

# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB



November 2001

Volume 7 Issue 11

MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

#### **Reported by Marv Beeferman**

The business portion of October's meeting focused on suggestions for the location of a final swapmeet for the 2001 season. As with last month, we received a number of suggestions but no follow-ups. Since it is too late to advertise a full meet, we will be limited to a small get-together open to club members and anyone else who might care to attend. Even this event is tentative since the Grace Lutheran Church parking lot (if available) may be too small to accommodate the anticipated traffic. One possi-

bility is the parking lot at InfoAge and we'll be contacting Fred Carl to find out about availability.

The club was pleased to welcome guest speaker Dr. Alexander B. Magoun, Director of the David Sarnoff Library, which is located in Princeton, New Jersey. Mr. Magoun stated that the library was built in 1967 to hold David Sarnoff's papers and memorabilia but was not orientated toward technology. However, over the last 15 years since GE's acquisition, the library acquired the David Sarnoff Collection which includes artifacts, reports, lab notebooks and over 25,000 photographs featuring the accomplishments of RCA's Princeton laboratories and the 35,000 state residents who worked for the

company. The David Sarnoff Collection is now supported by the Sarnoff Corporation and the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Along with Bell Labs in Murray Hill, the RCA Labs were responsible for inventing or innovating virtually every device that made Silicon Valley, Asia's electronic supremacy and the digital revolution possible: from color television to the transistor and integrated circuit, from electron mi-

# **MEETING NOTICE**

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, November 9th at the Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Route 33 and Main Street in Freehold. Contact Phil Vourtsis (732-446-2427) or Marv Beeferman (609-693-9430) for directions. The evening's agenda includes a talk by John Ruccolo on tips and techniques in restoring 40's vintage electrostatic TVs. We'll also fill you in on upcoming events like our holiday party, the broadcast band DX contest and an upcoming local auction. Check out this month's *Broadcaster* for all the details.

croscopy to CCD cameras and liquid crystal displays. The library's exhibits honor those New Jersey scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs that were part of this technological history and tradition.

In conjunction with Dr. Magoun's visit,



Marsha Simkin talks about David Sarnoff's displeasure with Leon Gutterman's Sarnoff, RCA and NBC as Dr. Alex Magoun, Director of the Sarnoff library, looks on.

Marsha and Jerry Simkin exhibited a display of Sarnoff and RCA memorabilia and books including a rare 1939 booklet described as America's first television tour at NBC and picturing some very early sets. Marsha told the interesting story of Leon Gutterman who was publisher and editor of *Wisdom Magazine* from 1956 to 1964. The magazine featured the life and thoughts of an outstanding personality and David Sarnoff was so impressed by the feature done on him that he bought and distributed 50,000 copies. "Gutterman may have gotten a little greedy" said Marsha and his unauthorized book which followed, *Sarnoff, RCA & NBC*, put Sarnoff in a pompous and godlike light. Sarnoff hated

> the book so much that he sent out letters and retrieved as many copies as possible...but Marsha's copy survived as an interesting collectible. Marsha said she's now trying to find a copy of Sarnoff's letter to accompany the book.

> Dr. Magoun was a participant in our show-and-tell session and displayed what he termed "the second or third version" of RCA's image orthicon and described Vladmir Zworykin's interesting relationship with Sarnoff. As an aside, Dr. Magoun said that the tube's "Ike" nickname was suggested as the name for the present day Emmy statuette. But with a national war hero named "Ike" Eisenhower, it was thought that a less well-known name would be more appropriate. Harry Lubcke,

a pioneer television engineer and third president of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, suggested "Immy," the term commonly used for the early image orthicon camera. The name stuck and was later modified to Emmy which was thought to better suit a female symbol.

