



THE FLASH

**Dedicated to the
preservation and
education of
wireless, radio,
television and
associated
equipment**

Volume 28, Issue 2

The March 12th Meeting is at the Miller Library in Castle Rock

Mar/Apr 2017

A Collector Remembered Ken Hodge, KB4CM

by Robert Baumann, CRC Member



Ken with his Verbeek Street Organ

Most are likely familiar with the age old adage “every picture tells a story.” I believe that in somewhat similar fashion every CRC member has *their own story* to tell. I concluded long ago it is the sum of these individual stories which represents the greatest value of our club.

It has been my pleasure during the past several years to have gotten to know fellow member Ken Hodge. It has become a bit more difficult for Ken to participate in club events, so last summer I visited him in his Parker home. I recall feeling then that his story is indeed one which should be shared so as to be appreciated by all.



Ken with His Atwater Kent 55

When I visited with Ken again this summer, I made certain to bring my camera and we sat down for an informal interview so I might gather further background. Between the photos I took

and notes I scribbled out, his story has been on my mind for three months. For some reason I found it difficult to complete this article. Only recently did I conclude it was because his story is so remarkable that I subconsciously questioned my worthiness to present it in an adequate way.

Some CRC members may recall Ken entertaining Vintage Voltage attendees with his Verbeek Street Organ during the CRC's early collaborations with the Expo. The cover photo of him and his longtime companion Pat Moore was taken at the 2010 CRC Show/VVE by Bill Grimm. If you happen to have purchased the show video that year you can relive the experience of his performance which accompanies the end credits starting at 37:30 minutes.



Modified Transcription Turntable

Members may also recall some of Ken's most interesting stories going all the way back to the Golden Age of Radio during show 'n' tell presentations at past meetings. One in particular which sticks in my mind was how he modified a common record turntable to accommodate his vintage 16 inch transcription recordings which might otherwise be impossible to listen to today.

I spotted that interesting project again while out in Ken's shop this summer and we revisited his modification process.



Hodge Radio Shop Placard

You might be thinking “Golden Age?,” he's not a Centenarian, is he? Indeed he is not but by 1917 *his father* was already involved in wireless telegraphy (callsign 1ATJ) and Ken was exposed to radio at a very early age. Therefore Ken's memories and

Message from the President

Again we find ourselves on the verge of our 2017 Annual Show and Competition to be held alongside the Vintage Voltage Expo on March 26th! This is not fake news! This is a terrific club event where we see so many special radios and displays brought by our members. This year's special category is *Radios of the 1940s*. I am always amazed and impressed by what I see on our tables. And in addition, the Vintage Voltage Expo always provides the opportunity to buy something unique that you just can't find anywhere else.

Every year we do a great job with this event to stir up the public's interest in these old radios and electronics. I see the people gathering around the displays and asking questions. And it certainly works to help bring in new members every year, and maybe we just stimulate people to be collectors without joining our club. Many of you also rent tables at the Vintage Voltage Expo and sell your radios and other gear. This is great. This gets people turned into collectors.

So do come on by and bring a radio to display! Let's fill up our tables! See the entry form in this issue with all the details and schedule. You can bring your form with you that day or you can optionally email your entries earlier to Alexis at alekosalexand@atgmail.com. That will help reduce the workload on



Sunday morning. Many thanks to Alexis and Larry for all the work in prepping and running this software for the show entries. And thanks to all in pitching in to make this show happen smoothly.

I was unable to attend the last meeting in January but I understand we had another excellent meeting, and had several prospective new members attend. It is an encouraging thing that new members have been joining the club just about every meeting. This shows that there is a strong interest in these old radios and being in a club such as ours. As you can see from the photos in this issue, we had some great "show and tells" and raffle stuff and auctioned off some Zenith

Transoceanics that raised some money for the club.

Speaking of show and tells, at our upcoming meeting we will have a special guest, Peter (Klaus) Malsch, do a presentation of a complete working Command Set System (SCR-274) consisting of HF/VHF Receivers and Transmitters. This should be very interesting.

