



# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

October 2008

Volume 14 Issue 10



**MEETING/  
ACTIVITY  
NOTES**

Reported by Marv Beeferman

## THE ON-LINE BROADCASTER

The New Jersey Broadcaster is now on-line. To date, 93 of your fellow NJARC members have subscribed, saving the club over \$1600 a year. Interested? Send your e-mail address to: [mbeeferman@cs.com](mailto:mbeeferman@cs.com)

Be sure to include your full name.

We had a great get-together at InfoAge last month for our annual members-only auction. It seemed like the rain did not keep too many people away since we almost filled the Telephone Exchange building. Some nice items showed up and prices were very reasonable. A few photos of the offerings can be found in this month's *Broadcaster*.

We're repeating the information that ran last month with regard to our first Old Equipment Contest in October and our "Dxpedition" in November; with enough publicity, let's hope we have a nice turnout for both. For the Old Equipment Contest, it can't be over-emphasized that general appearance, condition, documentation and effort trumps rarity. This will give everyone an even chance to be a first-place winner.

Ray Chase reminds us that preparations continue for the NJARC supported Haunted House at InfoAge. Hours will be as follows:

- 1) Friday or Saturday: October 17th, 18th and 24th, 7-10 PM
- 2) Saturday: October 25th and November 1st, 7-11 PM
- 3) Friday, October 31st (Halloween), 7PM to midnight.



## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club will take place on Friday, October 10th, at 7:30 PM at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton, N.J. Visit us at <http://www.njarc.org> for directions. This month we'll be holding our first Old Equipment Contest and, if all goes well, we hope to maintain it as a recurring feature of our yearly meeting programs. Background and rules may be found in this month's *Broadcaster*.

Tickets for the tour are \$10 per person (children under 6, \$5) with group rates available. A special facility for small children has also been prepared. As usual, we are always looking for volunteers to help with our "Mad Scientist Lab" during this period. No experience is necessary; we'll provide the training. The event is lots of fun for both volunteers and visitors alike and it offers a great opportunity to do your part for an organization that gives so much back to the community.



**NJARC members settle down (some a little more settled-down than others) for our members-only auction at InfoAge.**

Ray also asks us to take note of the thirty nominees for induction into the New Jersey Hall of Fame which was established to honor those "Garden-Staters" who have made significant contributions to New Jersey and the world at large. There are presently six nominees in five categories; of particular interest to us is

the nomination of Guglielmo Marconi based on his work at Wall Township and New Brunswick for the establishment of his worldwide communications system and contribution to wireless technology. (He also established a Marconi manufacturing plant in Aldene.)

By inducting Marconi into the New Jersey Hall of Fame, more publicity will be focused on InfoAge and our club. You can do your part by voting by mail or on the internet ([njhalloffame.org](http://njhalloffame.org)). Try to vote "early and often" (yes, you can vote multiple times) and ask your friends to help out as well. Voting closes on November 30th, but do it now (and later as well)! If you provide your email address when you vote, you'll also be entered into a drawing for a pair of free front row tickets and backstage passes to the next induction ceremony on May 3, 2009.



Information regarding the winners will be posted at several prominent locations in New Jersey in early January.

### Dates to Remember:

Repair Clinic, Sarnoff Library: 10/18  
Swapmeet, Parsippany: 11/8

**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 \$20 per year and meetings are held the second Friday of each month.

The Editor or NJARC is not liable for any other use of the contents of this publication.

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**A VISIT FROM  
THE LONG ISLAND  
WIRELESS  
ASSOCIATION**

**By Ray Chase &  
Marv Beeferman**

On Sunday, September 28th, a group of approximately 10 members of the Long Island Wireless Historical Society (LIWHS) and two Radio Central Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) members visited our museum at InfoAge. Established in 1995, the society is engaged in researching, documenting, collecting and exchanging information regarding the early history of wireless, telegraphy, telephone, radio and television in Long Island. The group conducts its mission through publications, meetings, the Internet, special exhibits and special events.

One of the events that NJARC members might be familiar with is Long Is-

land Radio Day held each year at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. This year's exhibition featured NJARC member Dr. Alex Magoun, executive director of the David Sarnoff Library, who presented a lecture on television history. Also featured was a live re-enactment of *War of the Worlds*, antique radio displays, ham radio demonstrations and old-time radio recordings.

The group, led by radio announcer Rob Raynor, chartered a small bus to come over from Eastern L.I. (not a bad idea for NJARC trips). NJARC member Ray Chase said that they were "blown away" by what we had accomplished at the museum and the size of what were essentially "free" buildings.

