

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

November 2013

Volume 19 Issue 11



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by
Marv Beeferman

The ON-LINE Broadcaster

The New Jersey Broadcaster is now on-line. To date, over 120 of your fellow NJARC members have subscribed, saving the club and your editor a significant amount of money and work. Interested? Send your e-mail address to mbeeferman@verizon.net. Be sure to include your full name.

Greetings on the 75th anniversary of the "War of the Worlds" broadcast. Although I miss the days of the "live" productions from the David Sarnoff Library, I was still able to enjoy a PBS re-broadcast on the evening of October 30th. I was unable to attend October's meeting but thanks goes out to Steve Klose and his well-received presentation on his efforts regarding the establishment of a commemorative plaque to Major Edwin H. Armstrong. The plaque is located at the elevated entrance to the Greystone station of Metro North, overlooking Armstrong's boyhood home on Warburton Ave. The NJARC, through a generous contribution, and president Richard Lee were also instrumental in bringing Steve's dream to fruition.

In this month's Broadcaster, you'll be able to read about a significant contribution to the club's Radio Technology Museum at InfoAge that will help put us on the road to first class status. In addition, a flyer on page 8 reminds us of our upcoming Winter swapmeet on November 23 at Parsippany. One posting by a potential vendor may be a good omen for some good buys:

"Hello folks, just learned of your swap meet in Parsippany on November 23rd. I



MEETING NOTICE

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, November 8 at 7:30 PM at InfoAge. Directions may be found at the club's website (<http://njarc.org>). This month's program will include a talk by Joe Taylor on the history of the moon bounce project.

have a number of antique radios along with other associated memorabilia. Will soon be moving to a smaller house and will not have room for them. Other than my first Hallicrafters shortwave, I don't have a great deal of sentimental attachment for many of these items, so it's time to listen to my wife and let them go."

Also included is an article about our "Mad Scientist" contribution to InfoAge's Halloween fund raiser, the Base of Terror. In a late posting by Ray Chase, gross receipts were \$32,000 and expenses were \$9,000, for a profit of \$21,000.



NJARC member Darren Hoffman at the controls during a past War of the Worlds radio production at the David Sarnoff Library. This year celebrates the 75th anniversary of the broadcast.

The response form for our Holiday Party on December 7th is on page 7. With regard to the new pricing, some explanation is in order. In the past, the party was significantly subsidized by the club. Originally provided at no cost to our members, even when we started charging a nominal amount, two thirds of the cost (in the thousands) was carried by the club. This was at a time when club income from auction and swapmeet prof-

its were high and club operating costs (insurance, Broadcaster publication, hall rental for meetings and swapmeets, etc.) were relatively low. Over the years, costs have significantly increased and income (other than dues) is nowhere near it was in the past. For example, we pay dearly for using the facilities at InfoAge and Princeton for our meetings.

It may not be obvious what the \$25 is for...it is **not** the cost of the buffet alone. Included is a \$500 fee for rental of the Marconi Hotel dining room, cost of the social hour, cost of drinks, paper goods, etc. and other incidentals. In the end, the club still comes out in the red but at least at an affordable amount. Unfortunately, we must face the realities of today's cost environment; the club cannot stay financially viable if it continues to subsidize activities to the extent it has in the past.

Your Board hopes that this price increase will not significantly impact your decision to attend our Holiday Party and that you understand the basis for our decision. No matter what the cost, we always have a great time.

John Dilks reports that you can relive the romance of the radio telegraph service by following a message from a New Zealand farm to the Queen Mary at sea in a short 1939 government film. The Queen Mary and other vintage radio rooms are shown close up <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBFwTtS4P10>

Upcoming Events

November 23: NJARC Winter swapmeet at Parsippany

December 7th: Holiday Party at InfoAge (no meeting this month)

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 \$25 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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HISTORIC BUILDING SAVED AT INFOAGE

By
Ray Chase

The work done by our NJARC volunteers at InfoAge and the Radio Technology Museum could take up all eight pages of the Broadcaster each month; their hard work and dedication mostly goes without notice. It's a pleasure to publish articles like this that spotlights the work of one of these individuals ...Ed.

At the far end of Info Age's Camp Evans property, nearly hidden by overgrown brush, is a 20 foot square, nondescript metal building numbered 9115. Looking beyond its boarded up windows and peeling paint, one may notice the remains of steel girders pointing out of the peek of the roof. This is the clue to identifying the building as the remains of a WWII SCR-271 radar shack and antenna tower base.