I look forward to seeing you all at the March 12th, 2017 meeting in Castle Rock (again), and we can finalize any details for the Show!

Tom Zaczek

Submission of Articles and Advertising

Classified Ads for The Open Trunk and articles of any radio/electronic or historical related subject to be published in the Flash are encouraged and welcomed. The article(s) should be submitted in Microsoft Word, RTF, or as text cut/paste into your email. Submit to Steve Touzalin by email at: stevetou@comcast.net

CRC Contacts

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CRC MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of every other month starting in January (except May is 3rd Sunday) at 1:00 pm. The meetings consist of business, "show & tell", raffles, auctions, swap meets, technical discussions and other subjects of interest

CRC MEMBERSHIP

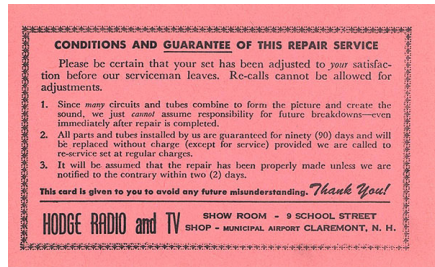
Annual membership in the CRC runs from July to June. Dues entitle members to attend meetings, "The Flash!" our newsletter, participation in our spring show and Fall auction. Current annual dues are \$20. New memberships will be prorated to the following June.

Remember
Vintage Voltage
March 26, 2017
Ramada Plaza Convention
Center
Northglenn, CO

Schedule of CRC Meetings and Events 2017

DATE (2017)	EVENT	LOCATION	NOTES
March 12 th	Meeting	Castle Rock Miller Library	Littleton unavailable
March 26 th	Annual Spring Show	Ramada Inn Thornton	Vintage Voltage
May 21 st	Meeting	Littleton Bemis Library	Castle Rock unavailable
July 9 th	Meeting	Castle Rock Miller Library	
August 20 th	Meeting	Littleton Bemis Library	Castle Rock unavailable
September (TBD)	Annual BBQ & Auction		Usual Place

the stories he is able to share with us today do indeed go back to the very early days of radio.



Repair Service Card

shop in the family home advertising “Expert Repairs on All Makes and Special Types Built to Order.” By 1931 the business had moved into a separate building and continued to grow. During the 1930’s Hodge Radio was the exclusive Philco dealer in the area. A record department and recording studio were added as sales continued to increase. The firm’s growth was featured in the April 1941 issue of Radio and Television Retailing magazine. Ken recalls how customers would sometimes barter for repair work, even trading one-gallon cans of maple syrup.

An additional work bench was added to the shop and Ken began to learn the radio repair business while still in junior high school. He wasn’t old enough to drive but would accompany an adult employee when delivering and setting up new sets and picking up equipment for repair. Some of the vintage radios we treasure today are things Ken remembers as brand new products when they were originally introduced through the store’s showroom!

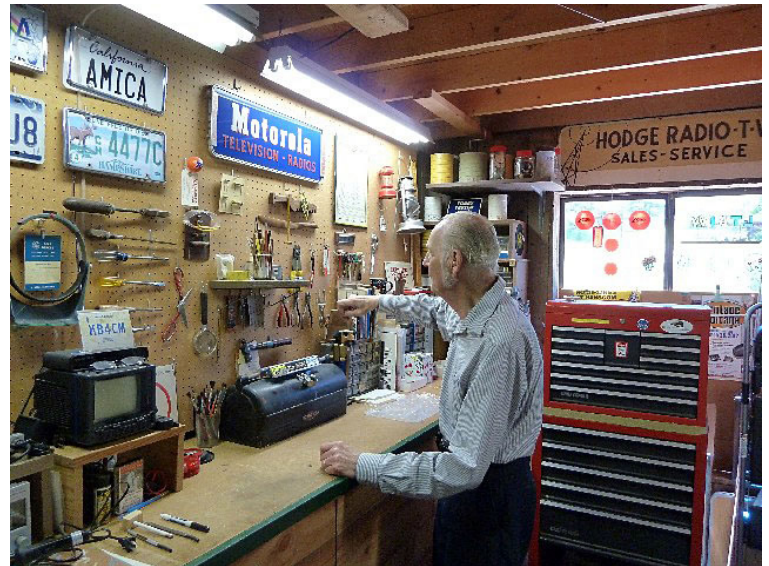


1940 Philco Price List

trained as radio technicians returning home after the war. He also fondly remembers post-war experimental FM radio and black and white television broadcasts. Over the years and with advancing age his father’s business gradually declined. But rather than taking over the family business as his father hoped might happen, Ken went on to become an aeronautical engineer pursuing a career in the aviation

