



The FLASH!



Dedicated to the Preservation and Education of Wireless, Radio, Television and Associated Equipment

Volume 14, Issue 3

May - June, 2003

Meet the Collector - Leamon Brooks

by Larry Weide

Photographs by Wayne Gilbert, and Larry Weide

Yeah, it's just like they say; it's the quite ones you have to watch out for. So it is with this month's featured collector, Leamon Brooks. What I mean by my opening remark is that little would you know, from talking to Leamon, that he has assembled and restored one of the premier antique radio collections in Colorado.

Leamon grew up in rural Kentucky on a farm in an area that wasn't electrified until the late '40s. He told us of growing up with wood burning stoves, Kerosene lantern lighting, coal burning heat and well pumped water. His earliest memories of radios were of those that ran only on battery power.

After college, Leamon joined the US Air Force and stayed on for a 20 year career. After a subsequent stint in New York, he came to Colorado to complete another career working at the computer facilities at Colorado's School of Mines in Golden.

Leamon started collecting in the '50s and had the fortune to have found many pieces that most of us only see in pictures. A few weeks ago some of us guys were invited over to Leamon's home in South Denver to have a tour of his great collection. Most of us have had the pleasure of being there before but this is one tour that you can't possibly take too many times.

The first thing that catches your eye as you walk in the front door is a 1936 Scott Allwave 23 in a Laureate cabinet. (you and your vicious guard dog would be guarding it too, if you had one)

Next we went into a room where Leamon has two (count them, two) of the famous Capehart radio/phono consoles. These are the ones where the record playing mechanism turns the record over in order to play both sides. One of these consoles was originally purchased for Molly Brown. Unfortunately, she died before it could be delivered.



Then we went downstairs to see what can only be described as breath taking; AK breadboards, Kennedys, Federals, Neutrowonds and, as you can see, the list goes on and on.



If a radio or speaker was acquired in poor shape you wouldn't know it. Leamon has painstakingly restored everything into what appears to be near new condition. Of course everything works, except those that are works in progress. **(Continued on page 3)**

COLORADO RADIO COLLECTORS ANTIQUE CLUB

Founded October 1988

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you read this the April show has passed and should have been a great success. Thanks to everyone that helped with the show and congratulations to the prize winners!

Larry Weide has again come to the rescue with this issue of the FLASH, which is definitely his last. If we can't find someone to volunteer to take over the publication then I will go to the newsletter format until we can figure out what to do.

AGAIN and AGAIN, WE NEED ARTICLES for FUTURE FLASH PUBLICATIONS!

I must remember not to get sick on the day of a meeting; I guess I missed a really good one. Thanks to Robert for filling in at the last moment. Unfortunately I will be out of the country at the time of the May meeting so I will miss another one.

We now have two outstanding meetings under our belt so let's keep it going!

Have a great meeting on May 18th,

Dennis

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CRC MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership in the CRC runs from **June to June**. Annual dues entitles members to a full year (6 issues) of the club publication "The Flash!". Membership provides participation in club events such as the annual April Show, mid-summer picnic, September auction as well as our semi-monthly meetings and swap meets. Dues also entitle you to club officer elections, excellent discount prices on current hobby publications and the Antique Radio Classifieds annual subscription raffle every May!

New memberships will be prorated to renewal on the following June, i.e new members joining in May should submit \$12, in December \$5, etc.

CRC MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of every other month starting in January (except 3rd Sunday of May) at 1:00pm at the Museum of the Americas Bldg., 2nd floor, 863 Santa Fe (between 8th & 9th Aves.). The meetings consist of business, "show & tell", raffles, swap meets and

I asked him what his biggest problem was with a collection of this size and importance. Do you know what he said; "They're hard to dust". ... Go figure.