As usual, our **show-and-tell** session covered the classic, unusual and "just fun" categories quite nicely:

• A 50s vintage Timex model 40 mag-

THE JERSEY BROADCASTER 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. 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. The Editor or NJARC is not liable for any other use of the contents of this publication. **PRESIDENT:** Phil Vourtsis 13 Cornell Place Manalapan, N.J. 07726

(732)-446-2427 VICE PRESIDENT: **Richard** Lee 154 Hudson Terrace Piermont, N.Y. 10968-1014 (845)-359-3809 **SECRETARY/EDITOR:** Mary Beeferman 2265 Emeralda Park Drive Forked River, N.J. 08731 (609)-693-9430 **TREASURER:** Sal Brisindi 203 Cannon Road Freehold, N.J. 07728 (732)-308-1748 SARGEANT-AT-ARMS: Dave Snellman Box 5113 New Britain, PA 18091 (215)-345-4248 **TRUSTEES:** John Ruccolo (609)-426-4568 Gary D'Amico (732)-271-0421 Martin Friedman (732)-238-1047 **TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:** Al Klase 22 Cherryville-Station Road Flemington, N.J. 08822 (908)-782-4829 **TUBE PROGRAM:** Gary D'Amico 84 Noble Street South Bound Brook, N.J. 08880 (732)-271-0421 SCHEMATIC PROGRAM: Aaron Hunter 23 Lenape Trail Southampton, N.J. 08088 (609)-267-3065 **CAPACITOR PROGRAM:** John Ruccolo 335 Butcher Rd.

Hightstown, N.J. 08520 (609)-426-4568 WEB COORDINATOR: John Dilks, K2TQN (609)-927-3873 http://www.eht.com/oldradio MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Marsha Simkin 33 Lakeland Drive

Barnegat, N.J. 08005 (609)-660-8160 netic disc recorder offered on e-bay brought back old memories for Bill Zukowski since it was similar to the one that he enjoyed as a child to record tunes from the radio. The recorder can also play 45 RPM records and its phono needle rides in the groves of a "tracking disc" so that the recording head maintains proper spacing on the mylar disc recording medium.

Volume 7 Issue 11

- Marty Friedman felt that these cautious times call for vigilant action and what would be more suitable than the civil defense uniform he wore at the age of 15 as a radio operator in Elizabeth. Let's hope Marty doesn't have to wait too long for the next "all clear."
- Rick Weingarten displayed a novelty transistor "Adam & Eve" radio...half Adam, half Eve. What wonderful music these two make together.
- Robert Flory brought in an RCA AR 85-06B marine commercial receiver which was normally rack-mounted on WWII liberty ships. The radio features a 1700 Khz IF with good image rejection but very broad tuning and a NE-37 neon bulb used as a voltage regulator for the local oscillator. Replacement of leaky capacitors brought the receiver back to life with easy access to countries such as Japan and Australia.
- Richard Brill showed a portable Russian gramophone which was dated 1918. However Richard noted that the ruse is revealed by the use of a 1930 RCA reproducer. Richard said that Russia tried to export these "inventions" to Europe but steel and reproducer shortages got in the way.
- George Shields obtained his Telefunken 340 from Australia and noted that it is one of the most desirable radios made by the company. Its stylish dial resembles that of a cat's head and the radio is often referred to as the "Katzenkoph." This beautiful 4-tube regenerative receiver brings in LW and MW stations, is "remarkably sensitive," has no hum (although it uses a half-wave rectifier) and provides a phono pickup input and external speaker output. George said that he left the radio to run at 220V and uses a European converter to enjoy its

sound.

- Bernie Gindoff was unable to stump the acute eyes of some of our members with photos of electronmicrographs of the grooves of a 78 RPM record.
- Sal Brisindi and Dave Sica teamed up to show some fine examples of Blonder-Tongue Laboratories model
  99 UHF converters. Issac Blonder and Ben Tongue are honored NJARC members.
- Nathan Guedalia displayed an RCA receiver (sorry, I didn't quite catch the model number) beautifully restored, as Nathan said, "from A to Z."
- Scott Marshall decided to bring a Webcor tape recorder back to life because he was interested in the tapes that came with it. The recorder had some decent features for its vintage including 2 bi-directional motors and 2 heads. Finding all tubes, including the eye tube, in excellent shape, paper cap replacement was all that was required to hear grandpa singing at what sounded like an Italian family gathering. One section included a teenager practicing her speech for treasurer of her Huntington County high school class...could it be that we were hearing an early Christy Whitman sampler?
- Walter Jacobson displayed his recently restored Zenith 7-S-634R. This is a beautiful 1942 black dial model with 2 spiral wooden bars across the grill. Walter offered his expertise in Zenith restorations to any member who might need help
- Phil Vourtsis showed a restored "Ristocrat" radio/phono combination that automatically turns on its radio after its stack of 18 records is played and picks up the entire stack so the unit is ready for the next cycle. The player has no off switch and was used as a low-end juke box to provide continuous music.
- Your editor displayed a group of hand-painted radio advertising placards that would be found in a typical radio repair shop. Obtained at the Muchow auction, a typical poster asks the question "HOW's YOUR AERIAL? We ask this question because we can fill your needs to a

