

# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

December 2022

Volume 28 Issue 12



## MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

**Reported by  
Dave Sica**

The *Jersey Broadcaster* is distributed to members via email as a PDF file. Back issues of many of our newsletters are available on the club's website:

<http://www.njarc.org/broadcaster/>

At our November meeting featured "Show & Tell" by members.

Darren Hoffman announced the upcoming [JDAuctionsLLC.com](http://JDAuctionsLLC.com) antique radio auction on January 7.

Richard Lee showed military medals and correspondence received by his grandmother, and screened a short film on Oise-Aisne Cemetery referenced on one of the medals.

Darren Hoffman showed some production sample tubes and tube ephemera from the RCA Harrison plant.

Dave Sica showed a 1940s vintage NRI kit television with a 3-inch screen.

Ray Chase brought an early Western Electric 'trouble finder' to track down the source of RF noise.

Jon Butz Fiscina showed a decorative 'wax warmer' in the shape of a radio that eerily resembled Jim & Ruth Whartenby's camper.

(Continued on page 3)



## MEETING NOTICE

This month is our annual Holiday Party. Once again, it will take place at the West Lake Golf and Country Club. Reservations were required, and the deadline will have passed by the time you read this, so hopefully everyone who wished to attend has gotten on the list. For those who were unable to attend for any reason, the festivities will be broadcast live on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/).

## From the President's Workbench

**By Richard Lee**

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts!

Well, it's the end of 2022 and time for a year end review. But wait... It's also our 30th Anniversary! So let's review everything that's happened in our club since July of 1992. Or... maybe **not**? How about I just review significant events over the last 5 years, since our 25th Anniversary!

Well, at our January 12<sup>th</sup> club meeting in 2018, we were reveling in what a great time we had at our club's 25th Anniversary Holiday Party in the Grand Ball Room of the West Lake Golf & Country Club! We enjoyed great food, wine, a classic staged Radio Play with "real actors," plus 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pins for all!

So let me continue from there with pertinent events, times and information in a shoot-out venue for the next five years!

### 2018

- The remaining Bob Haworth Collection comes to InfoAge for storage.
- The famous "Popcorn Microwave Meltdown" in the Dormitory at InfoAge
- RTM docent & club presenter Charles Blanding dies on duty at the RTM!
- Our wildly successful meeting top-



- Our wildly successful meeting topic of *Alternate Collections*: flowers, cars and puzzles show-up.
- We gain "sanctioned ARRL event" status for our Ham-fests and Swapmeets.
- Bob Bennett repairs and installs a classic Tucker car radio.
- We move from QTH's Mailman Reflector to Google Groups Communicator!
- We lost Charles Blanding & Vince Lobosco.

(Continued on next page)

**THE JERSEY BROADCASTER**

is the newsletter of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC) which is dedicated preserving the history and enhancing the knowledge of radio and related disciplines. Dues are \$25 per year as meetings are held the second Friday each month at InfoAge or Princeton University. Neither the editor nor NJARC is liable for any other use of the contents of this publication other than for information.

**PRESIDENT:**

Richard Lee (914)-589-3751  
[radiorich@prodigy.net](mailto:radiorich@prodigy.net)

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Sal Brisindi (732)-308-1748  
[salb203@optonline.net](mailto:salb203@optonline.net)

**SECRETARY**  
 (Position Open)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Dave Sica (732)382-0618  
[dave.sica@njarc.org](mailto:dave.sica@njarc.org)

**TREASURER:** Harry Klancer

(732)-238-1083 [klancer2@comcast.net](mailto:klancer2@comcast.net)

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS (WEST):**

Darren Hoffman (732)-928-0594  
[amematador@aol.com](mailto:amematador@aol.com)

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS (EAST):**

Rotating

**TRUSTEES:**

Ray Chase (908)-757-9741  
[raydio862@verizon.net](mailto:raydio862@verizon.net)

Phil Vourtsis (732)-208-4284  
[philvourtsis@gmail.com](mailto:philvourtsis@gmail.com)

