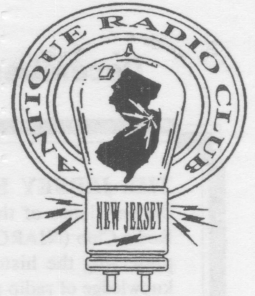


The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

December 2002

Volume 8 Issue 12



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

More than a quarter of the membership was present at the November meeting of the NJARC. We're at a very respectable 195 members and still counting...it would be nice to achieve our goal of 200 by the end of the year and, with a swapmeet in December, we just might do it. Two visitors from Holland stopped by on their way to a juke-box show in Chicago and seemed to be very impressed with our meeting.

President Phil Vourtsis announced that the club's exhibit at the East Jersey Olde Towne Village was described as "the best yet" by many of the visitors. I suspect the unique appeal of old radios has something to do with it. Unlike displays of comic books, perfume bottles, depression glass and Chinese snuff bottles, radios are something that everyone can relate to, both in terms of the radio itself and what was heard over the air.

Thanks to everyone that made the exhibit a success; a special thanks to Ray Chase and Joe Ben-trovato who ensured that all the last minute details were taken care of and provided the History of Radio and Early Radio Manufacturers of NJ lectures. Thanks also goes out to Olde Towne Village curator Dave Mandel who was very easy to work with and did a great job in creating the descriptive material for the display. We recently heard that Dave has taken a new job at the Speedwell Museum in Morristown and we expect to hear from him in the future for an exhibit there. For the time being, Phil is making arrangements for a club display at the Cranbury Museum



MEETING NOTICE

Please join your fellow NJARC members for our Tenth Anniversary party on Friday, December 13th (7:00 PM), at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton New Jersey. All the details are included in this month's *Broadcaster*. If you're not a stickler for details, here's a summary of the important points:

- You must RSVP no later than December 9th.
- Non-member guests (other than dual membership spouses) are \$10 each (collected at the door).
- Remember a contest entry.
- Remember a Mystery Grab Bag entry.

Hope to see you there...it should be lots of fun.

starting in mid-January.

In conjunction with the Olde Towne Village exhibit was a repair and restoration clinic that was open to the public. Membership secretary Marsha Simkin re-

my 1952 Crosley radio home with him and was able to repair it to make it a working radio again.

Please accept this check as a token of my appreciation. I was very impressed with your club and how the members worked together and shared knowledge. I want to thank all the members of this organization.

Sincerely, Mrs. Sharon Cercatore



Al Klase congratulates the winners of NJARC's homebrew radio contest.

ceived a very nice letter (and an unsolicited check for \$50) representative of the goodwill that activities such as this generate. I thought it would be nice to share it:

I attended your repair and restoration clinic at Piscataway on September 21. Walter Heskes was very helpful and took

President Vourtsis announced that, after careful consideration, the Board has voted to increase dues to \$20 next year. The cost of producing the *Broadcaster* has nearly doubled and dues receipts just barely cover its production. In addition, the rent for our meeting hall has significantly increased and we our just about holding our own when all other remaining expenses are considered. If it wasn't for the swapmeet and auction returns, we'd wind up in the red at the end of each year. When you consider all the advantages of being a club member (cheap tubes and capacitors, \$5 savings for each flea market space, a monthly newsletter, auction bargains, a year-end party, etc.), \$20 is still quite a bargain.

President Vourtsis also announced that his long-awaited book, *The Fabulous Vic-*

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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trola "45" is now on sale. Phil went through a few boxes at the meeting and will graciously oblige anyone wanting a signed copy. Even if you are not a collector, the developmental history and diversity of these phonographs is fascinating and the pictures are first class. I was provided with a review copy which will go to the club library and hope to have a review for next month's *Broadcaster*.

