

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

May 2003

Volume 9 Issue 5



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

NJARC's April meeting featured our popular show-and-tell session; a wide range of electronic oddities and ephemera made their appearance:

•Ray Chase showed two "Troublefinders," one by Marconi and one by Davies, and queried the audience to figure out exactly what trouble they were meant to find. With hints of "battery operated" and "loop antenna," most guesses centered around locating radio interference problems. Any other ideas?

•Steve Goulart, who probably appreciates high-end test equipment just as much as your editor, displayed one of the best...a General Radio 605B signal generator.

•Bill Zukowski's "SkyLeader" portable transistor radio has seen the world. A British product, it was sold on e-Bay from Germany and made it to New Jersey. However, because of a zip code problem, it was returned to Germany, only to cross the Atlantic once again and find a home in Bill's collection.

•Ever see a tube caddy with a built-in tube tester? Bob Allerton has one.

•Richard Lee found a matched pair of 6L6's from China (but repackaged in California) in a local non-radio flea market.

•Dave Snellman's contributions included Motorola's first transistor radio (56T1), an interesting group of QSL cards collected by a Moorestown short-wave listener (Irish Free State, Moscow, Berlin, etc.) and a colorful radio course diploma from Argentina.

•Marty Friedman and Walt Heskes teamed up to demonstrate how to use a permanent magnet speaker as a driver for an Atwater



Part of the memorabilia display at the Garden State Philharmonic's "1940's Radio Show" concert.

NJARC representatives in a 1940s memorabilia display at Memorial High School's Fine Arts Center. The display was a special touch to a Garden State Philharmonic concert titled the "1940's Radio Show," a toe-tapping step back in time to the great tunes of the 40s.

Numerous concert goers thoroughly enjoyed perusing the old radios and phonographs and connecting the artifacts and sounds to their own life experiences. As a thank you, free tickets were provided so

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, May 9th at 7:30 PM at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton NJ. Reference past *Broadcaster* issues, see the NJARC web site or contact Phil Vourtsis at 732-446-2427 for directions. We're looking forward to an interesting presentation by Nick Senker titled "The Chemistry and Development of Batteries." If you have any examples of vintage batteries that you care to display to supplement Nick's presentation, I'm sure he'd be happy to accept them.

Kent model R horn.

•Marv Beeferman? Read about it on the pages that follow!

On April 12th, Phil Vourtsis, Sal Brisindi and your editor participated as

that we could enjoy such old standards as Moonlight Serenade, Begin the Beguine, and In the Mood and the conductor's interpretations of Victor Borge's "The Phonetic Alphabet" and Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First?"

On April 12th, Ray Chase, Dave Snellman and Steve Goulart met with InfoAge director Fred Carl to tour the site and get an update on future plans. Because of an administrative glitch holding up sewer work, full transfer of major portions of the site will not occur until 2004 but clear authority (free of Army control) of the two cottages will hopefully occur by June. Therefore, a major effort will begin to get the Broadcaster's Hall of fame up and running at cottage #2.

Immediate activities will include installing an alarm system, general cleaning and organizing, opening up and fixing boarded windows, rescreening the porch and painting the frames, going over the electrical system, organizing the cellar for storage and removing the old boiler and general outside cleanup and painting. Access to the cottage will be available both on weekends and during the week so hopefully everyone can work a few days a month into their schedule.

Ray also suggested that we should be on the lookout for store style display cases and glass enclosed bookcases so that we can start setting up displays. Whenever a retail store closes, these are often quite

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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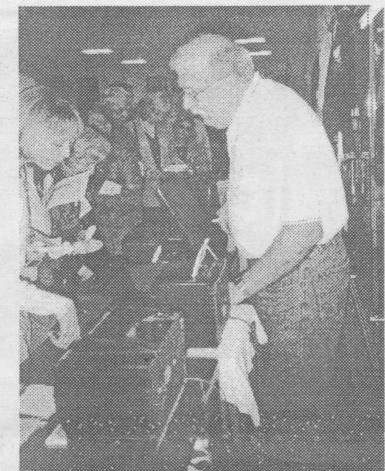
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sonable. If trucking is a problem, Ray has graciously offered to help try to arrange for it.

