



The FLASH!



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

Volume 14, Issue 5

September/October, 2003

The CRC 15th Anniversary Issue The Members, The History, The Activities





A Message from the President of the Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club

To all CRC Members:

I consider it a great privilege to be President at the time when this 15th Anniversary issue of the FLASH is being published. I haven't been a member long enough to have experienced a lot of the activities and events that have occurred over the last 15 years, but as I have the opportunity to get better acquainted with members I can see that this club brings together a diverse group of great people that share a common interest in antique radio and all that goes with it.

It is only after I joined the club that I realized how important radio was and still is to the history of the world. Radio was the start of the now enormous electronics industry, and of course led into the entertainment industry, music, talking pictures, television, and so on.

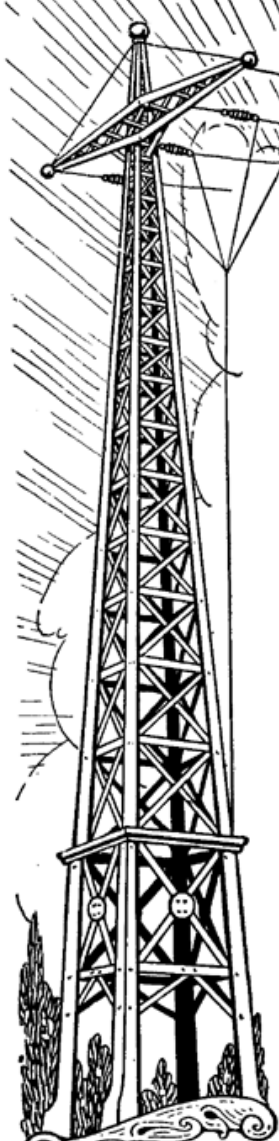
The club not only affords the opportunity to collect and restore, but also provides a nostalgic trip into the past with "technical" history lessons through the great depression, WWII, and into the 50's and 60's.

Many thanks to the members who contributed to the production of this issue, and to those members who actively participate in all activities that makes the club a success.

So enjoy this issue and through it the history that we have created as a club over the past 15 years. I encourage everyone to take the time to get better acquainted with the members in general as so many have the experience and knowledge not only to help the novices along, but can help make collecting a more fun and fulfilling hobby for everyone.

Dennis Laurence

Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club



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The CRC has been a continually active organization since October of 1988. Through our semimonthly meetings, newsletter, activities and special events we endeavor to enjoy and promote the active collection, restoration and knowledge of radios and other artifacts that represent the history and advancement of "wireless".

Special Issue Credits

Planning Committee

Robert Baumann
David Boyle
Charles Brett
Carl Jesness
John Thomas
Larry Weide

Production and Contribution

Wayne Gilbert
Dennis Laurence
Larry Weide
Barney Wooters

A Short History of Broadcast Radio in Colorado

by Wayne Gilbert, CRC Member

The early history of radio broadcasting in Colorado was as varied and checkered as it was nationwide. There were starts, stops, lurches, reversals, but radio broadcasting in Colorado, just like its national counterpart, was not to be denied. Surprisingly, exposure of Coloradans to the radio telegraphy schemes of Lee DeForest did little to deter their enthusiasm for early wireless. In fact it would seem that these early experiences actually made Coloradans more eager to prove that airwave communication was not only possible, but practical.

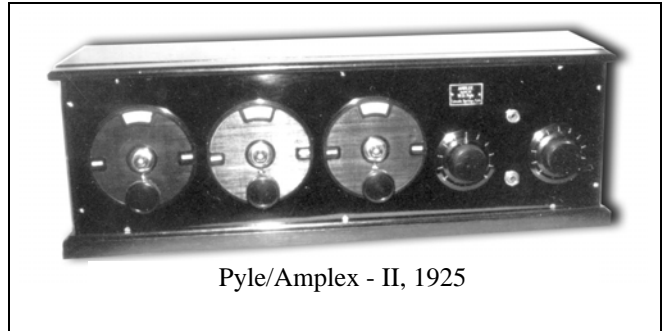


Reynrad - RR-74
1920

As everywhere across the nation, the earliest broadcast radio pioneers emerged from the ranks of the wireless point-to-point transmission experimenters and operators. Doc Reynolds' (arguably, the first successful Colorado broadcast radio pioneer) early receivers were made for and sold to friends and neighbors who wanted to eavesdrop on point-to-point wireless communications between a hotel chef on Santa Catalina Island and some of his friends who lived on the mainland. The wireless point-to-point operators in California didn't realize that their 'broadcasts' were being so 'universally' enjoyed that a market for more of Doc's homemade receivers was developing in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

