



HRSA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Volume 28 No.6 Jun - Jul 2019

From the Secretary



Welcome to the Jun/Jul edition of the newsletter. As this is my final newsletter to you, I am reflecting back over the last two years and the changes that we have made. I can see that my first newsletter was in 2016 when Morrie Rieger was still president. We have had meetings in three museums, the transmission tower at Mount Lofty and at the Brewery at Thebarton. We have introduced the idea of a Sale Day where you can sell your items at your price which seems to be popular and even had a go at swapping a box of junk with AHARS. We have also experimented with different venues for the Christmas Lunch and you are now receiving several different newsletters from other groups with the same hobby.

I have a list of members who have held committee positions since the club commenced and what you see is that it is the same few who always get elected and keep the club going. The problem is that those people are getting older and feel that they have served their time and are now occupied with other interests, so it is important for some of the younger members to put their hand up and have a turn.

I have enjoyed my time in the driver's seat and found the experience to be satisfying. It has given me an opportunity to see the club from a different perspective, and made me appreciate the work that needs to go in to make the wheels turn so that you can have your meetings each month. It is a team effort and everyone who contributes is equally important in making the HRSA SA a place to see your friends, bid for an item or two at an auction, or just have a free coffee and cake on a Sunday afternoon.

Victor Besz

Coming Events

- 28th Jul 2019** – AGM & Auction at the St. Cyprian Hall
- 25th Aug 2019** – Presentation of Valve Amps (St Cyprian)
- 29th Sep 2019** – Home Visit to Warren Lane



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The turnout to Chris's home visit for the June meeting was better than I had expected, and his house kept filling up with club members forming little groups sharing experiences and latest acquisitions. We had our meeting in his lounge room as the weather outside was more suited for animals with built in fur coats. After a brief review of the last meeting and some correspondence we headed to the kitchen where Elizabeth was busy preparing our afternoon coffee and cake. It was a pleasant afternoon for everyone.



In searching for interesting stories for the newsletter, I came across some really interesting ones and put them in a folder for a day when I needed some filler material. I thought that I this would be a good time to put that material to use. I have picked out one of the more unusual stories that does not have any real supporting evidence, however is a fun read. I found several radio discussion groups convinced that Paris Hilton is not only a vintage radio collector, but actually restores them as well. Here are a couple of extracts from conversation threads:



"My car broke down on an autobahn in Germany and I managed to coast to a layby thing with a burger van and toilets in it. This big old American guy appeared and offered me a cup of tea in his motor home. In the van there was another guy and friggin Paris Hilton. She gave me a hug and a sandwich and proceeded to talk to me for about 30 minutes about some radio bits that she bought in Friedrichshafen. I didn't understand most of it. She said that when she wasn't working, that she liked to drive around Europe, going to radio and air shows. They then towed me to a garage at about 40km/hr."

"Some random things told to me by my step sister who used to work for Paris: Paris has a room full of vintage radios from WW2 aircraft and the like. She restores them. When not socialising, she spends most of her time locked up in her room doing God-knows what to these radios. There is always a smell of burning coming from the room. Nobody is allowed in."

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*I have dedicated this page for more recollections from the Philips
Hendon Works in the 1960's*

The Dangerous Components:

One day I walked down to the production store to book out a number of Integrated circuits. The store-lady seemed to take forever to get them and ever so carefully transfer them from one antistatic tube into another for me. I questioned why she was handling them with tweezers at arms-length. She explained that her boss had told her that she must not touch ICs with her fingers because this will make them "blow up!" I explained to her that "blowing up" didn't mean explode in this case, but rather that static electricity could damage the IC and ruin it. She was just so relieved as she had been working in terror of booking out ICs ever since learning that they could "blow up".

The Wooden Leg:

The telecommunications division employed a "roustabout" to move materials and do pick-ups and deliveries. One day an impatient product manager was heard to rebuke the roustabout with "Get a bloody move on, anyone would think you had a wooden leg!" "Well" said the roustabout, "as a matter of fact..." raising his trouser leg to expose his prosthesis. The product manager was suitably embarrassed.

Quick Type:

One apprentice was given the job of setting up a project involving a telex machine. After a great deal of work on this very unfamiliar equipment he was instructed to put it "on line" and register it with the manufacturers in the USA. Like most people of the day, Clive had never seen a keyboard close up and really struggled to find each key for the registration message. Taking typically five plus seconds for each keystroke the process seemed un-ending but suddenly the operator at the other end could take no more and the machine burst into life and finished the last few words of the registration message at full speed! After a brief pause the operator on the other end typed "Next time try using the other foot, you might find it quicker".

The resonant Dunny:

One of the apprentices discovered that by humming loudly at a particular low pitch in the toilet block he could resonate it and create an incredibly high sound level. To start with this was done when no-one else was present, but once the technique was perfected he and others would wait for a selected victim to enter one of the cubicles and committed to the job before letting loose with the humming.