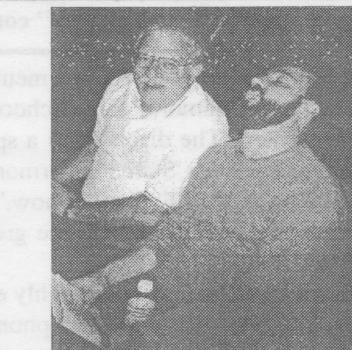
If you want to avoid lugging a table to our June 22nd swapmeet, try to get your reservation in early...we don't have too many free tables left. Also remember the Kutztown meet on Saturday, May 10th. If you are planning to attend, our NJARC meeting may not necessarily be a conflict. Phil and I are considering leaving for Kutztown following the meeting.



Tuning in the 40's.



Bringing back the memories.



Swingin' and groovin' to "In the Mood"

HOMEBREW RADIO CONTEST ANNOUNCED

By Al Klase

The 2003 NJARC home-brew radio contest will be held at the October meeting. Once again, the objective is to preserve the tradition of building your own radio. This year, we're adding two additional categories.

Category 1 - One Tube/One Transistor

- The signal path of the radio may use no more than one tube/transistor envelope. Multi-function vacuum tubes are permitted.
- Solid-state diodes may be used for detection as in a crystal set or reflex circuit.
- Transistors or integrated circuits may be used in the power supply. Any convenient power supply may be used, and may contain additional vacuum tubes.

Category 2 - Two Tubes/Two Transistors

- Same as one tube except that the signal path may use no more than two tube/transistor envelopes.

Category 3 - Open

- Any recently constructed homebrew radio.

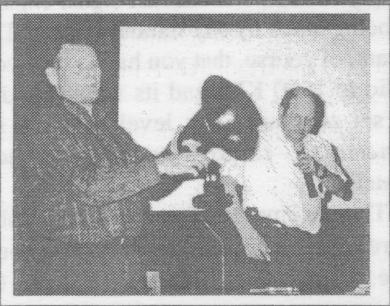
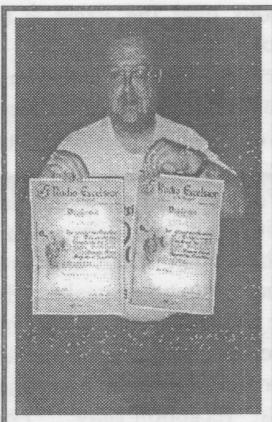
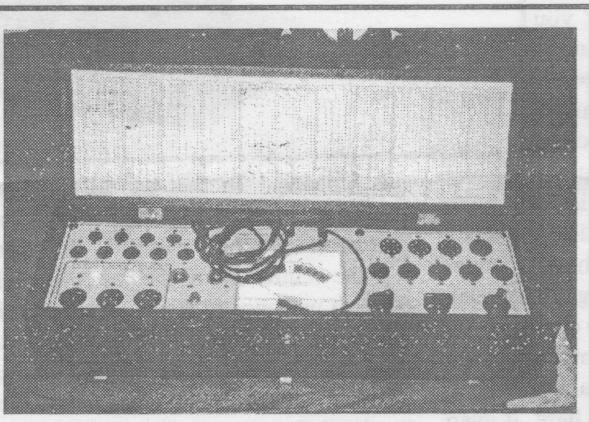
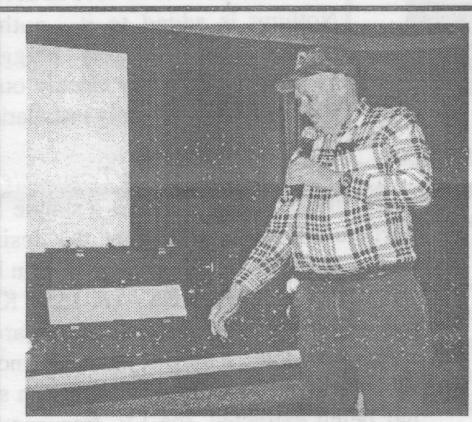
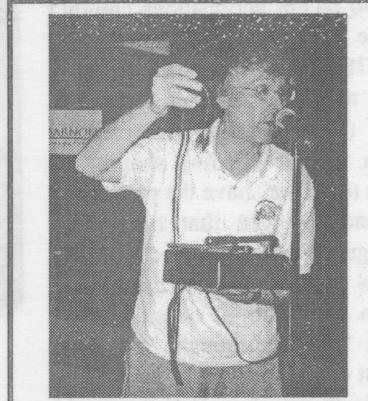
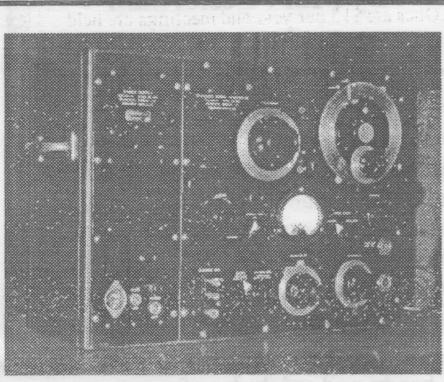
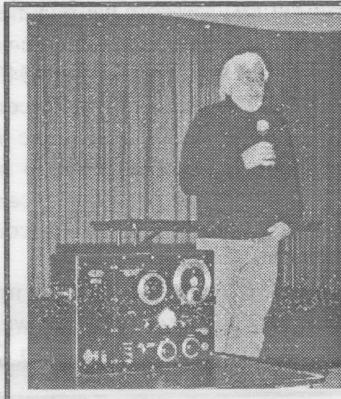
Category 4 - Restoration

