

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Winter 1998

Volume 4 Issue 1



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marsha Simkin
and Marv Beeferman

Another year closed with NJARCs annual holiday party on December 12th. The membership feasted on a delicious assortment of hot hors d'oeuvres masterfully prepared by Ruth Whartenby. All kinds of delectable tidbits including pigs in blankets, chicken strips, hot wings, and pastries stuffed with several different fillings were appreciatively consumed by the happy group. Beverages of all types and an assortment of desserts that took one's breath away completed the eating extravaganza. An abundance of cakes, many kinds of cookies, candies and a delicious apple crisp were among the palate pleasers that adorned the crowded tables.

Aside from the great food, the highlight of the evening was our first scavenger hunt that was suggested by Marsha Simkin. Members were provided with a list of easy to tote, radio-related items in the December issue of the *Broadcaster*. Entries were numerous and creative and our expert panel of judges (Lud Sibley, Mark Mittleman, Ruth Whartenby and Marsha Simkin) found it tough to pick the winners. But after a half-hour of diligent deliberations, the following choices were awarded club T-shirts:

- Smallest item in the shape of a radio: Mini dollhouse console radio (about 1/2" tall).
- Most unusual item in the shape of a radio that really isn't a radio: Tissue box shaped like a cathedral radio.
- Most unusual radio not in the shape of a radio (tie): VT Fuze radio and a transparent tote bag known as "The Radio Bag"
- Most unusual item that says "radio" on it but isn't a radio: Radio lock.

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, January 9 at 7:30 PM in the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold. Contact Marv Beeferman at 609-693-9430 or Jim Whartenby at 732-271-7701 for directions. Plans will be made for our next swan-meet at the Freehold Armory; this is also a convenient time to pay 1998 dues. Our technical session, "Nickel Plating at Home," will be presented by Tom Provost.

- Oldest book that has "radio" or wire-less" in its title: *Radio Therapy*
- Most unusual radio-related item from a foreign country: Mavo-meter
- Most unusual edible radio-related item: Chocolate radio.
- Most unusual wearable radio-related item: Sterling silver bracelet with radio charms.
- Most unusual radio advertising item not made of paper: Christmass ornament with radio station call letters.
- Most interesting item that marks a milestone in radio development or history: A piece of wood taken from a beam from station WCC.
- Most unusual homemade radio-related item: Lucite cube with transistors embedded in it.
- Radio-related item made for use in the kitchen: Chocolate mold in the shape of a radio.
- Strangest looking tube: Very early magnetron (circa 1944).
- Most unusual radio-related toy: Dolly's Radio
- Most risque radio item: Collection of French postcards depicting a couple in a sylvan setting intently listening to an early battery portable (what's so risque about that?).
- Most interesting radio log: a marbleized flip chart radio log.

The scavenger hunt proved to be a really fun event and it was suggested that we

provide a category for each month's meeting. So, start your search early for January's assignment: **OLDEST RADIO-RELATED STOCK CERTIFICATE.**

CALL FOR 1998 DUES

It's membership renewal time again so please send your \$15 to our new membership chairperson as soon as possible. Members with a "1/99" adjacent to their name on the mailing label are already paid for 1999. Send payment to:

Marsha Simkin
10 Avalon Lane
Matawan, N.J. 07747

This month's *Broadcaster* offers an interesting article describing a small step in the fight against Alzheimer's disease, whose early stages are marked by short-term memory loss. As it progresses, the patient loses the ability to comprehend and sort out information and use language. An old radio with picture buttons created by a New Jersey researcher and dubbed the "Musical Memory Lane," plays musical selections from the big-band era and has shown to be useful in engaging Alzheimer's disease patients. Considering the price and availability of console radios, perhaps the program described offers an opportunity for club participation?

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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BREAKING THROUGH THE NOISE WITH MUSIC**By Robert Cullinane**

The following article is reprinted from the Dec. 23rd, 1997 edition of the "Asbury Park Press"...Ed

The "Radio Days" of the '30s and '40s and the "Happy Days" of the '50s are back, this time providing some entertainment and aid to victims of Alzheimer's disease. With innovative programs called "Musical Memory Lane" and "Video Memory Lane," a New Jersey researcher has found that big band music and early TV comedies engage Alzheimer's disease patients longer than traditional day-care activities.

