



FALL - WINTER 2009

CHRS *Signal*

FOR THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF EARLY RADIO AND RADIO BROADCASTING

The Things we did Last Summer

LIVE AT KRE WAS A SMASH HIT!

Hanging out and bagging bargains

CHRS SWAP MEETS

KRE - a busy place

WORK, PLAY AND MORE!



Plus

MAJOR NEWS ABOUT CHRS

TWO RADIO PRESERVATION SOCIETIES JOIN FORCES

A WIN/WIN SITUATION

BIG NEWS FOR CHRS by Steve Kushman

This happened just recently. Our pals at the Bay Area Radio Museum are becoming part of the CHRS Family. Pending the signing of the official papers, the Bay Area Radio Museum, (BARM), (<http://www.bayarearadio.org/>) and the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame, (BARHOF), (<http://www.bayarearadio.org/hof/>) will merge with, and become part of the California Historical Radio Society. Your Board of Directors approved the merger on December 5th. Also, BARM founder David Jackson was voted to be our ninth CHRS Board member and will remain as the BARM Curator. The online Museum & Hall of Fame will operate as they do now, but under the CHRS umbrella. We will begin to create the actual Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame on the walls of Studio A in the KRE building.

For those who do not know about the Bay Area Radio Museum, it has been lovingly created and maintained online by David Jackson. David has been assisted by Len Shapiro and Steve Van Someren. Together they have built an extensive online archive of stories, pictures and audio clips of the Bay Area stations and personalities that make this place so important to radio. They have also created the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame online, which honors those individuals and stations that have contributed to our rich broadcasting history.

We warmly welcome David, Len & Steve and the BARM & the BARHOF as members of the CHRS Family. Their

addition really makes us a much more complete organization. What a perfect fit. For the most part, the main focus of CHRS has always been the equipment and the technology of radio. Now, as we add the personalities and the programming to our resources, we can reach out to a much broader audience for support.

For our skeptics, let me assure you that the CHRS you know and love will not change. Since the BARM is self sustaining for now and has a relatively low operating cost, there will not be a financial burden on CHRS. This merger will not effect our swap meets or other activities. What it will do, is provide our members opportunities to do some really cool stuff. We will need volunteers to transfer thousands of hours of historic audio tape to a digital format, (This can be done at KRE or can be taken home and done on your own gear). It's a lot of fun to hear this vintage material as it is transferred. We need people to interview and record broadcasters, and other people related to radio, as part of our Living History Project, (Let's get their history while they are still



David Jackson (center) with Terry McGovern (L) and Alex Bennett (R)



**A Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame
award ceremony in Emeryville**

living). These recordings will be archived on the BARM site. We need people to scan ephemera, photos and other material. We need researchers and writers. And, finally we need people who are interested in creating the actual Hall of Fame in our studio. Which includes, printing and framing photos, creating text for each, mounting and maintaining them in a gallery layout on our studio walls. Please contact CHRS at kushseal@flash.net or BARM at david.jackson@bayarearadio.org if you have any questions or would like to help with this project. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss BARM operations

with all interested volunteers in the near future. CHRS is honored to be entrusted with the valuable archives contained in the BARM. We are very excited about continuing the good work of the Bay Area Radio Museum and seeing it flourish as part of the California Historical Radio Society. As David Jackson said at our meeting regarding the merger, "This is not a hostile take over, it's more like a group hug".



**1943
TV without pictures**

LIVE AT KRE - 2009

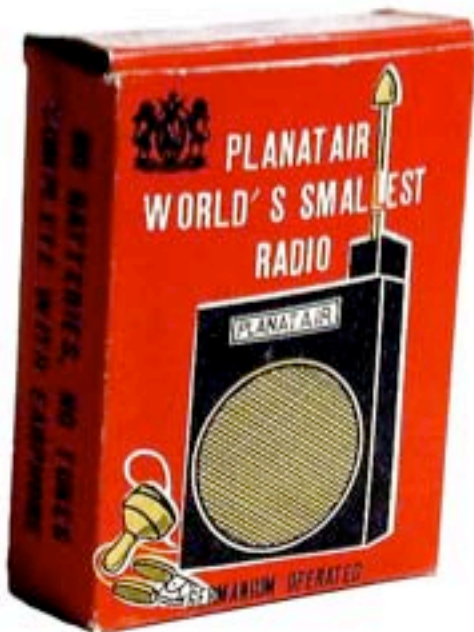
Our annual event, LIVE at KRE, was a huge success. Here are some photos of the hard-working CHRS volunteers preparing for the event, and some glimpses of the big day itself.

