

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

February 2004

Volume 10 Issue 2



MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

You'll notice that this month's *Broadcaster* is not in its typical booklet format. Although many members favored this improvement, it did present a problem to your editor. Quite frankly, folding over 200 copies each month was becoming quite a drag. I have finally found an automatic folding machine that will handle four sheets of paper; unfortunately, with the location of the staples in the present booklet form, the folder will not work. Considering the time saving for me and a savings to the club of close to \$400 for the year, I'm afraid we'll have to live with a slightly degraded format. However, I guarantee that the content of the *Broadcaster* will not be affected.

Last month's meeting included Part 1 of Al Klase's "Radio Building Blocks" series. Al covered a range of introductory topics such as linear and non-linear circuits, the heterodyne principle, amplitude modulation, the basic radio receiver, the TRF three dialer and Armstrong and the development of the Supersonic Heterodyne Receiver (Superhet). During Al's presentation, speculation on why 455 KHz was ultimately chosen as AM radio's IF frequency added some give-and-take to the discussion and may form the basis of a future *Broadcaster* article. The meeting also included another mini-auction.

The club conducted another repair clinic and technology exhibition at the Sarnoff Library on January 17th. The session included a well-received radio basics course by Steve Goulart. Member Thomas Lee said that he found Steve's troubleshooting tips and theory very helpful in the repair of his Crosley 56TG. Also included were a 45 RPM record player display by Phil Vourtsis, a radio ephemera display by Marsha



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, February 13th at 7:30 PM at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton NJ. See the NJARC web site or contact Phil Vourtsis at 732-446-2427 for directions. The February program will consist of a few segments:

- Dan Collins will discuss the many features of his website radioswap-meet.com.
- Rob Flory will talk about broadcast band DX-ing from Prince Edward Island. (As Al Klase comments, "He probably trounced all of us in the Communications Receiver class.")
- If Tom Provost sharpens his pencil and everyone meets the Feb. 7th deadline for entry submittal, we'll present the broadcast band DX contest winners and awards.

and Jerry Simkin, a transistor radio display by Dave Snellman, various hands-on electric/electronic "play stations" by Al Klase



A young DX'er surfs the airwaves at the Sarnoff Library.

and the representation of a typical ship-board receiving station by Rob Flory. The exhibits formed the basis of an article in the Sunday New York Times which is included in this month's *Broadcaster*.

There was a significant amount of activity during the clinic:

- Marty Friedman brought a 1963 GE model 2461 clock radio back to life by replacing the filter capacitors and repairing

a bad solder joint on the circuit board. Marty also did some initial work on a Philco 37-60 but had to defer bathtub capacitor replacement until a later date. Marty was also tackling a Philco 42-327 late in the day.

- Steve Calandra attacked his British Cosmocord 78 RPM portable phono. A complicated clutch mechanism finally succumbed to his persistence.

- Nevell Greenough cured the intermittent in a Philco 48-1263 by jumpering its on-off switch. Nevell also worked with Jerry Dowgin to help him repair the after-market power supply for his AK-10 breadboard (bad regulator transistor).

- An intermittent trimmer capacitor was the problem found by Ed Ledner and your editor in a 1955 Arvin table radio.

- An Atwater Kent 944 cathedral was brought in with a volume problem.

Aaron Hunter repaired the power cord, replaced a tube with a broken cap and sprayed the volume control to cure this one. Aaron also found the fix to a GE 218 to be a bad output tube and missing 12BA6.

- Sal Brisindi was challenged with a BC-348-R aircraft receiver (reported to be from a B-17). An open winding in the power transformer was repaired, filter capacitors changed but the unit remains a work in progress.

speaker mounting bracket are also included.

- About 15% of the parts are already mounted - tube sockets, choke, IF transformers, send/receive switch and tuning dials. The tuning dials have been strung but their indicators don't seem to be working properly. This appears to be an easy fix, since a full page of detailed instructions on assembling the dials are included.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The parts already installed are mechanical mountings; no soldering or wiring has taken place. The unit can be easily returned to its full kit form by simple mechanical disassembly. The former builder has also saved the paper envelopes of the parts already used; removed parts can be returned to them. In addition, the builder "double-checked" parts that he had installed directly on the parts list; moving them back to their original envelopes will be easy since the envelopes are also marked with part numbers.

