



Don Menning passed away this month. This passing is great loss to his family and this radio collector's club

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A 12 tube Zenith chassis from 1938 not 1940



NEW MEXICO

RADIO
COLLECTORS CLUB

Next Meeting February 9th. Tube boxes, old radio books and text books, documents (manufacturer newsletters), and advertising items related to radios and broadcasting

Restoring a Zenith 12S445 Table Radio Phase I by Chuck Burch

At our last club meeting, I bought a large Zenith 12-tube table top radio which is a model 12S445 made in 1940. It had several issues, was described as a project radio, and came with another 12-tube chassis as a possible donor of needed parts. The cabinet had a nice original finish, but the back was broken with missing pieces, the wavemagnet had foil peeling off, someone had drilled a hole in the front and there was a crack in the side. Someone had placed a decorative piece to cover the hole which actually does not look bad. The crack on the side is in solid wood and would not be noticeable in displaying the radio on a shelf. My feeling is the repair of the crack could look worst that just leaving it alone. I may have a wavemagnet that could work, but I might replace the foil with a wire network. I figure I could make a new duplicate of the back out of Masonite.

I saw two concerns with the chassis. The first was the transformer as it was not firmly screwed down and was missing some screws indicating that it had been removed and might be bad. The radio uses a pair of 6X5G tube

rectifiers which were notorious for developing a short between the cathode and heater that would cause the transformer to burn out. One should avoid using 6X5G's and use later made 6X5GT's instead. I thought if the transformer was bad, the donor radio might have a good transformer plus I could probably find a suitable transformer in my stock of old transformers. When I got the radio home, I removed the chassis to get an idea of its condition. The wires on the transformer had been soldered with the connection poorly covered with tape indicating the transformer had been replaced. I disconnected all the connections. There were fortunately no shorts between the windings or to the case. I applied power to the transformer, and at least with no load, the transformer was supplying the correct voltages. Further testing will wait until the electronic restoration is finished.

The second concern dealt with the knob assembly which consists of three parts. First is the volume control whose knob is in the front. It is connected to a 1/8" metal rod that is connected to the volume control at the

(Continued on page Six)



The NMRCC January 12th meeting

NMRCC Minutes January 12, 2020 by John Hannahs and Chuck Burch

The pre-meeting auction had many good items including some nice radios such as a 12-tube Zenith table radio, test equipment, and parts.

President David Wilson started the meeting by discussing that this Sunday was the Club's 25th anniversary. There were 19 in attendance including charter members Lars Roose, Steve Shepard, John Estock and Bob Avery. Various long-term members shared stories of the early days of the club.

It was with sadness that charter member Don Menning passed away this past December. Club members provided stories and memories of Don. Quelab member Darrel Knutson and his wife Sandy joined in the discussion. The memories were either humorous or descriptive of events and situations that made everyone glad to just know him. Don was great club member and a class act who will be missed. Below are a few of the comments:

Les Davidson described Don as "a true Mensch"; meaning a man of integrity and honor. Another referred him as a Renaissance Man and seemed to like being considered somewhat a quirky fellow.

Dave Wilson brought in his brief case which he carried books and notes taken while attending the U of NM. It was a wooden ammo box that might have originally carried hand grenades. Don was probably only one of a few who had a tree house in his back yard where the club usually met for our spring picnic. His garage was packed with electronic and mechanical goodies of all sorts. He could always explain the purpose and function of each item, whether it be a metal turning lathe or a military radio.

Mark Toppo appreciated Don because he was always the good fellow that never had issues to vent and was just a joy to be near.

Chuck Burch said Don reminded him of Roy Underhill on the PBS series the Woodwright Shop both from the way he acted and his vast knowledge on so many areas.

Richard Majestic recalled that every Christmas Don would bring his Bag of Goodies and hand out a gift to every member in attendance.

The monthly theme was FM and AM/FM tuners.