Bill Zukowski (732)-833-1224  
[n2yeg@optonline.net](mailto:n2yeg@optonline.net)

**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:**

Al Klase (908)-892-5465  
[ark@ar88.net](mailto:ark@ar88.net)

**TUBE PROGRAM:**

Al Klase [tubes@njarc.org](mailto:tubes@njarc.org)

**SCHEMATIC PROGRAM:**

Aaron Hunter (609)-267-3065  
[ahunter01@comcast.net](mailto:ahunter01@comcast.net)

**CAPACITOR PROGRAM:**

Sal Brisindi (732)-308-1748  
[salb203@optonline.net](mailto:salb203@optonline.net)

**RESISTOR PROGRAM:**

Sal Brisindi (732)-308-1748  
[salb203@optonline.net](mailto:salb203@optonline.net)

**WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR:**

Dave Sica (732)-382-0618  
[dave.sica@njarc.org](mailto:dave.sica@njarc.org)

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

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

**President's Workbench**

(Continued)

**2019**

- Long time member Lud Sibley's Tube Collectors Association closes.
- "The Hamfest Corner" begins as a monthly section in the Business Report.
- April 19<sup>th</sup>: we are listed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the IRS. (A lot of work!)
- Our museum's amateur Radio Station W2RTM goes on-the-air, and celebrates International Marconi Day.
- We began live webcasts on our official NJARC YouTube Channel.
- Station W2RTM enters the ARRL Field Day Contest for the first time.
- New administration at the Parsippany PAL increased prices for Fall and Spring Shows.
- We lost Bob Chis and Joe Cro.

**2020**

- Pandemic starts! March meeting cancelled, Everything Cancelled!!
- We go "Virtual" via the Zoom platform, for all of our monthly meetings.
- TCA liquidates assets and shifts over \$4,800 into the NJARC Treasury.
- Al Klase starts the club's three Zoom "Social Hours" for members.
- NJARC donates \$1,000 to InfoAge which was in need of revenue since it was forced to close by the pandemic.
- We hold Field Day & Summer Hamfest Tailgate (outdoors) in spite of the pandemic!
- InfoAge & the RTM reopen, following state pandemic protocols.
- Waves Antique Radio Store moves from N.Y.C. to Englewood N.J..
- Sam's PhotoFacts (1946 to 1961) are scanned by Jerry Ingordo and made available to the club as a new member benefit!
- Cassie the Radio Yorkie picks virtual Holiday Party Radio Raffle ticket!
- We lost John Mihal and Bob Masterson.

**2021**

- I visited Monmouth Stereo in Shrewsbury: "no more solid state repairs."
- We interview the family of Agnes Negra, from the book "Waves of Hope."
- The FCC needs money! All Amateur Radio fees to rise soon.
- International Marconi Day celebration is back! On station W2RTM!
- Our Repair Clinics in building 9032a are back! For members only.
- The September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at InfoAge is our first live, in-person meeting since the start of the Pandemic.
- Hamfests in the tristate area are starting to reopen.
- Parsippany PAL Fall Hamfest Swapmeet show finally opens Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.
- We lost Joe Milano and Pete Olin,

**2022**

- JD Auction services held their first auction in Hamilton Square N.J.
- Our February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting is back live, in-person at Bowen Hall Princeton University.
- Our new Mevo camera at meetings helps us welcome our DX members back!
- Delinquent dues members are removed from the NJARC roster, 3/15/22.
- BCBDX winners receive their awards in person for the first time since 2019!
- Ray Chase & Harry Klancer give a presentation to the Metuchen/Edison Historical Society.
- Member Mike Katz is back manufacturing antique radio grill cloth.
- InfoAge Science & Museums is still short of funds Please Donate!
- NJARC Jersey Broadcaster editor and club Secretary Marv Beeferman goes missing.

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## President's Workbench

(Continued)

- Bob Haworth collection proceeds are finally distributed to his family.
- ARRL Field Day & Summer Hamfest gets great coverage in the Coast Star newspaper.
- 100th Anniversary for local AM stations WOR and WABC.
- The Jersey Broadcaster is back, published on-line thanks to Dave Sica and others!
- At our Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting we celebrated Ray Chase's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!
- And we lost: Steve Miller and Pete Grave.