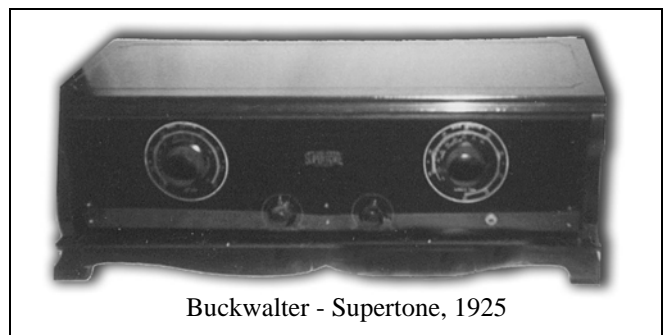
After some sputters, lurches and reversals, Doc and his family began broadcasting music and amateur programming to their friends and neighbors. Initially the neighbors objected to Doc's erecting a transmitting tower in his backyard, but the objections lessened in more-or-less direct proportion to the number of times Doc used his neighbors in his

broadcasts. In later years some even bragged to their grandchildren that they had been performers on Denver's earliest broadcast radio station, KLZ!



Pyle/Amplex - II, 1925

Duncan Pyle, a contemporary of Doc Reynolds, seemed to enjoy establishing stations that he could resell to others. The daily grind of filling a broadcast schedule, or even managing his radio retail sales store seemed to hold little excitement for him. Even the thrill of developing and manufacturing his own brand of broadcast receivers wasn't enough. He only seemed to be truly happy when he was doing battle with Secretary of Commerce Hoover over the rights to use specific call letters, band positions, and transmitter power. His biggest coup was when he succeeded in getting KFXF assigned a very coveted frequency during the big radio frequency reassignment shake up in 1928. His biggest failure was having been originally assigned the call letters KFXF, which proved impossible for most listeners to say or even remember for any length of time. His petition to change his station's call letters to KVOD was finally granted in 1932, and with that final triumph, he at last settled down, remaining KVOD's president and ardent promoter until his retirement in 1955.



Buckwalter - Supertone, 1925

Harry Buckwalter, another contemporary of Reynolds and Pyle, just liked to be in the thick of things and delighted in having his name recognized and associated with the new phenomenon of radio.

Harry had no retail store, and the Buckwalter brand radios he sold were manufactured by another Buckwalter family who lived in Chicago, but those minor details didn't prevent him from claiming to be a true Colorado broadcast radio pioneer and expert. He reinforced that impression by writing numerous letters to front range newspapers expressing his opinions on any radio related topic of the day, and even persuading nationally renowned opera singer Frieda Hempel to sing a few of her favorite songs from his home transmitting studio. His repeatedly inconsiderate hogging of the airwaves brought him criticism from the other fledgling broadcasters of his day. While this didn't seem to bother Harry much, eventually his poor health did what his critics couldn't, and his home studio closed. Although his flamboyant personality kept him in the spotlight for several years, his contributions to Colorado radio history are little remembered or appreciated today.

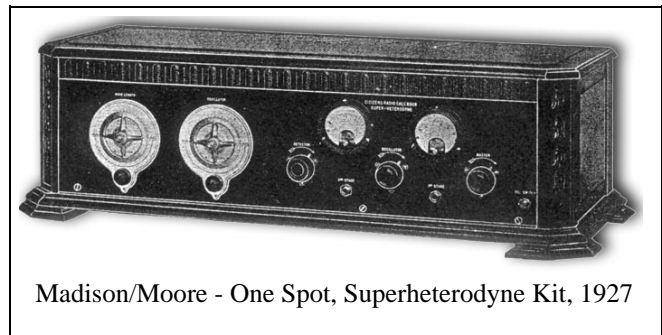
There was little revenue to be derived from airing an advertisement on early broadcast radio, and in most cases those broadcasters who did air advertisements were often severely criticized by their peers and the listening public. As a result, many of the earliest pioneers of broadcast radio financed their stations with the profits from the sale of their own brand of radios. These were often sold directly from the broadcasting studio or from a store that was owned or managed by the broadcaster and/or his family or friends.

