



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

December 2020

Volume 26 Issue 12



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by
Marv Beeferman

The ON-LINE Broadcaster

The *Jersey Broadcaster* is now on-line. Over 200 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.

The Zoom platform served show-and-tell participants well at our November meeting with nearly 50 members tuning in. Topics ranged from veneer glue to spy radios to a WW II covert German key. Thanks to all who took part and added interest to the meeting.

CALL FOR DUES

With the New Year comes our call for 2021 dues. Your Board, with the support of an excellent job by treasurer Harry Klancer, has again held the annual cost to \$25 (\$30 for a family membership). Although some club benefits had to be put on hold because of the virus, this is still quite a bargain in light of those that we were able to maintain:

- Twelve issues of the *Jersey Broadcaster*.
- An entertaining and informative web site.
- The NJARC Communicator - an efficient forum for the exchange of member information.
- Easy access to monthly meetings via Zoom providing unique technical presentations by knowledgeable members and experts in various fields of interest.
- Capacitors, tubes and parts at bargain prices.
- Resources for schematics and technical information.



MEETING NOTICE

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, December 11th, at 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be conducted "on-line" via the video conferencing app Zoom. Information may be found at the club's website (<http://www.njarc.org>) with a link being sent out on the NJARC Communicator prior to the meeting. This month, we'll try to make up for our cancelled Holiday Party with a year-end review by President Lee, a raffle (see *Broadcaster* page 3), a special donation, a showing of our 10-year anniversary video (we're closing in on 30!), and perhaps some other late additions that we'll post on the Communicator.

- An award-winning radio museum, an expanding technical library and a vintage radio repair facility for member use.
- Informal social gatherings with a radio theme on Zoom every Tuesday and Thursday.
- A ham radio station.
- And when we're out of the woods and the virus is contained, we'll continue with repair clinics, challenging contests, auctions, swapmeets, tailgates and a subsidized Holiday Party.

Please mail a check made out to the "NJARC" and mail 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. Unfortunately, the virus prevents us from issuing membership cards this year.

Honorary and lifetime members are exempt from paying dues. If you're not sure about your membership status (single or family), you can contact Marsha at 609-660-8160 or at mhsimkin@comcast.net.

There has been some questions about accessing the club's tube program presently administered by member Al Klase. We have lots of tubes and many have been tested and sorted. The procedure is to send your request to tubes1@njarc.org. We'll check stock on the next Wednesday (a Museum work day) and let you know about availability. You can pick up your tubes at the Museum during regular hours (1-5 PM Saturdays and Sundays or 11 AM to 5 PM on Wednesdays). Common

tubes are \$3 each. We try to price more valuable ones at about 1/2 market price for club members with a dim view taken of eBay flippers. We are presently not doing mail order. For tubes not in our inventory, club members recommend Bob Dobush at <http://findatube.com/>.

While it is *Broadcaster* policy not to advertise non-member vendors unless we feel it would be advantageous for people to learn about a specialized service, we do support those offered by our members. While Joe Giliberti is gearing up to sell parts to NJARC members via the club, Sal Brisindi offers a vast inventory of parts needed for radios and tube amps. Contact Sal at salb203@optonline.net or his website www.tuberadios.com/capacitor.

Member Bob Tevis, Vice President of the SPERDVAC old time radio club, announces a virtual old time radio event, the club's first online OTR radio re-creation. It will air on YouTube on December 20 at 5 PM PST/8 PM EST. The link to the free of charge event is:

<https://youtu.be/TJbHrNP3H7c>

For you old time radio fans and radio history buffs, here are additional recommendations from our members:

- The following link will take you to an online archive of old radio shows in MP3 format; many are downloadable:

<https://oldradioprograms.us/index.htm>

- Dave Ossman's radio drama version of Tom Lewis's *Empire of the Air* (better than the PBS video?) may be found at:

<http://rtm.ar88.net/resources/>

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.

