

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

November 2023

Volume 29 Issue 11



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

www.njarc.org/broadcaster/

Meeting Notice

Our November meeting will take place on Friday, 11/10 at 7:30 PM. Ray Chase and Harry Klancer will give a presentation entitled "Radio Comes to the Home." Ray and Harry have given this presentation many times over the years as outreach into the 'civilian' community and if you haven't seen it yet, it's a 'must see!'

For our non-local members and anyone else who is unable to make it to the meeting in person, we plan to livestream the meeting at www.YouTube.com/@njarc.

Meeting Review

By Dave Sica

At our October meeting, Mike Molnar discussed "The Broadcasting Boom of 1922-1923." In his presentation, Mike outlined the beginnings of radio broadcasting from wireless telegraphy to wireless telephony, equipment from spark to vacuum tube and equipment from homebrew to commercially manufactured.

Fred Wawra demonstrated his restored opaque projector, circa 1910.

Club president Rich Lee noted that today was Ray Chase's 91st birthday. Although there was no cake to celebrate as was the case last year for Ray's 90th, Rich promised one in four years, for his 95th.

Due to technical difficulties, the live webcast of this meeting was interrupted. Connectivity is spotty at this location, another reason why attending meetings in-person is always the best plan, if at all possible. Recordings of most NJARC meetings are available on the club's YouTube channel. (www.YouTube.com/@njarc)

Calendar of Events

Some key dates for upcoming events are:

November 13: DVHRC meeting, Telford PA

November 18: NJARC Fall Hamfest/SwapMeet,
Parsippany NJ

November 24: HARPS meeting, Suffern NY

December 9: NJARC Holiday Party, Jackson NJ

December 15: HARPS Holiday Party, Suffern NY

May 10-11: Kutztown Radio Show XLVIV

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

From the President's Workbench

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts.

I want to review our Fall Repair Clinic we had at Info-Age in Building 9032A on Saturday, October 28th.

It was a beautiful warm fall day on which the Vintage Computer Federation had also scheduled their Fall Swapmeet. A few of our clinic attendees were able to walk over and purchase some items before the clinic's start time. We were a little 'light' on our usual cadre of experts, but we made do with John Ruccolo, Harry Klancer, Tom Provost, Bob Bennett, Bill Zukowski and Nevell Greenough. John helped Tom Cawley with his record changer, a model 557 Voice of Music. Harry worked with Tom Kittridge on one of his favorite Zenith AM/FM plastic tabletop radios from the 1950s. Tom continued to work with Jim Doran on his late 1930s American Bosch model 620 a beautiful wooden set! Bob worked on a not-often-seen Farnsworth wood model, BT-61 from 1940. Bill was a little "stumped" with an RCA 45 player that a friend of the club, Loretta Masiello, brought to the clinic for evaluation.

Member Tom Cawley stepped up to share his knowledge of 45 players and convinced Loretta her player, known as an 'attachment' was working correctly but her demo record had a 'wow' issue. Bill also saved the day when Loretta brought from her car a vintage Tin-Toy Locomotive Train circa early 1950s.

He had to peel open the tin metal to get into the train's "Electro-Mechanical System," solder a few broken wires then piece it all back together. The review of Bill's repair can be seen on Radio Wild's YouTube video of our Fall clinic at www.youtube.com/@radiowild.

(Continued on next page)



President's Workbench

(Continued)

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 on the second Friday of each month either at InfoAge or at 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

VICE PRESIDENT:

Sal Brisindi (732) 308-1748
salb203@yahoo.com

SECRETARY:

(Position open)

TREASURER:

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

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

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS (WEST):

Darren Hoffman (732) 928-0594

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

njveg@optonline.net

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:

Al Klase (908) 892-5465

ark@ar88.net

TUBE PROGRAM:

Al Klase tubes@njarc.org

SCHEMATIC PROGRAM:

Aaron Hunter (609) 267-3065

ahunter01@comcast.net

CAPACITOR PROGRAM:

Richard Lee (914) 589-3751

salb203@optonline.net

MUSEUM CURATOR:

Ray Chase (908) 757-9741

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:

Dave Sica webmaster@njarc.org

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Marsha Simkin (609) 660-8160

33 Lakeland Drive, Barnegat NJ 08005

mhsimkin@comcast.net

Nevell, as usual, was the Czar Expert of our clinic, running from one table to another with friendly advice. He helped club member Matt Reynolds with a cute little 2" Waterman 'scope. Matt did all the recapping and Nev took care of the alignment details. A sine wave trace was established!

