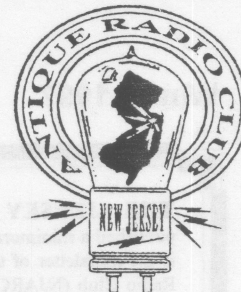


The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Winter 1997

Volume 3 Issue 3



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marsha Simkin
and Marv Beeferman

The February meeting of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club was held on the 14th at the Grace Lutheran Church in Freehold. A change in the by-laws to allow for a "family" category of membership (charged at \$5 above individual membership) and with both partners having voting rights, was proposed from the floor; the measure passed unanimously. The "share-a-ride" program discussed in February's *Broadcaster* and envelope mailings of the club's newsletter also received favorable responses.

In reference to last month's article on grille cloth restoration, it was suggested not to use tea as part of the formula to make new cloth look more "weathered and worn;" the tannic acid in the tea might take its toll on sensitive fibers.

A Graphophone Type player/recorder (American Graphophone, NY, patent dates May 4, 1886/May 30, 1897) was presented to the membership for examination and discussion; additional information or pictures would be appreciated.

Our president, Jim Whartenby, was gifted with an old radio tube that had been fabricated into a finely detailed and flattering likeness, right down to the railroad engineer's cap and scarf. Unfortunately, Jim has recently changed his image and the caricature is no longer 100% accurate, but it still represents the fine craftsmanship of the artist and his unique ability to grow human hair on glass.

Lud Sibley, attired in a very unique striped sweater with a color pattern forming the resistor code (black, beige, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, grey and white), gave his typically well-



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of NJARC will take place on Friday, March 14, 1997 at 7:30 PM at the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold; Executive Board members are requested to attend a Board meeting at 7:00 PM. Contact Marv Beeferman at (609)-693-9430 or Jim Whartenby at (908)-271-7701 for directions. In lieu of our regular technical/historical presentation, members are requested to contribute to our quarterly show-and-tell session with a unique item in their collection, interesting restoration or puzzling "unknown" for some of our experts to decipher. The results of our March 1st swapmeet, future events and Executive Board recommendations will also be discussed.

researched presentation on a private telegraph company that was in existence in Flemington, Hunterdon County, NJ in the late 1800's. Flemington, at that time, was a rather prosperous, victorian farm community. The "telegraph company" was an association for the convenience of its members as opposed to being a public utility like most other telegraph companies. It was set up like a party line with all members connected. Pressing a key at any station operated the sounders at all the stations (privacy was obviously not a consideration). Lud gave out copies of his article entitled, "The Flemington Telegraph Company," that appeared in the Hunterdon Historical Newsletter, Winter 1996 edition; anyone interested in a copy may contact the *Broadcaster* editor.

As stated in the meeting notice, this month's upcoming meeting will feature another "show-and-tell" session, so please start considering something you would like to share. These sessions are very popular and really enjoyed by the membership.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SURPLUS REDEFINED

Years ago, when I was about 14 and had a 35 customer paper route, I started a friendship with Phil Fish. He was self-employed as a supplier of extension cord drop lights and such for garages and service stations and he was one of my paper customers. Anyway, Phil took me under his wing and encouraged me in my budding interest in electricity. Phil was a native New Yorker and on one Saturday, in early September, he took me to Radio Row, probably a year or two before the work started on the World Trade Towers.

Imagine the excitement felt by a 14 year-old with money in his pocket, seeing store after store loaded with military surplus radios, radar subassemblies and endless black boxes, the purposes of which were long forgotten! I remember seeing war surplus equipment spilling out of the store front and onto the stoop. So many stores, so much equipment, how could you make up your mind and choose one piece to take home and spend many happy hours disassembling? (Continued on page 2)

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR
1997 DUES?
See Page 5**

THE JERSEY BROADCASTER,

published a minimum of ten times each year, is the newsletter of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC) which is dedicated to preserving the history and enhancing the knowledge of radio and related disciplines with special emphasis on contributions made by the state of New Jersey. Dues are \$15 per year and meetings are held the second Friday of each month at the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold N.J.

Submissions are welcome in typewritten or diskette (5-1/4" or 3-1/2") form with formats in ASCII, WordPerfect, Word, etc. Photos in high contrast black and white are appreciated but color photos are acceptable. The Editor or NJARC is not liable for any buying and selling transactions or for any other use of the contents of this publication.