The SCR-271 was the fixed version of the mobile SCR-270, the Army's first radar for the long range detection of aircraft. The SCR-271 used the same electronics as the 270 but its antenna had somewhat greater resolution. The mobile SCR-270 installed at Oahu Hawaii detected the approaching Japanese aircraft 20 minutes before they attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. These types of radars were installed around the United States and Panama to protect our country from surprise attack. They also saw extensive duty in the Pacific theatre. The nearest local unit was installed at Twin Lights, New Jersey and another is known to have been installed at Major Armstrong's research site at Alpine, New Jersey. All of the -270 versions were later replaced by microwave units after the cavity magnetron was introduced.

So what is the story behind building 9115? Hard to say...perhaps it was used to continue development of the SCR-270 and 271 series of radars. However, at some point after the end of WWII, the building was considered obsolete and the antenna and tower were cut off at the roof

top. It was probably used for other projects since some later electronic items were found in the debris in the building. The original power panel and SCR-271 antenna control electronics were still in place but no other WWII radar items remained.

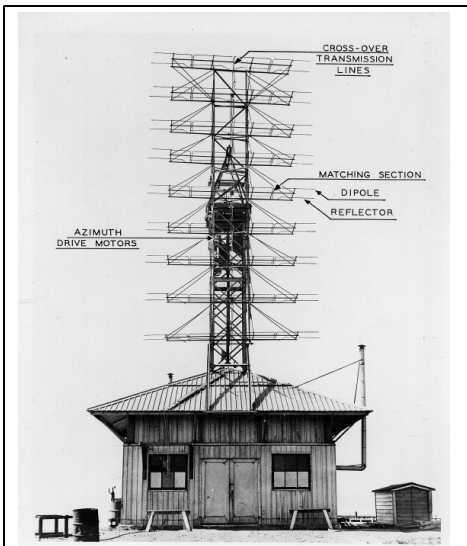
The significance of building 9115 was not recognized early on when InfoAge director Fred Carl submitted his original application to preserve parts of Camp Evans as an historic site. Its location on the far side of the site would have negated including it in the property designated for InfoAge, so it remained as part of the property deeded to Brookdale Community College. Building 9115 languished while the college waited to find funding to raze the buildings they had no use for. Fortunately, Brookdale allowed InfoAge to salvage whatever it desired from the buildings, but taking an entire building seemed beyond InfoAge's resources.

A few weeks go, the demolition process for Brookdale's buildings began. Fortunately, the demolition contractor was very cooperative and agreed to save the building and move it to the "InfoAge side of the fence."

Although Bldg. 9115 does not at first glance look very substantial, it is quite a structure. Since it formed the base of a 50-foot tall, three foot square antenna tower which was designed to support an antenna weighing several tons, it is constructed of steel girders that transition to the tower and protrude through the roof. The design is such that the girder support is in the building's four walls, allowing 400 square feet of clear space within for radar equipment.

InfoAge could clearly not move the cement pad that the building sits on nor could a new pad be created in time. But fortunately, within the InfoAge property is a large cement pad where a former Quonset hut had sat and, after a few measurements, it was determined that it would suit the purpose just fine. As usual for unused areas at InfoAge, it was cluttered with debris and vegetation so a work crew was formed to clear the pad enough to accept its new occupant.

By the time you receive this issue of the *Broadcaster*, it is hoped that the Bldg. 9115 has found its new home. We'll update you in the December issue.



An early SCR-271 radar installed at Twin Lights, New Jersey.



An SCR-271-D radar at the Evans Signal Laboratory with shelter for components and operating personnel. The antenna has been modified for a PPI display.



Contractors hired to demolish Brookdale College buildings prepare to move Bldg. 9115 to its new home. Compare this photo to the SCR-271 building at Twin Lights. The amplidyne, fuse panel and control panel were moved to safe storage by Joe Giliberti. Ray Chase is on the prowl for other original components.

HUGO PICCIANI COLLECTION DONATED TO INFOAGE

By
Robert Forte

On October 8th, Santa Claus came early in the form of master mechanic, raconteur and avid radio builder and collector Hugo Picciani. A "Brooklyn guy," Hugo donated the majority of his collection to InfoAge to be placed under the care of NJARC's Radio Technology Museum. Hugo made his decision after finding out the mission and historical location of the museum and being assured that his treasures would be cared for in perpetuity.

The transfer was undertaken by NJARC members Richard Lee, Al Klase, Harry Klancer, Ray Chase and myself when we converged on Hugo's store/machine shop/museum to load up a U-Haul truck with radio treasures from the past. The radios, artifacts and assorted parts were boxed, somewhat catalogued and documented with numerous photos. We had only a short time to appreciate what we loaded since we were partially blocking both the street and the sidewalk and Hugo wanted us to complete the task as quickly as possible. The items were then taken to a climate controlled storage facility in Neptune not far from the museum. (At present, we do not have storage

capabilities at InfoAge to properly prevent the deterioration of some very unique and significant artifacts.) At this point, we had the time to fully appreciate what Hugo had donated.

