

# The 45rpm Phono Gazette

## Welcome new members

Steven J Calandra, Tommie Shider, Tom Shields,  
Roy Buchanan, Chris Cuff, Mike Ullmar



## Rochester AWA Meet 2003



Your editor selling books at the Rochester AWA flea market

Marv and I started out at 10:15 on a Tuesday morning. The weather was good with sunshine and 80 degrees for the high. We stopped for lunch at Wendy's and made a second stop at Ben and Jerry's on the New York State Thruway. At 4:40 we pulled up in front of our Hotel and signed in. Now it was time to sign up for the Radio Conference at the old Marriott (now RIT, Rochester Institute of Technology). We met Ray Tyner and after registering we strolled through the flea-market area. We came across one of our

newest phono enthusiasts, Chris Cuff. Chris had modified 10 RCA 45 rpm phonos to run on 12 volts DC. The motor speed was right on the mark at 45 rpm and the sound module had more power and punch than the original tube amplifier. The new motor mounts on the existing mounting bracket and uses the same idler wheel. The old amp is still in place so the player can easily be put back to the old components in no time.

Ray bought one of the units on the spot and in less than one day they were all sold.. Your editor could not resist either. I purchased a table at the flea market to sell some of my books and thought that the cordless phono playing records would draw people over. It worked!

After an abbreviated sleep we were ready to go at the flea market entrance at 5:30 am Wednesday morning. I decided that I would only buy phonos I did not have (there aren't many of these). I came across a 45EY2 with optional carrying case for \$25. The phono condition was ok but the inside of the case was all stained up and I already had a case like it so I let it go. It was sold within the next 10 minutes. Then word spread that a 2 speed Admiral was scooped up for \$35. Then 45 phonos started pop up everywhere. There were 45 EY2s, 3s, a 7EY1 in coral and gray, various attachments including a crescent attachment and a 9Y510 radio/phono unit. Ray also picked up 2 cartoon players, a rough Alice in Wonderland and a fairly nice early Disney model. There was also a console unit with am radio and plenty of storage and another unit with pull out drawer from a console.

Chris Cuff also did well and ended up bringing home 8 more players for his 12 volt conversions including a pink and white "skipper".

The theme for this year's conference was "FM Radio". There were several interesting talks and several auctions that were held during the week. A real conversation piece was a Philco cathedral from the 30's that was ultrasonically cleaned. The chassis was (continued on page 2)

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(Rochester continued)-  
so clean and shiny you could eat  
off of it.

In the evenings, us phono fanatics  
got together and talked 45s in a  
fifties diner playing vintage music  
until the wee hours of the morning.  
As usual we had a great time. The  
Rochester meet is getting smaller  
in size each year but is still worth  
the trip. Starting the conference on  
a Wednesday has always been a  
problem requiring working people  
to take off almost a whole week to  
attend. Starting the conference on  
a Friday would certainly help  
attendance. [end]

## New Orthophonic High Fidelity



**My original 7HF45 that was  
purchased in March 1958**

In 1956, RCA Victor introduced  
several new 45 rpm phonographs  
with "New Orthophonic High  
Fidelity". From stylus to speaker all

components were upgraded in this design. The cartridge fitted to the player  
was a Sonotone ceramic. The amplifier is a two stage design using a pair of  
35C5's in push-pull and a 12AX7 voltage amplifier. This feeds a pair of  
speakers, a 6" woofer and 3" tweeter with crossover. All this was fitted into a  
handsome wooden cabinet available in light or dark wood finishes, including a  
vinyl covered portable. These units sound very good with the original cartridge.  
However, I have yet to find a replacement cartridge that sounds as good as the  
original. The bass always seems thin. A nice feature is the space for 45 rpm  
record storage on the left side of the changer.

The cabinet is designed to be closed when listening, as the bass response is  
compromised when the lid is open. The amplifier chassis is quite compact. In  
this case there was plenty of room inside the cabinet so the small chassis does  
nothing but make servicing more difficult, especially re-capping.

Your editor was 10 years old when he and his mother visited a record shop in  
Brooklyn to replace our tired rp-168 record attachment. The new phonograph  
was to be my birthday present. The salesman showed me a 6EY1 and played a  
record on it. I made a funny face. This 10 year old was used to listening to an  
rp-168 attachment playing through an RCA Victor console television with 12  
inch speaker (can we say "Jukebox sound"?). The salesman knew just what to  
do. He pushed aside the 6EY1 and placed the 7hf45 in the picture on this page  
in front of me. He played the same record and I smiled. Luckily my mother did  
not balk at the additional cost and we went home with the much better  
sounding 7HF45.

Retail pricing for these units in 1956 was \$79.95 for the 7HF45 in Mahogany,  
\$84.95 for oak or maple finish, and \$69.95 for the 8HF45P. The multispeed  
machine was over \$100.



**Model 8HF45P portable and its big brother**





Photo by Andrea Kane

Phil Vourtsi, president of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club, and Cranbury Museum docent Lynn Lakner (above) talk about some of the radios on display at the museum through April.

# The first wireless revolution

## Museum show displays relics of radio's past

By Matthew Kirdahy

CRANBURY — The radios at the Cranbury Museum aren't handheld.

They can't play CDs or cassette tapes and Sony certainly doesn't have a hand in their design.

They are vintage 1 to 5 watt AM radios and they are part of an antique radio exhibit.

Some of the models on display are among the first to ever grace the homes of American consumers.

The free exhibit, which recaps the history of radios across a span of 70 years, is open to the public on Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The museum, located at 4 Park Place, will host the radio exhibit until late March or early April, but a specific closing date has not been set.

Museum co-curator Don Jo Swanagan said he discovered the exhibit, presented by the New Jersey Antique Radio Club, when he visited an exhibit months ago in Piscataway. He then contacted Ray Chase, 70, of Plainfield, who is a board mem-

ber of the radio club, collector and radio historian.

Mr. Chase said that he was delighted to bring the exhibit to town.

The radios were both donated by radio club members and taken right from Mr. Chase's personal collection. The exhibit is arranged according to date and development.

"This one here is called a Radiola," Mr. Chase said, pointing to one of the earlier wooden box-shaped radios from the 1920s. "It was designed by RCA much like many of the radios then."

Mr. Chase said radios were originally designed in a heavy wooden box because of the large glass tube components inside. Radios were considered pieces of furniture due to their size and stained wood.

"As radios progressed through the years and into the 1930s, style became more important," said Mr. Chase, who was focused on a replica of a Spartan radio that, if it were original, would be worth thousands of dollars. "The art deco motif was often used like this

blue mirrored glass model, which is very collectible and totally different from earlier models."

The clock radios of the 1940s and the transistors of the 1950s were the next innovations in radio and also are on display at the museum.

He said many of the radios in the exhibit were restored to their original condition, but only a few are functional. Mr. Chase summarizes the history of each model on small cards, placed next to the displays, so visitors can follow the exhibit without having a radio aficionado present.

Radios have been Mr. Chase's hobby for 30 years.

"I actually got started when I was a teen-ager," he said, smiling. "But then I found out about girls and cars and wound up coming back to it later."

Mr. Chase said people interested in finding out more about the New Jersey Radio Club can call him at (732) 446-2427 or visit the club Web site at [www.eht.com/oldradio](http://www.eht.com/oldradio). The club holds monthly meetings and also invites nonmembers to attend.