



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

July 2017

Volume 23 Issue 7



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by
Marv Beeferman

The ON-LINE Broadcaster

The *Jersey Broadcaster* is now on-line. Over 150 of your fellow NJARC members have already subscribed, saving the club a significant amount of money and your editor extra work. Interested? Send your e-mail address to mbeeferman@verizon.net. Be sure to include your full name.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the June meeting but if you have the opportunity, I would strongly suggest that you catch it on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/TcAKPAfmjo>). The video contains a piece provided by Dave Sica entitled "The Audiophile Collectors of Athens" which I'm sure you'll find just as entertaining as the NJARC audience did. The show & tell presentation covered the gamut from an Altec Lansing 639 microphone (Darren Hoffman), a collection of Realtone Voyager transistor radios (Dave Snellman), an unknown European "Challenger" radio chassis (Rich Skoba), crystal set radio postcards (Ray Chase), a recreation of a single-tube spy radio transmitter (Al Klase), a Teac 3440 reel-to-reel/4-track tape recorder (Matt Reynolds), a GE record audio equalizer (Dave Sica) to a restored 45 RPM player going to the Audio History Museum in Manhattan (Vourtsis).



MEETING NOTICE

NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION!

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, July 14th, at 7:30 PM at Princeton Building CS-105 while Bowen Hall undergoes renovations. Directions may be found at the club's website (<http://njarc.org>) and will be published on the Reflector. The building is located directly opposite and a short walking distance from Bowen Hall so you can still park in the same garage used for previous meetings. Signs will be posted pointing to the new location. This month's meeting will showcase the talents of our ace videographer Dave Sica as he captures new developments at our Radio Technology Museum and Vintage Radio Workshop at InfoAge.



The "hints-and kinks" portion of the meeting was basically a one-man show performed by Dave Sica as he pulled item after item from his bottomless bag of tricks of useful repair and restoration tools. These included "Evapo-Rust" for safely removing rust, using an exacto-knife handle to create a tool to produce solder squibs, "Boeshield T-9" for corrosion protection, a UV adhesive and, as the story goes, "too many others to list."

Dave also summarized two projects he is working on related to club photos. First, Dave has been archiving all photos and videos of club activities on-line. He's been adding to the collection as he gets new material and set up the location

so that anyone from the club can add their own material. The ultimate goal is an on-line, central repository for everyone's club-related photos so they're not languishing in a photo album on someone's shelf where no one else can see them.

Second, Dave would like to create an on-line membership photo directory with as much, or as little information the member is willing to share (at least, a photo and a name). Dave said he will keep us posted on his progress.

Upcoming Events

July 22nd - Summer Tailgate swapmeet at InfoAge

August 5th - Summer Repair Clinic at InfoAge

August 11th - Monthly meeting at Princeton; Alan Wolke presentation (TBA)

August 15th thru 19th - AWA World Convention, RIT Inn and Conference Center, West Henrietta, NY

September 8th - Monthly meeting at InfoAge; Charles Blanding presentation (TBA)

September 15th & 16th - Kutztown antique radio swapmeet

October 13th - Monthly meeting at Princeton; Mike Molnar presentation "V. Zworykin - The Lost Interviews"

October 28th - NJARC Fall Swapmeet at Parsippany PAL

November 10th - Monthly meeting at InfoAge; Show & Tell, Hints & Kinks

November 18th - Fall Repair Clinic at InfoAge

December 16th - Holiday Party at West Lake Country Club

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 at InfoAge or Princeton University.

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

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THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING

By
Marv Beeferman

Happy 25th anniversary NJARC! From its humble beginnings at the Monmouth County Library on July 16th, 1992, fifteen prospective members gathered to form the New Jersey Antique Radio Club. Charter member Mark Mittleman noted that he had to direct traffic outside of the library to ensure that the club didn't lose anyone who was at least able to find the parking lot. Present membership now averages over 200, with the club standing on a solid organizational and financial foundation for years to come.

