

**The**

# **FLASH!**

**The Colorado Radio Collectors Club  
Antique Radio Newsletter**

**Volume 32, Issue 1**

**Happy Holidays !!**

**Jan./Feb. 2021**

## **A Zoom Meeting Option**

by Larry Snyder, CRC Co-editor, and member

My initial involvement with Zoom meetings started on July 10, 2020 when Pat Kagi, president of the North West Vintage Radio Society (NWVRS) invited CRC members to attend their Zoom video meeting scheduled to be held the next day. Unfortunately, short notice and previous commitments prevented CRC members attending. This prompted discussions among CRC members Paul Heller, Steve Touzalin, Larry Weide, and many others, but in general there appeared to be a lack of interest in Zoom meetings.

I will admit, I was not interested in Zoom meetings at the time because I did not understand what they were, and how effective they would be for club meetings. I wondered how the meetings would be conducted and how would discussions be controlled so people would not be talking over each other. What computer equipment is required? I am not really computer savvy and thought it would be difficult to learn.

Then, on October 11, 2020 Merrill Campbell was contacted by Tom Zaczek, a former 2016 president of the CRC and who is now a member of the Antique Radio Club of Illinois (ARCI). Tom invited CRC members to join their 4th Zoom video meeting on October 17, 2020 to watch the presentations and interact with questions and comments. He indicated the Zoom meetings have proven to be a welcome interaction for the members of the ARCI radio club.

When I received the invitation to attend ARCI's October Zoom meeting my attitude on Zoom meetings had changed. I thought I would give it a just try to see what was like. Tom provided full details and links on how to join the meeting and how to register ahead of time. So, I bit the bullet and did what was necessary to attend the meeting. (more on that later in this article) The October ARCI Zoom meeting was attended by four CRC members; Merrill Campbell, Mike McCutcheon, Steve Touzalin, and me. We found the meeting to be highly informative and a lot like our "normal" pre-pandemic club meetings. There were a total of 43 people in the Zoom audience; there were "show and tell" type segments; there was a "meet the collector" presentation; there was a "want ads" portion and an open chat session. The presentations were well-planned, very well-prepared, and skillfully delivered.

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Newsletter for The **Colorado Radio Collectors** club, founded in the Fall of 1988.

"Dedicated to the preservation and education of wireless, antique radio, television and associated equipment."

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

**CRC MEMBERSHIP:** Current annual dues are \$20 and membership in the CRC runs from July to June. New memberships will be prorated to the following June. Members are entitled to attend meetings, participate in our Spring show and our Fall auction, and receive our newsletter, **The Flash!**. Submit dues payable to: **Merril Campbell - 4723 Woodbury Dr. - Colorado Springs, CO 80915**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** The January 10th meeting is canceled. The March 14th meeting is tentatively scheduled at the Castle Rock Library which is reserved for all of the 2021 meetings.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all as we close out 2020 - what a year! I am hopeful this edition of the Flash finds you all in good health.

As many of you know we are planning our 2021 activity schedule beginning with the March meeting at the Castle Rock Miller Library. We'll plan to restart our regular bi-monthly meeting schedule with the March meeting, a total of 5 meetings for 2021. The remaining meetings for 2021 will occur as usual every other month. We are also anticipating that the radio show and auction will occur too, perhaps at slightly different dates than in past years though. Of course our plans are based on state and local governments permissions and allowing larger gatherings.

A note for the March meeting; We have reserved 2 adjoining meeting rooms (2 rooms to allow for better social distancing), our normal West meeting room plus the adjacent East meeting room. The movable room divider partition will be opened to create double our normal meeting space and the library will limit attendance to 44 members. Of course the Library will require we observe social distancing and PPE disciplines (masks will be required). So get out the pent-up show and tell, raffle and sale items so we can have a great meeting!

One other change as we have noted in previous Flash editions is that to better manage our treasury, beginning with the March Flash, we will forgo printing and mailing paper copies to the members. We will continue to collect articles and publish the Flash on our regular schedule however we will only post the final version to our web site. We'll notify members by sending an email notification when the new Flash editions are available.

