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President's Page

It's just March and we've already started off the year with many SARS activities. First, several members volunteered their time to staff a SARS booth at the Pride of Dixie antiques market located at the North Atlanta Trade Center. At least 30 restored radios were on display and we had a wonderful time discussing "the golden age of broadcasting" with visitors. Several shoppers brought us radios to evaluate and repair. In addition to adding a few new members to the club, we invited visitors to attend the Winder swap meet. We plan to have a similar display in late May so please consider joining us for this rewarding opportunity.

Of course, the winter swap meet was held on February 14 at the Winder Community Center. This was a fantastic facility with plenty of room to display items, a great entrance area, stage and kitchen facilities. We were fortunate to have Brock Whalen share his fascinating experiences about the evolution of broadcasting in the Atlanta area after the flea market and auction concluded. Although it was a cold, rainy day we had a lot of fun socializing with our old friends.

Also, 40 members returned the 2004 SARS survey. We discovered that Monday evening meetings at a restaurant in the Norcross area is still desirable. Based on the survey results, we plan to have more technical "how-to" presentations and guest speakers during the meetings. Members also want to see additional newsletters contributions from other members so be sure to let Mark know if you'd like to write a brief article for a future newsletter. Club members were fairly split on how many swap meets we should conduct each year but agreed we should advertise more and locate them where there would be a natural interest in antiques such as Lakewood or an antiques mall. Finally, it was clear we wanted more opportunities to view other member's collections. As a result, we're currently planning to meet at Barry Etheridge's home in April and I'm certainly looking forward to visit one or two other collections this year as well.

What's around the corner? Our next swap meet is scheduled for April 24 at the Atlanta Antiques Gallery in Chamblee. A huge "thank you" to George Breckenridge for hosting our club at his first-rate facility. In addition to meeting at Barry's home in April and the Pride of Dixie display in May, Teresa and I will host the annual summer picnic at our home in Alpharetta again this year. Of course, we're also looking forward to the second annual Radio Fest at the Atlanta Antiques Gallery again this summer. These events will allow you to get to know other members so don't miss these opportunities!

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to share my thoughts on our 2004 membership drive. I have three reasons for increasing membership. First, I believe there are more than 75 people in the greater Atlanta metropolitan area who are or COULD be interested in this hobby so I feel one of our fundamental obligations is to "spread the word" and generate enthusiasm. I believe we must continue to introduce ourselves to the public with events such as the Pride of Dixie so others have the chance to enjoy the historical significance of this hobby. Secondly, I think new SARS members means more fun for all existing SARS members. Of course, I certainly don't want to lose current members or the informal atmosphere. However, I am convinced having 10 more participants at our meetings, another 10 vendors or another 15 buyers at our swap meets results in greater enjoyment of the hobby by our existing members. One of the things I really like about our club is the diversity of collecting interests- boat anchors, military gear, Catalins, bakelites, transistors, tubes, etc. Although we each tend to focus on a narrow aspect of the hobby, I think we certainly enjoy the greater diversity more members bring to the club. Lastly, I think it's important to continue seeking new members because we'll always lose existing members. People move away or lose interest in the hobby over the years. Let's join together and encourage friends, neighbors and co-works to enjoy in this rewarding pastime with us.

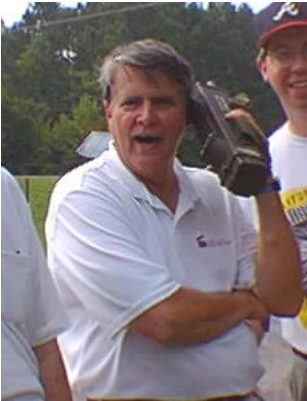
– Rich Rodgers

CX Math & Aftermath, -or- “A Rig Too Far”

By Marty Reynolds AA4RM

Editor’s note:

CX means “Classical Exchange” and applies to an annual contest where amateur radio operators try to revive old equipment and get it on the air. NEWS FLASH! Antique radios also TRANSMIT! Marty has his own style of writing. If this article were a movie, it would have subtitles. Getting... hard... to... see... smoke from my CPU caused by spell checker buffer overflow. –Ed.



You reap what you sew: An in the CX case for a couple of years running, I’ve been scarce at planting time.