Happy Hanukkah! Happy Christmas! Happy New Year! Happy Holidays! And I hope to do this again for our 40th Anniversary! Richard Lee, President. NJARC



Cassie the Radio Yorkie

## Upcoming Radio Events

On Saturday, February 4, 2023 the club will host our first **Repair Clinic** of the new year at InfoAge. Reservation are required. Contact Rich Lee by phone or email to reserve a spot or to volunteer as an expert.

On Saturday, January 7, 2023 JD Auction Services will host their first **Vintage Radio and Electronics Auction** at the Jackson Mills Volunteer Fire Company Banquet Hall, 465 N County Line Road, Jackson NJ 08527. Preview starts at 8:00AM Auction starts 9:00 AM. For more information and catalog, go to [jdauctionsllc.com](http://jdauctionsllc.com).

January 10 is the first **DVHRC** monthly meeting of the new year.

On Friday, January 13 we'll hold our first regular **monthly meeting** of 2023 at InfoAge. The meeting will feature a "Members Only" auction. Al Klase will also review the rules of the 2023 Broadcast Band DX contest, and tips for getting the best results. Your 2023 club membership dues are due at this time!

On January 20 the **HARPS** club will meet at Christ Church in Suffern, NY.

Our **Winter Repair Clinic** will be held on Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> at InfoAge.

Our **February meeting** will take place on Friday, 2/10 at Princeton. Prof. Mike Littman will be making what will surely be another of his always first-class presentations, although the topic is still under development as of this writing.

**HARPS** meets at Christ Church, Suffern NY on Friday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>.

On March 10th our regular **monthly meeting** will take place at InfoAge. Bob Tevis will make a presentation, topic TBA.

**HARPS** meets on March 24<sup>th</sup> at Christ Church, Suffern NY.

Saturday March 18th is our **Spring Hamfest Swapmeet** at Parsippany PAL.

May 12-14 **Kutztown Radio Show XLVII**.

Check our website calendar for the latest information about upcoming radio events.

## Meeting Review

(Continued from page 1)

Jon also showed a rare Dallas (TX) made Watterson radio.

Scott Marshall discussed his saga of deling with silver mica disease in a radio he's been restoring.

Nevell Greenough brought a faithful reproduction of a WWII spy transceiver that he built and demonstrated how it would have been used by the operator during the war.



## An RME Story

Al Klase - Originally published in the DVHRC "Oscillator", Septemner 2000

When I wrote a piece on the National HRO-500 receiver for John Dilks' column in QST magazine, I was asked to supply a photo of myself. When I set up the shot, I made sure some of my juicier specimens were visible on the shelves.



The Navy RAL in the foreground brought a letter from a gentleman in NYC with an offer of its brother the RAK. (I haven't taken him up on that yet.) A second letter, forwarded from ARRL headquarters came from an oldtimer claiming to have helped build one of my radios in the 1930's. W9GLW wrote:

*The RME-69, sitting on the shelf just beyond your left ear on page 80 of February QST, brought back memories of economic hardship as well a personal success.*

*As a 19-year-old technician I built the prototype of the "69" under the guidance of W9RGH (Russ Plank, RME cofounder – ed.). The year was 1934, and times were tough.*

*Production was begun with guarded expectations. Failure meant irrevocable fiscal disaster.*

*In production I specialized in construction of the HF tunable oscillator,*

*mixer, and antenna amplifier as well as the associated switch. Each solder connection was wiped clean while still hot.*

