

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

August 2002

Volume 8 Issue 8



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Mary Beeferman

The David Sarnoff Library hosted our July meeting with over 50 members in attendance. A motion was made from the floor and seconded that the Sarnoff Library remain as our permanent meeting place but it was defeated by a vote of the Board. Therefore, **our next meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall in East Brunswick**. However, some of the Board members felt that this new location should be considered only on a trial basis with the Sarnoff Library still remaining as a viable option should the Legion Hall not work out. Detailed directions (courtesy of Marty Friedman) and a map are provided in this month's *Broadcaster*.

Following an update by President Phil Vourtsis on the Old Towne exhibit and progress in organizing the National Broadcaster's Hall of Fame for InfoAge, the club was treated to a video of John Dilks' appearance on a local cable show featuring antiques and collectibles. In a situation where most of us would probably be shaking in our boots, John remained poised and cool and helped keep his host focused while taking his TV audience on a well-guided tour of broadcast and amateur radio history. John illustrated his talk with some great examples from his collection; two that really impressed your editor were an early Halli-crafter receiver (one of only 5 known to exist) and a medal and badge from the first national amateur radio convention held in 1921.

Our show-and-tell session lived up to expectations again with an appealing diversity of exhibits:

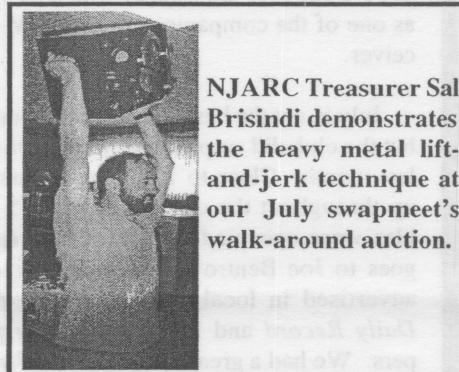
- Joe O'Neill showed a nicely restored three-dialer made by the Receptor Radio Corp. of Philadelphia. The chassis was

MEETING NOTICE

*******IMPORTANT! NEW LOCATION*******

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, August 9th at the American Legion Hall, 17 Emerson St. in East Brunswick NJ. Detailed directions are provided in this month's *Broadcaster*. The program for this month's meeting has not been firmed up yet but I'm sure you'll find it informative and entertaining. Start putting those final touches on your homebrew radio; contest judging will take place at the September meeting. Please direct any last minute questions to Technical Coordinator Al Klase (see the insert on the next page).

found at a flea market with 5 good 01A's and later mated with its cabinet which turned up at another flea market. What was interesting about this radio was that John Dilks used it as one of his 1920's radio examples in the video we viewed earlier.



NJARC Treasurer Sal Brisindhi demonstrates the heavy metal lift-and-jerk technique at our July swapmeet's walk-around auction.

cluding two "Raj" crystal set kits, an RCA and Emerson white bakelite radio, a Zenith 5R135 and a model E Atwater Kent speaker.

- The Texas chapter of the NJARC in the form of Jon Butz Fiscina made a surprise appearance. Jon said there isn't much of a selection of radio buys in the Lone Star State but he did show a fairly common Watterson radio manufactured in Dallas. Unfortunately, this line does not show up in Riders. Jon also displayed a Philco 610 (to be displayed at the Northlands doll and train museum in New Jersey), a few transistor sets and a Blonder-Tongue A-1B hi-fi audio amplifier. Fortunately, one of its designers, NJARC member Ben Tongue, was at the meeting to comment on some of the design features of the unit and the similarity of its circuit design to the sought-after BT "audio baton" graphic equalizer. Ben said that an FM radio case was used as an enclosure and the A1B offered improvements over the earlier A1 with regard to a) a higher B+ for more output with less distortion, b) negative bias on the tube heaters to reduce hum, c) better filtering, d) an improved transformer design for better speaker impedance matches, and e) an "anti-click" circuit for crystal-to-magnetic cartridge changeover.
- What does one naturally display at a show-and-tell at the David Sarnoff library? Award pins with the RCA logo of course...courtesy of Dave Snellman.
- Richard Lee says "there are still bargains

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 \$15 per year and meetings are held the second Friday of each month.

