THE FLASH!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO RADIO COLLECTORS ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Volume 37, Issue 5 | ***Next CRC Meeting - September 13th*** | ***Sept/Oct 2026***

Castle Rock Library 1 PM

Auction/BBQ September 20 at the Tectonic Management Group

Good From Far, but Far From Good

Rescuing a Crosley Super Musicone Speaker

by Bill Potorti - Flash Editor

Whilst I perched on a chair behind our exhibits at our last Vintage Voltage Show, a gentlemen approached me holding a badly beaten speaker. "Psst, I'll sell you this for $10" he said (In all honesty, he didn't say "Psst", but it adds to the narrative). "That cone is trashed-it looks like someone used it for target practice" said I. "You're right", he replied, "how about $5". A deal was struck. I was now the ~~proud~~ owner of a Crosley Super Musicone speaker from 1926. I thought if nothing more I could get a few hard to find parts from it. Imagine my surprise when I got it home and found that the driver was still working.

What to do? There was a gentleman by name of Buford Chidester who was the authority on 1920's speakers and who made reproduction parts and cones for speakers (including this one). Sadly he's passed away and a reproduction cone is no longer available.

I could easily make a plain Jane cone to use with this speaker, but I thought it might be more interesting to try to make lemonade out of this lemon. I noticed that the fabric was not missing from the holes, but just bent back.

Armed with a bottle of glue and some toothpicks I decided to try to glue the small pieces back in. I was under no illusion that the final product would be anything but ~~a piece of junk~~ barely presentable, but it was worth a try.

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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"
View Past Issues of the Flash! here: https://coloradoradiocollectors.com/CRC2/index.php/flash

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 January to January. New memberships will be prorated to the following January. 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: CRC Meeting September 13th, Castle Rock Library Event Room F
September 20th- BBQ/Auction

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Message From The President

I'll see you all at the next meeting

Paul

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Removed from the frame

Besides the holes, the apex of the cone was caved in. That will have to be popped out and reinforced.

After Gluing

It's not obvious from the photos, but there is a big improvement. I can only see daylight through a couple of small holes where the fabric was missing.

I turned my attention to the driver. The first thing I noticed were small cracks in the housing, indicative of pot metal. The first rule in dealing with pot metal: IF IT'S NOT HURTING ANYTHING, LEAVE IT ALONE! You do not want to anger the pot metal gods by attempting to remove a screw.
I did apply some thin superglue to the cracks to stabilize them.
I also noticed the pin going to the cone was bent, evidently due to whatever force caved in the apex of the cone. That will be unsoldered, straightened and resoldered.

I added a small paper cone in the center to reinforce the damaged area. I hooked it up to a source of music and it plays ok but not great. It has a little vibration/rattle. My next step is to try to iron the cone and get rid (hopefully) of some of the ripples. I'd never done this before but others have done this with mixed results. I'll give it a go.

Moderate heat, no steam

I put a paper towel between the iron and the speaker cone. I also worked from the back side in case something goes wrong.. Making circles for about 10 seconds a section. I had to go over a couple of spots.

It actually helped quite a bit with the ripples.
I hooked it back up to my test setup. Slight improvement. My next, and probably final step, is to try to reinforce the center some more. That suffered the most damage. I'm going to add a small cone to the outside of the existing cone. It will show, but what the heck, this was never about being original.

It sounds so much better now. That last patch got rid of the vibrations. The high frequency response is a little lacking. I don't have a good one to compare it to, but I wager that even with a good speaker, the thickness of the cone material with the addition of the coating it has, would deaden some of the higher frequencies.

I do like lemonade.

Resources:

Glue - "Crafters Pick - The Ultimate" - Good all purpose glue. Dries fast and clear. Hobby Lobby and others
Toothpicks (Betula Toothpickus) - Almost Everywhere

(Continued on next page)

The repaired speaker sitting atop a Crosley RFL-75 that I purchased from Larry Weide a couple of years back and restored.
I think they compliment each other well.
See a short video of it playing on Youtube by following this link: https://youtu.be/HIIUmlRTUag or scan the QR Code

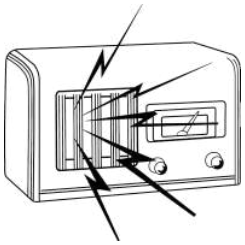
Rust Removal Tip

Everyone has their favorites for rust removal. I have found the best product for me in removing small areas of rust is a product called 'Rust Free' by Boeshield. I originally used it to remove rust from my table saw and band saw cast iron tops, but found it just as useful in removing rust from small areas.