<http://coloradoradiocollectors.com/CRC/>. We can revisit this decision in the future once our Treasury returns to normal funding however this paper edition will be the last one for the near term.

Finally, speaking of the Treasury we still have about 20 regular members that have not paid their 2020 club dues. If you could please contact Merrill Campbell ([campbell321@juno.com](mailto:campbell321@juno.com)) to confirm your membership status is current.

Have a safe and happy Holiday season as we all look forward to a healthy and prosperous New Year!

*Happy Holidays Mike Cook*

Merril, Mike, Steve and I also attended the November 21 ARCI on-line meeting and found it equally enjoyable, with a Live Walking Tour of the California Radio Historical Society Vintage Radio Museum. After the meeting ARCI graciously invited CRC members to not only attend their future meetings, but also participate with presentations, show and tell, want ads, and other portions of their program.

Notwithstanding that the CRC has club members discussing online meetings, and has other members planning and coordinating the library meeting rooms, with group size limitations, for face-to-face meetings during this pandemic I would like to suggest that if you have a hankering for a radio club meeting and would like to test drive a Zoom meeting, the ARCI meeting may be for you - at least until the pandemic is over. The next few ARCI on-line meetings are on December 19, 2020 and January 16, 2021 and Feb 20, 2021 at 9am MST.

To attend the ARCI meeting(s).

First you must download and install the free Zoom app onto your device by going to <https://zoom.us/>. There is no need to open a Zoom account.

Zoom also has an automated test meeting where you can adjust your device's camera and audio settings to make sure they work properly with Zoom.

Go to: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115002262083-Joining-a-test-meeting>

Next you will have to register for meeting with ARCI. Registration is easy as clicking on the word "Register" circled in red in the sample ARCI invitation shown on the right.



**ARCI Online Meet #6  
SATURDAY, December 19,  
2020, 10AM CT**

10:00 AM CT – noon CT. (Zoom meeting opens 15 minutes before)

**Click here to Register**

(or <https://zoom.us/join/zoommeeting/115002262083>)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting.  
**IMPORTANT:** You need to receive the confirmation email back because this link gets you into the meeting when the time comes. So, if you don't receive the confirmation email it could be that it is in your spam folder.

The registration form that comes up will ask for your name and email address. This is so Zoom can send you a confirmation email and information on joining the meeting. You must also identify yourself as a CRC radio club member so you can be authenticated and accepted by ARCI. This so they can have a secure meeting and keep unwanted guests out.

After your registration is accepted, you will receive a meeting confirmation email from Zoom with the Meeting ID# and a passcode# and a link to join the meeting from your PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android. Ideally, you will need a computer, or an android phone, or iPhone that has a video camera and a microphone. Or you can dial in from a land line to listen to the conversations. When you are attending the meeting, you can turn your video camera or microphone on-off at any time. You can also exit the meeting at any time if something unexpected comes up and rejoin later in the meeting.

I hope CRC members will attend the ARCI meetings to become familiar with how Zoom meetings work and how they can be an alternative meeting platform leading to the possibility of CRC Zoom meetings in the future.

Thank you!

I hope all of you can stay safe and healthy and have lots of joy in the upcoming Holidays!

*As announced earlier in a club eGroup email, CRC member Wayne Gilbert passed away in November. Wayne was friends to many of us and was a long time CRC member. Wayne was also a member of "The Northern Contingent" lunch group until he became immobile. He will be missed. Wayne contributed COUNTLESS articles to the Flash while a CRC member, we thought it only fitting to re-print one of his many articles in honoring his memory. -Flash staff.*

## **William Duncan Pyle, Radio Manufacturer and Broadcast Pioneer**

**by Wayne Gilbert, CRC Member**

*edited edition - originally appeared in the May/June 1997 Flash!*

If the value of a radio can be determined by the stature of its builder, the Pyle/Amplex radio should be rated as one of Colorado's finest products. William Duncan Pyle, founder of the Pyle Amplex Radio Company, was a true native of Colorado, being born in Denver on 10/01/1890. Little is known about his early life but by the time he was a teenager he and his lifetime friend and business associate Tom Ekram, were already involved with the wireless community that had taken root in , Denver. From that time on, Duncan Pyle, as he was known to his friends and associates, devoted his life's energy to building radios, founding radio stations, and creating broadcasting networks. He had, so to speak, found his station in life.