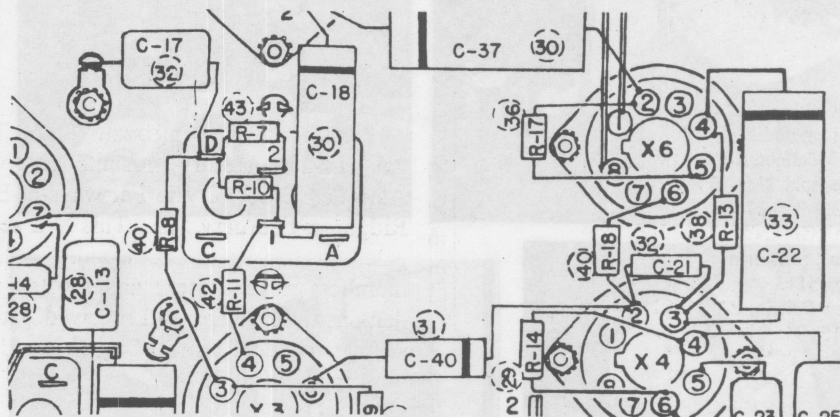
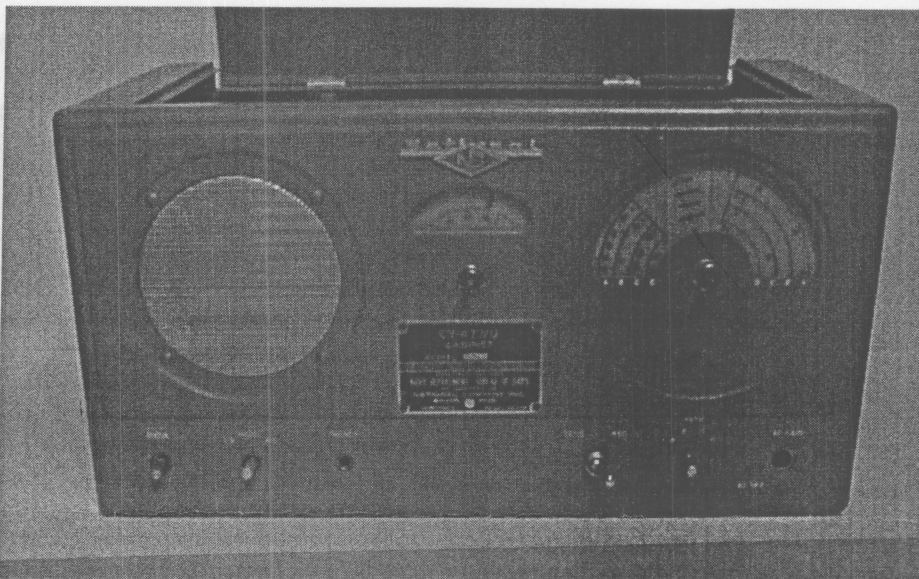
- The chassis and case are rust free.

- Two sets of instructions are included: the receiver assembly manual (including alignment, trouble-shooting and operating instructions), the cabinet assembly manual and the parts list. The kit is NOT in its original box.

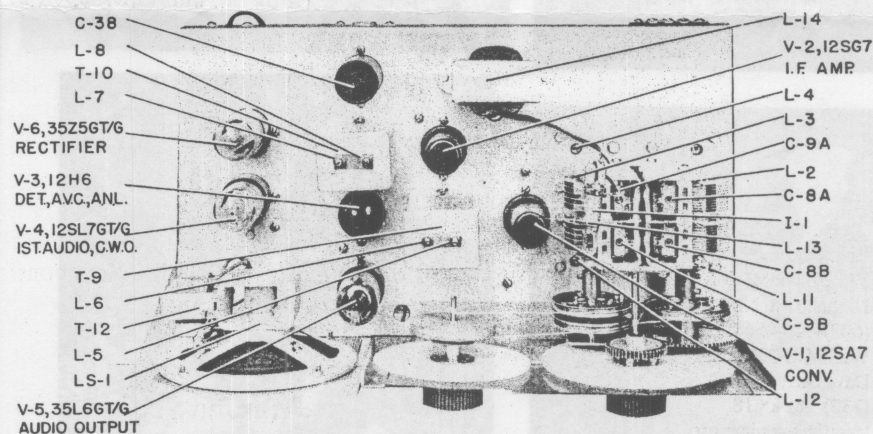
The NC-33 sold for \$65.95 in 1948; a tilt base was available for an additional \$3.95. Here were some of its features:

