

## International Restoration Recap

The Mid Atlantic Antique Radio Club (MAARC) presented us a visually spectacular battery operated set, an Atwater Kent 768Q. M. Lozier begins his report with an exposé on his vision of a restoration at museum level. In consequence appearance is everything in order to show what such a radio really looked like coming out of the manufacture. Non visible parts have kept their appearance and left pretty much untouched, most wires were left as is except for more visible ones which were replaced in as much original look as possible. Rare and special 'Air Cell' batteries were reproduced, a process which took M. Lozier many years of research and dedicated work.

Unfortunately, the report lacked pictures of the cabinet before restoration (we could only witness it's stripped state) and not enough of the chassis at start in order to properly evaluate it. This penalizes the score quite a lot as approximately a third of points awarded is for the state of the radio as found. However, a good picture of under the chassis showed the badly dried wiring which the contestant chose not to touch for historical preservation. The cabinet restoration and the batteries reproduction are excellent demonstrating museum quality work. All these elements combined relegated this radio's score at the bottom. Still a stunning radio.



The French association Club Histoire et Collection Radio (CHCR) entered the contest with an American Zenith Zenette cathedral style radio by member Walter Krieg which is at his second participation in this contest. This radio which was not a real basket case still needed a fair amount of work in order to look and perform closer to what it was when new. So out of the ordinary work was executed on damaged coils, rewind with authentic original look. Small pictures made it difficult for the panel of judges to properly evaluate the scope of the work done. Good technical work was done to get the set going again. A video would have allowed the judges to witness the working set. In any case, a pretty radio came back to life. Good work on the part of M. Krieg.



Fig 3



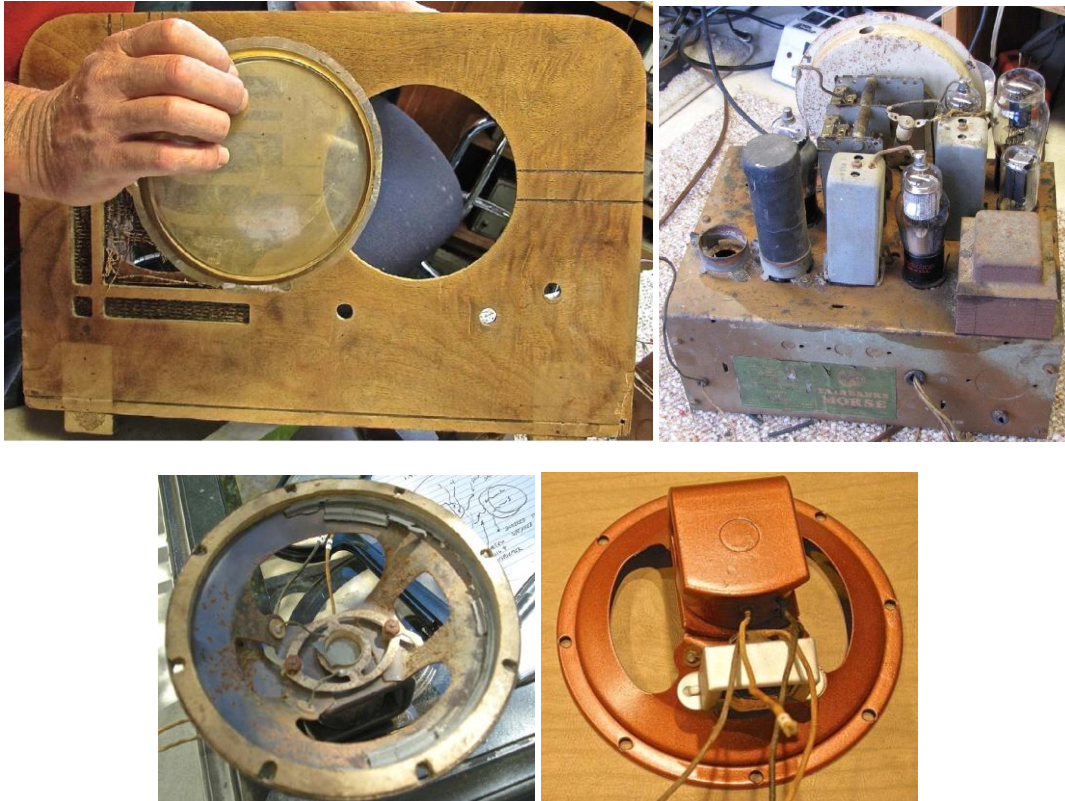
Fig 2



The California Historical Radio Society (CHRS) and its member Chris Farwell presented us a Fairbanks Morse 5C table radio.

Right off the bat, the report shows us big clear pictures of the radio before the work began which allowed the judges to make a proper evaluation of the task at hand to make it a radio again. The speaker in particular proved to be a challenge on its' own.

For the cabinet, M. Farwell decided to apply a new veneer on the existing front, glued with woodworkers glue, dried applying heat with an iron. Good woodworking skills were necessary for the grills' fine details. For the finish, grain filling and sprayed lacquer, sanding between layers yielded excellent results.



Luckily, the chassis originally sported a hammered paint scheme which was well reproduced, saving the fastidious work of replating. Reproduced stickers complete the aesthetics of the chassis.

Electronically, a replacement of the power transformer was necessary. All capacitors were replaced and all resistors checked for tolerance, most checking out. A proper alignment and excellent sound came out of the speaker witnessed by a video.

The very nice dial is a reproduction and gives pride to the set.



This excellent work fetched the fifth place, but only three points away from the grand winner!