Chuck Burch brought in a 1957 Heathkit FM3 tube FM tuner which matched the Heathkit WA-P2 preamp. He also brought a Dynaco FM5 FM tuner.

Richard Majestic showed his 646 REL (Radio Engineering Labs) 646C Precedent tube tuner and discussed how Richard Sequerra used part of the tuner in the design of the Marrantz 10 FM tuner.

John Anthes showed a 1947 Pilot FM tuner and discussed how deceased charter club member Jim Stueber sold them out of his home. He then discussed some of Jim's work at Sandia and his repair business after retirement.

David Wilson showed a Sherwood tuner which is the model his father had when David was a child.

Off topic, Prescott Grey brought in a disturbance analyzer which he discussed using. He plans to donate the instrument to Quelab in memory of Don Menning.

Best of Show was awarded to Richard Majestic.

Membership Director Randy Gray announced that if you have not already done so, it was time to pay your 2020 dues of \$20 to Club Treasurer Richard Majestic. It was announced that the Winter Hamfest will occur January 25th at the Stoneface Tavern at 8201 San Pedro Dr NE in Albuquerque. Richard Majestic said that he and Les Davidson were planning two radio repair workshops this year. David Wilson said he planning to have the fall picnic at his house which will be catered by Sparky's in Hatch.

John Anthes proposed that the club make a donation to Quelab in memory of Don Menning. After some discussion, John made a formal motion of a \$500 donation that Chuck Burch seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Our next meeting is February 9 with a theme of old computers. For those who have not been to a meeting at Quelab, you really need to check it out. The auction is indoors and starts around 1:00. The location is near 7th and Haines. Parking is easy and close. There is plenty to see and do at Quelab.

NMRCC 2020 MEETINGS

January 12th 'FM tuners

February 9th. Tube boxes, old radio books and text books, documents (manufacturer newsletters), and advertising items related to radios and broadcasting

March 8th 1930s art deco radios, chrome chassis and intricate wood design radios

April 19th . Old computers, calculators, slide rules, and associated items

May 10th Spring Picnic&sale – (J.Anthes's)

June 14th Unusual Devices/Stump the Experts

- Unusual tubes, light bulbs, transistors, and radio parts. Also, who can identify that strange gizmo you found, or explain how an unusual object works?

July 12th Radio Repair Workshop with Les Davidson AA%^s

August 9th Wild Card Sunday

September 13th Radios with odd construction

October 11th Fall Ribeye Steak Picnic (Wilson's)

November 08th Radio Repair Workshop with Richard Majestic AA12s

December 13th Holiday Party & sale at Mark topo's home

NMRCC Officers for 2017

- *David Wilson: President*
- *Mark Toppo: Vice President*
- *Richard Majestic: Treasurer*
- *open Secretary*
- *Membership Randy Gray*
- *Ron Monty Director*
- *Ray Trujillo Director*
- *John Anthes Director*
- *John Hannahs*
- *Richard Majestic: Newsletter Editor*



The Holiday party 2019. Below the auction at the January 2020 meeting, fine items sold at market prices, under auctioneer chuck Burch



From the incoming 2020 President David Wilson

Happy New Year members!

As many of you know, our January 12th meeting marked the 25th Anniversary of NMRCC. Congratulation! Not many organizations make to their 25th Anniversary. Thanks to you all we did it! At the January meeting we had four of our founding members in attendance Bob Avery, Steve Shepard, John Estock and Lars Roose who we recognized and thanked for their efforts to start our club. Sadly, we lost one of our most active founding members, Don Menning, in December. We took time to discuss Don as a member, a person and as a great educator at the meeting. A club like ours has many different personalities in it who contribute on all kinds of different levels. Don loved discovery of new things across the spectrum of science. His discussion items and topics were always educational, fascinating and many times had a quirky twist to them. We could always count on Don to make his presentations meaningful to the point many of us would walk away from a meeting knowing something new. Teaching you something new and interesting was one of Don's trademarks and this really helped make our meetings educational, engaging and fun. He was part of our club's DNA, its personality and he will be greatly missed.

