



# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Summer 1997

Volume 3 Issue 8



## MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marsha Simkin  
and Marv Beeferman

Vacation time brings an abbreviated version of the *Broadcaster* for this month and unfortunately will prevent me from attending the August meeting. (Prevent!... did I say **prevent**?...no doubt, a vacation is definitely due). Next month will see our usual eight-page issue, hopefully filled with member's contributions and ads.

Appreciation was expressed for the wonderful job done by the Whartenby's and their Delaware Valley Historical Radio Club's (DVHRC) counterparts for organizing a very enjoyable and successful June picnic. As usual, special thanks was given to Ludwell Sibley and Bill Overbeck for cataloging and conducting a casual and entertaining auction.

Everyone agreed that the location was fantastic and would be well worth a return visit in the future. Attendance was somewhat limited by the reservation cutoff date; unfortunately, an advanced head count is required by the caterer to ensure that the correct amount of food is available. Even with the provisions made by Jim Whartenby for last minute reservations, some people were turned away. It's always best to reserve early at these events; even if you need to cancel at the last minute, there is usually someone waiting to fill in.

Bill Overbeck, President of the DVHRC, thanked the club for the cooperative spirit in which the June picnic was conducted. Bill also extended an open invitation to all NJARC members the club's cataloged tailgate auction on Tuesday, August 12th at 7:00 PM. This seems like a good opportunity to get acquainted with DVHRC members and perhaps dispel rumors that they sacrifice

## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of NJARC will take place on Friday, August 8, 1997 at 7:30 PM at the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold. Contact Marv Beeferman at (609)-693-9430 or Jim Whartenby at (908)-271-7701 for directions. This month's historical/technical session will feature a presentation by Jim Fisher titled "Restoring a Seeburg jukebox." In addition, details will be made available for our upcoming September 27th flea market (see attached flyer) and, as usual, volunteers will be invited to participate. Details and catalogs will also be available for the DVHRC tailgate auction on Tuesday, August 12th.

Atwater Kent breadboards during secret pagan ceremonies conducted during their meetings. There is a 10% commission up to \$50 for all purchases. For further details, give Bill a call at 610-789-8199 or contact Ludwell Sibley at 908-782-4894. Ludwell termed the auction as a "very friendly type setup."

Some appealing details not included on the attached flyer regarding the new location for the Sept. 27th meet were discussed:

- A rental fee of \$393 vice \$550 (probably will go to \$600 soon) at Hightstown.
- Room for 75 vendors vice 50 at Hightstown.
- More elbow room for buyers.
- Separate parking for vendors with same level truck bay access for easy loading and unloading.
- Clean rest rooms.
- Weather not a factor.
- Snack availability.
- Same easy access off the NJ Turnpike.

It was noted that the above advantages more than compensated for the unavailability of tables. In the majority of flea markets most members attend, vendors are required to bring their own tables or make use of the floor space

provided.

Hints and tips from the month's technical session, "A Restoration Potpourri," were unique and numerous. Tom Provost shared his experiences with Dutch Boy spray lacquer and the addition of Industrial Black LB-16 and EE-6 stains to Benjamin Moore "Benwood" paste wood filler (Natural 238-05). Tom uses cardboard cut in the shape of speaker cones he wants to protect during restorations and secures them with tie-wraps. He also uses Minwax Tung Oil to cover small scratches when complete refinishing may not be called for. For shellac finishes marred by crazing, Tom sprays denatured alcohol with a hobby type air brush and then wet sands with 600 grit paper and mineral spirits. And don't throw away those periodontal brace cleaners after your kids teeth straighten... Tom says they're the perfect tool for applying GC DE-OX-ID to tarnished switch contacts and tube sockets.

Jim Fisher gave the club a presentation on the art of recycling. What do you do with some threaded rod, channel iron, 3/4" plywood and plexiglass?...build a veneer press of course. And how does the book "One Hundred Ways to Prepare Liver" relate to radio restoration?...use the covers for the backs of 30's and 40's AC/DC radios (once you get rid of the liver odor of course). Jim also prefers

**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.

**OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AND PROGRAM COORDINATORS****PRESIDENT:**

James Whartenby  
120 W. Franklin St.  
Bound Brook, N.J. 08805  
(908)-271-7701

**VICE PRESIDENT/TUBE PROGRAM:**

Ludwell Sibley  
44 E. Main St.  
Flemington, N.J. 08822  
(908)-782-4894

**SECRETARY/EDITOR:**

Marv Beeferman  
2265 Emerald Park Drive  
Forked River, N.J. 08731  
(609)-693-9430