CHRS president Steve Kushman ties it all up with the attendance and financial figures and the cast of characters who worked so hard to make it all happen.

PREPARATIONS



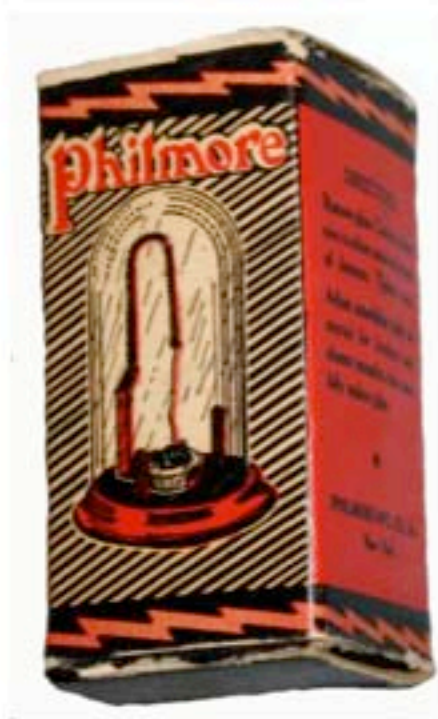
Jerry Cantou gets plenty of help dusting off and repairing the shade canopy for this year's event



The chairs and stage arrive on Friday



Steve Kushman explains how the stage and speaker risers are to be set up



Bill Wray scares up a "mess of chili"



The gates are about to open. Steve Kushman gives last-minute instructions to volunteers



THE EVENT



Beautiful weather for our bash on the shore of "Lake KRE"



Master of ceremonies Carter B. Smith spins some platters at the KRE board



1945 newscast recreated by Ken Ackerman and Al Hart



The sweet sounds of Bill DeKuiper and The Hot House Swing Band



George Conklin videotapes the festivities



Diamonds in the rough to be found in the flea market sales section



Fred Meehan works the till as flea market orphans find new homes



Reina Swart takes care of business in the CHRS gift shop



Auctioneer Paul Bourbin looks for bidders as Dave Harris displays a 1930s beauty



Auction table staff Janice Kushman, Jaime Arbona, and Elsa Trexler watch the bidding get underway



Live radio play “The KQW Story”

CHRS Live! at KRE 2009 Cast of Characters

Master of Ceremonies.....	Carter B. Smith
Auctioneers.....	Mike Adams, Paul Bourbin
Musical Selections.....	Bill DeKuiper and The Hot House Swing Band
The KQW Story.....	Mike Adams, Director - Ken Ackerman, Producer
The Cast.....	Peter Cleaveland, Stan Bunger, Ed Vasgersian, Alan Young, Matt Elmore, Steve Kushman
Sound Effects.....	Bart Lee, John Staples
Spark Transmitter.....	Paul Bourbin
1945 Newscasters.....	Al Hart, Ken Ackerman
Sound.....	Dan, Mike, and Clem Healy
Stage Manager.....	Rod Wentler
Auction Staff.....	Jaime Arbona, Janice Kushman, Elsa Trexler, Gary Speer
Cooks.....	Bill Wray, Julie Bonomo, Kathy Tucker, Tina Shinn
Auction Corral.....	Rich Lane, Eddie Enriquez
CHRS Store.....	Robert & Reina Swart and Walt Hayden
Video.....	George Conklin
Flea Market.....	Tom Bonomo, Dale Tucker, Fred Meehan
Gate.....	Bob Beckman, Rich Beckman
Ham Shack.....	Paul Shinn
Control Room.....	Paul Black
Safety Officer.....	Larry Drees
Shade Canopy.....	Jerry Cantou
Front Door Attendants.....	Dave Abernathy, Jim Bradt
Auction Attendants.....	Scott Robinson, John Staples, Dennis Monticelli, Al Norman, Lou Rinaldi, Butch McDonald, Dave Harris, Matt Thompson, Butch McDonald, Robby Weinberg, Dave Billeci, Robin Spalding
Raffle.....	Heather Weinberg
Microphone & fan display.....	Ekkehart Willms
The Green Hour.....	Harry & Kim Osibin
Bay Area Radio Museum.....	David Jackson, Len Shapiro, Steve Van Someren
Event Producer.....	Steve Kushman

SO STEVE, HOW'D WE DO?