Club member Scott Marshall has been attending our clinics, as an observer and helper. At the end of the clinic, Scott expressed an interest in becoming a clinic **expert**! I happily welcomed him on board, knowing what a talented and knowledgeable technician he is. Thank you, Scott!

Warm bagels, tasty pizza from Anthony's Pizzeria and a lot of club comradery made for a great day!

— Richard Lee, President NJARC



Tom Cawley and John Ruccolo, planning their next move



Tom Provost and Jim Doran with the American Bosch

(Continued on next page)

President's Workbench

(continued)



Bob Bennett and Scott Marshall working the Farnsworth BT-61



Loretta and her vintage ChooChoo train

(Continued on next page)

President's Workbench

(continued)



Bill Zukowski, dissecting the Tin-Toy Locomotive



Meeting of the minds. Nevell and Bob Johanson
Instructing Matt on his Waterman scope

RTM Satisfies a Grandmother's Wish for her Grandson's 21st Birthday

By Bill Zukowski N2YEG

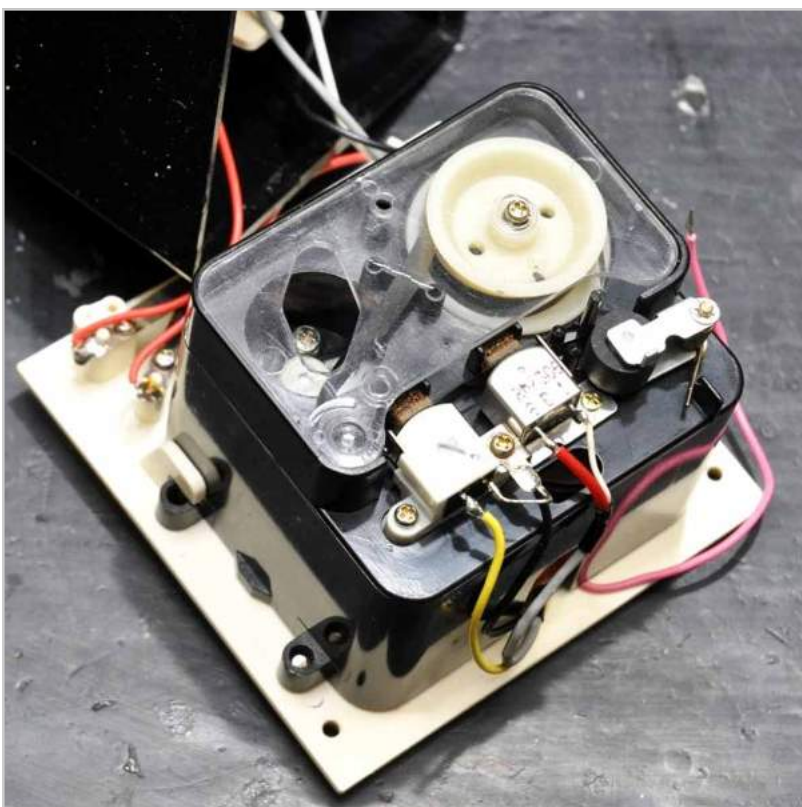
One Wednesday, while returning to the RTM after finishing a tour, I noticed George Kelly working on something in the shop, so I stopped in. It looked like a gutted microphone with its innards dangling on the bench. It resembled a RCA 77DX microphone, but plastic, with a miniature tape recorder in the base. It was a 'Message Mike!' A lady, Catherine Kerris, who volunteers at [Vincent's Legacy](#) (part of St. Vincent de Paul that collects and repurposes donated furniture and household items) at InfoAge, had stopped in hoping we could retrieve her grandson's recording, made 19 years ago.

George and I were unsuccessful resuscitating the recording, so I asked George if I could take it home for closer examination. Having serviced taped recorders as a technician for Sony/Superscope "in a previous life," I was intrigued with this little device.

After again dismembering the device, I began troubleshooting. It was an actual miniature tape recorder, 2½ x 2½ inches square, complete with capstan drive, and an erase head, not a per-



The Message Mike



The Transport Mechanism

manent magnet erase 'head' as is usually used in inexpensive recorders of the day. The tape was encased in a small cartridge. It was an endless loop, so no rewinding was necessary. The tape looked to be the same width as used in regular audio cassettes, with a similar mechanism as an eight track cartridge.