Before and after a few minutes

I apply it using a medicine dropper (but that's not a necessity-it just allows me to place it more accurately). I wait a few minutes, scrub it with #0000 steel wool and wipe it off. Repeat if necessary. It works well for surface rust. Obviously it won't restore any pitting.

Rust Free is mainly Phosphoric acid, so it can be a skin irritant. Best to wear gloves.
-Bill



The Latest CRC Club News

Paul is out of town, so Bill Lettow presided over the meeting on July 12th at the Castle Pine Library.

We had a scant 16 members attending including an old/new member Dana Hauschulz. Lucille Hughes was also in attendance.

We have $8446 dollars in the treasury. Merril stated we have about 72 paid members in the club.

The main order of business dealt with the Auction/BBQ on September 20 at the Tectonics site once again. Auction forms are available later in this issue, as well as on the website.

Volunteers:

Don Andrus will provide the drinks and Bill Lettow the meats.
Tom will be our auctioneer again.
Steve Touzalin and Scott Thomas will run the computers.
***We are looking for a cook!* If anyone can help, let us know.**

Anyone else wanting to volunteer to help, please get in touch with one of the officers.

We discussed ways to advertise the auction to bring in outside buyers. There will be notices posted on various Facebook radio groups. Possible locations for flyers?- let one of the officers know if you have an idea. Any opportunity to get more interest in buying/selling is welcomed.

We have decided to go ahead with the idea of printing business cards. Bill Lettow will help in designing them. They will be 2 sided, probably glossy on 1 side and matte on the back for us to write on.

A club calendar is also possible. Details to be discussed at a later time.

No new updates on the Flash. As always, articles and ideas for articles are welcomed. Contact me with those. Thanks to Rich Kuberski for producing an article published as *a Special Edition - The Use of AI in Radio Repair*. If you didn't receive a copy of it through the e-group, you can find it on the website in the "Data Center" which Steve Touzalin has just added to the site.

Photo by Bill Kohl

Bill arranged to have pizza delivered. Besides the good company, this is one of the perks of attending these meetings. The meeting will resume after....

We still have a raffle, several show and tell items and a presentation to look forward to.

It's Raffle Time

Despite the few number of members present, we had a decent raffle table.

Thanks to Bill Kohl for help with the photos

We had 6 participants at this meeting. Mike Cook started out with 2 of his radios.

The Trophy Trademark Baseball Radio was made around 1941

The Mickey Mantle/Roger Maris radio is from 1961. This is the year of the homerun race between the 2 of them attempting to outdo Babe Ruth's record of 60. Maris won with 61. Mike bought it for $60

Following in this theme, next up to bat was Steve Touzalin with his restored Radiola III

He was surprised that the WD-11's were good! Needless to say, he didn't use them often and experimented in making substitutes and sockets

Dana Hauschulz brought in examples of items that he is going to be bringing to the auction, including boxes of tubes. He let us pass around a blue Arcturus 01A tube-I've always liked those.

Scott Thomas brought in the finished radio that he had a faceplate made for in a laser printer at the library.

Merril brought in 3 sets- a restored bakelite set, a Farnsworth that is being restored, and a Philco 45C 'Butterfly' that had some restoration challenges including holes that were presumably made from darts, it being located in a rec room.

Lucille Hughes brought in one of her late husband Art's radios. She had a slide show of some of the items from his collection that would be available for a sale in August (now past).

Bill Lettow put on a slide show presentation of 3 collections/museums that he had visited.
The first was in Virginia City, NV in 2012- Radio Boulevard, the Western Historic Radio Museum. The brick and mortar museum no longer exists, but it still has an online presence.