I want to also thank our membership in attendance at the January meeting for voting to give Quelab an additional \$500 donation in Don's name. We will be presenting a check to the officers of Quelab along with a framed photo plaque to be displayed in the main room of Quelab at our next meeting. Don was very active both NMRCC and Quelab, which both groups have an educational missions. So it is a great thing to be able help support an organization that gives us not only a place to hold our meetings, but has an education mission that Don participated and strongly believed in. Thank you again NMRCC members for your support in this effort to recognize one of our great founding members who believed in making our world a better place through education!

In closing, I look forward to being your president again. One of my goals this year is make our 2020 as very special 25th Anniversary year. I hope to put together some fun and interesting events in the spirit of Don Menning.

David Wilson

This link will make your head spin: <http://www.stantons-auctions.com/auction/359913/large-quality-3-day-estate-auction-thurs-friday-saturday-march-5-6-7th-2020/>

Here's that email with info on Don's remembrance gathering his son is having at Don's home on Saturday Feb 29th, 4pm-10pm, for a friends of Don to gather and share their stories about Don.

Thanks!

David

Dear Adric,

Thank you for reaching out to our club and it's members regarding your father's remembrance gathering on February 29th. I'm deeply sorry for your loss. Your father's passing is very big loss to the New Mexico Radio Collectors Club as well. As you probably already know your father helped start our club 25 years ago. Over the years he also contributed to club on so many different levels, sharing his great knowledge and passion with us for all kinds of things; some radio related an some not. Don was part of the club's DNA, he help mold our club programs into the great educational experiences. It's very hard to imagine the club with out him.

Let us know if there is anything our club members can help you with. We will bring up your father's remembrance gathering in our February NMRCC newsletter that goes out to our members.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

David Wilson
President of NNRCC

Thank you for including the radio club members in your plans. We will really enjoy swapping tales about your dad. There are max 60 in our club with maybe 15 or so out of town. If an all members forward of your invitation there may be about 15-20 that may attend your generous offer.

For his thinking have Cc'd our 2020 NMRCC President David Wilson whose home is in Las Cruces.

Best Regards,

John, Dr Opto

- > I've blocked out Saturday Feb 29th (leapday), 4pm-10pm, for a friends of Don to Gather
- > at his home, 2700 Ross ave SE, Albuquerque NM 87106
- >
- > We will be swapping stories, and all, some snacks and food and beverages will be supplied, but mostly BYO.
- >
- > Feel free to invite other folk who knew him.
- >

HOY ! HOY!

In Memory of Don Menning

Don Menning always answered his cell phone with the same exuberant outburst!

I always looked forward to his standard greeting on every occasion that I thought to give him a call. We could then launch into a 5-10 minute conversation that started with the topic regarding my need to speak to Don. But then, typically, we could wander off for another 10 – 30 minutes about all things: upcoming NMRCC meetings, radios/ephemera, his stories about attending classes at the University of New Mexico with fellow (and much younger students), a location and time for a shared lunch, Politics in Washington DC, his part-time job at Ron Peterson Firearms, and upcoming events at the Quelab, etc, etc.

Known by his Handle as “Gonner” at the Quelab, Albuquerque’s “Maker Space,” Don was a highly regarded wood shop steward and instructor. And that role created many, many challenges to shepherd a seemingly endless number of members, each having a wide variety of experience levels, but highly motivated hobbyists. I was always impressed while observing these exchanges of information and his genuinely gentle but firm guiding direction.

Very importantly for the NMRCC, it was Don who shook us to the core. In an open letter dated August 2015 Don pronounced that “We Are All Doomed!” This alert was prompted by learning that Presbyterian Kaseman Hospital, where we had been meeting, was scheduled to undergo a many-months-long major renovation. So we were without a place for our monthly meetings. Don coordinated the “Gang of six” first for lunch and then heading to the Quelab to seek a possible solution for our dilemma. After several tours of Quelab the option was voted on by members during our monthly meeting to relocate and was accepted. We’ve enjoyed and appreciate that location ever since.

