

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

January 2009

Volume 15 Issue 1



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

THE ON-LINE BROADCASTER

The New Jersey Broadcaster is now online. To date, 97 of your fellow NJARC members have subscribed, saving the club over \$1700 a year. Interested? Send your e-mail address to:

mbeeferman@cs.com

Be sure to include your **full name**.

A happy and healthy 2009 to all my NJARC friends. As you can see from the cake, we're in our 17th year and the *Broadcaster* masthead reveals 15 of those as your editor. It has been a long and rewarding run with the hope for many more enjoyable years in the future.

Our 2008 holiday party provided another entertaining evening for NJARC members, with all 80 reservations being filled. We tried to capture a more than usual sampling of the evening in this month's *Broadcaster*. Many members pitched in to make the event a success, but I'd like to give special consideration to a few that come to mind. Most of all, our gratitude goes out to Dr. Alex Magoun, Executive Director of the David Sarnoff Library, for graciously allowing the use of such a historic and comfortable venue for the evening's festivities.

Sal Brisindi arranged for another mouth-watering buffet, with complete setup by the caterer at a very reasonable price. Your editor takes credit for the social hour and Phil Vourtsis was the source of the always fabulous cake you see pictured to the right. Other incidentals were provided by John Ruccolo.

Al and Peggy Klase arrived early to decorate the tables in festive colors with help provided by Jerry Dowgin, Owen Gerboth, John Tyminski, Rick Weingarten



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club will take place on Friday, January 9th, at 7:30 PM at the David Sarnoff Library. Visit us at <http://www.njarc.org> for directions. Our first meeting of the new year will feature a talk by Walt Heskes on the topic of "Silver Migration," a phenomenon that occurs in IF can trimmer capacitors. We'll also feature an auction of items from the Richard Kaplan estate (WB2CUT); a listing of items may be found in this month's *Broadcaster*. You must be a dues paying member of the NJARC to receive a bid card for this auction. We'll also be collecting dues for 2010, so please have sufficient cash or a check handy.

and Richard Lee.

In the entertainment category, Darren Hoffman filled the hall with the sounds of the season and took care of all the audio chores. Dave Sica and your editor teamed up to offer a good-natured question-and-answer review of past *Broadcasters*, asking the question "does anyone ever read this rag?" We also awarded plaques and ribbons to the winners of this year's Old Equipment Contest. In both cases, the

in this month's *Broadcaster*.

With Aaron Hunter in the lead, we'd also like to thank all those unsung heroes that participated in the cleanup. This is a thankless but greatly appreciated task that left the Sarnoff auditorium in a condition such that the NJARC will be a welcomed guest next year.

2009 DUES

With the new year comes a call for the dues that will keep our generous activities at the high level that is expected from our members. If you look back on 2008, you can't argue that the price is right.

To the right of your name on the *Broadcaster* mailing label is your membership status. (E-mail recipients will be notified individually.) An "H" designates an honorary member and an "L" designates a lifetime member, both with no dues required. This year, past president Phil Vourtsis has been voted to honorary status by your Board. Some members are paid through 2010, and this designation does not require a payment for this year. Those with a "2009" expiration date may renew for a \$20 payment or \$25 to continue/begin a family ("F") membership. A single lifetime membership is 10 times the annual yearly rate (presently \$200).

Please send your renewal to:

Marsha Simkin
33 Lakeland Drive
Barneget, NJ 08005



HOLIDAY PARTY-2008

artistic hand of our resident video expert Dave Sica was ever-present. Dave notes that video clips of the party are now posted on the NJARC website (www.njarc.org) and invites everyone to either see what you missed or re-live the fun!

Our mystery grab bag gifts filled the Sarnoff stage and some very nice items changed hands. We provided a sampling

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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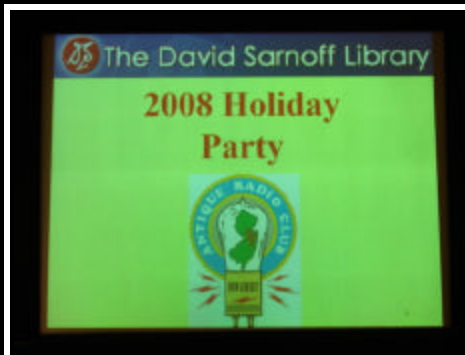
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One of our younger members from the Starnes family enjoying the festivities.



A happy winner displaying a 6-pack of original Dr. Pepper flown in direct from the Texas factory and donated by NJARC member Jon Butz Fiscina.



Even Santa wanted part of the 50/50 action. Sal Brisindi and Harry Klancer do the honors.



Backstage with Darren Hoffman handling the music (with able assistance from President Richard Lee) and Al Klase and Dave Sica working on the visuals.