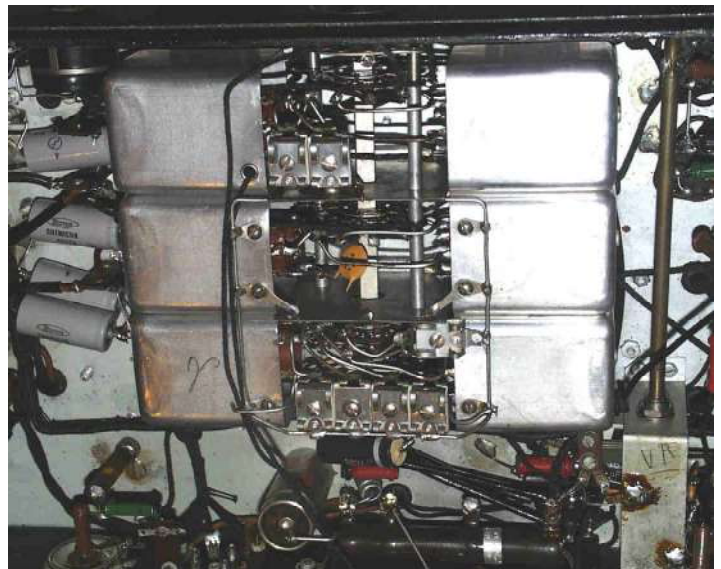
*Upon completion of each assembly, one of the aluminum shield cans was initialed with a measure of pride. It is likely the radio pictured has my initials.*

*The RME-69 was sold world wide for commercial as well as amateur high-frequency communications.*

*The pay was not great, but never the less, RME was good to me. A college degree was made possible and entry into the wonderful world of electronics was assured.*

- 73, Clint, W9GLW

-



I pulled the bottom cover off my radio. Sure enough, there were initials on the shield, but I couldn't relate the hieroglyph to Clint's name. Well, my radio was purchased in 1937, and he was talking about 1934. I shot some pictures, and lost the whole thing on my desk for several months.

The folder resurfaced in a recent clean up, and I wrote to Clint, and enclosed the pictures. He replied promptly. What I had been taking for a stylized "Y" or "V," was actually an upside-down "cb" for Clinton Bowman. He further informs me that the "VR" on the bracket was Vern Rogers, who wired the remainder of the set.

I am extremely gratified to have established this personal link with the distant past. Thank you Clint!

## Radio Rex

Marsha Simkin

Some of you might remember a radio-related toy that I brought to an NJARC event many years ago. It was called Radio Rex. It consisted of a celluloid dog which was slightly less than 6 inches long and a wooden dog-house with a metal roof. The dog was controlled by a spring that was held in check by an electromagnet. The electromagnet was sensitive to sound patterns containing acoustic energy around 500 Hz, such as the vowel in "Rex." It used an ordinary D cell battery. When the dog's name was called, the current to the electromagnet was interrupted and Rex would be launched out of his house.

I recently saw an article that stated that the first toy, or some claim, first machine, to respond to voice commands was probably one made in 1922 named "Radio Rex". There seems to be four editions of the toy and patents range from 1906 to 1922. My version is dated 1918. It was produced by the John Hugo Manufacturing Company in New Haven CT as part of their TELETOY line. It was inspired by the many patents of inventor Christian Berger, who worked for the Submarine Wireless Company of New York. Some have likened it to an early version of the "Clapper", a sound-activated electrical switch which was introduced in the 1980s. It is now being heralded as an early ancestor of today's voice assistants such as Siri, Alexa, Google Home and Amazon Echo. I guess this means it's even related to my voice activated TV remote control.



C. BERGER.  
SOUND OPERATED CIRCUIT CONTROLS.  
APPLICATION FILED MAY 19, 1918.  
1,209,636.  
Patented Dec. 19, 1916.  
2 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

Fig. 4.

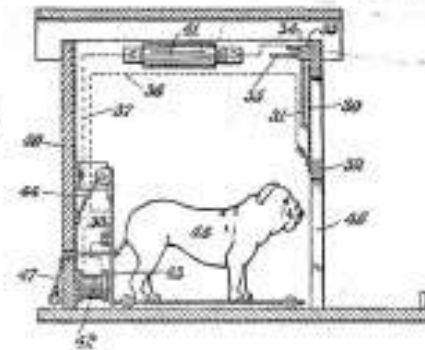
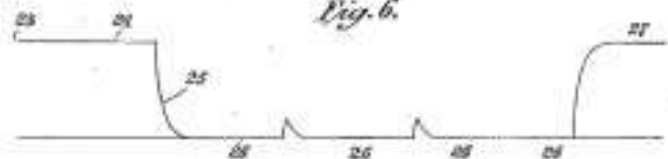


