



New Jersey Antique Radio Club News

Volume 1

March 1993

Number 1



The New Jersey Antique Radio Club
We're Here!

NJARC is Formed by Dave Sica

The New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC) is up and running, thanks largely to the efforts of club president, Tony Flanagan.

Tony, like most active New Jersey collectors, had been driving out of state to club meetings and swapmeets. When Tony bought his first old radio about four years ago, it immediately became an obsession. "I had gone to an antique radio show in Nashua, N.H., and knew immediately this was for me," said Flanagan.

Several months ago, Tony placed ads in some magazines and newspapers stating his intention to form a new club devoted to antique radios. Prospective members gathered July 16, 1992 at the Monmouth County Library to found what has become the New Jersey Antique Radio Club with a charter membership of 15 collectors. A formal structure of officers and committee heads was soon put into place to administer the workings of the club. Since then, the organization has quickly grown to its present membership of 60, and we're continuing to add new members at a steady rate.

This is not surprising when you consider the numbers. Antique radio collecting is not a high visibility hobby, and collectors are sometimes surprised to find out how many kindred spirits are out there. Your kindly editor had been collecting off and on for over twenty years before he chanced upon Antique Radio Classified. Since then, basement and garage storage space has become a thing of the past! ARC has grown rapidly since its humble beginnings nearly a decade ago, and now boasts a national circulation to approximately 7,500 subscribers. The Antique Wireless Association,

the oldest and most prestigious organization devoted to the preservation and understanding of radio history, has grown since its founding in 1952 to its present size of over 4,000 members. Marty Bunis, the founder of a neighboring club has been quoted as saying that they started the New England Antique Radio Club with two members, him and his wife. NEARC's membership currently stands over 800.

So we're out there, in large numbers. Who are we and what do we do? Well, we'll explore those issues in future issues of the NJARC News. Suffice to say that we come from all walks of life, and we have different "specialties" within the hobby, but we have in common a passion for collecting, restoring, buying, selling, trading or otherwise busying ourselves with old radios.

Flanagan states that "the purpose of the club is to foster camaraderie and the sharing of information. Because of the club, friendships have been made, and the technical expertise of members is enhanced. Because of this sharing of information, our members are improving their skills, or even beginning to work on repairing their own sets for the first time. While I was formerly limited to merely operating the sets, I'm now beginning to feel a little bit like a maintenance engineer!"

So, special thanks to Tony Flanagan and all the others who have worked so hard to make the New Jersey Antique Radio Club a reality. And congratulations to all of us! New Jersey finally has a full-fledged antique radio club. And if the numbers foretell anything for us, we'll be bigger and better than ever before long.

From The Board Room

Officers

President: Charles A. "Tony" Flanagan, Jr.
(908) 462-6638

Vice President: Michael Hammer
(908) 255-7865

Secretary/Treasurer: Kathleen Flanagan
(908) 462-6638

Technical Coordinator: Thomas Provost
(609) 259-7634

Sergeant-at-Arms/Steward: Don Cruse
(908) 542-2848

Newsletter Editor: David Sica
(908) 382-0618

Trustees:
Mark Mittleman
Ludwell Sibley

Organizational News

NJARC has been incorporated in the state of New Jersey as a non-profit organization. The club has qualified for tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization. Our financial health is good, with revenue from swapmeets, T-shirt sales and membership dues offsetting our expenses and providing a small amount of working capital. NJARC has also purchased an insurance policy at a cost of \$250.00 per year which provides one million dollars worth of liability coverage to the club during our monthly meetings and at our swapmeets. A committee is presently working to finalize a club Constitution and by-laws. This work is expected to be completed by April, 1993.

NJARC Tube Program by Ludwell Sibley

The Club now has an active tube-supply program. The NJARC Tube Program is designed to function both as a member service and as a club fund-raising endeavor. The idea is to make a selection of tested tubes available to members at each club meeting and swapmeet, thereby making replacements available year-round and raising funds to support the club treasury. Donations of new or used tubes are invited. We'll take anything from "new-in-the-box" to coated with mud and unidentifiable - just bring them in to a club meeting. We'll take them, clean 'em up, fix loose bases and other repairable problems, test and box them, and make them available.

The program has started off with a bang: the club has been the recipient of eight generous donations. Tube stock currently stands at 310 types. Quantities boxed and ready for sale include 386 octal/octal types, 450 miniatures, and (thanks particularly to Rick Weibezahl) 259 big-pin types. Rejects have been low, amounting to only about half a grocery bag. (We use precise measurements around NJARC!) There is a small further quantity, about 1/10 of a grocery bag, which are not good enough to offer as NJARC stock, but which can be auctioned off in bulk.