What is most unique about the NJARC and what makes it stand out from other radio clubs is that its roots were solidly established and its branches lovingly nurtured by an individual who was not an "experienced" radio collector - Charles A. "Tony" Flanagan (1942-1998). With only limited technical and restoration experience and little familiarity with the thousands of radio manufacturers and models, he was able to convince and provide the inspiration for collectors with 15 to 20 years of experience to form and support a club.



In an *Asbury Park Press* interview on October 9, 1992, a day before the club's first flea market at VFW Post 4374 on Waterworks Road, Tony said that he had only been collecting radios for about

three years. He purchased his first radio at an antique radio show in Nashua, N.H. and knew immediately, like many of our present club members, that "this was for me." "I just have this dedication to restore old things and preserve the past," said Tony, who used to restore old furniture. Noting that furniture had taken a back seat after stumbling upon his first antique radio, Tony commented, in his own inimitable way, "You can't turn on a chair." Eventually, the furniture connection led to his specialization in Emerson wood table-top models with Ingraham cabinets.

Tony understood the radio collecting passion well and how important a club was in sharing that fervor. He called the club a "therapy group" for our "once you get into it, you can't quit" addiction, admitting that even he had to get his fix every couple of weeks. He once said in an interview in the *News Transcript* on November 4th, 1992:

"With all of us, it's like an obsession. We can't get enough of it. I love things that are wood, some people like plastic. It's hard to explain the attraction, but we all understand it. What's special about the club is we get right on the phone as soon as we've seen a radio that we know would interest other members. There's a lot of camaraderie. And we all share a genuine desire to restore and preserve the radio."

In another interview in the *Ocean County Observer* in January 1994, as Tony wistfully mused about the treasures a radio collector might find, he said "I'd love to be able to go through the dumps and dig down about half a mile."

Tony's natural ability to seal friendships on first meeting brought many new members into the fold. In the club's early years, with meetings held at the Grace Lutheran Church in Freehold, Tony's wife Kathleen served as Secretary/Treasurer. As Tony once remarked: "She has been my emotional support during times when running the club seemed to require more energy than I had to devote to it. Kathleen has kept the books and attended to innumerable administrative details, and she's done a great job of it."

So here we are in 2017, and for those of us who have been on the ride from the beginning, it has certainly been an interesting journey. What better way to describe it than to go through past issues of the club's newsletter, *The Jersey Broadcaster*, and try to establish a timeline of some of the major highlights in the club's history! But before we do, let's tip our hats to the original charter members and to those who are no longer with us:

Pat Bailey
 Donald Cruse
 Gary D'Amico
 Tony Flanagan
 Kathleen Flanagan
 Michael Hammer
 Ernest Hartman
 Mark Mittleman
 Thomas Provost
 Monty Purviance
 Norm Sandbach
 Dave Sica
 Steve Sideroff
 Jerry Simkin
 Rick Weibezahl

October 10, 1992: NJARC first swapmeet at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4374 in Freehold with 250 attendees.

January, 1993: Meetings begin at Freehold Elks; at February meeting, charter member Don Cruse wins \$1,000 at Elks punch card game; uses money to buy more radios.

March 1993: Meetings begin at Grace Lutheran Church in Freehold. Volume 1, Number 1 of the *New Jersey Antique Radio Club News* published with the banner "We're Here!" with Dave Sica as editor. Eight generous donations puts the NJARC Tube Program, run by *Tube Lore* author Ludwell Sibley, in full swing. First swapmeet at Hightstown Country Club on March 20th announced.

Spring 1993: AWA and NJARC meet to discuss joint involvement in popular Tranquility, NJ swapmeet for May 1994. Unfortunately, weeks before the meet, new owner of the land used for the meet refused to let it be used. Phil Vourtsis publishes article in newsletter titled "RCA 45 RPM Phonographs," a prelude to bigger and better things.

July 1993: NJARC club Constitution completed and ready for vote at August meeting.

September 1994: Dues increased to \$15/year; club capacitor program established. Video library of meetings established by Phil Vourtsis.

July 1995: Tony Flanagan announces he will step down as president for June 1996 elections. Schematic program administered by Aaron Hunter announced.

Fall 1995: Volume 1, Issue 1 of the club's new newsletter, "*The Jersey Broadcaster*" is published.