You could see the smile on the face of Technical Coordinator Al Klase when the entries for the club's home-brew radio contest were being arranged. As predicted, competition between the nine contestants was stiff and the variation and craftsmanship of their creations attested to the growing popularity of this event. A \$25 gift certificate to Antique Radio Supply for winners in each of the three categories probably added a bit of incentive also. When the dust had settled and the votes tallied, Jim Troe took the honors for Craftsmanship and Nevell Greenough walked away with both the Technical Excellence and Creativity Award. Congratulations to all the participants; here's a summary of their entries that correspond to the photos on page 4:

1. Walt Heskes: Described as a "1940s camera style portable receiver," this beauty, based on a two-stage TRF circuit, even includes AVC circuitry and drives an internal 8-ohm speaker. It uses a 1N5 as a tuned RF amplifier and a 1D8 as a tuned RF detector and 1st and 2nd audio amplifier. Included with Walt's entry was a four-page color "brochure" describing the radio's specifications and amenities (including a genuine leather carrying handle which was salvaged from an old suitcase and a spring-loaded E-Z open latch). Some of the challenges that Walt had to overcome was a ground problem and howling when the case was closed since the tubes were originally located too close to the loop.

2. Mark Mittleman: This entry represents a typical 1923 radio with a detector and 2-stage amplifier. All parts are of this vintage; the front panels were found in a flea market and the enclosures were made from cigar boxes and painted black. Mark said that the radio tunes very broadly and is subject to howling (which was eliminated by use of a cap on the detector).

3. John Acacia: This simple SW crystal

receiver uses a prescription bottle for the coil form. Tuning is via a standard tank circuit and the detector is a 1N34 diode. John says the unit works better without a ground and drives a Radio Shack amplifier when earphone listening gets a little too cumbersome.

4. Al Klase: Al "improved" his Little Giant DX crystal set by careful design of the coil parameters and tight coupling between primary and secondary. The resulting good rejection virtually eliminates SW reception and limits set operation primarily to the broadcast band.

5. Jim Troe: Winner of the Craftsmanship award, details of this set can be found in the Sept. 2001 issue of *Electric Radio* where the "1-Tube Wonder - The Triplex" is described. It uses a 19, the first dual triode introduced in the 1930s.

6. Marty Drift: This entry was built from a 1940 ARRL handbook on how to become a radio ham. Marty describes it as an example of "new old stock and junk turned into a wrinkled face 1940 beauty." Its piece parts attest to that fact: the headphones were found at a roadside flea market in Texas, the headphone jack was bought at the NJARC Dover meet, and the choke and power supply were pulled from an old military frequency meter at the Sussex hamfest.

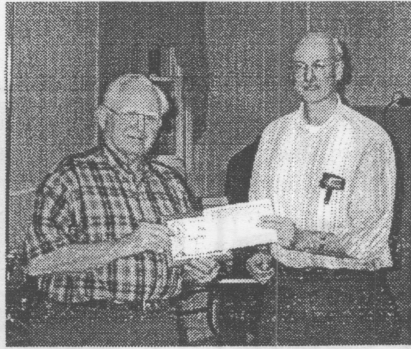
7. Sal Brisindi: This set is one of my favorites. Externally, it looks like a typical early 20s crystal set with a loop antenna and vintage vernier dial. Internally, jumpers allow the use of the galena crystal or 1N34 diode and a two-tube amplifier (1T4/3Q4) brings the output to speaker volume. This radio operates very efficiently without a ground or external antenna.

8. Nevell Greenough - This "see-through" two-tube superhet (6SA7 /6F7) took the prize for both Creativity and Technical Excellence. One look at the photo and you can tell why. Its Plexiglas case, tuning indicator and digital frequency display are just a few of the reasons.

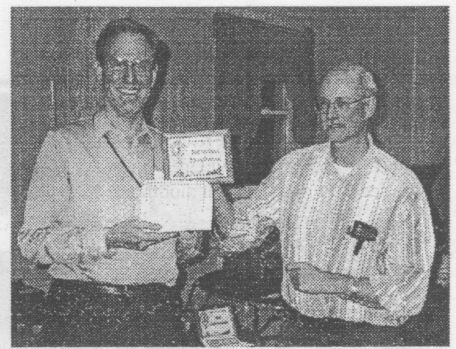
9. John Ruccolo - This radio was based on a 1967 article "Band Switch VHF'r." The cabinet is from an old Heathkit signal generator. John said that the hiss generated by super regen's of this design tagged these radios "rush boxes." John also noted that short lead length was imperative for good operation; his entry works well on the FM broadcast band.