Early in 2019, Even though I was vaguely aware that he was dealing with some health concerns, I decided to phone Don to ask whether he was open to hosting the May 19th Spring 2019 Picnic, visit to his house and collections, and auction. Again. “Yes, of course!” he responded with enthusiasm. And, once again, we enjoyed his generous willingness in opening his home for us. And now that we have lost Don, I expect each of us will recall our personal interactions and fond memories. Good Bye Don. ~John A.



Clockwise from left are: John Estock, Ron Monte, Chuck Burch, Jim Hanlon, Anthes, Hosted by Don Menning.



Don in December 2014 with his home made RDF



2016 holiday party at Topo’s home ; Lynn Topo, R. Harris and Don

other end. Second is the tuning knob which is behind the volume knob. It is connected to a hollow brass tube which has the volume control shaft inside. Connected to the tuning shaft inside the chassis are a flywheel and a wheel that moves the tuning belt which drives the tuning capacitor. The third is the band selector lever which is connected to a pot metal piece that is hollow and surrounds the tuning rod. It has two levers. One controls the band switch for selecting the desired band. The other activates the black dial mechanism which brings in and out different metal strips that contain the frequency dial for the selected band. This is the black dial assembly that Zenith radios of the late 1930s and early 1940s were so famous for.



On the 12S445, the pot metal band selector was broken into two pieces which is not uncommon to happen. I thought I could use the one from the donor chassis which appeared OK but actually was unusable as it had cracks and was deformed. Someone had tried JBWeld on the broken band selector which did not work. I thought about searching my donor chassis's for a replacement or buying a replacement that I remember Antique Electronic Supply used to sell. Since the break was quite clean, I decided I might be able to repair the broken one. There was plenty of space between the hole in the selector shaft and the tuning shaft, so I thought I might be able to insert a brass tube in the selector shaft where I could epoxy the broken parts together. In this way in turning the band selector, the stress will be on the inserted tube rather than the glued-together break in the pot metal. I had a brass tube that fit snugly inside the main part of the shaft but I could only get it part way into the part that had broken off. The break with the two pieces fit quite well together when the two pieces were connected on the tubing. It turned out I was unable to get the tubing out of the broken off piece but it was so tight I thought it would be OK. I cut the tubing to length and pull off the main shaft. I applied a thin coat of epoxy on the tubing and more on the place of the break, slid the main shaft on the tubing and applied more epoxy on the exposed parts of the break and where I could on the other piece. The results looked good.



The tuning shaft was bent and worst yet, the portion of the tube that the tuning knob is attached was broken off and inside the knob. The break was exactly at where the tuning knob was placed so using a sleeve to reconnect the two pieces would interfere with tuning knob. I considered several ways of using the old shaft and adding a longer piece at the end to hold the knob. I decided I would first try to make a replacement tuning shaft out of brass tubing I had. I had a piece the exact diameter of old shaft but it was thinner. I had another brass tube that fit snugly inside the other tubing which resulted in the two combined tubes being slightly thicker than the original piece, but it would still allow the volume control shaft to fit. The original shaft had slot in it where a C-ring was used to lock the shaft in place. To duplicate the slot, I simply had to leave a properly-sized gap in the outer tube. I cut the tubes a little longer than the original, put a light coating of epoxy on the inner tube, and slid on the outer tube leaving space for the C-ring gap. After the epoxy set, I ground down the ends to get the exact size of the original shaft. The results produce a perfect match to the original.

I then put together the three knob assembly which looked great. The original belt for the tuning capacitor was shot so I made new one using rubber tubing I got many years ago from Alan Jespersion's Great Northern Vintage Radios. After in-

stalling the black dial assembly, everything worked well.