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

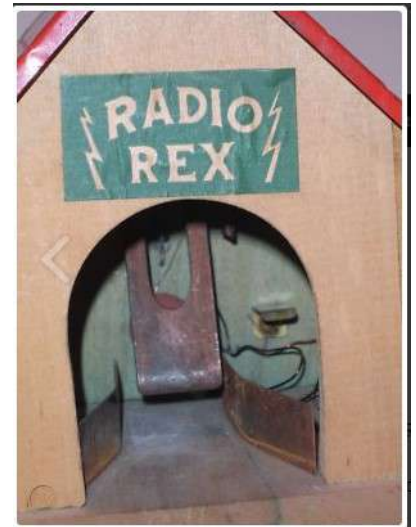


Inventor:  
Christian Berger,  
By Rogers, Kennedy & Campbell,  
Attys.



## Radio Rex

(Continued)



TELETOY ❖ TELETOY ❖ TELETOY ❖ TELETOY

No. 160410

### Radio Rex

One of the famous Teletoys manufactured and sold only by The JOHN HUGO MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 60-62 Franklin St., New Haven, Conn., under H. C. Berger's patents of March 11, 1913, November 10, 1914, December 19, 1916, and September 24, 1918, which rights will be fully protected.

**Directions for Operating.**

Place Kennel on smooth level table, at least two feet from edge, to prevent Rex from taking a tumble.

Place Rex in Kennel and push gently back against flapper until he holds his position, this should be done without moving Kennel as the jar will release Rex before you are ready. After Rex is in position either call sharply, REX, clap the hands, or blow a whistle of the proper pitch and Rex will respond by dashing forth, thus causing endless amusement to young and old.

**IMPORTANT.**

Do not leave dog pressed back in Kennel when not in use as it runs down the battery, the current is turned on only when Rex presses the flapper against the electro-magnet. It is important that the dog should not be left in this condition when not in use as it wastes the current.

**PLEASE NOTE.**

All the electric parts of this toy except the battery, last indefinitely and the battery has ample power to operate the toy many thousand times, proved by actual tests. The battery is of standard size and can be replaced by any dealer in flashlights, or will be sent by us Parcel Post Pre-paid upon receipt of ten 2c stamps.

To replace the battery, open back of Kennel by turning catch to right and pulling same back, simply remove old battery and place new one in pocket, being careful that top and bottom of battery form connections with brass holders. Batteries sometime come a little short, if so simply bend end holders so that battery will bear on both ends.

When replacing battery, be sure that contact points at bottom and top of battery are clean. Scraping with a knife blade will assure this.

Should Rex not behave properly, 1st, clean contact points on outside of Kennel by rubbing amulet against stationary wires, next open back of Kennel and rub finger across front of magnet. Now Rex should resume his good behavior.

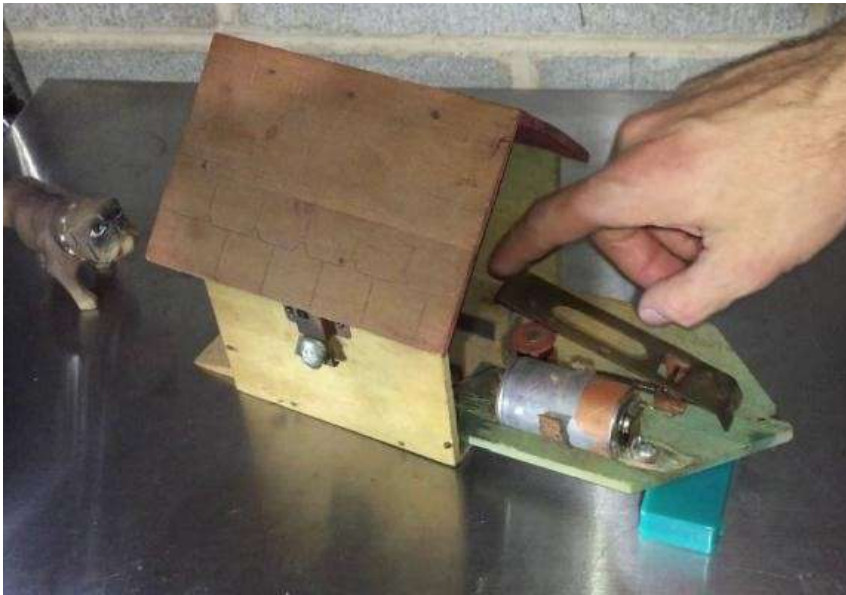
THE JOHN HUGO MFG. CO. NEW HAVEN, CONN.