June 1996: Via a newspaper article provided by Marsha Simkin, Camp Evans (i.e., InfoAge) is brought to the attention of the NJARC. Your editor writes: "Considering the historical significance of Camp Evans, thoughts about a permanent home/museum for NJARC and the potential for a joint venture between local amateur radio clubs and NJARC (and the extra manpower and enthusiasm it represents), does NJARC have a future at Camp Evans?"

July 1996: Jim Whartenby elected club president; Ludwell Sibley VP, Marv Beeferman Secretary, Gerald Dowgin Treasurer, Donald Cruse Sergeant-At-Arms, Mark Mittleman Trustee. Second Camp Evans story run in *Broadcaster*. John Dilks establishes NJARC CompuServe home page with club logo in color, information on when and where the club meets, how to get there and space to run future event promos. NJARC sets up exhibit at Monmouth County Library.

August 1996: Proposal for a museum committee brought to the floor. Executive Board increased from eight to nine members (addition of Technical Coordinator) to ensure a tie-breaking vote.

January 1997: "Family" membership established.

June 1997: NJARC/DVHRC joint picnic, flea market and auction at Elks Lodge 2434, Clinton NJ.

September 1997: First NJARC swapmeet at Freehold Armory. John Dilks announces that NJARC Web page was the first to place an antique radio meet (AWA in Rochester) on-line every day of the meet with the posting of daily reports and photos.

March 1998: "February's meeting opened with a discussion of the efforts by Fred Carl, a Monmouth County resident, who is attempting to establish an Information Learning Center at the Belmar Marconi station at Camp Evans. Letters of support have been forwarded by both the club and Ludwell Sibley implying an interest to support the project by maintaining a permanent museum and workshop at the site"

May 1998: Information Age web site, <http://www.infoage.org>, established.

June 1998: New officers elected:

President - Phil Vourtsis
 Vice President - Jim Fisher
 Treasurer - Sal Brisindi
 Sgt. At Arms - Dave Snellman
 Technical Coordinator - Al Klase
 Trustee - Gary D'Amico

Second joint NJARC/DVHRC picnic/swapmeet in Clinton, NJ.

August 1998: John Dilks' "mobile radio museum" unveiled at NJARC meeting. Ludwell Sibley turns over tube program to member Gary D'Amico.

October 1998: First club president and founder of NJARC, Tony Flanagan, passes.

November 1998: Tony Flanagan memorial award proposed.

February 1999: First NJARC BCB DX Contest announced by Al Klase.

April 1999: NJARC members tour Camp Evans, hosted by Fred Carl.

May 1999: NJARC sponsors a major radio exhibit at the Morris County Library. On April 24, an NJARC crew participated in a leaf cleanup in area around the Marconi hotel at InfoAge to maintain its 'lived-in' look until final turnover.

September 1999: Ray Chase attends InfoAge Board meeting.

October 1999: Al Klase hosts the first all-day radio troubleshooting/repair workshop on October 30th at the Grace Lutheran Church...ultimately to become our popular Radio Clinics. William Terbo, grand nephew of Nikola Tesla, presents talk to NJARC membership. Marconi and radio-related artifacts and ephemera displayed at Camp Evans during bus tours of facility. *Jersey Broadcaster* publishes "Pioneer Membership" application for InfoAge.

December 1999: Al Klase sponsors homebrew, one-tube radio contest. 1,000 people tour Camp Evans.

January 2000: John Dilks wins first Tony Flanagan Memorial Award.

May 2000: NJARC displays at Trenton Computer Fest. NJARC webmaster baton passes from John Dilks to Dave Sica.

July 2000: Richard Lee elected Vice President and John Rucolo replaces Mark Mittleman as trustee. NJARC members participate in salvage of terra

cotta roofing tiles, trim, molding, door framing, windows, doors etc. from New Brunswick station prior to demolition.

April 2001: Announcement made that National Broadcasters Hall of Fame (NBHF) will be donated to InfoAge and its restoration and preservation has been assigned to the NJARC.

