The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

October 2021 Volume 27 Issue 10

MEETING NOTICE

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, November 12th, at 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be conducted "on-line" via the video conferencing app Zoom. Information may be found at the club's website (http:www.njarc.org) with a link being sent out on the NJARC Communicator prior to the meeting. This month, member Tom Perera will open up his collection to us from his home in Vermont to discuss "Spies and Spy Radios." Always keep tuned to the Communicator for updates to the meeting agenda.

MEETING/ACTIVITY NOTES

Reported by Marv Beeferman

The ON-LINE Broadcaster

The Jersey Broadcaster is now on-line. Over 200 of your fellow NJARC members have already subscribed, saving the club a significant amount of money and your editor extra work. Still receiving your b&w copy by snail mail? You can switch to living color by sending your e-mail address to mbeeferman@verizon.net. Be sure to include your full name.

The Broadcaster has been on hiatus for the last few months and I apologize for the gap in issues. The reason has been conditions beyond my control but I am hopeful that continuity will resume. Meanwhile, president Lee and I will be making arrangements such that if a break is expected, at least "something" will be sent out for that month.

There is a lot of catching up to do and I hope you don't find some items a little redundant and dated since the Communicator has been a good source for discussing club activities. However, I have always treated the Broadcaster as a source of club history and it would be a shame to allow some events to go by the wayside. Typical is our Field Day which I hope to include in this issue. If I run out of room, you'll see the write-up next month.

A sign that things might be opening up was the club's in-person September meeting at InfoAge. It was also carried on YouTube just like in the "olden days" and featured a sale of some donations to the RTM and an auction. (Our last in-person meeting was broadcast on YouTube 18 months ago!) The evening was capped by a presentation by Scott Marshall on theatrical movie sound which members described as a "home run" and "brilliantly presented." The link below will take you to Scott's interview in Film History magazine with Dr. Wentworth Fling, former Executive President of Cinematix. The article is free with free sign-up to the "JSTOR" journal site:

https://www.jstor.org/stable/3815523

Member Scott Marshall talks about the development of movie sound.

A "thumbs up" also goes out to members James Doran and Al Klase for providing the inside story of spy radios and those mysterious "number stations" at the August Zoom meeting. Although retired from the business, James was able to disclose a few choice stories about his experiences with Cold War espionage. Typically: "Amazingly enough, CIA's technical wizards also designed, built, and deployed a pen-radio. More sophisticated technically than Agent 86's, but the same concept, not tuned to broadcast band of course. It was not a success, nor was it popular among operations officers." If you missed the August presentation, thanks to member Dave Sica, it can be found on the club's YouTube channel:

https://youtu.be/YgM1shSTZRW

We can always expect a well-researched and illuminating talk from member Mike Molnar. His October's meeting presentation "KDKA - The Pioneers of Radio Broadcasting - 100 Years On the Air" was certainly in this category. Tracing the history of broadcasting, Mike laid out the primary reason why KDKA is considered America's first broadcast station; the station received its federal license before such competitors as WWJ, WHA and KCBS, which were still "experimental." (See the September 2020 Broadcaster - "America's First Broadcast Station.")

Thanks also goes out to Alan Wolke (W2AEW) for his presentation on the Simpson 260 at the July meeting. As noted by member Jerry Ingordo: "I just wanted to thank Alan for his in-depth presentation for the Simpson 260. I'm embarrassed to say I've never owned one...I was always a VOM guy. His explanation of the basic meter circuit and calibration controls can be applied to any VOM. The discussion on the DB scale and DB chart was enlightening. I'm always amazed at the combined knowledge of the members of the club."

I hoped I covered the majority of our
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 $25 per year and meetings are held the second Friday of each month at InfoAge or Princeton University. The Editor or NJARC is not liable for any other use of the contents of this publication other than information.

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Member Bob Bennett commented on our August Repair Clinic that “although this was clearly a great beach day, there were some beached radios brought back to life to play another day.” Fortified by “radio bagels,” “radio buns,” “radio pizza” and some “magic brownies,” restoration enthusiasm was at its peak. I’ll try to post the day’s activities and some photos in an upcoming Broadcaster. You can enjoy a 9-minute snippet courtesy Bob’s "Radio Wild" by clicking on the below address:


That's it for now. Make sure that you sign up for a table at our upcoming swapmeet on November 6th and try to submit your Holiday Party reservation as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

October 23rd - Fall repair clinic, InfoAge room 9032A
November 6th - NJARC Fall Hamfest/ Radio Swapmeet, Parsippany PAL. (See flyer on page 8.)
December 11th - Holiday Party at West Lake Golf & Country Club. (See reservation form on page 7.)

MONTANA'S FIRST FEMALE HAM

By Marv Beeferman

In mid-September, I came across an auction item offered in Missoula, Montana that was described as follows:

"Stunning piece. The best piece of trench art we have ever offered for sale. This microphone was made by the first female HAM radio operator in the state of Montana. It is identified as shown, and dated 1939 on the back. Truly stunning, craftsmanship is impressive. 13" tall, 4" wide."

