

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

October 2011

Volume 17 Issue 10



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by
Marv Beeferman

The ON-LINE Broadcaster

The New Jersey Broadcaster is now on-line. To date, over 100 of your fellow NJARC members have subscribed, saving the club nearly \$2000 a year and a significant amount of work for your editor. Interested? To subscribe, send your e-mail address to mbeeferman@verizon.net. Be sure to include your full name.

It was quite a shock, after basking in 90 degree temperatures, to return from Vegas and be greeted by a 50 degree difference. No, I didn't come home a winner in the monetary sense, but did manage to baby a very nice Radiola 513 through security and "under the seat in front of me" to bring it home safe and secure. The price was very reasonable (only minor cabinet dings) at an Antique Mall where a Thompson 5-dialer and coneless Crosley speaker had an asking price of a whopping \$570! Perhaps the fact that the Radiola had no price tag and I bargained with the dealer had something to do with it.



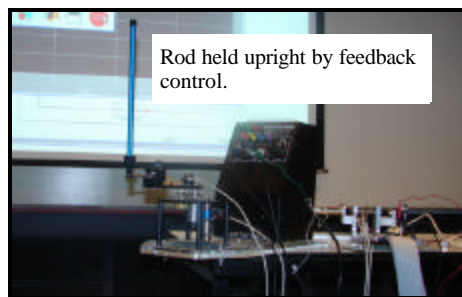
MEETING NOTICE

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, October 14th at 7:30 PM at Princeton's Bowen Hall (70 Prospect Ave.). Directions may be found at the club's website (<http://www.njarc.org>). Clean up some of those old (or new) radio relics and curiosities from your collection that have been gathering dust and show them the light of day at this month's "Show and Tell." A short description or amusing anecdote would also be appreciated to go along with your presentation.

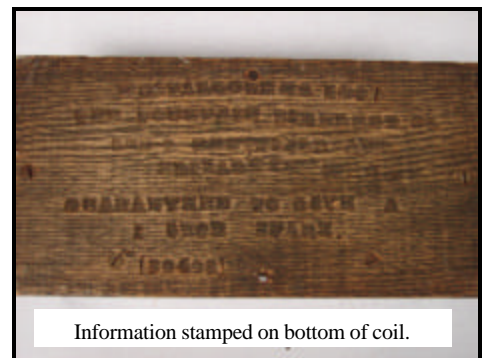
At the September meeting, Dr. Mike Littman's talk on feedback control of electronic devices and mechanical systems was well-received, especially by an old instrumentation guy like myself. Historically, the use of the centrifugal governor by James Watt in 1788 to regulate the speed of his steam engine was one factor leading to the Industrial Revolution. Steam engines also used float valves and pressure release valves as mechanical regulation devices. Electronic use included Harold Black, inventor of a negative feedback amplifier that was used to reduce audio distortion in telephone repeaters. But most interesting was the feedback demonstrator that Dr. Littman used to maintain a metal rod in an upright position using various controller types (on-off, proportional, proportional-integral, etc.) and varying control parameters.

There was a good representation of NJARC members at the September Kutztown meet including Phil Vourtsis and myself and a significant increase in the number of console cabinets dedicated to ritual burning. Representative pictures are included in this month's *Broadcaster*.

Your editor came home with two interesting pieces. The first is a wireless spark coil stamped with the following: "Catalog No. 105, The Fountain Wireless Co., 500-2 Westfield Ave., Elizabeth NJ - Guaranteed to Give a One Inch Spark." I'm still researching this early New Jersey company and any leads would be appreciated.



Rod held upright by feedback control.



Information stamped on bottom of coil.

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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I also purchased a Tuska 225. The seller started out with the chassis only but found the correct cabinet while making his rounds of the swapmeet. The front panel had a small chip but I was able to purchase a perfect panel from Ray Chase. One of the audios was wrong but a third coincidence was not in the cards.



The following was reported by Ray Chase:

On the 22nd of September, the Monmouth County Freeholders were persuaded to have the regular monthly meeting at InfoAge away from their usual home in Freehold. County Clerk Claire French is an enthusiastic supporter of InfoAge and had no small measure of responsibility for arranging this event. We hoped to be able to give many of them and their entourage tours of our museums, but being politicians, they seemed to want to spend more time smoozing with our board members and other guests. In any event, we did set up a small display in the rear of the dining room where the public meeting was held and we were able to catch many of them and provide a small discourse on what we are up to. Prior to the formal meeting, they were entertained upstairs in the hotel by the InfoAge board where refreshments were laid out for them and this gave the InfoAge principles an opportunity to lobby for continued support from the county.

On the same day, I was honored to be asked to assist with a class lecture at Whitman College, Princeton University. The professor, Hal Feiveson, had contacted me thru Dave Sica and others as he was searching for a sample of a WWII magnetron tube. Mr. Feiveson is conducting a 12 week freshman seminar on WWII titled "Scientists Against Time." We had met several weeks ago

and after showing him some of my prior presentations, he asked me to assist in the September 22nd afternoon session where the subject was the development of early radar at the onset of WWII. It was a pleasure to help Mr. Feiveson with this and stand before a class of very bright new students at Princeton. Most of the students were aiming for a curriculum in science or mathematics and were nearly evenly split between males and females.

