



Spring, 2014
Newsletter of the SPARC Vintage Radio Museum
Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada

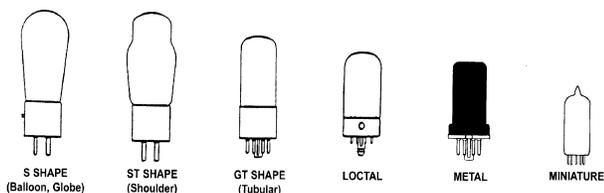
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OPEN HOUSE & SALE !!

The museum needs to get serious about clearing out our duplicates, and items not appropriate for the collection.

Join us on June 28 & 29 with the Coquitlam Amateur Radio Emergency Services Society Field Day. We will be open 10 am – 4 pm both Saturday and Sunday.

Items will be tagged for sale. Most will be open to any reasonable offer. All items sold as is, by cash or cheque only.



S SHAPE
(Balloon, Globe)

ST SHAPE
(Shoulder)

GT SHAPE
(Tubular)

LOCTAL

METAL

MINIATURE

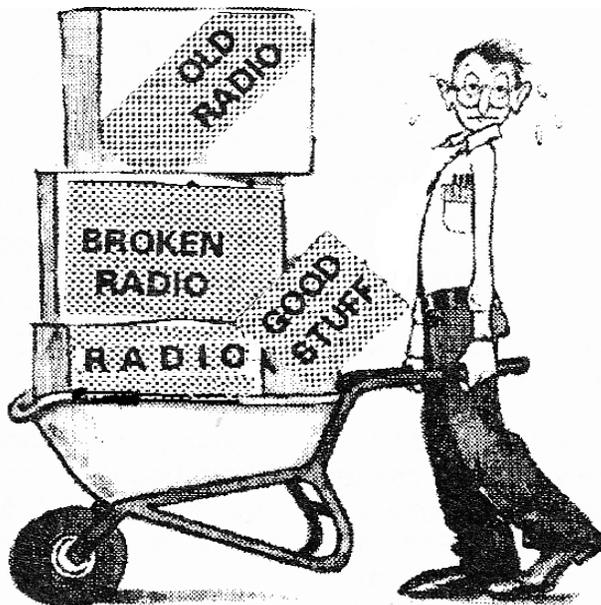
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MEMBERSHIPS REMINDER

Please keep your membership current
(AC or DC) in support of SPARC.
Only \$20 per year.

SPRING CLEANING AT THE MUSEUM
June 28th and 29th



Museum News

SPARC wins first place in radio restoration contest!

The Quebec Radio Collectors Society www.sqcra.org has organized a yearly contest to recognize radio restorations that go well beyond the "just working" again category. A year ago, a group of SPARC's intrepid restoration volunteers took up the challenge with a Silvertone 4766. As can be seen in the before and after photos, an exceptional job was completed and was the winning entry in this year's contest.

Contributors to this project were as follows -- **Cabinet** ; Pat Jones, **Chassis** ; Gerry O'Hara, Gerald Taylor, Craig Marston. We also wish to thank John Fluevog and Jeffrey Liu of Fluevog Shoes; 3D printed dial escutcheon; Brian Murtsell & Les Mitchell for fabricating the speaker grill ribs; George Gorczyński for reproduction labels & decals.

A full step by step report will appear on the SPARC Radio Museum website or visit www.sqcra.org to view all the entries.

BEFORE



AFTER



Limited edition Hats



A very limited number of promotional SPARC hats are available for purchase. These black "never-need-washing", all cotton hats have a distinctive white embroidered logo. One size fits all .. fully adjustable. Price ... \$ 25.00 .

Available June 28th & 29th at the museum, as well, are our original "T" shirts for a clearance price of \$ 10.00

Diamond Anniversaries



This year marks the 60th birthday, more or less, of two technologies: colour television broadcasting and commercial stereo recording.

The first National Television System Committee (NTSC) was formed in 1940 and came up with the black-and-white television standard. When "radio with pictures" was being developed in the 1920s and 1930s, engineers had one basic goal: to make a picture with good detail, sharpness, brightness and contrast.