1. Continuous frequency coverage of 500 KHz to 35 MHz in four bands. The main tuning and bandspread tuning capacitors are connected in parallel on all bands.
2. Stages: 12SA7 converter, 12SG7 I.F. amplifier (455 KHz), 12H6 second det./AVC/ANL, 12SL7GT/G first audio/CWO, 35L6GT/6 audio output and 35Z5GT/6 rectifier.
3. Controls: A.F. Gain, C.W.-Phone-A.N.L., Pitch, and Send-Receive switch.

Since most kits are worth some two to three times more than their constructed cousins, and based on its rarity and historical interest, it is expected that the lucky winner will maintain this NC-33 in kit form. This seems more plausible considering the number of built receivers in collectors' hands and offered for sale. But whatever the case or intent, good luck to all bidders!



Pre-Heathkit wiring detail from the instruction manual.



Rear view of the completed receiver.

RADIO DAYS OR HIGH TECH - IT'S ALL THE SAME

By Neil Genzlinger

The following article, reproduced by permission, appeared in the "Jersey" section of the New York Times for February 1st. It provides an interesting commentary on our recent repair clinic at the Sarnoff library...Ed

Those of you who are still hoping that computers, cellphones, digital cameras and other modern gadgetry are passing fads and that we will soon return to the simpler days of a half-century ago might have been dismayed with what Phil Vourtsis had on display at the David Sarnoff Library the other day. The event was a combination exhibition and radio-repair clinic, with members of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club doing the honors. Mr. Vourtsis, the club's president and the author of "The Fabulous Victrola 45," had a display related to the dear departed 45-r.p.m. record that was fascinating and hilarious, but also depressing.



The hilarity came from a 1949 promotional film in which an impossibly earnest fellow was extolling the virtues of this new way to listen to music. "Distortion-free records!" he exclaimed. And indestructible. "Bend 'em, bounce 'em; nothing happens!"

The depressing part was Mr. Vourtsis's sampling of newspaper articles from the pe-

riod. It turns out the innocent little 45 wasn't so innocent after all; it was part of a war between RCA-Victor (which made many of its breakthroughs at labs in New Jersey) and Columbia for the ears of America. The new 45 from RCA was competing with a seven-inch disc Columbia had just introduced as well as Columbia's LP's, and all were different from older-style records - different speeds, different needles, different players.

"The record-playing public," read one account, "which buys from 200,000,000 to 3000,000,000 new disks a year, is faced with three mutually exclusive methods of reproducing music from records. Neither of the two new records can be played on conventional phonographs or radio-phonographs, nor can either be used on competing record-playing machines."

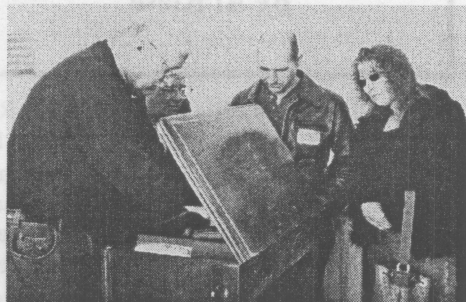
It sounded, in other words, dismayingly like the technological warfare that bedevils us today; VCR's vs. assorted types of DVD's, CD's vs. MP3's, Windows vs. Macs, attachments that won't open, digital cameras that won't download. Evidently there never really was a simpler time; products have always tried to push one another out of the marketplace, and frustrated consumers have always been left to play catch-up. "Only today the turnaround on a product is much faster," Mr. Vourtsis said.

His club (www.njarc.org) has about 200 members, and watching them have fun with antique radios and other ancient technology makes you wonder what people will be doing a few decades hence with old cellphones. (Notice how primitive the ones from the 90's already look?) Lately, for instance, they've been having a contest to see who can pick up the most distant radio signal on a vintage receiver. When conditions are right, noise from Chicago or Canada or Mexico might squawk through the classic sets.