- Any vintage homebrew radio restored to operating condition.

Contest Rules:

1. The contest is open to NJARC members only
2. Entry is limited to "scratch-built" radios as opposed to kits or modified production sets.
3. Entries must have been recently constructed (Categories 1-3) or recently restored (Category 4) by the contestant and must be capable of receiving at least one station.
4. Contestants should be prepared to demonstrate their creations at the October 2003 meeting and say a few words about the design and construction of the radio.
5. The membership in attendance will vote for the best entries in each category.

SHOW-AND-TELL



Not for show...
Not for tell...

But for auction

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

By Marv Beeferman

One would think, that as editor of the *Broadcaster*, I would have a jump on the program for the next meeting. But actions speak louder than words, and, in my case, the time delay between the two is just as bad as anyone else's. So, five minutes before running out the door for the March NJARC meeting, I suddenly remembered the show-and-tell session and looked for whatever was handy and might be of some interest.

Two recent acquisitions caught my eye. One appeared to be a cute little 78-RPM Silvertone phonograph and the other an International (Kadette) KRC-2 "radio" with a very interesting shape. I did, in my haste, have the presence of mind to note that both the phonograph and radio had a third wire as part of the line cord, the one on the radio of considerable length. "Well," I thought, "I'll figure that out when I get to Sarnoff."

One thing that I've learned about NJARC show-and-tell sessions over the years is that you don't ramble...unless you want to get eaten alive. "Here's a cute little Silvertone record player...hmm, even has a ground wire...but I can't quite seem to find the speaker. Well, let's go on to this neat looking radio with the convenience of a built-in antenna wire as part of the line cord...hmm, another one without the speaker. Hey guys, its gotta be a radio...it says it right here on the tag on the bottom...‘This receiver manufactured for radio amateur experimental and broadcast reception only.’ ‘Look here, it even notes the 1570 KC IF frequency.’ As I slowly melted down, Ray Chase offered a friendly but well-deserved final coup de grace...‘Next time, do your homework!’"

It's amazing what a little research will do and sometimes it results in some pleasant surprises. The cute little "record player" was a no brainer, which should have been obvious had I taken the time to look at

the tube complement. It's described in Riders XIII (page 13-74) as a model 7061 wireless record player. It provided an inexpensive way to turn a relatively good radio into a radio-phono combination.

The layout is quite simple. A 35Z5GT rectifier and 340 ohm ballast tube supplies power to a 35L6GT modulator-oscillator. The output is adjustable from 540 KHz to 700 KHz using C9, which is accessible via a plug button on the front of the player. If the radio that is transmitted to has push-button tuning, the push-button can be conveniently tuned to a specific record player frequency.

It was noticed that an earlier model, the 5849 was also produced but was apparently removed from the market for obvi-

also control its volume. One web site suggested that the transmitter was ideal for showing off your collection the easy way; only one is needed to tune a room full of radios all at once.

Here's how the *Tunemaster* was advertised in the November 5th, 1939 *Saturday Evening Post*:

To visualize the tremendous sales possibilities of the Kadette *Tunemaster*, just imagine yourself lounging at ease the whole evening through, really enjoying radio as you have never enjoyed it before. Never once is the spell broken by having to leave your chair to change programs or adjust volume. Think, too, how convenient for the busy housewife. She can carry *Tunemaster* from room to room and operate a radio anywhere else in the home as easily as if sitting beside it.