MYSTERY GRAB BAG



Any probes?



OLD EQUIPMENT CONTEST WINNERS

MOST VOTES – ALL CATEGORIES

BATTERY RECEIVERS



1st

Angelo Napoli: 1956 Emerson 843 transistor radio.



2nd

Ray Chase: "Ruhr" homebrew 6U5 eye tube radio.



1st

Angelo Napoli: Aerodyn Special.



2nd

Al Klase: Browning-Drake "Regenoformer."

AC RECEIVERS >1930

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT



1st

Phil Vourtsis: RCA 1X51 table radios on dealer display shelf.



2nd

John Tyminski: Atwater Kent 944.



1st

John Ruccolo: 200 watt linear AARL project.



2nd

Ray Chase: VT proximity fuse display.

EPHEMERA/ADVERTISING

RADIO ACCESSORIES

NOVELTY RECEIVERS



1st

Marsha & Jerry Simkin: EKKO stamp collection display.



2nd

Darren Hoffman: DuMont advertising collection.



1st

Marv Beeferman: Kadette "Tunemaster" KRC-2 wireless remote.



1st

Phil Vourtsis: "Shower curtain" radio.

ENTERTAINMENT ITEMS

2nd



John Tyminski: Philco Predicta TV.

THE ALIEN RADIO QUESTION

By Marv Beeferman

A recent posting on the NJARC Reflector by Dr. Alex Magoun, Executive Director of the David Sarnoff Library, activated an old but vague memory. Morgan Beatty, a researcher for the PBS series "History Detectives" was looking into the story of "enemy aliens" during WWII - Italian families in Detroit whose radios were tampered with by federal or local authorities. Miss Beatty had not yet been able to find hard proof that short-wave components were removed from the radios belonging to the families of German, Italian and Japanese descent during the early years of the war. She said that she was looking for radios that show evidence of this tampering and/or paperwork that can confirm that this went on.

Thinking that I had addressed something about this issue in an early *Broadcaster*, I immediately referenced Ludwell Sibley's "1995 Index to the NJARC NEWS." Ludwell, author of *Tube Lore* and the editor of the monthly publication "Tube Collector," is an honorary NJARC member who now lives in Oregon. There it was, in Volume 2, Number 2 of the *New Jersey Antique Radio Club News* (predecessor to the *Broadcaster*), an article in Ludwell's "Rearview Mirror" column that addressed this very topic. With a renewed interest in this topic, I think it's

CAMERA SHY:

Crystal Receivers: Jon Butz Fiscina, 1st place, Mengel crystal set

Transistor Radios: Mike Littman, 1st place, Roberts transistor radio

Radio Accessories: Steve Goulart, 2nd place, 1937 RCA oscilloscope

Entertainment Items: Michael Littman, 1st place, Celestira 20-note organ

worth reprinting the article in its entirety, including Ludwell's introductory comments.

The following item, reprinted from "Sylvania News" of Jan.-Feb. 1942, illustrates a little known aspect of "radio life" at the start of WW II. At least one question has turned up in the radio-collector press about a multiband '30s radio in which the short-wave bands had been wired-out, an odd disabling of what was probably a perfectly good radio. The information below explains what probably happened. Given the large number of German and Italian nationals living in eastern New Jersey at the time, it is surprising that more such modified radios have not turned up.

Besides controls on radios and cameras, home diathermy machines owned by enemy aliens had to be registered with the authorities and were in fact confiscated "for the duration." The typical 100-watt diathermy was potentially a CW radio transmitter having transatlantic range, hence the regulation. - LAS (Ludwell A. Sibley)

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE JOBS

**Serves National Interest. Keeps
Foreigners in Contact with United
States Broadcasts.**

By O.H. Caldwell, Editor, *Radio
Retailing Today*

The Attorney General of the United States, Francis Biddle, has just issued a circular letter to local and state police authorities, ordering that all enemy aliens in the United States turn in to the nearest police station all short-wave sets and cameras in their possession.

Any radio set in the hands of an enemy alien, which is capable of receiving radio signals other than those of the standard broadcast band, must by this order

be immediately surrendered to the police, "unless the set is so altered or modified" that such signals cannot be received. Police are further instructed by the Attorney General to use every consideration to make this regulation impose as little hardship or inconvenience on well-intentioned aliens as possible.

The Department of Justice order thus seems to open the way for radio servicemen to render a useful service of eliminating short-wave reception from aliens' sets - and get paid for it. In this way, the alien may keep his set for regular broadcast listening to U.S. stations, while the police authorities are spared the storage of hundreds of radio sets which they are poorly equipped to handle.

Radio men who perform this service of altering aliens' receivers should make sure that the changes they make are completely effective so, that under no circumstances, can short-wave reception be restored without the addition of new parts. Vital circuits or parts should be completely removed and retained by the serviceman with his complete record of the job.

