



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

March 2020

Volume 26 Issue 03



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by
Marv Beeferman

The ON-LINE Broadcaster
The *Jersey Broadcaster* is now on-line. Over 180 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.

FINAL CALL FOR DUES

Ensure you get your dues in before the cutoff date of March 31st. At that point, you will be dropped from membership. You can bring your dues to our March meeting or mail a check made out to the "NJARC" to our membership secretary:

Marsha Simkin
33 Lakeland Drive
Barnegat, NJ 08005

Payment via PayPal is also available at the club's website but it will cost us a fee.

I recently sent out a request to members who receive our newsletter via regular mail to consider switching to email delivery. The response has been good with ten positive responses. I have yet to hear from 28 members, so a second and final notice will be sent out with the March *Broadcaster*. Those members who don't respond to this notice, one way or another, will be automatically switched to email delivery. We will attempt to contact those who do not have an email address in our records.

Hardcopy newsletters will continue to be mailed since there still remain some legitimate reasons for this type of delivery. For example, some of our members have responded that they do not have a computer or reliable internet access.

Thanks go out to Technical Coordinator Al Klase for another well-delivered



MEETING NOTICE

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, March 13th, at 7:30 PM at Princeton's Bowen Hall. Directions may be found at the club's website (<http://www.njarc.org>). At this month's meeting, Dr. Michael Littman will offer a presentation titled "44 Years Before Hertz: Experimental Demonstration of Electromagnetic Waves by Prof. Joseph Henry." We will also be awarding certificates to the winners of our recent BCB DX Contest.

and illustrated presentation on connecting a Bluetooth device to an antique radio. You can see a copy near the bottom of Al's "My Presentations" page:

<http://www.skywaves.ar88.net/Presentations/Presentations.html>

As a follow-up, Al has added a Bluetooth input to the stereo demo in the museum. He's not totally convinced how useful it is, but as member Dave Sica commented, additions such as these may be a way of attracting younger visitors.



The March presentation by Professor Michael Littman promises to be just as interesting. Here's Dr. Littman's description of what to expect:

Lord Kelvin, in his 1893 Preface to the English Edition of Heinrich Hertz's book on Electric Waves, calls attention to the importance of "old experiments" by Joseph Henry of Princeton College. In 1842, Joseph Henry reports to the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia that he has magnetized steel needles in a magnetizing spiral in a secondary circuit 30 feet away from a Leyden Flask that was discharged through a wire loop. We recognize that the Leyden Flask and the wire loop are an LC resonator. Prof. Henry proved that the discharge was oscillatory but he did not know the frequency. From calculations and from re-

creation of the experiments, we know that he was sending and receiving radio frequency electromagnetic waves. So the origin of radio is not in Karlsruhe Germany, where Heinrich Hertz lived and worked, rather it was in Princeton New Jersey.

Thanks go out from President Richard Lee to all our dedicated "experts" who took care of our clients at our February repair clinic at InfoAge. A special nod to Nevell Greenough who rigged up a Siglent SDG2122X "Tru ARB" alignment transmitter (shown below) which provided the entire room with a 1 KHz tone at 600 and 1400 KHz. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but, as usual, it was almost like being there by watching member Bob Bennett's YouTube video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXpXjDP1M9E>



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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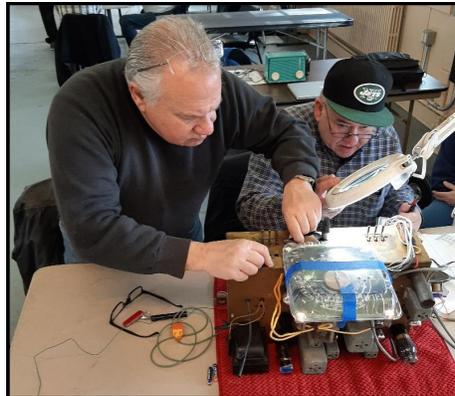
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In the February *Broadcaster*, I posted an article about Morse code and the Maritime Radio Historical Society. An amusing commentary regarding Morse's creation was provided by Dr. Alex Magoun via the communicator. It was heard on NPR's "Morning Edition" as told by host Rachel Martin:

"Actor Orlando Bloom got a new tattoo this month. He shared a photo of it on Instagram. He wanted his son's name, Flynn, written out in Morse code. But people on the Internet quickly noted that the name was actually spelled wrong. Apparently it said Frynn, not Flynn. So his tattoo artist had to correct the L by adding the missing dot. Bloom reposted the photo with the correction. So what's Morse code for oops?"