Another Big Party has come and gone and you made it happen. Everything was good. The auction was tremendous, The KQW Story was an important piece of history relived, the Hot House Band had the crowd tapping their toes and the Flea Market, food, and all the other attractions including the KRE building were a hit! Again, thanks to all!

Attendance: 242
Auction participants: 72
Gross receipts for the event: \$17,130
Gross Auction receipts: \$10,745
Flea Market: \$1305
After expenses, auction pay outs, etc.
Net Profit for CHRS: \$9,025



A Tale of Two Swap Meets

On October 3rd, the Central Valley Chapter of CHRS held their swap meet at the fairgrounds in Turlock. Then, on November 7th, the KRE facility hosted another such gathering.

These events are not only for buying and selling radios and other electronic gear. They also provide an opportunity for members to share information, make new friends, and catch up with old ones.

Turlock





Berkeley





Busy Times at KRE

CHRS is very fortunate to have a core of dedicated, hard-working volunteers who have worked tirelessly to transform an empty, derelict building into a functional facility.

The projects not only include improvement of the building, both inside and out, but also the ongoing development of the Maxwell Library, as well as asset inventory and involvement with the local educational community.

Members are encouraged to show up on our workdays. Not only are there jobs of all kinds that need doing, but group spirit and a few giggles are served up too.



Hard-working Dave Harris sorts magazines for
The Maxwell Library at KRE



Walt Hayden tackles the slow and tedious job
of removing the old floor from the upstairs bathroom



Butch McDonald and Larry Drees
prep and prime KRE



"Is my patient ready, nurse?"
Friend of CHRS Michael Del Prete loaned us spraying gear and helped paint the rear of KRE



Rich McCall scrapes off years of paint and grime on the KRE front steps



Richard Watts meticulously inventories the CHRS collection. He's up to 800 items, with no end in sight



Second story man Steve Kushman rises to the task on painting day



Color-coordinated Larry Drees shows off his 1941 Cadillac at KRE

A vintage-style advertisement for a 'RADIO-TV TUBE TESTER'. At the top, it says 'NEW! EASY TO USE!' and 'RADIO-TV TUBE TESTER'. Below that, a cartoon man points to a lamp and a toaster, with the text 'Cuts down on service calls! ...Saves you time and money!'. The bottom section shows the physical device with various dials and buttons, and a grid of icons representing different tube types. Text on the device includes 'TEST and REPAIR TV & RADIO SETS APPLIANCES' and 'IMPORTANT! SEE OTHER SIDE!'.

"Can't wait to test my lamp and toaster!"



Mike Adams offers consolation to Zoey in her "cone-finement"



Steve Kushman gives a tour of KRE to a group of students from Diablo Valley College



Window to the world



Butch McDonald takes on some thankless prep work at KRE

CHRS News - from the President

by Steve Kushman



I'm pleased to report that our favorite vintage radio society is doing just fine. 2009 was another great year for CHRS. We made good progress in many areas. CHRS continues to be one of the premier organizations of its kind thanks to passionate and dedicated volunteers and generous donors.

Events & Activities

2009 saw a resurgence in swap meet enthusiasm. The attendance by buyers and sellers has really been picking up, especially at the events held at KRE. And, we are very encouraged by the number of people who have been staying after the meets for our guest speakers, films or panel discussions. Our "Radio Activity" Days at KRE continue to be quite successful. The radio repair clinics are a hit and the days have been well attended. Our work / fun days at KRE have also been well attended by our dedicated volunteers. Come by and lend a hand. You will be happy you did! "LIVE! at KRE 2009" was another successful fund raising event for CHRS. It took many people to make it happen and we thank them for all their help. They are acknowledged in this edition of the "Signal".

The 2009 Charles D. 'Doc' Herrold Award

"For Outstanding Achievement in the Preservation and Documentation of Early Radio". We are pleased to announce that CHRS Lifetime Member **Richard Majestic** is our 2009 Herrold Award recipient. Richard, who lives in New Mexico, is the President of the New Mexico Radio Collectors Club. Richard is also the NMRCC Newsletter editor, and a prolific writer of articles on vintage radio. In Richard's absence, the award was presented on December 5th, to his long time friend **Dale Tucker**. Congratulations, Richard, and keep up the good work.

Recognizing our Donors

Our Restoration & Museum Fund continues to grow. The following people have donated at least \$1000 to this fund in 2009. We say thank you to **Jack Bethards, George Patterson, Jim Chanin** and **Gilles Vrignaud** for their generous donations. It's gratifying to have members who see the value of what we are doing and have enough faith in CHRS and this project to make these donations. Again, Thank you all!