August 2001: NJARC swapmeet moved to American Legion Hall in Dover, NJ. President Phil Vourtsis announces that he is under contract to author a collector's book on 45 RPM record players. Announcement made that Hightstown Country Club (NJARC's swapmeet venue dating to club's origin) will face wrecking ball.

November 2001: Dr. Alex Magoun, Director of the David Sarnoff Library, is guest speaker at monthly meeting.

December 2001: First monthly meeting and 10th Anniversary/Holiday Party at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton hosted by Alex Magoun. Ludwell Sibley presented with Tony Flanagan Memorial Award.

March 2002: Swapmeet moved to North Centerville Volunteer Fire Hall in Hazlet, NJ. Morris County Library exhibit sponsored by NJARC features design themes expressed in radios. NJARC members Isaac Blonder and Ben Tongue inducted into NJ Inventors Hall of Fame. NJARC members gather at InfoAge to inventory National Broadcasters Hall of Fame artifacts. "Ray Chase reports that the Morris County Library exhibit was so popular that he was asked to keep the lobby portion of the radio display up until April 15th." InfoAge entered into National Register.

May 2002: First official monthly meeting at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton. "This is only a temporary location until a permanent meeting location can be found."

July 2002: InfoAge Director Fred Carl announces that the NBHF is destined for Area B, building 9001. Until repair work is completed, the 9003 cottage was offered to the NJARC as a temporary home until the Area B transfer is completed. Club sponsors a radio display at the East Jersey Olde Towne Village in Middlesex County.

August 2002: Monthly meeting moved to American Legion Hall in East Brunswick

on a trial basis. NJARC member John Dilks wins AWA Houck Award for Preservation in recognition of his mobile radio museum.

October 2002: Monthly meeting held at InfoAge in the form of a picnic and swapmeet. Members get an opportunity to tour the facility and location of our NBHF museum.

December 2002: Nevell Greenough destroys the competition at our homebrew radio contest with his "see-through" two-tube superhet with Plexiglas case and digital frequency display. NJARC Board votes to increase dues to \$20. President Phil Vourtsis announces his book *The Fabulous Victrola 45*.

January 2003: Club ramps up for a 3-month radio display at Cranbury museum. Project Diana open house held at InfoAge celebrating OMARC restoration of one of the original project buildings.

March 2003: Repair Clinics moved to David Sarnoff Library. "Famous" American Legion meeting held where member Scott Marshall entertains the bar crowd and "spirited friends" with his Theremin demonstration. It might have even sparked a temporary interest in antique radio with some winning, albeit misplaced, auction bids by the American Legion membership. The meeting was described by more than one member as "one of our most interesting and entertaining meetings." InfoAge steering committee established.

April 2003: Monthly meetings permanently moved to David Sarnoff Library.

May 2003: NJARC sponsors radio exhibit at Garden State Philharmonic's "1940 Radio Show" concert. Alex Magoun, Dave Sica and Scott Marshall provide *Broadcaster* write-up of their attendance at First Annual Early Television Convention in Ohio.

August 2003: NJARC sponsors "Hands on History of Radio" and Radio Restoration Clinic at David Sarnoff Library.

September 2003: Joint NJARC and DVHRA antique radio swapmeet, hamfest, and computerfest at National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville. Showcase layout and alarm system planning begins at Cottage #3 at InfoAge for future NJARC/NBHF museum.

November 2003: NJARC supports "War

of the Worlds" 65th anniversary radio play at Sarnoff Library. NJARC membership reaches 200!

January 2004: Club purchases 700 discs from David Sarnoff Library to form basis of club library at InfoAge.

February 2004: NJARC members attend InfoAge BRAC meeting. "Director Fred Carl had received some calls following the meeting indicating that NJARC's presence was well-received and forceful."

May 2004: Joint NJARC/IEEE meeting at Sarnoff Library; Maurice Schechter talks on "From Zworykin to Kosovo: How RCA's WWII Military Television Development Shaped Modern Warfare."

June 2004: Phil Vourtsis re-elected NJARC President; Richard Lee continues on as VP.

July 2004: First work day scheduled at InfoAge Cottage #2. Vice president Richard Lee gets his "presidential" feet wet by taking the helm at the monthly meeting while Phil Vourtsis tours Europe.