The Editor or NJARC is not liable for any other use of the contents of this publication.

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out there" as exemplified by his lucite encased nuvistor (25 cents) and radio-related stamps (\$10).

• Darren Hoffman showed a Sylvania RM-90 AM/FM hi-fi table radio which he believes rivals the sound and sensitivity of the KLH but not the price; he found it at a garage sale for \$10 in perfect working condition.

• Steve Goulart's example of the 1944 Wartime Civilian Receiver (Utility Set) is detailed in Jonathan Hill's *Radio! Radio!*. It is described as "an efficient but very basic, single waveband receiver covering the medium-waves only and its rather austere appearance echoed the fact that it had been designed to be produced with the minimum of raw materials and labour." The radio was produced by over 40 British manufacturers and the dial was marked "Home" and "Forces" (for Home Service and General Forces programs) although the single band circuit was capable of picking up foreign stations including those in Germany.

• When you discuss "heavy metal" with Robert Flory, don't be surprised that the conversation doesn't center on music. More likely, he'll be talking about his CAY-52239 HF transmitter which he uses as one of the companions to his RBM receiver.

July is not the best time for a swapmeet but the club did surprisingly well in Dover last month. Close to 175 buyers showed up throughout the day and nearly 35 tables were occupied. A lot of the credit goes to Joe Bentrovato who extensively advertised in local papers such as *The Daily Record* and local community papers. We had a great early turnout of volunteers and were pleasantly surprised to find that most of the tables were already set up. A special thanks goes to Richard Lee for posting signs at critical intersections, Marty Friedman for manning the club table and Sal Brisindini for collecting table payments. Gary D'Amico, Dave Snellman, Mario Volpe, Phil Vourtsis and Walt Jacobson also pitched in to help with setup, cleanup and relieving the club table and snack area. Thanks also to Harry Mayo of Princeton and club members for their donations of sale items.

Following the meet, some 15 people were treated to Joe and Carolina Bentrovato's hospitality and viewed their fabulous radio collection, enjoying a mouth-

watering barbecue at the same time. Pictures document this wonderful day in this month's *Broadcaster*.

We recently received an e-mail from InfoAge director Fred Carl that a Mr. Thomas Salisbury was interested in donating a Hazeltine radio to the IEEE history center and Fred is attempting to make it part of the NBHF collection. What is significant about this radio is that it was gifted by Professor Hazeltine himself to his school. We hope Fred is successful, agreeing that "it would be in good company with other excellent radio era artifacts" and "there could be no more appropriate place for a historic radio than the old Marconi Belmar Station."

Fred also met with a contingent from the Pentagon regarding the sewer issue and some resolution (favorable or unfavorable) is expected in a few weeks. Ray Chase hopes to see locks and alarms in cottage #2 soon; he has impressed on the InfoAge steering committee that gaining access to the cottage was vital to a lot of work getting started and that NJARC was poised ready to get going in earnest. The first stage will involve working on the cottage itself, moving equipment, organizing and storing equipment and paper and finally starting to arrange for a display.

The Old Towne radio exhibit sponsored by NJARC should be ready by the time you receive this *Broadcaster*. Ray Chase has done a lot of work supporting this project and the first lecture is scheduled for Sept. 18th at 7:00 PM. The repair session is set for the 21st and the second lecture is set for Oct. 20th.

NJARC Lisa Starnes titles the following short story "The Radio Gods Shineth Upon Thee." The parents of a secretary in Lisa's office were going to throw away a radio but the secretary remembered that Lisa was a collector. Lisa now owns a Fada 53 with no cracks, chips or melts. If you're not familiar with this model, perhaps this would help...she would like any tips on cleaning Catalin. I have a picture but black and white wouldn't do it justice. Perhaps Lisa would allow it posted on our web site?

