

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB



July 1999



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marsha Simkin and Mary Beeferman

Members at the June meeting of NJARC were happy to welcome past President Jim Whartenby and his wife Ruth who were visiting from North Carolina. You can see a candid shot of Jim admiring Gary D'Amico's Sterling tube tester and rejuvenator in the photos of our show-andtell session.

The club's exhibit at the Morris County Library in Whippany was a tremendous The exhibit generated three success. articles in two major newspapers giving coverage of our club and radio collecting and profiling three major contributors...Ray Chase, Joe Bentrovato and Jon Butz Fiscina. Thanks again to other members who donated their time and artifacts including Phil Vourtsis, Al Klase, Mary Beeferman and Marsha Simkin. Ralph Brown, the library's exhibit coordinator, is also to be commended for an eye-catching display, arranging publicity and designing a colorful booklet describing the exhibit.

In addition to numerous contacts from people wanting to sell radios, determine value, donate items and talk about their experiences in the radio business, colleges and other libraries have expressed interest in the exhibit. For example, there has been a request for an exhibit from Raritan Valley Community College - North Branch in the Sommerville/Whitehouse vicinity. Jon Butz Fisicina volunteered to coordinate this effort; anyone living in this area who would like to assist Jon is welcome to call him at 908-782-8587.

Also, as a result of our exposure, Phil Vourtsis received a call from Richard Seabury who lives in Northern New Jersey.

MEETING NOTICE

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The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, June 9th 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 Phil Vourtsis at 732-446-2427 for directions. Plans for this month's technical session have not yet been finalized, but we're anticipating a meeting to hold everyone's interest.

The Seabury's were founders of the Booton Rubber Moulding Company in 1890 and everything that followed. Richard's grandfather founded Radio Frequency Labs in Booton in 1922 and hired Dr. Holland and Malcolm Ferris (of Ferris Instruments) to design radios for Atwater Kent and Grigsby-Grunow. Richard has pictures and historical information documenting his grandfather's contributions which will hopefully provide the basis of a major Broadcaster article by Al Klase and Marv Beeferman. With support from Ludwell Sibley who started an article on the "Booton-as-Silicon-Valley -of-NJ" and Ray Chase who maintains a lot of information on the hierarchy and lineage of the many early electronics companies in the Boonton area, this presents itself as an exciting undertaking.

Based on an article in the Newark Star Ledger, Dave Sica has made contact with the grand nephew of Nikola Tesla. He . has accepted an invitation to speak at one of our meetings; target dates are either August or October. We're also planning a slide show on the history of the Tuckerton station some time this year based on unpublished photographs from . the Giffordtown Schoolhouse Museum. And finally, one of our members provided the club with a box of Constantine's 1999 woodworker's catalogs for distribution. Constantine's is located in the Bronx, N.Y. and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and has always been a primary source of refinishing supplies for cabinet restoration. With appropriate attendance,

the company will provide a technical session at one of our meetings free-of-charge.

Jon Butz Fiscina reported on an article that recently appeared in a local paper regarding the passing of the Mutual Broadcasting Network on April 18th. This station produced many of the popular shows of the early days of broadcasting. Jon also asked to contact him if you are interested in purchasing the collection of Jeff Cohen or receiving some free consoles from the Media Director at Hunterdon H.S.

Thanks goes to those members who again supported our popular show-andtell-session with some very interesting and unique offerings:

- Gary D'Amico Gary displayed a recert find at the Kutztown radio flea market - a Sterling tube tester and rejuvenator.
- Marty Friedman Marty noted the fact that during the depression, people purchased radios without the cabinet and built their own and illustrated it with a homemade "creation" housing a Grunow 6C.
- Jon Butz Fiscina Jon showed a Philco service charge plaque obtained from a 96 year-old former serviceman and a 3-foot thermometer advertising Sylvania radio tubes.
- John Ruccolo John displayed what he described as "home-brews from the twilight zone." The first was a solar-powered radio using a CK722

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transistor and 4 B2M solar cells. John was quite surprised to find the ad for this kit, offered by IRC, while thumbing through CQ magazine for September 1956. Not to let a good thing rest, he also found, quite unexpectedly, an article, in the Radio Amateur's Handbook for 1963 describing a 200 watt, grounded grid linear amplifier that he had recently acquired.