Although it's not known for certain why Duncan Pyle left Colorado, it seems likely he understood that if he wanted to get ahead in the new wireless/radio world he would have to go East to where the action was. He chose Pittsburgh as his new home and it was there that he had his first brush with history. On the night of April 14, 1912, Duncan Pyle became one of the first radio operators to hear the distress calls of the ill-fated ocean liner, Titanic. As always, he was quick to do his part, and he is credited with being the first to relay the news to the nation's Capitol. It is likely that it was his relays that kept President Taft informed of the progress of rescue efforts, since it is known that requests for this type of information were ignored by the liner's owners in their zeal to give absolute priority to survivors' messages.

It is undoubtedly this experience that brought Duncan Pyle to the attention of Dr. Lee DeForest, and soon he was working with Dr. DeForest in the development of the radio phone. Ever full of energy, it was also during this time that he first started building radios of his own design for resale. This must have been a very exciting time of his life, and it must have taken a strong pull to bring him back to Colorado. Her name was Helen Grimes, and in late 1919 she became the most important element in his life by becoming his wife.

There is little mystery why Duncan and his new wife settled in Colorado Springs. Doc Reynolds had made Colorado Springs into the Mecca for the new wireless/radio industry and Duncan was quick to realize that with his training and experience, he could both contribute to and thrive in that environment.

He was granted an experimental license for station WDP (**William Duncan Pyle**) in 1920 and he never looked back. Experimental station WDP had evolved into broadcasting station KDZQ by 1922, and in the 1923 Colorado Springs business directory Pyle is listed as owner of stations KDZQ and KFFQ. KDZQ's broadcasting license was soon sold and moved to Long Beach, California.

Station KFFQ was to have only a slightly longer local history. After selling KDZQ, Pyle busied himself by rebuilding KFFQ. By 1925, the rebuilt and relocated KFFQ was renamed KFUM. The never "station-ary" Pyle then seems to have found a willing buyer and sold station



KFUM. Of course a man with Pyle's energy could not be idle for long and he purchased KFXF, another Colorado Springs station, and started the process again.

While many would have felt themselves stressed by these transactions, Pyle apparently found the time and energy to start a radio manufacturing company. He forged an agreement with the A.P. Harley Sales Company and set up a radio assembly plant in the Hagerman Building, located in downtown Colorado Springs, and began producing the Pyle/Amplex radio.

<sup>1</sup>[Ed. note: This Hagerman happens to be our very own Dick Hagerman's grandfather's brother]

Several of these sets have been located and two models seem to have been produced, the model II (2) and the model III (3). Perhaps the model one was only a prototype and never mass produced or perhaps Pyle was just so busy with his radio station transactions that he lost count of the model numbers and started his production with the model two. These radios were sold in the Colorado Springs area for \$100 and seem to be a fairly typical five tube TRF radio.

Contemporary owners of these sets report that they aren't spectacular performers and they seem to have been constructed from off the shelf components.

While the model three is a more deluxe looking set, both models seem to be similar in technical design. One owner has described his set as being an inductive neutrodyne design and speculates that this may have been the way Pyle avoided patent conflicts with Hazeltine. Others have described their sets as being the typical TRF design; however, Pyle's earlier experience in radio design and manufacture is evident, for like all radios, these sets incorporated some novel ideas.

One clever idea was that two output

jacks are provided, one meant for use with a speaker and utilized the second A/F, while the other connects directly to the first A/F and is meant for use with earphones. While this is not an unusual feature in itself, the fact that both jacks provide a contact for completing the power circuit, eliminating the need for (and cost of) a power switch, is novel.