A short note in closing...the home-brew radio contest will take place at the September meeting so there's only about a month left to get your entry in shape. Contact Al Klase if you have any last minute questions.

**Directions to NJARC Meeting
American Legion Hall - 17 Emerson St. East Brunswick, NJ 08816**

From North Jersey, Staten Island, or Northwest NJ

Take rt. 440 or rt. 22, 78, to rt. 287 to NJ Turnpike or take Garden State Parkway exit 129 to NJ Turnpike. Go south on Turnpike to exit #9 and follow directions below from NJ Turnpike.

From Trenton / Camden Area

Take NJ Turnpike north to exit 9, and follow directions below from NJ Turnpike.

From NJ Turnpike

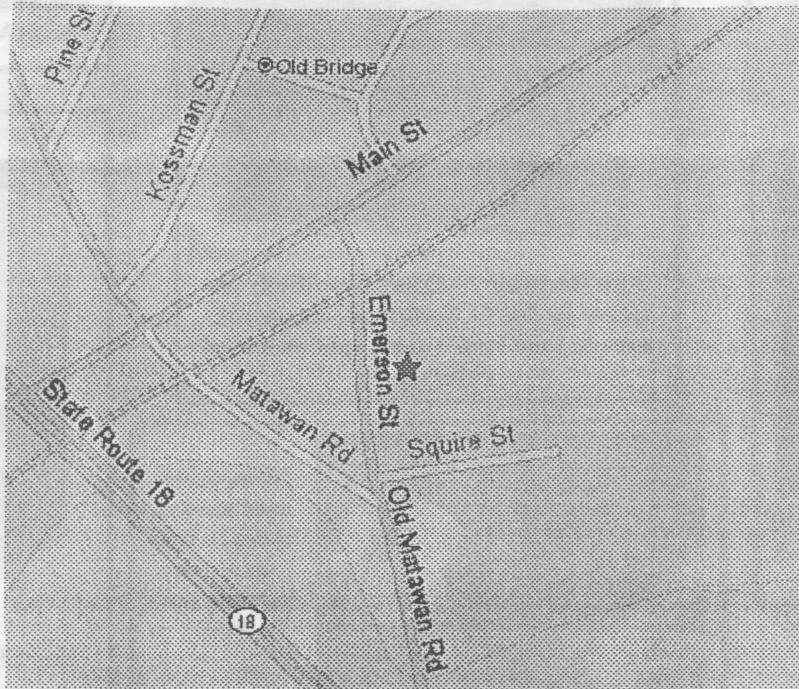
Take exit #9 (New Brunswick) and bear left out of toll booth to get on route 18 south (East Brunswick). Proceed on Rt. 18 for approx 5 miles. After passing the Brunswick Square Mall (JC Penny, Barnes and Noble, Macys and Olive Garden), you will go down a large hill. Pass Open Road Acura / Honda and Seville diner and light at Hillsdale Place. After this light, the right lane becomes your exit lane for rt. 527, Main Street, Amboys, Spotswood. Take the ramp to the bottom and turn left to go under rt.18. Turn right at the first light (Old Bridge Turnpike / Old Matawan Rd). The hall is on your left as soon as you cross the railroad tracks.

From Rts. 9 and 18 in Old Bridge

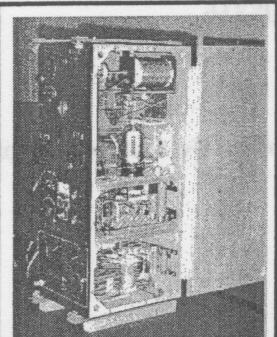
Take rt.18 north approx 4 miles. After going under a pedestrian footbridge you will go up a large hill. Take the exit on the hill for rt 527 south, / Main St / Old Bridge Turnpike. Follow ramp to the bottom of the hill, pass thru the light and cross the railroad tracks. The hall is immediately on your left.