'king's fancy' in aerial equipment." Also shown was a letter from Malcolm P. Hanson, Chief Radio Engineer for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition from 1928 to 1930, to FJ. Schlink of Consumers Research.

Over 20 participants showed up for the October 20th **radio clinic** and it turned out to be another fun day. A nice assortment of radios turned up including a Zenith 5G-438, 58-08 and two Transoceanics, a Philco 51, 57 and 40-159, an Emerson 778 and beautiful AL148 on a tilting base, a US Radio model 26, a Dewald 522B and an NC-125 communications receiver. Photos of the day are included in this month's *Broadcaster*.

Technical Coordinator Al Klase has announced NJARC's **2002 Broadcast Band DX Contest.** Full details including dates, rules and categories are included in this month's newsletter. A \$25 Antique Radio Supply gift certificate will be awarded in each of the 5 categories. We will be inviting the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club to participate in the contest to provide a little friendly competition, find out which club has the "right stuff" and hopefully inspire a good turnout of participants.

#### Some final notes:

The club has decided to provide a vintage radio/computer exhibit at the Trenton Computer Festival at the New Jersey Convention Center on Saturday, May 4th. This will be a repeat of the exhibit we set up two years ago and it turned out to be a very enjoyable day. We had enough volunteers to give everyone a chance to shop around for a few hours and we received numerous leads for club acquisitions. We'll try to concentrate on "New Jersey radios" but will accept anything you have to offer.

Anyone interested in doing a radio demonstration or weekend display on the Battleship New Jersey, please contact Rob Flory at 609-466-4217.

Your editor has received a donation from Amergen Energy of 2 Compaq Prolinea 590 computers with high capacity hard drives, two 15" IBM monitors and an HP Laserjet III printer. The printer will give me the ability to prepare the *Broadcaster* completely from home and I'm sure we can put the computers to good use.

Additional show-and-tell photos can be found on page 8.

### Volume 7 Issue 11



Page 3

# Volume 7 Issue 11

Page 4

0. .



### Volume 7 Issue 11

Page 5

## LOCAL RADIO AUCTION ANNOUNCED

An antique radio auction will be held on Saturday, December 1st, 2001 starting at 12:00 PM at North River Auctions, 2 West Front Street, Keyport, NJ 07735. The estate will include a 1920's home radio repair shop cleanout which will consist of chassis, power supplies, cabinets, phonographs, consoles, coffins, speakers, vintage tabletop TVs including Fada, Emerson & GE and many other parts. Also included are over 1000 45rpm records from a 1960's DJ.

Previews will be held on Friday from 4 to 7 PM and Saturday from 11 AM. The North River Auction Hall can be reached off exit 117 on the Garden State Parkway. Bear left at the exit and make a left at the first light. Then go 2 lights and the building is on the corner on the left (2 West Front Street). Parking is available in the rear. The auction house can be reached at (732)-264-0580 or www.northriverauctions.com. A standard 13% buyers premium applies to this sale with a 3% discount for cash and checks.