Society members received a complete tour of the InfoAge facilities including the new MARCH museum and they spent some time talking to InfoAge Director Fred Carl. With plenty of guides to show off our accomplishments (Al Klase, Dave Snellman, Phil Vourtsis and Ray Chase), the group enjoyed most of the afternoon touring the museum and InfoAge facilities.



Two of the many displays at the March 2007 Long Island Radio Day sponsored by the LIWHS. Shown is a 4-foot replica of the 1921 tower erected at the RCA Radio Central Transmission Station and Phyllis Grebe, daughter-in-law of well-known Queens, N.Y. radio manufacturer Alfred Grebe.

## NJARC 2008 OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST

By Marv Beeferman

Most major antique radio meets and conventions that extend over more than one day usually include an old equipment contest. These provide a great opportunity for collectors to display, in a wide variety of categories, items that are usually seen only in photographs. Displays range from the simple to the very elaborate with unique supporting documentation describing the origin, history or technical aspects of the item.

Unfortunately, many collectors are hesitant to participate in these contests. Some see it as a distraction from rummaging through the flea market and missing that "great buy." Others don't want to deal with the hassle of registering, protecting and retrieving their entries. Still others don't feel they don't have a chance when competing with the "big players." Personally, for old equipment contests sponsored by local clubs, I have seen just the opposite. Although the displays are simple and the items far from "one-of-a-kind," club members seem to have just as much enthusiasm for entries from their fellow collectors as those found at any national meet.

At the October 10th meeting, we'll be arranging the David Sarnoff Library to let you display some of the more unique items in your collection and we'll reward your efforts with some nice trophies and ribbons. We've set up rules that, although not too stringent, are not so liberal where quality is ignored. Judging will be conducted by all members attending the October meeting.

### RULES:

1. Each member may submit no more than one entry per category and not more than a total of three entries.

2. Equipment is not required to be demonstrated as working, but a statement of restoration to full operability (honor system) will be used as a basis for judging.

3. Categories are as follows:

- A. Crystal receivers
- B. Battery receivers (regenerative, non-regenerative, homebrews, etc.)
- C. AC receivers - 1929 and earlier
- D. AC receivers - 1930 and later
- E. Transistor receivers (non-novelty)
- F. Novelty receivers (transistor or tube)
- G. Communication equipment (receivers, transmitters and transceivers): commercial, military and amateur
- H. Ephemera and advertising (books, magazines, catalogs, posters, photographs, post-cards, etc.)
- I. Radio Accessories (speakers, headphones, antennas, tubes, parts, test equipment, etc.)
- J. Entertainment items: TV's, phonographs (acoustic and electronic), recording devices (wire, tape), etc.

4. At the registration desk, you will receive a card with a category registration number. Clearly print a short description of your entry on the front and check its status (restored/unrestored, working/not working/unknown); on the back, print your full name. This card shall displayed next to each of your entries so they can be identified when voted on and must be returned at the end of the contest.

5. A ballot sheet will be distributed to the membership so that 1st and 2nd place choices (based on registration number) in each category can be checked.

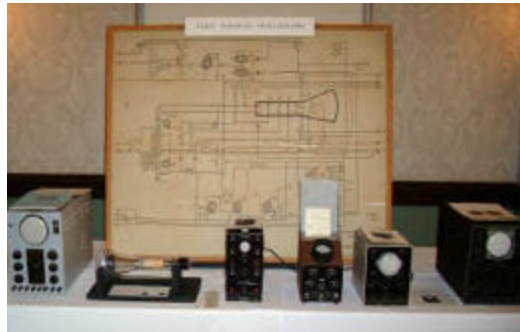
6. Members will be asked to judge entries based on the following guidelines (obviously, you can't vote for your own entry):

- a) General appearance and condition (is the entry restored, cleaned, working and generally presentable or "as found").
- b) Documentation (ads, journal articles, books, news clips, photos, magazine articles, manuals, etc.).
- c) Effort (how much work was put in to restoration, appearance, documentation and display).
- d) Rarity (is the entry relatively hard to find).

7. Awards: Three major awards will be presented at the November meeting which represent the most ballots received from ALL categories. Ribbons will be also awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners in each category.

In the following photos, courtesy of Dave Sica, we've gathered some examples of entries that appeared in the Old Equipment Contest at the 2008 AWA Rochester conference. We hope they give you some ideas in preparing your award winning entry.





## NJARC 2008 DXpedition

By Al Klase

**Date:** 14-15 November 2008 (in lieu of the monthly meeting)

**Location:** InfoAge

### What is it?

The basic concept is to gather together a working collection of radios representing the various era's of receiver design in an environment that will allow each of us an opportunity to operate the sets.