The stock is organized in three parcels:

- **Primary sale stock:** three trays of tubes in a suitcase, comprising in essence one sample of each of the most popular home-radio types. This inventory is highly portable for use at monthly meets.

- **Supplementary sale stock:** four boxes with multiple samples of each type, plus "G" versions of some types that are represented in the primary stock only in the "GT" size, plus a few large-bulb types like 6L6Gs. This collection will be used both for sale display and to restock the primary supply at meets.

- **Backup stock.**

Tubes sell for either \$1.00 or \$2.00 each, depending on type, and all proceeds benefit the club treasury.

An ongoing program like this will mean affordable tubes, available without the effort of ordering from the commercial suppliers or the delay and uncertainty of waiting for a flea market, and valuable support of the Club treasury. Our arrangement is patterned after the highly successful system run by the Mid-Atlantic club in the Washington, DC area.

From The Board Room! (continued from page 2)

Members

Club membership currently stands at 60 members. The current membership roster includes:

*Pat Bailey	*Michael Hammer	John Okolowicz
Donald J. Ball	*Ernest Hartman	Bob Olawski
Lucas Bazin	George Hennicke	*Thomas Provost
Marvin Beeferman	Edward W. Herold	*Monty Purviance
Ralph Bonamo	Norm Hertz	Larry Rubins
George Bonnano	Jeff Holz	John Ruccolo
Charles A. Breen, Sr.	Elwood Hunt	*Norm Sandbach
Richard Brill	W.R. Johnson	Lew Seto
Joseph Burke	John Kara	Ludwell Sibley
Joe Butterfield	Gene Katz	*Dave Sica
Bob Chemelli	Bill Kehoe	*Steve Sideroff
*Donald Cruse	Joseph W. Kouten, Jr.	*Jerry Simkin
*Gary D'Amico	Steve Kramer	Bob Taplinger
Hugh Davey	Joseph Loubriel	John V. Terrey W5DTQ
Bob Dennison W2HBE	Robert Lynn	James Troe
Frank Feczko	Alan MacDonald	John Trosky
Mike Feher	Joe Milano	Phil Vourtsis
James Fisher	Bruce Mittleman	*Rick Weibezahl
*Tony Flanagan	*Mark Mittleman	James & Ruth Whartenby
*Kathleen Flanagan	Michael Molnar	Dennis Willard

* Charter members

Meeting Review

by Dave Sica

February Meeting: "Veneer"

Our second snowy meeting date in a row did not chill the enthusiasm of NJARC members, with a sizable group gathering at the Freehold Elks club to hear Martin Dinburg speak and see a live demonstration of master woodworking and veneering techniques.

Mr. Dinburg brought along woodworking and veneering supplies and tools, and a "basket case" radio cabinet supplied by Tony Flanagan for a demonstration. "It's a skill that you develop an instinctive feel for after doing it long enough" stated Dinburg, regarding the proper application of veneer to cabinet surfaces. But he also stressed that with the right tools and techniques and the proper materials, even the lay person can expect to achieve reasonable results on simple repair jobs.

"Don't rush it!" cautioned Dinburg. The biggest single factor in achieving a successful woodworking restoration is to take your time and work slowly and carefully, planning your work, fitting pieces carefully and allowing enough time for glue to dry thoroughly before proceeding to the next step.

While the audience watched, Mr. Dinburg took the radio cabinet, to which he had previously glued a piece of veneer, and trimmed the edge cleanly. He then applied another piece of veneer against the first, to form a nearly continuous surface, and touched up the small joint with filler so that it was virtually invisible. The second piece of veneer was applied across the curved face of the radio, a task I would have found daunting, but which was accomplished with little evident fuss. In fact, the whole procedure, including trimming the edges of the second piece, was made to look remarkably simple and took little over half-an-hour.

A number of tips were offered to the audience. Although white (i.e. "Elmers") or yellow (wood) glue will perform adequately, Mr. Dinburg prefers the white glue, which dries clear, minimizing the effect of any glue residue on the appearance of the repair. He uses a small paintbrush to brush the glue out thoroughly on the substrate to be veneered, never applying glue to the veneer itself. Also, in cases where the old wood is dry and "thirsty", he advised to brush on a thin, watered-down skim coat of glue onto the wood and allowing it to dry before applying the glue which will hold the veneer. This keeps the next coat of glue from soaking into the substrate before a good bond can be formed with the veneer.

A useful trick, new to this restorer, was the use of masking tape to hold veneer onto curved surfaces. Wrapping the veneer tightly around the curve and then stretching a piece of masking tape across the veneer to hold it tightly in place works as well in many cases well in many cases as using complicated veneering clamps.