The meeting closed with an auction of items from the Robert Gold estate. Al Klase and Phil Vourtsis did the honors as auctioneers and some very desirable pieces were hammered down. Look for articles tracing Mr. Gold's exciting life in future *QST* and *Broadcaster* articles.

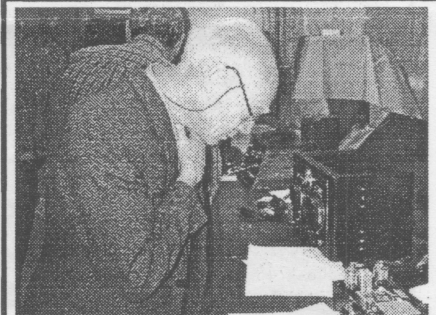
In closing, I would like to apologize for the quality of the photographs in the last issue. I go out of my way to ensure that Kinko's understands exactly what quality is desired. In this case, the employee did not even notice how dark and unrecognizable the images were. Although the offer was made to do the copying over, it would have added two days to the mailing time. I also did not include a few adds I received during the week in our *Connections* section. Unfortunately, the final version of the *Broadcaster* is prepared at a location other than my home and time does not allow me to retrieve the forgotten material. I'll be sure to get it in next month's issue. Finally, I'll be on vacation for our December 7th swap-meet so please call Phil Vourtsis if you make your reservation after November 2nd. But I will be back in town for our 10th Anniversary party and hope to see you all on the 13th.



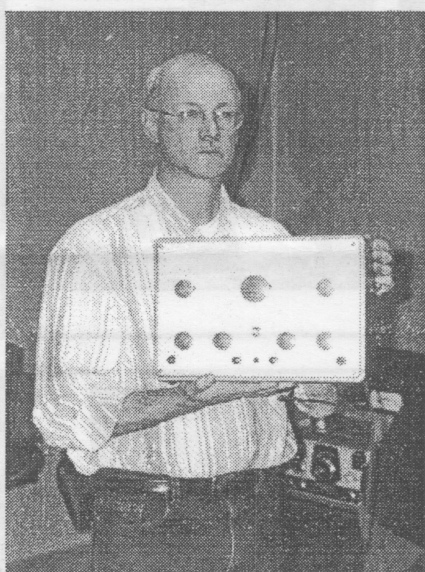
Vice President Richard Lee does the honors and presents awards and \$25 gift certificates to Jim Troe and Nevell Greenough.



Jim Troe discusses his entry.



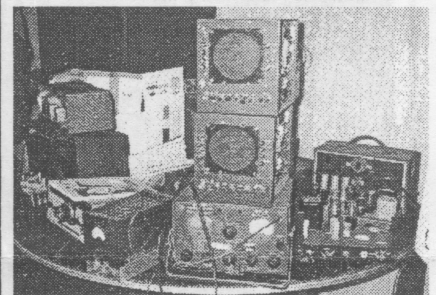
The quality of all the entries demanded careful consideration before a vote was cast



Richard Lee helps display an auction item.



I hope this buyer had a long trip home...it will take a good story to explain this pile of "collectables" to the wife.