HRSASA Meeting – Sunday 31st May 2019

By Ian Smyth

At our meeting, Tony Bell took us back to Thursday, September 21st, 1939

On that day, one month after World War II had begun in Europe, radio station WJSV in Washington, D.C., recorded their entire broadcast day - from sign on, to sign off.



This was before the advent of magnetic recording tape, so transcription disks were used. The overall quality of these disk recordings is good to excellent, except for a few spots of noticeable distortion. These transcriptions were transferred to tape in their entirety, including the evening re-broadcast of the United States President, Franklin Roosevelt's address to the US Congress of earlier that day

We were able to hear everything as it was the day it was recorded -- that includes the pops and crackles, the station breaks, and the technical difficulties, along with all the music, comedy, drama, news, and advertisements that were aired on September 21st, 1939.

Tony Bell and John Crawford selected and edited 6 excerpts (listed opposite) from that day's recordings and transferred them to Tony's laptop for our listening pleasure. It was 22 minutes that took us all back in time. While we were listening to the spoken word, we were able to imagine, and paint our own pictures of the time.

While listening, I was mentally listing the changes in broadcast technology and media delivery platforms that have been part of my lifetime. I remembered rushing home from school to listen to "Hop Harrigan" episodes; "Dick Tracey" stories and being part of the ABC's "Jason and the Argonauts" adventures.

EXCERPTS FROM RADIO STATION WJSV ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1939	
1345 News	3-30
1115 When a Girl Marries	4-45
2330 Teddy Powell Introduction and "O sole mio"	4-15
1400 President Roosevelt's Address to Congress	3.00
1600 Baseball	3.10
0000 Louis Prima "Stairway to the Stars"	3.45

These recordings are available in a box set of audio cassette tapes, or available singly online. "Let your computer, or your MP3 player be your time machine, as you sit back, relax, and take a trip back to those days when 15 cents would buy a hamburger, a six-pack of Coke costs a quarter, and the future was on display at the 1939 New York World's Fair."

https://archive.org/details/OTRR_WJSV_Complete_Day_Singles

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From the Workbench

Useful Steps in the restoration of a valve radio

A Presentation by Chris Ratcliff at the May 2019 meeting of the HRSASA

This article was recorded by Ian Smyth. In this presentation, Chris used two 1948 model HMV C23A mantle radios – One was completed and the other was undergoing repairs, so we were able to see “before” and “after” demonstrations of the processes.



The Chassis:

- Remove loose debris; dirt and foreign objects
- Check for broken/loose wiring and replace where it has badly deteriorated.
- Fit a fuse to the ACTIVE power input line
- Fit an EARTH connection to the chassis adjacent to the NEUTRAL and ACTIVE terminals

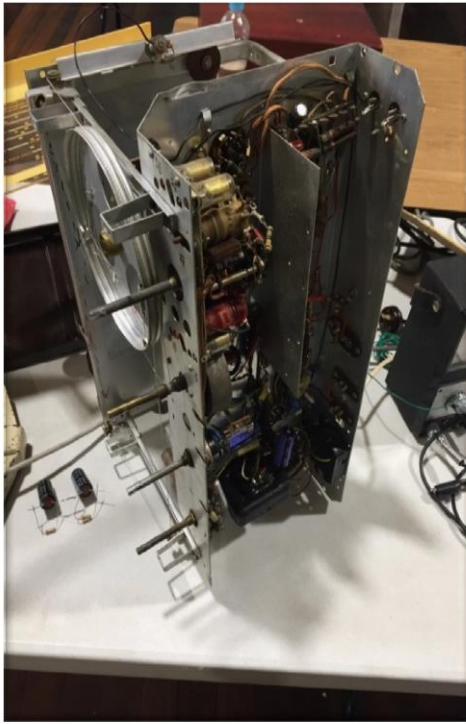
Whenever possible, fit new insulating rubber grommets to the 4 feet of the tuning gang. In this HMV it was very difficult! It involved removal of the whole tuning assembly (including replacement of the 2.5 metres of dial cord) and coil re-alignment afterwards!! The alternative was difficult removal of the dial drum, and then re-stringing as well!!!

Some Useful/Desirable Equipment:

- Bench-top Power Supply (Isolated power supply with variable voltage if possible)
- Multi-meter (Pictured here is my VTVM or Vacuum-tube Volt Meter)
- Signal Generator
- CROW (Cathode-ray Oscilloscope)
- Spectrum Analyser
- Digital Frequency Counter



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Cleaning the Chassis:

(HINT: To be done on a hot day!)