Experiments with colour TV in the late 1940's however, added a new element and it became clear that any system of broadcasting colour pictures would pose a problem for all those black-and-white televisions. The Columbia Broadcasting System came up with a colour system that worked extremely well in every area except one -- its picture could not be viewed properly on non-colour sets. The CBS design had many supporters. CBS's rival, the Radio Corporation of America, figured out a way to send out a colour signal that would still be displayed properly in black-and-white on B & W sets. It was no mean engineering feat in the day, to develop a colour signal that would be compatible with the B & W sets then in use. The composite-video signal was born.

The original B&W signal had only to convey brightness, or luminance, while the colour signal had to also include a continuous range of hues and degrees of saturation, which together make up chrominance. The chrominance signal was modulated in two ways instead of one. The phase of this signal conveys the hue, while its amplitude conveys a colour's degree of saturation. It was a brilliant compromise, at least in theory. Black-and-white sets -- which lacked the special circuit needed to split the two elements -- would respond only to the brightness part of the signal. Colour

TV sets would take the signal and separate the colour and brightness sections to achieve a colour picture.

The second National Television System Committee was formed in January 1950 and final proposals for a compatible system were approved in December 1953. RCA had invested millions in development and David Sarnoff, chairman of RCA or "The General" as he was known, exerted his considerable influence. In 1942, upon hearing of the attack on Pearl Harbour, he sent a telegram to the White House: "All our facilities are ready and at your instant service. We await your commands". The RCA system prevailed and it was then decreed that this system had to be used in all colour sets manufactured and sold in the US.

The governments of Canada and Japan fell into step. Canada had no choice, because a considerable amount of public viewing at that time -- the early 1950s -- came across the border from US stations. Japan made its choice under pressure from the United States.

In March of 1954, RCA released the first large production model colour television, the CT-100. It sold for \$995 --- five times the price of a black and white set. It was quickly superseded by less expensive sets from RCA as well as many competitors. It was still a slow acceptance as very few hours of colour programming were available.



In practice, RCA's design was flawed. The two signals didn't get along well together. What colour television viewers saw was a picture in which the colours changed as the image got brighter or darker. What's more, the brightness of a scene changed along with the colour. Critics quickly changed the name of the NTSC system to **Never Twice the Same Colour**, and engineers fumed.

Colour television didn't officially arrive in Canada until 1966, when both the CBC and CTV networks started regular colour programming. Again, adoption was slowed by the cost of the sets, approximately \$ 6000 in today's dollars.

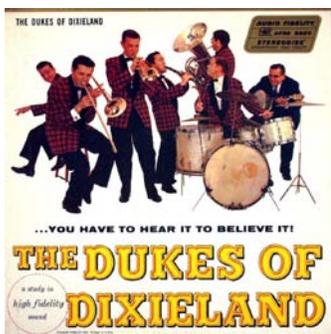
Triva question: -

What opening **graphic** did the CBC use to introduce its first colour broadcasts ?

Technology has greatly improved the results compared with the early colour broadcasts and the NTSC composite video signal has been the standard for all analog consumer media until the advent of present day digital video signals.

Earlier in March 1954, the same month the CT-100 was rolling off assembly lines, RCA's music division held two of its first stereo recording sessions with Fritz Reiner conducting the Chicago Symphony in Richard Strauss's tone poems Ein Heldenleben and Also sprach Zarathustra. Although these were not the very first stereo recordings, they have been hailed as phonographic classics, both for the performances and leading edge sonics. First released in stereo on the short lived open-reel pre-recorded tape format, they were again released via the stereo long play record in 1958.

The first four mass-produced stereo discs available to the public were released in March 1958 by a small independent label: Audio Fidelity Records ; Marching Along with the Dukes of Dixieland, Johnny Puleo and his Harmonica Gang, Railroad – Sounds of a Vanishing Era and Lionel Hampton and his Orchestra. Great care was taken with these early recordings to emphasize the stereo effect.



Renewing Riverview

A public consultation process initiated by



A series of open houses taking place in 2014

1. Collect ideas (completed)
2. Create goals
3. Ideas for a Vision
4. Present and confirm the vision

May 24

Dogwood Pavilion, Mike Butler Room
624 Poirier Street, Coquitlam
2:00 pm to 6:00 pm (drop-in)
Enter off Winslow Avenue

& May 28

Kyle Centre, 125 Kyle Street, Port Moody
4:30 pm to 7:30 pm (drop-in)
Enter off St. Andrews Street



Keep over 160 species of trees or market housing?

www.renewingriverview.com

Submit your on-line comments and ideas. Let your voice be heard

Annual General Meeting Highlights

February 2nd 2014

Chaired by Gerry O'Hara, President

Voting members in attendance – 24

Paid up memberships – 90

Income for 2013 - \$ 14,055

Expenses for 2013 - \$ 11, 332

Repair and Restoration work contributed the major portion of our income. After parts and supplies costs, net revenue was \$ 4,700.

