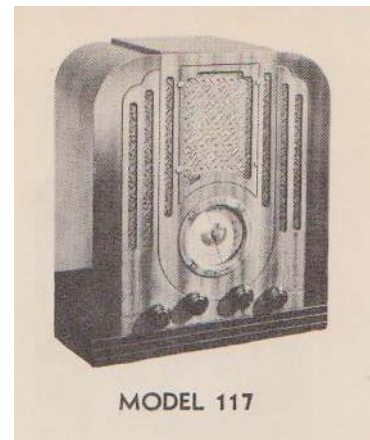
Firestone S-7426-2 Restoration

Dwight Baker



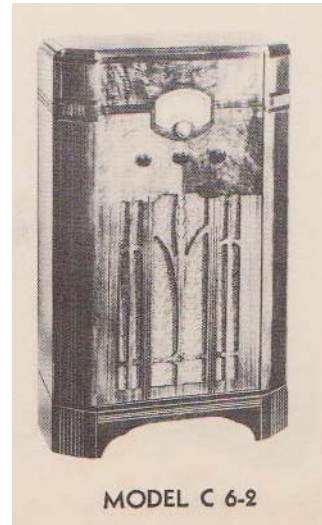
I made a little bit of progress on the radio cabinet. It's now ready for the finish! Finally! I had to make the feet on the front from scratch. Unfortunately, there was no pattern, but I found a picture of this set on the internet and after several trial and failure experiments, I wound up with an acceptable reproduction. After gluing everything together and a light sanding, I think it looks pretty good. At least better than the as-found condition. Hopefully by the next newsletter I will have the finish on, and will have the chassis functioning.

A few more interesting RCA sets from 1935





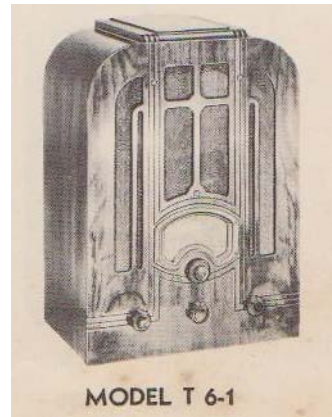
MODEL 128



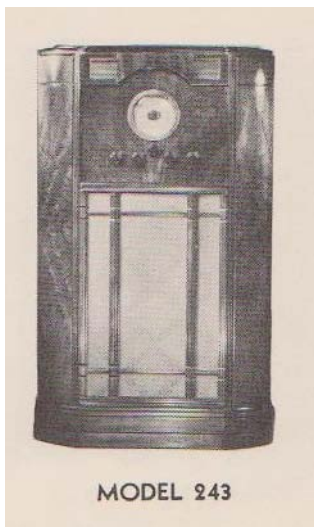
MODEL C 6-2



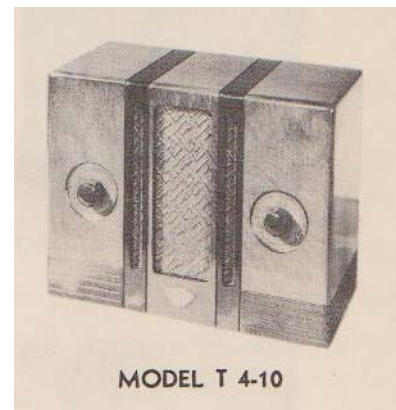
MODEL 225



MODEL T 6-1



MODEL 243



MODEL T 4-10

Classifieds:

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: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1

FOR SALE: Hundreds of transistor radios –

- all kinds

Ted Scheidegger

1-262-786-5824

WANTED: GE F-135 Chassis

Dave Huseman

Email: dhfreefall@aol.com

WANTED: Knobs for a Zenith 5-R-216. Dial escutcheon to fit the Firestone S7426-2 that I am restoring.

Dwight Baker

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515 965-0999 (before 9:00 pm)

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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.