Initial examination revealed that the probable culprit was corroded battery contacts. After determining that the transport did operate when powered from an external battery pack, I tackled the contacts. Indeed they were severely corroded, to the point of actually being pitted, so aggressive cleaning was indicated. Starting with an emery board, then some 600

grit sandpaper, progressing to Crocus Cloth and finally a fiberglass polishing brush, I was able to restore full conductivity.

This thing was an amazing feat of engineering, on an inexpensive scale. On the bottom of the base is a spring loaded switch, which when depressed (by placing the mic on a flat surface) turns the unit off. In this position, depressing the white button on the front of the base switches the mic into the record mode, with about 30 seconds recording time. To play the recording, you simply pick the mic up, releasing the spring loaded switch on the bottom.

(Continued on next page)

RTM Satisfies a Grandmother's Wish for her Grandson's 21st Birthday (Continued)

The recording I heard was extremely low, with a very high background noise level. Fortunately Catherine had told me what was on the recording, so I was able to discern a few words.

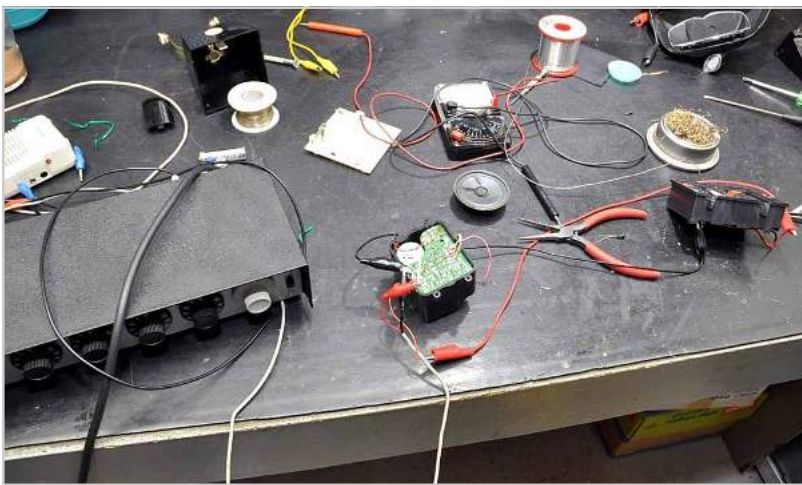
To preserve the recording, I decide to copy and convert it to an mp3 file. However the level was even too low for the microphone input on my mp3 recorder. Enter a Shure M68 microphone mixer, as a preamp, and I was able to get a good level mp3 file. The recording is still plagued with the background noise however.

I copied the file on to a flash drive and installed it on Catherine's computer, so she could play it for her grandson on his 21st birthday. I'm going to attempt to remove the background noise and give her a clean(er) copy.

It was a good feeling retrieving the recording and seeing how happy it made Catherine.

Catherine gave this note to share with the club:

I bought this microphone when my grandson was a toddler, taught him to speak into it, and got to see the looks of wonder and delight as he heard his voice in the playback. We sang allot in those days! Although the microphone got lost in the shuffle over the past nineteen year, I know that one of the last recordings was Ben's voice saying "I want to sing wif you."



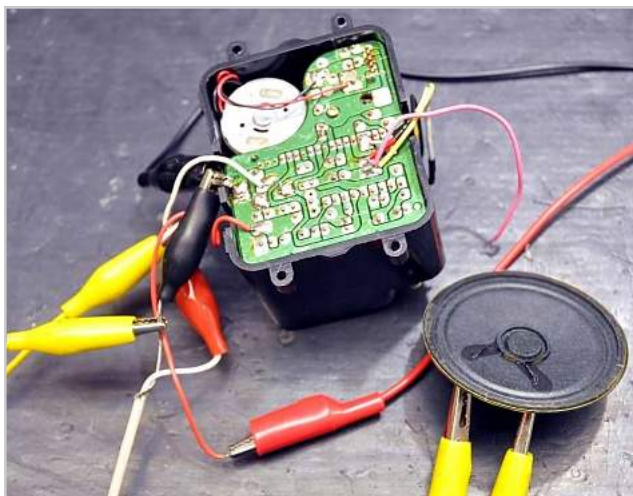
Transcribing

When recently the microphone resurfaced, it needed help! The words, Ben's and mine, were unintelligible. ENTER: Bill Zukowski and his friends at InfoAge Science Center. With work by him (and later Ben's dad) we were able to retrieve the whole thing: my words were "Ladies and gentlemen, I want to introduce you to a new young superstar – Ben Stefan." Ben's words were "I want to sing wif you."

