



# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

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Reported by  
Marv Beeferman

## The ON-LINE Broadcaster

The New Jersey Broadcaster is now online. To date, close to 100 of your fellow NJARC members have subscribed, saving the club nearly \$2000 a year and a significant amount of work. Interested? To subscribe, send your e-mail address to [mbeeferman@verizon.net](mailto:mbeeferman@verizon.net). Be sure to include your full name.

Two back-to-back vacations and some other problems placed some limits on getting out a full version of the November *Broadcaster*. However, we'll be back to normal next month.

"In the spring of 1910, I received what, at that period in the history of radio, was the strangest assignment a wireless operator ever had." This was Jack Irwin's quote which served as the opening to member John Dilk's (K2TQN) series in QST magazine on what was described as the "first air-going wireless man." The mission: to cross the Atlantic by dirigible from Atlantic City, New Jersey. With his usual skill in being able to pull together various bits and pieces of wireless history into both an intriguing and humorous, well-illustrated story, the club was treated at the October meeting to a live presentation of John's printed series.

Many of us could just feel the trepidation of our hero sitting in a lifeboat below a cigar-shaped dirigible filled with 345,000 cubic feet of hydrogen where the transmitter's antenna was a steel framework that surrounded the gas bag. Quoting Irwin, "I can't imagine having guts enough to push the key for the first time." John discussed how engine trouble finally brought this



## MEETING NOTICE

\*\*\*NOTE: MEETING AT INFOAGE\*\*\*

This month's meeting will take place at InfoAge (2201 Marconi Road, Wall NJ) on Friday, November 12th, at 7:30 PM. Directions are posted on the club's website (<http://www.njarc.org>). The topic for this month is the restoration of Atwater Kent breadboards presented by our own Pete Olins. You may remember Pete's show-and-tell demonstration from a few month's back regarding his restoration of an an AK breadboard for our InfoAge museum. It was a real basket case before Pete worked his magic on it and he will share some of his secrets in dealing with this highly desirable and collectable radio.

mission to its end. He suggested two possibilities: one, sabotage by a disgruntled French engineer trusted with assembling and testing the engines who was fired just before the *America* got underway or sand resulting in bearing failure. "Our hangar at Atlantic City was in a most exposed spot where every wind that blew brought clouds of sand."

After drifting engineless and south to a location between Atlantic City and Bermuda, the *America's* lifeboat was detached and ultimately taken aboard the *SS Trent* with all aboard. The dirigible, "with the weight of the lifeboat and crew released from it, shot up in the air several thousand feet and soon drifted out of sight...We never heard of her again."

Thanks John for a great evening! The complete story can be found in the September, October and November issues of QST magazine with additional photos posted at [www.k2tqn.com](http://www.k2tqn.com).

The "Haunted Hike" at InfoAge appears to have been very successful. Our web master Dave Sica had some very positive and insightful comments:

"The scale of this event is just awesome. The hike probably covers an acre of ground and you wouldn't believe how creepy an abandoned army base can be at night under a full moon! There are dozens of dedicated and talented actors playing the roles of all kinds of scary creatures and the amount of work and creativity that has gone into the construction of the displays is almost beyond my ability to comprehend. The InfoAge Haunted Hike is as least as ambitious as any Hal-

loween event anywhere and is a good deal less expensive than many. It's also a major fund raiser for the organization and a great tool for outreach into the community."

"The weekend of the 25th was the first time I really participated in the event. I had breezed through with a camera last year but working behind the scenes in the mad scientist lab was something else. My hat is off to the NJARC guys (primarily Ray Chase, Harry Klancer, Al Klase and Dave Snellman) who put together what was possibly the best crowd pleaser of the entire event. You'll see pictures in the newsletter and on the website, but you really had to be there in person to get the full effect. And although the customers loved it, I can personally guarantee that it's even more fun to be part of the crew."



Member Ray Chase guards the Mad Scientist display from unruly ghouls.

**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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"Most everyone (of the thousands of folks who have passed through) left with a big smile on their face (even some of the older kids who came in with a bit of a chip on their shoulder) as if they were just too cool for us to possibly entertain them. One teen age skeptic even left saying 'hey man, thanks, that was great.'"



The display had an eerie, almost psychedelic feel.

"The really scary part is that all during the event, I kept getting ideas on even more things we could do NEXT year."

The club received a very nice letter from Wayne Hasz, the son of member Charles Hasz who recently passed away. I would like to share it with the membership since I believe it represents an underlying and seldom expressed meaning that the club has for many of us.