The KRE Building

As we approach 2010 the Board of Directors feels that it's in our best interest if we try to line up our investors before we approach the owners with an offer. We will be trying to wrap up our Master Plan for potential investors to study. So, keep the phone numbers of your rich uncles handy as we try make KRE ours in 2010.

KRE Upgrades - In 2009 progress on our historic CHRS/KRE radio station building headquarters and grounds was steady. Among the project highlights was the completion of our Audio Transfer Service. We now have the ability to transfer material from electrical transcriptions & 78s, 45s, LPs, reel to reel & cassette and soon wire, to a digital format/CD.

We have lots of new wall shelving in four areas inside our building with hundreds of beautiful radios displayed. We continued to receive, prepare and install many bookcases in the Maxwell Library. The project of unpacking, sorting and shelving the Library continued. At the end of 2009 we were past the halfway point in the unpacking and sorting the 900 boxes of books and magazines. Also continuing, was the project of tube and parts sorting and organizing. The old executive washroom adjoining our shop that was converted to active tube storage and outfitted with custom shelving, is now filled with good tested and sorted boxed tubes in nice matching plastic bins. Ready for use. Our 2nd floor restroom was remodeled including rebuilding a section of the floor and creating much needed storage. Our CHRS updated equipment inventory was restarted and now continues on a regular basis in much greater detail. Many of the rooms in our historic building have come alive with the sounds of vintage audio gear, thanks to our volunteers. The CHRS / Jim Maxwell beacon W6CF/B on 28.2045 Mhz celebrated it's 1 year anniversary. Be sure to listen for it. And of course meticulous care and attention continues to be given to the items on display in the CHRS collection. Many of these items continued to be expertly restored by our volunteer members. Something else that is being expertly restored is the exterior of our historic radio station building. We finished painting the blue trim on our second story windows and have now painted the back of the building. Also, the graffiti that has adorned our front brick stairs has been removed. The building looks great. As for our landscaping. It always looks neat and trimmed. What was once an over grown mess of vegetation is now a well manicured landscape expertly maintained by dedicated CHRS volunteers. I use the word 'volunteers' a lot. But, it's the volunteers that really make CHRS work. From the delicate repair of a tiny phono cartridge to chain sawing overgrown limbs 15 feet off the ground, our volunteers do it all, and do it well. CHRS is lucky to have such passionate and dedicated people as members.

CHRS Works Well - because these people make it work. And, we cannot thank them enough. Thank you first, to our Vice President **Scott Robinson**. Scott is the person I count on most when there is something going on with CHRS that needs attention. He is always there, be it week day or week end, and is always helpful. He has been quietly repairing test gear, radios and other equipment for us as well as the being the main un-packer of Maxwell Library boxes and the CE of the repair shop. Scott is also one of the experts in our radio repair clinics. Treasurer **Jaime Arbona** does a huge job for CHRS. As well as the Treasurer's duties, Jaime also handles memberships, mailings and is the liaison with our landlord. Thank you Jaime. And thank you to Board member and W6CF Trustee **John Staples** who in 2009 dedicated many hours to finishing the restoration our vintage Gates Dualux audio console as well as getting the Audio Transfer facility completed and equipping the building with wi-fi and a fast DSL connection. John is also one of our helpful experts at our radio repair clinics and has donated 1 year's worth of DSL service to CHRS. Thank you John. **Mike Adams** our Board Chairman is also the CHRS Web master and documents CHRS events with great photographs. Thanks Mike. Thank you to Board Member **Tom Bonomo** who is working on the CHRS Master Operations Plan and also handles ordering CHRS name badges. Thank you to General Counsel Ex-Emeritus **Bart Lee** for developing the plan for the organization of the Maxwell Library. The plan was approved by the Board. Bart also established the CHRS Radioana Archive, by date, and has been sorting and filing the extensive ephemera from the Maxwell collection. It was Bart's idea & suggestion that the BARM merge with us.