TELETOY ❖ TELETOY ❖ TELETOY ❖ TELETOY



## Radio Rex

(Continued)



"Radio Rex"  
\$1.98

—Put him in his kennel, then shout "Rex," and he immediately jumps out at you! But he won't bite.

The box from the cardboard version of Radio Rex manufactured about 1922, stated that Rex actually responds to the voice.



### Resources

<https://antiqueradios.com/forums/>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/>

<https://www.cnet.com/>

<https://ctinventor.wordpress.com/>

<https://flickr.com/>

<https://ileriseviye.wordpress.com/>

[https://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/41307781\\_toy-radio-rex-teletoy-mfgd-by-john-hugo-mfg-co-new](https://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/41307781_toy-radio-rex-teletoy-mfgd-by-john-hugo-mfg-co-new)

Marsha Simkin Collection

[https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/speech-and-audio/9780470195369/10\\_chapter04.html](https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/speech-and-audio/9780470195369/10_chapter04.html)

Toys That Have a Voice - Judith Markowitz , Speech Technology Magazine, 3/6/2003

<https://www.worthpoint.com/>

[https://youtu.be/AdUi\\_St-BdM](https://youtu.be/AdUi_St-BdM)

[https://youtu.be/Q\\_qxxB1Jsa8](https://youtu.be/Q_qxxB1Jsa8)

## Remembering Pete Grave

Longtime NJARC member (and DVHRC pillar) Pete Grave passed away on November 2. He was cremated with no pomp and circumstance. Pete didn't want anybody to make a big deal about his passing. But, we all know that Pete was one of a kind if there ever was one, and as it turns out he got things exactly the way he probably would have wanted them. Here's the rest of the story:

The funeral director sent a transport vehicle to pick him up for his final drive. They sent a Chrysler minivan. Pete's wife Jan was somewhat taken aback by this as Pete owned several classic hearses including Cadillac, Packard and Lincoln models. She felt it was almost an insult for him to be taken for his last ride in a 'soccer mom' vehicle.



One of Pete's vehicles was a beautiful early fifties vintage Packard hearse, which they tried to get started, but with no luck. They did manage to get the 1996 Cadillac Fleetwood hearse going. John Tyminski, along with Pete's nephew and a few others serving as impromptu pallbearers loaded Pete into the Fleetwood only to realize that one of the 'bier pins' which are clamp devices that fasten the casket into the hearse, was missing. The funeral director informed John that they could not transport the casket with it unsecured in the vehicle. So John went and grabbed one of Pete's R390 receivers and shoved it into the hearse to lock the casket in place. Pete was then escorted by a decommissioned but still illuminated Sheriff's vehicle bearing his dealer plates for his last ride.

The crematory told Jan afterwards that this was the first time in the history of their business that a customer had ever arrived in their own hearse.







You can watch the live radio play performed at our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Holiday Party on [YouTube](#):





You can also watch the videos from the club's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary online.

Tenth Anniversary video: [https://youtu.be/Z9G8\\_kkq8FM](https://youtu.be/Z9G8_kkq8FM)

Fifteenth Anniversary video: [https://archive.org/details/NJARC\\_15th](https://archive.org/details/NJARC_15th)



My daughter made this Holiday card for me back in 2001 when she was 12 years old. (Photo: Dave Sica)



Happy Holidays from Cassie, the Radio Yorkie (Photo: Richard Lee)