From South NJ Shore Area

Take Parkway north to exit 98 (rt.195 / 138 /34). Follow signs for rt. 34 north. Take rt. 34 thru the EARLE military facility to rt.18 north. Drive approx 8 miles to pass route 9. Then follow directions "From rts. 9 and 18 in Old Bridge."



SHOW-AND-TELL



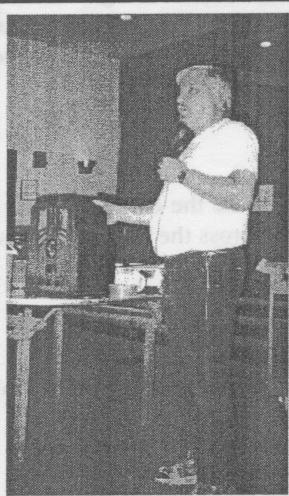
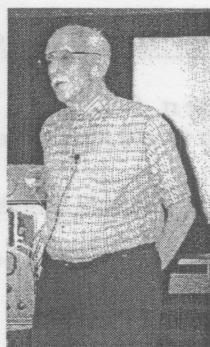
Robert Flory's CAY-52239 HF transmitter.



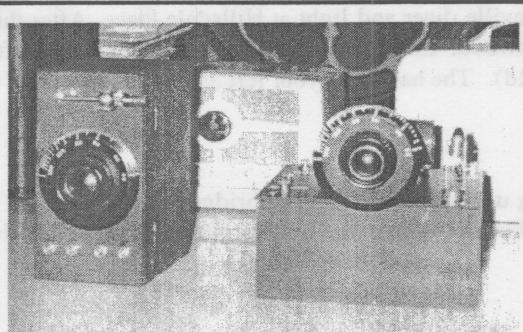
Darren Hoffman's KLH clone; a great sounding Sylvania RM-90 AM/FM table radio.



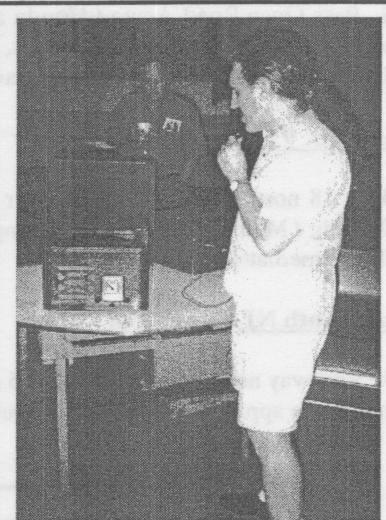
Ben Tongue talks about the fine points of the Blonder-Tongue A-1B hi-fi audio amplifier.



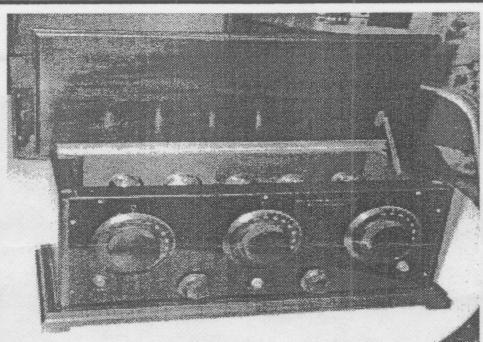
Our Texas connection, Jon Butz Fiscina, describes a Philco 610.



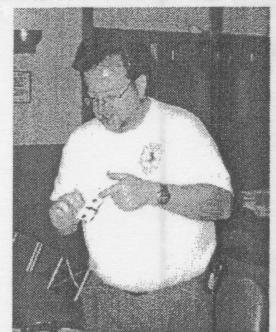
Sal Brisindi's crystal sets made from a kit.



Scott Marshall's 1941 Detrola.



This Receptor 3-dialer, beautifully restored by Joe O'Neill, made an appearance in John Dilk's guest spot on a local cable show.