**Pyle/Amplex - II, 1925**

It has also been speculated that while the components used in these sets might result in an abnormal loss of sensitivity under weak signal situations, most sets are described as being typical in performance for their type

and era.

The "Amplex" portion of the name remains a mystery. There was an Amplex Instrument Labs company \_ that manufactured radios in New York City during this time; however, their design is so different that it seems unlikely that they were associated with Pyle's manufacturing efforts. There is also the issue of people remembering visits to Pyle's factory and seeing the sets actually being assembled-- also making an association of companies unlikely. It is more probable that Pyle simply liked the sound of the name Pyle/Amplex Radio better than Pyle Radio.

By 1926 Pyle apparently felt he had been stationary long enough and was ready for a move. He had been a long time associate of Doc Reynolds, KLZ's founder, and undoubtedly found, as had Reynolds, that the financial opportunities in Colorado Springs were limited. When radio sales slowed, he simply closed his radio manufacturing business and applied for permission to move his station KFXF to Denver.



The 1927 Denver city directory locates Pyle and KFXF in the Majestic Building, in downtown Denver. The move, having been made, the ever energetic Pyle followed another Reynolds example and founded the Colorado Radio Corporation as his radio sales

company. However, this may have been a badly timed endeavor, for by 1929 and the big depression the company was no longer listed as a Denver business. There was a Colorado Radio Company which could have been a downsized version of the original corporation, but unlike the corporation listing, it doesn't mention Pyle as president and the business was located several blocks from downtown Denver.

KFXF continued to flourish, and Pyle seems to at last found his station in life. The wave length reassignments made by \_ the Secretary of Commerce in 1928 had left KFXF with a preferred frequency of 1050, much to the disapproval of the not so favored Denver stations, KOA and KLZ. The only deterrent to KFXF's rapid growth seems to have been its name. The listening audience had continually had problems with KFXF's peculiar combination of letters and Pyle petitioned the government for a change.

By 1932 Pyle had received permission to rename the station to KVOD. This was his final station change and he remained president of KVOD until 1955, when he sold the station for a reported \$225,000. William Duncan Pyle's vast energy never left him, and he remained active in the broadcasting industry using his skills and talents to promote the new medium of television, until his death in 1971.

Although few of his radios remain, and even his radio station KVOD has now been renamed

KHOW, William Duncan Pyle's contributions to Colorado's broadcast radio history provided the roots for today's Colorado radio and television stations.

<sup>1</sup> *[For those who didn't know him, Dick Hagrman was a long time CRC member and club officer. -editor]*

#### **Pyle Article Sources:**

**Buckwaiter, Harry. "Radio Reception Here Balled up by Federal Board." Denver Post. 24 February 1928.**

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**Kram, William. Telephone interviews. 9/9/96 & 12/1/96.**

**Gardiner, Robin. The Titanic Conspiracy. New York:Carol Publishing Group, 1996.**

**"Head Man at KVOD Active in Radio for 30 Years Past." Rocky Mountain News. 14 May 1936.**

**"KVOD Changes Name to KHOW Friday." Denver Post. 31 July 1958.**

**Landry, Robert. This Fascinating Radio Business. New York:The Bobbs-Merrill Company,**

**Obituary. "William D. Pyle." Rocky Mountain News. 3 July 1971.**

**IV, E-mail letter. 12/04/96.**

**Slagle, Bob. Telephone interview. 29 November 1996.**

**Who's Who in Colorado. Boulder Colorado, The Colorado Press Association. 1938.**



#### **Clyde Wayne Gilbert Jr.**

**Aug 14, 1936 - Nov 10, 2020 (age 84)**

Wayne was a long-time CRC member, ~25 years, who was a major contributor to the club newsletter and was in attendance at numerous CRC functions. On November 10th, Wayne passed away at home under Home Hospice Care. He will be missed by all of us.