His father began repairing radios for others in their small New Hampshire community while still attending high school. Once married, he opened his first repair

industry.



Ken in His Shop

Ken continues to participate in and enjoy radio to this day. I have stopped to chat with him several times over the years at Denver area hamfests where his sales tables contained flats of well organized, boxed vacuum tubes, some of the less required types dating back more than five decades to his father’s New Hampshire business! Ken says “some hand tools and test equipment in my shop are daily reminders of learning at my father’s side and in his ham shack and of being associated with broadcasting and the radio business as I grew up. *How [that] enhances my enjoyment, skills and abilities for the hobby of collecting and restoring old radios!*”

But what about that career in aviation? That’s another long and distinguished chapter of Ken’s life! He graduated from high school in Claremont, New Hampshire, a town with a 2010 population of only 13,000. It’s a place which retains its small town feel; where his high school reunions remain to this day more of a town celebration. He received his BS in Aeronautical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and MS in Mechanical Engineering from Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn. He’s worked on projects such as ramjets and guided missiles for the US Navy while with Grumman on Long Island and flight testing for Lockheed in Burbank, California.

While visiting Ken this summer I perused an article he co-authored in 1964 entitled Inertial Navigator Flight-Testing Experience with the Lockheed F-104. Way over my head (no pun intended). He worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Commission (NASC) in Washington, DC during their final year before moving over to NASA headquarters for another seven years. He held the position of Director of Engineering at the NASA Dryden Flight Research

Center (since renamed for Neil Armstrong) completing his career there in 1993. You know that flip saying “it’s not rocket science!”? This takes on a whole different meaning while in Ken’s presence! His involvement with the Space Shuttle program sometimes included serving as a guide for dignitaries while personally witnessing some 20 Shuttle landings.

I remain in awe of the science behind bringing the Shuttle out of orbit to land with such required precision. I recall listening to the radio on February 1, 2003 as the Columbia landing was anticipated; immediately realizing that being only seconds behind schedule meant it had likely been destroyed during reentry.

Ken’s career has required that he live on both coasts, working at places like Edwards Air Force Base and Moffat Field. He had been living in California for about 25 years before moving to Colorado in 2005 and remains a longtime member of SCARS (Southern California Antique Radio Society). He recalled that he’s been a member of the CRC for about ten years and indeed club records suggest he joined in December 2006. He shares interest in mechanical musical instruments with CRC member Don Wick who was responsible for introducing Ken to our club. If you have kept your old issues of The Flash! or purchased the CRC 25th Anniversary Archive DVD you can coincidentally find my first submission of a Meet the Collector article which features Don in Volume 20, Issue 1 (January/February 2009).



Ken with his Verbeek Street Organ based in California. AMICA was founded in 1963, their goal being “to introduce people from all walks of life to the beauty and

So what about the mechanical instruments which interest these gentlemen? Much like the current saying “there’s an app for that!” well, “there’s a club for that!” known as AMICA (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors’ Association)

value of automatic musical instruments.” Much like the CRC, AMICA is involved in preservation and education. Their members buy, sell, trade, research and restore these instruments just as we do radios. They are an international group comprised of local chapters including the Rocky Mountain Chapter for which Ken is currently the vice president. AMICA holds annual conventions each August in different locations across the country and sometimes overseas. Denver hosted the convention in both 2004 and 2015.

Despite Ken’s lifelong involvement with radio an unknowing visitor to his home might initially be more impressed with the mechanical instruments prominently displayed. He shares that the first he and his wife purchased in 1972 was a player piano, intending it to be a good introduction to music for their children. It continues to be centrally displayed in the living room of his current home, 44 years later. Ken has been active in AMICA for many years as evidenced by the numerous premiums he has on display from the annual conferences he’s attended all over the US and in Europe.

