

# The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

March 2004

Volume 10 Issue 3



## MEETING/ ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

The February meeting of the NJARC included a presentation by Dan Collins giving members a close-up look at his website [radioswapmeet.com](http://radioswapmeet.com). Many members were impressed by what the site includes, since the name alone is somewhat deceptive. Besides offering "tables" where members can list items for sale, the site offers some 400,000 schematics, complete Sams photo-facts (based on a relational database where any part of a model number can be used for searching), numerous electronic data sheets, dial cord data, tube data and a large resource section for obtaining restoration parts and services.

The meeting also included the appointment of Isaac Blonder and Ben Tongue as honorary members, a review of [radiolovers.com](http://radiolovers.com) by Nevell Greenough (Nevell was kind enough to offer members loaner CD copies of the numerous old time radio offerings from this site), the presentation of our Broadcast Band DX Contest awards (including a first hand account of DX'ing Prince Edward Island by Robert Flory) and a very nice mini-auction.

This June will mark two years since our last election and, as the club constitution dictates, voting will take place for a new slate of officers at this year's June meeting. So that everyone understands the duties and responsibilities of each office, selections from the constitution will be made available at the March meeting. Here's a summary of how the process works:

- Voting will take place for a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms, technical coordinator and one trustee. Page 2 of the *Broadcaster* lists the present officers.



## MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the NJARC will take place on Friday, March 12th at 7:30 PM at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton NJ. An Executive Board meeting will be held at 6:30 PM; all Executive Board members are encouraged to attend. See the NJARC web site or contact Phil Vourtsis at 732-446-2427 for directions.

The February program will include a Show-and-Tell session based on the theme "Novelty Radios and Radio Novelties." Although other items are still welcome, it is requested that member contributions stay close to the novelty motif. In addition, we'll be auctioning the National NC-33 kit (\$100 minimum bid) described in last month's *Broadcaster*. If you plan to bid by proxy, ensure you contact Phil Vourtsis no later than Thursday, March 11th.

- Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the March, April and May meetings only (no proxies). Nominations must be seconded from the floor. A member

- Voting will take place at the June meeting by paper ballot. Voting by proxy is allowed, with the member submitting choices on a dated and signed facsimile indicating both the position and individual. Per our constitution, this paper must be forwarded to a member who will be attending the June meeting and submitted at that time.

- Votes may only be submitted by members in good standing (2004 dues paid).



Tube program coordinator Gary D'Amico ensures that his stock is of the highest quality. Used, tested tubes are available to NJARC members at bargain prices.

may propose as many nominations as desired.

- Nominations and seconds may only be submitted by members in good standing (2004 dues paid). Nominees must also be members in good standing.

- Nominees are invited (but not required) to submit a short statement (125 words or less) of their vision for the club's future to be published in the April, May or June *Broadcaster*. No statements will be accepted after 12 noon on June 3rd.

Ray Chase has requested that all books that were transported from the Sarnoff Library be eventually transferred to InfoAge. There are still a lot of books in individual's hands and they need to be consolidated. Arrangements can be made with Ray to either meet him at InfoAge cottage #2 or he will pick them up at your location. He will also accept a transfer to his vehicle at the March meeting. Please advise Ray of your intentions so that adequate transportation is available. Ray can be reached at 908-757-9741 ([www.enrpn@erols.com](mailto:www.enrpn@erols.com)). In addition, Marsha Simkin needs to be contacted to receive the book inventory format. Marsha can be reached at 609-660-8160.

Ray also reports that it looks like some good has come out of NJARC attendance at the InfoAge BRAC meeting on February 10th. We would have been a party of six

**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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(including Jerry Dowgin, John Dilks and Steve Tatorkis) if last minute car trouble from Phil Vourtsis' 40-year old Buick had not got in the way. It looks like Phil should stick to antique radios and phonographs.

•The "B" site which includes the cottages, the hotel, one lab building and the Diana site has been split in half and the Diana portion is ready for formal transfer which is scheduled for the 1st of March.