Alex also suggests a half-hour tour of the cleaned up, if non-functioning, 500 kW station outside Cincinnati in 2017:

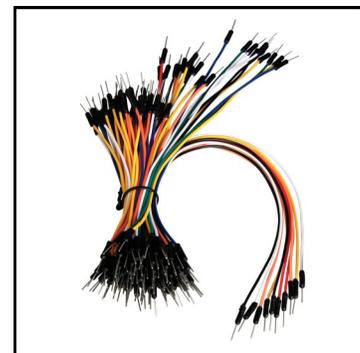
<https://youtu.be/CbHjewIoTiY>

There has been a lot of back-and-forth about tube grid cap repair on the communicator lately. Member John Ruccolo reports that there is an excellent Australian vintage radio restorer, David Tipton, who offered a segment on the subject in his latest video. John says that the entire video is very good but you can fast forward to the grid cap fix from about 17:50

to 19:50. He uses JB Weld for the adhesive. Also, apologies to John by naming his DX entry as a Stoddard instead of a Stoddart (with a "t" at the end).

Finally, I'm sure we've all had some fun with the instructions and descriptions of products from overseas where the company is so small it can't afford a good translator. I recently came across an offer for some Z&T Solderless Flexible Breadboard Jumper Wires. Part of the description included the following:

- Terrible Smell? - In other stores, I saw many customers complained of a bad smell, I feel very surprised, I smell my product, I got nothing, I guess maybe your puppy can smell something.
- About Quality - Some customers told us that the head of the cables is easy to fall off, so we improve it. Now, it's hard to drop the head of the wire, Unless you want to prove that you are as strong as the Popeye the Sailor man.



Upcoming Events

- March 28 - Spring swapmeet/hamfest at Parsippany PAL
- April 10 - Monthly meeting at InfoAge room 9032A; Larry Rubins talks about audio HiFi
- April 25 - International Marconi Day celebrated at NJARC station W2RTM at InfoAge
- May 7,8,9 - Kutztown radio swapmeet
- May 15 - Monthly meeting at InfoAge room 9032A; Show & Tell and Hints & Kinks
- May 23 - Spring Repair Clinic at InfoAge room 9032A
- June 3 - E Board meeting at the RTM at InfoAge
- June 12 - Monthly meeting at Princeton's Bowen Hall; Joe Jesson presents "What You Didn't Know About the AR-88"
- June 27-28 - ARRL Field Day on InfoAge grounds
- July 25 - Summer Tailgate/Hamfest on InfoAge Grounds

MORE INFORMATION ON THE S.S. RAPHAEL

By
Gary Berg

Thanks to Gary for reminding us of the adventures and excitement of the early years of Morse code maritime wireless...Ed.

In my February *Jersey Broadcaster* article "Marconi Radio and the S.S. Raphael," I listed the wide range of wireless stations received by the S.S. Raphael in 1924. The information was contained in the book "The Marconi International Marine Communication Co. Ltd. Technical Instructions." Using various Google queries, several interesting details of the S.S. Raphael have come to light, including the rescue of a ship in distress.

The Ship

The S.S. Raphael was a cargo steamer built by the D & W Henderson Company of Glasgow in 1898. Her dimensions were: Length = 380 feet, Breadth = 50.2 feet, Depth = 27.8 feet for a GRT (Gross Register Tonnage) = 5855 tons. Using a single screw powered by a 3-cylinder engine, she could cruise at 13 knots.



Designed for carrying livestock, the Raphael's first owner was the Liverpool, Brazil and River Plate S.N. Co. Ltd. (Lampart and Holt Line). Typical destinations were the River Plate area (Rio de la Plata near Argentina and Uruguay).

