

# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

March 2024

Volume 30 Issue 3



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/](http://www.njarc.org/broadcaster/)

## Meeting Notice

Our March meeting took place on Friday, 3/8 at InfoAge. The presentation was by guest speaker Melissa Ziobro, Professor of Public History in the Monmouth University Department of History and Anthropology. Melissa worked as a command historian at the U.S. Army Communications - Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth from 2004 - 2011. The meeting was livestreamed on our YouTube channel and can be seen

[www.youtube.com/@njarc](http://www.youtube.com/@njarc)

## Meeting Review

At our February meeting, Prof. Mike Littman's presentation covered "The Regenerative Oscillator: from audio to RF to the visible."

Recordings of many of our meetings are on [YouTube](#).

## Calendar of Events

February 9: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton  
March 8: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge  
March 12: DVHRC monthly meeting, Telford PA  
March 16: NJARC Spring Hamfest/Swapmeet, Parsippany  
April 12: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton  
April 19: HARPS monthly meeting, Suffern NY  
April 26-27: International Marconi Day, InfoAge  
May 4: NJARC Spring Repair Clinic, InfoAge  
May 9-11: Kutztown Radio Show, Kutztown PA  
May 17: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge  
May 22: Wall High School Scholarship Awards  
May 24: : HARPS monthly meeting, Suffern NY  
June 14: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton  
June 21: ARRL Field Day, InfoAge  
June 21: : HARPS monthly meeting, Suffern NY  
July 12: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton  
July 27: NJARC Summer Hamfest/Swapmeet, InfoAge  
August 9: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton  
August 24: NJARC Summer Repair Clinic, InfoAge  
September 13: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge  
September 19-21: Kutztown Radio Show, Kutztown PA  
October 1-5: AWA Annual Conference, Henrietta NY  
October 11: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton  
October 26: Fall Repair Clinic, InfoAge  
November 8: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton  
Nov. 16: NJARC Fall Hamfest/Swapmeet, Parsippany  
December 14: NJARC Holiday Party, Jackson

## From the President's Workbench

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts!

This is a quick review of our Winter Repair Clinic which we held on Saturday, March 2nd at InfoAge in building 9032a. The weather was rain, rain and more rain all day but then it didn't stop our intrepid experts and the clients from attending!

Matt Reynolds was busy with "cloning" an AM transmitter, designed by our technical coordinator, Al Klase. Our new to the crew of experts, Scott Marshall, took his maiden voyage on Joe Divito's Zenith J508 tabletop plastic radio. It had the typical "Silver Mica Disease", but between Scott and Joe the patient was cured and left playing! Tom Lee brought in his Philco console's 42-280 chassis and speaker. He and Bob Bennett (aka Radio Wild) got it playing after a few component changeouts and an alignment.



Al Klase and Matt Reynolds

(Continued on next page)

**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.

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## President's Workbench

(Continued)

Aram Baloyan brought in a mid-1930's Emerson model R-167 wood table top radio. The 2 band radio had audio, but was not receiving signal. So "good guy" John Ruccolo, took it home to his laboratory for some more in-depth



Scott Marshall working on Joe Divito's late '60s Zenith J508

testing! Dr. Roberto Forte needed the expertise of Nevell



Nevell Greenhough working with Roberto Forte's pristine Collins KWM-2

Greenough, to decipher a very nice but complicated Collins KWM-2 communication transceiver from the early 1960's. After an in-depth study of all the schematics, testing and retesting, *one broken wire* in the cable between the transceiver and its power supply was found!