PRESIDENT:

Richard Lee (914)-589-3751
radiorich@prodigy.net

VICE PRESIDENT:

Sal Brisindi (732)-308-1748
salb203@optonline.net

SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Marv Beeferman (609)-693-9430
mbeeferman@verizon.net

TREASURER:

Harry Klancer (732)-238-1083
klancer2@comcast.net

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS (WEST):

Darren Hoffman (732)-928-0594
amcmataador@aol.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS (EAST):

Rotating

TRUSTEES:

Ray Chase (908)-757-9741
raydio862@verizon.net

Phil Vourtsis (732)-208-4284
philvourtsis@gmail.com

Bill Zukowski (732)-833-1224
n2yeg@optonline.net

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:

Al Klase (908)-892-5465
al@ar88.net

TUBE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Al Klase tubes@njarc.org

SCHEMATIC PROGRAM:

Aaron Hunter (609)-267-3065
ahunter01@comcast.net

CAPACITOR PROGRAM:

Joe Giliberti (732)-609-9777
starbase89@gmail.com
capacitors@njarc.org

RESISTOR PROGRAM:

(To be announced.)

WEB COORDINATOR:

Dave Sica (732)-382-0618
dave.sica@njarc.org

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Marsha Simkin (609)-660-8160
 33 Lakeland Drive
 Barnegat, N.J. 08005
mhsimkin@comcast.net

HISTORIC GSP HANDOFF

Edited by
Marv Beeferman

The following is based on an article in the November 2020 issue of "American Heritage" by Gil Klein and the October 22 issue of "The Well News" by Dan McCue...Ed.

A sunny, crisp fall morning set the scene for an historic "handoff" on New Jersey's Garden State Parkway. The son of legendary CBS journalist Edward R. Murrow, Casey Murrow, presented National Press Club President Michael Freedman with a BBC Microphone that Freedman called "the Holy Grail of broadcast journalism." With concerns about the pandemic and safe shipping of such a precious artifact, Murrow and Freedman agreed to meet part way between their homes in Vermont and Virginia - at a service area along the Garden State Parkway!



Casey Murrow prepares to handoff his dad's historic BBC microphone at a rest stop on the GSP.

Freedman had awarded Casey Murrow a lifetime Club membership during the Press Club's inaugural gala in January. Murrow honored that recognition by donating to the club several of his father's personal possessions, including a briefcase, hunting vest, poker chips, and archival framed photos and art that hung in Ed Murrow's office and home. He also agreed to loan the club the historic BBC microphone used by his dad for his CBS Radio broadcasts from London dur-

ing World War II. A plaque on the microphone with an inscription dated March 8, 1946, reads as follows:

"This microphone, taken from studio B4 of Broadcasting House, London, is presented to Edward R. Murrow who used it there with such distinction for so many broadcasts to CBS New York during the war years 1939-1945."

In a 1955 BBC interview, Ed Murrow said the microphone was "the only trophy I ever kept, and I have received many." Murrow added that receiving it when he departed London after nine years, was "the most touching thing that ever happened to me." He concluded, "This I value above anything I have."



The "Holy Grail" of broadcast journalism accepted by Michael Freedman.

Freedman noted that "Modern broadcast journalism was literally invented on that microphone...It is indeed the Holy Grail of the profession." At a time when the term "fake news" has dominated American politics, Freedman's comments seem to have taken on a special meaning: "As our nation confronts unprecedented converging challenges, all the reminders of Ed Murrow's life, work, and legacy serve to strengthen our resolve as journalists to have the courage of our convictions."

Distinguished journalist Marvin Kalb, during an earlier interview with the Press Club, further reinforced the example that Murrow set:

"Murrow matters, because the best of American journalism is rooted in knowledge - meaning fact. Murrow based his most memorable broadcasts on fact, not opinion - what he himself saw from

London rooftops during the Nazi blitz, what he himself observed during McCarthy's assault on democratic institutions in the 1950's."

The microphone was returned to "active duty" on November 18th when Freedman hosted the National Press Club's annual Fourth Estate Awards ceremony. This year it honored CBS News President Susan Zirinsky, the first woman to head a major network news division.

Anyone care to identify the model and manufacturer?

BROADCAST BAND (BCB) DX CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Technical Coordinator Al Klase has suggested that we "warm up our radios" for the club's annual Broadcast Band (BCB) DX Contest which will run from January 15th through January 24th. The rules for the contest may be found on page 7 of this month's *Broadcaster*. Additional information may be found at:

<http://www.njarc.ar88.net/contest.html>

Here you will find log sheets, a station list, a list of distances to major stations, a station target list from New York and Philadelphia, and Al's story of DX'ing with a Zenith 12S232.