This year's NJARC holiday party will be held on Friday, December 14th at the David Sarnoff Library, 201 Washington Road, Princeton NJ. A full program is planned including a mystery grab bag, radio scavenger hunt and a tour of the library conducted by Dr. Alexander Magoun, so we'd like to start promptly at 7:00 PM. A catered, buffet dinner will be offered to all members (or husband/wife joint members); guests will be charged \$5 per person. Since this will be a catered affair, it's very important that we get an accurate head count no later than December 7th to ensure we can accommodate all those who plan to attend. Reservations can be made with: Marv Beeferman (609-693-9430) (mbeeferman@cs.com) Phil Vourtsis (732-446-2427) (pvourtsis@att.com) Marsha Simkin (609-660-8160) (gsimkin@monmouth.com).

MYSTERY GRAB BAG - Wrap a radiorelated item to conceal its actual shape (the sneakier the better) that's worth a minimum of \$15 to \$20 (although a few higher priced items are encouraged to make the game a little more interesting). Your package is your ticket to join the fun and will be placed in a common pile.

Each participant's name will be placed in a hat. The first person whose name is drawn will select the item of his choice, unwrap it and reveal it to all players. A second person's name is then drawn and he selects an item but does not open it. He has the choice to either exchange it with the first player's item or keep it. If the item is kept, it is then unwrapped. If the item is exchanged, the first player unwraps the item and gets to keep it. Play progresses with each new player having the opportunity to "steal" any unwrapped item in the "pot" in exchange for his wrapped choice. Spite, malice, ill-will, malignity, retaliation, revenge and reprisal are all encouraged.

**RADIO SCAVENGER HUNT** - Nine categories are offered but we're asking members to compete in no more than two. Describe your entry and write its category on the front of a 3 X 5 card (also available on the day of the contest) and print your name on the back of the card. Winners will be chosen by our expert panel of judges. Here are the categories:

1. Smallest transistor radio.

2. Most unusual item that looks like a radio but isn't.

3. Most unusual speaker.

4. Most unusual radio that doesn't look like a radio.

5. Most unusual holiday-related (all holidays included) radio item.

6. Strangest looking tube.

7. Most unusual radio service item or test equipment.

8. Ugliest commercial radio.

9. Open category (advertising, record players, microphones, books, magazines, televisions, etc.)



Bell Labs has a long and illustrious connection with transistors. William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain invented the transistor at Bell Labs in 1947. This invention spawned the digital age and earned them the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1956.

As reported in the October 18th issue of the journal *Nature*, a new breakthrough has been announced. Scientists from Lucent Technologies have created organic transistors with a single-molecule channel length, setting the stage for a new class of high-speed, inexpensive carbon-based electronics.

Scientists have been looking for alternatives to conventional silicon electronics for many years, because they anticipate that the continuing miniaturization of silicon-based integrated circuits will subside in approximately a decade as fundamental physical limits are reached. Some of this research has been aimed at producing molecular-scale transistors, in which single molecules are responsible for the transistor action - switching and amplifying electrical signals.

The size of a transistor's channel (the space between its electrodes), influences the transistor's output current and switching speed. In these new molecular-scale transistors, the length of one molecule defines the channel's physical dimension; it is more than a factor of ten smaller than anything that has been demonstrated even with the most advanced lithography techniques.

Using these tiny transistors, based on a class of organic semiconductor material known as thiols, the Lucent team built a voltage inverter, a standard electronic circuit module that converts a "0" to a "1" and vice versa. Though just a prototype, the success suggests that these devices could one day be used to squeeze a thousands times as many transistors onto a microprocessor or memory chip than is possible today.

# The 2002 NJARC BCB DX Contest

In the 1920's and 1930's some radio listeners would compete with each other for the reception of the most distant stations using the same receivers that that we restore now. We can recapture some of the excitement that the early DXers experienced in our own contest.

### **Official Contest Rules**

**THE OBJECT:** To use vintage radios receivers to receive broadcast-band signals from the greatest possible distance. Performance will be judged by the total mileage for your ten best loggings during a 24-hour session. You will be competing against competitors using similar receivers.

**CONTEST PERIOD:** The contest period will be from 12:00 Noon, local time at receiving location, Friday, February 15th through 12:00 Noon, Sunday, March 2nd.