There were some stations that were associated with organizations that only indirectly benefited from this association. One of these rather unusual associations was that of the Denver Post and station KFAF. The Rocky Mountain News had earlier been involved with the in an attempt to co-sponsor station KDZQ with Duncan Pyle, but apparently the News management hadn't entered into the arrangement with enough commitment and their attempt to branch out into the new media area was short lived. The Post put both money and the power of the press behind station KFAF, a combination that seemed certain to succeed. From the first the Post carried news stories and public interest columns informing their readers that KFAF was to be the most powerful, best designed, and most effectively run station in the west. Eldon F. Horn, a former Westinghouse radio engineer was brought to Denver to supervise the installation and operation of the new Post station. No expense or ink was spared, but despite early successes the station was off the air by

1927. Perhaps it lacked only the personal charm of Doc Reynolds, or Duncan Pyle.

Another group that was eager to spread the word across the airways were the churches of Colorado. On the surface it must have looked like the proverbial "union that was made in heaven." A church would have all of the resources of its congregation, and probably have some employees with time to devote to running the station during the week. Colorado's Christian Radio Station, KPOF was one of the few Church sponsored stations to succeed. Most radio stations weren't backed by churches that were blessed with the talents and dedication of Alma White and her followers, and KPOF succeeded mainly because they refused to let it fail.

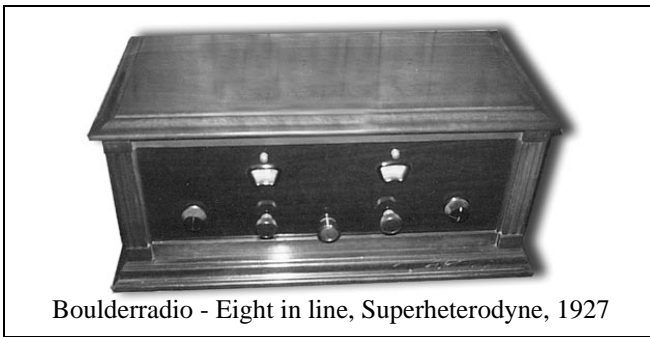
Another group of broadcast radio pioneers were the niche marketers. These entrepreneurs normally didn't have a radio station nor a store, but they contributed to Colorado broadcast radio efforts through their genius in finding a product to market to the expanding radio community of the 1920s.



Madison/Moore - One Spot, Superheterodyne Kit, 1927

Harry E. Madison and his partner William B.S. Moore specialized in marketing components for radio sets. Their biggest success came from manufacturing their own design of IF transformers. Radios that used M & M IF transformers could be made to tune a station only once on the tuning dial. This was a major improvement in the design of broadcast radios, and these transformers (or copies of them) became an integral component that other radio manufacturers designed their sets around. There are numerous articles in national magazines, such as the Citizens Radio Call Book, that promote the use M & M IF transformers, made in Colorado.

Professor Cassell, was a niche marketer not just of components, but rather of a whole radio kit. Professor Cassell, a professor at the University of Colorado, used his knowledge, and CU's facilities, to design, build, and sell the Boulderradio. This radio was a kit that required little or no technical knowledge or expertise to assemble, and became



Boulderradio - Eight in line, Superheterodyne, 1927

very popular with that segment of the radio listening public who wanted a radio that could circumvent RCA's superheterodyne patents. It wasn't long, though, before Professor Cassell, like many others who were trying to employ the same techniques, found that RCA had ways of dealing with patent infringements, and soon he had to content himself with merely teaching his students about the principles of superheterodyne radios while building and selling a model Boulderradio that utilized a TRF circuit.

There were many other Colorado broadcast radio pioneers not mentioned here. Some were very well known in their time, some were only known locally, and some left no tracks for us to identify them. These pioneers were not lesser-contributors, but rather lesser-remembered. It's a great tease to read their names in archived newspaper articles, often as associates of other better publicized pioneers, and it's often a puzzle as to exactly what these lesser-remembereds' contributions were. Their role in broadcast history, however important in their time, is only hinted at, with their obituaries only stating they "were involved in the development of radio." Historically speaking, though, Colorado radio pioneers played a role in broadcast radio history that was far greater in importance than Colorado's size and location would indicate. Their voices are now silent, and their names often forgotten, but their contributions were far more important to broadcast radio history than mere tracks in the ether.