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(Surplus Redefined...continued)

Well, here we are, 35 years later, and I still feel the same excitement. In fact, when Ruth and I travel, I always check the local phone book under surplus or salvage for new places to explore. But military surplus like I experienced as a kid doesn't exist anymore. The surplus is mostly commercial or industrial, and finding stores that specialize in this is getting to be difficult. I told you about my visit to Fair Radio Sales in my last column and in retrospect, this is probably the closest to what I remember of Radio Row. If you ever get a chance to visit Lima, Ohio, do yourself a favor and visit. You will have a ball.

For those of you who don't want to drive the 12 hours to get to western Ohio, then a two or so hour drive north will take you to PD Surplus in Kingston, New York. I have fond memories of freezing my buns off in their unheated "show rooms" (why is it so cold when I go there?) dusting off strange shapes in search of buried treasure. For those of you who have gone there, you know that this is no stretch of the imagination; it is that dusty, with the shelves deep and low to the floor. PD has a good selection of power transformers and power supplies. Other odds-and-ends are crystals, switches, wire, plastic sheet glass in all colors, old industrial equipment, electrolytic capacitors by the ton and lots more and always something different.

There was once fun to be had at Atkinson and Smith in Eatontown, NJ but they changed hands some time ago and I haven't been back since. Their upstairs area was surplus with transformers, tubes and lots of small parts. Has anyone been there lately? Maybe I should make a field trip just in case things have improved.

I am happy to report that Orlando, Florida has produced something exciting that has nothing to do with Disney. I am referring to Skycraft Surplus on Fairbanks Ave near I4. This place is without a doubt the cleanest surplus place I have ever been in. What do you expect?... the sales staff is mostly women and they know how to run a great store! The surplus is a mixture of commercial and government. All that I saw was clean and well displayed. All components were either new commercial or, as in the case of microwave stuff, removed from one-of-a-kind test sets and such. Some items were pricy but there

were bargains to be had. Mechanical filters from Collins were only \$7.50 each, but they were 100 KHz models with a bandpass of only 1.2 KHz. They are too narrow for audio and too broad for CW, but being Collins Mechanical Filters at a good price, I bought two. All kinds of neat stuff hung from the ceiling from hooks; there were rows of power supplies of all descriptions and again a good selection of power transformers. In the front of the store were new components in large jars. Nearby were small paper bags (paper sacks in the South) and again the price was reasonable. This time it was Murata-Erie crystal filters at 455 KHz and 50 cents apiece, so I bought a dozen. One of the many things that caught my eye were used hand tool such as high quality needle nose pliers and diagonal cutters for \$3.00 each. So if you go down to Disney World with the family, while they are recovering from all the walking, just sneak out for some fun at Skycraft.

Jim Whartenby

ANOTHER HIGHTSTOWN SUCCESS

By Marv Beeferman

Hard work, selflessness, good weather and a cooperative spirit were again the ingredients for another successful swap-meet sponsored by the NJARC. Over 50 vendors (a sellout requiring the use of outdoor space) gave over 150 buyers a diverse offering to choose from. Based on the compliments, everyone seemed to go away pleased.

Keeping the meet fair to all went relatively smoothly. Vendors were allowed to set up in an orderly manner without undo buyer harassment and pre-admittance "deals" between individual vendors were held to a minimum. Although buyer admittance was allowed a little earlier than the published time, organizers felt that this was fair in light of

(Continued on page 3)

(Hightstown Success...continued)

threatening weather and limited number of early arrivals. The scheduled Old Equipment Contest had to be cancelled due to lack of interest, but this should have been anticipated. A half-day swapmeet is a difficult environment for contests; buyers are primarily interested in getting in and getting out; contests offer more of a burden than anything else in this type of hectic atmosphere. It seems that contests fare much better at two-day meets, club meetings, picnics etc. where a more relaxed attitude prevails.

Thanks to all who helped out, especially Ludwell Sibley and the Whartenbys who calmed potential angry patrons with their last minute folding table contributions: Phil Vourtsis, Donald Cruse, Marty Friedman, Tom Provost, Dave Sica, John Dilks (for excellent Internet coverage), Richard Brill and the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club for newsletter advertising.