But this is only the beginning of the alluring sales-compelling picture. *Tunemaster* actually improves reception - sharpens tuning - increases sensitivity - gets distant stations with greater volume. In addition, it provides push-button tuning for four stations, remote volume control and true wireless tuning - not for just a few stations - but for every station on the broadcast band from 540 to 1500 Kilocycles! Yet, the radio can still be used as before. Nothing is added to it - nothing taken away. Merely plugging *Tunemaster* into any electric outlet (AC or DC) is the only installation!



ous reasons. In this model, the metal pickup arm and pickup support was made part of the "on-off" circuit by connecting it to the neutral end of the line cord. When the arm was moved from its rest position, the motor would start. This was a common but dangerous setup used in many early novelty radios (i.e., the Guild "teakettle" radio which turned on when the pot was removed from its metal trivet).

The International Kadette KRC-2 turned out to be even more surprising. The "radio" was called the "Tunemaster" and transmitted any station on the AM band to any other nearby radio. Once the local radio was set to the Tunemaster's I.F. frequency, you could remotely tune that radio throughout its AM band and

The design of the *Tunemaster* is quite simple; it starts out as a simple Superheterodyne radio. After the desired station is tuned in, it is converted to an I.F. frequency of 1570 KHz. (A 1550 KHz model was also manufactured for areas with a broadcast station at that frequency.) At this point, rather than the program signal being extracted, the I.F. frequency is simply used as a broadcast signal capable of being tuned by any standard radio. This meant, of course, that you had to tune your radio to 1570 KHz and its volume had to be set at a sufficient level to allow the *Tunemaster* controls to function adequately.

This scheme is successful for a number of reasons. In 1939, most radios could tune to 1600 KHz (or even 1700 KHz, the