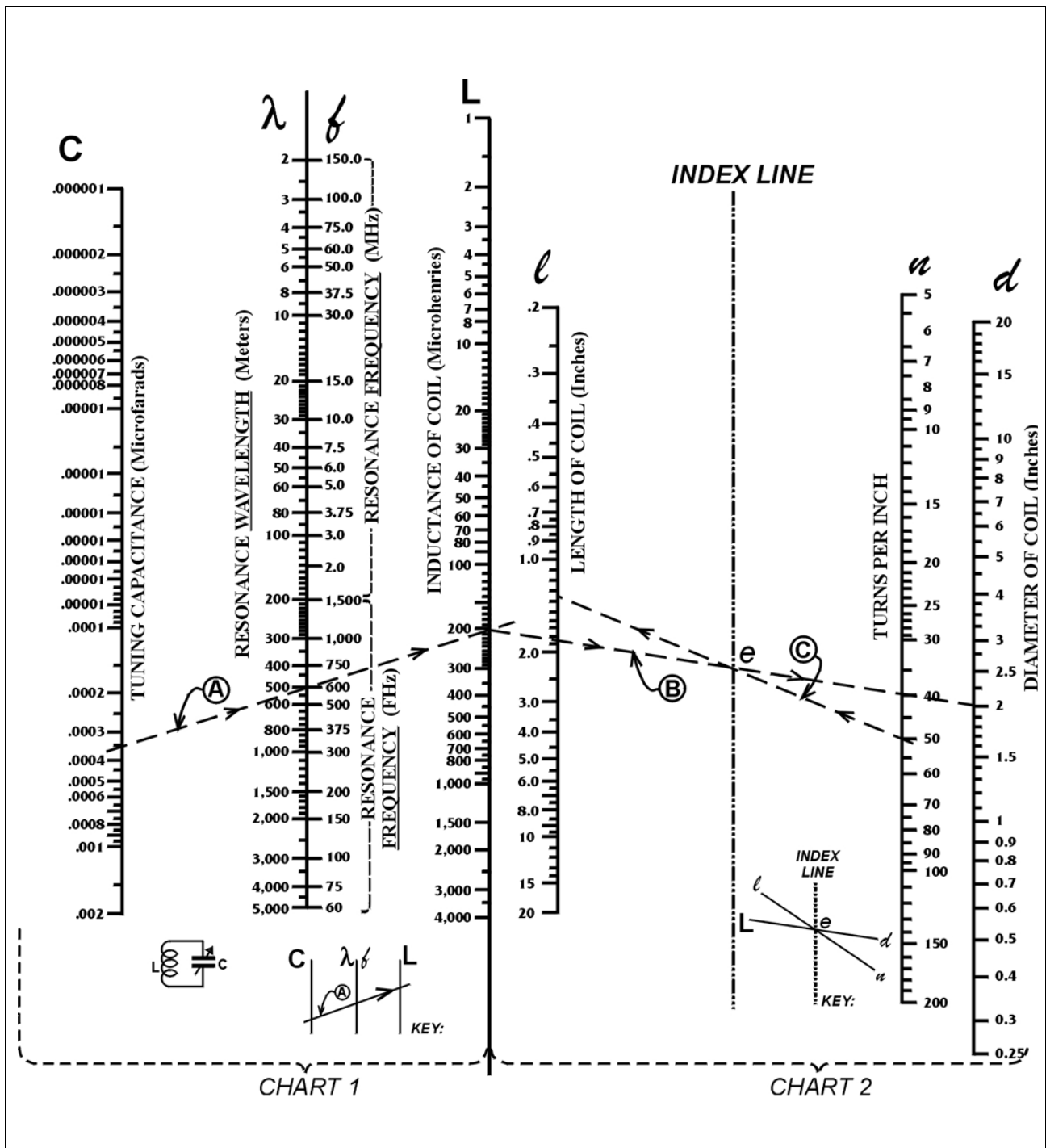
Single-Layer Air-Core Coil Design Nomograph

By Larry Weide, CRC Member

I was cleaning out my basement shop the other day (a hopeless effort) and I came across a copy of this chart. Like much of the really valuable technical material of the 30's, this nomograph was from an Alfred Ghirardi electronics design book. Far be it for me to presume to have the expertise to formulate such a clever way to allow one to calculate values for RC circuits. My contribution to this article was

simply to draw an exact copy of the chart, with my computer tools, to make it far more readable.