Club members were also cautioned to use 80-grit sandpaper on a sanding block rather than a knife to trim edges of veneer. Because of the grain structure of many veneers, a knife blade will tend to follow the grain rather than cutting a perfectly straight line. The sandpaper avoids this problem. Even though veneer is thin and cuts easily, a cabinetmaker's saw or a veneer saw are always preferable to a knife for general cutting or trimming. Dinburg also used ordinary scissors to cut roughly-sized pieces of veneer from sheets.

There are two types of filler useful in antique radio cabinet work. One is standard "wood dough" type of wood filler, good for filling cracks and joints. Untinted works best, taking its color from your finish. The other type of filler is a grain filler, used for filling in the pores of raw wood prior to applying the surface finish.

For finishing work, #80 (medium) sandpaper serves to knock off any high spots or dried blue. This should be followed by #220 (fine) to achieve a smooth surface, always sanding with the grain. Tri-M-It non-clogging sandpaper was recommended and used for the demonstration.

Martin R. Dinburg specializes in antique woodwork restoration and can be reached at (908) 308-1030.

Publicity

Club President Tony Flanagan, and club member Dave Sica were interviewed by the Star Ledger for a feature story which appeared in the March 18 edition.

Articles about NJARC have appeared recently in the Asbury Park Press, the News-Transcript (a Monmouth and Middlesex county weekly), the New Brunswick Home News, and The International Police Association's monthly newspaper, which is distributed worldwide!

NJARC vice president Mike Hammer was interviewed on February 16th on Monmouth Cable. Thanks to Mike for taking the time to help promote the club!

NJARC members Tony Flanagan, Mark Mittelman and Dave Sica recently appeared on Monmouth County cable TV to promote the club. If you missed the show and would like to see it, copies of the NJARC presentation on the "Hobbyland" program are available to club members on video tape at cost.

Swapmeets by Tony Flanagan

First NJARC Swapmeet Fall, 1993

NJARC's first swapmeet a.k.a. antique radio flea market was held on Saturday, October 10, 1992 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4374 in Freehold. For a first effort, the event could only be considered a major success. Although rain threatened the event for the entire day prior, and road construction blocked access to the site, over 25 vendors and 250 to 300 attendees made their appearance.

Numerous pieces of equipment and parts changed hands during the event as collectors from all over the area converged on the premiere of what is planned to be a continuing series of high quality swapmeets. The swapmeets are a source of operating revenue for the club, and NJARC collects 10 percent of the sale price for each item sold, up to a maximum of \$3.00.

Highlights of the event included a surprise visit from several non-local vendors, from as far away as Queens, and attendees from MAARC. "Everybody chipped in and helped make this meet a success" stated President Flanagan. "I particularly appreciated the efforts by Don Cruse and Mark Mittleman in helping to make this event a success."

Meeting Notices

NJARC meets on the second Friday of each month. Meetings are currently held at the Grace Lutheran Church in Freehold. Grace Church is at the corner of Main street and Route #33. Meeting announcements are mailed to all members in advance of each meeting. The meeting announcement contains current information about the date, time and location of the meeting, with directions, as well as information about the feature presentation of the evening. A mini-swapmeet is held after each meeting. Members are encouraged to bring items for sale to the meetings. The club receives 10% of the sale price for all items sold, up to a maximum of \$3.00 per item.

Y Route 33

The New Jersey Antique Radio Club News is published monthly, on a volunteer basis, by and for members of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club. The New Jersey Antique Radio Club News is a benefit of membership in the New Jersey Antique Radio Club and is distributed free of charge to club members. NJARC can not be responsible for transactions between buyers and sellers advertising in the newsletter. Submission of articles by members is encouraged. Dave Sica, Editor (908) 382-0618

Spring Swapmeet

Our first swapmeet of 1993 will be held at the Hightstown Country Club on March 20. Hours are from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Vendor setup begins at 7:00 AM. Vendors will be displaying a wide variety of collectible old-time radios - console, table-model, Bakelite, transistor - accompanied by literature and parts. food will be available. Free parking. We're expecting vendors and attendees from as far away as Columbia, Ohio, Schenectady, NY and from various points in Pennsylvania. Everyone is invited!

The Hightstown Country Club is located near Exit 8 of the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 33. From the Turnpike, go east on Route 33 approximately 200 yards (beyond Mom's Peppermill restaurant); continue 1/4 mile to the first jughandle and go west. At the first traffic light, take Monmouth Street 300 yards to the Country Club on the left.