NBC
NBC
KOH
Soooo YOU'RE GOING ON THE AIR!
ROBERT WEST

KNEV FM

"HIS MASTER'S VOICE"

Next, we visited the collection of Martin D. Bergan JR in Phoenix, Arizona.

Catalin Collection

He was an avid radio collector, and had an enormous collection of catalin radios as well as everything else. To house his collection he had a second story added to his house. At one point he decided to move to Florida and took his whole collection with him (at a cost of $50000). He eventually decided it wasn't for him and moved everything back. He passed away in 2019.

And lastly, the Radiomarelli Radio Bar that Bill found at a home in Agrigento, Sicily

Thanks, Bill, for an entertaining presentation

Early Radio TV Consoles

Radio was already popular in the late 1930's. RCA realized the potential of TV and radio together and poured large amounts of money into its development to be displayed at the 1939 World's Fair. 3 of their TRK (Television Receiver Kinesope) models are shown here.

The RCA TRK-5 (5 inch screen) from 1939. According to the ETF database, there are only 20 known to exist.

TRK-9 453 were manufactured
Only 17 known to exist

TRK-12. The CRT was so long, it had to be mounted vertically. A mirror was installed in the lid to reflect the screen.
89 still in existence

Source: Early Television.org

IT'S TIME FOR THE CRC 2026 ANNUAL AUCTION AND BAR/BQ !

Once again, through the efforts of club member Rich Kuberski, we are privileged to hold our annual auction in a park-like setting. We will also be continuing our tradition of combining the auction with a pot luck BarBQ. The club will provide the burgers, hot-dogs, condiments, chips and soft drinks while the CRC club members will bring side dishes to share with all in attendance. Family members are welcome and encouraged to attend!!!

WHAT: An auction of radios, televisions, documentation, parts, test equipment and associated items. The public is encouraged to participate in ***both*** buying and selling.

WHEN: Sunday, September 20th

Auction Starts at 12:00 noon *SHARP*

BarBQ Lunch Served 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Bring a side dish to share with everyone: Slaw, Potato Salad, Fruit Salad, Beans, Your favorite side, etc.

WHERE: Tectonic Management Group Inc. Office grounds and picnic facilities (see the map below).

AUCTION RULES:

* There is no cost to register as a buyer or seller. There is a sellers commission that will be equal to $1 or 10% (which ever is greater) of the "hammer" price on each lot sold to any buyer - including the sellers who may elect to "buy back" their lots.