The Rescue

The April 1915 issue of "Wireless World" contains a brief article about the S.S. Raphael responding to a distress call. The following is an excerpt from that article:

"A recent judgment in the Admiralty Court recalls how wireless was employed to summon aid which saved not merely the lives of those on board, but the whole hull and contents of a big steamer with her

valuable cargo between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day of this year. The substantial amount of £5,400 was awarded to the owners, master and crew of the Liverpool steamship *Raphael* for this notable piece of salvage work. It would appear that the *City of Lincoln* was so battered by storms off Cape Finisterre, that she was obliged to follow up her 'S O S' call (after finding it answered by the *Raphael*) with an appeal stating that her machinery was helpless, her rudder stock broken, and she was in serious danger of being driven by the terrific tempest then raging on to the rocky shores off Finisterre. The *Raphael* went to her assistance, and encountered considerable difficulty in preserving the steamer in distress. Tow ropes, and even wire hawsers, kept continually breaking, and the passengers on the *City of Lincoln* passed an extremely anxious Christmastide. The *Raphael*, en route to New Orleans to ship horses for the French Government, was carrying 33 French rough-riders, who gave considerable assistance in the course of the salvage. The *City of Lincoln*, described by counsel as 'a veritable treasure ship', was bringing passengers, tea, and rubber from Calcutta to London. Ship and cargo were valued at over £350,000. Of the £5,400 salvage award £4,000 went to the owners, £400 to the captain, and the rest was divided amongst the officers and crew and those who took part in the operations."

Additional Details

While searching the internet for more information on the S.S. Raphael, I was able to discover some additional interesting facts:

- On March 17, 1917, the S.S. Raphael was chased by a German U-Boat in the Atlantic off South Ireland. Another steamship, the S.S. *Semantha* was also attacked in the same region and escaped under cover of a smoke screen. Later in October, the *Semantha* was sunk by a torpedo in the Mediterranean Sea.
- The wireless operator of the S.S. *City of Lincoln*, T.D. Sandham, was later mentioned in a Marconi publication. The 1957 *Marconi Mariner* had a brief note about Mr. Sandham, how he had served the Marconi company for over 44 years, and also enjoyed painting water colors of all of the ships he had served on. The Merseyside Maritime Museum in Liverpool has a scrapbook of the 90 ships he served on along with typed histories of the ships and their port of calls.
- The River Plate region where the S.S. Raphael frequented was also the site of

the first naval battle of WWII. The German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee, crippled by the Royal Navy in December, 1939 was ultimately scuttled in the estuary near Montevideo.

- There are several references online to passenger lists for the S.S. Raphael – with more time, a composite of her voyages could be compiled. The S.S. Raphael was ultimately scrapped in 1930.

BRAVE NEW RADIO BROADCASTING LIVE FROM MARCONI'S HOME OF RADIO

By
Rob Quicke

NJARC's ties to Guglielmo Marconi via InfoAge's historic location is a feather in the club's cap. Many members might also remember that our museum was toured by daughter Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli some years ago. Dr. Rob Quicke is Professor of Communication, Chairperson of William Paterson University's Communication Department, and General Manager of WPSC Brave New Radio. The following article is reprinted with his permission, saying, "I would be very interested in seeing the Radio Technology Museum at some point. It looks like you are doing excellent work."...Ed

The first time I saw Guglielmo Marconi's childhood home, I felt as if I was entering hallowed ground. After 30 minutes of driving from central Bologna, located in the north of Italy, the roads become smaller and the landscape of farms lined with pencil-shaped Cypress trees opens up, and you are presented with a lush, rolling countryside accentuated with picturesque Italian villas, some of which are hundreds of years old. Then you take a hard left turn off the small road in the village of Pontecchio Marconi, and carefully drive toward Marconi's House on an old, bumpy road. Driving down the long driveway, you see rising before you a magnificent buttery yellow house, with three floors, seventeen front-facing windows, and a circular driveway in front of its heavy, green doors.

These are the same doors that a young Guglielmo Marconi would have used thousands of times as a child growing up in his father Giuseppe's house. The huge house, called Villa Griffone, is a remarka-



ble place in its own right, but what has secured its place in history and as a national Italian monument is the fact that it was in this house that radio as we know it was invented. The successful experiments that were conducted by a young Marconi, remarkably without having received a college degree or much formal education, would reverberate around the world and forever change wireless communications history.

I was here with a small team from William Paterson University, where I am professor and Chair of the Communication Department, to create a moment, albeit small, of radio history. Our radio station, WPSC – Brave New Radio, was here to broadcast a live, three-hour show on World Radio Day (February 13th), as well as to launch a brand-new radio station called Outside Radio. To make the event even more remarkable was the fact that it was also happening in the 125th anniversary year of Marconi's first successful wireless transmissions from that very house in 1895. We would be broadcasting to the world in the very place that radio technology was invented. We would also be launching a radio station that we had somehow had a hand in inspiring from our own studios back at William Paterson University, New Jersey.