We're going to take advantage of the great facilities and quiet listening environment available to us at InfoAge. The primary theme will be broadcast-band DX, but the antenna facilities will support short-wave and long-wave operation as well.

We'll maintain two log books for each receiver, one for stations heard and a second for user comments. These can be published, with pictures, to the NJARC website for future reference. We can also shoot some video of each set in operation, and post it to *YouTube* etc.

### Bring Your Radio

Come with sets in good working condition that you don't mind having other club members operate. If you can bring a length of coax that can be connected to your radio, with a BNC connector on the far end, it would be helpful. We'll try to have a lot of cables and adaptors, but we'll need your help.

We'll try to coordinate the different types of radios that show up so we don't end up with 13 All-American Fives. It would be nice to have representative receivers from the following categories:

- Crystal Sets
- Battery Sets: Regen, TRF-Regen, TRF, Superhet
- 1930's & '40's AC Sets: TRF, Superhet
- Other Entertainment Sets
- Communications Receivers: TRF-Autodyne, Single-Conversion, Multiple-Conversion
- Transistor Radios

### Antennas

The primary antenna will be a Sky-waves Wideband Antenna System (see the GE V-Doublet in *Riders* Volume VI) feeding a multi-set coupler with 32 isolated outputs. There will also be tuned loops for the broadcast band, and a ran-

dom wire or two for crystal sets.

### Bring Your Sleeping Bag

Marconi Cottage #1 will be available for a sleepover. There are beds and cots and a working bathroom and kitchen. Bring your own bedding and towel. Please let the event chairman know if you're likely to stay over.

## AND THE BEAT GOES ON

Edited by  
Marv Beeferman

*The following article is based on a 9/26 posting in CNN's "SciTechBlog" by Christopher Piatt...Ed*

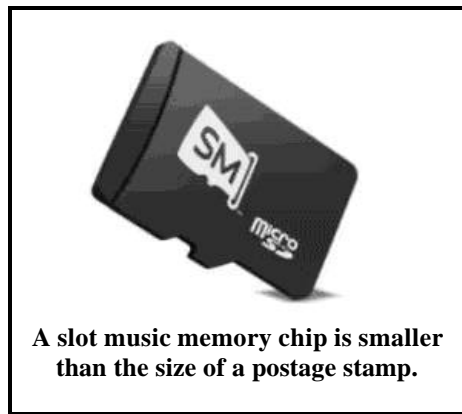
Remember those days of vinyl records, 8-track tapes, cassettes, and CDs? Yes, I said CDs. Their days could also be numbered as a new music format is about to burst onto the scene. Slot Music, a micro SD card that is about the size of a fingernail, has been developed by SanDisk. Plug the card into your MP3 capable phone or portable player and its ready to go. It's almost like having instantly acces-

sible tunes in the palm of your hand.

Each SD card will hold an album's worth of music including album cover art, liner notes, and it will have extra space for personal files and photos. All songs will be free of copy protection as well. Each is estimated to price at about \$15 per unit.

Presently, there are four music companies (Universal, Sony, Warner, and EMI) are on board, hoping to add another revenue stream to their bottom line to make up for CD sales which have dropped 19 percent since last year. Best Buy and Wal-Mart are just two of the big retailers that will carry Slot Music.

The new format is expected to be out before the holiday shopping season. Twenty-nine different albums ranging from Usher, Weezer, Akon, and even H-



vis will be available at launch.

Micro SD cards can be played in many cell phones and MP3 players. Each album will come with a USB device so you can access the album on your computer and some car stereos. (All we need now

is a Micro SD player for our cars.) The advantage and novelty of the new format is convenience and portability. The customer can buy music that's accessible almost instantly; there's no download lag or relatively bulky CD to deal with.

Is this the end for CDs or will Slot Music become just a short fad? The initial music choices appear designed to target a young, tech-savvy audience. These are customers already comfortable with downloadable content. They don't appear to be clamoring for a new music format, let alone one that is tiny and, potentially, easily lost. Also, will an audience that shows a tendency to buy singles over albums, buy a \$15 memory card if all they want is a 99-cent hit? It's an interesting question; only time will tell.