As usual, your editor would appreciate it if you took a picture of you and your entries (or just your entries if you're camera shy) and included any additional information about your DX experience. Please send them to mbeeferman@verizon.net or post them on the Communicator. Last month's response was great and hopefully we can equal or exceed it this year!



President Richard Lee tries to coax some stations out of a crystal set during the 2020 contest.

SOME SURPRISES AT THE DECEMBER MEETING

By Dave Sica

We'll continue trying to make COVID lemonade out of COVID lemons as we gather virtually instead of in-person at our December meeting. In lieu of our annual Holiday Party, have a glass of wine handy if you like and Zoom in to our meeting to virtually rub shoulders with your fellow club members.

There will be at least two surprises to help take the place of our usual in-person festivities. One will be a raffle prize of a beautifully restored 1934 Grunow 660 by member Bruce Ingraham. The other will be a special gift to the club from Jerry Ingordo.

So join us at our "Virtual Holiday Meeting" on December 11th. Also, try to join in our informal social gatherings on Zoom every Tuesday and Thursday. Watch your email from the NJARC Communicator for log-in information.



Restored Grunow 660 to be raffled at the December meeting.

NJARC MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

By Ray Chase & Mary Beeferman

On Tuesday, November 10th, various Wall Township agencies and InfoAge volunteers that included NJARC members participated in the Township's Veterans Appreciation Day in Community Park. InfoAge chairman Thomas Crowley who is also a member of Manasquan Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1838, said "I think this is great," and he is happy that "the township recognizes the service of veterans - they appreciate being able to come out and mix with one another."

NJARC member Al Klase showed Army artifacts from the Vietnam War (during which he served in the Army Signal Corps) including a walkie-talkie radio weighing around 20 pounds that GIs carried in their backpacks along with other heavy gear. "The radios had a range of only three to five miles, even less in the jungle."

Among other artifacts displayed by InfoAge were a piece of metal from the USS Arizona, sunk by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, a beacon used to guide the airborne invasion of France on D-Day in 1944, and ground surveillance radars used after the 9/11 attacks. These were used to detect any small boats or individuals trying to breach the perimeter security at the Salem and Oyster Creek nuclear plants in New Jersey.



InfoAge volunteers displayed a number of military war artifacts and vehicles during the veterans event.

On the morning of Wednesday, November 11th (the real Veterans Day), a contingent of WWII vehicles showed up at InfoAge. NJARC member Ray Chase passed the convoy on Route 18 South as he was going to the museum. They turned out to be vehicle collectors from New York who had just participated in a Veterans Day parade in New York City and decided to pay a visit to the Military Technology Museum. They spent the morning touring the military vehicle collection but had to leave before noon as rain was forecasted - it's not pleasant riding in those open vehicles in the rain. Ray

is trying to find out the name of the group that the collectors represented.

The NJARC salutes all its veteran members.



NJARC member Al Klase displays and takes questions about WWII artifacts during Veterans Appreciation Day.

A MODERN BUILD OF THE HEXTER RECEIVER

By
Nevell Greenough

In last month's "Broadcaster," we took note of member Al Klase's review of a recently acquired 40-meter "suitcase" transceiver that was the subject of a construction article by Myron "Mike" Hexter in the December 1951 issue of QST magazine. It can be found at skywaves.ar88.net and clicking on "HOMEBREW RADIOS." Member Nevell Greenough decided to construct what he calls a "modern build" of the receiver section and it will hopefully added to Al's site. Until then, and if you missed Nevell's Communicator post, his project is posted below...Ed



After seeing the 1951 Hexter Transceiver now owned by Al Klase N2FRG, I decided to build the receiver section. I began to collect components, put them in a box, add some solder, give it a good shake and open the box. Presto! OK, not so fast. Read the December 1951 QST

article posted by Al first so the following makes sense.

After collecting parts, I visited my attic where I found an old Plectron, low-band FM firehouse receiver. Not much in it useful but it's a really nice case complete with hardboard back panel and fancy speaker grille metal. A quick parts layout on paper showed that it would be a good fit. I then transferred my layout sketch into a computer-aided milling program called "Easel" which is a freebie from Inventables.com. I then used that program to drive my CNC-converted Enco mill-drill machine. One hunk of 1/16" thick aluminum and one broken bit later, I had my chassis flat. Some bends later and it actually looked like one. A similar process yielded the front panel without the broken bit this time.