Back in August 2019, Giovanni Lenzi, an Italian student visiting us from Bologna, experienced two weeks at our radio station, Brave New Radio. That experience, as part of our Summer Youth program, proved to be a remarkable one. Under the guidance and training of one of our students at the station, Bridget Charlton, Giovanni was able to take to the mic at the end of the two weeks and have his own radio show. Giovanni is autistic, and his ability to communicate so fluently and passionately on the radio astonished his family and friends. It was as if sitting in front of a microphone unlocked his ability to communicate. The radio station literally helped him to find his own voice. Deeply moved by this event, Giovanni's father, Alberto, was inspired to create Outside Radio in Italy for his son, and

others like him, who could present radio programming from their point of view and find inclusion for those who may struggle with special needs. It was a radio station for outsiders, to create programming not heard anywhere else.

Shortly after Giovanni's summer experience, Alberto flew over to see our radio station for himself. As he was about to leave, we passed our trophy cabinet, and I pointed out our Marconi Radio Award that the National Association of Broadcasters had awarded us in 2018 for Non-Commercial Radio Station of the Year. It's an award that is considered the highest accolade possible in the radio industry, and we are very proud of it. Alberto responded with delight, "Wow! Did you know Marconi was born in the city where I live? Bologna." That seemed like an unbelievable coincidence. I suggested an idea: what if we could help launch his new radio station at the Marconi house and also coincide the launch to celebrate World Radio Day 2020, on February 13th? He enthusiastically agreed to contact the Marconi Foundation and propose the idea. Soon after, we were thrilled to hear that the Marconi Foundation embraced the idea, as it was also the 125th anniversary of Marconi's first successful wireless radio transmissions. It all seemed to come together in one, now potentially historic, event.



I contacted UNESCO, the organizers of World Radio Day, next. Alex Akue Da Silva, at UNESCO's department of Media Development and Society, responded positively and shared that UNESCO "want to highlight your initiative of a radio run by students with autism." It seemed that our proposal resonated with their theme for WRD2020, which was *We Are Diversity Radio*. This project

seemed absolutely compatible with this theme, as Outside Radio was giving a voice to those perhaps marginalized in society because of their special needs, and giving them an important outlet for their views and opinions.

So, at 2 PM on Wednesday, February 12th, the day before the main broadcast, I took part in a press conference at the University of Bologna, along with Alberto Lenzi, Giovanni's father and Founder of Outside Radio, and the President of the Marconi Foundation, Professor Emanuele Corazza. The University of Bologna is the world's oldest university, founded in 1088, and home of over 85,000 students, who busily pass through the ancient corridors and lecture rooms. I must be honest and admit that in the press conference I did not understand anything that the other two gentlemen were saying to the cameras, but a translation of Italian was not necessary when Alberto was very emotional talking about how his son Giovanni had found his voice on Brave New Radio and now was launching his own radio station. The next day we were on the Italian TV news as well as in several newspapers and websites.

I felt the adrenaline of being at that press conference got my heart pumping, but now, the next day, we found ourselves setting up our remote radio studio in a room full of Marconi's wireless inventions and a life-size photo of Marconi, who seemed to be overlooking our efforts to make this broadcast happen. The combination of excitement, nerves, and adrenaline added urgency to our preparations, and it felt surreal that this was actually going to happen. We would go live at 2 PM.

Villa Griffone is the site of the Marconi Museum, dedicated to the origins and development of radio communications. After Marconi died in 1937, the villa also became the home of the Marconi Foundation, set up in 1938, to keep alive the memory of the great inventor and to continue his work promoting innovation and creativity. The foundation is closely tied to the University of Bologna, the oldest university in the world, and the President is Professor Giovanni Corazza, who teaches at the university and was also taking part in our broadcast. We all felt honored by his participation. Now we were about to go live from the center of a room which had Marconi's inventions literally surrounding us in display cabinets and on the walls. The air was thick with history

and that only put pressure on us to make sure our broadcast would be successful.