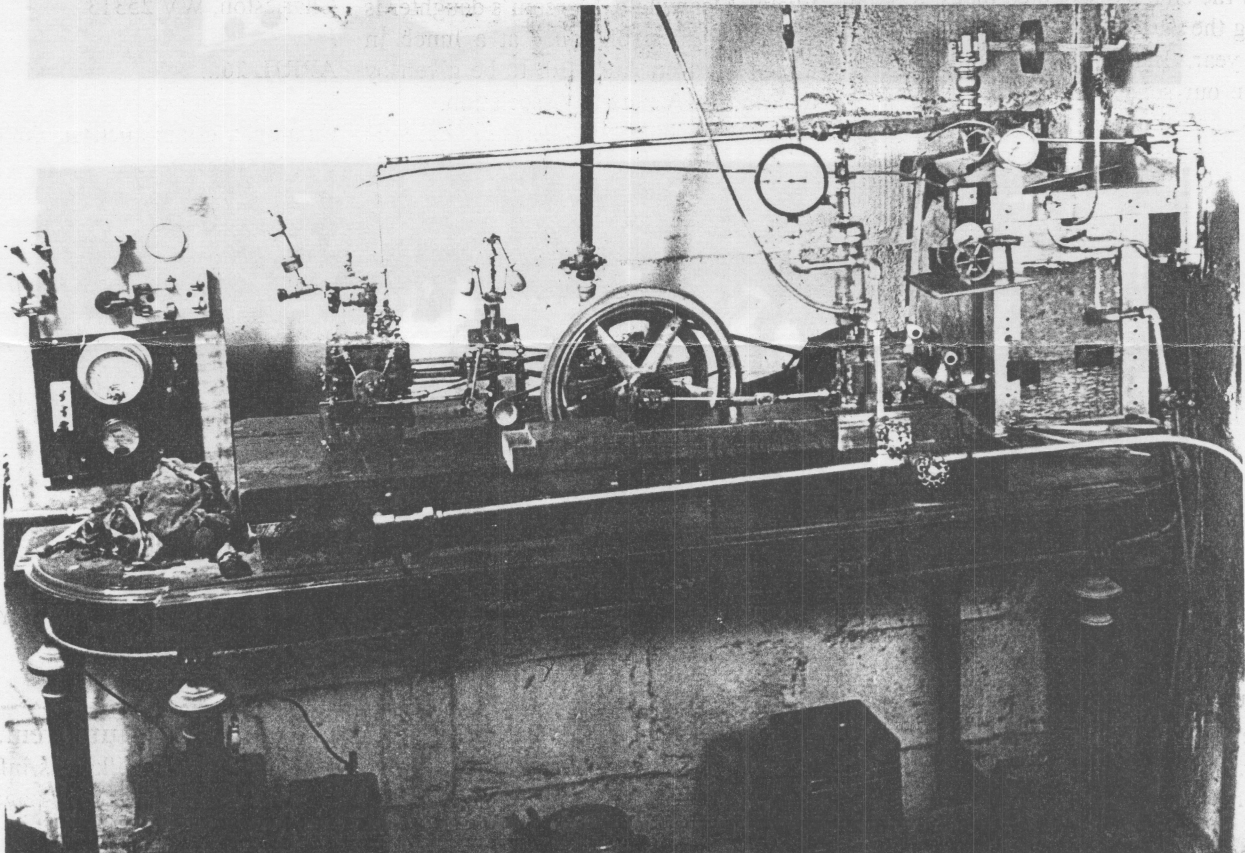
ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE...

By Marv Beeferman

A few months ago, remembering my interest in old radios, a friend of mine invited me to an early preview of an estate sale. Her brother-in-law, although an insurance executive for most of his life, was also known as the "tinkerer" of the family and she had been told that there were a few old radios that were included in the sale. Webster does not look too kindly on the tinkerer, defining him as "one skilled in various minor kinds of mechanical work...one who works unskillfully or clumsily at anything...one who busies himself with a thing without useful results." I guess only a tinkerer himself can truly understand the tinkerer's art.

Although I purchased a few items which most collectors would consider mundane, it was the items that I didn't purchase which impressed me the most. One was the homebrew ham station, which consisted of a heterogeneous conglomerate of both manufactured and homemade components. It was truly an electronic timeline, with items spanning the years from 1920 to 1960. One section of the unit was built on a stripped early 60's television chassis! Although I was offered the unit (or parts thereof) at a very attractive price, I just couldn't move myself to selectively defile this unique creation. Better it go to its final resting place in radio heaven intact. A second item, a steam engine-driven generator, whose picture was taken some years before and graciously placed in my safekeeping (no, not the engine, which was sold before I got a chance to look in the basement) is shown below. The entire unit was hand-crafted. If you look closely, you can see the generator to the right of the flywheel and the batteries under the table. Tracing the wires, I found part of the system was used for a DC source for the ham station and other parts were tied into the house wiring for a purpose only the creator knew.