Another mechanical problem I found was the pushbutton on-off was not working. It turned out a piece prohibiting side movement of a lever on the switch was broken resulting in the lever moving around instead of moving the switch. The broken piece was part of insulation material for the tone se-



lection panel which I felt repairing would be difficult and likely eventually break. I thought I could use the piece from the donor set, but it was broken even worse than the 12S445 piece. I considered various solutions, and found I could insert a nail between the levers and the bracket holding the switch which would hold the levers exactly as needed. I cut the nail to proper size and epoxied it to the bracket which provided the needed repair. I feel the modified retainer is better than what Zenith originally did.

Now with the mechanical repairs of the chassis complete, I am in position to do the electronic restoration of the chassis as I do not need the wavemagnet for the set to work. Before starting that restoration though, I first need to completed work on a Zenith 6s230 and another radio already started. Restoration of the rest of the 12S445 could be a story for a future newsletter article.



To be continued

Another take on our January 2020 NMRCC meeting

Arrive at the Q lab around noon every second Sunday of the month and you won't be disappointed. The place is near the intersection of I -40 and 4th street; near one of Albuquerque's semi seedy industrial areas. But the good news is parking is easy,

plenty of room inside, all the AV equipment is nearby, auctions are indoors, and there is plenty to see and do. This Sunday happened to be the Club's 25th anniversary and was attended by 15 members. A few charter members, such as Lars ??? who spent some money buying up auction bargains and sharing stories of yesteryear.

The sad story was that charter member Don Menning passed away this past December 27th. Les Davidson describes Don as "a true Mensch"; meaning a man of integrity and honor. Another referred him as a Renaissance Man, both being correct. Yes he was also a quirky fellow. Dave Wilson brought in his brief case which he carried books and notes taken while attending the U of NM. It was a wooden ammo box that might have originally carried hand grenades. Don was probably only one of a few who had a tree house in his back yard where the club always met for our spring picnic. The garage was packed with electronic and mechanical goodies of all sorts. He could always explain the purpose and function of each item, whether it be a metal turning lathe or a military radio.

Mark Toppo appreciated Don because he was always the good fellow that never had issues to vent and was just a joy to be near. Everyone agreed.

Oh yes, more stories were told; Richard told one, but you had to be there. They were either humorous or descriptive of events and situations that made me glad to just know him. Every Christmas Don would bring his Bag of Goodies and hand out a gift to every member in attendance ...class act, right? I noticed some folks who had damp eyes.

John Hannahs



NEW MEXICO RADIO COLLECTORS CLUB

New Mexico Radio Collectors Club

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FOR INFORMATION CHECK THE INTERNET
<http://www.newmexicoradiocollectorsclub.com/>



The New Mexico Radio Collectors Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 in order to enhance the enjoyment of collecting and preservation of radios for all its members.

NMRCC meets the second Sunday of the month at The Quelab at 680 Haines Ave NW, Albuquerque NM Tailgate sale at 1:00PM meetings start at 2:00 pm. Visitors Always Welcomed.

NMRCC NEWSLETTER

THIS PUBLICATION IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW MEXICO RADIO COLLECTORS CLUB. INPUT FROM ALL MEMBERS ARE SOLICITED AND WELCOME ON 20TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH. RICHARD MAJESTIC PRO-TEMP NEWSLETTER EDITOR, SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS IN WORD FORMAT, PICTURES IN *.JPG FORMAT TO: RMAJESTIC@MSN.COM

USPS Stamp

1933/35 Majestic 161 Chrome-Front and 1935 Zenith Radios

They look very similar don't they. In 1935, Zenith bought the large Grigsby Grunow plant after they went belly-up in late 1934 and this kicked off Zenith's growth era.

The Zenith 809 is a very desirable tombstone radio from 1935. This particular radio is in excellent condition with the original speaker grille and cloth. The radio was probably refinished years ago. It plays like new with good reception on BC and SW. with a piece of wire for an antenna. This is a 3 band radio with BC, SW and police band.

This particular radio purchased by me totally restored or at least that's what I was told.

~ R. Majestic