Besides his wife Anita and his two daughters Doreen and Patricia, Wayne Gilbert is survived by four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

His obituary appears on the Horan & McConaty website:

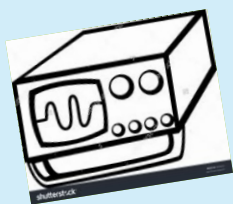
<https://www.horancares.com/obituary/ClydeWayne-GilbertJr>



## More sad news.....

CRC member and former club president Dennis Laurence was the victim of a fatal accident in October. No other details are available. Our sincere condolences to his family.

**in an upcoming Flash - Mike Cook's Theremin is reborn!**



# Classified Ads



Ads are free for CRC members. To place an ad send your ad description along with personal contact information to Steve at [stevetou@comcast.net](mailto:stevetou@comcast.net) or Larry at [Lsnyder200@cs.com](mailto:Lsnyder200@cs.com).

**REPAIR SERVICE:** Radio repairs for club members. Reasonable rates. Good references.

Call David Boyle 303-681-3258

**FOR SALE:** Radio Tubes. Tested as "Very good" to "good." Tested on some of the top end and calibrated Hickok testers. Have around 3000 plus tubes tested and boxed ready to go. Inventory includes many new tubes. Prices on used tubes typically would be 50% or less of AES posted prices. Cost of all new or used tubes can be negotiated.

**ALSO FOR SALE:** Large selection of NOS Dial Belts from recent sources. GC and JFD Brands. All I need is brand and model number...I have catalog data to look up the correct belt. If I have it...\$4.00 each. David Boyle 303-681-3258 or better yet: [djboylesr@msn.com](mailto:djboylesr@msn.com)

### FOR SALE:

Tube Radios - Tombstone, Cathedral and Novelty Transistor Radios.

I have collected radios of all types for 35 plus years and now it is time to let them go to new home/s. I have over 250 tube type and over 5,000 transistor (both novelty and shirt pocket type) Please call 303-2381384

[radios4us@aol.com](mailto:radios4us@aol.com)

Thank You,  
Ron Smith

### WANTED:

Emerson "Mae West" radio.  
Call Gary Stone 720-771-2080,  
[redson68@hotmail.com](mailto:redson68@hotmail.com)  
Thanks!

**WANTED:** I am searching for a vintage Sony PS-F9 Vertical Record Player sometimes referred to as a Sony Flamingo Record Player. Please contact Jonathan

Brown at [jbrown220@aol.com](mailto:jbrown220@aol.com)

or call 303-514-9900 Thank you.

**WANTED/LOOKING FOR:** I need the Stancor P-6012 (zenith p/n 95-1117) xfmr used on Zenith 9F22 chassis,- or a chassis for parts with P-6012 on it. Thanks!

Rob 729-229-6247

[robmooda@gmail.com](mailto:robmooda@gmail.com)

### SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES & AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Classified Ads 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, OpenOffice, RTF, or as plain text**, to Steve Touzalin by email at: [stevetou@comcast.net](mailto:stevetou@comcast.net) or Larry Snyder at [Lsnyder200@cs.com](mailto:Lsnyder200@cs.com) or by postal mail to 417 So. Queen Circle, Lakewood CO 80226. Formatting isn't necessary as it won't transfer into our software, but if you do, set the font to Times New Roman, size 10, left justified. If you have graphics (.jpg files) to be inserted, please name them and be specific about how you would like them placed. We will do our **best** based on space limitations.

## **CRC Meeting January 10th - canceled**

**Check the eGroup emails and the CRC club website for any meeting changes.**

With only 80% of club renewal dues collected and due to the pandemic putting a halt to our income from auctions and raffle items, the next Flash will be an electronic only copy in an attempt to conserve funds. Please keep an eye on the eGroup emails and the CRC website for updates and the ecopy of the next Flash. If you still need to join the eGroup, please contact Mike McCutcheon at:

[ColoradoRadioCollector@gmail.com](mailto:ColoradoRadioCollector@gmail.com)