Circuit assembly was straightforward with only minor mistakes. I also decided to add some flexibility to the original.

1) A bandswitch: The original design uses a 6.8MHz crystal-controlled first conversion to heterodyne the input frequency to a low, tunable I.F. of 200 to 600kHz or so. I found sufficient crystals in my junkbox to cover the 80m, 60m, 40m, 30m, 20m and 49m bands. A second deck on the bandswitch adds capacitive loading to L6 to cover the 80m and 60m bands, while a shorted coil tap covers the 30m and 20m bands. The 20m band tunes backwards since I could only find a ~14.6MHz crystal instead of a ~13.8MHz one.

2) 120VAC power instead of batteries: Today's electronics can easily create power supplies as hum-free and quiet as batteries of the past. There are 2 regulators in the receiver; one for the 90V B+ supply and another for the filaments. I found a small transformer with 125VAC/15mA and 6.3VAC/0.6A secondaries. Full-wave rectification and filtering of the 125VAC yielded a whopping 170VDC - way too much for the 1-volt battery tubes of the receiver. My HV regulator is a 2-step circuit consisting of an imitation 0B2 constructed from high-voltage zener diodes and a three-transistor active regulator built from 2N5551 and 2N5401 high-voltage transistors. The active regulator circuit is a modification of one only a decade newer than the radio itself, taken from the 1960s G.E. Transistor Manual. The HV supply has a floating return to provide negative bias for the 3S4 audio output tube. I used a 7.5V zener diode instead of an 820-ohm resistor. This improved high-voltage regulation for the regenera-

tive detector and converter stages. The filament regulator is based on the popular LM317 power I.C. I also reconfigured the filament string with the 3S4 and a ballast resistor in series with the other three tubes. This yielded a 3-volt, 150mA filament circuit. This also added a volt or so to the 3S4 grid bias and reduced the power dissipation of the LM317.

3) Loudspeaker Drive: The original design only had a headphone output. We know that the 3S4 can drive a loudspeaker to moderate levels just fine. I changed over the plate circuit of the 3S4 to an output transformer taken from an AA5 radio. I also added a 10uF bypass capacitor to the screen grid to increase gain. It works fine with a 3" speaker and has plenty of "personal" audio output. I fashioned a speaker grille from some 1/4" phenolic and a piece of the original aluminum front grille.

4) Minor circuit changes: The RF gain control interacted with the regenerative detector a bit too much. I attempted to reduce this by using a separate decoupling resistor and bypass capacitor for each. It helped somewhat. My "as-found," 1.1mH coil substitute for the rewired I.F. transformer of the regen detector has a center-tapped second winding. I used this for the tickler coil part. As an experiment I added a switch to select the whole coil versus the tapped section. One position seems better for strong signals while the other is more sensitive. The grid "leak" resistor R13 should be adjusted for your tube for highest gain without squealing. I ended up at 1.5Meg. There also appears to be a drafting error or design oversight in the RF decoupling network for the regen detector consisting of C22, C21 and RFC3. My build had a strong resonance at ~220kHz causing unstable regeneration and a "pop" in tuning frequency. This was cured by raising C22 from 470pF to 1000pF.

Oh, yeah - that tube. My first pick for the 1T4 regen detector turned out to be filled with Harrison marsh gas. Unstable as hell ending in a violent oscillation determined by the 300-henry audio choke. The second "Philco" branded sample was highly microphonic and would howl like a hound in heat. I settled for a "Ken-Rad" one that seems reasonably stable.

5) The Dial: I had an old National "Velvet Vernier" mechanism which works well in this build with no noticeable backlash. What a gem! I added a 3-D printed plastic bezel, new pointer and front plastic dial "glass" for effect. I calibrated the dial

to the nearest 5kHz with a signal generator and called that "good enough" for the various not-exact crystals I used in the heterodyne converter.