At the Sarnoff event, in Princeton, the club's experts ran a repair clinic where people could bring old radios for free doctoring. Some who brought in sick sets were fellow hobbyists, but others were hoping to revive a personal keepsake.

A lot of old radios are being unearthed these days in New Jersey and everywhere else as the radio-crazy generation dies off and its offspring inherit attics full of stuff. Mr. Vourtsis said that at first the repair clinics were just for club members, but then it seemed there might be layman out

there in need of vacuum-tube and soldering-gun assistance. "It's pretty rewarding when we're able to help them out because they feel like they're reconnected with something from their childhood," he said.



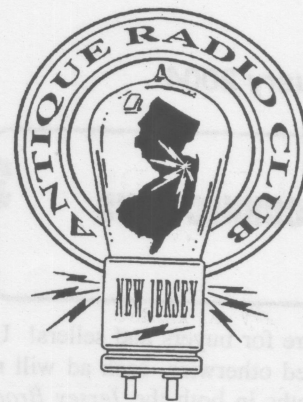
Certain radios can be worth thousands of dollars, he said, though many more models were just as mass-produced as anything today and are worth less than a first-generation digital camera. Also, some antique sets might prefer to remain idle. For instance, someone once brought in an Emerson Catalin and gave Mr. Vourtsis pause. "It was the kind of thing where I really didn't want to get the radio working again because heat from the radio could damage the cabinet," he said, "and with the Catalin that's where the value is."

One other booth from the Sarnoff event is worth mentioning, what with Valentine's Day not far off. It was a display of valentines, sheet music and such with radio themes, from the days when radio was new. "There's a Wireless Station Down in My Heart," was one song title. A card read, "Over the radio you can hear me pine, I want you for my Valentine."



Apparently, linking romantic sentiments to the high-tech device of the moment gives them extra credibility. So here's an assignment for the season: Use the words iPod, memory stick, mini-DVD and MP3 in a love poem. Give it to your sweetie. Then duck.

NEW JERSEY
ANTIQUE RADIO
CLUB



ANTIQUE RADIO
SWAPMEET

SUNDAY, APRIL 18th, 8:00 AM - 1 PM*

North Centerville Vol. Fire Co. - Hazlet, NJ

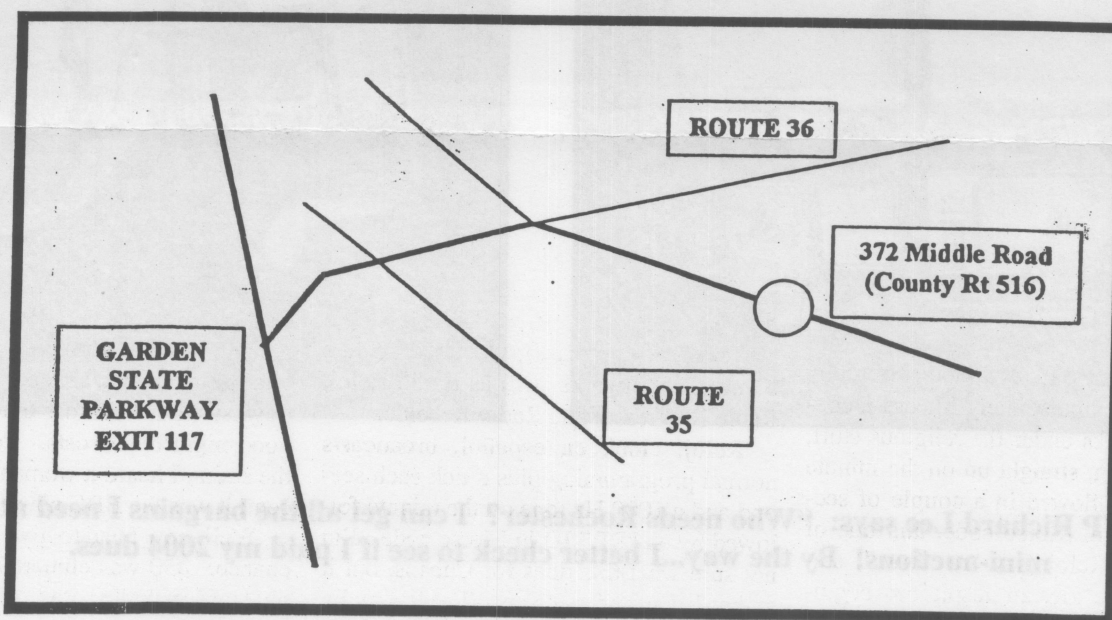
The NJARC presents its Spring swapmeet at the spacious North Centerville Fire Co. banquet hall in Hazlet, NJ. The first 30 reservations receive an 8-foot table at no extra cost. A \$3.00 club donation from buyers is suggested.