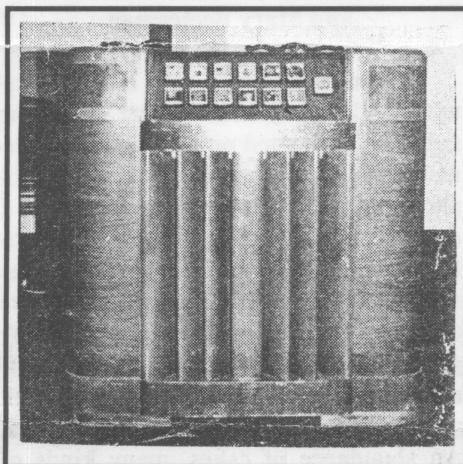
Richard Olsen, an environmental psychologist at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, created the "Musical Memory Lane" program, which allows dementia patients to select and play music themselves from an old-fashioned radio. Compared to some of the more typical activities offered by their adult day-care program, the responses to the "Musical Memory Lane" have been dramatic, he said. "Even people who normally slept or withdrew from activities such as sewing, bingo and card games were engaged by musical selections from the '30s and '40s," Olsen said. "They would smile and keep time with the music, sing along with the lyrics, and some even got up and danced."

Olsen, director of the Health and Aging Division of NJIT's Center for Architecture and Building Science Research, said positive responses help Alzheimer's patients deal better with aggression, as well as helping to reduce the tendencies to wander. Olsen equipped a 1930s Philco radio with picture-buttons to identify musical selections. Patients press a picture of Glenn Miller and hear "In the Mood" and "Chattanooga Choo-Choo," or select Kate Smith to hear "God Bless America." The system offers 12 selections in all, each with 12 to 15 minutes of music.

After evaluating more than 15,000 one-minute observations of patients using the "Musical Memory Lane," he found the system engaged longer than other activities offered, including live music. "Musical Memory Lane" also stimulated

interaction with other patients and staff. When offered a choice between the music and three other activities, patients chose the "Musical Memory Lane" more than twice as often as all the other activities combined, he said.

The study, part of a three-year study funded by the Alzheimer's Association, is being conducted at the Senior Care and Activities center in Montclair, where Olsen records patient participation in various activities offered by the center, as well as during periods when the "Memory Lane" equipment is available.



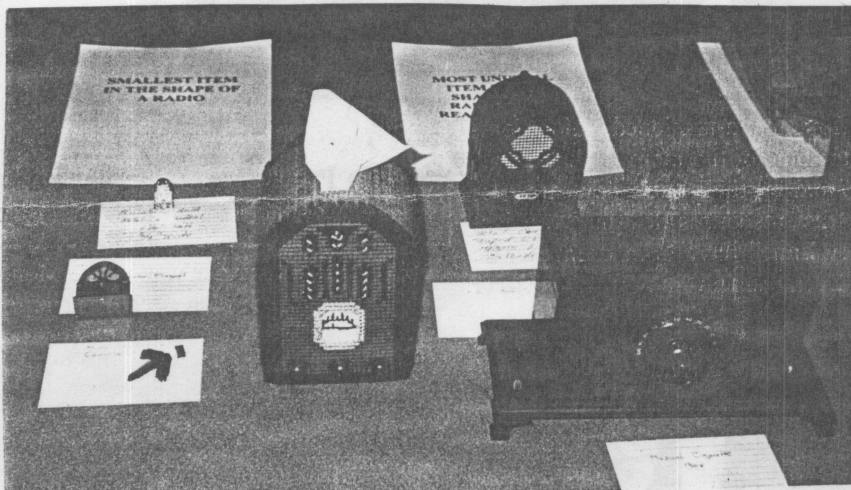
A new study, under way at the Montclair facility, uses video clips in a similar system. Using a '50s-style television, Olsen and his team created the "Video Memory Lane," which allows residents picture-button access to "I Love Lucy," "The Honeymooners," Laurel and Hardy, Jack Benny, Sid Caesar, and musical numbers featuring Carmen Miranda, Ella Fitzgerald, the Dorsey Brothers, Frank Sinatra and Duke Ellington. There's even a Nestle's cocoa commercial.

