

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

February 2018

Volume 25 Issue 02



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by
Marv Beeferman

The ON-LINE Broadcaster

The *Jersey Broadcaster* is now on-line. Over 160 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.

In the last 25 years (yup...we're starting this year with Volume 25), only in a few instances have events gotten ahead of me to prevent publishing the *Broadcaster*. The start of 2019 was one of those times where the flu, a sewer backup and a bad back have all conspired at one time to interfere with one of my very pleasant club duties. Thanks to all members who have offered their kind understanding and empathy.

Although still cleaning up from a troublesome sewer line (I've learned a lot about drying out wet books and CD's), I'm on the mend and ready to get back to work. There's some catching up to do and although some of this month's content may seem a little dated, part of my philosophy for the *Broadcaster* (along with reporting on club activities, passing along tips by our members and providing a source of radio history), includes capturing the history of the club. Swapmeets, radio clinics and our Holiday Party are all included in this history.

CALL FOR DUES

With the new year comes our call for 2019 dues. Your Board, with the support of a great job by treasurer Harry Klancer, has held the cost at \$25 (\$30 for a family membership). This still remains quite a bargain in light of the club's benefits:



MEETING NOTICE

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, February 8th, at 7:30 PM at Princeton's Bowen Hall. Directions may be found at the club's website (<http://www.njarc.org>). This month, we're scheduled to hear a talk from member Dr. Alex Magoun titled "Between Two Countries? Vladimir Zworykin, Russia and the FBI." We'll also continue to collect dues for 2019.

- Twelve issues of the *Jersey Broadcaster*.
- An entertaining and informative web site.
- The NJARC Communicator - a new and efficient forum for the exchange of club and member information.
- Two convenient and historic meeting locations.
- Unique technical presentations by a highly respected membership.
- Repair clinics and challenging contests.
- Capacitors, tubes resistors and parts at bargain prices.
- Resources for schematics and technical information.
- An award-winning radio museum, a constantly expanding technical library and a vintage radio repair facility for member use.
- Auctions, "PAL" swapmeets and InfoAge tailgates.
- A subsidized Holiday Party, and... much, much more.

At the present time, while our membership secretary Marsha Simkin recovers from vision issues, her duties will be taken over by Ray Chase. There will be a mailing of 34 membership cards to those who have paid in advance and to honorary and lifetime members.

For members receiving the *Broadcaster* by mail, check the code next to your name on the mailing label. Honorary (H) and Lifetime (L) members are exempt from paying dues. If you're receiving your *Broadcaster* by email and you're not sure about your membership status, it will be provided when you pay your dues or contact Ray at 908-757-9741 or at raydio862@verizon.net.

Dues will be collected at monthly

meetings and other club activities or you can mail a check made out to the "NJARC" to:

Ray Chase
1350 Marlborough Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Payment via PayPal is also available at the club's website but it will cost the club a fee. While you're at it, you might want to consider a lifetime membership. In any case, please renew early and **avoid the membership cutoff date of March 31st.**

Also, as we begin the new year, please consider a tax-deductible donation to InfoAge to help support the continuing, all-volunteer work that preserves this National Historic Site in fulfilling its mission to maintain a science history learning center and museum. Remember - a gift to InfoAge includes support of the NJARC Radio Technology Museum. Donations may be made on-line at www.InfoAge.org or by mailing a check to 2201 Marconi Road, Wall NJ 07719. In addition, Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible Amazon Smile purchases to InfoAge...check it out at smile.amazon.com.

Catching up on a few loose ends, president Richard Lee, with the aid and support of a number of member volunteers, organized another successful Fall swapmeet for November 3rd. We've included some photos in this month's *Broadcaster* and those from our November 17th Repair Clinic. Also included are a grouping of photos from our Holiday Party. Thanks to our hosts the Zukowski's and to president Lee for again arranging a beautiful venue and ensuring that arrangements went smoothly. The food was great, the company was outstanding and not too many feelings were hurt during the gift exchange.

Thanks to Bob Bennett, the club's unofficial "documentarian," short videos of the above events may be found at his

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 other than information.

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"Radiowild" postings on YouTube.

Thanks also go out to John Ruccolo for his talk on communication receivers and transmitters at the November meeting. John seems to have a knack for holding member's interest by making a topic both funny and informative - sorry I missed it.