Dave Snellman shows off some pins with the RCA logo.



Something nice always seems to turn up at our monthly auction.



Ray Chase's radar calibrator.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

By Dave Snellman

Well, summer is here and many of us as radio collectors are facing the aspect of vacation with the family or some significant others who may not be as interested in radio collecting as we are. They may not understand why we want to vacation just outside of Rochester, NY at the end of August! Or why we would ever want to go to Elgin, IL? Or why our idea of touring the Pennsylvania Dutch country is a trip to Renningers in Kutztown in June or September.

Many collectors find themselves going through withdrawal on these annual sojourns. So I'd like to give you some suggestions of how to take your hobby with you without incurring the wrath of those near and dear.

Over the past couple of years I've found a number of books that have been written that chronicle many aspects of our hobby. No, I don't mean taking along various radio "picture" books – although there are many fine ones out there. I've discovered a number of good books that have been written to trace the development of radio, TV, radar, electronics, computer and the telegraph that are well worth any collector's time. (And you won't look "geek-ish" as you read them; most people will simply think you're reading a novel.)

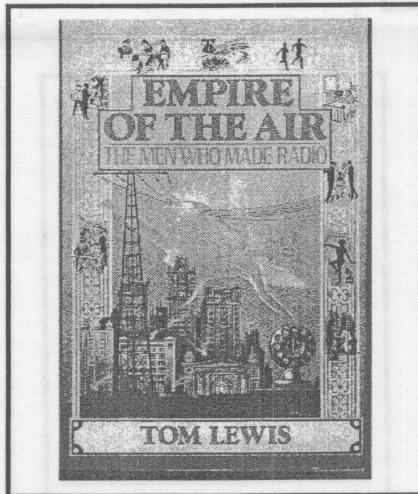
Here's a brief listing of great reading material for those "dog days" of summer, whether you're on vacation and away from your radios or maybe it's just too hot to fire up those treasured multi-tube wonders.

One of the tops on my list is *Empire of the Air*, by Tom Lewis. This is the book the PBS documentary of the same name was based upon. In a nutshell, it traces the lives of Lee deForest, Edwin Howard Armstrong, and David Sarnoff. Sometime it reads like a history book, sometimes like a book on patent law – none-the-less, an important work. Read it even if you've seen the PBS show. Most libraries will have this book.

On the slightly obscure side, this one may be difficult to find. *Man of High Fidelity, Edwin Howard Armstrong*, by

Lawrence Lessing. Published by Lippincott in 1959 and later in paperback by Bantam in 1969, you may not find this one at your local bookstore. (I found a paperback copy while visiting a used bookstore on South Street in Philadelphia for \$0.50, while I was entertaining a friend who had no interest in radios, but liked books.) This expands on Lewis' look at Armstrong's life and his work. It's really a good read.

Crystal Fire, by Michael Riordan and Lillian Hoddeson. This book traces the



lives of Bardeen, Brattain and Shockley, the three men responsible for the development of the transistor. Part history, part textbook and part "soap opera," it traces the development of the transistor and its offspring and the impact that it made on our lives. You'll even find a transistor radio or two in here. You should be able to find this at your local library or bookstore. InfoAge fans may have already read, or at least seen it posted on the InfoAge website.

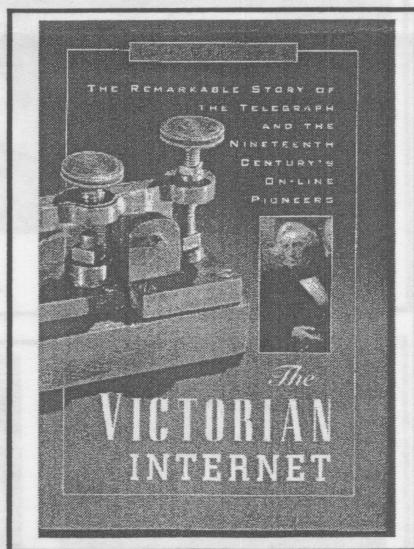
Another book that is not directly related to radio is *The Invention that Changed the World*, by Robert Buderi. This book looks into the development of radar from just prior to World War II, through the war years and beyond. It also documents some of the offshoots that radar gave to us. Microwave ovens, MRI's, the SAGE computer system and more are in this book. With all the hype about Pearl Harbor, you