"Television is a popular way to occupy dementia patients in the early stages," Olsen said. "But as patients become more confused or lose their ability to concentrate, television can become frustrating or frightening. Patients become unable to deal with complicated stories and unfamiliar characters, and some even believe that the violence and disaster they see on the screen is happening nearby. For the 'Video Memory Lane,' we choose familiar, non-threatening clips."

Clients are now being observed using the "Video Memory," and Olsen says that early observations show "I Love Lucy" and the "Honeymooners" are big favorites.



The "YUMMY-LINE"...In lower right can be seen Marv Beeferman's vintage Coleman cooler (not for sale)



Some scavenger hunt entries...no, that's not a fly at the lower left but Marsha Simkin's winning 1/2" dollhouse console radio.



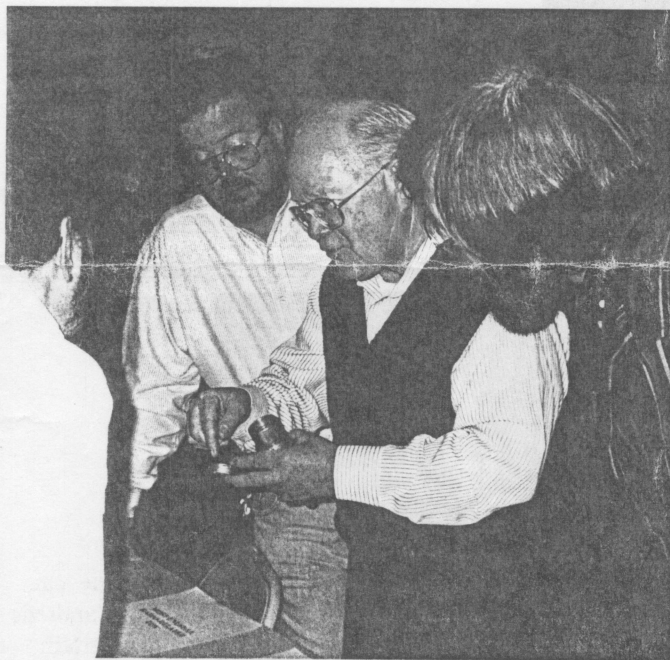
Best of show (and tell) including a Crosley Pup in original carton



Here come the judge! An intense
Lud Sibley ponders his selections



Travelin' man Tom Provost's
"TravLer" portable



Ray Chase discusses his scavenger
hunt entry with an attentive
audience



Some well-satisfied attendees...wonder if
it was the food?

The Transistor Turns 50

New Jersey Invention Continues to Change the World

The following editorial appeared in the December 23rd edition of the "Asbury Park Press" and is reprinted here with permission. For a more accurate account of those days between Dec. 16th and Dec. 24, see Lubwell Sibley's article in the December issue of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club's "Oscillator"...Ed

Fifty years ago, on December 23rd, two physicists at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill demonstrated an invention that would alter daily life more dramatically than any of history's technological marvels. It came to be known as the transistor, a device that is at the heart of everything electronic, which means it is at the heart of just about everything. "We discovered something important today," one of the physicists, John Bardeen, is said to have told his wife in one of the century's great understatements. The breakthrough was largely ignored by newspapers. The New York Times ran an account of the press conference announcing the development on page 46 at the end of a column called "The News of the Radio."

At the end of World War II, AT&T was anxious to come up with another way to transmit and amplify electrical currents to replace the bulky, energy voracious and unreliable vacuum tube. Under the direction of William Shockley, Bardeen and fellow scientist Walter Brattain had worked for two years to try to figure out how to release electrons trapped in material known as semiconductors. On Dec. 16, 1947, Brattain and Bardeen put together a device made of a paper clip, a razor blade, some gold foil, a piece of plastic and a sliver of crystal germanium. When an electric cur-

rent was sent through the device, the signal was amplified more than 400 percent. They repeated their tests before demonstrating their invention for Shockley and other Bell Labs executives on Dec. 23.

Shockley immediately went to work improving on the original point-contact transistor, developing what came to be known as the junction transistor. The three researchers shared the 1956 Nobel Prize in physics. By then, transistors had left the laboratory and begun changing the world.