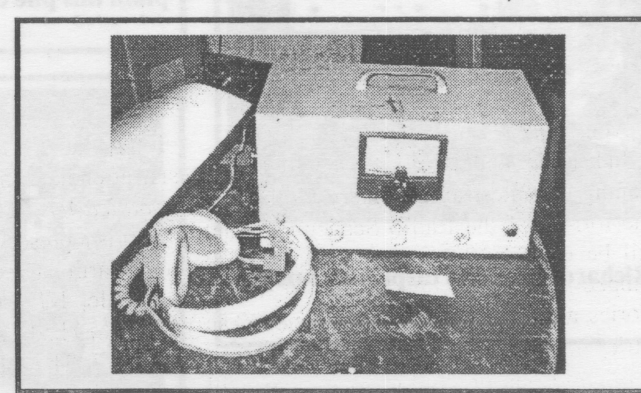
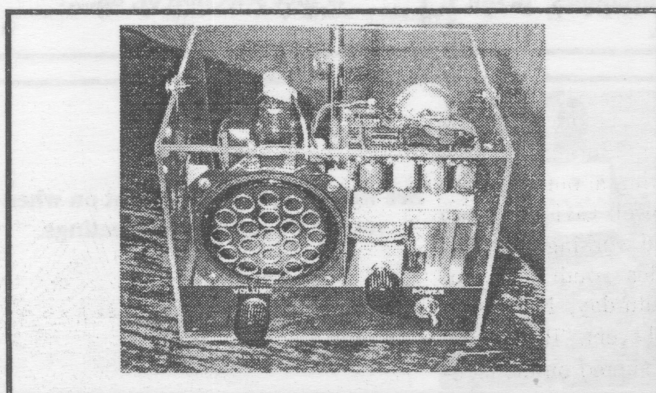
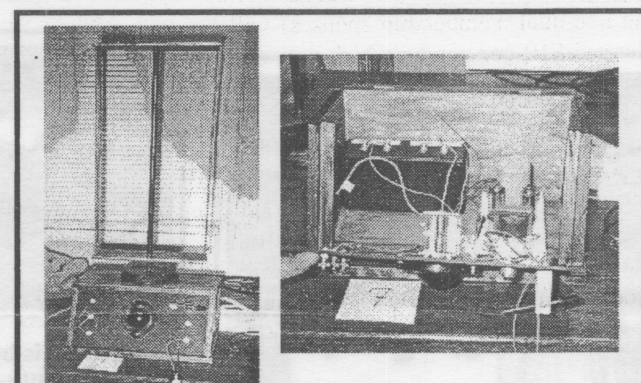
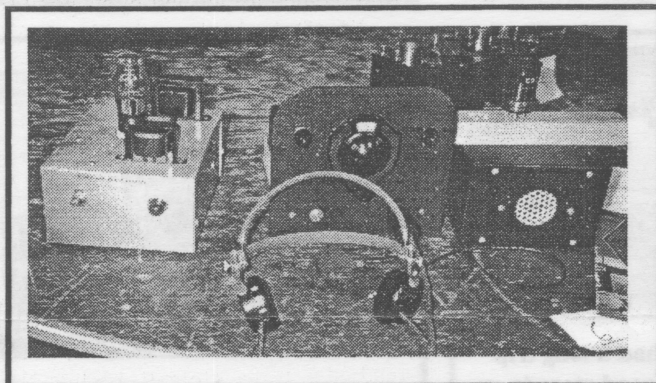
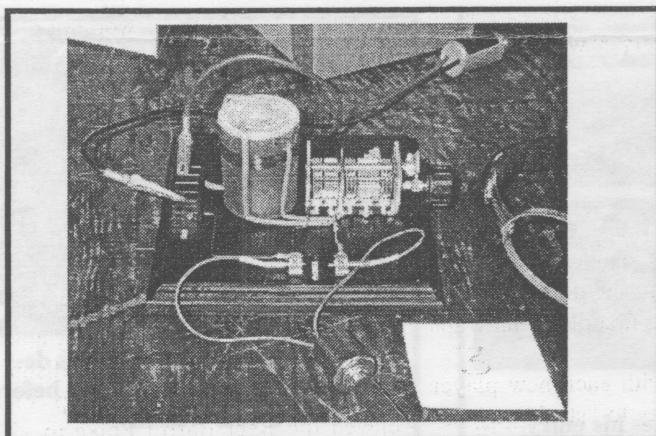
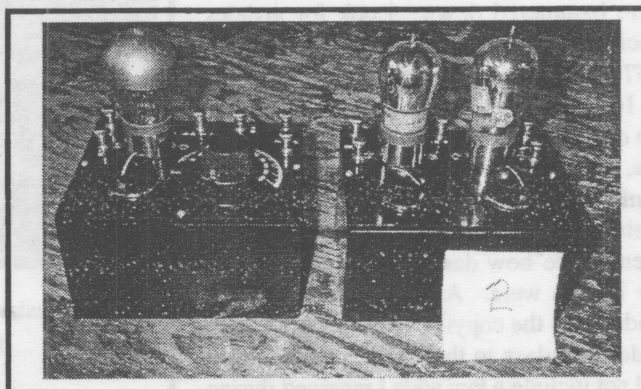
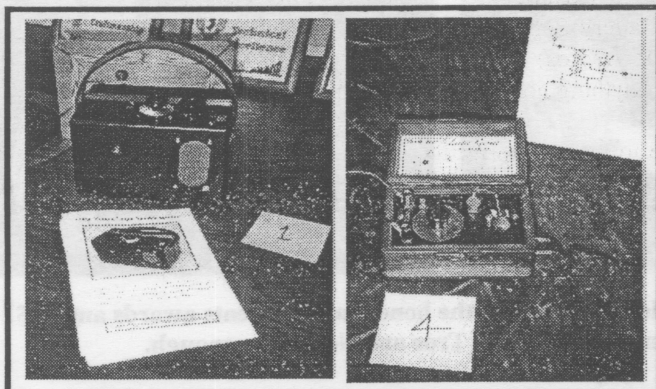