- George Shields George showed a 1959 Philco Safari portable TV, the first all-transistor model of its kind. With a 2" CRT (2EP4), the viewer saw a reflected and magnified 4-5" image. The unit is very sensitive and can pick up cable stations merely by being placed next to a cable line. George also described one of the first consumer radios offered by Telefunken, a 1923-1924 crystal set. The receiver is capable of picking up jumper-selected long and medium waves up to 1150 Khz and can drive up to three headsets.
- Jim Fisher The 1938 Zenith "Walton" radio is a favorite of collectors; Jim displayed his beaufully restored example. However, the price is high and with this in mind, Jim's son (a carpenter by trade) decided to recreate his own with a table saw, hand plane and the chassis from a junk console. Two hundred dollars later, the result is amazing and hardly distinguishable from the original.
- Mary Beeferman Mary showed an "Armstrong" aerial eliminator in the shape of a vacuum tube (and mistaken for such at the Krantz auction). He also asked for thoughts on a speaker driver enclosed in a round metal case with felt-lined wood discs on top and bottom. What was interesting about the item was that the enclosure had circular Coca Cola emblems on its inside (later identified by Jim Whartenby as stock for punching out bottle caps). Most guesses leaned toward a window shade attachment that caused the shade to "dance" in time with the music (Mark Mittleman) or a wall attachment that turned the entire wall into a speaker (Jon Butz Fiscina).



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Past President Jim Whartenby admires Gary D'Amico's Sterling tube tester and rejuvenator.



Anticipating this July 4th's scorching temperatures, Jon Butz Fiscina is prepared with this Sylvania advertising piece. 0





RESTORING BAKELITE

Part II

By Ed Lyon

The following OTB adaptation originally appeared in the **MAARC Newsletter** for January 1989...Ed

Let's say you have cleaned the panel or the radio cabinet and have stripped it of all hardware. (That's the proper way to clean it anyway.) Now comes the shining operation. What you will need is a benchmounted motor or grinder with a shaft speed of 1725 to 1750 RPM. It can have any horsepower rating of about 1/HP or more. On its shaft you will need to mount a buffing wheel. A buffing wheel, often called a buff, can take several forms. These are: loose, unsewn buffs, multi-ply unsewn smooth buffs, and sewn buffs. The best buff for working with Bakelites is the unsewn type, either loose or smooth. If the only type of buff you can find is a sewn buff, you can remove the outer few rows of annular stitches, to loosen the buff

perimeter. The loose buffs can be obtained at stores such as Sears, in 4-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch diameters. Most bench grinders and motors can readily accommodate a 6-inch buff. An arbor can also be purchased at stores such as Sears, to secure the buff to the motor shaft, or, if you start out with a bench grinder, you should use the same size buff as the grinding wheel originally on the unit. (Most grinders are 6-inch diameter.) In **any event**, the buff should be mounted on the shaft, and well-centered, to eliminate wobbling or vibration.

Be sure to check the direction of rotation. Set it so as to make the edge of the buff closest to you move downward, never upward. The buff should have a fender or shroud around most of its periphery to catch dust and bits of buffing compound flung off the wheel. You should always wear goggles or a faceshield; a dust mask is also a good idea. The best place to do the buffing is outdoors where the dust formed can blow harmlessly away, rather than accumulate in the shop or garage. This is especially important if you also use the garage or shop to refinish wood cabinets. Accumulated dust will get on freshly

results.

Now the tricky part. Obtain a good buffing compound. Sears sells a kit of four grades in one bubble-pak, colorcoded for identification. None is as good as I like, and all are a bit slow to remove material. Sears' white or red rouge compound does, however, bring up a good clear shine. The brown (Tripoli) and black (emery) do not seem to cut very fast though. The type of compound I prefer has been custom-formulated for me, and it contains tallow, carnauba wax, silica grit, and a filler. It resembles 'Fels Naphtha' soap in color and texture. This compound cuts Bakelites and Catalins very quickly, yet is very fine in texture and leaves a polished surface.

A second custom formulation I had made is pure white in color. It contains fatty acids, carnauba wax, and aluminum oxide grit, and is used following the first compound's use. It brings up a brilliant sheen. The first compound, the fast cutting but moderately fine polishing agent, is called a cutting compound, while the second is called a coloring compound, both terms taken from the lapidary business.

Accumulated dust will get on freshly The compounds are used by first lacquered finishes, with unpleasant rubbing the cake of compound against the

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rotating wheel until it has become "loaded" with the stuff. When flecks start flying off the wheel, it is probably loaded enough. Bring the panel or radio to be polished gently in contact with the wheel. This step is critical! Be very careful the wheel doesn't catch the edge of the panel or cabinet or a slot or hole in the unit; the inertia of the rotating wheel can jerk the valuable thing out of your grip. It happens so fast that it is quite startling. And loud.