Today, Ben is a senior at Moravian University where his major is Music Education, with Voice as his emphasis. He's still singing and will go on to teach others to sing!!

With the kind help of Bill and his pals at InfoAge, I was able to play this recording at Ben's 21st birthday party on Sept.30, 2023.

*With heartfelt gratitude,
Catherine Kerris ("Nanny")*



Testing



Catherine and Bill

Collecting Juvenile Communications Fiction - Part 2

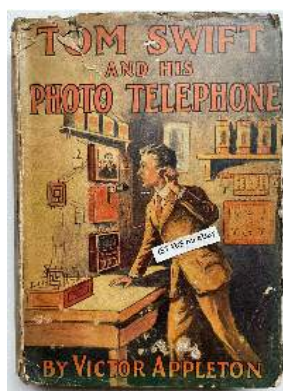
By Marsha Simkin

Boy's Series Books where one or more titles are devoted to Radio or another form of Communications. (Note: these books are a reflection of their times and might not be considered politically correct by today's standards.)

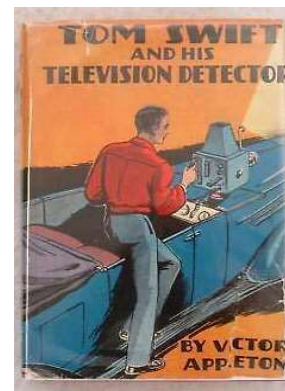
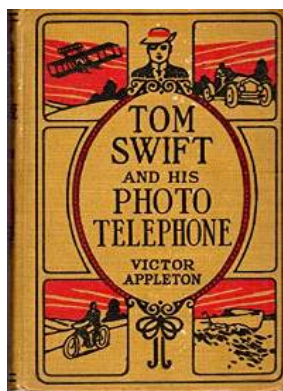
The Tom Swift Series - Victor Appleton



and His Wireless Message - 1911



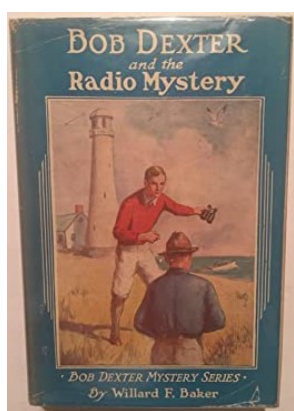
and his Photo Telephone - 1914



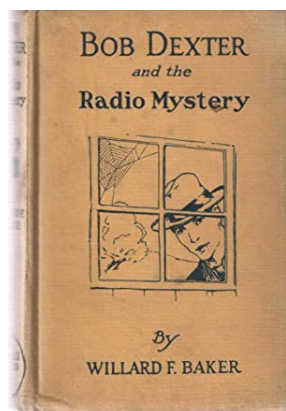
and His Television Detector 1933

Tom Swift is the main character of six series of American juvenile science fiction and adventure novels that emphasize science, invention, and technology. Inaugurated in 1910, the sequence of series comprises more than 100 volumes. Most of the series emphasized Tom's inventions. The books generally describe the effects of science and technology as wholly beneficial, and the role of the inventor in society as admirable and heroic.

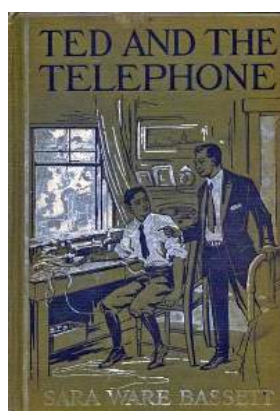
The Bob Dexter Series - Willard Baker



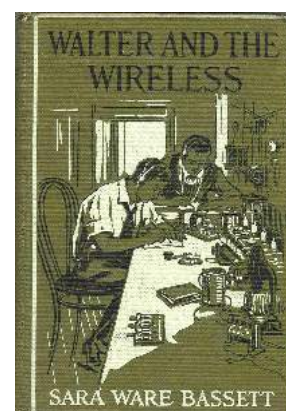
and the Radio Mystery - 1933



The Invention Series - Sara Ware Bassett



Ted and the Telephone - 1922



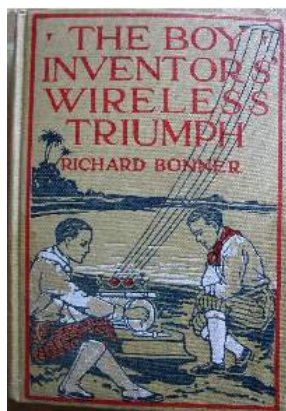
Walter and the Wireless - 1924

"The Bob Dexter books are of the character that may be called detective stories. These stories deal with the up-to-date adventures of a normal, healthy lad who has a great desire to solve mysteries." -- Cupples and Leon