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The New Zealand Vintage Radio Society (NZVRS) came up with another American set, a Philco 89E. Now this is a definitive basket case. Final results demonstrate above average work. Remaking the face plate, the replated chassis and speaker are highlights of this restoration. Those who've worked on Philcos' of that era know well the tar filed, Bakelite encapsulated capacitors which needed replacement are a task to restore. Resistors kept their original look and replaced wire was cotton covered.



The polyurethane finish even if good looking was criticized by many judges. Modern products should be avoided if old style products still exist like Shellac and lacquers.



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The SQCRA, your host for this contest presented a Radiola in extreme poor shape. Reproduction of many wood parts was necessary as they were missing or scrap. Judges recognized this and points award reflected this for the cabinet. The repainted chassis did not prove to be a tough challenge and a lack of photos of the underside of the chassis was noticed and marked down.

With the participant conceding that the set did not perform perfectly plus video lacking made the set lose points on that criteria, ranking in fourth place.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> place

For a first time, NVHR from the Netherlands presented us the only European set, an Erres KY159 from 1936. Again, no initial pictures prevented the judges from scoring adequately on the 'as found' cabinet criteria.

The highlights of this restoration is without a doubt the labour involved in removing every single piece of electronics from the chassis in order to fix heavy oxidation caused by chemicals from the perforated electrolytic capacitor cans.



More than 350 photos were taken during dismantling in order to replace every single component and wires in the exact same spot and position just like initially. God videos allowed for everyone to witness the proper working of the set.

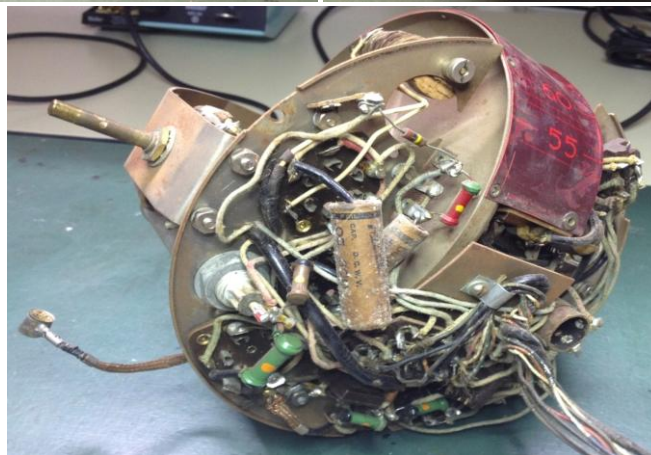
Another neat trick is the fabrication of aluminum molds in order to recreate tar capacitor envelopes concealing new ones. Identification was added like the old ones.

Overall a great restoration and well deserved position.

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### **Newcomer takes second position!**

Nice presentation from the Belgium association Limburgse Radiovriend and their member M. David Agresti with Colonial Globe radio. Bakelite being relatively easy to repair, usually, has had quite a challenge because of the shape and technique used. M. Agresti used the Bakelite from a donor radio with similar color and reduced it in a powder. For the shape, clay was used and pressed against a good part of the globe and hardened in position to fix the shape in the clay. Removed it was applied to the large gaping hole. Then the hole was filed with a mixture of the Bakelite and glue in excessive amount. Once dried, sanding and polishing completed the structural repair. Continents were reproduced using a gold ink pen and looks as good as new when done.





Many parts were missing, so machining and sheet steel workmanship were necessary to reproduce them. The work is quite stunning. Moreover, more electronic parts were missing and a second radio from a friend was used to figure out what was missing, measure and copy the other parts. Original capacitors were stuffed with new ones.

M. Agresti's drive to go ahead with such a project was heightened because of pessimistic comments from his entourage that restoring such a radio was even possible.

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### **And the winner is...**

The Society for Preservation of Antique Radio in Canada (SPARC) located in a museum in British Columbia with a team effort went on to present us a peculiar Silvertone 4766 wood table radio. With its telephone dial and curved shapes and large size, it makes an unusual radio.

Extensive work was necessary to restore the rough cabinet. The very dirty chassis received all the necessary cleaning and a lot of attention to details was applied to the capacitors, originals stuffed with new ones in order to put it back to work and keep the original look.

One of the strongest points and novel technique of all the entries was the reproduction of the escutcheon surrounding the round lens. As many people know, this type of plastic was non durable, twisted and broke with time. The unstable formula which had faux wood motifs is very hard to reproduce and reproductions are seldom seen from the resellers. One of the members had access to a 3D printer and worked to reproduce this complex shaped piece. It's really fun to see the latest technology come to the rescue of the hobbyist.

The extremely dirty chassis received necessary amends to make beautiful again, detailed cap renewal with new ones going in the originals. An interesting technique was used to reproduce resistors with a fibreglass fishing pole, cut to length, stuffed and painted like the original colors make for an authentic look.



Missing pieces of wood for holding the speaker and were reproduced, copied from another set the museum has in store. Authentic finish made the cabinet stand out and the museum will benefit with this nearly brand new radio.

All in all, the judges named this radio as the grand winner for the remarkable work from this association.







Altogether, a very interesting contest, extremely tight on the scoreboard, lots of accomplished challenges, new tricks and eight radios saved from the dumpster.

The grand winner wins a one year subscription to all available newsletters and the three winners all get a commemorative plaque for their work and success.

See and read all the reports at [www.sqcra.org](http://www.sqcra.org) and follow the link to the international contest. From there you have access to the two first editions, information on how it works scorecards and criterias, updated info and the possibility to subscribe to the third edition ending on March 15, 2015.

Congratulations to all participants and associations who contribute to the preservation and knowledge of our historical heritage and radio reception.