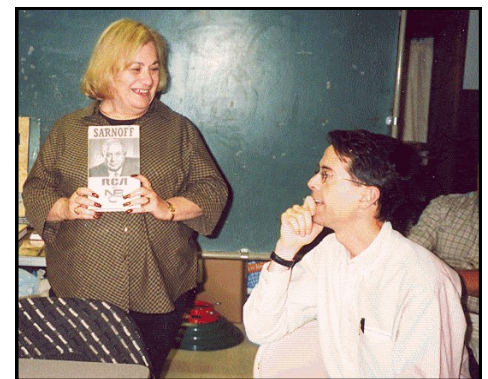
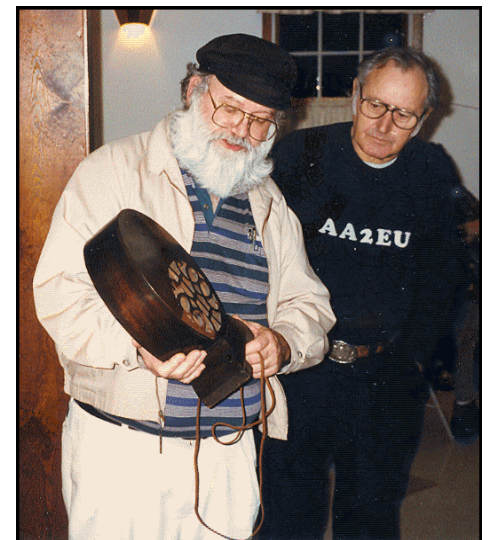
August 2004: Alarm system installed at InfoAge Cottage #2 by Bob Pilcher; extraneous items hauled away. Marsha and Jerry Simkin work on library book inventory.

September 2004: First tailgate swapmeet and picnic at InfoAge. Marconi "hotel" and Cottage #2 sewer lines connected and cottage turned over to InfoAge.


December 2004: Painting, cleaning, plumbing work and restoration work continue at InfoAge Cottage # 2. Marsha Simkin supplies window curtain and shower curtain with radio theme to spruce up bathroom.

Well, 2005 seems like a good midway point to stop for now; I hope some of our older members enjoyed this lookback in time and our new members got a flavor of the club's great history. I'm sure there's quite a bit I left out and hopefully we can rely on some first hand accounts when we celebrate our 25th year at December's Holiday Party.

We'll continue with our history between 2005 and 2017 in the August *Broadcaster*. Since one picture is worth a thousand words, I've chosen some from previous *Broadcasters* that hopefully will bring a smile to a few faces. One thing is certain; they bring back a time when hair was a lot darker and more abundant.







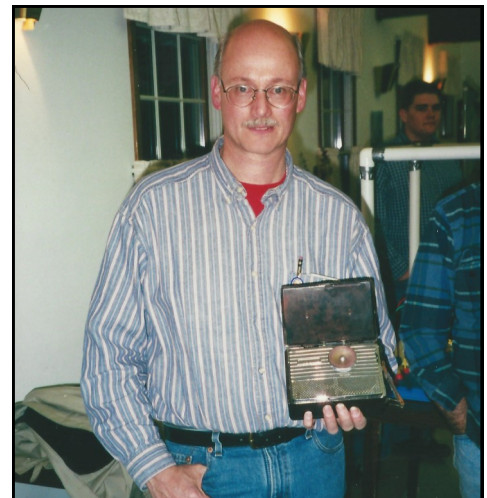
**New Jersey
Antique Radio Club
News**

Volume 1 March 1993 Number 1

ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB
NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Antique Radio Club
We're Here!







New Jersey Antique Radio Club's

Summer Tailgate Swap Meet



**InfoAge Science History
Learning Center and Museum**

**2201 Marconi Road
Wall, New Jersey 07719**



Saturday July 22nd, 2017



Refreshments Available

40 spaces available

\$25.00 for members

\$30.00 for non-members

Bring your own tables

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**

2201 Marconi Road, Wall NJ 07719

Vendors Make Your Reservations Now!

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