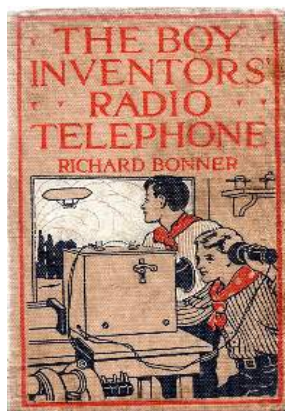
Collecting Juvenile Communications Fiction - Part 2

(Continued)

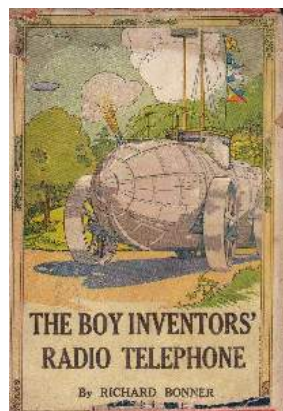
The Boy Inventors Series - Richard Bonner



Wireless Triumph - 1912



Radio Telephone - 1915

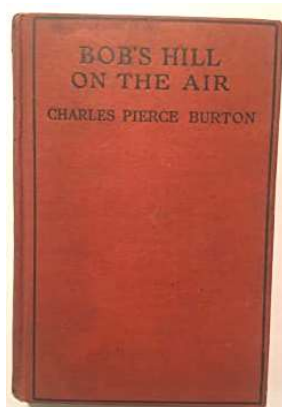


"Blest with natural curiosity, -- sometimes called the instinct of investigation, -- favored with golden opportunity, and gifted with creative ability, the Boy Inventors meet emergencies and contrive mechanical wonders that interest and convince the reader because they always "work" when put to the test." -- Hurst

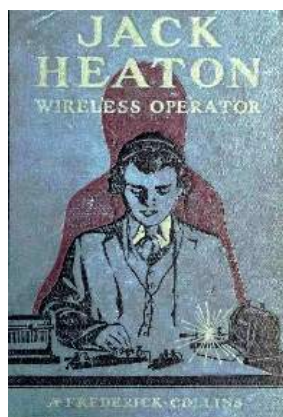
The Bob's Hill Series - Charles Burton.

Jack Heaton Series - A Frederick Collins.

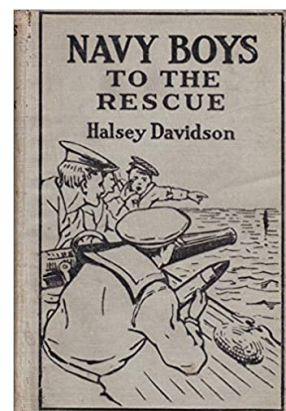
Navy Boys Series - Halsey Davidson.



On the Air - 1934



Wireless Operator - 1919



To the Rescue
Or: Answering the Wireless Call
for Help - 1919

Bob's Hill series based in the Berkshires of Massachusetts covered 12 books, whose characters traveled to many parts of the world.

A three-part fictional adventure series describing its title character's exploits as a wireless operator. Written by a prolific writer of non-fiction books on the subject of wireless technology.

Navy Boys is a series of Great War youth fiction books.



New Jersey Antique Radio Club's

Fall Swap Meet and Ham Fest



Parsippany PAL Building

33 Baldwin Road

Parsippany, NJ 07054

Just off Route 46,

Adjacent to Smith Field



Saturday November 18th, 2023



Refreshments Available

(40) 8 Foot Tables

\$30.00 for members

\$35.00 for non-members

Reserve Additional tables \$25.00

At the door \$30.00

Open to the Public

8am to 12 noon

Vendor setup at 7:15am

\$7.00 Entrance Fee

Club Donation

For Directions

Visit our website: www.njarc.org

or use your favorite phone app

33 Baldwin Road

Parsippany NJ 07054

Vendors Make Your Reservation Now!

Contacts:

President

Richard Lee

(914) 589-3751

radiatorich@prodigy.net

Vice President

Sal Brisindi

(732) 857-7250

salb203@yahoo.com