can read about the radar that was in place there. This book reads like a Tom Clancy novel at times; however, it's all true! Again, check your library or bookstore. I didn't want to put this one down! Again, InfoAge recommends this one. I learned about the book from Fred Carl at InfoAge.

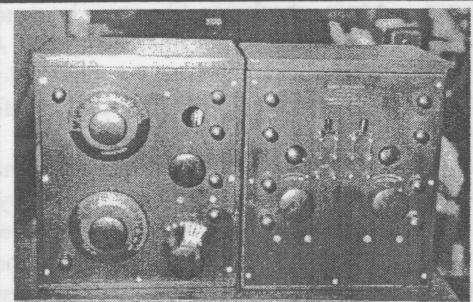
Before radio and computers we had the telegraph. *The Victorian Internet*, by Tom Standage takes you back one hundred and fifty plus years to the invention of the telegraph and how it grew in use in such a short period of time. It traces telegraph networks and how information was routed around the world via the many interconnected telegraph exchanges. If some of this sounds like the Internet in the 1990's – your correct; hence the title. A great summer read.

Why would a radio collector want to read a book about computers? Well this is no "how to" or "dummies" book, this is *ENIAC*, by Scott McCartney. It's the story of ENIAC, the first digital computer. If that doesn't grab you, it's also of local interest. ENIAC was a Philly invention, U of P to be exact. Also, the thing had 18,000 tubes! That ought to get any collector's attention.

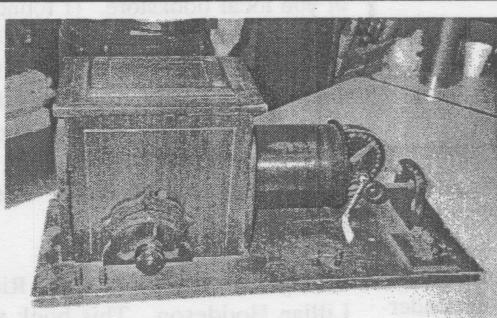
Well, that's a start. I'm certain there are other favorites of fellow collector's out there. Perhaps you can add to the list. I am always looking for a good book to read. Happy vacationing and good reading.



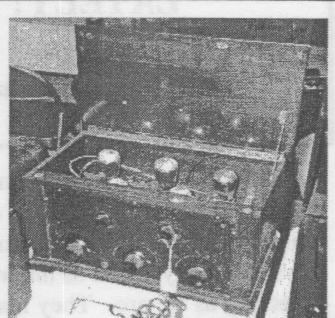
JULY SWAPMEET



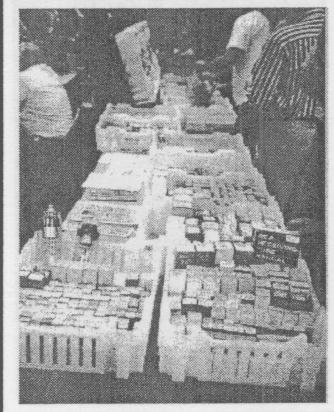
One of the few early sets that made an appearance - a Clapp Eastman receiver and amplifier.