SESSIONS: Contestants may submit logs for any two 24-consecutive-hour sessions (noon to noon) during the contest period. You may use only one receiver during a session. That means you may not "bird dog" the simple radio with the more complex radio. You may submit logs for two different receivers. They need not be in the same catagory.

**FREQUENCIES:** The Broadcast Band, as defined for the contest, will be from 530 to 1600 kilocycles. No stations on the new extended band 1600 to 1710 kilocycles will be counted since many early radios did not cover those frequencies. Some radios may be limited to a much lower top frequency, but we'll try 1600 kc. for now.

#### **RECEIVER CATAGORIES:**

- A Crystal radios
- B Primitive tube receivers (homebrew also) -1 to 2 tubes plus power supply
- C 1920's Battery sets (homebrew also) -batteries or modern power supply is OK
- D Receivers of up to 8 tubes (pre 1950)
- E Open category-any other type radio built before1950

#### ANTENNAS: Anything you like.

LOGS: Submit a log for each of your contest sessions (maximum of two). Each log header should include contestant's name, address, phone number, category, and description of receiver and antenna. Please include you listening address if it is different from you mailing address.

Make a log entry for each station you claim to have heard. Stations must be positively identified. (This is being done on the honor system, and is a somewhat variable concept. If you hear Boston weather on what you know is 1030KC, then go ahead and log WBZ. However, just because you heard a signal on 1160KHz doesn't mean you heard KSL in Salt Lake City.) The contest committee reserves the right to disallow what it feels are outrageous claims. Each entry should include time, frequency, call letters, location, and optional comments. Although we're only judging your ten most distant loggings, submit as complete a log as possible. The committee may make special awards for most stations, most interesting log, etc. as it sees fit.

A log sheet has been provided for convenience. You may reproduce it or generate a similar one of your own. Logs must be postmarked not later than midnight March 9th, 2002.

**DISTANCES:** Distances to stations will be calculated by the committee and will be based on great circle distances from Freehold, New Jersey for listening posts within a 100-mile radius of Freehold. We will calculate mileage for other entries based on actual listening location. In all cases, please indicate your ten best loggings to make our job easier.

Submit logs to: Tom Provost, 19 Ivanhoe Dr., Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Questions: Al Klase 908-782-4829, Tom Provost 609-243-2508

The following are 50KW stations operating nights on "clear" channels. This info is meant to be helpful, but may not be definitive. Al Klase, January 1999. Revised October 2001.

530 Radio Vision Cristiana Turks and Caicos

20

540 (Canadian Clear) XEWA San Luis Potosi, MX CBK Watrous, SA WQTM Pine Hills, FL

640 (US Clear) CHOG Richmond Hill, ON

650 (US Clear) WSM Nashville KENI Anchorage, AK

660 (US Clear) WFAN New York KTNN Window Rock, AZ CFFR Calgary, AB

670 (US Clear) WMAQ Chicago KBOI Boise, ID

680 (US Clear) KNBR San Francisco WRKO Boston WPTF Raleigh, CJOB Winnipeg CFTR Toronto

690 (Canadian Clear) CBF/CIQC Montreal XETRA Tijuana, Mexico CBU Vancouver,

700 (US Clear) WLW Cincinnati,

710 (US Clear) WOR New York KIRO Seattle WAQI Miami

720 (US Clear) WGN Chicago KDWN Las Vegas

730 (Mexican Clear) XEX Mexico City CKLG Vancouver, BC CKAC Montreal

740 (Canadian Clear) CBL Toronto CBX Edmonton WWNZ Orlando, FL KCBS San Francisco KTRH Houston

750 (US Clear) WSB Atlanta KFQD Anchorage, AK

760 (US Clear) WJR Detroit KFMB San Diego

770 (US Clear) WABC New York KKOB Albuquerque, NM CHQR Calgary, AB 780 (US Clear) WBBM Chicago KKOH Reno, NV

790 CFCW Camrose, AB CIGM Sudbury, ON

800 (Mexican Clear) XEROK Juarez, MX PJB3 Bonaire, NA CKLW Windsor, ON CHRC Quebec City