So, at precisely 2:00 PM local time in Bologna, 1:00 PM in London, and 8:00 AM in New Jersey, our mics went live and our broadcast began. There is much that happened in the three hours we were on the air, and those that regularly broadcast on the radio know that it feels like time goes by very quickly when you are on air, and this broadcast was no exception.

Some highlights of our broadcast include greetings from all around the world, including Hong Kong, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA, Ireland, Oman, Spain, Italy, and other countries, all recorded specifically for our program. I was also deeply proud of our communication student from William Paterson University, Alyssa Robbins, who interviewed the President of the Marconi Foundation live and asked him some great questions. My co-host was Brave New Radio Station Manager, Sebastian Escobar, who also did a brilliant interview with Barbara Valotti, the Director of the Marconi Museum. She's an expert on Marconi's early years, and she gave some fascinating insights into the mind of a young Marconi in 1895, on the precipice of global fame and financial fortune, and navigating the difficult decisions that were needed to ensure his invention's success.

In the second hour we officially launched Outside Radio, and we presented the team of eight students with an engraved trophy from the Brave New Radio

team, congratulating them on launching their station. They were clearly delighted and surprised with the gesture.



The Outside Radio team had recorded some great content which we played on the air, including an interview with Marconi's surviving daughter Elettra Marconi, which gave an extraordinary insight into how she experienced her father's legacy firsthand. They also produced and played the "Impossible Interview with Guglielmo Marconi," a piece that imagined an interview with Marconi if he were alive today, and his thoughts about how far we've come with the technologies he invented.

I was also pleased with my interview with Mirta Lourenço, Chief of Media Development and Society at UNESCO. She was thrilled with our launch and congratulated the team on the event and the launch of Outside Radio. It felt that our efforts had been legitimated by our recognition from UNESCO and Mirta's kind words to us: "Congratulations! What a nice story! ... How important it is that these students will be able to access and express themselves and have their own radio station. I think Marconi would be proud!" Similarly enthused, Alberto Lenzi was both moved and moving in his words, which paid tribute to his son Giovanni and the journey that Outside Radio was now embarking upon.

Then, just before the very end of the broadcast, we surprised everyone and presented them with specially engraved medals that recognized the historic event and also the launch of Outside Radio.

When we finally closed the mics at 5 PM and the broadcast was finished, we knew that all had gone smoothly and we had accomplished something special and memorable. In the birthplace of radio itself, a new radio station had been launched. We had paid tribute to Marconi and his enduring legacy, and radio stations around the world had taken the livestream on their own airwaves and contributed material to the broadcast. It's hard to know for sure how many coun-

tries participated, but we estimate at least 12 countries and over 50 radio stations were a part of this historic broadcast. We were able to use the World College Radio Day network of stations that I had co-founded to share the news of our broadcast and encourage their participation in the event.



As we packed away the last of the microphones and rolled up all the cables, I noticed something left on the table that we had used to broadcast from. It was something that had been given to us just before the broadcast began: a very thin strip of paper that could have easily been mistaken for trash and been thrown away. The thin strip of paper had a series of dots and dashes on it, with letters written under each series of them, denoting their corresponding Morse Code letter. It read B R A V E N E W R A D I O. Just before we went on the air, one of the tour guides had set up Marconi's equipment, the same as he had in 1895, and had tapped out our radio station name wirelessly, which then came out on a paper feed from a Morse Printer next to it. We all watched with amazement, as likely those 125 years before us also had. I now held the tiny strip of paper in my hand and marveled at how something so small had been, in fact, so revolutionary. It had changed the world. Now, isn't that something?



Dr. Quicke would like to thank Alberto Lenzi and the Outside Radio team for their kind hosting of the team for this event. We thank the live producer of the radio program, Carlo Magistretti. Dr. Quicke would also like to thank the Marconi Museum and the Marconi Foundation for their kind support and participation of this broadcast event. Thanks also to UNESCO for participating and promoting this historic radio event.

2020 NJARC BCB DX Contest Results

Category A - Crystal Radios

Winner Ed Suhaka: 418 pts. Ed's version of Al Klase Pretty Good Crystal Set, using random length antenna, MDS 900 kHz CHML Hamilton, Ontario, 354 mi.

Category B - Primitive Tube Receivers- 1 or 2 tube

Winner Bill Hemphill: 6,048 pts. Homebrew diode detector using large wood frame loop and recorder for audio output, MDS 1120 kHz KMOX St. Louis, MO. 860 mi.