Pre-registration is required for all sellers: members. Rates are \$12 per table for NJARC members; \$15 for non-members. For out-of-area visitors, accommodations are available at the Town House Motel on Route 33 at special rates - mention the NJARC meet. Telephone numbers of the Town House are (609) 448-2400 within New Jersey, and (800) 922-0622 out of state. Ramada Inn and Days Inn motel accommodations are also nearby.

NJARC will host two other swapmeets in 1993, one in July and the other some time in the fall. For additional information, contact John Ruccolo at (609) 426-4568. We're looking forward to seeing you there!..

A Grand Stroke of Luck!

Like many collectors Don Cruse must have dreamed about lucking into a real treasure, perhaps obtaining a Radiola Grand for five dollars, or some similar lucky break.

Don, however, did it up even better and lucked into a real "grand", by winning a thousand dollars during the February meeting. And of course, he did the only sensible thing with his winnings... he went out and bought an new old radio!

Meeting Review

by Dave Sica

January Meeting: "Tubeware"

Despite a fairly heavy snowfall, attendance was good at the January meeting. Most of the members in attendance that evening probably had some experience in hardware restoration techniques, but how many of us knew that tubes can sometimes also be restored?

"Restoration of Tubeware" was the featured presentation at the January meeting. NJARC member Ludwell Sibley (who's also an active member of the AWA and editor of the AWA Review and the AWA Old Timer's Bulletin) gave the club a fascinating and informative presentation on tips and techniques for restoring old tubes.

From pin-straightening to proper cleaning procedures, dealing with loose sockets and loose or missing grid caps, all bases were covered in this comprehensive talk. Sibley interspersed fascinating information about tube type identification, including a story about the how the MG, or "Metal" glass tubes came to be, and of the "M-R" tubes, to be used for maintenance and repair only, during the war.

Regarding the common problem of missing tube identification numbers, Sibley instructed the audience to simply "use their heads". As strange as it sounds, a brisk rubbing of the tube on you head transfers a sheen of hair oil to the tube which usually makes the old numbers on the glass visible again.

Tube testing was covered, with the recommendation that the more sophisticated "transconductance" type tube testers are more reliable indicators of a tubes functionality than the more common "emission" testers. Transconductance testers measure the actual ability of a tube to amplify a signal, while emission testers only measure the quantity of electrons emitted from the cathode.

Contrary to popular belief, some actual "repairs" are possible to old tubes. An "open filament" can sometimes be cured simply by resoldering the pins at the base of the tube. Apparently, bad solder joints are not uncommon, and age and corrosion can cause the filament leads to develop a high resistance at the pin. Re-soldering restores the connection and the "open" filament is good again. Inter-electrode shorts can sometimes be cured by the not-so-elegant, but frequently effective method of rapping the tube against the surface of the workbench(!). Apparently, the thousands of heating and cooling cycles to which the tube may have been subjected can cause bits of material to flake off. This material can sometimes lodge in the tube in a way which

causes a "short", and tapping it loose in this manner causes it to fall to the bottom of the tube where it can cause no harm. For octal tubes with broken keys, a common problem, the solution is simple: just epoxy a new key taken from the box of spare parts you keep handy for the occasion! Also in this box, are the spare grid caps you keep to replace missing pieces on good tubes.

Slightly more exotic repairs are also possible. Brass bases which have split can be repaired by carefully removing them from the tube, then clamping with hose clamps and soldering the split closed. "Rejuvenating" a worn-out (but not burned-out!) tube is a time-honored technique. Sibley offered tips on successful rejuvenation to improve tubes with low emission, along with specific instructions for voltages and times which have proven successful.

Finally, substitution of different types of tubes for scarce or costly tubes was covered. Tips included instructions on swapping tube bases to allow installation of the substitute tube of proper electrical characteristics directly into the existing tube socket.

Having usable tubes in inventory is no use at all if they cannot be located when needed. The group was informed that tubes should be stored in tube boxes with the tube type written on the box. Tube boxes can be purchased inexpensively from a variety of sources, or old tube boxes can be reused, with the old numbers covered over with typist's correction paper, and the new number written in.

With the tips and techniques covered, collectors can perhaps save a few "defective" tubes to provide useful service for a bit longer, keep their tubes in good condition, properly identified and ready to bring life back to the next old radio brought home.

Other Clubs and Resources

AWA. The Antique Wireless Association can be contacted by writing to Joyce Peckham, Secretary, AWA, Box E, Breesport, NY 14816.