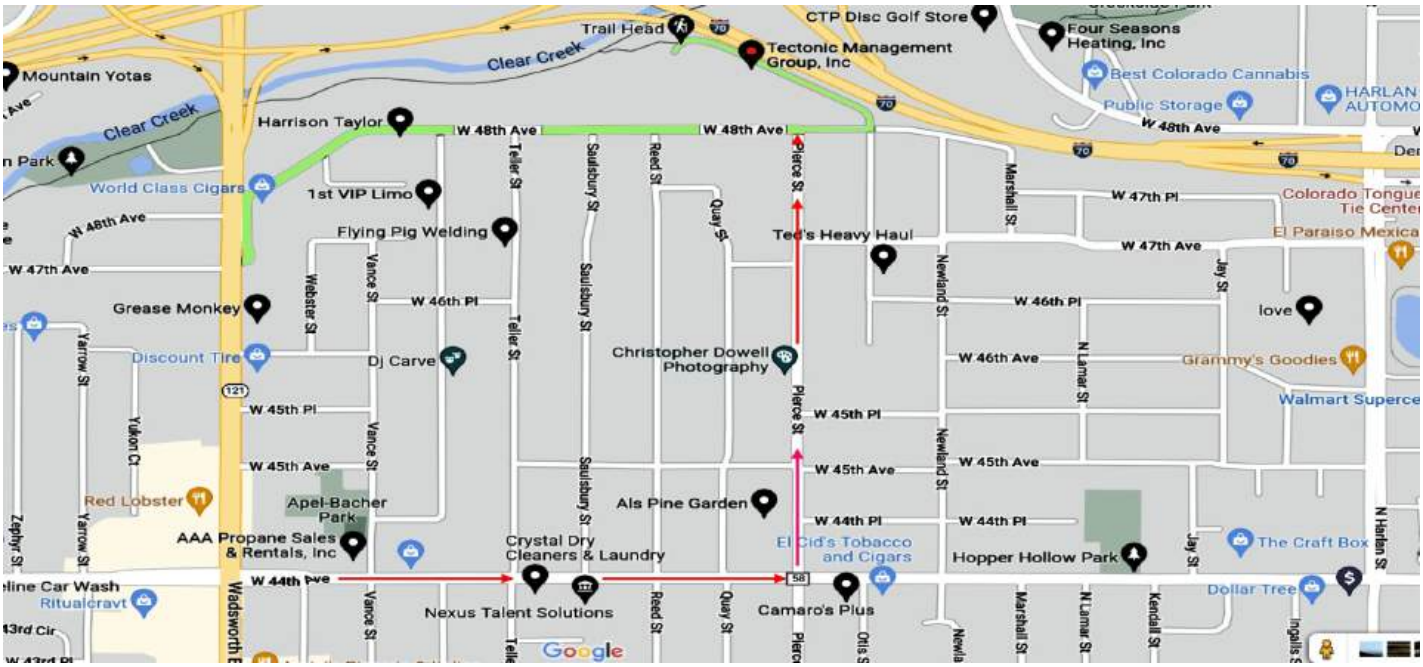
Minimum value of each lot to be $5.00

* Sellers may optionally, **at registration time only,** set a secret minimum bid (reserve) on any lot.
* No commission will be incurred on any lot that is not sold. All seller commissions will be deducted from and before the payment to the seller, and these commissions will become the property of the C.R.C. treasury.
* Buyers can **not** take possession of any lot(s) until the total cost for all purchases are paid. Collection of buyers fees will commence at the conclusion of the sale of the last lot entered into the auction. A buyer's receipt is required for pickup of purchased lots from the lot/item display area.
* **Buyer fees will be collected before sellers are paid.** The C.R.C. only accepts CASH or CHECKS. Identification may be requested from those paying for their purchases by personal check.
* Sellers will be paid only by C.R.C. check and may for a $1.00 surcharge, elect to be paid by mail.
* This auction is limited to radio and electronics related items as described earlier. The C.R.C. reserves the right to reject items deemed inappropriate.
* Any item registered for sale by auction may not be sold outside of the auctioneer's control, and can not be removed from the sale once the auction commences.

SELLERS: Pre registration is required. Please refer to the included auction registration form to register your sale items. There is a limit on the total 'lots' this year. Once filled, the registration will be closed. Auction items will be entered as received. First come, first served. Don't delay!

Buyer Registration: Will take place on Sunday morning, September 20th, at the auction site and will close at 11:15 a.m.

Sellers are automatically also registered as Buyers.



Tectonic Management Group, Inc., 6695 W 48th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

CRC AUCTION SELLERS

Be prepared for the 2026 CRC Annual Auction on Sunday, September 20th. Pre-register by filling out this form and email it to Steve at stevetou@comcast.net. Plain text in an email is also fine. Or fill out this form and bring it to the September 13th CRC meeting. If you plan to sell items in the auction, you MUST pre-register them! Please send your form to Steve NO LATER than September 13th. There is a limit on the number of lot entries, so don't delay!

Auction Seller's Contact Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address, City, State: _____

email address: _____ Zip-code: _____

Sellers - you MUST pre-register your sale items!!

	– Auction Sale Item Description –	Reserve $$ (optional)	Donation? check if yes!
1.			☐
2.			☐
3.			☐
4.			☐
5.			☐
6.			☐
7.			☐
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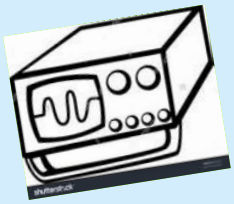
9.			☐
10.			☐
11.			☐
12.			☐
13.			☐
14.			☐
15.			☐

☐ Check here to receive payment by mail - $1 fee

Enclose a second sheet for additional items.