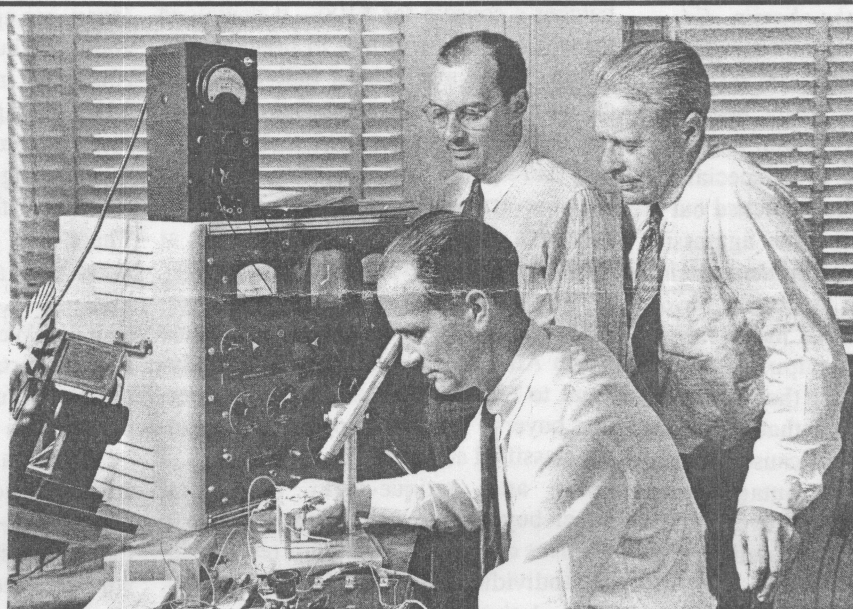
Transistor radios became a ubiquitous symbol of the '50s, as did the music that blared from their tiny speakers. "The only regret I have about the transistor," Brattain joked a year or so before his death in

mobiles, airplanes, automatic tellers, smoke detectors, watches, computers and touch-tone telephones are among the thousands of devices that exist because of the transistor.

Bell Labs in 1952 began to license the transistor to other companies. Two of the first to sign on were Texas Instruments, which within two years began selling transistor radios, and a Japanese company that was later to change its name to Sony. IBM licensed the technology in 1956. The still-unfolding computer age had begun.

The three men credited with the invention are dead now. Bardeen, who died in 1991, became the only person ever to be awarded a second Nobel Prize in physics,

for his research on superconductivity. In the 1960's, Shockley became a scientific outcast for his unsupported theories on race and intelligence. Before that, however, he was responsible for the development of what has become known as Silicon Valley in California. After he left Bell Labs, a number of young visionaries flocked to the research center he established in Santa Clara County, California. These men later founded Intel and several other



At the Bell Telephone Laboratories...seated is Dr. William Shockley, standing are Dr. John Bardeen (left) and Dr. H. Brattain

1987, "is its use for rock 'n' roll music." He knew full well by then, however, that his invention had done far more for the world than assault his musical sensibilities.

"The transistor is really the key breakthrough event of the 20th century," said Michael Riordan, a physicist who, with Lillian Hoddeson, wrote the book, "Crystal Fire: The Birth of the Information Age." Indeed, it would be difficult to go more than a few minutes in any day without using a device that relies on transistors and their microchip decedents. Lighting systems, TV's, satellites, auto-

major players in the semiconductor field. Had Shockley remained in New Jersey, some of the world's most innovative computer research firms might well have developed here. But, that's history.

Because of the transistor, the pace of technological advance over the past 50 years has been breathtaking. Hundreds of present day Bardeens and Brattains are hard at work expanding on their breakthrough. Much of what remains to be made possible from their 50-year-old invention is only now beginning to be imagined.

Where Has All the Good Stuff Gone?

By Gary McClellan

The following is edited from an article that appeared in "Electronics Now", October 1996. Be careful though about what the author considers "a piece of Americana." In 1974, after 10 years of flawless performance, a failed output tube required removing the case from my Fisher 500C stereo receiver only to find "Made in West Germany" stamped on the chassis...Ed

Since the early 1980s, a sub rosa clandestine electronics marketplace developed and grew. Old tube-type audio and communication equipment, even specialized parts, has been methodically picked out of circulation and sent overseas by aggressive entrepreneurs. Once the equipment reaches foreign shores, it is sold to wealthy buyers or held for speculation. To many American consumers, this "equipment drain" may be a non-issue because they prefer the latest high-tech gear, and that's fine for them. For others, there is cause for concern because most of the vintage equipment has left our shores forever. That means there is less stereo and radio equipment here for "antique" lovers to enjoy. Worse, the leftovers on our shores tend to be in fair-to-poor condition, and their prices rise steeply with demand.