The January meeting at InfoAge included an update by Bill Zukowski on the replacement of the NJARC Reflector by the NJARC Communicator. We'll talk about this very positive development in this month's *Broadcaster*. In addition, thanks to our web coordinator Dave Sica, live broadcasts of our monthly meetings on the internet have been moved from Ustream to YouTube. Results have been positive as noted by member Phil Vourtsis: "Picture is quite clear even on full screen mode; no glitches the whole night."

Thanks to Ray Chase for temporarily taking over the dues collection duties while Marsha Simkin recovers from eye surgery. Thanks also to Technical Coordinator Al Klase for reviewing some tips for obtaining best results during our BCB DX Contest. We also had a nice member's-only auction which included an interesting Marconi ship radio which Ray obtained for the Museum and hopefully will be covered in a future *Broadcaster* article.



Ray Chase has temporarily assumed dues collection duties.



Some pre-contest DX-ing.



A Marconi (Canada) radio receiver, Type MSL5, 15-1500 KHz.

Finally, the January meeting seemed to provide a good opportunity to bring up some issues regarding our Vintage Radio Repair Shop at InfoAge. From its onset, I was asked by the museum Board to be a sort of coordinator and caretaker for the shop. Basically, I was tasked to maintain a clean and available workspace that included the necessary tools and materials for members to use in restoring museum-owned and personal artifacts. In order to succeed in this mission, I am asking members to observe a few basic rules:

- After finishing work at a bench, return all tools and test equipment to their proper location or drawer. Thoroughly clean the bench of all extraneous parts, leads, dirt **and grease**. Vacuum the area and clean away all solder splatter, wire clippings, dirt, etc.
- If you are in the middle of a project and it would be cumbersome to disassemble the test setup, put your work to the side of the bench and bag all parts, tubes, hardware, etc. Place a tag on the project with your name and "still working." **Materials left on benches without labelling will be returned to their proper place or thrown out.**
- First priority are museum restorations but personal projects are welcome. However, the shop shall not become a storage area for your projects; if too many show up, you will be asked to remove them.



Don't leave a bench in this condition!

Along the same lines, capacitor program coordinator Matt Reynolds wants to remind members that if you are using capacitors for museum restorations, there is no charge. However, you must pay for capacitors used for personal projects. Also, when it appears that we are low on a particular value, email Matt at capacitors@njarc.org so he can restock before we run out of a value entirely.

Honorary NJARC member Ludwell Sibley has announced that the Tube Collector Association (TCA) plans to end operation at the end of 2019 following 21 years of service. However, this is not the end of this wonderful resource for radio enthusiasts. Fortunately, the TCA Web site (www.tubecollectors.org) will continue in operation, with its services of unique data-scans, ads, a powerful data-search engine, links to other important sites and indexes to tube-related literature. An auction is planned for the Spring of a considerable collection of tubes, books, and antique radios held by the Association. Renewals of membership for 2019 are welcome.

Upcoming Events

February 16 - Winter Repair Clinic at InfoAge
 March 8 - Monthly meeting at Princeton; presentation by Prof. Mike Littman (topic TBA)
 March 16 - NJARC Spring Swapmeet/Hamfest at Parsippany PAL
 April 12 - Monthly meeting at InfoAge; Hints & Kinks/Show & Tell
 May 10-11 - Kutztown Spring swapmeet
 May 17 - Monthly meeting at InfoAge; Presentation by Al Klase (topic TBA)
 May 18 - Spring Repair Clinic at InfoAge
 June 14 - Monthly meeting at Princeton; presentation by Alan Wolke (topic TBA)
 July 12 - Monthly meeting at Princeton; topic TBA
 July 20 - Summer Tailgate Swapmeet/Hamfest at InfoAge

MUSEUM MUSINGS

By
Ray Chase



On Thursday, October 25th, six Girl Scouts and three of their leaders visited the Radio Technology Museum (RTM) as part of their program to earn a proficiency badge in Entertainment Technology. They were middle school girls from Troop 668 in Freehold and the visit was previously arranged for museum off-hours so they could come directly from school on their regular meeting day. Al Klase, Harry Klancer and I conducted the tour at 4:00 PM.