Sources:

- Colorado Antique Radio Club Publications:
- CRC 1995 bulletin published for the Lakewood historical society, Return With Us Now:
- Flash, 09/1996 Reynrad, A Colorado Radio Co.
- Flash, 05/1997 Wm Duncan Pyle, Manufacturing & Broadcast Pioneer
- Flash, 07/1998 Buckwalter Supertone, A Colorado radio
- Flash, 11/1998 Madison and Moore radios
- Flash, 09/1998 Denver Christian radio station KPOF
- Flash, 07/1996 Boulderradio
- Flash, 01/1997 8-in-Line, Code name for Superheterodyne

The Flash!

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OF THE FAMOUS EIGHT-IN-LINE



Read the Article
in This Issue

The Eight-in-Line is the finest there is in radio today. No other receiver will compare with it for ease of construction, ease of operation, tone quality or selectivity.

There is now available for the set builder a six tube unit identical in every way with the regular Eight-in-Line unit except that the entire audio amplifier is omitted. This gives a perfectly balanced front end tested "on the air" which will not oscillate, and the constructor may use any type of audio amplification he may prefer.

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1435 Welton Street NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES Denver, Colorado

A Look Back at the Beginning of the CRC

by Barney Wooters

Our club, the Colorado Radio Collectors, had a predecessor organization, which was known as the Rocky Mountain Antique Wireless Association. It was referred to generally as the RMAWA.



The RMAWA shoulder patch

In the beginning, it was a small organization made up largely of amateur radio operators and other technical folk. As word of the organization spread, it began to attract new members and to grow. By current measure, it was a small group and meetings were held in members' homes and consisted of general business items being discussed, show and tell, buy and sell, collecting of dues (\$3 annually) after which refreshments were served. The RMAWA had a newsletter known as "RADIO LOG" which contained some of the same articles we have today, such as techniques, "wanted/for sale" ads, photos, and club news - any input to make a good



Leamon Brooks at a RMAWA meeting. This picture was taken from the June, 1979 "RADIO LOG" newsletter

newsletter.

As the club grew, we began to need a larger place to meet as most homes could not accommodate a large group. I believe the first such place was the Southwest State Bank (now Vectra Bank) on South
The Flash!

Federal Bl., which eventually served the CRC as well.

Early on the RMAWA was involved in annual mall shows. Included in these were the Westminster and Northglenn malls.

The club prospered for many years and we both gained and lost members as interests changed or people moved away. Still there remained the assumed need that one must be technically savvy or you would not be able to join. Even though that was downplayed the club began to struggle and decreased in size. There seemed to be some lack of interest and RMAWA began to flounder as the gap between the "haves and have nots" widened. In the mid 1980's the club essentially came to a halt.

And yet a spark of interest remained and in the spring of 1987 many phone calls were made to see if we might begin again. With the help of Bill Green, a gathering was held at his home in Morrison which included a picnic and swap fest. From that new beginning sprang the roots of our own CRC.

In October of 1988 the first official CRC meeting was held in the home of Ron Smith who is still a member. Other charter members who are still in the CRC are; Rick Ammon, Dave Boyle, Leamon Brooks, Doug Furney, Dick Hagrman, Johnny Johnson, Bob Slagel, Ray Windrix, Barney Wooters and Bruce Young. Please excuse this author if there are others that I've missed.

One particularly memorable early CRC event was the crystal and one tube radio contest that was held at Bill Green's home during one of the first meetings held. We all brought our radios and hooked them up to antennas to see who could receive a signal from the greatest distance.

In October of 1990 the CRC published the first issue of it's newsletter, the Flash! (see page 7) which has been in continuous publication ever since. The first publisher of the Flash! was Rick Ammon who did a tremendous job for five years. The baton was then passed to Larry Weide who did the publishing

chores for the next six years. Today the Flash! is in the capable hands of Steve Touzalin.