The buffing operation should start near the center of the panel or face of the radio cabinet and proceed downward toward the lower edge, by moving the panel upward. IMPORTANT: Never move the panel down such that the upper edge might get caught by the downward-rotating wheel. Patience pays off, and the collector who is slow and gentle with the applied pressure will be rewarded with a panel that glows with its original gloss, with a radio that first comes back to its original color, then takes on a sheen like it once had. In the case of an engraved Bakelite or Micarta panel, the buffing should not be pursued so vigorously that the engraved lettering or symbols disappear; indeed, it is only necessary to use light pressure, and the engraving will remain intact. The engravings may, however, have to be refilled with white (or ivory) enamel (available from watchmakers' supply houses) to be restored to original brightness, if that is desired. After using the buffing compounds, some compound will remain on the panel or radio cabinet, in the form of wax or grease. This excess can be wiped from the panel or radio cabinet using a soft cloth. Further rubbing with the cloth will bring up a deep luster. The results can be spectacular.

INFOAGE UPDATE

The following letter was received by President Phil Vourtsis thanking the club for its participation in the leaf cleanup at the InfoAge site. It also provides an update on the latest progress being made in finalizing turnover and program development and is published here in its entirety...Ed.



Dear NJARC Members:

Thanks for the clean up work at Camp Evans. It was a pleasure to meet you and enjoyable to give you a tour of the site. The leaf removal gives the site a cared for look which discourages vandalism. Working together we can preserve this historic site and assist education as a hands-on science center.

Our joint application with Brookdale Community College for the rights to use the property for 30 years has been filed and we are looking forward to approval in the late fall. We have also filed an application with the White House's SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES program. If approved this will bring our efforts to the attention of corporate sponsors working with this program.

As a science center, our doors are not open yet, but excellent opportunities are arising to bring educational activities to our area. It is my pleasure to share with you some of our recent accomplishments and possibilities for the future:

The Smithsonian Institution is sending our center a copy of their 'Marconi Traveling' exhibit. The exhibit draws much of its material from the Smithsonian's Clark collection. Mr. Clark began his collection in 1919 while working for Marconi at Camp Evans.

Members of our organization participated in International Marconi Day. 1000 persons in over 20 countries spoke to radio operators at Camp Evans. This event was reported in the NY Times, Star Ledger and the Coast Star.

We took part in the third annual National Space Day. Science teachers in 2,500 schools around the nation were able to visit our web site (www.infoage.org) to learn how the Space Age was opened electronically in Monmouth County in 1946.

Cablevision's TV-34 THINKING EN-VIRONMENTALLY program featured our efforts at Camp Evans and aired our promotional video for over six weeks

We have been invited and have acccpted to act as a regional education center for the NASA Mars Mission, Red Rover. Students who are successful in this nationwide competition will get to remotely operate the Mars explorer during the 2001 mission.

We are reviewing over 100 hands-on science exhibits currently in use in other centers to bring them here to Camp Evans to inspire our children and families to learn science.

The PHYSICAL SOCIETY has sent us an eleven poster exhibit titled A CENTURY OF PHYSICS. This an example of the type of free resources available to science centers.

We are preparing our kick-of plans to begin renovations of our center and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marconi's first visit to America in October 1999. Would you as a group consider setting up a temporary old radio exhibit during our kick-off weekend?

The efforts at Camp Evans hold the initial promise of positive impact upon Monmouth County education and historic preservation of of New Jersey's electronic heritage. With time we hope to expand our outreach to the entire state.

For members who did no have the opportunity to visit Camp Evans we would be pleased to set up another tour. Any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Fred Carl, Director

COLLECTOR.. CURATOR.. OR A LITTLE OF BOTH?

Edited by Marv Beeferman

In a recent article in *Invention & Technology*, two curators of industrial history at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, Steven Lubar and Peter Liebhold, explained how they decide what's worth preserving. While reading the article, I noticed that, although distinctly different, the collector and curator's paths occasionally cross. Here's some direct quotes from the article. Do you consider yourself purely a collector, or is a little of the curator in all of us?

- When we collect something, we're making a statement that it should be preserved, that it tells a story worth remembering. More concretely, we're expressing our belief that researchers will study it, curators will exhibit it, and someone will learn something from it. There's no point in owning something that will simply sit in storage until it rusts away.
- Sometimes we select something on purely technological grounds if it shows great skill in design or manufacture, or was exciting to engineers or inventors in its day, or seems to be a precursor of what's important today, or came from a famous inventor, or was a great commercial success.
- ...we do not judge inventions the way sportswriters judge football players. *Best, breakthrough,* and even *important* are the wrong words; sometimes we collect an artifact for contrary reasons, because it's typical or amusing or peculiar, or because it represents a path not taken - because its *not* important to technological "advance."
- The museum has always collected trade literature, the catalogues and circular letters that firms give to potential customers. They are a superb source of pictures and

descriptions of machines, and they can tell something about the machines' buyers and users....We've also tried to document how technological artifacts are sold.