In addition, the serviceman undertaking such alteration work on short-wave sets of enemy aliens, should keep a log book or record of all sets so altered. In this log book he should enter:

- Name and address of owner of set (verifying identification carefully). Date alteration was made. Number of persons in owner's family or household.
- Name and model of set altered. Year. Circuit employed.
- What changes made to make set comply with regulations.
- Does serviceman suspect alien owner of possessing or using another short-wave set which has not been altered.

Such a record of facts in connection with the alteration is necessary if the serviceman is afterwards approached by government agents and asked to make a statement concerning the work he performed and the circumstances surrounding the

alteration.

With over a million enemy aliens now in the United States, and with nearly two-thirds of all home radios equipped for short-wave reception, it is apparent that a tremendous number of radio receivers are involved under the Attorney General's order.

By setting himself up to make alterations completely and effectively, meanwhile keeping a complete record of all such work done, the radio craftsman will be doing a job in the public interest and helping both the alien and the police.

In today's environment, the above article might be considered by some as a hidden agenda to take advantage of someone else's misfortune. But in the context of 9-11, following Pearl Harbor, the nation was truly quite serious about the security of this nation:

"In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, some officials even considered relocating or detaining enemy aliens throughout the country. Thousands of aliens of German or Italian descent were ordered away from coastal security zones in early 1942 but were allowed to return by summer. By that time the government had dropped any serious discussion of the mass relocation or detention of un-naturalized Germans or Italians. The move would have been logistically and politically impractical and, moreover, officials were reaching the conclusion that these enemy aliens did not pose a significant security threat."

Getting back to Morgan Beatty's question, perhaps framing it in the context of "radios were tampered with by the federal or local authorities" is not quite accurate. Based on the above article, the Attorney General's letter indicates that short-wave radios need not be handed over to the police "unless the set is so altered or modified" to only receive standard broadcast stations.

It would be wonderful if an actual log book as suggested by the editor of *Radio Retailing Today* actually showed up, but to this point, I know of none in the hands of collectors. However, Miss Beatty's question was also posted on the *Antique Radio Form* and quite a bit of hard-to-deny evidence appeared supporting the modification theory. Here's just a few of them:

There was a lot of that done in the Detroit area. I was working in a radio shop in

1944, and saw a few sets that had been "neutered" with the SW bands disabled. The disabling ranged from simply shorting the oscillator coil, to removal of it.

I have restored in the ballpark area of close to 2000 radios in the last 20 years. I have had at least 4 or 5 that I could definitely say were intentionally Neutered of the Short Wave bands.

I think that the method of neutering was mostly left up to the radio shop that did the "work" on the set. Also I think that they probably didn't really turn in the removed parts. Think here some guy in a radio shop required to kill this radio... he does it his way, the simplest method he can think of to effectively disable the short-wave bands.

The MOST effective one I came across was a nice multiband console radio. Tuned RF section, so it had a complex bandswitch with many contacts on three different wafers.....Method chosen on that one... the guy soldered solidly every contact on that bandswitch. There was almost no way to get all those contacts desoldered and moving at the same time.

Mark Oppat and I were on the phone for quite a while that night about this. He and I both agree that quite a few radios had SW bands disabled in one way or another, and to differing degrees. We've both seen them. Few, if any of the radio owners are living today, so there's no first hand accounting of the order.

As I said above, this was more for window dressing than a real tactic to suppress espionage.

I once came across a Philco console in an Antique mall in Georgia that had been modified. There was a service slip from a repair shop tucked in the back of it that had words to the effect that this set has had the SW bands disabled. As I recall, there was a missing coil.

I cannot access my Sylvania News archive, at present, but I recall several articles in this serviceman's periodical regarding the neutering of the SW sets of resident aliens.

Although the policy was national, I believe that enforcement was left to the discretion of local authorities. I can picture a lot of small town police chiefs saying, "Heck, I've played poker with Hans (or

Giuseppi, etc.) for years -- I know he's not a spy." And then pitching the directive into the wastebasket.

If the policy had been aggressively and uniformly enforced, we would find many more modified radios. It was a crackpot policy in the first place. What was the theory -- that the Axis powers might send encoded messages in SW broadcasts giving orders to spies?

I have worked on only one receiver that was disabled. It was a Zenith 6S128. A wire had been unsoldered from the SW coil. A paper tag on a string was attached to the loose wire stating "SW disabled by G'ment order." That sure made us safer!

My godmother's husband was Italian, and one day while visiting them during the 1970s, I noticed that their kitchen radio was missing some parts. He explained that it had been modified due to the US government requirements during WWII.