### NJARC MEMBER'S-ONLY AUCTION



**A very energetic Al Klase moved items quickly and efficiently.**



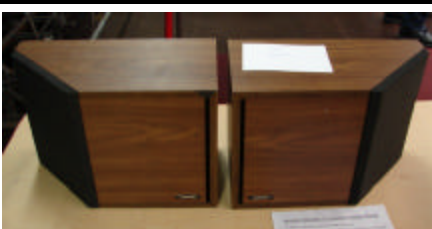
**President Richard Lee took the phone bids.**



**This Philco service kit sold for \$60.**



**An interesting tube collection for \$40.**



**A nice set of Bose speakers for \$50.**



**This RCA Radiola 20 with a complete set of 199's and a 120, all with good filaments, sold for a reasonable \$80.**



**A Heathkit SSB receiver for \$25.**



**A Heathkit transmitter sold for \$20.**

## HISTORY OF A MARCONI LANDMARK

Edited by  
Marv Beferman

*An InfoAge visit from our Long Island friends prompted the following article. It was originally posted by the Rocky Point Historical Society with excerpts from "In the Shadow of the Radio Towers" by N. Stiefel...Ed*

Most radio collectors can immediately identify the following photo:



In it, Guglielmo Marconi and David Sarnoff, President of RCA, stand beside what is commonly called the "Marconi building" when it stood in front of RCA's Bldg. #1 during Marconi's visit to Rocky Point in 1933. Usually, that's where most interest ends, so let's take this opportunity to investigate the building's full history.

In the first week of August, 1902, a notice was printed announcing that the Jacobs cottage on Fire Island Avenue in Babylon was leased for five years to the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of the United States. The property extended from the avenue to Sumpwams Creek. The house would serve as a wireless station and training school for telegraph operators. There would be four to six students in the school all the time and lodging would be free. The course would run three weeks and, upon completion, the students would be employed by the Marconi Company at a salary from \$60 to \$100 a month.



**Marconi's 1902 station at Babylon. The house to the left was used as a school and station. The small 12 X 14 foot "radio shack" to the right is what remains today.**

On September 13, 1902, the *Babylon Signal* reported the following:

"The Marconi Wireless Station is now in thorough working order. On the main floor is the office and generating room. On the second floor is where the messages are transmitted and received."

Today, a sign on Fire Island Avenue states that it is the site of the birth of American wireless. However, to the contrary, Marconi had earlier stations in the United States when the Babylon Station was leased.

The first Marconi land station was erected in September, 1890, at Navesink Lighthouse, near Sandy Hook, at the mouth of New York Harbor. It was used for reporting the American Cup yacht races. In August, 1901, the first American permanent land station was built at Siasconsett on Nantucket Island. (The Marconi station at South Wellfleet in Cape Cod was originally erected in 1901 but the antennas blew down before it was operational. Cape Cod didn't get on the air until January of 1903.) These stations were followed by a coast station at Sagaponack, Long Island on July, 1902. As noted, the Babylon station was erected in September, 1902 followed by a station at Seagate in Brooklyn, New York.

The purpose of early wireless stations was to relay traffic from ship to shore for profit. The Marconi Company, along with others, set up a closed system; they would supply the equipment and opera-

tors. The equipment was installed aboard ship and at land stations by Marconi Company employees. Radio contacts were always between Marconi owned stations.

When the Babylon station eventually closed in 1907, its small 12 by 14 foot "radio shack" was also abandoned. The property was later purchased by a local farmer who had worked at the station and the shack remained on the property.

As early as 1929, radio pioneer Edwin Armstrong summered in Bayport at the H. H. Seaman's cottage on the bay at the foot of Suydam Lane. While in Bayport, he spent time visiting his Army friend Captain Round who had worked at the Babylon station as third assistant Technical Officer and who now owned and farmed the old Marconi property. Captain Round attested to the authenticity of the little wireless shack and, in 1930, it was purchased by Armstrong.

The purchase was documented in a newspaper article from November 14, 1930:

"...unique real estate deal made by Sayville real estate agency in purchase of radio plant used by Marconi. Mrs. George A. Robinson buys for Bayport summer resident, Edwin Armstrong."

On November 9th, the *New York Times* reported that "A deserted shack, which for years stood neglected near Babylon, had suddenly gained fame used by Guglielmo Marconi." The article also erroneously stated that this was the first American wireless station.

By the end of 1930, Edwin Armstrong officially gave the building to the RCA Transmitting Station at Rocky Point. Rocky Point was RCA's "Radio Central" which opened in 1921 on a 10 square mile site. It was the world's largest and most powerful transmitting station of its time. Its 2,000-acre receiving station at Riverhead bristled with antennas of the most advanced design. Its Long Island research laboratories was later to employ many of the most brilliant minds in radio technology and for decades literally wrote the book on the subject.