A nice selection of, uh,...?



See what you're missing out on when you don't attend our meetings.

THE CONTESTANTS



YOU'RE INVITED!

NJARC's 10th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Alex Magoun has cordially invited us back to the David Sarnoff Library on December 13th to celebrate NJARC's tenth anniversary. The library is located on 201 Washington Road in Princeton, NJ. If you are coming from the East or South, your best bet is to get on I-95 W and take the I-295 N exit (60B) towards US-1/I95/Princeton. Merge onto I-295N and take the US-1 exit (67A-B) towards New Brunswick/Trenton. Keep right at the fork in the ramp and merge onto US-1 N. Stay on 1 N and turn right onto Washington Road; you'll find the library entrance on the left within 1/8-mile. Keep to the left as you enter the facility and NJARC signs will point to the library.

All present NJARC members are invited at no cost (including spouses **if you paid for a dual membership**). Guests (including non-dual-membership spouses) will be charged \$10 per person which will be collected at the door. The festivities will start at 7:00 PM and we hope to start serving by 7:30. The buffet menu will not be as filling as previous years (since we usually wind up with a lot of take-home) but we guarantee that you will leave well-satisfied. You are also invited to bring a simple desert offering (cookies, nuts, sweets, etc.); the club will provide an anniversary cake. To help us stay within budget, we are asking you to RSVP **no later than December 9th** to either Marsha Simkin or Phil Vourtsis. Marsha can be reached at gsimkin@monmouth.com or 609-660-8160 (Days 3-5 PM or nights 7:30-9:30 PM). Phil can be reached at pvourtsis@att.com or 732-446-2427.

In keeping with tradition, we will still be running a contest and Mystery Grab Bag. The format of the Radio Scavenger Hunt will be changed however to allow more competition by reducing the number of categories and broadening their scope. The entries in each category may be either serious, humorous or unique so we can still

look forward to that perennial favorite "ugly radio" from John Ruccolo. Please limit your entries to no more than two of the following categories: Advertising, AC Sets, Crystal Sets, Battery Sets, Plastics (including transistor radios) and an "Open" category for anything not included in the other five.

If you would like to participate in the Mystery Grab Bag Contest, wrap a radio-related item to conceal its actual shape (feel free to be as sneaky as possible) that's worth between \$15 to \$20. (A few higher priced items are encouraged to make the game a little more interesting). Your package is your ticket to join the fun and will be placed in a common pile.

Each participant's name will be placed in a hat. The first person whose name is drawn will select the item of his choice, unwrap it and reveal it to all players. A second person's name is then drawn and he selects an item **but does not open it!** He has the choice to either exchange it unseen with the first player's item or keep it. If the item is kept, it is then unwrapped and displayed to the rest of the players. If the item is exchanged, the first player unwraps it and gets to keep it.

Play progresses with each new player having the opportunity to "steal" **any** unwrapped item in the "pot" in exchange for his wrapped choice.

Spite, malice, ill-will, malignity, retaliation, revenge and reprisal are all encouraged.