* Vendor setup at 7:30 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). Bear left onto Route 36 and continue for about 1/2 mile. Turn right on Middle Road (County Route 516 East) and continue for about 1.5 miles. The Fire Co. banquet hall is on the right.

RATES: NJARC members \$15/space; non-members \$20/space. **Note:** Tables are only available to first 30 registered vendors.

CONTACTS/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



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.

13" Zenith color TV (1987) - \$30
12" GE color TV (1985) - \$20
Tom Musacchio, 609-448-0787

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.

1931 Sparton model 15 wooden console radio. Original condition; works. Has hole in grill cloth and is missing a small piece of trim. \$125 or best offer. Majorie Ford, 8 Brookview Rd., Boonton Twp., NJ. 973-334-8283 marjorieford@att.net

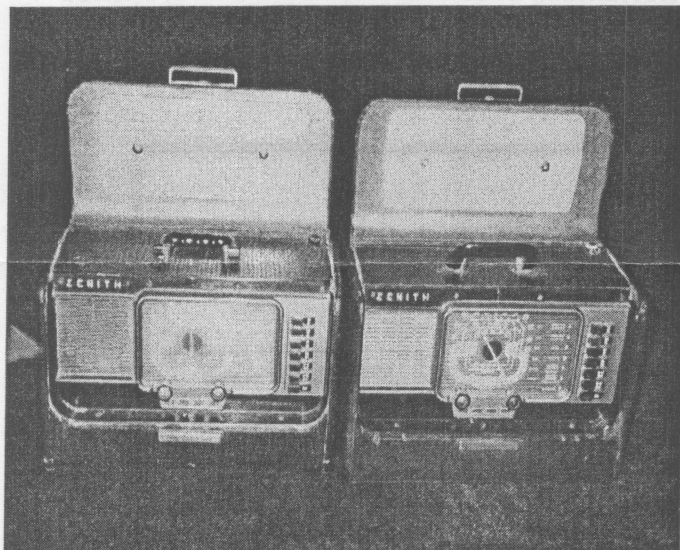
Atwater Kent 70, console, type L chassis, type N speaker (10"), cabinet in A1 condition, has all tubes and worked until tuner clutch started slipping. John Edelhooser, 1515 Silo Ct., Manasquan, NJ 08736 732-223-7203

WANTED

Magnavox Sportsman model AW-24, all wave, 7 transistor, 2-band portable, in good condition and working. Joe Bentreto, 84 E. Munson Ave., Dover, NJ 07801. (973) 361-7392 JBentreto@msn.com

"Radio in the Home" magazine, December 1925. Other issues also considered. Also looking for Sparton radio ads from 1928-1929 Liberty magazines. John Okolowicz, 624 Cedar Hill Rd., Ambler, PA 19002, john@grillecloth.com

YOUR AD HERE...FREE TO OVER 200 MEMBERS



As club VP Richard Lee says: "Who needs Rochester? I can get all the bargains I need at NJARC mini-auctions! By the way...I better check to see if I paid my 2004 dues."

SHUTTER-DIAL DX

By Al Klase

For this year's New Jersey Antique Radio Club DX contest, I thought it might be appropriate to make an effort with a home-entertainment receiver in Category D. I had campaigned the General Electric A-82 last year, and was looking for something different. There aren't a lot of "civilian" radios here to choose from, so I found myself carrying the Zenith 12S232 tombstone upstairs to the bedroom where the loop antennas work best.