And thank you to Secretary **Bill Wray** and Board Member **Amnon Fisher**. Thank you to **Art Lebermann** for offering his expertise in our radio repair clinics. **Rod Wentler**, my old pal from KGO-TV continues to do a bang up job on this "Signal". It's always full of great stuff and gives us a good view of the goings on at CHRS. Thank you Rod. **Paul Shinn** built the Maxwell beacon on 10 Meters to honor the memory of **Jim Maxwell** and continues to be involved in our expanding ham radio operations. Thank you Paul. We say thank you to our CHRS Chapter Chairmen. **Dale Tucker** is Chair of the Sacramento Chapter and **Eddie Enriquez** is Chair of the Central Valley Chapter. Dale and Eddie have help from **Bob Moore, Paul Warenycia, Rich Lane, Larry Gonzalves, Matt Thompson**, and others. Thank you all. Thanks to CHRS Librarian **Larry Clark** for providing schematics and restoring radios for us. A special note of thanks goes out to Building Operations Managers **Robert Swart** and **Walt Hayden**. Not only are they at KRE on regular weekend work days but many times you can find them at KRE during the week when there is a project that needs attention. Sometimes they are assisted by **Jim Bradt**, who has been doing a wonderful job of restoring many wooden radios for us. Also a special thank you to Landscaping Operations Managers '**Farmer**' **Larry Drees** and **Brent Hokanson** for their hard work and dedication. And then there are our Regular Volunteers. Familiar, friendly faces who are hard working members and along with staffers mentioned above, volunteer at our work days almost always. We are extremely grateful to **Butch McDonald, Maria Palting, Jerry Cantou, Al Norman, Dave Harris, Elsa Trexler, Rich & Lea McCall, Dennis Monticelli, Hil Hampton, Gilles Vrignaud** and **Richard Watts**, who is tackling our inventory project. We also wish to thank those volunteers who help out on a more occasional basis. They are **George Conklin, Joe Grossman, Steve Webster, Greg Jones, Will Rayment, Jim Weidler, Jon Pszenitzki, Larry Williams** and **Lou Rinaldi**. Also thanks to friends of CHRS, **Mike Del Prete** and **Robert Forstner**. Both helped to paint our building. If I have forgotten to mention anyone, my apologies. And to my wife **Janice**, thank you for all you have done this past year for CHRS from working at our auction to making sandwiches for our work days. There are many other people too numerous to mention who have volunteered in 2009. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to CHRS. It is truly appreciated.

Special Thanks

To the family of Silent Key, **Jim Coleman**. Jim passed away earlier this year and left over 1000 radios for his family to deal with. Jim's brother **Bill** was very generous and donated 60 beautifully restored radios to the CHRS collection. These are on display at KRE. Also donated to CHRS are 200 or so project radios, in storage. Also, they consigned 660 radios to CHRS to sell and split the proceeds 50/50. We sold close to 100 radios at the auction in July. The rest of the radios are being sold on Radio Showroom.com. Check them out: <http://radioshowroom.com/> Thank you again to the Coleman family for your generous donations. By the way, we sold over \$2000 worth of the unrestored Coleman radios at our sale on December 5th and December 19th. Renewal Forms - Even if you have already renewed or are paid in advance, please take the time to fill out the form completely and send them back with your donations so that CHRS may serve you better. Remember that CHRS cannot survive on dues alone. We need your generous donations to propel us into the next phase of our existence, including the purchase of 601 Ashby to be the home of CHRS and the CHRS Museum, in perpetuity.

Silent Keys

We have lost several CHRS members this year. **Dennis McGahee, Jim Coleman** and **Mike Sullivan** have left us. We mourn their passing, celebrate their lives and wish the best to their families.

Another year and I still enjoy being your President. I appreciate your support and the support you give to CHRS. Thanks for all the hard work and let's keep it up. The future of CHRS looks very bright. Please contact me with your questions or comments at (415) 821-7671 or at kushseal@flash.net

Best Wishes for a great Holiday Season & Happy New Year!
Best Regards, Steve

RADIO BROADCAST STATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES BY CALL LETTERS						
Radio Call Letters	BROADCAST STATIONS Location and Owner	Power Watts	Wave Length (Meters)	Frequency (Kilocycles)	Time at Station	Sending Hours
KR	KRE—Berkeley, Calif.—Berkeley Daily Gazette.....	100	256	1170	Pacific	Daily: 11:15 am to 11:45 am; 5:30 Mon. and Thu., 8 to 10 pm; Tue., 9 pm to 1 am; Sat., 8 pm to 1 am. Holidays: 10 to 11 am; 6:30 to 7:30 pm;





SIGNING OFF..

Well, that wraps up another issue of the Signal. This publication can't seem to decide if it is a bi-monthly, a quarterly, or a semi-annual. Time, one would hope, will tell.

I encourage you to send in comments, an article, or even just a photo. I have a couple of submissions that are earmarked for the next issue. I'd love to hear from you. My email address is: rodwentler@yahoo.com

Hope you all have a wonderful new year!

Rod



“I’ll just enjoy some music until this darned lightning storm blows over”