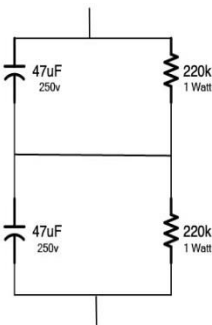
For this process, place chassis on its side with the power transformer upwards

- Use Handy Andy cleaning liquid with an old toothbrush or long-bristle brush
- Clean ONLY the chassis. Do NOT get any components wet, especially the transformer
- Scrub away the dust and grime from the metal surface with the brush and Handy Andy
- Rinse off with plain water using a fine spray bottle and wipe with old rags to remove dirt and grime.
- Rinse off thoroughly as Handy Andy will attack aluminium

Place chassis outside in the sun (and any breeze) to dry completely. Do NOT use hairdryer or heat-gun as you could damage wax coated components.

Making your own replacement components:

(Pictured on right) This HMV radio required a 25uF x 500v capacitor – These can be quite expensive so here's a quick way to make your own using two electrolytics in series with a "bleed resistor".



Fault Finding – Part 1:

Testing Tool: Use a 100pF capacitor (with a couple of extension leads with clips soldered on)

- Connect I end to the ANODE pin of the mixer valve (pictured on left)
- Wave or Wand the other end near the output of the IF valve in this case an EBF35 and listen for oscillation through the speaker.... If so then you can assume that they are both working O.K.

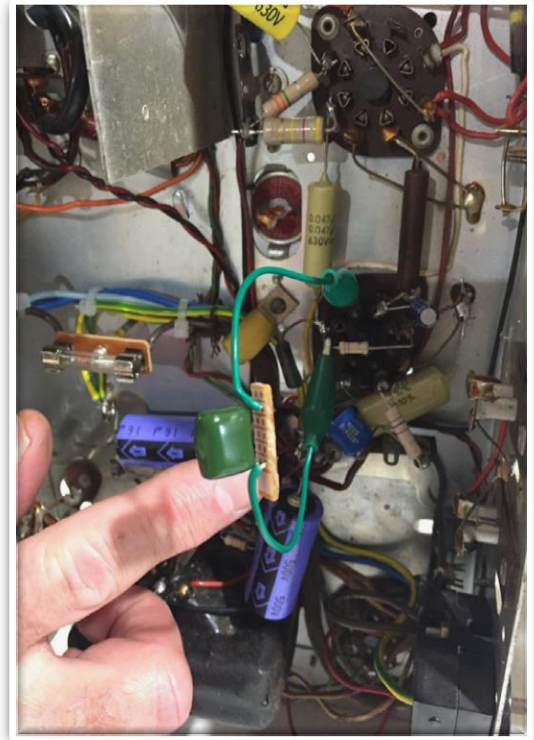
If not, go back and check for bad solder joints or perished wiring (replace) and try again.

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Fault Finding – Part 2

In this photo I have used a green 0.047nF x 600v capacitor with 2 leads and clips as a testing tool. (Picture on right)

- This tool is used to test the audio amplification part of the radio
- Attach one end to the valve heater line
- Attach the other end to the control grid of the OUTPUT valve (in this case, a 6V6)
- You should hear a strong hum from the speaker
- If a hum is present then you can assume that:
 - Power amp is O.K.
 - Output trans are O.K.
 - Speaker is O.K.
- Again, if nothing is heard, check all wiring and solder joints for small breaks and repair then re-test
- Then attach end 2 to the control grid of the signal amplifier
- You should get a LOUDER signal – If so its O.K.



Finishing up – Restoring Bakelite

- NEVER use harsh abrasives, or chemical cleaners on Bakelite
- Gently wash the Bakelite shell (with dial glass removed) with warm mildly soapy water or a damp cloth, to remove greases and oils
- When completely dry, apply Kitten brand (or similar) No 1 grade cutting compound car polish
- Follow directions on the tin to apply correctly
- Cutting car polish removes the top, often oxidised layer of the Bakelite and you can finish up with a luxurious shine like new.

Do NOT try to wash dial glass as many are old fashioned “water transfers” and will wash off if wet. Screen-printed or painted dial glasses can be cleaned but check first on a corner or hidden bit of text.

RADIO REPAIRING TIP:

As a general rule, if a capacitor in your vintage tube radio is less than 0.001 uF, it is probably a mica capacitor. If it is between 0.001uF and 1.0uF it is likely a paper capacitor and if it's more than 1uF it's probably an electrolytic capacitor.

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The above photo of the July Retirees Luncheon was sent to me from Tony Bell.

I hope you enjoy reading my last newsletter. Although I am resigning from the Editor role, I may return to it in the future. I have enjoyed creating it for you and would like thank all those who have expressed their appreciation for it. It is probably the best role in the committee because you can do it in the comfort of your own home, while enjoying a hot cup of tea....and a cake or two.

Victor Besz

Committee

Members of the public are requested to direct all enquiries, including those regarding membership, information on radios (wireless sets) and the estimated value of radios (wireless sets), to the Public Relations Officer please.

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