The girls were very interested and well-behaved and the adults were energetic leaders. After an abbreviated formal tour, the girls were allowed to investigate whatever piqued their interest. A pleasant and educational time was had by all and we hope to repeat this type of event with more Girl and Boy Scout organizations.

On Sunday, November 18th, a delegation of six people from the National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH) in Bethlehem, PA visited InfoAge with an emphasis on the RTM. The visit was arranged by member Bill Inderrieden. The NMIH is located at the former Bethlehem Steel Works and displays many types of industrial equipment. They are planning a radio display next year from February 9th to November 3rd which will celebrate 100 years of radio from the date that RCA was formed in 1919. The purpose of their visit was to get ideas and see how "we do it."

Jules Bellisio and I hosted them for a two hour tour and they were highly impressed with what we have and gained much information and ideas. One of the guests was a professor of Communications/Theatre at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem who was interested in our participation in guest appearances as part of her college program. We also discussed the loan of some artifacts from our museum collection and/or member collections. In any event, I am sure that we will be collaborating with the NMIH in the future.

Editor's Note: The museum might want to consider investing in a permanent, modest camera to have at the ready for opportunities such as these to capture photos for Broadcaster articles.

THE NJARC COMMUNICATOR

By
Richard Lee/Bill Zukowski

The following information was sent out by president Richard Lee and Bill Zukowski in January; for those who did not receive it or passed it by too quickly, it is simplified and summarized below...Ed.

For many years, the NJARC Reflector served as a forum for the exchange of information between members. Unfortunately, it had only 75 subscribers out of a membership of 200 and it was plagued by many problems - lost postings, postings not opening, photo files not opening, etc. It also had problems with the subscription process. The Executive Board has decided to drop the Reflector and move to the NJARC Communicator, a Google-Groups format which solves these problems.

As a result of his positive experience with Google-Groups, member Bill Zukowski has taken over the task as owner/manager/moderator with Jerry Ingordo as second manager/moderator. Their task is to keep all Communicator postings civil and respectful and to aid members with any posting problems. Bill may be reached at n2yeg@optonline and Jerry at gjingordo@gmail.com.

As a member of the NJARC and supplying us with your email address, you are automatically enrolled in the Communicator. With each message, you will be provided with a link to unsubscribe from the group, to post to the group, and to view discussions on the web. To post messages directly to the Communicator from your browser, use the following address (its a good idea to add it to your address book):

njarc-communicator@googlegroups.com

If you don't want to receive individual email postings, there are two other options:

- Abridged email - Receive one summary email per day.
- Digest - Receive one email for every 25 new messages.

If you want either of these email delivery settings, contact Bill at his email address.

Replies: This will vary depending on your email client (the program you use to view your email) such as Outlook, Windows Live, etc. or if you use web mail (directly using your email provider such as AOL, Yahoo, Gmail, etc.). Normally, "Reply" sends the reply only to the Communicator poster; "Reply All" sends it to the entire Communicator Group and the poster.

Attachments: Documents, pictures and video formats may be inserted in two ways. They can be added as "Attachments" as you would normally add

them to your standard emails. For an image, you can right click on the selected image, select "copy," then right click in the body of your posting and select "paste."

NJARC REPAIR CLINIC OFFERS RX FOR A GREAT DAY

By
Marv Beeferman

Whether a radio or phono is brought back to life or it has to wait for another day, it seems everyone is a winner at our Repair Clinics. Our November 17th session was no exception. Energized by president Lee's "radio coffee" and your editor's "radio bagels," members were ready to take on the most perplexing technical problems an electronic or mechanical marvel of the past could offer. All kidding aside, it was good to get away from some of the tensions of everyday life and spend some "quality" time with friends who share a common interest.

Some of the work performed included the following:

- Phil Vourtsis and Max Theis worked on a 1955, RCA 6-XY-5B five-tube radio and "Slide-O-Matic" 45 rpm record player combination. The tubes and two IF transformers are mounted horizontally to make a compact unit. A bad idler wheel was immediately identified. The unit was recapped and cleaned but still only receives one station. It is awaiting a full cleaning of the record player and new cartridge.
- Phil Vourtsis attacked a KLH Model 19 tuner and record player combination. The original speakers contain two 4" ported drivers which make this unit sound great. The weak link is the Garrard turntable. As found condition included a broken RCA socket and the changer needed cleaning and degreasing. The changer was restored and the RCA socket replaced but one channel remains dead.
- Phil also worked on a circa 1947 Webster Chicago Model 80 wire recorder. The spool on these recorders contain more than a mile of very fine steel wire onto which about an hour of audio was recorded magnetically. Phil found the recorder in near working condition but the head did not cycle up and down when the wire was wound. Also, the tone control was very tight. The unit will be worked on again at the next clinic.