Marv Beeferman: 4,615 pts. Westinghouse Aeriola Sr. using one WD-11 tube and 30 foot random length ant. MDS 1000 kHz MVP Chicago, IL. 708 mi.

Category C - 1920's Battery Sets

Winner Marv Beeferman: 5,898 pts. 1925 Tuska 305 Superdyne TRF using 4-201As, 2 audio stages, ant. 30 random wire, MDS 650 kHz WSM Nashville, TN. 736 mi.

Category D - Other Tube Radios Sold for Home Entertainment

Winner Jim Doran: 7,950 pts. RCA Foreign Correspondent two band table radio using Terk tuned loop, MDS 1510 kHz KCKK Littleton, CO. 1,621 mi.

Frank Feczko: 7,361 pts. Philco 40-180 ca.1940 console using internal loop ant. MDS 660 kHz WFAN New York, NY 934 mi.

(Note: station distances adjusted for Frank DXing in Leesburg, FL.)

Phil Vourtsis: 6,350 pts. Zenith 8G005YT Transoceanic using whip ant. MDS 1100 kHz WTAM Chicago, IL. 739 mi.

(Note: station distances adjusted for Phil DXing in Myrtle Beach, SC.)

Al Klase: 5,867 pts. General Electric A-82 using Tecsun loop, MDS 1540 kHz KXEL Waterloo, IA 950 mi.

Category E - Amateur, Commercial and Military Tube Type Radios

Winner Al Klase 9,206 pts. National NC-100 communication receiver using Tecsun loop, MDS 600 kHz CMKA San German, CU 1,347 mi.

John Ruccolo: 7,912 pts. Ex Navy AN/PRM-1A Stoddart radio interference and field intensity measurement receiver using a base-ment random length ant. MDS 870 kHz. Radio Reloj, Havana, CU. 1279 mi.

Category F - Any Radio of your Choosing

Winner Bill Hemphill: 9,391 pts. Panasonic RF-2200 portable using 27" TORUS-tuner hula hoop style loop, MDS 870 kHz Radio Reloj, Havana, CU. 1279 mi.

Bill Zukowski: 8,652 pts. Yaesu FT-757GX HF transceiver using 20 ft. wire ant. MDS 1560 kHz KKAA Aberdeen, SD 1660 mi.

(Note: station distances adjusted for Bill DXing in Delray Beach, FL)

Joseph Serafin: 8,209 pts. C.Crane EP portable using internal loop MDS 600 kHz CMKA San German, CU. 1362 mi.

Tom Provost: 8,082 pts. Homebrew 5 tube regenerative receiver using home-brew loop ant. MDS 870 kHz Radio Reloj, Havana, CU. 1279 mi.

Frank Feczko: 7,705 pts. Panasonic RF-1700 portable using internal ant. and Select-antenna tunable loop. MDS 760 kHz WJR Detroit, MI 937 mi.

(Note: station distances adjusted for Frank DXing in Leesburg, FL)

Mike Shaw: 7,162 Icom IC-765 communication receiver using 125 ft. long wire ant. MDS 830 kHz WCCO Minneapolis, MN 1,016 mi.

Bill Sloma: 6,835 pts. C Crane CC2E portable using Grundig tunable loop, MDS 740 kHz KNFL Fargo, ND 1,052 mi.

(Note: Bill says KNFL is using only 940 W transmitting power at night.)

Jim Doran: 3,556 pts. Grundig S350 DL using Klase Last Minute Loop Homebrew ant. MDS 1200 kHz WOAI San Antonio, TX 1,558 mi.

Category G - Light Weight- any radio weighing less than 1 pound.

Winner Irwin Sobelman 7,845 pts. Eton Elite Executive portable using internal loop MDS 1040 kHz WHO Des Moines, IA 1,014 mi.

Gary Berg: 5,493 pts. Sony SRF-59 using internal ant. MDS 990 kHz CBW Winnipeg, Ont. 1,292 mi.

(Note: Gary is hearing a station 1,292 miles away using the well known ultra light Sony SRF-59 that originally sold for \$10.)