This chart not only lets you find combinations of capacitance, inductance and frequency (knowing any two of the three), but it also allows you to design with coil dimensions that accommodate coil forms/tubes that you may happen to have on hand. For example, you might use these charts to show a youngster how to make a crystal set from simple components - much of which you just happen to have laying around. The following text on the next page is from Alfred Ghirardi's book;



How to use Chart 1:

Locate (on the proper scales) the two points corresponding to the two *known* values C, f or L. Draw a line through these two points and intersecting the *third* scale (see *KEY* diagram at lower right of chart. This point of intersection determines the value of the *unknown* quantity.

How to use Chart 2:

Locate (on the proper scales) the two points corresponding to the *known* values of l-and-n or L-and-d. Draw a line through these two points, and intersecting the "*INDEX LINE*" (see *Key* diagram at lower right of chart). Now draw a line through this point of intersection and the point corresponding to the third *known* value. The point of intersection of this line with the remaining, scale, gives the value of the *unknown* quantity.

This chart may also be operated in the *reverse* direction, always making sure that the correct *pairs* of scales are connected together, as shown by the "*KEY*" at the lower right of the chart. Thus, for example, if it is known that a particular single-layer air-core coil contains a certain number of turns of wire of a certain kind and size wound on a form of certain diameter, its inductance (L) may be found quickly from this



Observations from the Tower - #2

By John Thomas, CRC Member

Monday the 10th of February was another great day in the CRC activities at the local 'Coffee Klatch' in Colorado Springs at the "Shopper's Grill" -- at the 'Bon Shopping Center'. Thanks to Bill Harris, a note was sent via internet, to remind all interested Colorado Springs CRC members of the meeting. As usual, the meeting was quite informative and very interesting for all concerned!

The meeting itself, started at 10:00 AM. It lasted until 12:00 when it finally started to break up! It seemed like everyone had a great time; the Coffee and food seemed to flow freely. Our waitress, (name unknown) seemed happy with us and is eagerly awaiting our return next month! (This is always a good sign -- when so many people converge on her, at a very busy time in making her livelihood! ... and we are now known by the company we keep!)

CRC Members present were: Karl Jesness, Bob Swigert, Bill Harris, Charlie Brett, Ray Windrix, Dan Houfek, Bob Slagle, Dick Pache, and myself. (I am finally writing down names and internet info on all CRC members that participate in these 'Coffee Klatches') These guys had so much 'Radio' information to relate -- that they actually broke up into three groups. (that is to say that they had three conversations going on a wide variety of subjects i.e., -- from Aerospace, -- chemical Lasers (TRW) -- FM and 'slope detection -- "Marconi Cohearers"... HCJB -- to Zworkin (RCA TV tube construction and design.)

Dan Houfek brought his M.W.T., CA 1910, Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co.???, -- a board mounted "Cohearer". Seeing any kind of 'Cohearer' was a great experience for this reviewer, as I had only heard about them from Karl Jesness, and the various great Charlie Brett books and publications -- I'd never seen one before!! It was really a very enlightening Radio 'part' from the very early days of Radio!! Dan said he would bring it with him again in order to have a digital picture made up for the next "FLASH".

Much talk ensued concerning the origin of the 'Cohearer' It was a most interesting device, and I would like to thank Dan for remembering to bring it with him for this meeting!!