•The sewer issue was not on the agenda but Ray's insistence brought it to the floor. The Project Manager commented that Army brass at the Pentagon had called just that day and were incensed that nothing had been done. After much recrimination and excuses, it was promised to have the sewer restoration under contract within a month with a finish date of May.

•Ray, Steve and John spoke up on several issues revolving around the club's frustration in being able to get InfoAge going and the loss of several estates and contributions due to inordinate delays. Their presentations were at time impassioned and confrontational and had a strong impact on most of those present. The new mayor of Wall township was in attendance and listened intently and could observe that InfoAge had wide support.

Director Fred Carl had received some calls following the meeting indicating that NJARC's presence was well received and forceful. Of course, no final commitments were made, but if the sewer issue is resolved by May, there should be no further hitches in transferring the cottages, hotel and one lab building. But with all the setbacks, progress does continue. InfoAge has been recently granted permanent 501 (C) 3 (not-for-profit) status.

We started our goal of full membership renewal with much enthusiasm, but the check input has slowed somewhat. Please try to save the club the cost of "reminder" notices by sending in your renewal as soon as possible. As of March 6th, a "1/04" on your address label indicates that we have not yet received this year's dues (an "H" designator indicates honorary membership with no payment due). Please mail your checks to Marsha Simkin, 33 Lakeland Drive, Barneget, NJ 08005. Remember...you cannot vote at the June election if your dues are not paid!

We will be auctioning the NC-33 receiver kit (see the February Broadcaster) at the March meeting. If you care to bid but cannot make the meeting, get your bid to Phil Vourtsis no later than March 11th. Other dates to remember include:

- InfoAge Board meeting: Tuesday, March 16th (contact Marv Beeferman/Ray Chase if you are planning to attend)
- NJARC repair clinic at the Sarnoff Library: March 20th
- Bob Parvin radio auction in Emmaus Pa.: April 3rd (flyers available at March meeting)
- NJARC Spring swapmeet: April 18th
- Hudson Valley antique radio & phonograph sale in West Point NY: May 1st (flyers available at March meeting)
- Trenton Computerfest: 1st week of May
- NJARC Summer swapmeet: July 31st

**Corrections:** The suggested buyer donation at our Spring swapmeet is \$5.00 rather than \$3.00 to make up for a significant increase in hall rental.

In the February article on the NJARC repair clinic, I failed to mention John Ruccolo's work on Rich Skoba's Crosley 182 and other repair's that John supported.

## EMERSON AND INGRAHAM - PERFECT TOGETHER

By Tony Flanagan  
&  
Marv Beeferman

Charles (Tony) Flanagan, founder and former president of the NJARC, has since passed on. At a past swapmeet, his wife Kathleen asked me if I would be interested in some research material that Tony had collected related to one of his radio passions...the E. Ingraham cabinet. I am very pleased to offer the following article based on Tony's research...Ed

Many of us gear our collections to radios of a particular manufacturer, material, style or era. But Tony Flanagan was captivated by something a little different...a

unique cabinet design by a single company. Why? Perhaps it was the use of exotic woods; or perhaps it was speaker baffles or outlines characterized by swooping curves and circles. Typical of these characteristics are Emerson models such as the DB-315 and BD-197 (sometimes called "Mae West" radios because of their conical grills), the AX series "Little Miracle," the R-167, the U-6F and the very sought after, violin-shaped CV-296 "Strad." The fact that these were all Emersons, however, was not the criterion that attracted Tony; it was the fact that their cabinets were all produced by the E Ingraham Company.

Tony's choice of the title for his article, "Emerson and Ingraham - Perfect Together," suggests that the success of the two companies was intertwined. This may very well be the case, at least between 1930 and 1940, resulting from the foresight of one individual and the creativity of another.

The Emerson Radio and Phonograph Company was formed in 1924 by consolidating the Emerson Phonograph Company, Inc. and the Emerson Radio Corporation. Prior to that, the Emerson Phonograph Co. had established a solid business, having sold thousands of phonographs and millions of records. During the 1920s, Emerson remained a relatively minor player in the radio business. However, all that changed with the introduction of its Model 25A.