BACK TO THE FUTURE AT HOWELL FARM

By Scott Marshall

When I heard that NJARC member Rob Flory was running a presentation of old radio gear at Howell Farm, I just couldn't resist attending and writing about it for the *Broadcaster*. The Howell Living History Farm is a preserved and working 19th century farm a few miles south of Lambertville, NJ. On Saturday, November 23rd, they had a special event, "Back to the Future." The theme centered on the technology introduced between 1920 and 1940

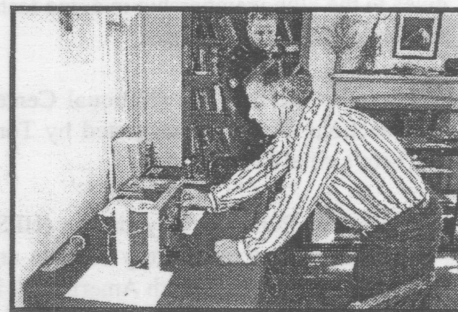
that was to change farming and American life forever including, radio, the phonograph, the washing machine and small appliances like electric irons.



A crystal cutie

Outside, there were working old farm machines and Model T Fords which visitors could ride and get the feel of traveling on unpaved roads and farm lanes. In the living room of the old farm house was Rob's display. Behind glass was an antique crystal set and Radiola 3. Modern, homebrew reproductions provided by Al Klase were available for visitors to listen to. Rob had run an antenna outside the room and the reception was truly amazing. He also had a working 1910 Edison light bulb on display and a windup Victrola played the Beer Barrel Polka to visitors who seemed astonished by its good sound quality. Rob also brought his 1946 RCA 630 television which is awaiting restoration. A hand crank wall phone, wired from the farmhouse to the granary allowed visitors to chat and get a feel for typical telephones of the era.

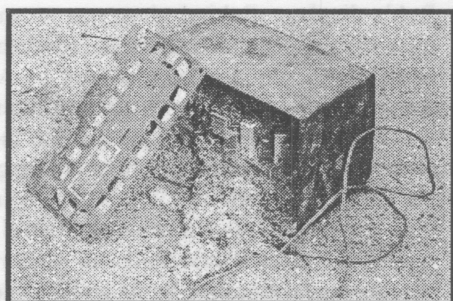
Rob's excellent mini-lectures caught the interest of visitors of all ages and even the little ones were truly impressed. Listening to Radio Disney on the crystal set was very popular with the kids. You can read about the Howell Living History Farm at <http://www.howellfarm.com/>



A LESSON FROM TOM... AND JERRY

By Marv Beeferman

Perhaps you might remember a photo in last month's *Broadcaster* that showed a radio from the Robert Gold estate that was completely filled with enough nest material for a mouse's housing project? Of course, this went immediately to the dumpster. But sometimes we don't have the opportunity to examine everything as thoroughly as we would like to, especially if it's a quick pickup from some non-collector's yard sale.



NJARC member Tom Provost learned this the hard way when he purchased a Zenith console at the November auction (this radio was donated and did not come from the Gold estate). In a note categorized as "something the members should know," Tom filled me in with his problem:

"I discovered that the Zenith console that I bought on Friday was horribly infested with mouse nest, droppings and urine damage. Basically the entire deep chassis was full, about a cubic foot of crap. Knowing the risk of hantavirus from rodent droppings, I found this info at the CDC that should be given to the club membership in some fashion, perhaps the *Broadcaster*."

I went to the web site (National Center for Infectious Diseases) suggested by Tom and here's what I found:

- Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is an infectious respiratory disease endemic to North and South America. It is caused by a virus generally known as the

hantavirus. While the disease is frequently fatal, it can be easily prevented.

- The disease itself is considered rare, as the virus is not very infectious except under certain circumstances. Contracting the hantavirus is very similar to being struck by lightning: a) it doesn't happen very often, b) it is worth avoiding, and c) it can be prevented very easily.
- In the United States, deer mice (plus cotton rats and rice rats in the southeastern states and the white-footed mouse in the Northeast) are the rodents that carry hantaviruses that cause HPS. These rodents shed the virus in their urine, droppings and saliva. The virus is mainly transmitted to people when they breathe in air contaminated with the virus. This happens when fresh rodent urine, droppings or nesting materials are stirred up (aerosolized). **Common house mice do not carry hantavirus.**
- Researchers believe that you may be able to get the virus if you touch something that has been contaminated with rodent urine, droppings or saliva, and then touch your nose or mouth. The types of hantavirus that cause HPS in the United States cannot be transmitted from one person to another. In addition, there is no known transmission from other animals or insects.
- The hantavirus is surrounded by a lipid (fatty) envelope, so they are somewhat fragile. The lipid envelope can be destroyed and the virus killed by fat solvents such as alcohol, ordinary disinfectants and household bleach.