Of course, we had a wonderful discussion going involving 'Old Time Radio' and radio's in general. (as usual, I received a bad case of 'information overload' for so many of the things spoken of. We talked about how and where to find such 'esoteric' items as Crystal transducers for RCA, 45 RPM record players (In Pueblo at, an antique store?) Bob Slagle contributed most to this identification and location. -- (Ray Kushnir, Pueblo). (...sorry that I could not take notes fast enough to get the straight skinny, nor the correct spelling!). Please see 'BOB' for the corrected details...

Bill Harris and Bob Swigert told me about their respective wonderful Radio collections. Bob Swigert is looking for info on where to find a radio of the -- first production model 'Zenith-Transoceanic' receiver type. If anyone can help him find this item, Please get with him ASAP! (rgswigert@cs.com) I told him it wouldn't hurt to advertise in the "FLASH" Classifieds!

Dick Pache did a marvelous job of presenting pictures and dialogue of his recent visit to 500,000 watt Christian Radio station HCJB in Quito, Ecuador. Lots of great technical pics -- Antenna fields to Transmitter finals -- I'll not say more as Dick will hopefully write a report of his experiences in an up-coming "FLASH" article.

Hopefully also,-- Bill Harris will keep all of us 'Radio Enthusiasts' (Passion nuts!) -- aware of the next "Coffee Klatch" meeting in Colorado Springs.

Larry Weide sez: We still need input for the "FLASH" ... to keep it a viable organ of 'OUR' Radio Club. If you have 'input' please send to Larry at: lweide@attglobal.net -- Larry will be glad to provide you his 'expert' editorial opinion and re-write of YOUR article(s) -- as necessary for publication!!! Give Larry your BEST! (He does it for YOU!)

ENUF SAID?

73.

Meet new CRC Member....

Rich Kuberski

Hello: My name is Richard Kuberski and I am a recent addition to the club. My first meeting was in January of this year. I am relative new to this hobby and am anxious to make new contacts and to learn more about the old radios. I am also hoping to find new sources for old radios and parts.

However, my main reason for joining was in anticipation of being able to continue my "education" in the repair end of the hobby. I have collected various things over the years and have a lot of the skills necessary to repair the old derelict radios, but one of the things that I don't have is a background in electronics. What I know about trouble shooting a dead radio I have gleaned from old books, learned from the internet and taken advantage of a retired neighbor who was some sort of an electronics technician for the Navy back in the 50's.

Needless to say, I have a vast wealth of accumulated ignorance on the subject. In spite of this, I have managed to bring more than a dozen radios back from the dead. Some were simple; in fact one only required tubes. Most required the replacement of capacitors, a few just a bad tube or two and only a couple have been a real challenge. I

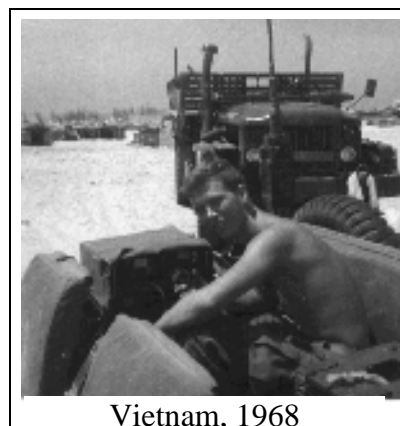
The Flash!

still have some that are mystery units and it is for these future "successes" that I decided to join the club.



Dad and I during the 50's

My interest in radio goes a long way back, a real long way. Both my Mom (W5CTH) and Dad (W5CSZ) were amateur extra class hams. I am sure that my Dad was a lot like the kids that we saw portrayed in the video that was shown at the March meeting, with the exception that he was building both receivers and transmitters. In the late 30's, while just a teenager, he worked for the San Antonio Police Department installing two-way radios in the patrol cars. Come WWII he found himself in Hawaii working on the then "Top Secret" radar sets. After the war he worked in electronics warfare research and development at White Sands New Mexico. For a while he was also the State Director for MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System.) So, needless to say, there was plenty of radio junk around the house when I was growing up. Unfortunately, I was not very interested in what he was doing back then.