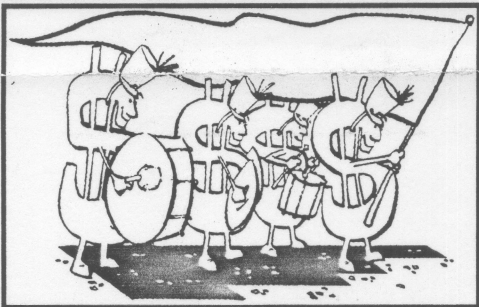
The entire scene, surrounded by dusty volumes of college-level mechanical and electrical engineering texts, was an immediate flashback to my radio hunting days in Pennsylvania, when many a home concealed similar treasures in the long forgotten corners of some musty basement, and where I sometimes hesitated in my examination for fear that disturbing their slumber might border on desecration. Tinkerers still exist, as exemplified by the many talented members of the NJARC, but I think that this level of enthusiasm and fascination with technology was reserved for another time and another place...never to be seen again.



1997 Membership Renewals Due

As of March 7th, the membership renewal rate for 1997 has reached the 70% level. This is promising since most renewals included an extra payment above the \$15 annual rate to bring all members up to a January 1st renewal date. If you are not sure of your dues status, please check for a "1/98" next to your name on the mailing label (an asterisk indicates that you are a charter member). A "1/97" indicates that dues are still pending for 1997; no date indicates that I have not yet received your payment. If you have misplaced your renewal notice, please feel free to call me at 609-693-9430 (or leave a message) so I can tell you what your balance is.

If you are not sure that you want to continue membership, you might want to consider what your \$15 represents. If you attend just two of our member-discounted swapmeets during the year and buy just a few of the club's discounted tubes, it's like getting the *Jersey Broadcaster* free for the entire year. In addition, you get to participate in our schematic and capacitor programs, informative technical programs, Christmas party and upcoming swapmeet/picnic. And no price could be placed on the general good fellowship that the club endorses.



So please send your renewals in promptly and give a vote of confidence to all those who have worked so hard to make the NJARC such a source of pride. Unfortunately, by the next issue of the *Broadcaster*, I will be required to send out second and final notices which are time consuming and expensive.

Thanks again,
Marv

ON SECOND THOUGHT...

MARCONI AUCTION BLITZED

By Ludwell Sibley

Portions of the following article appeared in Vol. 5, No. 3 of the DVHRC Oscillator..Ed

The proposed auction of Marconi artifacts and records has been unceremoniously canceled, the result of vivid complaints on the part of British radio historians and even Marconi people. Marconi's surviving daughter Elettra flew from Rome to express her views to the chairman of GEC-Marconi before the decision was announced; the whole show has been termed "a PR disaster." Reportedly, an announcement is due in the next week or so to the effect that the collection will be preserved in either the local town museum in Chelmsford or in the Science Museum in London, the latter being seen as more likely. Meanwhile, Marconi's daughter is to be the guest of honor at a lunch in Chelmsford on April 26, to be given by the Marconi Veterans' Association.

As expressed in the *Times of London*:

"GEC shouldn't be destroying their heritage and ours...we should be proud of the role Britain played, not dispersing it to the four corners of the world."

"...Part of the tragedy...of the Christie's auction is that the collection has been so little studied, and that no attempt was made to display it during the Marconi Centenary year...dispersal abroad is likely...where were the national museums and professional institutions who should...have been exercising a watching brief?"

Part of the problem seems to be political: the British Science Museum failed to hold a Marconi commemoration last year, even though groups like the British Vintage Wireless Association did so with great enthusiasm and even did a special reprinting of a vintage Marconi equipment manual.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 21 & 22...

AWA Carolinas Chapter Spring meet at Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel...Contact Ron Lawrence at 1-704-289-1166

MARCH 22...

Antique radio and tube estate auction, 838 Woodend Road, Stratford, Connecticut. 500 radios, tubes, horns, speakers, memorabilia. 212-410-2100

MARCH 29...