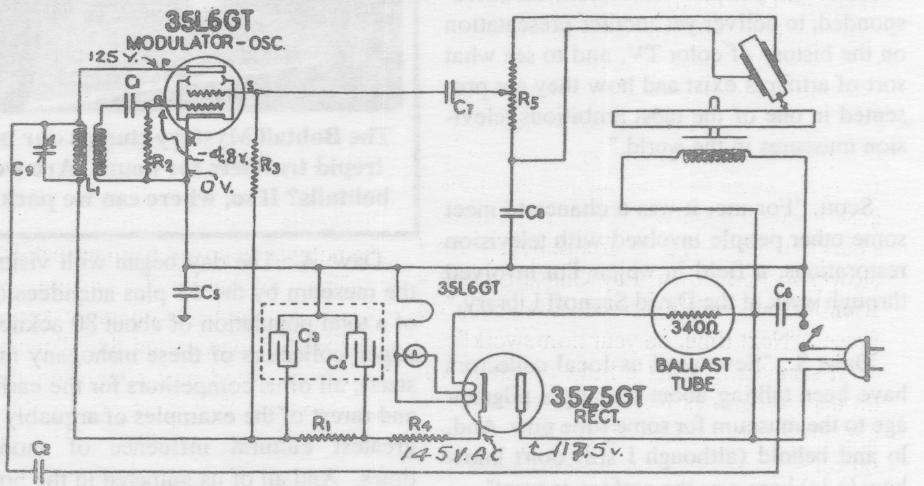
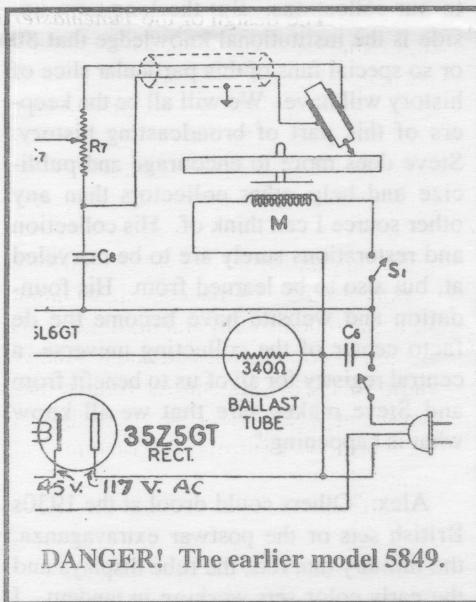
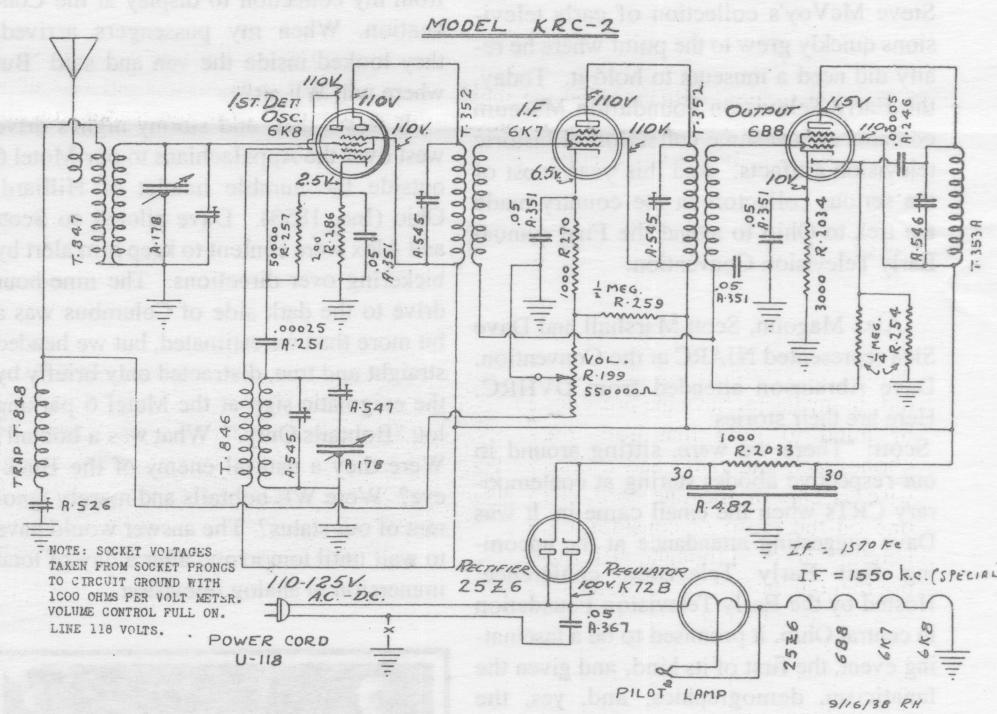
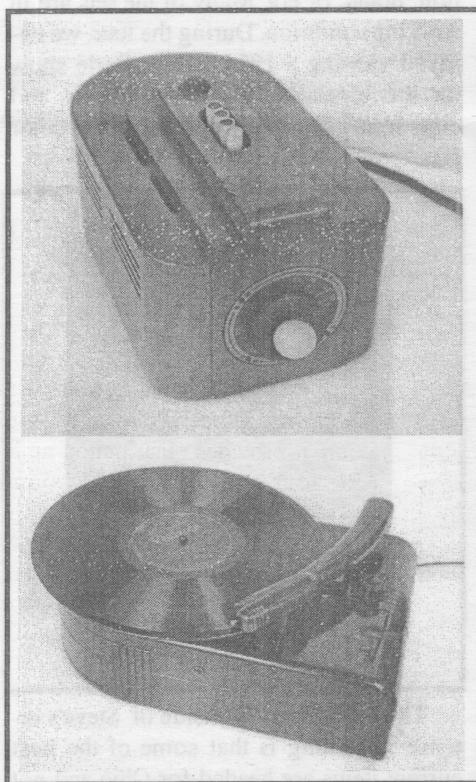
"expanded" AM band where police calls were often located). Broadcast stations were, for the most part, confined to the lower portion of the band, with stations above 1500 KHz just starting to appear. Even in areas with the newer stations, there would not have been stations assigned to both 1550 KHz and 1570 KHz.

The transmitter includes four push-buttons for pre-set tuning. When I first tried the ones on my set, it seemed like the mechanism required repair. However, a little research brought relief - they are set by tuning in a station and then tightening the white, round knob. When the push-button is "pushed down" completely, the selected station is set.

The Tunemaster sold for \$25, about a week's pay for the average worker, and would have been a rather expensive item. International Radio was selling "10-tube" (actually, 7-tubes and 3 ballast tubes) at the time for \$19.95. The set was designed in the fall of 1938 for sale in 1939. However, after the sale of Kadette in 1939, the company lasted only about one more year. Therefore, the number of surviving KRC-2's is probably low.

So, it appears that doing one's homework really pays off...or at least saves a lot of embarrassment.

Editor's Note: Much of the material for this article was based on information provided at <http://www.antiqueradios.com/tunemaster>.