Vietnam, 1968

My radio education started in the service. In 1966 I enlisted in the Marine Corps. While at boot camp they gave a very simple morse code test. Using just three letters, a (dit-dah,) e (dit) and t (dah) they evaluated our abilities. I passed this

simple test and was sent to radio telegraph operator's school. However, when I was sent to Vietnam, I humped a PRC-25 as the radio operator on an artillery forward observer team. I did this for about 6 months and then spent another year as the radio chief for a 105MM Battery

Fast forward to 1973: I had been looking for a nice old radio for several years, but it seemed that anything that I found was either too expensive or was in very bad condition. I finally found a Zenith console (6S556) in very good condition. It was for sale for the whopping sum of \$35. When I bought it, it needed a new power cord. I installed that and the radio worked, but sounded very bad. I found an old radio repair man somewhere along W. Colfax and he tested the tubes for me. It turned out to have two bad tubes. The repairman sent me to an old man that had quit the repair business back in the 50's. His garage was chock full of old tubes. He had what I needed and I was on my way. Just last fall, this radio began to develop a hum, so I replaced all the capacitors and now it works just fine again.

Fast forward again to the summer of 2002: I was in an antique shop and the owner had an old console that someone must have used as a plant stand. There were two large rings on the top and the finish was gone from the areas where water had run down the sides. The veneer was loose in several places and the unit just looked like belonged in the trash. When the owner saw me looking at it he immediately cut the price in 1/2 down to only \$75. I informed him that it was in too rough of shape for me to consider. "Well, not to worry" he said. "I'll throw in this nice little bakelite Admiral set." I was still not interested, so he then goes in the back room and drags out three boxes of tubes and another small bakelite Emerson radio. "Take the whole mess for \$200" he says. I count the tubes and there is just a little over 400 of them, but what am I going to do with them? I tell him that I will think it over and get back to him. That night I check on the internet and find that tubes are selling for around a low of three or four dollars and some are a lot higher. Without further checking, I decide that I should be able to sell tubes for at least 25% of retail. So, I go back and buy the whole mess.

As I am sure most of you know, my estimation of what the tubes would sell for was wrong. The first offer I got for them was only \$100. However, I do some more research and it turns out that 5 of the tubes are "red base" RCA tubes that have real value and I continued to offer them to others. I finally

manage to sell the batch for \$400 to Roy Golden of *Radio Tube Supply* (www.radiotubesupply.com <<http://www.radiotubesupply.com>>). I had the feeling that I just barely escaped from that deal with my hide intact. Anyway, it turned out that the damage to the console was within my ability to repair. The electronics were another problem. Turns out that my console had been a battery set and in 1945 it had been modified to run on ac current. It had a hum that I could not cure. With help, I was able to reduce it to a very low level and at Christmas time I presented it to my Daughter and her fiancé.

My appetite had been whet. I had started to search out "new" old radios. Most of them were bought on ebay, others from local sources. I also bought some test equipment; VTVM, tube tester, capacitor checker, signal generator and even an oscilloscope. (It looks good on the shelf, but I really don't know how to use it.)

Some of my early purchases were just intended to be "project" radios. "Turning junk into better junk" is what I told my friends I was doing. I now try to make sure that the challenge is not too great. Not too much physical damage, knobs present, no broken plastic and perhaps of a little more value.

I have had success with TRF radios. I now own three of them and they all work. Getting two of them to work was not too hard, but a Philco 296 was a real challenge. The chassis had been inhabited by mud daubers. They had just about filled all of the available space in the chassis with mud. This had dried to the consistence of concrete. They also ate the insulation off of some of the wiring. The "Philco Man" provided me with long distance hand holding over the internet. Whenever I had a problem, like not knowing the value of the Philco bakelite capacitors, he got me through it.