Dr. Forte's Collins KWM-2

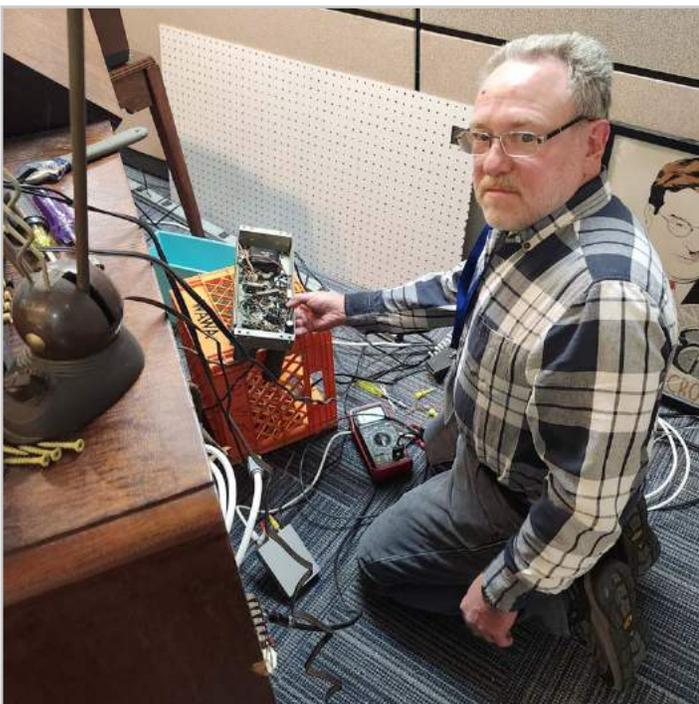
### President's Workbench (Continued)

Jim Doran and Tom Provost had fun recapping Jim's most recent JD Auction acquisitions, two very nice wood tabletop radios, a 1938 Stromberg Carlson model 320H and an Atwater Kent model 217 circa 1933. Both radios are works in progress. Paul Mondock, adjunct NJARC expert, was "shanghaied, hijacked or asked kindly" to investigate an audio problem with the RCA 648PV Projection TV in our museum. Paul found a bad electrolytic capacitor, and the audio was back playing on the TV! P.S. it was not a Dickie Kap!

Dr. Jules Bellisio had a special request to investigate a couple of classic mid-century telephones. He connected one phone to the shop's landline and it functioned but the other



Tom Provost working with Jim Doran on Jim's very nice AK 217 and Stromberg Carlson 320H



Paul Mondok working on the audio section of the RCA 648PV projection TV exhibit in our museum



Dr. Jules looking for Paul Mondok behind the 648PV

## President's Workbench (Continued)



Bob Bennett working with Tom Lee on his Philco 42-280 chassis

was a rusty mess inside and not operational.

All said and done... bagels, pizza and fellowship, it turned out to be a great rainy day!

— Richard Lee, Pres. NJARC

## Fair Radio Sales to Close after 77 Years

Matt Reynolds

Since 1947, Fair Radio Sales in Lima, Ohio has been selling “The World’s Finest Surplus” to radio hobbyists, tinkerers, and businesses running legacy equipment. They are perhaps most famously known for selling a vast selection of military surplus electronic equipment and components. Notable examples, such as TV-7 tube testers and the legendary R-390A were in their catalog for generations. No doubt many of you reading this are familiar with their catalog with the smiling globe logo talking into a microphone featured prominently.

Fair Radio’s current location is a former lumberyard. Per their website, they have over 30,000 sq ft of space, and with rows of shelves reaching towards their high ceilings, outbuildings, and former outdoor shelters where the lumber was once stored; you can imagine they have **A LOT** of stuff.

Many of you also know that I am originally from “Limaland” (as the outskirts



(Continued on next page)

## Fair Radio (Continued)



Fair Radio

and smaller communities near the city are known), so I was very fortunate to be a regular to their showroom when I lived there. I have a lot of sentiment towards the company and the time I got to spend there. I would spend hours exploring the shelves just taking in the weirdness and vastness of all I was seeing. The convenience of Fair Radio being so close to me was instrumental in getting me into the antique radio hobby. After borrowing from the local library and reading David Johnson's book *Antique Radio Restoration Guide* it became clear I would need to get parts somewhere. It was nice to be able to walk into a store and just buy the capacitors and tubes I needed to attempt my first radio. It was during one of my parts runs that I met my first radio friend, who helped teach me some of the ropes and provided some of my first pieces of basic test equipment (which he probably got from Fair Radio anyway!)