- Len Newman and Bill Zukowski teamed up to restore Len's 1941 Zenith Spinnet (10H571 chassis). We talked about this radio in an earlier version of the *Broadcaster*. As found condition was a loud, constant hum and poor reception. Examination located many original paper capacitors, rotted rubber wire and out-of-spec carbon resistors. With some caps, wires and resistors replaced, the process will continue until completion.

- Bob Bennett worked on a Fada Model 117 wood table radio owned by Ken Satz. It was noticed that the filter caps had been previously replaced. Initially, a mild hum and no audio was identified. Upon troubleshooting, it was found that the coupling cap to the 25L6GT output tube was not connected to the tube's grids. Also, the plates of the tuning capacitor were rubbing together and required adjustment. A weak 25L6GT tube was replaced as well as three coupling caps in the audio section. A full alignment was also performed. The radio was soon playing with good volume and receiving stations across the dial. This radio belonged to Ken's father, considered a family "heirloom" and had not worked in at least ten years.

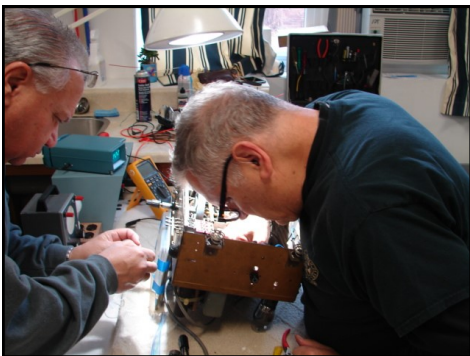
- Tom Provost examined Jim Doran's Philco 37-650. This series of radios uses an eight tube, three band chassis with shadow meter tuning. There are three models in the series with different cabinet styles. Initially, the radio had a hum to the point it was unworkable. Multiple problems were found, some the result of an inadequate, prior restoration. A faulty tube was also found. The radio remains a work in progress. Tom will be taking the chassis home for further testing and a decision on additional repair work will depend on his findings.

- Nevell Greenough tackled a Packard Bell RPC-31 (MPX-5) AM/FM tuner owned by Frank Wagenblast. The unit was found basically working but with the dial calibration off, the MPX decoder not working well and with weak FM reception. Troubleshooting found a weak front end tube and a broken/missing dial pulley. The dial was repaired and calibrated, the tuning aligned, and the AM IF and MPX decoder tweaked. The tuner was left working except for a weak 6AQ8 FM tube. Mr. Wagenblast left with a big "Thank you! I really enjoyed myself."

- Ray Chase worked on an RCA Greybar Model 311. The Model 311 uses the same chassis as the Radiola 33 (which is almost identical to the 1928/1929 model 18), but the cast trim, knobs, legs and paint differed from the Radiola. Its

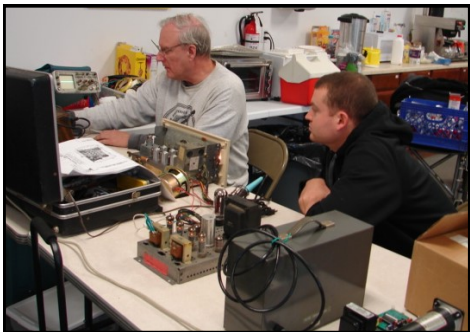
speaker uses the same reproducer as the RCA 100B but in a different cast housing. It is a particularly deco version of the Radiola 100B and is sometimes worth more than the radio itself. Ray found a noisy volume control at the antenna input and will replace it at home. The line cord was replaced and tube voltages were checked and recorded. The tube sockets still need tightening. The radio was left working but the InfoAge site was too noisy to complete a full tune-up.