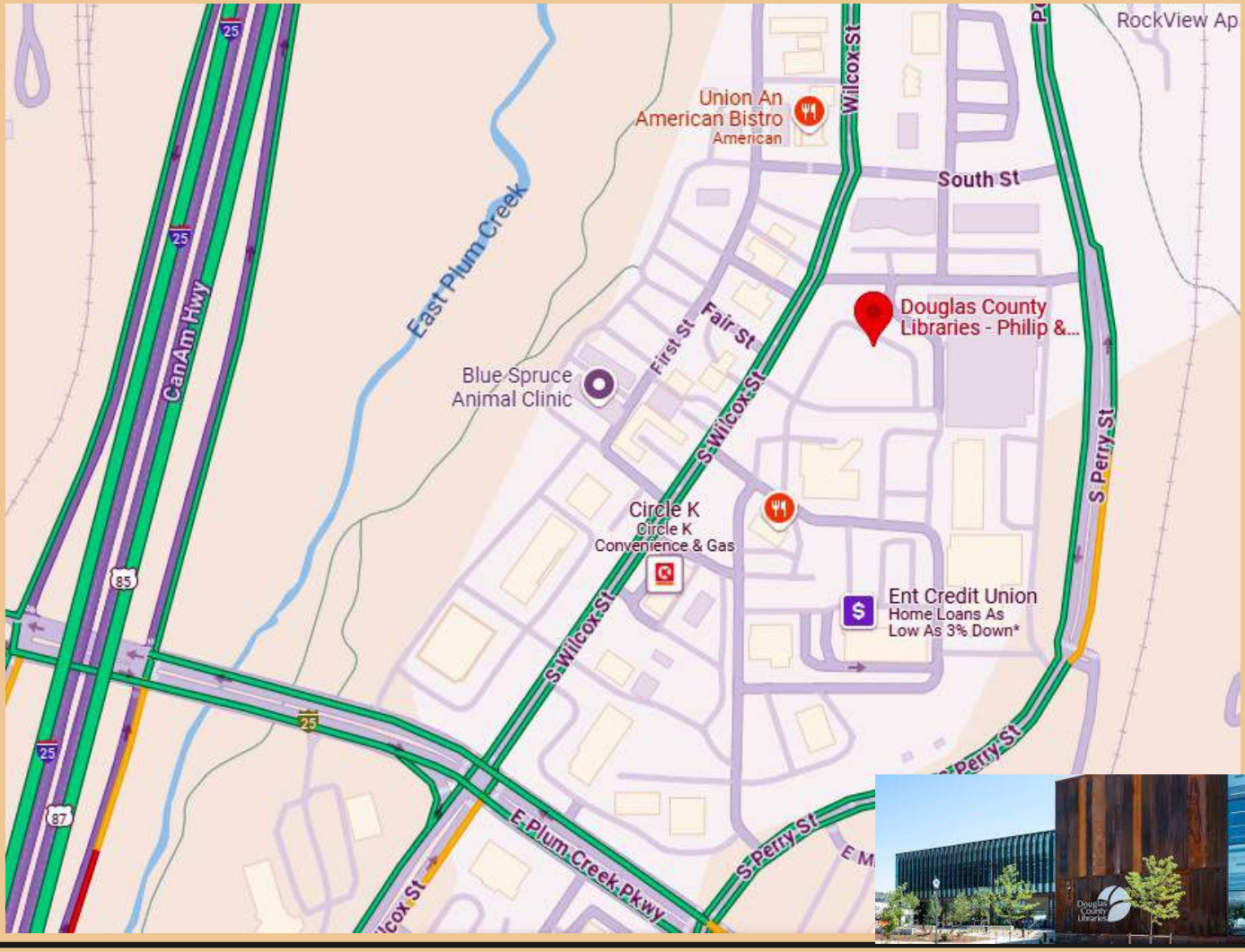


Classified Ads

Ads are free for CRC members. To place an ad send your ad description along with personal contact information to the Flash Editor or or one of the CRC officers.

FOR SALE: New old stock & quality used vacuum tubes. Please refer to my business card pictured to the right. Thank you! Sean Duffy (573) 999-6187 acmetubesupply@gmail.com

WANTED: Articles for the Flash. Long or short, please submit your articles to billpot@gmail.com

CRC Meeting - September 13th,Castle Rock Library

100 S. Wilcox St., Castle Rock, CO 80104