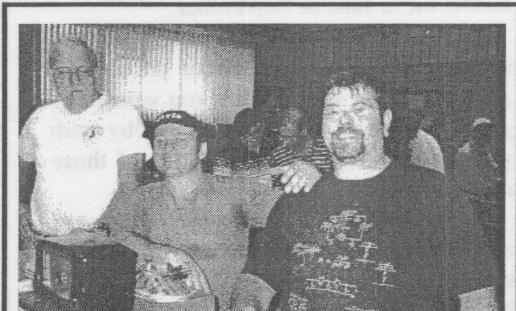
An early homebrew tuner and DeForest F-5 offered by Bruce Mager of Waves



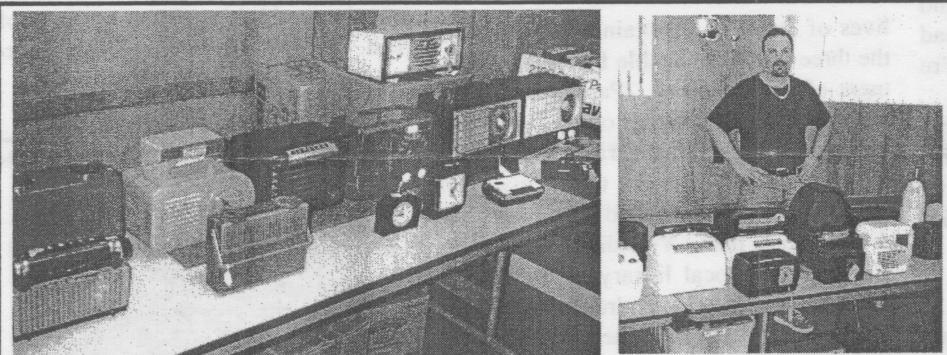
Marty Friedman keeps things organized at the club table.



Do we have tubes?



Glad to be here.



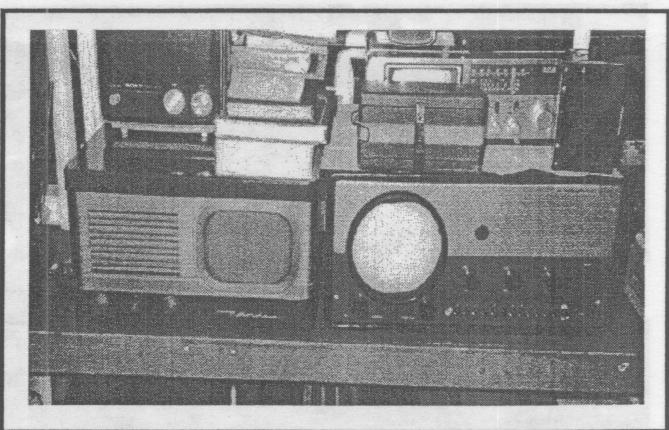
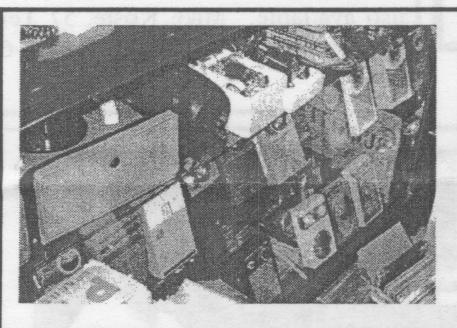
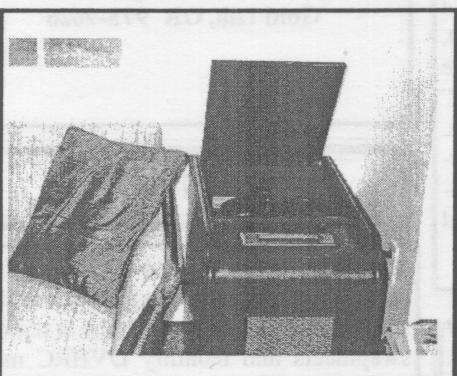
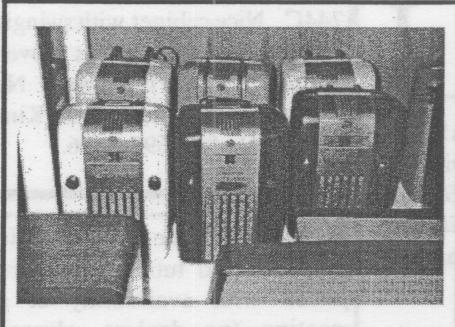
Any plastics?