Although the hantavirus is very rare in our area (primarily because the mice that carry it are not indigenous), you still might want to take some precautions to stay on the safe side. Tom told me that "in the future, I will probably just avoid any radio with evidence of mice." In general, Tom suggests that any dirty radio should be treated as if it has been exposed and "disinfected just in case."

If you decide to take the plunge, some suggestions made by the NCID web site, although directed to the house or workplace, are easily adapted to radio restoration. First, put on latex rubber gloves before cleaning up. Try to use a mask and don't stir up any dust by aggressively cleaning away or vacuuming up droppings,

urine or nesting materials. (This is especially important when removing the chassis from its cabinet.) Thoroughly wet contaminated areas (a spray bottle should be useful here) with detergent or liquid to deactivate the potential virus. Most general purpose disinfectants and household detergents are effective. In place of a commercial disinfectant, a hypochlorite solution prepared by mixing 1 and 1/2 cups of household bleach in 1 gallon of water may be used. Once everything is wet, take up contaminated materials with a damp towel; then sponge down the areas with disinfectant.

One question that may come up is damage resulting from the above process. As far as I can remember, older chassis are very resistant to water damage. I have known people who have washed down extremely dirty chassis with garden hoses (after removing critical components) without any detrimental effects. Others have used denatured alcohol applied with a paint brush, placing the chassis on its side so that the alcohol will run off quickly. In this case, it's important to keep the alcohol away from open coils and IF cans. Spraying down the chassis with electronic contact cleaner or tuner cleaner will also do a great job, but it is an expensive solvent.

In any case, you will want to remove tubes with bakelite bases first - the seal between the glass envelope and the base is not water-tight and short circuits can result. Then the tubes can be washed with a sponge or paper towel dampened with a little detergent or ammonia solution. It might be also a good idea to keep track of tube numbers and re-print any that have been washed away with a permanent, felt-tipped marker.

It is assumed that the speaker has also been removed. The fragility of the paper cone will limit the use of solvents, but a light spray with a extremely mild bleach solution should do no harm. Once any potential viruses have been killed, cleaning with a soft brush should be sufficient. A rag or sponge dampened with alcohol may be used to clean the metal basket.

You can get at tuning condensers with a full length paint brush. The important thing to remember here is to relubricate the ball bearings (number two cup grease, Vaseline, etc.) and other pivot points with light-weight oil following cleaning with a solvent.

Cabinets are a different story...don't use a hose here. The cabinet can be easily decontaminated with a sponge or rag dampened with a mild bleach or detergent solution and then quickly towel-dried without damaging veneer. Or, you can cut right to the chase and use a solution of 50% turpentine and 50% linseed oil...it will not only decontaminate the cabinet but will also leave a beautiful luster. (Add a little oil-based wood stain and you will end up covering a lot of scratches as well.)

The resistance of older electronics to what may be considered by some as drastic cleaning is illustrated by an article in the January 1995 issue of *Radio Age*. Dale Johnston, who worked as a radio repairman in the 50s, would retrieve old Motorola communications receivers from the Columbus Communications Division attic, clean them up, and install them in cabinets for use as monitors. He used a "radio wash" consisting of 4 ounces of acetone, 3 ounces of OLC acid, 7 pints of water and 8 ounces of

ammonia. The radios would be bathed in this solution and the crud loosened with a soft brush. After washing, the chassis would be rinsed with clear water and dried for at least a week under moderate heat.

I guess at this point, you're probably wondering how Tom is coming along. Apparently, he just didn't have the heart to discard a perfectly restorable radio:

"I have proceeded with my project, probably against better judgment health-wise. What I have done is what Paul Erlich (*The Population Bomb*) calls suboptimization. That is, 'doing in the best possible way something that shouldn't be done at all.' (He used it in a different context.)