Am I rambling? Anyway, one of the things that I was hoping to get from the club was a little technical knowledge. Perhaps a session on trouble shooting or aligning the IF's. I don't think that I am the only person that would enjoy that. Perhaps during one of the future meetings we could see a demonstration of the techniques used by the experts. This would be a great opportunity to show off your tips and techniques. If others have interest, we can discuss it at the next meeting.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself,

Richard Kuberski

Collector Books for Sale

| | | Special CRC prices. Order at club meetings. Mail order shipments: add \$2.00 postage for each book ordered. Info/order: Charles Brett, 5980 Old Ranch Road, Colorado Springs 80908, (719) 495-8660, brett3729@aol.com. void all other listings | |
|---|--|--|---------|
| | | Retail | Club |
| RADIOS, (GENUINE PLASTIC) OF THE MID CENTURY Jupp & Pina, hard bound, 219 pgs, 1998 PG, 450+ color pics | | \$39.95 | \$28.00 |
| ANTIQUE RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE - 4th EDITION Bunis, 1997 values, revised & updated, new photos, 248 pgs \$18.95 | | \$15.00 | |
| GUIDE TO OLD RADIOS, POINTERS... - 2nd EDITION Johnson, 277 pgs, 1995-96 prices | | \$19.95 | \$15.00 |
| ANTIQUE RADIO RESTORATION GUIDE - 2nd EDITION Johnson, 144 pgs, repairing, refinishing, cleaning | | \$14.95 | \$12.00 |
| RADIO, EVOLUTION OF THE - VOLUME ONE 227 pgs, 118 in color, More than 800 radios pictured, 1992 | | \$22.95 | \$18.00 |
| RADIO, EVOLUTION OF THE - VOLUME TWO 226 pgs, Radios of the 1920s to 1960s, with 93-94 values | | \$24.95 | \$19.00 |
| TRANSISTOR RADIOS, COLLECTOR'S GUIDE VOL II Bunis, 1996 prices, Full Color | | \$16.95 | \$13.00 |
| ZENITH TRANSISTOR RADIOS, 1955-1965 Smith, 1998 PG, 160 pgs, 226 color pics, info, descr. | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| THE ZENITH TRANS-OCEANIC (THE ROYALTY OF RADIOS) Bryant and Cones, 160 gpgs, 1995 | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| ZENITH RADIOS THE EARLY YEARS 1919-1936, Cones 1997-98 Price Guide, 223 pgs, 100's Photos, Desc., Hist. | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| RADIOS BY HANDCRAFTERS, revised 2nd edition Dachis, 1999 values, 220 pgs, 1000+ pics, Id's, history | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| CLASSIC TV'S, PRE-WAR THRU 1950'S 86 pgs, color & b/w pics, descriptions, etc. | | \$18.95 | \$15.00 |
| Machine Age to Jet Age, Radiomania's Table Radio Guide 'III, 33-62 Stein, 256 pgs, 100's of b/w photos | | \$29.95 | \$24.50 |
| TRANSISTOR RADIOS, 1954 TO 1969 Norman Smith, with prices, 160 pgs, 1000 photos, 1998 | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| PHILCO RADIO: 1928 - 1942 Ramires & Proisise, 160 pgs, 828 pics & drawings, 1993 | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| RADIO AND TV PREMIUMS Jim Harmon, 256 pgs, 200+ photos, 1997 | | \$24.95 | \$19.00 |
| RADIO MANUFACTURES OF THE 1920'S VOL I Alan Douglas, 225 pgs, 1988 | | \$24.95 | \$19.00 |
| RADIO MANUFACTURES OF THE 1920'S VOL II Alan Douglas, 266 pgs, 1989 | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| RADIO MANUFACTURES OF THE 1920'S VOL III Alan Douglas, 285 pgs, 1991 | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| CRYSTAL CLEAR VOL 1 Maurice Sievers, 282 Pgs, 1991 | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| CRYSTAL CLEAR VOL 2 Maurice Sievers, 252 Pgs, 1995 | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| RADIO TUBES AND BOXES OF THE 1920'S George A Fathauer, 112 Pgs, 1999 | | \$26.95 | \$20.00 |
| 70 YEARS OF TUBES AND VALVES, 2ND EDITION John Stokes, 264 Pgs, 1997 | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| RADIO DIAGRAM SOURCEBOOK Richard Gray, 264 Pgs, 1996 | | \$18.95 | \$15.00 |
| THE RADIO COLLECTOR'S DIRECTORY AND PRICE GUIDE, 2ND ED. Robert Grinder, 524 Pgs, 1995 | | \$26.95 | \$21.00 |
| COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO VINTAGE TELEVISION Durbal & Glenn Bubbenheimer, 200 Pgs, 1999 | | \$15.95 | \$13.00 |
| NOVELTY RADIOS, VOLUME 1 Marty Bunis & Robert Breed, 223 Pgs, 1995 | | \$18.95 | \$15.00 |
| NOVELTY RADIOS, VOLUME 2 Marty Bunis & Robert Breed, 199 Pgs, 1999 | | \$19.95 | \$15.00 |
| COMPLETE PRICE GUIDE TO ANTIQUE RADIOS: PRE-WAR CONSOLES Mark Stein, 235 pgs, 100's of b/w photos | | \$29.95 | \$22.00 |
| TUBE TESTERS AND CLASSIC ELECTRONIC TEST GEAR Alan Douglas, 166 Pgs, 2000 | | \$25.95 | \$19.50 |
| COLLECTOR'S VACUUM TUBE HANDBOOK, VOLUME I Robert T. Mlllard, 196 Pgs, 2001 | | \$25.95 | \$19.50 |
| TUBE DATA ON CD ROM Hohn, 27,000+ tubes, for Windows 95/98 | | \$39.95 | \$28.00 |
| SILVERTONE ANTIQUE RADIOS 1930 - 1942 Stein, 239 pgs, 2001 | | \$34.95 | \$25.50 |
| ANTIQUE RADIOS COLLECTOR'S GUIDE 5th EDITION John Slusser, 264 Pgs, 2001 | | \$19.95 | \$15.00 |
| *NEW* RADIOCRAFT JUBILEE - REPRINT OF 1938 EDITION Hugo Gernsback, Vestal Press | | ----- | \$12.00 |