6) The 300-Henry Audio Choke: Many thanks to Al Klase for donating one to the project. This seems to be a popular part for building regen detectors, probably from their use in the BC221 frequency meter available as surplus. The choke was pre-stolen from my \$5 junker. Careful examination of the chassis photos will show the audio and power transformers at odd angles with respect to the round choke. This was the result of "tuning" their position to minimize choke pickup of hum from the power transformer. I may try to add an iron plumbing sleeve over the choke to reduce this further.

OK, it's done! So how does it behave? I'm quite impressed with this 70-year-old design. It is the best regenerative rig I've ever worked with. It is stable and copies single-sideband well with careful adjustment of the regeneration, RF-gain and audio controls. It's sensitivity is decent if no strong signals are nearby allowing the Regen control to be set just into oscillation and the RF Gain control close to maximum. I've heard plenty of DX on 40 and 20 meters so far. Strong signals require raising the Regen control well into oscillation and lowering the RF Gain to prevent pulling of the detector. Detector pulling makes voice peaks "growl" unpleasantly. The 20-meter sensitivity is a bit down but it works OK. The famous RCA Red Book (Radiotron Designer's Handbook) notes that the 1R5 is quite difficult to operate above 15-20MHz. (This is probably the reason for the existence of the 1L6 converter tube.)

Would I build the transmitter section? Yes! If I can find another matching Plec-tron receiver case.

73's
N2GX



Nevell's "modern build" of the receiver section of the Hexter transceiver.



**THE BEST LAID
PLANS OF MICE,
MEN...AND
RADIO COLLECTORS**

**By
Marv Beeferman**

Yes...best laid plans often do go awry! My story begins with AuctionZip, an online bidding application that some of you may be familiar with. It goes something like this:

You create an account and guarantee it with a credit card. (I'm not sure about other forms of credit.) Then, AuctionZip verifies your information and, if accepted, you can participate and bid at all the on-line auctions that are registered with the company. To get an idea of upcoming auctions of items that peak your interest, you can enter a keyword(s) for your account ("radio" for example) and you will be notified of any upcoming auctions that have "radio" in the description of offered items.

Your next step is to register with the auction you decide to bid at. Approximately five minutes before the auction starts, an "Explore Auction" tab changes to a red "Enter Auction" tab and you're in. Bids show up as they are entered by other participants and, at the bottom of the page, a "Swipe to Bid" tab allows you to increment your individual bid.

About a month ago, I was notified that a De Forest W-5-F "Renaissance" radio was being offered on December 4th. The W-5-F is very rare and sought after by collectors. One posting responding to a

the discussion of a unit owned by Alan Douglas, author of *Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's*, went as follows: "...but many radio collectors would behold your W5 with their jaws inextricably plastered to the floor. My recollection is that Mark & Lynn Toppo listed (and sold) one on eBay seven or eight years ago. I think they got north of \$10K for it. Alan, I'll trade you *two* AK breadboards for yours. And I'll throw in a Burns horn for good measure. And a six pack of Sam Adams Christmas Ale."

When you view the photos that follow, you'll understand why. But first, a little about its history.

Late in 1924, Lee de Forest hired Roy Weagant away from RCA where he had been since Marconi days. He eventually scrapped the reflex principle used in the D12 and D17 models "perhaps to avoid further royalties to the now-competing Priess" as suggested by Alan Douglas. By September 1925, Weagant had designed two basic chassis, both straightforward TRF's; the simple F5 and the more elaborate W-5-F and W-6-F. But, according to Douglas, aside from the CS-5 short-wave receiver introduced in April 1930, this was the end of the line for De Forest receivers. Lee de Forest petitioned his company into receivership on April 19, 1926.



The De Forest F5 - the same chassis was used in the W-5-F.

The W-5-F is basically a six-tube F5 in an ornately carved cabinet that sits on a similarly ornate base. (The W-6-F is the six-tube model.) Ads in the October 31, 1925 *Saturday Evening Post* and the December 1925 issue of *Radio Broadcast* describe it as follows:

But Tonal Supremacy is Not All—

Elbert McGran Jackson, renowned sculptor, architect and painter, put into this hand-wrought, hand-carved cabinet the spirit of radio, in design, in motif—it is not an adaptation of a phonograph. An image of charming individuality, it harmonizes with the setting of any home.

One unit, everything self-contained—not a wire in sight, nothing to connect . . . and *portable*; move it any place! Only charm and beauty for the eye.