InfoAge's Halloween "Base of Terror" is being run by a professional theatre group and NJARC participation will be limited to manning the museum and perhaps supplying some props. However, volunteers are welcome for roles in skits or to help building scary scenarios. Visitors will not come through the heart of the museum but we will have displays set up in the back. We are in dire need of staffing these displays and protecting the museum's assets from 7 to 11 pm. Dates are October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29. If you can help out, please contact Harry Klancer at klancer2@comcast.net.

Special thanks goes out to member Darren Hoffman and his professional crew of riggers in moving a Bridgeport milling machine and NC lathe to InfoAge. The task was accomplished without any blood letting, broken bones or crushed fingers. Darren almost had to resort to a "doorway expander" to release the miller from its captivity at Princeton but managed to squeeze it through with a few 32nds of an inch to spare. Ray Chase promises a short story and pictures for next month's *Broadcaster*.

The Mahwah Museum in Bergen County has opened a "Les Paul in Mahwah" exhibit featuring his audio console and artifacts from his lab, including test gear. Photos and further information may be found at the following site: <http://mahwah.patch.com/articles/les-paul-a-legend-in-mahwah-celebrated>.



WORLD MAKER FAIRE 2011

By
Matt Reynolds

On the weekend of September 17th, InfoAge exhibited at the 2011 World Maker Faire, which was held at the New York Hall of Science in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens, New York. The event was organized by Make Magazine, a publication that focuses on and encourages do-it-yourself and hands-on activities. Thousands gather at Maker Faires to celebrate STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as well as arts & crafts and creativity. It is a great place for people to interact with others who share their passion and enthusiasm for their particular interest.

The exhibits at the Maker Faire were vast and varied, with over 500 exhibitors present. Some notable exhibits included a giant-sized working model of the "Mouse Trap" board game, a Tesla coil concert, and a Diet Coke & Mentos fountain. Numerous electronic projects were on display, including ones involving Arduino microcontrollers, DIY Geiger counters, LED projects, MakerBots (home-made 3D printers) and many more. In addition to the large assortment of electronics-based exhibits, there were several other exhibits

showcasing sustainability, the "green" movement and several arts and crafts displays.

The central theme of the InfoAge booth was "history of the maker movement". A section of our booth was set up to teach visitors the origin of "making" within the electronics industry, with items on display such as a homebrew superheterodyne radio, a pile of Heathkit and Lafayette catalogs, a kit-built VTVM and more. The majority of the booth space was comprised of exhibits which represented as many of the InfoAge sub-organizations as was practical, many of which were interactive. Two army field phones were set up across the tables for people to play with. A model 33 teletype was set up for people to encode "secret messages" onto paper tape. An Altair 8800 and a Commodore 64 running a homebrew homage to the popular *Guitar Hero* franchise were set up as well. The hand battery and the Theremin from the NJARC Radio Technology Museum were wildly popular with visitors, with people lining up to use both. An impromptu Theremin contest was held, though unfortunately we did not discover any musical prodigies. Regardless, lots of people left the booth with smiles on their faces.

In addition to our interactive exhibits, we had lots of literature to educate those interested in all things InfoAge. Mel Nusbaum's computer monitor collages were on display showing the history of

computers. Informational posters stating the InfoAge mission/vision, as well as the history of Camp Evans were all over the booth. Our "flyers" (paper airplane brochures designed by Al Klase) were a popular and unique handout. Several brochures for InfoAge, IXR, NJARC, and MARCH were handed out. QR codes (similar to barcodes), were posted all over the booth and on our "flyers" to bring the curious to a special InfoAge webpage, optimized for smartphones.

InfoAge volunteers were in attendance throughout the event to run the booth and educate those interested in learning more about InfoAge. Joseph Giliberti, Steve Goulart, Marah Rosenberg, Dan Wobser, Jeff Jonas, Evan Koblentz, Jeff Brace and myself (Matt Reynolds) all participated. Everyone did their part to make the booth a success. It was a lot of work, but I believe it was a very worthwhile event for InfoAge.

Attending Maker Faire was quite an inspiring experience for me. Being surrounded by thousands of people passionate for science and learning all in one place was very exhilarating. What better place is there to host an event of this kind than on the site of the 1939-1940 and 1964-1965 World's Fairs; events designed to showcase mankind's progress and dedication toward a better tomorrow? I am grateful for having been able to attend the World Maker Faire again this year and for representing InfoAge and all those associated.