In the book *Small Radio*, published by Emerson in 1943, Benjamin Abrams (president of Emerson in 1943), said the company had been impressed with the success of the inexpensive "midget" or "mantel" sets made by a variety of small companies in the Los Angeles area during the 1929-1931 era. He felt that it ought to be possible to do even better in terms of sizing down. He describes the development of the Model 25A as follows:

"In 1932, when the fortunes of small radio were at their lowest ebb, I found what I was looking for and what later pointed the way to a successful operation. It was a clock, or rather a clock case - handsomely styled as style was understood in those days, and only ten inches wide, six and a half inches high, and four inches deep. The idea of squeezing a radio chassis, complete with speaker and tubes into a case of such dimensions was, of course, preposterous."

Abrams noted that his engineers had to develop miniaturized (for that era) tuning

capacitors, coils, dials, and other parts in order to shoehorn the works into a clock case. The Model 25A was a four-tube, AC/DC receiver with a six-inch speaker. When most other radios were designed to use a long-wire outside antenna and a good ground, the Model 25A used a hank of wire that could be unrolled behind the sofa or under the bed. It weighed only six pounds when other "midget" sets tipped the scales at 25 to 30 pounds. It listed for \$25 and, according to Abrams, more than 200,000 were sold during the 1932-33 period.

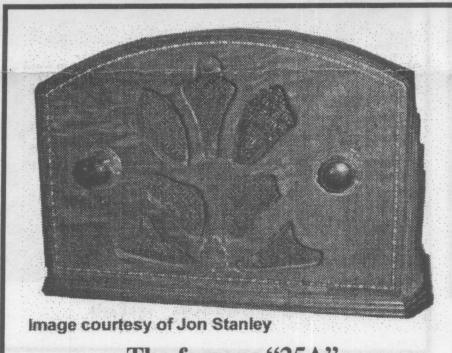


Image courtesy of Jon Stanley

The famous "25A"

In Emerson's 30th anniversary *An American Dream Comes True - The Story of Benjamin Abrams and the Emerson Radio Phonograph Corporation*, the impact of the Model 25A was well-documented with glowing superlatives:

"No sooner had this Model 25A hit the market than it caught on like a wind-blown brush fire, despite those who said it would not sell, and others who said that it would ruin the sale of larger radios. It started the trend to multiple radios in homes, boosting sales of large receivers, too. It started the "cash and carry" selling of radios. It placed radios in stores that never carried them before. It was the great new idea in one radio, the one, which almost overnight made Emerson, as Fortune Magazine put it, "the World's largest maker of small radios."

Introducing a new type of radio at the lowest ebb of the great depression was quite a gamble for Abrams. Money was scarce, purchasing practically at a standstill, and fear and worry were rampaging across the country. But the gamble paid off, prompting some of Abram's employees to sum up the success of the Model 25A with the following: "Benjamin

Abrams with his Model 25A did for radio what Henry Ford with his model T did for automobiles."

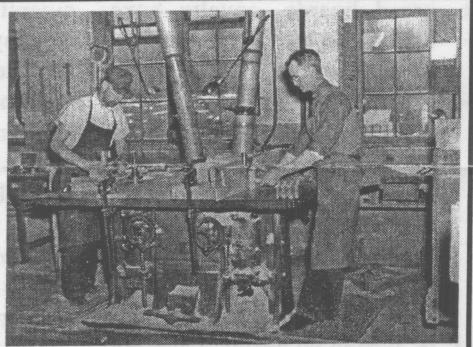
But what about the cabinet? The clock case that Abrams referred to earlier as the inspiration for his Model 25A was probably made by the E. Ingraham Company, although Abrams never admitted to this. The company was a clock and watch manufacturer located in Bristol, Connecticut. It also produced specialized items like bread boards, novelty boxes, cigarette boxes, display cases, pipe racks, ash trays and humidors. The business was founded in 1831 by Elias Ingraham, a cabinet maker, joiner and clock case designer and maker. Descendants of Elias Ingraham served continuously as presidents of the company until 1956, when it was sold to the McGraw Edison Company in 1967 and its name changed to Ingraham Industries.

During the 1930s, Ingraham was eager to expand its business and branch out into other areas. Their arrangement with Emerson to produce the case for the 25A was probably their most successful venture outside of their normal clock business. By 1938, the E Ingraham catalog featured two pages of Emerson radio cabinets.