The artistic conical reproducer is an inseparable part of the cabinet and its tonal mechanism peerlessly attuned to that of the Weagant circuit. There are just two controls for tuning, and these operate on one dial, which makes the normally perplexing task of "tuning in" extremely simple. There are special power tubes in the fifth and sixth sockets which can give you volume to flood an auditorium, if you desire it. And, at your fingers' tips, the means to tune in a far-distant station you want no matter how powerful nearby stations may be.

See the incomparable De Forest W₅ and W₆ at your De Forest dealer's or write for an interesting booklet describing these masterpieces in detail.

DE FOREST RADIO CO., Jersey City, N. J.

At \$450 in 1925, it could be safe to say that not many of these radios were actually sold. Some examples of the W-5-F and W-6-F show a rotating antenna drum contained in the base below the radio. A gear mechanism runs from one of the radio controls which could rotate the drum. This was somewhat unique since radios that used loop antennas in 1925 usually placed them externally, where they could easily be fiddled with. It wasn't until the late 30s that manufacturers commonly started mounting rotating antennas in the cabinets of consoles. The W-5-F up for bid did not show such an antenna; perhaps it was removed or the base was added at a later date.

The advertisement shown above notes that "everything is self contained - not a wire in sight" and portability allows the radio be moved to "any place." This suggests that an original Renaissance model was purchased with a battery eliminator and drum antenna in the base.

Now, back to the auction. Minimum bid was \$100, which didn't seem much for this beauty, so I immediately threw down the gauntlet. What was interesting about this auction was that there was only this one radio included. The remainder of the offerings consisted of very high-end furniture, sculptures, glassware, and decorative



W-6-F base showing rotating antenna drum and gear mechanism. Two examples of this radio show this setup in their base, with one base also enclosing a battery eliminator.



pieces that seemed to come from a very upscale and exclusive estate. What was also interesting was that the auctioneer (GWS) was from California but the items were in Wisconsin.

A second consideration was shipping. The auction house gave the number of a local Wisconsin shipper and after discussing with him how important packaging was, I felt the radio could be delivered all in one piece. I felt \$500 was a little high, but considering the value of the radio, it was probably worth it.

And so I watched and waited. As the days passed, my \$100 bid held firm. And then I got on board the ship of "magical thinking." Was it possible that since this radio was inserted in a group of some 200 items totally *unrelated to* radio, no one had gotten wind of it? When the morning of December 4th came to pass and my \$100 bid was still good, I was just about convinced that my premise was as watertight as the submarine I served on.

At 10:00 AM, I hit the "Enter Auction" button and I was on my way! The radio was still sitting at \$100 and there were only 20 online bidders. Things were looking up! When item 114 came up with an opening bid of \$100, my heart was racing. But that wasn't the only thing that was racing...the number of bidders went up to 45 and hundred dollar increments followed me up to \$1000 in about 10 seconds! There was somebody on my tail and it appeared there was no stopping him...I reluctantly bowed out.

Actually, I didn't feel that bad...until I participated in the Estes online radio auction that took place the following day. As I sat and watched colorful plastic (well, Catalin looks like plastic to most people) go for over \$3,000, I got to thinking what I let go for a mere \$1,000. There was no comparison! Age has deteriorated my flexibility to a point that I can no longer kick myself so I'll just have to be content with another lesson learned. No matter how perfect it looks like the planets are aligned, magical thinking is no help in outbidding the competition.

The 2021 NJARC BCB DX Contest - 15-24 Jan 2021

In the 1920's and 1930's, some radio listeners would compete with each other for the reception of the most distant stations using the same receivers that that we now restore and cherish. We can recapture some of the excitement that the early DX'ers experienced in our own contest.

Official Contest Rules

THE OBJECT: To use vintage radios receivers to receive broadcast-band signals from the greatest possible distance. Performance will be judged by the total mileage for your ten best loggings during a 24-hour session. You will be competing against competitors using similar receivers.

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open only to members in good standing of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club.

CONTEST PERIOD: The contest period will be from 12:00 Noon, local time at the receiving location, Friday, January 15, 2021 through 12:00 Noon, Sunday, January 24, 2021.