810 (US Clear) WGY Schenectady, NY KGO San Francisco WKVM San Juan, PR

820 (US Clear) WBAP Fort Worth-Dallas (new) Halifax, NS

830 (US Clear) WCCO Minneapolis

840 (US Clear) WHAS Louisville, KY

850 (US Clear) KOA Denver WEEI Boston KICY Nome, AK

860 (Canadian Clear) CJBC Toronto

870 (US Clear) WWL New Orleans KAIM Honolulu, HI

880 (US Clear) WCBS New York KRVN Lexington, NE CHQT Edmonton, AB

890 (US Clear) WLS Chicago

900 (Mexican Clear) XEW Mexico City CHML Hamilton, ON

920 CBO Ottawa, ON

940 (Can/Mex Clear) CBM Montreal XEQ Mexico City KFRE Fresno, CA

980 CBV Quebec, QU

990 (Canadian Clear) CBW Winnipeg CKGM/CHTX Montreal XET Monterrey, Mexico

1000 (US/Mexican Clear) WMVP Chicago KOMO Seattle XEOY Mexico City 1010 CBR Calgary CFRB Toronto WINS New York

1020 (US Clear) KDKA Pittsburgh KCKN Roswell, NM KTNQ Los Angeles

1030 (US Clear) WBZ Boston KTWO Casper, WY XEQR Mexico City

1040 (US Clear) WHO Des Moines, IA

1050 (Mexican Clear) XEG Monterrey, Mexico CHUM Toronto WEVD New York

1060 (US/Mexican Clear) KYW Philadelphia XEEP Mexico City CKMX Calgary

1070 (US/Canadian Clear) KNX Los Angeles CBA Moncton, NB

1080 (US Clear) WTIC Hartford, CT KRLD Dallas

1090 (US/Mexican Clear) WBAL Baltimore KAAY Little Rock, AR XEPRS Rosarito, Mexico KMPS Seattle

1100 (US Clear) WTAM Cleveland KFAX San Francisco

1110 (US Clear) WBT Charlottę, NC KFAB Omaha, NE XERED Mexico City

1120 (US Clear) # KMOX Saint Louis KPNW Eugene, OR

1130 (US/Canadian Clear) WBBR New York KWKH Shreveport, LA CKWX Vancouver, BC

1140 (US/Mexican Clear) WRVA Richmond, VA, XEMR Monterrey, MX KHTK Sacramento, CA CFXX Calgary

1160 (US Clear) KSL Salt Lake City

1170 (US Clear) WWVA Wheeling, WV KVOO Tulsa, OK 1180 (US Clear) WHAM Rochester, NY VOA (Radio Marti) Marathon, FL

1190 (US/Mexican Clear) WOWO Fort Wayne, IN KEX Portland, OR XEWK Guadalajara, MX

1200 (US Clear) WOAI San Antonio CFGO/CJBZ Ottawa, ON CKXM Victoria, BC

1210 (US Clear) WPHT Philadelphia

1220 (Mexican Clear) XEB Mexico City WKNR Cleveland

1500 (US Clear) WTOP Washington, DC KSTP Minneapolis

1510 (US Clear) WLAC Nashville KGA Spokane, WA WNRB Boston

1520 (US Clear) WWKB Buffalo, NY KOMA Oklahoma City

1530 (US Clear) WSAI Cincinnati, OH KFBK Sacramento, CA

1540 (Bahamas Clear) ZNS-1 Nassau, Bahamas KXEL Waterloo, IA WDCD Albany, NY

1550 (Mexican Clear) XERUV Jalapa, Mexico CBE Windsor, ON

1560 (Cuban Clear) WQEW New York KNZR Bakersfield, CA

1570 (Mexican Clear) XERF Ciudad Acuna, MX CKLM Montreal

1580 (Canadian Clear) CBJ Chicoutimi, QU KCWW Tempe, AZ KBLA Santa Monica, CA XEDM Hermosillo, Mexico



We should all feel safe with Marty on the job.



This Timex model 40 magnetic disc recorder brought back old memories for Bill Zukowski. Bill describes the operation of the magnetic disk (similar to a floppy) and tracking disc.