"Thank you very much for the kind letter from the NJARC club expressing condolences for my father's passing away. Unfortunately, he and I were not able to be very active members, but my dad enjoyed the several swap meets and club meetings that we were able to attend. Unfortunately, his vision did not allow long distance driving (his house is approximately 40 miles from the RCA Sarnoff center), and so I came down from Vermont to take him out to events. We did very much enjoy the several meetings and 2 swapmeets we attended (one in Parsippany 2008-0419, the other at the InfoAge campus on 2008-0726). He was overjoyed with the "FREE" Grunow 1291 radio that he picked up at the Parsippany meet, and was amazed that I was able to get the schematics for him online. Even though it needed a lot of work, it got his interest and enthusi-

asm back, exactly as I had hoped (after my mother's passing in 2007). He also enjoyed arguing with one fellow at the Parsippany swap meet about the best methods for converting WW2 Military radios to civilian use, and the benefits of one super-heterodyne circuit vs. another."

"As I mentioned, after my mom passed away, I was looking for something for him to keep him occupied and excited. He was an old Ham Radio builder, early TV repair and x-Bell Labs guy, and I figured that there must be a group of like-minded people in the area. A quick Google search produced your web page, and the following weekend we were at our first swap meet! The other thing that piqued his interest was the RCA-621TS and 630TS Instructions and Service Data PDF's that I was able to download from your site. One of his first jobs in Queens NY was to work at a radio-TV repair shop working on these TVs. In fact, he remembered all of the various tubes, voltages, and alignment procedures, and had me quiz him on the details (I still think this is why he wouldn't/couldn't use a computer - his brain was still filled with details on a TV set that he hadn't touched in 50 years!)."

"Either way, unfortunately he has since passed away, and I will miss our trips together to the NJARC events. Again, thanks for your concern (and listening to me prattle on)."

Our thoughts also go out to long-time member Wendell Klinker whose son has notified us that he is now in the terminal stage of lung cancer and can no longer read. "He has enjoyed reading your club magazine for many years."

Steve Goulart reports that OMARC is facilitating Technician Class license tests on November 13th in Tinton Falls. Final study of the license manual will be followed by VE testing. For details, contact Steve at [sfgvoip@optonline.net](mailto:sfgvoip@optonline.net).

Technical Coordinator Al Klase is considering a repeat of the extremely well-received radio listening event ("DXpedition") that was held two years ago at InfoAge, possibly in January just before the DX contest. We'll keep you informed of the exact date.

Our 2011 NJARC Holiday Party is set for December 11th at InfoAge. In about a week, members will receive an invitation with all the details and a reply form to indicate preferences.

## NJARC AT THE PNC ARTS CENTER

By  
Ray Chase

The attached photo is a display that I set up in the rotunda of the Robert B. Meyner Reception Center at the Holmdel PNC Arts Center on the evening of October 8th. The request came to R. Lee from the Jersey Shore Public Relations and Advertising Association (JSPRAA) on the occasion of their Jasper awards dinner that evening. The theme for the dinner

was the "Roaring Twenties" and they asked for a Victrola and a radio or radios representing that period. They were to be displayed in the rotunda during the pre-dinner cocktail party.

I chose a Westinghouse RC from 1921 and an Atwater Kent 46 from 1929 to illustrate the changes in radio during that period. The upright record player came from the museum (not really a Victrola model but an unknown variation that none-the-less looks as spectacular.) It was even playable and I demonstrated this to the event organizers as I set up in



the afternoon; they were greatly impressed. I was also allowed to display NJARC and InfoAge brochures.

Hopefully, we received some good exposure during this event.

## A PHILCO CHALLENGE

By  
Ray Chase

One never knows what you can find close to home. Recently, returning from a local shopping trip, I passed a garage sale and spied a console radio sitting in the driveway. Well, I do not need any more console radios but one never knows so I circled the block to get back to the sale. It turned out to be a 10-tube Philco model 39-55 in pretty scruffy shape. Some of you will recognize this model as being the first to use a wireless remote for changing stations and adjusting volume (the "Mystery Control"). I had one of these many years ago but let it slip out of my grasp before we had a museum. Now I would really like to have one for the RTM museum.

The cabinet, although solid, has some serious veneer issues but the chassis does not look too bad and the price was very reasonable. All the proper innards of the cabinet were there, including the speaker and the antenna for the wireless remote. The owner hastened to say that it was "for display only", as it was not working. That was clear even to the uninitiated. She had no knowledge of a remote control unit; she said that her husband was interested in radio but that it sat in the basement for years and now it was time for it to go. So,

in the van it went.