SESSIONS: Contestants may submit logs for any two 24-consecutive-hour sessions (noon to noon) during the contest period. You may use only one receiver during a session. That means you may not "bird dog" the simple radio with a more complex radio. You may submit logs for two different receivers. They need not be in the same category.

FREQUENCIES: The Broadcast Band, as defined for the contest, will be from 530 to 1600 kilocycles. No stations on the new extended band, 1610 to 1710 kilocycles, will be counted since many early radios did not cover those frequencies.

RECEIVER CATEGORIES:

- A - Crystal radios
- B - Primitive tube or transistor receivers (homebrew also) -1 to 2 tubes or transistors, plus power supply.
- C - 1920's battery sets (homebrew also) - batteries or modern power supplies are OK.
- D - Other tube radios sold for home entertainment.
- E - Amateur, commercial, and military tube-type communications receivers.
- F - Any radio of your choosing.
- G - "Light-Weight": Any radio weighing less than one pound (454 grams).

SPECIAL AWARDS will be given for the best performances by first-time contestants.

ANTENNAS: Anything you like.

LOGS: Submit a log for each of your contest sessions (maximum of two). Each log header should include contestant's name, address, e-mail address if applicable, phone number, category, and description of receiver and antenna. Please include your listening address if it is different from you mailing address.

Make a log entry for each station you claim to have heard. Stations must be positively identified. (This is being done on the honor system, and is a somewhat variable concept. If you hear Boston weather on what you know is 1030KC, then go ahead and log WBZ. (However, just because you heard a signal on 1160 KHz doesn't mean you heard KSL in Salt Lake City.) The contest committee reserves the right to disallow what it feels are outrageous claims. Each entry should include time, frequency, call letters, location, and optional comments. Although we're only judging your ten most distant loggings, submit as complete a log as possible. The committee may make special awards for most stations, most interesting log, etc. as it sees fit.

A log sheet has been provided for your convenience at <http://www.njarc.ar88.net/>. You may reproduce it or generate a similar one of your own.

Logs must be postmarked no later than midnight Monday, February 1, 2021.

Logs may be submitted as email attachments.

SCORING: Distances to stations will be calculated by the committee, and will be based on great circle distances from Freehold, New Jersey for listening posts within a 100-mile radius of Freehold. We will calculate mileage for other entries based on actual listening location. In all cases, please indicate your ten best loggings to make our job easier.

Special Rule #1: A contestant may claim only one of the Cuban time stations, Radio Reloj, regardless of how many are actually heard. All will be scored as 1279 miles (Havana).

Submit logs to: Tom Provost, 19 Ivanhoe Dr., Robbinsville, NJ 08691, tprovost@optonline.net

Questions: Al Klase - 908-892-5465 - ark@ar88.net, Tom Provost - 609-243-2508



CHRISTMAS, 1924
By Charles H. Van Housen

*Up in his shop in the Land of Snows
Santa is building ra-di-ohs!
Jolly and merry and ruddy and quaint -
Up-to-date, old fashioned, modernized Saint!
Thousands of "plexes" and "flexes" and "dynes"
Built along fancy and fashionable lines!
Cute little crystal sets - jim-dandy toys
Made by Saint Nich'las for good girls and boys!
Sets by the dozen and sets by the score -
Ten tubes and one tube and three tubes and four!
Piled in his store-room in gala array,
Tagged: "Do Not Open Before Christmas Day!"
Cabinets, batteries, panels and wire -
Anything, everything fans could desire!
Rheostats, sockets and soldering-lugs,
Ground-clamps, condensers, transformers and plugs!
Wave-traps and meters and toolchests and books
Tucked away safe in the corners and nooks
Of that jolly big workshop 'way up in the snows
Where Santa is building our ra-di-ohs!
Tune up your hearts, folks, 'most any night -
Sweet from his mansion so glist'ning and white
Comes the announcement: "Station North Pole!"
Santa Claus speaking! To every good soul
My very best wishes! I'm glad you believe
In Santa! Just look for me next Christmas Eve!
I'm not used to talking. Please pardon this cough!
God bless all the kiddies! S.C. "signing off!"*

This poem and its associated illustration was published in the "Radio" section of Philadelphia's *Evening Public Ledger* for Saturday, November 29, 1924...Ed