Once all the items are dusted off and fully researched, we will probably be even more impressed. Many of the radios are from the early 1920's, but included are earlier aviation receivers, transmitters, keys, wireless equipment and other items yet to be determined. Also included was Hugo's very first one-tube receiver that he constructed, a set that we will surely treasure.

As for Hugo, he hopes to be out of Brooklyn by the end of the year, moving in with his ex-wife in Farmingdale, N.J. If this actually happens, I plan to personally drag him to our meetings so all our members can meet him. He has numerous tales and stories to tell including those related to many of his life's achievements. Perhaps I'll be able to coax him into a lecture or two.

Since space is somewhat limited, we couldn't include all the photos that were taken and leave descriptions to your own expertise and familiarity. At some future date, we might be able to publish a selected inventory of some of the more interesting items. Hopefully, depending on space, some of the items can be displayed in the museum, but we'll have to wait for our expansion to display most of them properly.

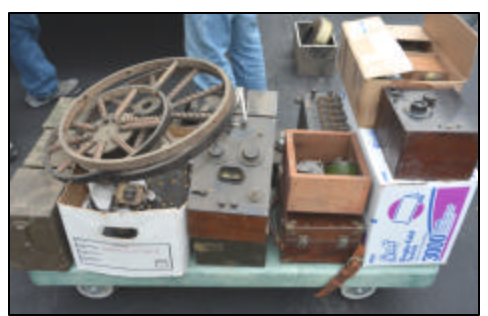


From left to right: Al Klase, Ray Chase, Hugo Picciani, Robert Forte and Harry Klancer.



"We had only a short time to appreciate what we loaded since we were partially blocking both the street and sidewalk and Hugo wanted us to complete the task as quickly as possible."

A COLLECTION GROWN IN BROOKLYN





**MAD SCIENTIST
CREATES LIFE
AT INFOAGE**

**By
Marv Beeferman**

Each year, the NJARC participates in one of InfoAge's major fund raisers, the "Base of Terror" Halloween attraction where visitors encounter spiders, zombies and other spooky features as they make their way through a tour in the dark. This year also included "The Swamp," "Pepper's Ghost" and a maze filled with everybody's childhood demon...the clown. The sets are all built by 30 to 40 volunteers. Many of the volunteers are local high school students and students from high school theatre groups.

Attendees could also sign up for a paranormal investigation and tour conducted by Behind the Wall Paranormal. Camp Evans is said to be one of the most "haunted" places in the state.

The Base of Terror serves as InfoAge's biggest fundraiser of the year, usually raising between \$20,000 to \$35,000. InfoAge director Fred Carl hopes for at least \$30,000 this year.

The last stage of the tour is the NJARC "Mad Scientist" laboratory where amid arcs, sparks and a little spooky theatrics, a failed attempt is made to bring a creature built from various assorted body

parts back to life. From here, attendees are ushered into another room where they can explore various electronic-based eerie scenarios and determine if they can pass the "zombie test."

This year, your editor suggested it might be more realistic if an already living subject played the role of what Harry Klancer affectionately calls Igor. After being zapped by various levels of electricity and showing some movement of various body parts, the Orgasmatron finally brings your editor back to full life as he grasps at the surrounding visitors. But alas, like all great experiments dealing with the nature of life and death, the monster dies on a radiation overload (alarmed by an "ahh-oooh-gah" horn) and his dead carcass returns to a lifeless mass on the gurney.

Most people found the exhibit amusing. Next year I need to remember to remove a ring I'm quite fond of from my "wedding ring" finger (the only finger it fits on). When my hands were uncovered, people immediately exclaimed "Hey, the monster's married!"

We really didn't want to scare anyone and depended on the entry age limit to help us in this area. However, a couple of little ones made it through and suggested that the affect might have been a little more realistic then planned. In two cases, Ray Chase bent over and whispered in my ear "You really scared the \$#@* out of that kid!"

Well...Happy Halloween anyway.



Your editor prepares to play Igor.



The guys did a great job setting up the make-believe laboratory and letting the sparks fly. The original Igor "dummy" lies lifelessly to the right.



Mad scientist, assistants and guest.



Playthings in the hands -on (or off) room.