Movie & TV prop rental income - \$ 1,611

Swap meet sales income - \$ 2,043

SPARC was not eligible for the Community Gaming Grant in 2013. We had more than 50% of previous years operating expenses as cash on hand. Similarly, we are in the same financial position for 2014.

Seven directors elected as per notice of meeting. Barb Boman welcomed as a new director.

New business-

- Directors agreed to meet formally on a more regular basis
- e-mail is now used for notices to members
- Colin Stevens, retired archivist from the New Westminster Historical Society, had visited the museum and provided ideas for managing inventory, website development, valuing the collection, tracking items on loan, rentals, and displays.
- Continue to follow up and provide representation into the Riverview Lands planning process.

- Coquitlam Amateur Radio Club, occupying the same building, have a new three year lease.
- AGM concluded.

Strategic Planning

Following the Annual General Meeting, and with knowledge of the new long term lease for the Radio Club, the directors began developing a Strategic Plan for the next 3 to 5 year period.

It is meant to be a 'living document' that can be updated and modified over time - especially the schedule, as those implementing the plan are part-time volunteers with limited spare time, family commitments, and demanding jobs. Most of us would really prefer "playing" with radios rather than managing the Museum.

The Plan is 'interim' as it develops only the strategy to stage the Museum for an eventual move, but which, as a byproduct, provides more rigor to the Museum's processes, reduces risk, increases efficiency and enhances the visitor experience.

In order to work towards the desired state, the proposed is suggested to be undertaken –

Create an efficient artifact identification and tracking system for items on loan to us, items loaned to other museums, rentals.

Identify and secure insurance for rare / historic high value items and provide security for same.

Remove clutter from the display "theme" areas, such that its possible to rotate or refresh these areas, increase interest through interactive displays and improve access for visitors.

Revisit the society constitution to better define our purpose and mission. It has been too broad, allowing us to accept virtually any piece of equipment and has contributed to the present state.

Create a triage plan to quickly deal with donated items on a timely basis.

To be continued

The **S.P.A.R.C. Newsletter** is published by The Society for Preservation of Antique Radio in Canada, for all interested in preserving the heritage of early vintage radio and communications technology.

Production Credits

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The 2014 Society Executive

Gerry O'Hara / Director - President
Jurgen Peterat / Director - Secretary
Bruce Winter / Director - Treasurer
Barb Boman / Director
Craig Marston / Director
Brian Murtsell / Director
Peter Trill / Director

Conservation is not just protecting the environment, it's about protecting our cultural heritage as well. This includes preserving items that have played a significant part in our history so future generations may benefit from direct contact and knowledge about them.

Dates for your calendar

CVRS – Swap Meet, **June 1st** 12 till 2 pm
Charles Rummel Park, Burnaby

Open House / Field Day **June 28th & 29th**
at SPARC museum

Antique Radio Swap Meet, **August 17th**
Puget Sound Antique Radio Association
Shoreline, Washington

2014 Tree Fest – Saturday, **September 13th**
on the Riverview grounds.

S.P.A.R.C. is a registered charity under the laws of the Province of British Columbia, a member of the BC Museums Association and the BC Historical Federation.

Museum correspondence

c/o Gerry O'Hara

1529 Eagle Mountain Drive
Coquitlam, B. C. V3E 2Z3

Memberships :

Annual membership cost is \$ 20.00

Cheques may be sent to :

SPARC Memberships c/o
4757 London Green
Delta, B. C. V4K 4X1
Canada

Museum Hours :

Sundays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The museum is located on the Riverview Hospital Grounds, Coquitlam, British Columbia. Take exit 44 from Highway #1 onto the Lougheed Highway or from Coquitlam Centre, travel South on the Lougheed Hwy. Enter the grounds by turning at the Colony Farm Road traffic light. Follow Holly Drive, turning up the hill at Oak Crescent. See you there !

Phone : (604) 777-1885

e-mail : radiomuseum@telus.net

website:

www3.telus.net/radiomuseum

SPARC acknowledges the support provided by the City of Coquitlam and the Government of British Columbia.