Here is the challenge. I have the "Mystery Control" for this radio and another nice condition Philco console that uses the same cabinet. I would really like to have this radio working in the museum so we could demonstrate the first wireless remote control. My list of way-behind-projects is longer than my arm so I'll never be able to take this on. My offer: I will donate my Mystery Control and the other clean cabinet if someone will take on the chore of getting this chassis cleaned up and working. The chassis and tubes are all there, there is a touch of rust here and there but underneath the chassis it looks pretty good. Someone had changed the filter caps quite some time ago but all the other caps look original. This is not a job to be taken on lightly as the radio has motor driven tuning, a separate receiver for the remote tuning function and a fair amount of that Philco rubber insulated wire that crumbles upon touch. We need this to be a reliable player that would be on display and in operation at the museum.

So, if you have some time (that I do not) and would feel comfortable taking this on, please contact me and I'll deliver the bits and pieces. This would be a very nice enhancement for our museum and you would be contributing to promoting the history of radio technology.

(You can contact Ray at 908-757-9741 or raydio862@verizon.net)



## CONNECTIONS

Free exposure for buyers and sellers! Unless requested otherwise, each ad will run for two months in both the *Jersey Broadcaster* and the *Delaware Valley Oscillator*. All buying and selling transactions are the responsibility of the parties involved. **Send your ad to [mbeeferman@cs.com](mailto:mbeeferman@cs.com)**

Are you aware that NJARC now has a resistor program which includes many commonly needed replacements? Contact Walt Heskes at any club meeting for details.

## NJARC/InfoAge AT THE "MAKER FAIRE"

By  
**Matt Reynolds**

Maker Faire is an event held by *Make Magazine* that is dedicated to people who like to build things themselves. The most recent one was held in Queens at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, the same place as both New York World's Fairs. NJARC and InfoAge had set up a booth and needed volunteers to man it. I had really wanted to go before I knew our club was having a booth, so when I found out our club was participating, I signed on immediately.

The neat thing about *Make Magazine* and the Maker Faire is that they are not aimed at a specific audience, but tend to try to have events for people of all ages and talents. There were exhibits for almost every possible hobby involving do-it-yourself activity: crafts, knitting, sewing, electronics, woodworking, metalurgy, hydraulics, robotics, computing, gardening and "green works". The exhibits were held by non-profit organizations, vendors advertising goods, and individuals who contribute to *Make Magazine*.

The NJARC\InfoAge exhibit was dedicated to "Makers of the Past". It featured

## FOR SALE

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

**Now that you've disposed of some of that old stuff by using our FOR SALE section and have plenty of empty space, or just need a few parts to complete that restoration, try our free WANTED section.**

a large range of radio equipment and associated gear, most of which was built by hobbyists (makers) instead of manufactured in factories.

The exhibit was in more-or-less chronological order. We had a crystal radio and a one tube regenerative receiver that were available for people to tinker with. We also had display models of a homemade superheterodyne radio and some Heathkits. The neatest thing to me was an aircraft radio used by the U.S. military. Though it was not built by a "maker", the radio was often converted for civilian use after the war. Instructions were put out in booklets explaining how to do this.

I did my best to explain the exhibits and teach people how the equipment worked. It was fun, and I think a lot of people found it interesting.

Another major goal of having a booth at Maker Faire was to promote InfoAge to more people. Major InfoAge supporters Steve Goulart and Joe Gilliberti promoted InfoAge heavily. Steve Goulart made many new contacts, and I hope we get more new visitors or supporters.

When we had low points of participation at our booth, we were free to roam around the place. Though most of it was interesting to me, my favorite exhibits were the ones associated with electronics, computers, and manufacturing. The manufacturing exhibit ranged from home-built 3D printers capable of manufacturing things from plastic, laser engravers, automated mills, etc. The elec-

## WANTED

(From former member): I'm looking for the knob that goes onto the volume control for a 1939 Zenith shutter-dial console. This is the inner concentric knob over the tuning knob. It is either white or brown, tapers, stands about 1/2" tall and has a "Z" on it. The fitting hole is extremely small and the diameter of the base is about 1/2" or slightly less  
[george-shields@msn.com](mailto:george-shields@msn.com)

Someone to repair a Philco model 41-221. Paul Brown (non-member), Tuckerton, NJ, (609)-294-1148.  
[excellentpainter@yahoo.com](mailto:excellentpainter@yahoo.com).

tronics exhibits ranged from Arduino Microcontrollers projects, LED\mixie\LCD projects, soldering clinics, and our "retro electronics" exhibit. The computer ones fascinated me as well. There were exhibits on programming microcontrollers using various languages, a retro computing exhibit (a fellow InfoAge club, MARCH), interfacing computers with custom made electronic devices, and my favorite exhibit, the 2600 Magazine (The Hacker Quarterly) crew.

I believe Make Faire provided very good exposure for both InfoAge and NJARC. I had a good time, and I think we taught lots of people that "making" didn't debut with the magazine. Hopefully, we will have some new visitors to our museum as well!