NJARC AT LAWRENCEVILLE

By
Ray Chase

The traveling road show of NJARC members Klancer and Chase presented their "History of Radio Broadcasting, 40 Years" at the Lawrenceville Library on Thursday, October 24th. We brought about eight working radios to the library and scattered them around the room so that the audio from the presentation was transmitted to them. An overflow crowd of about 60 showed up and some were standing room only.

The presentation was part of a month-long library display of radios in three small cases at the library entrance. There was a lively exchange of questions and commentary following the program. One lady even brought in an early Raytheon 8-transistor radio that she donated to the

club. Later, I put four "D" cells in it and it played, but rather poorly...perhaps an application of Deoxit might be required. Another gentleman brought us a large box of assorted tubes that need to be sorted. One attendee asked if we could do a presentation at Monroe, NJ in the spring so it looks like our travels will continue.

The presentation was noted in *The Times of Trenton* by Sharon Schlegel in the article "Looking Back on a World Run by Radio."

"What a nostalgia trip these (radios) provided me. And I couldn't help but note that all the old radios were made in America by companies such as Emerson, Zenith, Philco and Atwater Kent."

Miss Schlegel also noted that many artifacts from the Sarnoff Library (former meeting place of NJARC for many years) can now be viewed at an exhibit at The College of New Jersey titled "Innovations That Changed the World." The exhibit may be a nostalgia trip for many NJARC members since most of the objects on display were originally on display at the David Sarnoff Library. Dr. Alex Magoun, former library director, noted that "the big difference, however, is that the new exhibits are professionally designed and staged, and there's more text explaining each artifact and the history surrounding it."

The exhibit is open to the public on Wednesday afternoons from 1-5 pm and Sunday afternoons from 1-3. Member Dave Sica took pictures of the displays at the grand opening and they can be seen at <http://bit.ly/sarnoff> collection.



Ray Chase (and friend) at the podium.



A standing room crowd testifies to the interest in "radio days."

SOME RADIO HUMOR

The following bit of radio humor was posted by member Dr. Alex Magoun, former Director of the Sarnoff Library and presently at the IEEE History Center. He said it came from "down under."

Reward Offered

A reward of 500 microfarads has been offered for information leading to the arrest of Hopalong Capacity. This unrec-tified criminal escaped from a Weston standard cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the Gauss chamber.

He is charged with the murder of his Aunt Enna and his Uncle Con Denser, as well as the induction of an 18-turn coil named Millie Henry, who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules.

He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over a Wheat-stone bridge and refusing to let the band pass.

If encountered, he may offer series resistance. The Electromotive Force spent the entire night searching for him in a mag-netic field where he had gone to ground. They had no success and now believe he has returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a megacycle with his friend Eddy Current who was playing a harmonic. Charges against Hopalong Capacity are being considered under those pertaining to Ohm's Law.

NJARC Holiday Party

Date: Saturday, December 7th, 2013

Time: 5:00 PM – Cocktail Hour
6:15 PM – Dinner

Place: InfoAge – Marconi Hotel
2201 Marconi Road
Wall, NJ

Members:	\$25 each
Non-Member Adults and Children over 12:	\$25 each
Children under 12:	\$5 each

Cocktail Hour, Dinner Buffet, Mystery Grab Bag, Surprises
A wonderful evening of fun, good food and fellowship with a radio theme

*******RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*******

If you plan to attend, please fill out the attached coupon, detach it and mail it with a check to:

Marvin Beferman
2265 Emerald Park Drive
Forked River, NJ 08731

by November 30th. Space is limited. **Everyone who plans to attend must send back a response form with the name(s) of attendees.** Reservations must be made via the form below; **please refrain from telephone or email reservations!** Payment must accompany the form.

-----Cut here -----

Name(s): _____

Telephone or email: _____

Number of Members :	_____ X \$25 = \$_____
Number of Children under 12:	_____ X \$5 = \$_____
Number of Non-Members :	_____ X \$25 = \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

Make checks out to **NJARC**, enclose with this form and **mail before 11/30/13.**



New Jersey Antique Radio Club's

— Fall Swap Meet —



**Parsippany PAL Building
Smith Field
Route 46 @ 33 Baldwin Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054**



Saturday November 23rd, 2013



Refreshments Available

(70) 8 Foot Tables

\$25.00 for members

\$30.00 for non-members

Reserve Additional Tables \$20.00

At the Door \$25.00

Open to the Public

8am to 12 noon

Vendor setup at 7:15 AM

\$5.00 ENTRANCE FEE

CLUB DONATION

For Directions

**Visit our website: www.njarc.org
or Mapquest**

33 Baldwin Road, Parsippany N.J. 07054

Vendors Make Your Reservations Now!

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