I can recount to you what precautions that I have taken. If I'm still vertical in 5 weeks (the maximum incubation time for hantavirus), I'll consider my method a success. (Or this radio didn't have hantavirus laden rodents.)"



BUYER BEWARE!



New Jersey Antique Radio Club Antique Radio Indoor Swap Meet

Saturday, December 7, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM*
North Centerville Vol. Fire Co., Hazlet, N.J.

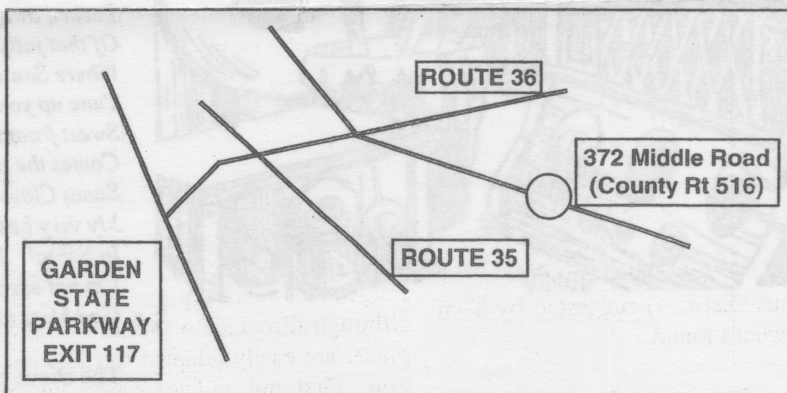


The NJARC presents its Winter swap meet at the spacious North Centerville Fire Co. banquet hall in Hazlet, N.J. The first 30 reservations receive an 8-foot table at no extra cost. A \$2.00 buyer donation is suggested. *Vendor setup at 7:00 AM (no early admittance); the meet may extend beyond 1:00 PM.

DIRECTIONS: Garden State Parkway, North or South: Take exit 117 (towards Hazlet (Rt. 35)/Keyport/Aberdeen). Merge onto Route 36 and continue for about 1 mile. Turn right on Middle Road (County Route 516) and continue for about 1.5 miles. The Fire Co. banquet hall is on the right.

RESERVATIONS: Marv Beeferman, 2265 Emerald Park Drive, Forked River, NJ 08731. (609-693-9430). E-mail: mbeeferman@cs.com. Phil Vourtsis, 13 Cornell Place, Manalapan, NJ. 07726. (732-446-2427). E-mail: pvourtsis@att.com.

RATES: NJARC members \$15/space; non-members \$20/space.





CHRISTMAS, 1924

By Charles H. Van Housen

Up in his shop in the Land of Snows
 Santa is building ra-di-ohs!
 Jolly and merry and ruddy and quaint -
 Up-to-date, old-fashioned, modernized Saint!
 Thousands of "plexes" and "flexes" and "dynes"
 Built along fancy and fashionable lines!
 Cute little crystal sets - jim-dandy toys
 Made by Saint Nich 'las for good girls and boys!
 Sets by the dozen and sets by the score -
 Ten tubes and one tube and three tubes and four!
 Piled in his store-room in gala array,
 Tagged: "Do Not Open Before Christmas Day!"
 Cabinets, batteries, panels and wire -
 Anything, everything fans could desire!
 Rheostats, sockets and soldering-lugs,
 Ground-clamps, condensers, transformers and plugs!
 Wave-traps and meters and tool chests and books
 Tucked away safe in the corners and nooks
 Of that jolly big workshop 'way up in the snows
 Where Santa is building our ra-di-ohs!
 Tune up your hearts, folks, 'most any night -
 Sweet from his mansion so glist'ning and white
 Comes the announcement; "Station North Pole!
 Santa Claus speaking! To every good soul
 My very best wishes! I'm glad you believe
 In Santa! Just look for me next Christmas Eve!
 I'm not used to talking. Please pardon this cough!
 God bless all the kiddies! S.C. 'signing off!"

The above poem and illustration is courtesy of "The Radio" section Philadelphia's *Evening Public Ledger* for Saturday, November 29, 1924...Ed.