Formal acceptance of the Armstrong gift was made by David Sarnoff. The "radio shack" stood in front of RCA's Building #1 for many years and was later stored in the Robinson Barn on Route 25A. However, it started to deteriorate so badly that it could not be moved to the



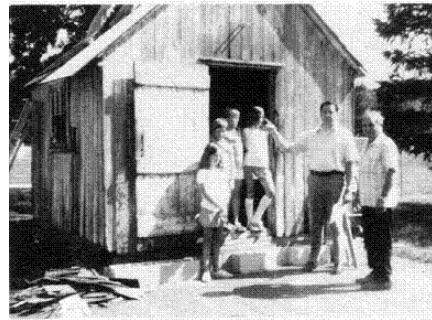
**This photo, courtesy of the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton, NJ, shows the actual move of the wireless shack from Babylon to Rocky Point in 1930.**

voted to appropriate \$1,500 for materials to accomplish this job. In the summer and autumn of 2006, restoration of damaged oak boards and interior and exterior painting was completed. This included oak boards to duplicate the original ones as well as nails from the 1902 to 1905 time frame. The Society also received a Suffolk County grant to continue restoration of windows and the roof. The Long Island Wireless Historical Society has placed several archival photographs inside the building.

Throughout the years, the building has been a focal point for the celebration of wireless history. In 1987, the first wireless transmission since the days when Marconi worked the building when the century was young took place. Each year, members of the Radio Central Amateur Radio Club transmit and receive national and international messages on the weekend closest to Guglielmo Marconi's birthday (March 25th) known as International Marconi Day as well as on the weekend closest to November 5th, the anniversary of the opening of the RCA Radio Central Transmitting Station in Rocky Point.

RCA Exhibition at the 1939 World's Fair. It survived two fires while stored inside the barn.

With the advent of satellite communications, RCA planned to close their transmitting facilities at Rocky Point. On May 14, 1969, ownership of the wireless shack was transferred from RCA Radio Central to the Rocky Point Union Free School District #9. The building was then moved from the Robinson Barn across the street to the Joseph A. Edgar School. Prior to the move, the building was so badly deteriorated and weakened that some of the floor needed repair before it could be moved across the road. Funds for the repair were provided by the Vincent P. Sons of Italy Lodge.



**Students in front of the Marconi wireless building at the Joseph A. Edgar School.**



**Celebrating "Marconi Day."**

Perhaps one of the most authentic endorsements of the restoration and maintenance of this small but historic building can be found in a 1972 letter from Maria Marconi, Guglielmo's widow to a Rocky Point restorer:

"I received your gracious and important letter of January 3rd as regards to the Guglielmo Marconi wireless transmitting office. I well remember having visited it. It is a precious relic because Guglielmo Marconi considered it to be one of the early radio stations that he erected and used in the United States. I am very grateful and thankful to you for having kept this very important building alive and cherished and I am truly moved as well as pleased to be informed about this dear memory."



**Repairs are performed to a badly deteriorated wireless building prior to its move to the Joseph A. Edgar School.**

In 1989, the little building was moved to a new location when a crane lifted it and carried it to the grounds of the Vincent P. Landi Sons of Italy Lodge. The Sons of Italy contracted further restoration work including the addition of new shingles. On September 14, 1994 the building was destined for another move to a new home and a concrete foundation. It was relocated from the Sons of Italy site to the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, a property formerly owned by RCA.

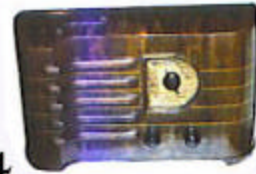
Today, the Rocky Point Historical Society has been working very closely with the Rocky Point School District as caretakers of this historic Marconi wireless building. In October of 2005, the Society



# New Jersey Antique Radio Club's — Tri-State Fall Swapmeet —



Parsippany PAL Building  
Smith Field  
Route 46 & 33 Baldwin Road  
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054



## Saturday, November 8, 2008

**Walk around auction  
starts at 11:30 am.  
Bring in your attic  
treasures for free  
appraisal!**



**Expert Antique Radio  
Repair Available.  
Refreshments Available.  
Easy ground level access.**

**Open to the Public**  
(8:00 am to 1:00 pm)

Vendor Set-Up at 7:00 am  
**\$5.00 ENTRANCE FEE  
CLUB DONATION**

**(70) 8 ft. Tables  
\$20.00 for members  
\$25.00 for non-members  
Reserved Additional Tables \$15.00  
At the Door \$20.00**

**FOR DIRECTIONS  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.NJARC.ORG](http://WWW.NJARC.ORG)  
OR MAPQUEST.  
(33 Baldwin Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054)**

**Vendors Make Your Reservations Now!**

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