To research the Emerson-Ingraham connection, Tony placed an ad in the *Bristol Press* in 1994 and received a response from Dr. Armando W. Ciccarelli of Bristol Connecticut. Dr. Ciccarelli told Tony that his father, Ostellio Ciccarelli was a foreman for 17 years with the Victor Talking Machine Company, of Camden New Jersey. He started his career with Ingraham in 1928 as a foreman of the Sanding Department; in a very short time, he became superintendent of the Woodworking Division.

Ciccarelli was one of the most skilled cabinet workers in New England, and his associates dubbed him "Mr. Woodworker." His specialization was bending laminated veneers into all kinds of shapes and forms and what Emerson dubbed "Sta-Bent Cabinet Construction" was attributed to processes that he developed; naturally, the design of the Model 25A cabinet was assigned to him. As a result of success of the 25A, the "case shop" which he supervised became a major radio and TV cabinet producer for Emerson. Demand was so high that the Ingraham factory was the only facility in Bristol to provide full employment during the height of the depression.

Among many of Ciccarelli's designs was the case for the Emerson "Duo-Tone" compact Model 106. His son, Armanno related to Tony that his father gave him this radio to take to school at the University of Virginia during his Sophomore year in Sept., 1935. Ostillio Ciccarelli also designed, and received a patent for the sound box of the Emerson Model 167 with the "Miracle Tone Chamber."



Working in the "case shop" - 1940

In March 1942, the War Production Board issued orders closing the radio industry and Ingraham was forced to close the woodworking plant which was largely engaged in making radio cabinets for Emerson. As a result, the plant was leased to a division of General Motors with an arrangement being made to employ all "case shop" personnel as soon as work was completed on work-in-process inventories. Unfortunately, this left Ostillio Ciccarelli stranded. But being such a fine designer and wood-worker and specializing in bending laminated veneers into all kinds of shapes and forms, he was immediately hired by the Goodrich Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio. While at Goodrich, Mr. Ciccarelli developed laminated veneers into forms (such as a wash basin) which would make them available to replace metals which were scarce during World War II.

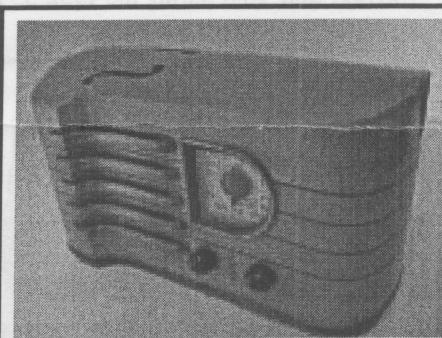
Following the war, Mr. Ciccarelli returned to the Ingraham company and began where he left off - designing television cabinets. In 1947, he designed the cabinet for the Emerson Model 545 and continued his designs through the 1950s.

As a part of his research, Tony obtained copies of the cost breakdowns (material and labor) for many of the Emerson cabinets produced between 1933 and 1934. Among these include the Model 28, 45 and 71 tombstones, the Model 32 and 38 table radios, the model 69, 100 consoles and some cryptic models like "the invisible control,"

the "V type," the "silver pendant," the "secret six," and the "modernistic midget." As most of you probably know, Ingraham also produced the cases for Emerson's famous "Mickey Mouse" radio which the company affectionately called "the McMouse" radio (see insert). It also appears, based on Tony's research, that Ingraham produced some cases for Bosch radios.