But not this CX. I started a week early on tune-ups. Tho some were B-flat at best, there were 8 stations ready for the road. I thot.

Love this event. It dignifies where nature usually chooses. Quantity first! And talk about supporting diversity! Look at the scoring rules.

SOUND and LIGHT! Two happenings...

- Stancor 69 tank cap front stand-off breaks & 550V to ground. WOW, that’s why this is a GREAT hobby! Fix was to prop a knob up w. a jam jar. Went on to make lotsa contacts.
- Gonset G76. The 4th came early under-chassis in power supply. Nerve-jangling ZAAAAAP! & she went dark. Undaunted, I rummaged around & found a 2nd example. Went on to make several contacts ~10 p.m. on a very hot 80-meter band.

Watched 6DQ5 carefully since I cudn’t back load below 100w @ 3.5 mcs. Plate only got a little red. Kept dits short.

Return of the COSMOPHONE!

My runner, sn16, was a check-in for a collector’s net early Sunday. Four of us hung out ‘til 9A to make this gizmo my 1st CX qualifier.

CX co-founder K8SJ once said it’s inevitable that someday a Cosmophone will be logged. A (twice) self-fulfilling prophecy.

A Rig Too Far

That’s the 1960 hybrid called the Hallicrafters FPM-200. Scarce. W8ZR has had one in past CX’s & I thot the time had come for a second. This was “rig 9” & she resisted successfully. Cudn’t get drive, cudn’t get audio. Seems easy, but to see how boards sandwiched, any maintenance to tuff it’s silly.

Why call it a “rig too far” (Ernie Pyle?). Well, it was 10 years ahead of the mob. At least 10 years. A garden of Ge transistors. No, a truck farm of Ge transistors.

But not only did this '200 no show, I didn't hear 'ZR Jim either.

Commentary BOOLAH BOOLAH

Worked present CX Helmsman WQ8U/4-NC on 40. He on Drake twins, me on Stancor/RME. Sorta 459-ish because, as I sed, we're too close. & that was the case since we re-connected 30 mins later on 80 (my G76) & exchanged big-time 599's.

W8KGI, the contact machine. And one with both a fb antenna system and propagation luck. Constant 599 reports to him on the NE-USA to New Mexico path.

Chirp city on Stancor 69. Have never cured it. Now bet it's the HY69 self-exciting 'til prior stage drive arrives. Gonna watch it on spectrum analyzer. Overkill. But must say it's distinctive & the 40w muscle brought my best DX, VE7XF. Ralph sed "nice pair" after he found it was mated (heh) with an REM69. And just ask Jim Hanlon. Our RME69s will celebrate their 69th birthdays this year. That's W8KGI with whom I collaborated for a milestone RME69-to-RME69 contact.

Big power. Think K4TS was running 30S1 "active tuner" for 500w out. I made 3 contacts w. Johnson 500. All needed to turn heads was a string of Vs followed by CX. That's paired w. Hammurlund Pro 310 & is the runaway best looking twosome.

QSK, I'm a man. I've finally worked a CX with a tube TR-switch in-line. In this case it's Lynmar off-brander with a 6AH6. Sits between a Drake 2B, a Navigator, & the RF hose-pipe. Wow does operation become FUN! BUT I have a much earlier QSK embodiment. The TCS. In spite of all the slamming relays, in its own way it's a pleasure too. Kinda Harley vs. Honda.

Entrepid Entrants

K4EJQ kept producing rigs like the sorcerer's apprentice. Worked 4 in one stretch w. TCS. He almost stretched it further with qrp jobs but begged a recess. Then there was Rob K2TOP & Mario N2AK who were always there. And K3ZX. Heard Rocco on 80 only but cudn't connect. Wish we'd been on 20 at same times. Same goes for omni present Howie WB2AWQ. Just never got things set right for a qso.

R&R

XYL Kathy suffered bleeps ad nauseum but still came up with a well-timed bowl of fresh vegetable soup. Then @ shut-down, a double neat Early Times stepped in.

AA4RM Atlanta, GA RESULTS

Almost 3 million points fm 39 qsos and 8 rigs. **Res Ipso Loqitor!**



Photo of Vintage Gear lifted from Marty's website. Don't ask what the bug juice is for.