When it became apparent that the membership was too large to hold meetings in private homes, we too began a search for a permanent meeting place. A number of short term locations were found, but it wasn't until the early 90's that we found a permanent home at the public library on West Bowles. From here, like nomads, we eventually moved on to the public library on West 20th, then back to the Southwest State bank, the Wazee Electric Company meeting room for a short time and finally to our current location at the Museo De las Americas Museum at Sante Fe and 8th Ave..

The CRC attracted a more diversified range of collectors than the RMAWA had and consequently provided the synergy for more and varied activities. Thus we instituted the annual Show and Sale in April, the regularly scheduled picnic, the meeting raffle and, of course, the annual auction in September. The raffle and the auction were particularly important since they provided club income in order to support our other activities.

Throughout the CRC years there have also been many special events associated with other organizations in our community. These would include shows and classes at Belmar (now known as the Lakewood's Heritage Center), a show at the Denver Symphony Orchestra's opening night and programs with KEZW, the Denver nostalgia station.



The CRC 1996 Belmar show, opening night featuring a live on-air radio drama presented by real old time radio actors. On the right is the evening's host Rick Crandall of KEZW

Another great association we've had over a number of years is with the Wings Over The Rockies Air Museum. CRC member Bart Whitehouse is the museum's Curator of Avionics. Although it's focus is aviation, the museum has extended the mission of the avionics display room to include the history of communications. Consequently, Bart has enlisted a number of our members to help him with the restoration of many of his artifacts which include "antique radios". The association with the museum is a cooperative one so that in turn our members have had great meetings and tours in the museum, curtesy of Bart.

Many of us, our club, throughout the USA and around the world believe that the history and artifacts associated with "wireless" is important enough to warrant special attention to it's preservation. Isn't it wonderful that we can do this by being part of a great club, so that as a group we have the advantage of enjoying our passion with other like minded folks.

This special Flash! issue is our way of celebrating fifteen years of the Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club's continuous existence and success. The CRC is the only center of "wireless" knowledge in the Rocky Mountain region. We can all help to maintain this status by actively participating in CRC activities and contributing to the newsletter.

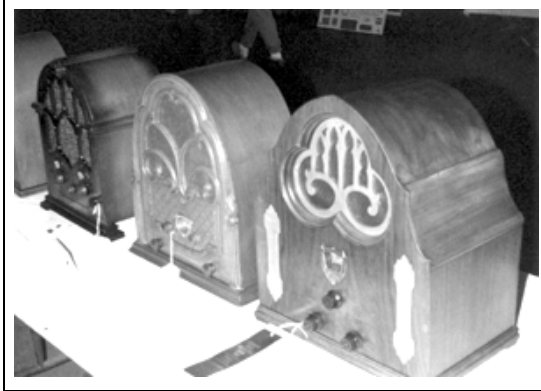
Lastly, as we look back over the history of the CRC, I think it would be appropriate to take a moment and remember some of those past CRC members and spouses who are no longer with us but are certainly not forgotten.

- W.E. Adams
- Willa Brooks
- Hal Burt
- Lys Carey
- Ann Hagrman
- Jerry Labbe
- John Noble
- Bill Schultz
- Ray Tomlin
- David Tripe

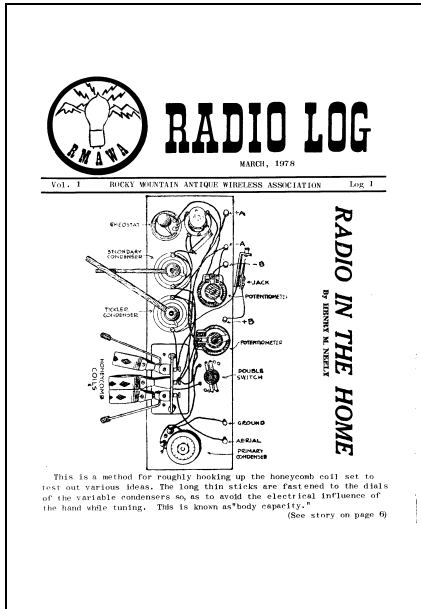
A Pictorial History of CRC Activities and Events

by Larry Weide, CRC Member

How is it that fifteen years seemed to have passed as if it were fifteen minutes? Well, I guess that's just life. But hey, thanks to all those folks that have been taking pictures and chronicling the activities that the CRC members having been enjoying all these years, we can continue to relish and remember the highlights of passed events. Obviously room is limited but hopefully, with the pictures available, I've included a mix that includes as many CRC folks and activities as possible. Enjoy!