BOBTAILS ONLY:**The Story of the First Annual Early Television Convention**

By Dave Sica

From humble beginnings, starting literally from scratch less than four years ago, Steve McVoy's collection of early televisions quickly grew to the point where he really did need a museum to hold it. Today, the Early Television Foundation Museum contains an awesome collection of historic television artifacts. And this year, most of the serious collectors in the country made the trek to Ohio to attend the First Annual Early Television Convention.

Alex Magoun, Scott Marshall and Dave Sica represented NJARC at the Convention. Dave Abramson attended from DVHRC. Here are their stories:

Scott: "There we were, sitting around in our respective abodes staring at contemporary CRTs when the email came in. It was Dave suggesting attendance at the upcoming first Early Television conference. Hosted by the Early Television Foundation in central Ohio, it promised to be a fascinating event, the first of its kind, and given the fanaticism, demographics, and, yes, the money involved in antique TV collecting, perhaps the start of something big."

Alex: "It was an opportunity to meet some of the people with whom I'd corresponded, to deliver yet another presentation on the history of color TV, and to see what sort of artifacts exist and how they are presented in one of the most ambitious television museums in the world."

Scott: "For me, it was a chance to meet some other people involved with television restorations, a field in which I'm involved through work at the David Sarnoff Library."

Dave S.: "Several of us local collectors have been talking about making a pilgrimage to the museum for some time now. And, lo and behold (although I still don't know how to lo) here was the perfect excuse!"

Dave A.: "It was too good an opportunity to pass up. I just had to journey to meet my collecting colleagues and Internet friends and the one collector who has changed the face of our hobby and worked the hardest to get all of us to be together."

Dave S.: I told Alex and Scott that I'd be taking my van, and there would be plenty of room for passengers, plus plenty of room to haul back any finds we might acquire at the swapmeet. I guess I got a little carried away in selecting treasures from my collection to display at the Convention. When my passengers arrived, they looked inside the van and said 'But where will WE sit!'"

It was a dark and stormy night's drive west over the Appalachians to our Motel 6 outside the humble hamlet of Hilliard, Ohio (Inc. 1853). Dave piloted so Scott and Alex were content to keep him alert by bickering over directions. The nine-hour drive to the dark side of Columbus was a bit more than we estimated, but we headed straight and true, distracted only briefly by the enigmatic sign at the Motel 6 parking lot: "Bobtails Only." What was a bobtail? Were they a natural enemy of the Buckeye? Were WE bobtails and merely ignorant of our status? The answer would have to wait until tomorrow, after a day of total immersion in analog television.

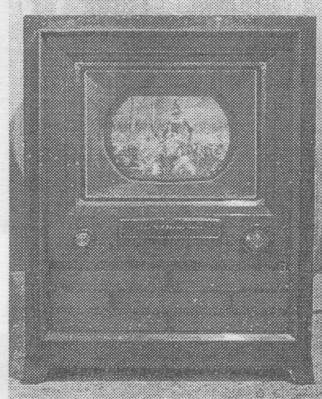


The Bobtail Mystery stumps our intrepid travelers for hours. Are we bobtails? If so, where can we park?

Dave A.: The day began with visits to the museum by the 65 plus attendees (out of a total population of about 80 acknowledged collectors of these mahogany monsters), all of us competitors for the earliest and rarest of the examples of arguably the greatest cultural influence of modern times. And all of us gathered in the house of the modern day champion of the collectors:

Steve McVoy. There are certainly others with collections to rival Steve's, but none so visible or accommodating."

Steve began focusing his attention on the early history of the technology, defined as 1920s (the days of the earliest successful demonstrations of mechanical television) through 1955 (the second year of electronic color). He established a non-profit foundation to buy a warehouse, hired a staff, and enlisted friends and family to help with renovations. The result is a series of display rooms defined by nation, brand, or era. Many of the sets are in working condition. During the tour, we enjoyed viewing a 1954 Milton Berle show on the black-and-white televisions and clips from "The Wizard of Oz" on the color sets."



The CT-100 color set.

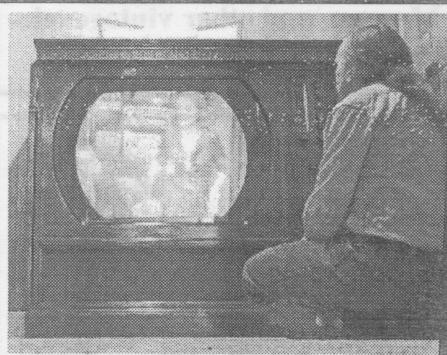
The immediate downside of Steve's intense collecting is that some of the best current items are headed for Ohio and not to our collections. But the long-term upside is the institutional knowledge that 80 or so special fans of this particular slice of history will have. We will all be the keepers of this part of broadcasting history. Steve does more to encourage and publicize and help other collectors than any other source I can think of. His collection and restorations surely are to be marveled at, but also to be learned from. His foundation and website have become the de facto center of the collecting universe, a central registry for all of us to benefit from and Steve makes sure that we all know what is happening."