- By *interesting*, we mean that it allows us to tell a good story. To be able to tell a good story, we must collect not single artifacts but groups of artifacts with information to go along. If we think of each object not as a heroic figure, important in and of itself, but as one member of a larger cast, we can better understand it. For every object in a starring role, the supporting cast might include prototypes, trade literature, sketches and notes by the inventor. manufacturer, or user, or company records. We might also do oral or video history interviews if the inventors, makers, or users are still available.
- Ideally, objects brought to us are carefully researched. We save letters from donors; clippings from newspapers and journals; trade literature describing the artifact, its manufacturer, and other items like it in the manufacturer's line; photographs showing it in use; curators' notes describing why we accepted it; and interviews with the donor. manufacturer, or user. We want our collections to be as useful for researchers as for exhibit, to increase our understanding of the story of technology and history. We get not just the trophy but as much of its setting, its context, as we can.
- If we already own a good bunch of a given sort of thing, we might not need to acquire one more. Not all curators or collectors think this way. One of the classic reasons for collecting is to fill in the gaps. If we have models 1 through 5 and 7 through 10, why not take model 6 when it's offered? Stamp and coin collectors aim for completeness, and in a few areas of technology it is logical for museums to think this way.
- Collectors' interests tend to be quite different from those of museums. In an article called "Passionate Possessions," the anthropologist

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Marjorie Akin lists six reasons why people collect: to satisfy personal aesthetics, to meet a desire for control, for a sense of completion, for connections with personal past, for the thrill of the chase, or for profit. Museums have none of these compulsions; we have a more simply educational mission. Collectors collect for themselves; we collect for the public and for historians. There's no reason why we should go after the same things or why there should even be much overlap between our interests.

- ...in some fields of collecting automobiles, for example standards of conservation vary widely. Owners of antique cars and automobile museums often restore them far beyond what most museum curators would consider appropriate. They want them in as-new new condition; we want to keep intact the evidence of their use.
- You can't save everything. The time, effort, and money put into saving one object means much less effort put into saving something else. The root of the word *curator* is "to care for." But the modern curator does much more. We select, make sense of, and tell stories about our collections.

NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB



ANTIQUE RADIO OUTDOOR SWAPMEET

SATURDAY, JULY 31, 8:00AM - 3:00PM*

HIGHTSTOWN COUNTRY CLUB (new location)

NJARC has temporarily moved its Summer swapmeet back to Hightstown, NJ with vendors displaying a spectrum of collectible old-time radios, military and civilian communication equipment, audio equipment, phonographs, and associated parts and literature. The swapmeet is **all-outdoors (rain or shine)** with tables guaranteed to the first 40 reservations.

DIRECTIONS: The Hightstown Country Club is located near Exit 8 of the NJ Turnpike and just off Route 33. From turnpike Exit 8, go east on Route 33 about 200 yards (past "Moms Peppermill" restaurant); continue 1/4 mile and take the first jughandle to come back west. After the first traffic light, bear right onto Monmouth St. (watch for small sign on the right), then 300 yards to the Country Club on the left. There is a Ramada Inn across the street.

RATES: NJARC members \$15/space; non-members \$20/space; \$2 buyer admission charge.

CONTACTS/RESERVATIONS: Marv Beeferman, 2265 Emeralda Park Drive, Forked River, NJ 08731 (609-693-9430). Phil Vourtsis, 13 Cornell Place, Manalapan, NJ 07726 (732-446-2427) Volume 5 Issue 7