Cathedrals at the 1993 April Show



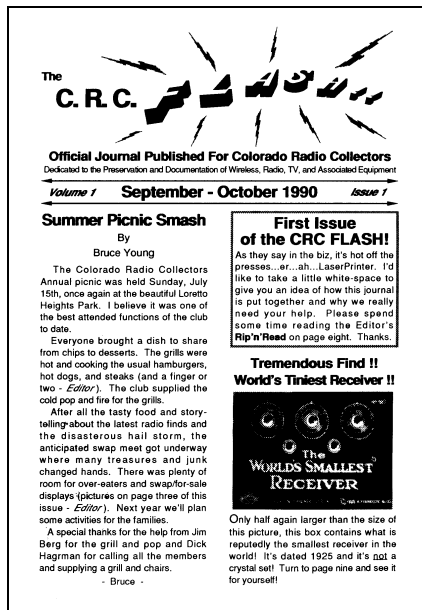
First issue of the Rocky Mountain Wireless Association Radio Log, March '78. This was the short lived club whose ex members formed the Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club in 1988.



Action at the 1995 CRC Sept. Auction



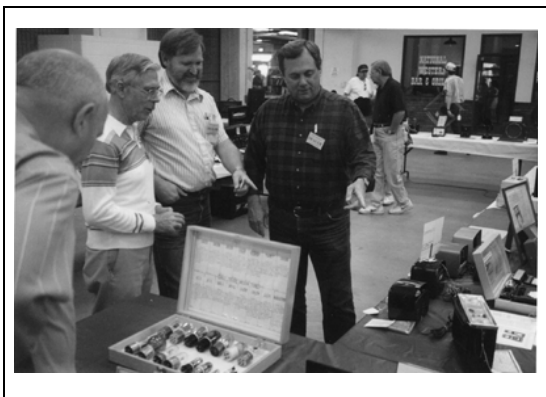
Taking in the 1995 CRC Sept. Auction



First issue of the CRC Flash!, Sept '90



Items on the block at the 1995 CRC Sept. Auction



Members admiring the entries at the 1996 CRC Show



Visitors view the 1996 CRC show at Lakewood's Belmar



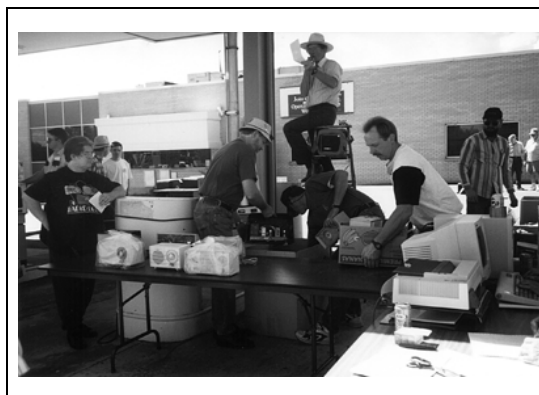
Another sale at the 1996 CRC Show



1996 CRC show at Lakewood's Belmar, opening night live radio drama enactment with real old time radio stars



CRC members enjoying dinner together, Elgin, 1996



Sold! At the CRC 1996 Sept. auction



Lakewood's Mayor opens the 1996 CRC Show at Belmar



Previewing items at the 1996 CRC Sept. Auction



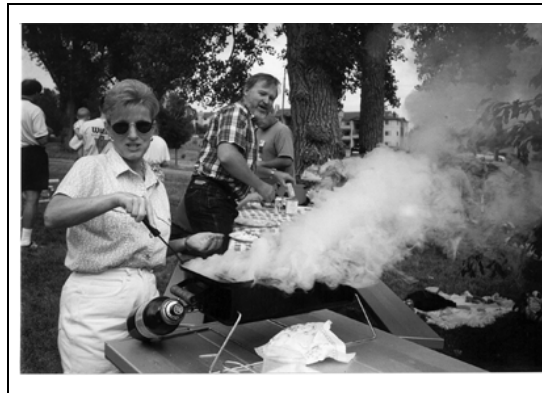
CRC members with Marin Alsop, Colorado Symphony, 1997