ARC. Antique Radio Classified can be reached by telephone at (508) 371-0512. John V. Terry, Editor, One River Road, P.O. Box 2, Carlisle, MA 01741

MAARC. The Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club, Roy Morgan, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 1362, Washington Grove, MD 20880

Membership Benefits

- Monthly Meetings
- Technical Seminars
- Swap Meets
- NJARC News
- Free Buy/Sell Classified Ads
- Tube Program
- Tube Testing
- Informal Networking with local collectors.

Monthly Meetings. Collectors in the New Jersey area finally have an opportunity to get together with other collectors on a regular basis to keep abreast on what's happening in the field.

Technical Seminars. Featured presentations at the monthly meetings focus on various issues related to collecting antique radios. At our past meetings, we've covered topics from Woodworking & Veneer Repairs to Tube Testing, Rejuvenation & Repair..

Swap Meets. Held 3 times annually, the NJARC Swap Meets have quickly become the most eagerly awaited events of the year. Vendors from near and far gather to offer a rich and varied assortment of radios and related items for sale.

NJARC News. The club newsletter serves to keep members informed about club events, providing notice of upcoming events, reviews of past events and other club-related information. The newsletter also serves as a forum for member interaction and offers free classified ads to members and non-members alike for the purposes of buying, selling or trading radio-related items.

Tube Program. The club offers tested, cleaned and boxed tubes to members at bargain rates. Tubes are available at each meeting, and all proceeds benefit NJARC.

Tube Testing. Members can bring tubes to any meeting for free testing on a high quality tube tester.

Networking. For too long, New Jersey collectors operated in isolation, or in small, informal networks of a few collectors. Collectors have an opportunity to get together with those of like interests to share tips, techniques and "war stories" and socializing. NJARC offers the opportunity for collectors from all over the area to share their expertise and their experiences.

Club T-shirts Now Available

Club T-Shirts are now available. The shirts have the NJARC logo printed on the front and say "New Jersey Antique Radio Club" boldly on the back. The shirts are high-quality material and should last a long time without fading or shrinking. T-Shirts are available at every meeting for \$12.00 each. Club jackets and caps are also available.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: Precision Tube Tester, Model 920 w/manual. \$50.00. Tom Provost (609) 259-7034

FOR SALE: RCA Model 100 speaker, \$40.00. Tony Flanagan (908) 462-6638

FOR SALE: The *AWA Review* vols. 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7 are available at NJARC meetings at the special discount "conference" price (\$10.00 each). Also, back issues of the *AWA Old Timer's Bulletin* can be purchased at the conference price (\$2.00 each).

FOR SALE: Atwater Kent F-4 speaker, \$45.00. Tony Flanagan (908) 462-6638

WANTED: Schematic or manual-to-copy for Navy RBB and/or RBM receiver. Ludwell Sibley (908) 782-4804

FOR SALE: RCA Radiola 18, \$45.00. Tony Flanagan (908) 462-6638

WANTED: Long Wave receivers: National, RBL, etc. Tom Provost (609) 259-7634

FOR SALE: Farrand Junior speaker, \$35.00. Tony Flanagan (908) 462-6638

WANTED: Cathedral, RCA R-8, in good shape and reasonably priced. Frank Feczko, 37 E. 36th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002 (201) 437-6895

FOR SALE: Radio Matic (early 1940's), \$15.00. Tony Flanagan (908) 462-6638

WANTED: Triode Tube Amps that may be HiFi, using 2A3 or 50 tubes (i.e. Summit Sound RA15, Mills Novelty MCP5500, even homemade amps and parts units). Have tubes and equipment to swap, or will purchase for cash. Larry Rubins (609) 426-9744

FOR SALE: Atwater Kent model 44 \$40.00. Tony Flanagan (908) 462-6638

WANTED: Atwater Kent Model 55. Prefer very good condition, will consider any condition. Dave Sica, 1459 St. Georges Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (908) 382-0618.

FOR SALE: RCA speakers, model 100-A, several. \$25.00 each. Tony Flanagan (908) 462-6638

FOR SALE: Radiola 26 Parts. Cabinets, catacombs (w/o tube cover), parts, antenna, doors, etc. Mark Mittleman, 715-7 Zlotkin Circle, Freehold, NJ 07728 (908) 431-1324.

WANTED: AK55 Second RF coil. Gary D'Amico (908) 526-7640.

WANTED: Plastic dial cover and telescopic antenna for Zenith Trans-Oceanic 8G005. Tom Provost (609) 259-7634

WANTED: Rider's Manuals Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 16-23. Tom Provost (609) 259-7634

FOR SALE: Hallicrafters model S-40B, \$45.00. Tony Flanagan (908) 462-6638



New Jersey
Antique Radio Club
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Our Premiere Issue!

Inside:

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- The Story of NJARC
- "For Sale" and "Wanted"
- Classified Ads

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