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CONNECTIONS	The ever-handy reference <i>Tube Lore</i> gives 186 pages of insightful scoop on about every North American tube there is. Reviewed by Eric Barbour in <i>Vacuum</i> <i>Tube Valley</i> as "an instant classic." Available from Ludwell Sibley, 102 Mc- Donough Road, Gold Hill, OR 19725- 9626 for \$19.95 postpaid in the U. S. and Canada, \$24.95 by air overseas. Clubs get a discount on multiple copies. The NJARC tube program offers clean, tested, boxed tubes at very reasonable prices with availability at any club meeting (no dealers, pleasenot for resale). Proceeds go to the club. Of course, donations of radio-type tubes in any condition are welcome. See Gary D'Amico at the next meeting. Parted out Stromberg Carlson 19-20 (AC). Power transformer appearsOK; IF's are O.K. Electrodynamic speaker is electrically OK (needs cone repair). Make offer. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road. Queensbury, NY 12804. (518)-792-3130.	Howard Sams book "From CB to Ham Beginner" by J.A. Stanley. Richard C. Yingling, 2 S. Locke Ave., Yeagertown. Pa. 17099. (717)-242-1882
Free exposure for buyers and sellers! Un- less requested otherwise, each ad will run for two months in both the <i>Jersey Broad-</i> <i>caster</i> and the Delaware Valley <i>Oscillator</i> . All buying and selling transactions are the responsibility of the parties involved.		Need someone to repair a Philco 4654 Predicta TV. Ray Casper (609)-695-8312 Good front panel and internal horn speaker for Radiola IX; speaker for
FOR SALE Check out NJARC's capacitor program for those most commonly needed replace- ments. Contact John Ruccolo at any club		AK55. Tom Provost, (609)-259-7634 Looking for accessories for AN/GRC-9 field radio, especially front cover. whip antenna and power cord for DY-88 power supply. Al Klase, (908)-782-4829, skywaves@bw.webex.net
meeting or call him at home (609)-426- 4568 to find out what's available. All proceeds go to the club. RCA Model 58AV radio/phono console; wood, superhet, standard broadcast and short wave. Dimensions are 36" H x 34" L x 18" W. Tony or Roseann, (732) 280- 1276 (Wall Township.		Emerson AU-190 chassis; FADA 659 dial glass; Chelsea ZR-4 audio transformer; Sentinel 400 Television; Plastic CRT cover (front) for 17" Philco Predicta; Pilot TV-37 tuning knob (wood). Frank Johnson, 530 Elford Rd., Fairless Hills, PA 19030-3624. (215)- 943-8295
Radio schematics and service data, \$2.50 plus #10 SASE (price is for 1 to 5 pages of data per model; over 5 pages, copy charge is 20 cents per page). US & Canadian models 1920s to 1960s. Questions/quotes answered with a SASE. Steve Rosenfeld, PO Box 387, Ocean Gate, NJ, 08740. Phone (732) 269-2022 Fax (732)-269- 2897. srosenfeld/@ems.att.com	WANTED Cast aluminum lid for Eveready #2 radio, circa 1928. Good photo would help if lid is not available. Need two, four-inch black No. 488 dial knobs for Fried Eisemann NR-6. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road, Queensbury, NY., 12804. (518)-792-3130.	Sales literature, service manuals, and equipment for theatre sound/broadcast use by RCA Photophone. Century Sound, Motiograph, Altec, Western Electric, etc. Theatre catalogs by Jay Emmanual Publications, Philadelphia. Scott Stillwell, 2328 Cambridge Circle. Hatfield, PA 19440. (215)-393-1833 Pager: (800)-717-9306
Communications, military and test equip- ment. Send long SASE for revised list and lots of new items. Also: Zenith oval shaped console 9-S-263, 9-tube RobotDial w/motor tuning. In original showroom condition - \$995 - or best offer. Eveready battery set (uses type 240 tubes), good con- dition - \$100 Pair of ElectroVoice Aris- tocrat corner enclosures with University 312, 8-ohm, 25 watt triax speakerssound is great, condition is good - \$300 Ray Chase, 1350 Marlborough Ave., Plain- field, N.J. 07060. (908)-757-9741. (12/98)	WWII military television receiver, camera and dynamotor with numbers CRV, AXT, ATJ, ATK, purchased from Denson Electronics. WWII Navy transmitters and receivers. Maurice Schechter, 590 Willis Ave., Williston Pk.,	Chassis and speaker for Sparton 517B (Machine Age to Jet Age, pg. 187) or Sparton 527-2 (Machine Age to Jet Age II pg. 283). Joe Bentrovato, 84 E. Munson Ave., Dover, NJ 07801. (973)- 361-7392
	NY 11596 Phone/fax: (516-294-4416) Japanese tubes: UF134, UZ135, UF109A, UF111A, UY133A. Lewie Newhard (610)-262-3255	Buying European Radios! Grundig. Telefunken, Saba, Normende, Blaupunkt, Phillips, Goplana. etc. Must be in good to fair condition. Richard Brill, P.O. Box 5367, Old Bridge, N.J. 08857. (732)- 607-0299. Fax: (908)-679-8524 or rgbent@aol.com