To understand the current interest in vintage electronic equipment, consider this: I have a *perfectly* restored 1955 jukebox. When kids visit, they are enthralled by its appearance and enjoy watching it play records. That is because they haven't seen a jukebox before; most jukeboxes were trashed or sold to European buyers long before these kids were born. Adult visitors often tell stories about dancing to the music, how they met their spouses over one, and so on. In short, the jukeboxes attract attention because they are rare and unique, and people buy them for those reasons. The same is true for the other types of vintage equipment described in this article.

The demand for vintage American-made electronic equipment is strong and

increasing, particularly in Asia. One of the finest tube-type stereo power amplifiers is the McIntosh MC-275. It sold new for \$488 back in 1968; today, a used, un-restored MC-275 in good condition sells for about \$4000 in Japan. Even more amazing is that McIntosh Laboratory, Inc. reissued the amplifier with a \$4000 price tag, and these units sold like hotcakes.

U.S. vintage equipment buyers uncover audio and radio equipment by using a wide range of shopping techniques. Reading newspaper want ads, attending yard sales and visiting flea markets are mandatory. Many buyers attend estate sales and auctions, occasionally with spectacular results. For example, a local aerospace firm recently auctioned a dispatcher's console for \$100. It contained three MC-275 amplifiers in pristine condition. I once met a clever individual who called all of the septuagenarian and octogenarian hams in an area and asked if they had equipment or parts for sale. That led to several purchases of prime communications gear and hard-to-find parts at great bargain prices.

Vintage equipment makes it way overseas through several channels. Some North American buyers offer their equipment to individuals who represent overseas buyers. Their ads appear in newspaper classified advertisements, as well as in audio and antique-radio magazines. Other buyers ship equipment directly to relatives overseas, who in turn resell to local individuals and trading companies. The relatives often hold equipment for speculation and use. They sell it directly to end users at a premium price when the timing is right. Trading companies found in many Asian countries are basically retail distributors with import capabilities. They have their technicians refurbish the equipment before offering it for sale in their showrooms.

One stateside buyer I know performs a novel variation of that process. First, he "test markets" his acquisitions at local flea markets. Then he sells the leftovers to the highest bidding trading company. The advantages of that process are that we get the first chance to buy his equipment, while he saves the cost of shipping and dealing with Customs. However, he warned me that the demand for US-made tuners, preamplifiers, amplifiers, and speakers has pushed prices to levels that

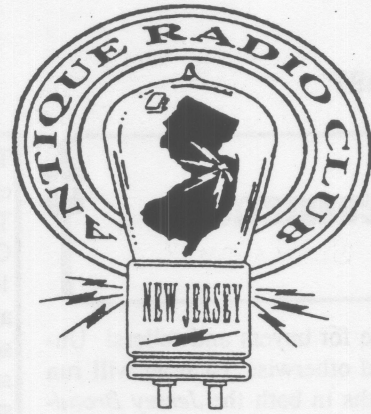
few local buyers are willing to pay. As a result, he must export increasing quantities of equipment to aggressive Asian buyers to turn an acceptable profit.

In general, the stories I hear imply that most end users are wealthy individuals who have the time and living space to indulge in owning vintage equipment. That makes sense when you think about it. For example, in Japan, a typical salaried employee earns a modest income and lives in a 425-square-foot apartment. He is unlikely to invest in a vintage stereo system that costs a third of his annual salary and takes up most of the space in his living quarters. Nevertheless, Japan is the largest marketplace for vintage equipment. According to published reports, Japan has approximately 55,000 antique-audio enthusiasts. Their interests in equipment range from state-of-the-art to 1930s vintage. A sizeable number build their equipment from scratch, mainly for cost savings and personal satisfaction (shades of the old Heathkit equipment). There are groups of over-enthusiastic users who aggressively seek out Altec-Lansing, Collins Radio, Marantz, McIntosh and Western Electric equipment. As a result, certain models of equipment from those manufacturers fetch astounding prices when they are available.