Over the years I was able to get to know some of the staff, and along with my radio friend we had "free reign" over the facility and were able to explore areas that may not have been a priority must-see for the general public. There is so much stuff in so many nooks and crannies that you get overwhelmed sometimes. As time marched on, the fluorescent ballasts lighting the warehouse would fail, and they were never replaced, making scrounging in the back even more like an adventure, as you'd need a flashlight to see anything. Every time I would visit I would notice something I didn't before, and visiting helped me to learn more and more about electronics. I saved quite a few tubes from trashed equipment that they deemed too far gone/not worth their time to cannibalize. They had so much stuff at the time that they ended up storing some of it outside, which unfortunately was subject to the elements of Ohio weather. Sometimes the tubes were all that could be saved.

With the exception of 2020 (COVID-19) I've managed to make it home to visit my family every holiday season, and pretty much every time I managed to fit in at least one trip to Fair Radio to catch up and see what new treasures I could find. It became very evident to me that my years of being a member of the NJARC continued my education in electronics/history significantly from the time I lived in Ohio, as I was able to recognize and understand more and more things on their shelves with each visit. Some items would still be in the same spot years later, but you'd also see new things that were recently acquired.

Since most of you have never been able to visit, here are a few fun pictures from some of my various visits:

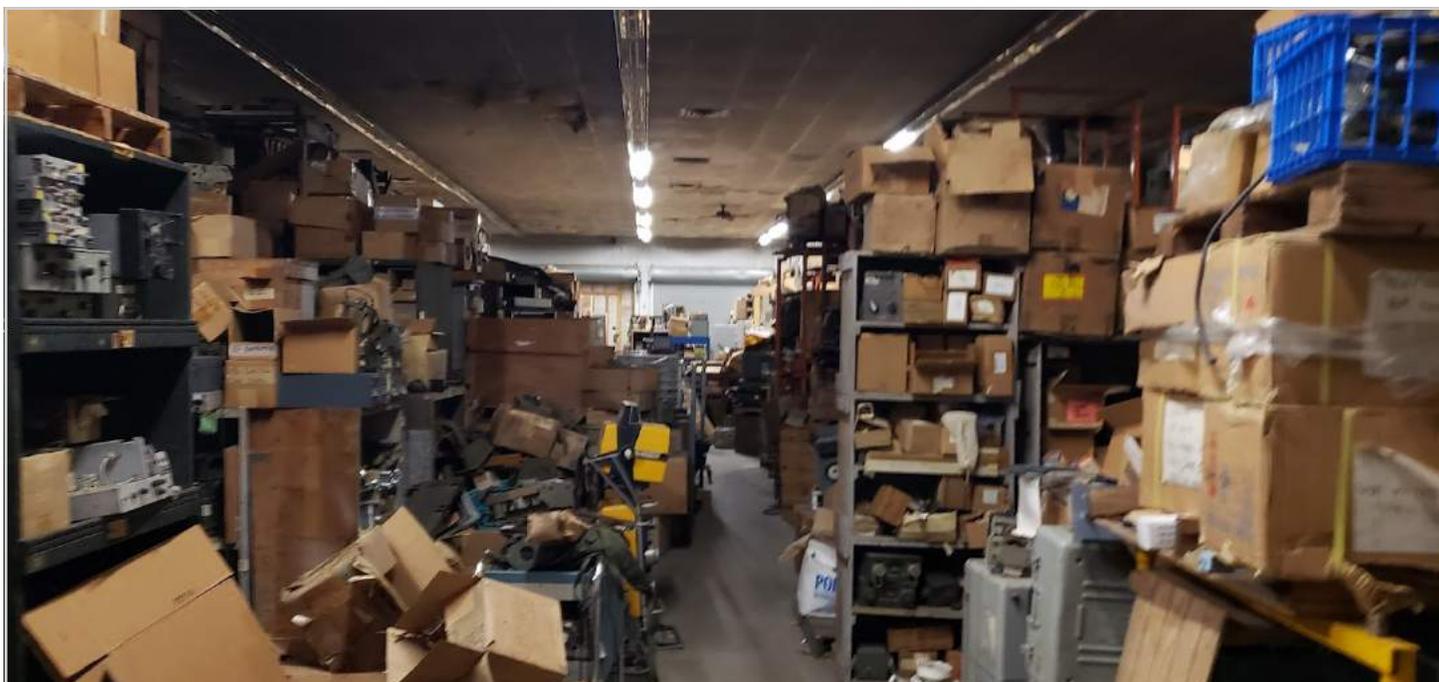


Aisle of oscilloscope plugins

**Fair Radio**  
(Continued)



One of many rows of inventoried and sorted vacuum tubes



About halfway down the center "aisle" of the warehouse. Rows of treasures to the left and right.

**Fair Radio**  
(Continued)



Selection of Civil Defense Radiological Survey Equipment.



Tube tester with Pontiac Service logo.



Case full of military crystals.

**Fair Radio**  
(Continued)



Random Military Equipment (maybe you know what it is?)



Military Minesweeper



RCA Audio Control Console

### Fair Radio (Continued)



Random Military Equipment (maybe you know what it is?)



I don't know what it is but it's (potentially) Radioactive!

Hickok 123A Military Cardmatic Tube Tester.



Collins 75A-2 Receiver.



Collins 51J Receiver.

## Fair Radio (Continued)

Unfortunately, all things must pass, and it seems that Fair Radio Sales' time is coming soon. Sometime late last year I heard the rumblings that Fair Radio was going to close by end of year. I assume that proved to be unreasonable, as they were still open when I was home last December. I am happy for this, as it gave me (at least) one last chance to visit and explore. During this visit I managed to pick up a couple things, including a very special vacuum tube tester. Look out for an article on this in the near future. There was still a vast amount of stuff available, and the owner is more motivated than ever to make a deal.