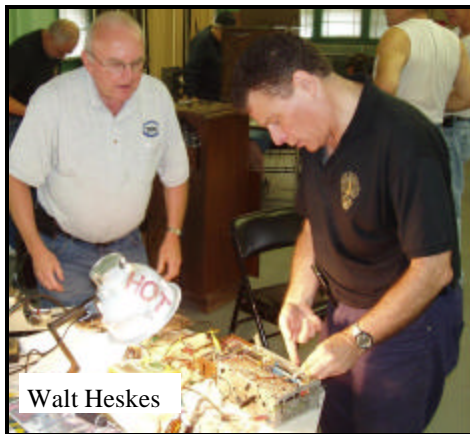
INFOAGE REPAIR CLINIC

I was unable to attend September's Repair Clinic (it would have cost me a lot less than being in Vegas!) but thanks to reporters Phil Vourtsis, Matt Reynolds and Richard Lee, we were able to capture the day. Most of the repairs were standard thanks to a database that Phil main-

tained during the session.

Steve Goulart worked on a Zenith T723 and A724Z. The T723 was brought back to life after capacitor replacement, alignment and correction of a mica migration problem. Aaron Hunter rigged up an electromagnetic test speaker to a Philco 70 and found it working. Harry Klancer replaced the line cord and dial lights on a Zenith radio/phono combination but found it still needed more work... the unit was donated to the club. Steve Calandra found that a new line cord and cleaned potentiometers was all that was

needed to get a Philco 38-7 working. Marty Friedman found a wiring error in the Silvertone 763 he was working on and, by recapping, brought the radio back to life. Walt Heskes worked on a Delco car radio and found that all that was needed was replacement of a bad electrolytic in the output circuit. Phil Vourtsis and Darren Hoffman recapped the amplifier and adjusted the changer mechanism on an RCA HFP phono. They also worked on an RCA tube portable and Eico HF86 amplifier which would require more intense troubleshooting at a later date.



Walt Heskes



Oh no! Another Majestic!



Marty Friedman



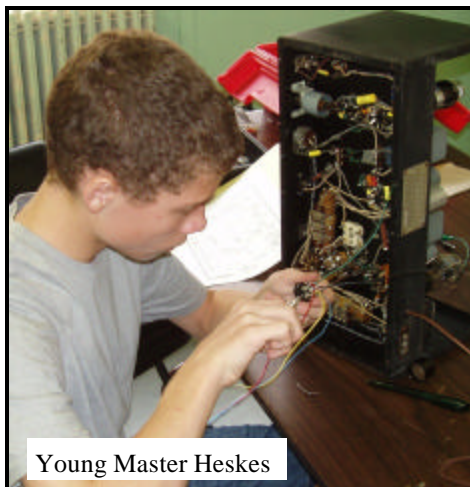
Steve Calandra



Aaron Hunter



Darren Hoffman



Young Master Heskes

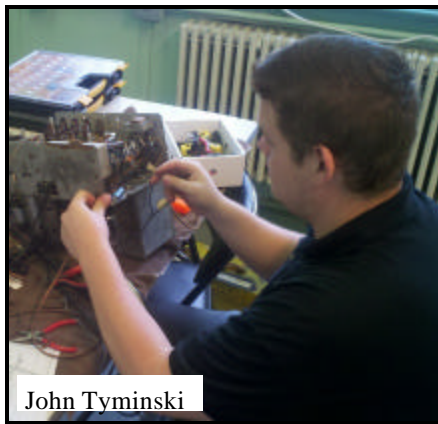


Harry Klancer





Matt Reynolds and friend



John Tyminski



Steve Goulart



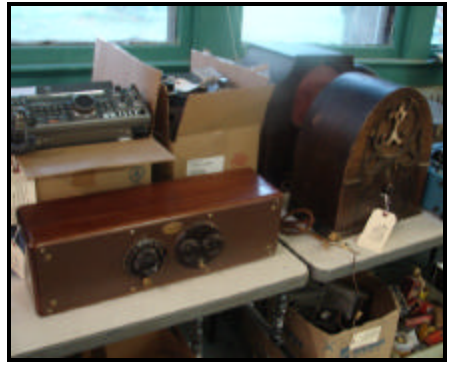
And at the end of the day...

still at work on the Majestic

INFOAGE ELECTRONICS ACTION - SEPT. 2011

Thanks to Ray Chase for organizing another successful InfoAge auction and Pete Grave and Dave Dean for filling in for the Estes auctioneers who suffered an unexpected death in the family. We'll carry final results in a future *Broadcaster*. Other volunteers included Darren Hoffman, Aaron Hunter, Matt Reynolds, Phil Vourtsis, Richard Lee, John Tyminski, Sal Brisindi, Al Klase, Harry Klancer, Vince Lobosco, Marsha Simkin, Edith Chase and Dave Snellman.





KUTZTOWN - SEPT. 2011







New Jersey Antique Radio Club's — FALL SWAP MEET —



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



Saturday, November 19, 2011

**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 AM to 12 noon

Vendor setup at 7:15 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

OR MAPQUEST.

(33 Baldwin Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054)

Vendors Make Your Reservations Now!

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