Upcoming Radio Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
March 20	Hamfest	Life College Marietta	www.arrl.org
March 25-27	Spring Meet in the Carolinas	Charlotte NC	www.cc-awa.org
April 24	SARS Spring Swap Meet	Chamblee	www.sarsradio.com

The Amazing and Magical TV-7 Tube Tester

By Mark Palmquist

Although I have never actually purchased any tubes on eBay, (tubes seem to show up at my door unannounced), I often look at auctions and the highest priced tubes always have data from testing with a TV-7. The TV-7 is a Hickok design that was upgraded to meet military specifications and built with the best components, switches, wiring and sockets available. Packaged in a tough metal case with (at least when new) waterproof seals, these units seem to survive and prosper while the civilian counterparts give way to rodents, moth and ruin. I got the TV-7 bug after asking a tube-seller at the Shelby Hamfest what those numbers like 67/47 meant on his tube boxes. He said that TV-7 test results are read on the meter scale of 0-to-120. 67 was the test result, 47 was the minimum value for a successful test. That was all I needed to begin my search. Not long after, a fixer-upper TV7/U appeared under a bench at the 2003 SARS winter meet in Winder. The price was right and my pockets needed emptying after selling a restored Transoceanic for what amounted to \$0.24 per hour of my restoration labor. It needed some cleaning up and insulating of a broken acorn socket that was rattling around in the case and it was good to go. Then I started watching eBay auctions for TV7* testers and saw some near-mint ones going for \$500 plus. I think the demand is driven by audiophiles who are convinced that their equipment has improved sonic properties after their expensive Globe 45 tubes are soothed and healed by laying on of TV7 hands...

One night I posed the following question to the rec.antiques.radio+phono newsgroup: “What are the top 10 reasons for owning a TV-7?” Arizona Cowboy wrote:

10. Looks Good on the shelf next to your other surplus military gear
9. More data available than any other tester (over 4000 tube types)
8. Dan Nelson calibration (Dan is the acknowledged TV-7 calibration guru).
7. More rugged than any other tester, impervious to shock & rain
6. Ceramic switches, sockets, NASA grade resistors used throughout (Did Apollo 11 have tubes?)
5. The most reliable tester, you can't break them
4. Will stay in calibration for 10 years
3. Looks way cool
2. High resale value
1. The only mil-spec built Hickok

Other posters added their comments and of course disputed each of the opinions of others. If you do a Google search on “TV-7 Top 10” you can follow the entire discussion.

What I like most about this instrument is it's compact size and the fact that there is great documentation on the internet (bama.sbc.edu) for tube settings,

calibration and maintenance. Nolan E. Lee has done extensive research on the TV-7 and has a website with a spreadsheet showing the settings for thousands of tubes

http://www.acadiacom.net/nlee/tv-7_index.html I put a laptop next to my TV-7 and wrote a spreadsheet macro to search for a particular tube. Any TV-7 model will test most radio tubes.



SARS Email Contact Information

You can post discussion group messages, list Want Ads, send a group email to most club members or have your own SARS email account by following instructions at the website or contacting webmaster@sarsradio.com.

SARS WEBSITE: www.sarsradio.com

SARS Meeting Dates for 2004 - Mark Your Calendars!

Date	Show & Tell	Program	Subject/Speaker
Mar 8	Military Equipment	Empire of the Air	AC DC Radio Safety
Apr 12	Phonographs	TBA	TBA
Apr 24	Swap Meet	Atlanta Antique Gallery	Chamblee
May 10	Miniature Tube Radios	TBA	TBA
Jun 14	Early FM & HiFi	TBA	TBA
Jul 12	Radio Apparatus	TBA	TBA
Aug 9	Old Radio Tapes & CD's	TBA	TBA
Sep 13	Television Stuff	TBA	TBA
Oct 11	Cone Speakers	TBA	TBA
Nov 8	Big Band Music	TBA	TBA
Dec 13	Anything Goes	TBA	TBA

Note: If you do not have an item in this category, please feel free to bring something else related to our hobby.

Swap Meet Map Atlanta Antiques Gallery Apr 24