Compiled by Tom Provost

* MDS=Most Distant Station

2020 NJARC DX Contest first time contestants:

Jim Doran
Bill Hemphill
Gary Berg

A TIMELY DONATION

By
Marv Beeferman

On February 22nd, member Jules Bellisio posted a note about a recent donation to our Radio Technology Museum:

"Red Reiff, an NJARC member, stopped off today and left a self-winding Western Union clock. This is a very nicely preserved example of exactly the clock I have always wanted for the museum. These clocks were made by the Self-Winding Clock Co. and were leased as part of a Western Union supplied time service. I tested the clock and so far everything seems to work perfectly. It winds itself from batteries a couple of times every hour and runs with a pendulum that must be locked when the clock is moved. The clock is equipped with a synchronizing coil and red lamp that originally would bring the minute hand straight up every hour on a signal from the Western Union telegraph line (a great fit for the telegraph display at the museum). Since this signal is no longer supplied, I couldn't test this function. I think we can simulate it with an Arduino and have the clock show exact time."

On March 1st, Jules wrote the following: "I have restored the clock to all of its original functionality, including the hour sync device with red lamp (via a remote pushbutton). Everything seems to work perfectly."

From Wikipedia comes the following:

The Self Winding Clock Company (SWCC) was a major manufacturer of electromechanical clocks from 1886 until about 1970. The clock mechanisms were truly revolutionary because the spring that powers the clock was not wound by hand but with an electric motor. The SWCC of New York was one of the first companies in the United States to successfully employ electric energy to power a clock. The winding motor is attached to, and mounted below, the conventional clock works. The unique feature of their patented clock mechanism is the automatic re-winding of the main spring each hour by the small electric motor. A contact switch mounted on the clock's center shaft is activated after the clock has run for one hour and the main spring is rewound one revolution. This rewinding occurs each hour. The power for the motor is supplied

by batteries and the batteries last about one year before needing to be replaced. This clock mechanism never needed to be wound by hand and this eliminated the concern that someone may forget to wind the clock. Hence the company name, The Self Winding Clock Company.

In the future, we hope to have a more detailed description of the clock's history and operation.



RADIO NEWSBYTES

By
Marv Beeferman

The Great Escape

Recently, a man wanted for failing to register as a sex offender in Pensacola climbed a 365-foot-tall radio tower while fleeing from police, sparking an hours-

long standoff and interrupting broadcasts to several area radio stations. The man threatened to jump as he climbed to about 300 feet and would break for about 20 minutes before climbing up or down some more. After seven hours, the man decided to climb down and was taken into custody and transported to a local hospital.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

An Illinois family is attempting to find the source of mysterious sounds that have been coming out of their bedroom wall and keeping them up at night for close to six years. Strange voices and music have continued to play through Richard Smith's 9-year-old daughter's bedroom wall in the middle of the night.

An investigating officer later claimed he heard a commercial for the Christian radio station AM 1160 according to a police report. After investigating the matter on his own, which included tearing up his daughter's wall to inspect the area and electrical grounding, Smith told police he believes the noises are likely coming from the nearby WLS tower.

An engineer from AM 1160, sent out to the Smith's residence, could not come up with an answer. Patrick Berger, a director of engineering for Cumulus Media, explained that there may be corroded piping, ductwork, or a certain placement of metal beneath the walls that is causing the sounds with the metal acting as a speaker. He suggested that the Smith family should ultimately look into hiring an experienced engineer.

Tower of Power

In Pennsylvania, amateur radio operators' rights are protected by state statute, and municipalities are not allowed to unreasonably restrict the installation of towers less than 65 feet. A Windsor Township resident whose neighbors were upset by her amateur radio tower was found to be within her rights to have the antenna on her property.

A neighbor said the tower was an eyesore and that he and others were concerned about the structural safety of the tower were it to fall, as well as the potential unknown health hazards from exposure to radio frequencies. The neighbors were also worried about a decrease in their property values.

An engineer was appointed to inspect the 40-foot tower and found it to be structurally safe, posing no safety threat to its neighbors. As a result, township officials said the dispute was now outside their purview.



New Jersey Antique Radio Club's

Spring Swap Meet and Ham Fest



Parsippany PAL Building

33 Baldwin Road

Parsippany, NJ 07054

Just off Route 46,

Adjacent to Smith Field



Saturday March 28th, 2020



Refreshments Available

(40) 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

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33 Baldwin Rd Parsippany NJ 07054

Vendors Make Your Reservations Now!

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