I connected the Waltons set to my newly constructed, super-simple, ferrite loop antenna that had already proved effective with the Collins 51J-4. Now for AC - the power cord, that I had replaced about 12 years ago with something from a slightly antique lamp, was badly frayed. I tucked a folded scrap of paper between the two bare conductors, prayed, and plugged it in. So far so good!

It was 19:02 EST, just after 7PM, perhaps a little early for DX. I tuned to WMCA, 570 in New York City, and nulled the signal as best I could by rotating the antenna. Gee, that 6T5 eye tube is actually useful. Almost immediately I heard a couple of clock ticks under the religious stuff, and sure enough, straight up on the minute came a beep followed in a couple of seconds by "RR" in Morse code, and one of Cuba's Radio Reloj (say "ray low.") stations was in the log, an auspicious beginning.

OK, time to get serious. I tuned up to 750 and peaked up the antenna, and pointed

the rod to the Southwest to null out what was probably WSB in Atlanta. Sure enough there was Latin music and Spanish voices. Just a couple of minutes, and I was rewarded by a quick "erray-cee-erray" announcement. That's RCR in Caracas Venezuela, one of the few Latins that identifies with any regularity, and a great catch at 2097 miles. Rotating the antenna ninety degrees, yielded a WSB ID in just a minute or two.

Another perennial points generator, and fairly easy catch is WWL in New Orleans, some 1100 miles distant. Frequency is 870, just below WCBS. The steerable loop helped knock back the splatter. These guys sometimes drone on-and-on. This time it was round ball, so it was nearly 8 o'clock until they ID'ed.

I knew from last year that competition was likely to be fierce, so I decided to ignore the Chicago stations for the time being, and strive for real distance. I had to hang around 1120 KHz for a while to snag KMOX in St. Louis.

One of the stations you just have to log is Radiovision Cristiana down in the Caribbean on South Caicos Island, 1309 miles, rock-crusher signal, reliable ID on the hour, and totally in the clear on 530 kilohertz. I had heard them a couple of days ago on the one-tube regen with no trouble at all. The only problem was, the Zenith only tunes down to, maybe, 540.

Try as I might, I wasn't coordinated enough to get a screwdriver on the oscillator padder condenser to tweak the set down to 530 while looking through a mirror. Oh well, that power cord really needed to be replaced, so RVC went in the log with the chassis out of the cabinet.

Well, the low-hanging fruit had been picked, now it was time for serious DXing. Cubans were the answer, and a Google search, on the Internet, had yielded a fair amount of useful information. Fidel has a bunch of radio stations, and some are quite powerful. Many are associated with a number of networks such as Radio Reloj, Radio Progreso, and Radio Rebelde.

Reloj, clock en español, broadcasts normal programming plus a tick each second and a 1000 Hz tone on the minute followed by an "RR" ID in Morse code. I'm not sure what this does for Cubans, but it makes life easy for DXers. The R's really cut through the clutter and are easy to hear: "dit-dah-dit dit-dah-dit."

Progreso and Rebelde are a lot more

difficult. They don't seem to ID very often, and usually cruise right through straight-up-on-the-hour without so much as drawing a breath. However, if you know that two suspect stations, identified positively in frequency, are members of the same network, and they're broadcasting the same program, it's reasonable to claim them both. Hard-core DXers call them "parallel." I'd worked this out the night before on two R. Rebelde stations.

I found the first candidate on 600, just below Philadelphia's WIP, and the other on 670, just above WFAN. The "split-second" fine tuning dial on the Zenith made it easy to tune back and forth between them. Bingo! The same program was airing on both.