His 36-key Verbeek Street Organ pictured on the cover of this issue and above in his garage, ready for it’s next public performance, was made in Belgium. It was a popular feature at a special event governor’s mansion open house during Bill Ritter’s term in June 2010. Ken’s performance earned a personal thank you which in part states “...your presence and the wonderful music was the hit of the entire day and was the best possible entrance we could have had.”

The smaller organ below was made by the Alan Pell Company which was founded in the UK 40 years ago. Ken skillfully produces colorful, themed facades which can be attached the the front of such instruments. If we second guess what we spend on our radio hobby, let it be known that mechanical instruments are not for the faint of heart. Think Sparton Bluebirds and Nocturnes to get a ballpark idea of what some of these fine instruments would set you back!



Ken with his Alan Pell Organ

A new arrival to Ken's home shortly after my 2015 visit was the Wurlitzer Model 103 Band Organ pictured below (c. 1937, serial number 91 of only 93 made). If you have to ask how much this one cost considering it's complexity, age and rarity, you really don't want to know!



Ken with his 1937 Wurlitzer Band Organ

Following in his father's footsteps, Ken is a longtime amateur radio operator assigned the FCC Advanced callsign of KB4CM. Below is a photo of him at his operating position, tuning his Hallicrafters S-108 receiver. Note that three eras of radio are represented in this picture: an Atwater Kent Model-20 c. 1924, his Hallicrafters hollow state receiver c. 1959 and HT-46 transmitter c. 1965 (mostly hidden), along with a more modern Kenwood TS-480S solid-state transceiver and AT-230 antenna tuner. If you look closely at the QSL (contact verification) cards displayed to his left, you'll note several aeronautical-themed cards as well as those bearing his father's early callsigns. Ken also has a Kenwood mobile 2 meter transceiver set up out in his shop to monitor local repeater traffic.

This was originally submitted as a Meet the Collector article. It is with sadness we share that Ken passed away on November 10, 2016 at the age of 88.



Ken at his Amateur Radio Operating Position
Like most of us who call ourselves collectors Ken has also accumulated other items, some of which are directly related to his major interests. The photo below gives insight into some of his other collections.



Trains & Planes: Some of Ken's Other Collectibles

In addition to being a published author Ken is also an artist. Family, friends and neighbors have come to truly appreciate his hand illustrated greetings, sometimes created for even not so important occasions.

As I mentioned at the onset, it has been my privilege to get to know Ken over the past several years. I have only scratched the surface in exploring his most interesting and accomplished life in this Meet the Collector installment. As we all advance in age oftentimes health issues and life's other priorities interfere with our more enjoyable pastimes. When you see Ken at a CRC function please take a moment to introduce yourself to this kind and wonderful man. You'll be glad you did!