Alex: "Others could drool at the 1930s British sets or the postwar extravaganza, the military marvels, the tube displays and the early color sets working in tandem. I

was stunned by the setup enabling people to see their friends televised on a working 1920s Nipkow-disc camera, photocell, and RCA neon-tube vertical-scan television. To adapt one of Edison's staff remarks on the first phonograph recording, it was not a "fine picture, but the shape of it was there and so like the model that we all let out a yell of satisfaction and a 'Golly it's there!!' and shook hands all round."

Dave S.: "I knew that it would be pretty much senseless to bring any of my televisions to display. Although they qualify as pretty heady stuff when on display in my office, I knew they'd look pathetically ordinary in the same building as Steve's treasure-trove. What to do? Stay off the beaten path! This get-together offered a rare chance to show off one of my more esoteric collections, early non-broadcast video recording systems, to an audience that would take more than a passing interest. Most of this stuff hasn't seen the light of day in decades and although the springs on the van sagged and arm muscles complained, it made for a unique display, even for the EFT museum."

Scott: "The tour de force for postwar monochrome TVs, we learned, is the DuMont Sovereign, which used a 30-inch diameter round CRT. This 1950 jawdropper remains the world's largest known CRT (who knows what the military commissioned?), and used a 90-degree deflection yoke that was well ahead of its time. Given the ratio between a circle's area and diameter, the Sovereign tube gives one pause when placed next to the 19- to 21-inch CRTs, considered big for the early 1950s."



Scott worshipping on the altar of the 1951 Dumont Royal Sovereign.

Photo credit: Steve Gandy

Dave S.: "It was an awesome and humbling experience to stand in the middle of a room with virtually every set you might ever wish to have in your collection, there on display and working! Standing next to every one of the RCA TRK series of pre-war televisions, each one displaying the same program, had to qualify as... well certainly as an extraordinary experience. It was a bittersweet experience too: I found myself feeling like giving up, just going home and putting my own wretched collection of moldy sets on the curb. I could think of no logical reason to continue to assemble a collection that could never be more than a pale shadow of this. (Fortunately that feeling passed the day I returned home, just as the UPS guy delivered my most recent acquisition!)"

After lunch, Steve presided over a full agenda of highly targeted presentations, which he kept remarkably well to schedule. These included two talks on electro-mechanical sets, one by Wayne Bretl and another by the legendary Peter Yanczer; talks on the restoration of 1930s sets by Nat Pendleton and DVHRC's Dave Abramson; early TV in East Germany; a two-tube DIY color camera featured in a 1975 issue Radio Electronics, displayed by its inventor Gary Davis; and Geoff Bourne's talk on the happy acquisition of one of the 1939 World's Fair's television cameras for the Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, West Virginia.

Alex: "We adjourned for the day for a surprisingly fine meal at the Yard Club, a fine 1883 building constructed for the Oddfellows Association. That seemed to suit almost to a tee, good-humored spouses notwithstanding. Steve thanked us, his family, and his staff for making the Convention go so well, and sat down to some applause. That didn't seem right or enough to me, considering the nearly Herculean magnitude of his efforts, so after slugging down another iced tea I got up and suggested that we were the creators of something more significant: the first meeting of the Antique Television Association, whose membership fees could help support the EFT's museum. Whether that comes to pass or not, we all owe Steve a huge debt for bringing us together for the first time. Well, Steve was redder than a lobsterback, but he deserved it."

Scott: "On our return to the Motel 6 that evening, Alex and I found our magnetic cards unable to open our door. While having the cards redone at the front desk, we found out that other conferees had the same problem, leading us to wonder if any of us had been sterilized as a result of high dosages of EM radiation."



Alex with trashed magnetic card.

Dave S.: "Sunday morning consisted of an indifferent auction, except for the purchase of one of the increasingly scarce 15GP22 CRTs for a considerable sum, and two lively roundtables on collecting and restoring. Collectors were in it for different reasons, and those of us with Aquadag in our blood were a bit surprised to find out that some collectors change their collecting interests completely every few years, selling off one type of collectible to finance their entry into another specialty. Others collect for keeps, even to the point of setting up a trust to ensure distribution of their collections to other pure-of-heart collectors rather than to uncaring family members. We learned that collectors sometimes collude to let one buy an eBay item at a lower price. And everyone hopes that prices won't go through the roof and drive out the entry-level hobbyists."