Chowing down at the CRC 1997 picnic



CRC wives at the Colorado Symphony, 1997



You want fries with that? The CRC 1997 picnic



Judging entries at the 1997 April CRC show



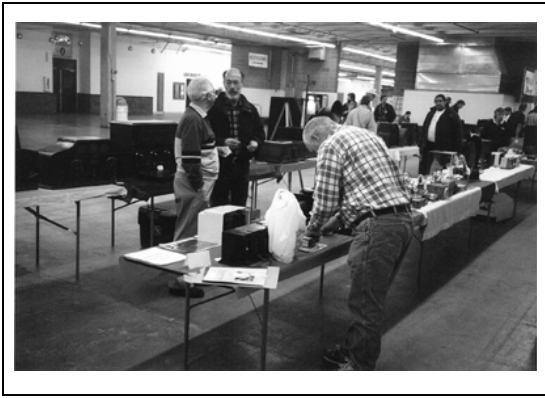
Counting the "beans" at the Sept. CRC 1997 auction



Selling the good stuff at the 1997 April CRC show



Another hot deal at the Sept. CRC 1997 auction



Members and visitors at the 1998 April CRC show



Brisk sales at the 1999 CRC April show



The seller's tables at the 1998 April CRC show



A few gems and a young member at the 1999 April CRC show



Enjoying the 1998 July CRC picnic



Talking the talk at the 2000 April CRC show



The big eaters at the 1998 July CRC picnic



Father and son take audio to a new level, April '02 CRC show



Enjoying the post show dinner, 2000 April CRC show



Action at the 2001 Sept. CRC auction



Greeting the folks at the 2001 April CRC show



The clock radio king, Nov. 2001 CRC meeting



A couple of "tasty" radios, 2001 April CRC show



CRC expertise at the Wings Over the Rockies Air Museum



Buying radios and dodging bullets at Lansing, 2001



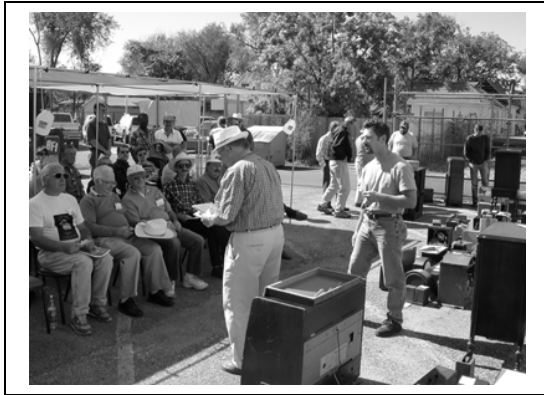
CRC meeting at the WOTR Air Museum, July 2002



A "nice" turn out for the CRC 2002 July picnic



Hard at work at the January, 2003 CRC meeting



Last minute instructions at the CRC October, 2002 auction



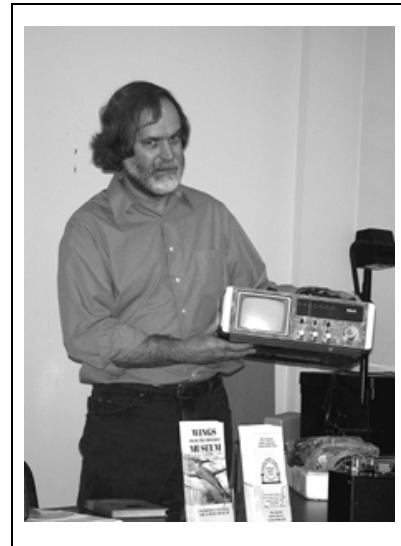
Members at break time - May, 2003 CRC meeting



Calling the action at the CRC auction, October, 2002



Compiling the judging results at the CRC April 2003 show



And finally, our VERY hard working Treasurer, Robert Baumann brings one of his latest finds for Show N Tell to the May CRC 2003 meeting. Hey Robert, is that *really* a radio?

Index of Individuals in Photographs

Identification is done on a *best effort basis* and attempts to identify only those individuals who are reasonably observable. Picture locations are L=left column, M=middle column, R=right column and numbered from 1=top to 5=bottom. Individuals are identified from left to right.