Photos from the CRC January 8th Meeting



New Member Stewart
Jay



Cliff Selling a Pair of Zenith TO's



Martin Guth Showing his Father's
Restored Key



New Member Jim
Ryder



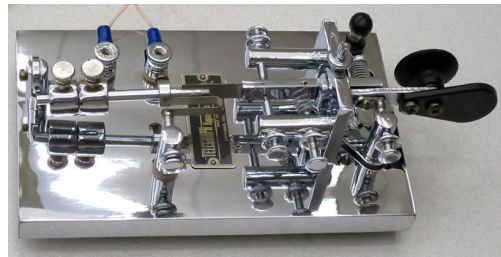
New Member Joe
Waaner



Dave Laude with his Sampson 4
Tube TRF Radio



Bill Dial with his Air King



Martin's Key up Close



Merril's Restored Zenith



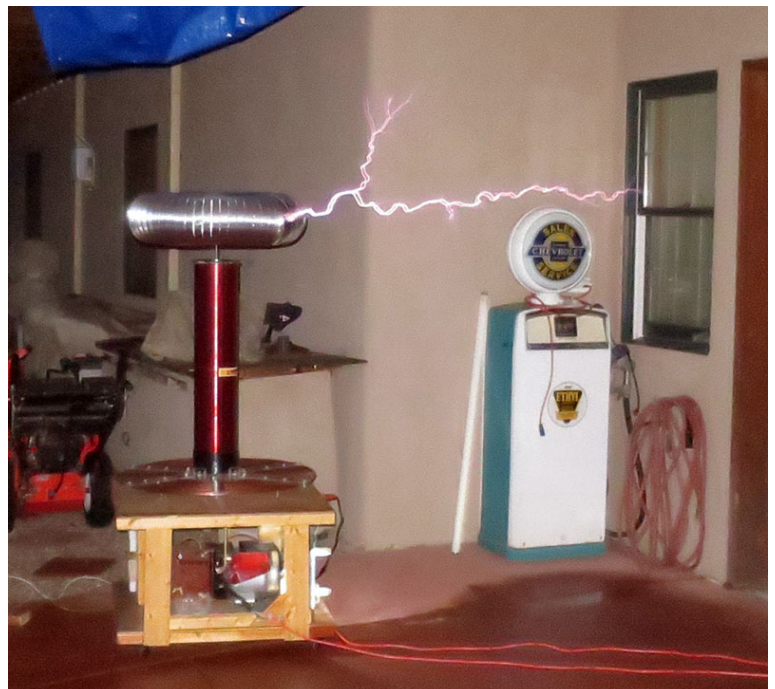
David Boyle with his
Emerson Bakelite
Radio



David's Tesla Coil



Merril with his Sparton 500y



David Boyle's Tesla Coil in Action

2017 Colorado Radio Collectors Annual Show and Competition

The 2017 CRC Annual Show in conjunction with Vintage Voltage is upon us. By the time you receive this issue you will only have only a couple of weeks to complete the work on your entries.

This year, the Special Category is “1940’s Radios”.

This is the 10th year that we will be joining with the Vintage Voltage Show at the Ramada Plaza Inn at I-25 and 120th Avenue in Northglenn. Last year the turnout was tremendous with thousands of people going through the facility. This is your chance to strut your stuff. Bring your cherished radios to show everyone and see what others have brought. Although there will be a featured category, don’t forget that all of the standard categories will still be available . We have yet to run out of space for the display of radios, so dig deep and bring a bunch of them along.

Contest Judging Categories:

Accessories	Tube/Parts Display	Pre 1926
Bakelite	Kit	Speakers
Battery - 1926-1929	Metal Box - 1920's	Telephony And Telegraph
Battery Non Portable >= 1930	Metal Case	Television
Catalin	Military	Test Equipment
Cathedral	Novelty - Transistor	Transistor
Classic Audio	Novelty - Tube	Wooden - Line Powered
Communication Gear	Plastic - Tube	No Judging - Display Only
Console - Full Length	Portable - Post 1938	Best of Show
Console - High/Low Boy	Portable - Pre 1939	Best Restoration
Crystal Set	Tombstone	Most Educational Display
Homebrew	Specialty - 1940s Radios	Peoples Choice

Judging Criteria:

- ☐ Exterior condition
- ☐ Internal condition – judged if visible
- ☐ Presentation - how well displayed, documented, etc.
- ☐ Rareness - few are in existence
- ☐ Uniqueness - novel, not many like it

CRC Show Schedule:

Doors open/Setup	8:00
Registration	8:30
Judging Begins	10:00 Sharp

Note that these criteria are weighted, with an emphasis on **condition** and **presentation** - Preparation counts!

Every radio counts! Ribbons for top entries in each category as well as a Best of Show plaque will be awarded as a result of paired member judging.

2017 Colorado Radio Collectors Annual Show and Competition

March 26, 2017 Ramada Plaza Convention Center I-25 at 120th Avenue in Northglenn.

The Special Category this year is:

"1940's" Radios

Record the information about your show entries on this form and give it to Alexis when you register.

Name _____ **Phone #** _____

Brand	Model	Year	Category (listed above)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			



Sunday, 11am-3pm
 Admission \$5 kids 12/under free
 Early Bird Admission 10am, \$10
Get first dibs on all the best stuff!