As of this writing, their website mentions that they expect to be open until May of 2024. According to the owner, Phil Sellati:

*“After being in the surplus electronic military surplus business over 50 years I have decided it's time to retire and close the business. Fair Radio Sales has over 30,000 sq ft of electronic parts and equipment that must go.*

*Over the next several months plan your visit to Fair Radio to stock up on electronic parts, equipment, manuals, vacuum tubes and one of a kind items at lower than hamfest prices. Buy an item, a pallet, or a truckload. Come and make a deal. Cash and carry.”*

After 50+ years, Phil is ready to retire, and although I will miss Fair Radio Sales, I wish him the best in his retirement. When I last spoke to him in December he mentioned that they have received many requests to stay open until at least Dayton Hamvention (May 17-19) so that those attending the show can make a side trip to see them and stock up (perhaps) one last time. It looks like that's likely to be the case (if not longer, the place is still packed!) Fair Radio Sales is just shy of 90 miles (approximately 1.5 hour drive) from the Xenia Fairgrounds where the Dayton Hamvention is now held. I highly recommend a visit if you can fit it in between now and the end of May. It's quite a sight to see.

Fair Radio's address is 2395 St Johns Rd, in Lima, OH 45804. They are open to the public from 9:00am – 5:30PM ET Monday through Friday. For more information, see <https://fairradio.com/>

## Club Benefits

Don't forget about all the great benefits that come with your membership in the New Jersey Antique Radio Club. In addition to *The Jersey Broadcaster* we have radio repair parts and service information available as well as regularly scheduled radio repair clinics and ongoing conversation among members via our email Communicator and our twice-weekly Zoom meetings.

- Capacitor Program
- Tube Program
- Schematic Program
- Sams Photofacts
- Sams Photofact Picture Guides
- YouTube Channel
- Facebook Page
- Holiday Party
- And of course our regular monthly meetings!
- Our Radio Technology Museum at InfoAge is open three days a week if you'd like to visit, and there are always opportunities to volunteer to serve as a docent.



# 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 16th, 2024



### 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](http://www.njarc.org)

or use your favorite phone app

33 Baldwin Road

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### Vendors Make Your Reservations Now!

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