Spring Fever 5, Washington, PA Fairgrounds, indoor drive-in flea market, large auction, trolley museum, write: Spring Fever 5, 4204 Thorn Apple Ln., Charleston, WV 25313

APRIL 26...

Cataloged estate auction, Smith Auction Co., Downingtown

MAY 4...

Warminster hamfest, Middletown Grange Wrightstown

MAY 31...

Central PA Radio Collectors swapmeet, Cloverleaf Antique Barn, Danville

JUNE 12-14...

MAARC RADIOACTIVITY, Laurel MD., auction Saturday

Last Minute Item...

Webmaster John Dilks has informed the club that the NJARC web page has been temporarily moved because of the provider's financial difficulties. The new site is: <http://www.eht.com/oldradio>

CONNECTIONS

Free exposure for buyers and sellers! Unless requested otherwise, each ad will run for two months in both the *Jersey Broadcaster* and the *Delaware Valley Oscillator*. All buying and selling transactions are the responsibility of the parties involved.

FOR SALE

AK 37, Zenith 10S669, AK-440C...can deliver to Havertown, PA meet. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19002, (215)-646-6488. 1/4

500 tubes, \$100 for all; list available. Al Trapanese (908)-870-9632. 1/4

Howard W. Sams repair books: transistor (TSM), auto radio (AR), and hi-fi (MHF). Good supply. Lewie Newhard, (610)-262-3255 (evenings).

Tubes, NIB (over 6,000), 50% off AES prices; minimum purchase \$20 (for \$40 worth of tubes) or buy the whole lot. J J Papovich, 53 Magnolia Ave., Pitman, N.J. 08071, (609)-582-8279.

Weller replacement tips: (17) long screwdriver tips (#PTK8); (5) single flat tips (#PTCC7) - new and in original packaging. Donald Rector, 443 Beaver St., North Wales, PA 19454, (215)-699-8050 (eve.) 1/97

1920's Radio Components: (1) Simplex variometer #47482, NIB, \$100; (1) Bremer Tully variometer, NIB, \$90; (1) US Tool #CK105 variable capacitor, 11-plate, .00025 mfd, NIB, \$50; (1) 4" bakelite dial, 0-100, NIB, \$10; (1) Aldan-Napier #402, WD11 socket, NIB, \$10; #499, VT 199 socket, \$10; plus shipping. J.J. Papovich, 53 Magnolia Ave., Pitman NJ, 08071. (609)-582-8279 2/97

Free to Good Home: Two Silvertone combination radio-phonographs. One model 6449, circa late 30's and one catalog No. 7111, chassis 434.140, circa early 40's. Both with fair to good cabinets. Aaron Hunter, 23 Lenape Trail, Southhampton, NJ 08088, (609)-267-3065. 2/97

27 down and three to go: Air Patrol (Breckinridge), To the Rescue, (Chapman) and Under the Sea (Duffield) will complete my *Radio Boys* collection. Dust jackets not required. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19002. (215)-646-6488 12/96

Four RCA Electron Tube Handbooks (HB3): Receiving Tube Section - Part 1, Transmitting Tube Section, Transmitting Tube Section, Photosensitive Device Section, General Information Section & Cathode Ray Tubes, Storage Tubes & Monoscopes. All in excellent condition; \$80 plus UPS. Lafayette Model HE-10 communication receiver with matching Lafayette Model HE-14 speaker. Bands: 550-1600 KC Broadcast/1.6-4.8 MC SW/4.8-14.5 MC SW/11-30 MC SW. Excellent condition; \$60 plus UPS. Elwood Hunt, 308 Georgetown Rd., Carneys Point, NJ 08069, (609)-299-5259. 2/97

WANTED

Radio chassis and speaker for Crosley grandfather clock, Model 59. Also information on the original finish of the cabinet. Ralph Fenimore, 396 Misty Vale Dr., Middletown, DE 19709. (302)-378-0185 12/96

Book: *Of Mikes and Men*; good condition. Donald Rector, 443 Beaver St., North Wales, PA 19454, (215)-699-8050 (eve.) 1/4

Cabinet (or good cabinet/dead chassis) for Radiola 20. Tom Provost, 19 Ivanhoe Dr., Robbinsville, N.J., 08691. (609)-259-7634 1/97

MARVIN P. BEEFERMAN
2265 EMERALDA PARK DRIVE
FORKED RIVER, N.J. 08731