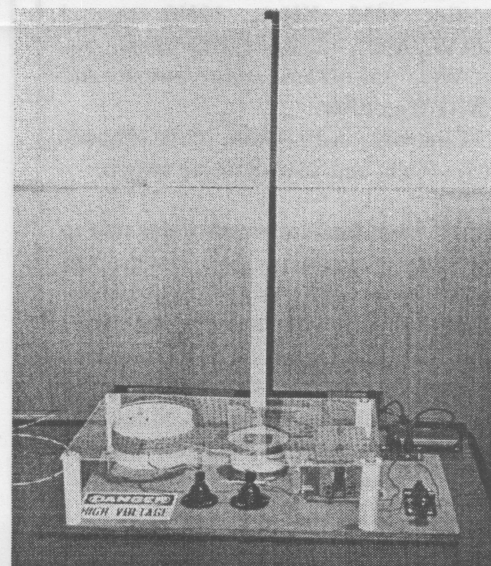
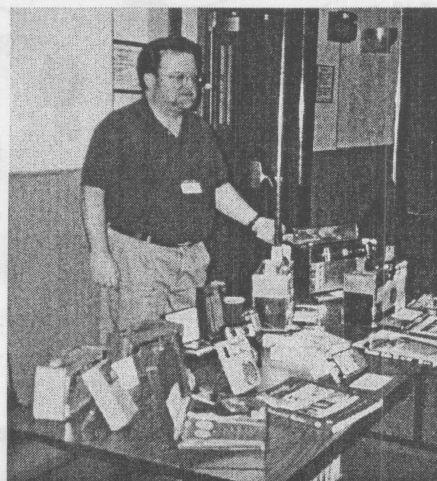
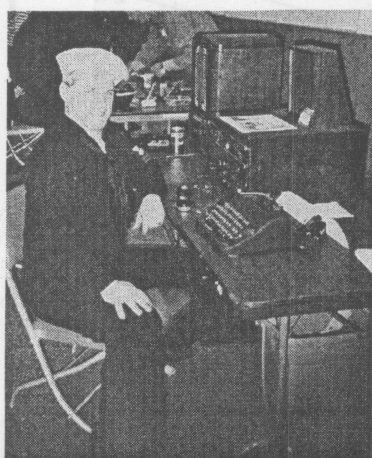
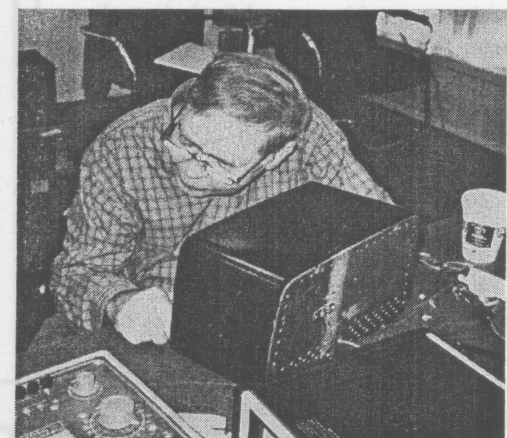
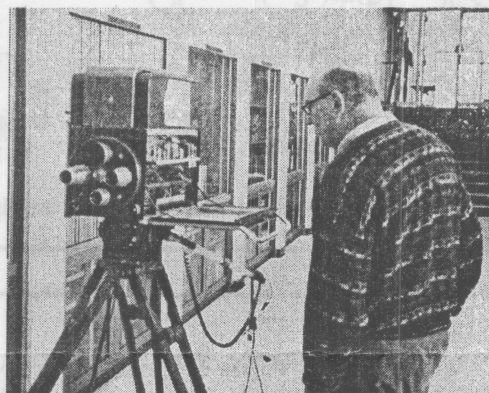
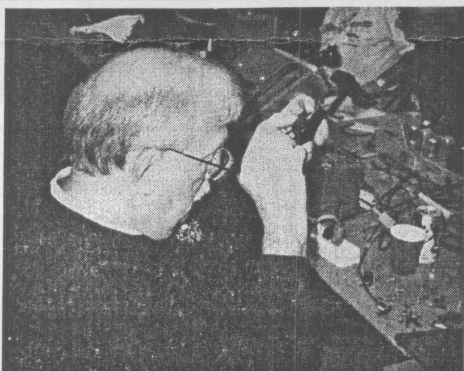
Next I went and camped out on 850, just below the French from CJBC Toronto on 860. This is the home of elusive KOA in Denver. I hadn't been able to hear them this year, even on the Collins at 5 AM. You need to null out the sports from WEEI in Boston and listen carefully through a couple other stations. No good, but there was a Radio Reloj ID coming through. 850 is another of the Reloj frequencies on the list. In the log it went, and inspired, I dropped down to 830 and caught another "RR."