**TREASURER:**

Gerald Dowgin, KB2E2E  
1481 Newark Ave.  
Whiting, N.J. 08759  
(908)-350-6259

**SARGEANT-AT-ARMS:**

Donald Cruise  
10 Bernard St.  
Eatontown, N.J. 07724  
(908)-542-2848

**TRUSTEES:**

Mark Mittlemen (908)-431-1324  
Phil Vourtsis (908)-446-2427  
Tony Flanagan (908)-462-6638

**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:**

Tom Provost  
19 Ivanhoe Dr.  
Robbinsville, N.J. 08691  
(609)-259-7634

**SCHEMATIC PROGRAM:**

Aaron Hunter  
23 Lenape Trail  
Southampton, N.J. 08088  
(609)-267-3065

**CAPACITOR PROGRAM:**

Jim Amici  
522 N. Sixth St.  
Allentown, PA 18102-2928  
(215)-4340117

**WEB COORDINATOR**

John Dilks, K2TQN  
(609)-927-3873  
<http://www.globalent.net/oldradio>

using leather dyes thinned in methanol for tinting his lacquer finishes.

Ludwell Sibley showed the club a new use for silicon caulk...create a mold to cast a replacement knob for a 1940 Emerson. Having problems with broken tube caps?...careful use of an engraving tool will expose just enough wire for easy resoldering. And from "The Island of Doctor Sibley" - recreate a WD11 from a 15KY8 (you'll need to come to the next meeting to get the details on this one). Thanks also to Al Klase for his talk on capacitor replacements and Bill Overbeck's "third hand" made from a soldering gun and rubber bands.

An unexpected treat came from club treasurer Jerry Dowgin's presentation on restoring a 1923 AK Model 10 breadboard he bought in Middletown which was originally purchased on Mechanics St. in Red Bank. Eleven coats of lacquer, mahogany stain, food coloring for the coils and persistence in finding just the right color acrylic paint for the cans gave birth to a restoration to be proud of. With original trimmings of 100 feet of antenna wire, 2 sets of headphones, instruction books, a radio log, homemade battery box and a dealer giveaway in the form of an AK wallet, it turned out to be quite a showpiece. Good job Jerry! By the way, what was that last balance in our treasury?

**WHO SANK LUCY?**

*The following piece by Russell Roberts was edited from the Summer 1997 edition of the Compass as suggested by Dave Chmielewski.*

Just south of Tuckerton in southern Ocean County is Mystic Island, a piece of coastal property that is today home to a large residential community. In May 1912, however, Mystic Island was still called Hickory Island, and it was as desolate a place as could be found along the Jersey Shore. It was this isolation that made it the ideal location for the gigantic radio tower known as the Tuckerton Tower.

The Tuckerton Tower was part of a transoceanic wireless network conceived by German scientist Rudolph Goldschmidt. Hickory Island was chosen as the site of one of the towers by Goldschmidt because of its desolate location, and also because flat ground provided an unobstructed view of the Atlantic Ocean.

German workers began building the structure in May, 1912. When finished in March of 1914, the Tuckerton Tower was a cloud piercing 820 feet high, making it the second-tallest structure ever built at the time.

Clearly, Germany had fashioned a communications revolution. In an age that still used the letter as a principal form of communication, the ability to instantly send messages hundreds and perhaps thousands of miles away was nothing short of extraordinary.

Unfortunately, no sooner was the tower operational than Germany plunged Europe into World War I on July 28, 1914. Immediately the Tuckerton Tower, as well as the rest of Germany's transoceanic radio network, came under suspicion. Did Germany conceive and build the network in order to have an advantage over its enemies during the war? (Germany was a country that believed in planning ahead; the Von Schlieffen plan for attacking France was drawn up in 1897...more than 15 years before the outbreak of World War I.)

As a neutral country in the conflict, the United States did not shut the Tuckerton Tower down, despite the urging of England and France. Instead, President Woodrow Wilson decided to send a censorship team to the tower to monitor the transmissions and make sure that no military messages were being sent from there.

These procedures, however, were not sufficient. Evidence suggests that messages of a decidedly military nature did emanate from the tower. With Wilson still reluctant to sever this important mode of communication with Germany, the stage was set for the events of May 7, 1915.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**