#### References:

Brian Belanger, "Emerson and Ingraham," (MAARC Newsletter, December 1993)  
 An American Dream Comes True - The Story of Benjamin Abrams and the Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corporation (Thirty Years of Progress - 1922 to 1952)  
 Various records from the E. Ingraham Company Records collection, University of Connecticut, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center



The Emerson "Strad"

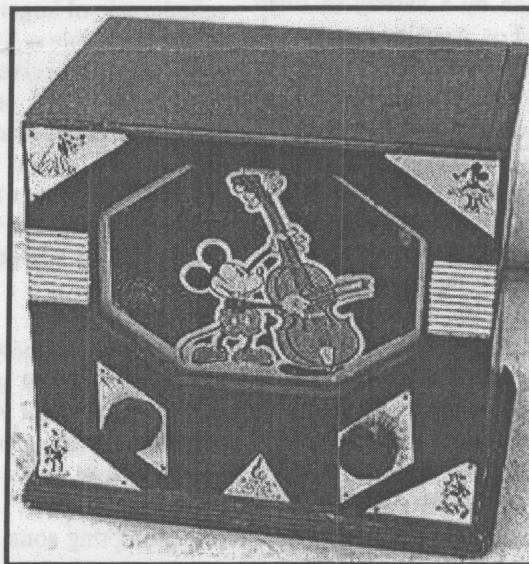


The Emerson 167 with its typical Ingraham styling

## IT'S THE CASE THAT COUNTS

For some unique radios, the insides are only secondary. As noted in the Ingraham article, Tony was able to obtain Ingraham's labor and material cost breakdowns for the cases for Emerson's Mickey Mouse radio. Before you decide to bid on your next Model 409 or 410, here's some food for thought...a comparison of the book value for these radios (Slusser - Fifth Edition/2001) and the cost to Ingraham to make the case:

Ivory and Blue/Light Green	\$1,600+	\$ 8.60
Black and Silver	\$1,600+	\$10.61
Green and Silver	\$1,600+	\$12.50



Does the 20% mark-up that Ingraham took as profit on the case make you feel any better?

Ever wonder what goes into a radio cabinet? The next two pages give the cost and material breakdowns of the Emerson Model 32.

Estimate On Emerson #32 Radio Cabinet. 8/28/34  
Per M.

<u>Labor</u>	
Cutting	132 98
Mill	158 90
Cabinet	275 85
Finishing	286 65
Packing	24 20
Total labor cost	878 58
<u>Material</u>	
Lumber	437 30
Silk	20 00
Carton	150 00
Finishing materials	130 00
Mill supplies	80 00
Nail Felt Feet.	24 00
Asbestos 9"x4-3/4"	25 00
Total material cost	866 30
<u>Summary</u>	
Total labor cost	878 58
100% Overhead on labor	878 58
Total material cost	866 30
10% on material	86 63
Total cost per M cases	2710 09
10% Profit	271 00
Selling price per M	2981 09
Selling price per unit	\$2.98

Lumber Material List on Emerson #32 Radio Cab. 8/28/34

		Feetage each	35% Waste
1 Shell	(1 pc. pl. wal. veneer 24-1/2 x 6 4 pc. popl veneer, 2401/2 x 6 (1/28)	1.021 4.084	1.532 6.126
1 Base Panel	(plywood, 2 pos. 9-3/4 x 5 x 7/16 (1 pc. 1/8" core, 9-3/4 x 5	.778 .339	.855 .509
1 cleat, wal.	11-1/4 x 1-3/8 x 15/16 (5/4)	.143	.2215
2 cleats, wal.	5-1/2 x 1-3/8 x 15/16 (5/4)	.144	.216
2 Side Brackets,	wal. 4 x 5-1/4 x 7/16 (6/4)	.219	.329
2 Side Blocks,	wal. 5-1/4 x 1/2 x 1/2 (6/4)	.041	.062
1 Front Mldg,	wal. 15 x 15 x 5/32 (5-4/4)	.104	.156
4 Pcs.	wal. veneer, 15 x 15	1.250	1.884
2 Top corner blocks,	bass, 4-7/8 x 1-1/4 x 3/8 (5/4)	.054	.081
1 Center corner block,	bass, 5-1/4 x 1-1/2 x 1/2 (6/4)	.041	.062
2 Side Blocks,	bass, 4-7/8 x 2-3/4 x 1/4 (4/4)	.096	.144
<u>Front</u>			
1 pc. fig. wal.	7-1/2 x 10-3/16	.534	.801
1 pc. bass	7-1/2 x 10-3/16 x 5/32 (4/4)	.178	.267
3 pc. pop.	7-1/2 x 10-3/16 x 1/28	1.602	2.403