The restoration panel was generally of the philosophy that like Stradivarius violins, antique TVs are better off working than not. Okay, but what if you have the only set of its type in the world? What if you have the only World's Fair camera? Then the qualifications began: that, after all, is a historic icon, like those Buddhas in Afghanistan, and it defaces the historicity of the object to do more than dust it. (Continued on page 8)

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.

Nice working consoles. All cabinets are nice and clean! Atwater Kent Model 74 lowboy - \$200. Grunow model 1151 - \$200. RCA 810-K (good eye tube) - \$225. Zenith 8S-463, black dial, good eye tube, wave magnet - \$250. Contact Joe Murphy at (856)-228-0585

(Bobtails...continued)

Alex: "The group was a bit startled to hear a question about documentation. Most of them did nothing in this area, letting their capacitors and tubes speak for themselves. But who is to know what is real about the artifact, and what is replaced or improved? Shouldn't future buyers have a record of these increasingly pricey objects' care and feeding?"

Dave S.: "You just wait and see. Now that Alex has sown the seeds, I wouldn't be a bit surprised if within the next year or two documentation becomes a hot-button topic."

Alex: "We should be so lucky, and so lucky as to have this become an annual event."

Dave S.: "I shot a lot of video at the convention. If you couldn't be there, stay

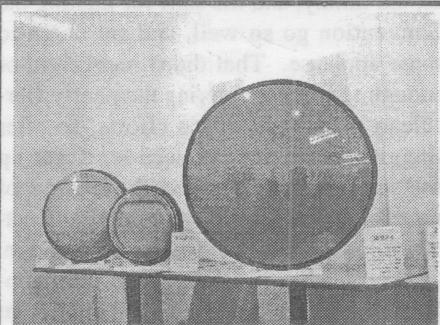
The NJARC tube program offers clean, tested, boxed tubes at very reasonable prices with availability at any club meeting (no dealers, please...not for resale). Proceeds go to the club. Of course, donations of radio-type tubes in any condition are welcome. See Gary D'Amico at the next meeting.

Scott 1938 Philharmonic receiver (factory rebuilt in 1946). 12" speaker in custom wood case. Main tuner has 22-23 tubes w/dial & 6 knobs and escutcheons. Power amplifier has 6 tubes. Components NOT in a cabinet. Chrome in good condition including tube covers. Asking \$500, pick up only. Located in western Suffolk Co., LI, NY., pwindesh@suffolk.lib.ny.us

Seven complete volumes (volumes 2 to volume 8) of the *Jersey Broadcaster*...except issue 12 (in Vol 2) and issue 11 (in Vol 5) which are missing. Includes misc. issues of Vol 1, issue 1 and issue 3. Also includes 6 issues of *New Jersey Antique Radio Club News*, Vol 1, #2 and #4/Vol 2, #1 and #2/Vol 3, #1 and Vol 4, #1. Best offer (by April 30) over \$20.00. Contact Harry Kundrat at (908)-665-1873.

tuned for the reruns!"

Alex: "Epilogue. We found out from a friendly trucker that a bobtail was a truck without a trailer. This raised the question of whether that made a loophole for a full 18-wheeler to fill up their lot, but some things are best left unsaid."



A 30" CRT dwarfs its conventional brothers.

Crosley "Playtime" grandfather clock radio (without chassis); original clock and speaker - \$150. Philco 39-116 chassis, clean, needs grill cloth, with remote control - \$175. Howard W. Herring, Ringoes NJ, 08551, 908-782-5530.

Bob Pilcher notified the club that a friend of his came across an AK 55-C in a Kiel cabinet in excellent to near mint shape. He thought someone in the club might be interested for a price of at least \$250. Contact Bob Pilcher at RPilc99206@aol.com.

RCA Victor console, model V205 (1941) radio/phono, Premier tabletop wood model, 4283 radio/phono. Joan, 732-521-1963.

WANTED

EICO 324 signal generator and RF probe. Tony Galella, (201)-823-0116, tgalella@att.net.

For additional information and more photos of this great odyssey, visit the NJARC website.

Dave has also posted links to the Early Television Foundation Museum and other vintage television sites.