My father-in-law bought a new Philco 42-1009. I think he said he bought it in October 1941.

My in-laws were 1st generation American of Sicilian descent. Their parents had immigrated here from Sicily in the 30's. This radio had the shortwave bands disabled under government order. They lived in Detroit at the time. After the war they got it put back together, no problem.

For more postings on this topic, just Google "WWII shortwave disabling antique radio" and click on "Antique Radio Forums." I'll let you form your own conclusions, but as for me, I'm leaning toward the following:

1. There was probably some disabling of short-wave functions by local radio shops but it wasn't extensive. As one collector noted: "If the policy had been aggressively and uniformly enforced, we would find many more modified radios."
2. Documentation was minimal or practically non-existent.
3. Although probably popular among the general public, the concept was impractical. As one collector noted: "SW is not a two-way medium at these distances. How would the spies send information back? By mailing a letter to Herr Hitler c/o General Delivery, Berlin reporting that, 'Everything looks pretty quiet here' "?

Auction List - Richard Kaplan Estate (WB2CUT)

1. Riders Radio manuals, 22 total, Vol. 2-4-5-6(2)-7-8-9-10-11(2)-12(2)-13(2)-14-15-17-18-19-20-21
2. Riders TV manuals, 5 total, Vol. 1-2-3(2)-4
3. Military Code Practice Keyer, TG-10F w/Tech Manual (poor) and wood case with 13 reels of paper tape, (heavy)
4. General Radio Absorption Frequency Meter in wood box w/ four coils.
5. Navy model OE-11 Receiver Analyzer Test Set made by Weston in wood carrying case w/adaptors, neat.
6. Westinghouse old decade capacitor box, 0.5 to 31.5 ufd, 600 volts.
7. GM Labs 669 ohm lab rheostat, 2' long.
8. Pilot 3" TV
9. Radiola 18 and Radiola 100 drum style speaker.
10. Industrial Instrument Lab Resistance Decade, 0.1 to 100k ohms, wood case
11. Farady #5 Battery (quackery), wood case
12. Pilot 3.5 to 1 NOS audio trans., in box, coils check good
13. Model T ignition coil, good continuity
14. Regenerative RF coil set, NOS, IB
15. Two full reels magnet wire, #30 & #34
16. Pilot B eliminator choke coil, NOS, IB
17. Thordardson Universal pwr. Trans., 800 VCT @ 110 ma. & two 2.5 V fil. windings, NOS
18. Box 9 lg. freq. Xtals, GE, RCA, Bliley & Valpey
19. Thordardson choke, 12H @ 80 ma., NOS, IB
20. Pilot 3.5 to 1 audio trans., NOS, no box, coils check good
21. Small 6 tube 4 knob Emerson console, good condition, model unk.
22. General Radio 740 capacitance bridge, black suitcase style, works
23. Retail radio store card with 36 Lektrofone RF Chokes of 4 types, nice display item
24. All American 3 to 1 audio xformer, checks good
25. Kresge roll of DCC # 24 magnet wire, 140', NOS
26. Amphenol socket, holder and bezel for an octal tuning eye tube, NOS in box
27. Spark Meter, device for testing spark length in auto ignition system, unique
28. Fada bakelite base assy. with 3 UV sockets
29. Standard TRF coil made by Screen Grid Coil Co., NIB
30. Bag misc. parts, freq. Crystals etc.
31. Two RCA WD-11 sockets (rare)
32. Thordardson R200 cased audio transformer with wire leads, checks good
33. 7 vintage vernier tuning dials
34. Weston photocell
35. Bag of 5 NOS folded tube cartons
36. Large box misc. parts, good stuff
37. Strange antique home made device, appears to be some sort of telegraph key, unusual

TUBES

1. Pair of brass base tip top WD-11's, display only, with one WD-11 to UV socket adapter made by Burke Mfg., Newark
2. Pair of brass base tip top WD-12's, display only
3. Pair of Cunningham brass bass 301's, display only
4. Pair of Mello-Tron 201A's in boxes, test good for emission
5. Bag of 4 misc. tubes including a Dynatron UV201A with good fil.
6. Box of 4 tubes, pair NOS 829B's in box, Hytron HY 75 NOS in box and a 805 (VT-143) good fil.
7. Bag of 5 NOS boxed tubes; CeCo tested 27, pair of UV200 BB TT good fil. (1 amp), UX200 good fil., UX201A test good for emission

WANT ADS

Wanted: Philco 40-160 for parts. (this is a small console). Need speaker and loop antenna but will purchase complete radio at a reasonable price. Contact: Nick Senker (n.senker@att.net)

For Sale: Philco 38-690 console. 20 tubes, multiple speakers, roller top. Cabinet is fair. Call Brad @ 908-692-6217 (Neptune City).