1 pc. pl. wal.	9 x 10-3/8	.656	.984
1 pc. 1/8 core	9 x 10-3/8	.656	.984
1 pc. 1/28 poplar	9 x 10-3/8	.656	.984

Summary

1,855	Ft.	6/16" Plywood	0	\$65.00	\$5555.70
4,400	"	Plain walnut veneer	0	25.00	110.00
1,493	"	1/8" Core stock	0	15.00	22.39
9,513	"	1/28 Poplar veneer	0	5.75	54.69
431	"	5/4 Walnut	0	115.00	49.57
391	"	6/4 "	0	120.00	46.92
156	"	4/4 "	0	110.00	17.16
411	"	4/4 Bass	0	44.00	18.08
81	"	5/4 "	0	48.00	3.88
62	"	6/4 "	0	48.00	2.97
801	"	1/28" Butt Walnut Veneer	0	70.00	56.07

\$437.50 per M Cases.

\* Category Winner

### Category A-Crystal Radios

No entrants

### Category B - Primitive receivers (1 or 2 tube commercial and homebrew)

\*Al Klase 7,829 pts

1 tube HB w/100-ft. "T"

MDS (Most Distant Station) 530 Radiovision Cristiana, Turks and Caicos Is. 1309 mi.

### Category C - 1920's Battery sets (commercial and homebrew)

\*Walt Heskes 5,112 pts

5 tube homebrew battery Superhet (modern) w/ferrite loop

MDS 1540 Waterloo, Ia. 950 mi.

### Category D - Other radios sold for home use

\*Al Klase 14,352 pts

Zenith 12S232 12 tube tombstone w/Skywaves ferrite loop

MDS 750 YVKS Caracas, Venezuela 2097

Marv Beeferman 10,515 pts

Zenith 6S229 6 tube tombstone w/50 ft. wire

MDS 900 XEW Mexico City 2055 mi.

Paul Dooling, 4,197 pts.

Knight Star Roamer w/22 ft. wire

MDS 750 WSB Atlanta, Ga. 717 mi.

### Category E - Amateur, commercial and military tube radios

\*Gary Damico 9,432 pts

HQ 120 with HB loop

MDS. Radiovision Cristiana, Turks and Caicos Is. 1,309 mi.

Tom Provost 9,143 pts

HQ 150 w/ HB loop.

MDS 530 Radiovision Cristiana, Turks and Caicos Is. 1,309 mi.

### Category F - Transistor radios introduced before 1970

\*Frank Fezcko 5,487 pts

GE P780B (1960) 8 transistor

MDS 1120 KMOX 860 mi.

Paul Dooling 3,020 pts

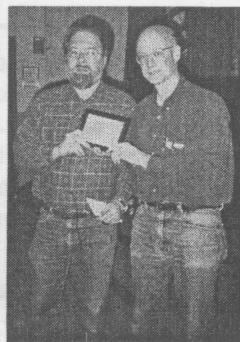
Panasonic AM/FM/Phono (1967)

MDS WBT Charlotte, NC 501 mi.

## New Jersey Antique Radio Club 2004 DX Contest Results

Compiled by Tom Provost 2-11-04

### THE WINNERS



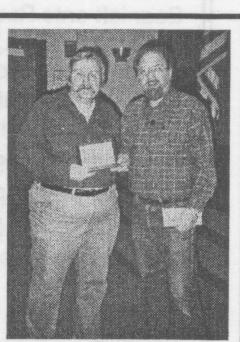
Al Klase



Walt Heskes



Gary D'Amico



Frank Fezcko

**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.

**WANTED**

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

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

Tested and true Signal Generator. Please contact Lisa Starnes Eve.: (973) 410-0373. lisa.starnes@milliman.com

**NO DUES****NO VOTE**

## New Jersey Antique Radio Club Antique Radio Indoor Swap Meet

Sunday, April 18, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM\*

North Centerville Vol. Fire Co., Hazlet, N.J.



The NJARC presents its Spring 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 \$3.00 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). Bear left onto Route 36 and continue for about 0.5 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.

**RESERVATIONS:** Marv Beeferman, 2265 Em'ralda 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.