FRONT COVER:

- L1 Mark Gibson, Jerry Tynan, Tom Pouliot
- L2 Bart Whitehouse, Mark Gibson
- L3 Barney Wooters, Neil Gallensky, Bruce Young
- M1 Bob Jensen
- M2 Tom Pouliot
- R1 (first three rows) Neil Gallensky, Jay Carlbloom, Wayne Gilbert, Bob Stutzman, Julie McKeown, Bob Cofer, Mark McKeown, Charles Brett, (standing) Robert Baumann
- R2 Jerry Tynan, Robert Baumann, Leamon Brooks, Riggs Smith
- R3 Dave Boyle, Kurtis Kimbal, Vic Smith, ?, Bob Stutzman, ?, Matt Lutkus

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PAGE 7:

- R2 Auctioneer, Bruce Young, ?
- R3 Bill Grimm, Jerry Tynan, Dave Gonshor, Curtis Kimball, Riggs Smith, ?, Dick Hagrman, Dave Boyle, ?, Don Adams, ?

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- L1 Fred Sodamann, Leamon Brooks, Jerry Tynan, Riggs Smith
- L2 Otis Chartier, Steve Axelson
- L3 Ray Hagrman, Dick Hagrman, Anne Hagrman, Dave Gonshor, Larry Weide, JoAnn Bantin, Bill Hinkley, Fred Bantin, Dave Tripe, Dave's mom
- L4 Larry Weide, Lakewood Mayor, Rick Crandall
- R1 Dorothy Weide, Kristy Olsen
- R2 David Gatch, John Rayburn, Sam Edwards, Dick Beals, Pete Smyth, Hal ?, Rick Crandall
- R3 Carol Bruton, Jerry Tynan, auctioneer, ?, Bruce Young, Mike McCutcheon

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- L1 Dave Boyle, Marin Alsop, Barney Wooters
- L2 Jane Wooters, Pawn Axelson, Dorothy Weide, Rose Young
- L3 Leamon Brooks, Wayne Gilbert
- L4 Johnny Johnson
- R1 Carolyn Hinkley, JoAnn Bantin, Fred Bantin, Bill Hinkley, Bill Hinkley Jr., Matt Lutkus, Bob Stutzman
- R2 Kathy Tynan, Jerry Tynan
- R3 Larry Weide, Barney Wooters, Bob Stutzman
- R4 Jerry Tynan, ?

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- L1 Wayne Gilbert, Tom Pouliot, Dave Boyle
- L2 Robert Baumann, Jerry Tynan, Matt Lutkus, Johnny Johnson
- L3 Mark McKeown, Robert Baumann, Jerry Tynan, Julie McKeown
- L4 Tom Kelley, Neil Gallensky, Bruce Young, Barney Wooters
- R1 Dan Busetti, ?, Jerry Tynan, ?
- R2 David Kullback
- R3 ?, Barney Wooters, Tom Kelley, Merrill Campbell
- R4 Dana Hauschulz and son

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- L1 Barney Wooters, Bob Jensen, Jerry Verlinder, Layne Wright, Dana Hauschulz, Kathy Tynan, Dorothy Weide, Tom Kelley, Bob Stutzman, Robert Baumann, Jerry Tynan, David Soliday
- L2 Bruce Young
- L3 Curtis Kimball
- L4 Ray Windrix
- R1 Bruce Young, Mark Gibson, Jerry Tynan
- R2 Tom Kelley
- R3 Bart Whitehouse, Barney Wooters
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- L1 Neil Gallensky, Robert Baumann, Mark Dittmar, Merrill Campbell, Larry Weide, Alison Gallensky
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- L3 Mark Gibson, Jerry Tynan, Tom Pouliot
- L4 Neil Gallensky, Dennis Laurence, David Solliday
- R1 Dennis Laurence, Robert Baumann,
- R3 Robert Baumann

BACK COVER:

- L1 (three closest) Johnny Johnson, Doug Furney, Mark Dittmar
- L2 Neil Gallensky and collection
- L3 Dave Boyle and collection
- L5 Neil Gallensky, Wayne Gilbert, Bob Stutzman, Mike McCutcheon, Julie McKeown, Mark McKeown, Charles Brett, Leamon Brooks, Martin Guth
- M3 Mark Dittmar
- R1 Leamon Brooks and collection
- R2 Charles Brett and collection
- R3 Barney Wooters and collection
- R4 Dan Busetti
- R5 Mike McCutcheon