During a vacation trip in Singapore, I spent an enjoyable afternoon visiting with a local high-end audio dealer. He told me that his customers were mostly bankers who referred him to other bankers and clients as buyers of new and vintage audio equipment. He also said that ownership of vintage US and British-made equipment carries status in Singapore as well in Japan. That attracts a more exclusive clientele. Among other interesting tidbits, I learned that interest in vintage equipment is strong and increasing in Hong Kong, Korea, and mainland China.

Next month's installment covers make, model numbers and pricing of some of the "hot" export items including jukeboxes, amplifiers, preamplifiers, tuners, speakers, communications gear, tubes, capacitors and audio-output transformers. It also provides some selling tips just in case you happen to come across a pristine Seeburg V200 jukebox (\$15,000 - \$20,000).

NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB



ANTIQUE RADIO SWAPMEET

SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 8:00AM - 1:00PM*

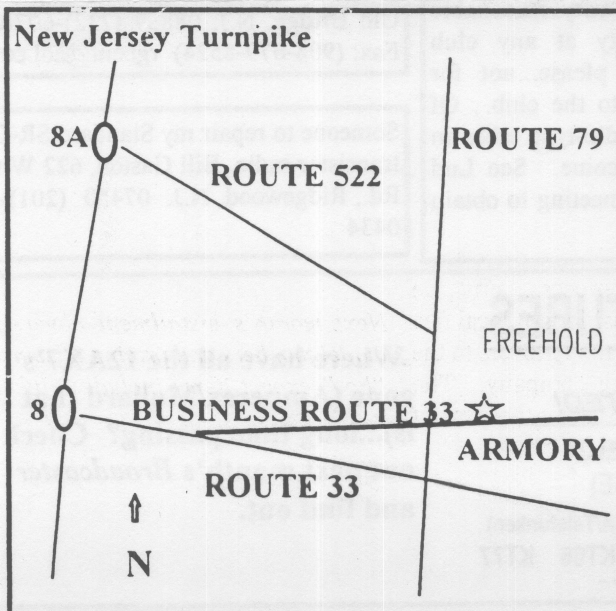
NEW LOCATION: National Guard Armory, Freehold N.J.

NJARC presents its Winter all-indoor swapmeet in a spacious, new location with vendors displaying a spectrum of collectible old-time radios, military and civilian communication equipment, audio equipment, phonographs, and associated parts and literature. Convenient, ground level access for vendors; snacks are available. Everyone is welcome! **Reservations are required to guarantee a space. NOTE: Tables will not be provided; floor space is ample and clean.**

DIRECTIONS: From the North: N.J. Turnpike Exit 8A to Route 522 East; in Freehold, take Route 79 South for about 1 mile to BUSINESS ROUTE 33 (Park Ave.) East - the armory is about a block East of Route 79 on BUSINESS ROUTE 33. From the South: N.J. Turnpike Exit 8 to Route 33 East for about 10 miles; continue on BUSINESS ROUTE 33 (Park Ave.) through Freehold - the armory is about a block East of Route 79 on BUSINESS ROUTE 33.

RATES: NJARC members \$15/space; non-members \$20/space.

CONTACTS/RESERVATIONS: Marv Beeferman, 2265 Emerald Park Drive, Forked River, NJ 08731 (609-693-9430). James Whartenby, 120 W. Franklin St., Bound Brook, N.J. 08805 (732-271-7701)



*Vendors set up at 7:00; no early admittance!

Formed in mid-1992, NJARC has a membership above 160. The club meets at Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold, on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM. Visitors are welcome. The club publishes the monthly *Jersey Broadcaster* and has a program providing members with replacement tubes and capacitors at moderate prices. Technical, restoration and historical presentations are provided by members at each meeting. Contact Jim Whartenby (908-271-7701) for additional information.