The Open Trunk

CRC Classified Advertisements



Submission of Sell/Want ads are always free to CRC members. Non-members may advertise in the Flash for \$0.20 a word. Display advertising is available by contacting the CRC publisher for info and rates.

-
WANTED: Old Colorado and Denver radio history info. I have quite a number of 1930s-40s radio magazines to trade for earlier radio documentation. Wayne Gilbert (303) 431-6774, wagil@aol.com 5/03

-
WANTED: Any WWII Japanese radio, working or not. Thanks. John A. Miner, 303-759-9152 5/03

**DON'T FORGET...
ALL CRC MEMBER
DUES
ARE DUE BY THE END
OF JUNE**

Hi folks,

Looking for that certain radio? Looking for that hard to find part? Looking for elusive information? Want to sell or trade something?

This is the place; The CRC newsletter "Open Trunk". Of course you've seen it before but we've cleaned house, as it were, and will be printing ads starting with this issue that are all newly submitted. Ad submissions will be dated and run for two issues (four months) before they're deleted. This way you will know whether or not the ad is really current. If you want to keep your ad running it may be resubmitted - if there's room.

So by all means, if you have an item to sell or you need something, then put your ad in the Flash's "Open Trunk". What the heck, ...

It's Free!!

**Next CRC Meeting - May 18th - Museum of
the Americas - 863 Santa Fe - 1:00pm**

**Tailgate Sales After the Meeting in the Museum
Courtyard**



Colorado Radio Collectors

Antique Radio Club

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