March 26, 2017
Ramada Plaza
Convention Center
 I-25 at 120th, Northglenn/Denver CO

Classic Gear for Audio, Radio, TV and Music



speakers
amps
hi-fi
stereos
synthesizers
electric guitars
ancient amps
vintage TVs
test gear
weird stuff



vintage electronics
old school audio
antique radios
ham radios
transistors
speakers
8-tracks
vintage vinyl
tubes & parts
turntables

AND MUCH MORE!



The Open Trunk

Member Submitted Advertisements



OpenTrunk Sale After Meeting

Mark Anderson plans to bring whatever antique radios that are left, along with an assortment of parts and home-brew builds that his uncle made. Bargain prices on good stuff.

Repair Service

Radio repairs for club members. Reasonable rates. Good references. Call David Boyle 303-681-3258

For Sale

Most of the following instruments have been completely refurbished, repaired as needed, and calibrated. Most have manuals and test leads.

Prices are negotiable...please make offer.

- 1) Eico 5 inch oscilloscope. Model 425. Perfect for old radio repair work. Completely electronically rebuilt with new CRT! \$68.00
- 2) Eico "Professional" VTVM, 6 inch meter \$40.00
- 3) Ballantine Labs. Model 321 VTVM. True RMS and p-p measurements. 19 inch rack mounting \$25.00
- 4) RCA Radiola Model, 80,82, 86 complete dual chassis and mounted speaker. VG condition, with tubes including 2ea VG 45 tubes. Make offer.
- 5) Philco Model 91. Complete working chassis with 12" good speaker. Working tuning meter too! Make offer.
- 6) Philco Model 37-610 complete chassis with tubes, good condition complete with bezel and glass. Make offer.
- 7) Patterson PR-10, 1933 Amateur Radio Receiver. 10 tubes, fully electronically restored. View on the internet. Best reasonable offer.

David Boyle. 303-681-3258

For Sale: I have collected radios of all types for 30 years and now it is time to let them go to new homes. Please call me for an appointment to see if any of them would fit in your collection. I have tube radios including Tombstone, Cathedral, and Novelty etc. I also have a large collection of transistor radios both shirt pocket and Novelty type.

Ron Smith 303-238-1384 RADIOS4US@aol.com

For Sale: 1920's battery radios and other electrical technology items. Too numerous to list.

Contact: Don Wick at 719-488-9469 or dowick@comcast.net

WANTED

1980s Atari 520 or 1040 ST computer components (keyboard, monitor, etc.). I still need it for several specialized programs I wrote including a simulator for transistor and tube circuits. Dave Laude dlaude1@msn.com

Wanted: 1948 Motorola 5A9B portable radio, Maroon color. Good condition only. Dewey Reinhard 719-596-5516 deweyfly30@gmail.com

Wanted: Broadcast or recording mics, Working Shirt Pocket radios, NBC chimes, all eras. Tom Keeton 303-797-8073

Wanted: Two Crosley 4-pin tube sockets that mount on a panel or on panel standoffs. Used in the Crosley 50 and 51 radios. Contact: Don Wick at 719-488-9469, dowick@comcast.net

Wanted: 110 Volt DC table radios. Non-working radios OK. Steve Touzalin at 303-988-5394 or stevetou@comcast.net