NJARC HOLIDAY PARTY - 2018

Photos By
Marv Beferman





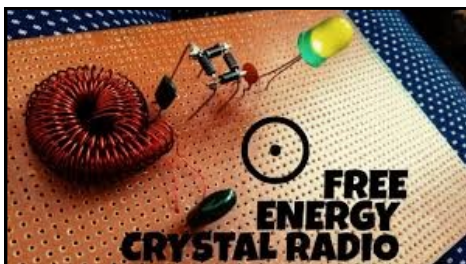
RADIO IN THE NEWS

By
Marv Beeferman

Don't Throw Away Those 8-Track Tapes: An Ames Iowa radio station, KHOI-FM at 89.1, is the home of Bob's "8-Track Garage Sale." The weekly show features oldies music played only on 8-track tapes from the 1960's, 70's and early 80's that Bob Anders found mostly at garage sales. Though the technology was replaced by other formats, the 8-track remains a favorite among many avid collectors. The show airs on Thursdays from 11 AM - 12:00 noon.



Another Use for Free Radio? The Media Hackathon is a collaboration between the Beasley Media Group and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The first-place winners were a team that submitted an entry titled "Using AM/FM Frequencies to Charge Devices." The team used a crystal radio to show that small amounts of energy could be converted from radio waves to power a low-voltage LED as part of efforts to demonstrate truly wireless charging. "Radios that work for free" has been a topic that has been understood by crystal radio enthusiasts for many years. Typical is this circuit found on YouTube:



Another Knife in the Back of Radio: Google wants to replace your radio as an audio news source. You'll soon be able to listen to an audio news playlist curated by Google Assistant to inform you on the topics you're interested in. Google's latest Assistant feature uses artificial intelligence to help make these custom news

bundles, and it's available today for a limited number of users.

The audio news playlist starts with a quick briefing of current top stories and any small updates on relevant topics. You're also able to ask to hear longer stories that are two to 15 minutes long. Google is comparing the new feature to having an always-available radio to read you the news.



Kids Still Dig Amateur Radio: Students at the South Side Middle School in Columbiana, Ohio now have an opportunity to earn their amateur Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license. The after school program for grades 5-8 was initiated by Wade Boley, a ham radio operator since 1992. He said he thought students would be interested in not only learning how to get their own FCC license, but also be able to delve deeper into electronics and wireless technology. Once obtained, the license is something that students can maintain throughout the rest of their life. Boley said:

"Today's students are very appreciative when their wireless technology works, and very frustrated when it doesn't. They really have a thirst for knowledge about how this technology works, why it works, and how to fix it when it doesn't, and how to improve it in the future."

In the weeks since the program started, students have started learning basic electrical theory and will progress to advanced theory in the future. The program will also teach students cell phone forensics and analysis, including evidence recovery. The first class consisted of a program on the electromagnetic spectrum that consisted of allowing students to use infrared cameras and night vision goggles.

Boley noted that although true amateur radio provides critical emergency communications, it is also an incubator and think tank for future wireless technological development. Learning the hob-

by helps prepare students for a totally wireless future.



WHERE HAVE ALL THE DXers GONE?

By
Marv Beeferman

As much as I tried, I just couldn't get my act together (and my antenna put back up) to participate in this year's BCB DX contest. From the chatter on the NJARC Communicator, it looks like there were some participants but my call for photos for the *Broadcaster* was quite a letdown. Perhaps some of you can still "fake" a shot of sitting next to your rig and scanning the airwaves? If so, send them to me at mbeeferman@verizon.net. Fortunately, there were two members who cooperated and were willing to share.

Phil Vourtsis tried out an 11-tube Zenith MJ1035 Stereophonic AM/FM radio. This unit supposedly has a fantastic sound with a large, 7-1/2 inch speaker and 2-1/2 inch tweeter but it doesn't get much of a rating in the performance department. Let's see if Phil proves the pundits otherwise.



This was Aaron Hunter's first try at DXing with the club. He says that he used to do it as a kid before he knew what it was called. Aaron tried his luck with a 1957 Philco T-9 ("Trans-World"). It's a nine transistor radio which includes AM and shortwave reception in seven bands.

"I thought it performed rather well, even in spite of the operator. Had to buy a carousel to easily turn the radio since I was using the internal antenna. I don't think I broke any records, or even came close to other contestants, but it was fun."

I did find it annoying listening to static and noise just to pick out some distant station. Thought I nailed a distant station a couple of times when they kept fading in and out only to find they were from NYC!



FALL SWAPMEET AT PARSIPPANY PAL

Photos By
Marv Beeferman