Guitars anyone?



Great buys and a little kibitzing...a nice combination for a walk-around auction à la Richard Lee and Sal Brisindi.



CONNECTIONS

Free exposure for buyers and sellers! Unless requested otherwise, each ad will run for two months in both the *Jersey Broadcaster* and the *Delaware Valley Oscillator*. All buying and selling transactions are the responsibility of the parties involved.

FOR SALE

Check out NJARC's capacitor program for those most commonly needed replacements. Contact John Ruccolo at any club meeting or call him at home (609)-426-4568 to find out what's available. All proceeds go to the club.

For trade only...repair clinics, savings on swapmeet tables, tubes and capacitors, 12 issues of this year's Broadcaster, mini-auctions, technical presentations, contests, parties, fellowship of sharing a common interest with friends...\$15 check made out to NJARC. Marsha Simkin, 33 Lakeland Drive, Barnegat, NJ 08005

From non-member: Radiola 18 in an upright floor model Victrola cabinet, AR-744C. Nice cabinet with swinging doors, record player (electric) is above the radio but the turntable is missing. No reasonable offer refused. Mr. Kim Huron, Nutley, NJ. 973-697-8506.

The NJARC tube program offers clean, tested, boxed tubes at very reasonable prices with availability at any club meeting (no dealers, please...not for resale). Proceeds go to the club. Of course, donations of radio-type tubes in any condition are welcome. See Gary D'Amico at the next meeting.

New index to AWA publications (*Old Timer's Bulletin*, *AWA Review*, misc.), 1960 through Aug. 1999. Formatted like the earlier version but with new "Author" section. Has 63 pages, 8-1/2" X 11" size. Gives 7000+ citations. \$12 postpaid anywhere. Make check/MO payable to: Ludwell Sibley, 102 McDonough Rd., Gold Hill, OR 97525.

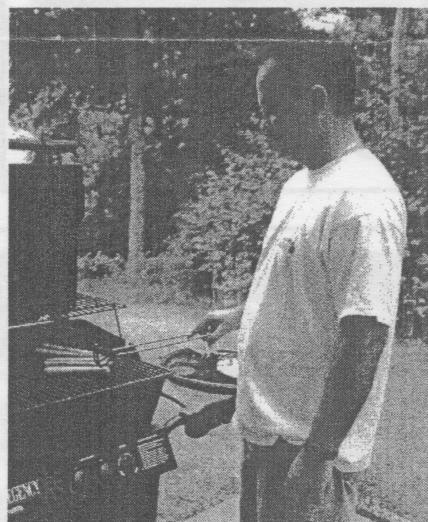
Philco console, circa 1940, needs minor repairs. \$60 or will take best offer. Tom Musocchio, 609-448-0787.

Supplement 3 to Ludwell Sibley's *Tube Lore* is now available. At 24 pages, it replaces the 1997 8-page supplement. Included is an expanded index, new details on early Western Electric tubes, info on Western Electric tube sockets, fuller material (a page-plus) on Rogers tubes, pinouts for post-1948 Western Electric tubes (published for the first time ever!), the date code for RCA '50s-'70s receiving tubes and the 200 "most-often-needed" basing diagrams covering 1300+ tubes found in everything from an All-American 5 to a Trans-Oceanic. To order, mail your name and address, printed clearly, with six 34-cent stamps to:

**Ludwell Sibley
102 McDonough Rd.
Gold Hill, OR 975-9626**

WANTED

Your surplus radio knobs. Buying bulk stock of pulls for matching service and resale. Look for Gobs of Knobs at regional swapmeets and monthly DVHRC meetings. Bring your orphans and I just might have its relatives in stock. Dial pointers also available. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19002. (215)-646-6488



Franks, friends and radios...thanks again, Joe and Carolina