My favorite catch was ZIZ, 555 KHz, in St. Kitts & Nevis. English from the Caribbean, what a novelty! I had heard them the night before on the Collins. This is another station that doesn't ID often, but I had learned from their website that they went to BBC news at midnight. I tuned the big black "Robot Dial" just below WFIL (560), and fiddled with the antenna. There was something there, probably English, but no chance of an ID. I checked for another station at 550 to make sure I was on frequency.

I listened for quite a while with no results. I had the gain pretty far up to try to hear. I was almost ready to give up. I had Atlanta and Nashville in the log to make a total of ten respectable contacts, so I went downstairs to turn off the lights and say good night to the cats. Coming back up the stairs, I heard a woman with a Brit accent; it was the BBC news!

Well, now I had to give Denver another chance. 850 was cluttered with the same old stuff, including Radio Reloj. But then, I heard, not once, but twice, that wonderful call from just this side of the Rockies, KOA.

JANUARY REPAIR CLINIC AND TECHNOLOGY DAY AT THE SARNOFF LIBRARY



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 \$20 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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•Phil Vourtsis worked with other members in diagnosing an RCA RE-17 radio/phono console with a bad phono pickup, a frozen volume control, no radio reception but some amplification. Further repairs were judged to be beyond the scope of the clinic and cost-prohibitive considering the value of the set. Phil also worked on a large Normande 6012; the radio was brought back to life but the phono mechanism was deemed hopeless.

•Nick Senker attacked a Zenith H500 portable that was working intermittently. The 1L6 oscillator seemed erratic and tracked with the receiver's static, but a substitute was not available. This remains a work in progress.

•Gary D'Amico worked on Bob Sakson's RCA 211K chassis and found a dead bias battery; a standard 1.5V replacement was the answer. He also aided Ray Facinelli in realigning his Hallicrafters S-40.

The team of Bentrovato and Chase gave a radio history presentation to the Antiques Group at the Fairways-at-Lake Ridge on February 5th. This is a senior gated community in Lakewood. About 30 members were present and the talk and demonstration were well received. A last minute trip to Atlantic City reduced the turnout from 50, but it is beyond me why anyone would want to gamble their life away when they could be returned to the golden age of radio by two of our most active club ambassadors.

The club will greet the return of Spring with an April 18th (Sunday) swapmeet in Hazlet. See this month's *Broadcaster* for details.

We've received a wonderful response to our call for 2004 dues, but we still have about 100 more members to go. It's a simple process to renew, and it saves us the time and cost of sending out notices. Just look for "1/04" on your mailing labeling and mail a \$20 check to our membership secretary, Marsha Simkin. Your consideration is appreciated.

Marsha Simkin
33 Lakeland Drive
Barnegat, NJ 08005

NJARC TO AUCTION RARE KIT AT MARCH MEETING

By Marv Beeferman

At the March meeting, the club will auction a National model BM:282 receiver kit, including its complimentary AN type CY-677/U cabinet. Never heard of a BM:282? How about an NC-33? National created this kit form of the NC-33 between 1947 and 1948 as a training aid for the Navy. Although not confirmed, a few members feel that the kit was used to train officers and never made it into enlisted hands. Whatever the case, it's speculated that only a very few of these kits exist in unbuilt form, which makes the club's example a very rare bird indeed.

Although the kit will be auctioned at the March meeting (with a \$100 minimum), you will have the opportunity to bid even if you don't attend. Since President Phil Vourtsis will not be bidding, mail or e-mail your bid to him at the following address; it must reach him no later than March 10th or it will be ineligible:

Phil Vourtsis
13 Cornell Place
Manalapan, NJ 07726
(732)-446-2427
pvourtsis@att.com

To make the auction fair to everyone, here's what is known about the kit; however, NJARC does not take any responsibility for possible inaccuracies regarding this information:

•Over 99% of the parts are included. The known missing parts (following inventory) are the 5" PM speaker and the 35Z5GT and 12SA7 tubes. There are no known missing parts that cannot be easily found for full kit completion.

•The kit appears to be the combination of 2 kits, with about 25% of the parts duplicated. This is also based on the fact that there are 2 copies of the assembly manuals. Most duplicates are discrete components and wire, although an extra power supply electrolytic, BFO transformer and