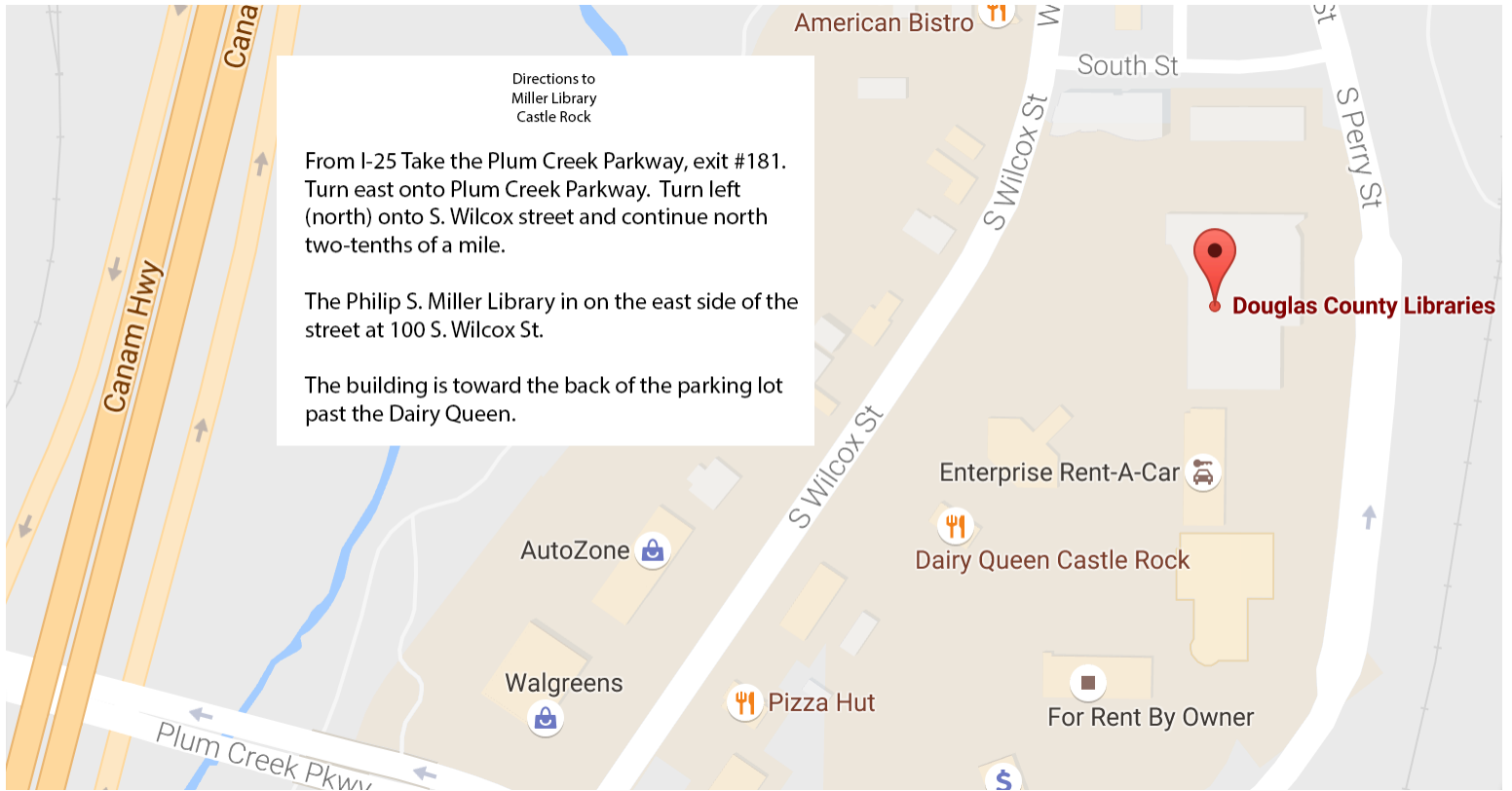
Join the Colorado Radio Collectors Email Group

We highly recommend that all CRC members join our email group. This is the best way for us to communicate with you in-between meetings and copies of the Flash.

These instructions describe how to use your current e-mail address to join the CRC coloradcol e-group WITHOUT having to create a new Yahoo account.

1. Send an email to coloradoradiocollectors@yahoo.com with no subject.
2. You'll receive an email from the group asking you to confirm your request. (make sure to check your spam folder). Fill in the request to be a member and submit.
3. If you have any issues with the instructions here, the group moderator will assist you with the process. Please send an e-mail to: coloradoradiocollectors@yahoo.com for assistance.

The March 12th Meeting is at 1:00 pm at the Miller Library in Castle Rock



Colorado Antique Radio Collectors
Antique Radio Club
417 S. Queen Cir.
Lakewood, CO 80226

First Class Mail