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

BEST OFFER: Mikes: EV 660A, Altec 686A, Vega Model 10 Wireless, AKG D190M, Sony ECM 22P, 2-Shure 55 S-1's 2-EV 664's; RCA MI122987 PA amp (1950's), Rauland-Borg 1916 PA amp (1950's); RCA T2K transistor radio (late 50's); assorted 1A2 telephone equipment: phones, KSU's, cards, speakerphones, adapters, power supplies; American Concertone 6054R tube reel-to-reel recorder; extensive Commodore computer equipment; garage full of other "junk." Michael Muderick, (610)-449-6970, Michael@Muderick.com

Collection of glass telegraph-telephone insulators. Quantity/historic stuff (no tchotchkes): Lynchburg, Gayner, 1880's Brookfield, a bunch of Surges, etc.; no Hemingray 42s! Four big boxes, modestly priced for the set. Can deliver to DVHRC or NJARC meetings. Ludwell Sibley, (908)-782-4894. 1/98

Tektronix oscilloscopes 535 and 547 with extra plug-in units and Scopemobile. Tektronic 575 transistor curve tracer. General Radio 805B RF generator, 1021P2 UHF generator. GE TV alignment sweep and marker generator set. Manuals for all. Other test gear and surplus equipment coming up for sale - stay tuned. Mark W. Hilliard, N3NBL, 921 S. Edward St., Allentown, PA 18103, 610-432-8089. (7/97)

The ever-handy reference *Tube Lore* gives 186 pages of insightful scoop on about every North American tube there is. Reviewed by Eric Farbour in *Vacuum Tube Valley* as "an instant classic." The book is available from the following hip sources: (A) the DVHRC book program (B) DVHRC's A. G. Tannenbaum, 215-540-8055 (C) W7FG Vintage Manuals, 800-807-6146 (D) Antique Radio Classified, 508-371-0512 (E) Antique Electronic Supply, 602-820-5411 (F) Fair Radio Sales, 419-223-2156 (G) Angela Instruments, 301-725-8823 (H) Antique Radio Components, 916-878-1780 (I) Pauli Washa, 612-472-0010, and (J) the Museum of Radio & Technology Bookstore (charleston, WV). Or...its available from Ludwell Sibley, 44 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822 for \$19.95 post-paid in the U. S. and Canada, \$24.95 by air overseas. Clubs get a discount on multiple copies. (7/97)

The NJARC tube program offers clean, tested, boxed tubes at very reasonable prices with availability at any club meeting (no dealers, please...not for resale). Proceeds go to the club. Of course, donations of radio-type tubes in any condition are welcome. See Lud Sibley at any monthly meeting to obtain or donate tubes.

Miniature short-wave radios: 1. 12-band AM/FM/MV/SW 1/9, very sensitive, takes 4 AA batteries, 5.9 to 26.6 MHz, with 6VDC power socket and earphone jack, cost includes shipping and insurance, \$40 2. 10-band AM/FM/MV/SW 1/7 real small, very sensitive, takes 2 AA batteries, has a 3VDC power socket and earphone jack, 4.75 to 18.06 MHz, cost includes insurance and shipping, \$35.00. 15% discount for NJARC and DVHRC members! Richard Brill, (732)-607-0299; FAX: (732)-679-8524 (10/97)

Highly collectible tubes. Send SASE for list of duplicates (mailed in Jan.) Jerry Vanicek, PO Box 4743, Chicago, IL 60680 (No phone calls, please.) (11/97)

Check out NJARC's capacitor program for those most commonly needed replacements. Contact John Ruccolo at any club meeting or call him at home (609)-426-4568 to find out what's available. All proceeds go to the club.

WANTED

Buying European Radios! Grundig, Telefunken, Saba, Normende, Blaupunkt, French Radios, Polish Goplana, etc. Must be in mint or close to mint condition and in working order. No junkers, please! Richard Brill, P.O. Box 5367, Old Bridge, N.J. 08857 (732)-607-0299 Fax: (908)-679-8524) rgbent@aol.com

Someone to repair my Standard SR-G433 transistor radio. Bill Gaston, 622 Witthill Rd., Ridgewood, N.J. 07450 (201)-444-0434

HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR NEW and USED TUBES

WANTED!

**Western
Electric**

VT25/A VT52 101D/F
100D 205D/F 211D/E

OTHER TUBES WANTED!

2A3 5AR4/GZ34 6CA7/EL34
6L6GC(RCA) 10(GLOBE)

12AX7/ECC83 (Amperex/Mullard/RCA/Telefunken)
45(GLOBE) 50(ST & GLOBE) KT66 KT77

Where have all the 12AX7's gone (Amperex/Mullard that is)...long time passing? Check out next month's *Broadcaster* and find out.