As you can see, "W7FGR" and "CORVALLIS MONT" are engraved on the front. The year "39" is engraved on the back. It sold for $625 with an estimate of $1,500 - $2,000.
The origin and history of the microphone peaked my interest so I decided to do some further research. The Spring 1938 edition of Radio Amateur Callbook Magazine indicated that call sign W7FGR belonged to a W. Ray Goodman of Corvallis, Montana. I also traced a William Ray Goodman (1907 - 1998) to Corvallis, Montana. This didn't appear to be a woman's name so further research was indicated.

I eventually was able to link W7FGR to a Clarice Louise Goodman (1911 - 1997), W7FTX, who turned out to be a very special, first female amateur operator in Montana, with over 60 years in ham radio. Clarice was the founder of the Bitterroot Amateur Radio Club of Stevensville, Montana and her call sign has been reassigned to the club. A link to the club provided her life story which follows:

Since getting her first license in 1935 (a class "C" ticket in those days), the call W7FTX became very familiar in the Bitterroot Valley and beyond. In the early days of her 60-plus years as a ham, Clarice Goodman worked both phone (AM then) and CW. In later years, she preferred sideband, and hers was a familiar voice on a number of nets.

Clarice got her introduction to ham radio in about 1923 (when she was about 12 years old) from two brother hams (7PU and 7EV). They lived across the road from her family 1 1/2 miles south of Corvallis, MT.

Later, after she married, she and her husband Ray (W7FGR) visited her cousin (ex W6GRH, now W7FEF) in California where they built a 1-tube type 24A super regenerative receiver. When they returned to the Bitterroot Valley, she, Ray and her brother Delbert (now KC7UX, ex W7FDY & W6MAS) studied together for their Class "C" ham licenses. In 1935, that was the highest level of license they could be tested for by a Class "A" licensed ham, who lived in Missoula, MT. (The FCC held exams in Butte, MT. only twice a year.)

Eventually, the Goodmans went to the FCC in Seattle, WA and took and passed the test for the highest Amateur Radio Class "A" license available at that time.

When Clarice, Ray and Delbert first got their calls, there were only about four hams in the valley, and three or four in Missoula. There were no local stores where they could buy radio parts, and everything had to come from Spokane by mail. As a young wife during the depression with limited financial resources, Clarice picked strawberries to earn money to order parts for her first transmitter, a 160-meter AM phone rig that she built herself.

Radio was not only a hobby for Clarice and her husband Ray. They both worked at jobs related to radio in one way or another. During WW II, they lived in Seattle, WA where Ray worked at the Lake Washing Shipyards as a radio engineer and Carice wired military aircraft at Boeing. After the war, they returned to the Bitterroot Valley and in the early 1950's ran a radio and TV repair shop in Hamilton, MT.

Coincidentally, they had the first television receiver in the valley. With no TV stations in the state, they had to depend on intermittent skip signal propagation from two Texas stations for reception.

In 1957, the couple moved to California where Clarice assembled radar equipment and antenna systems for Bendix. Her husband Ray worked for Giffilann and other electronic orientated companies. During the California years, Clarice's call sign was W6AAX. Upon returning to the Bitterroot Valley, she resumed the use of W7FTX.

Throughout her retirement, Clarice Goodman's interest remained strong as ever. Besides her on-the-air involvement as an amateur, she was active in several organizations. She participated extensively in YLRL activities from the early days of the Bitterroot club existence, was a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association and active in working with the Glacier-Waterton Hamfest for many years.

An interesting event shines a light on Clarice's personality. One dark, freezing cold night, she heard a strange, mystifying sound which she followed across a vacant lot. She found that the sound was a small boy's attempt to call for help...his tongue was stuck to a frozen water pump! The child had slipped after his tongue got stuck so that he was actually hanging on by his tongue. Considering conditions, the boy had little chance to survive for long. Clarice ran for help, and her quick action saved the boy's life.

Returning to the auction item that prompted this article, there still is a question concerning its origin. Considering the call sign WF7FGR, obviously, the microphone belonged to Clarice's husband Ray. Did Clarice actually fashion it for him as noted in the auction announcement? Was it some type of award? I plan to contact the Bitterroot Amateur Radio Club and find out if they can offer any clues - stay tuned. Meanwhile, after additional research, I did find that an estate sale was conducted at Clarice's home by her daughter on August 18th - 19th. Apparently, even though she passed away in 1997, much of Clarice's ham radio associated items still remained in her home. I believe that the microphone was discovered during this time. Below are her estate photos that are a reminder of past cleanouts that some of us might have participated in.

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**NJARC FIELD DAY 2021**

*By Nevell Greenough*

*Photos By Marv Beeferman*

On Friday, June 25, a bunch of NJARC amateurs arrived at InfoAge. Piles of wire, poles, ropes and coax appeared from trunks. "Loosen up a bit on this guy rope..." "Now add another pole under here..." "Here, hold my beer..." And so went up two big antennas for Field Day 2021.
As the Saturday morning mists cleared from the fields, more folks arrived to set up. Canopies went up, tables and chairs were raised from the "Big Room", coax was strung and connected, generators actually started, transceivers powered up and soon the sounds of the ham bands filled the air. 2PM arrives and we're off to the races! OK, not so fast.

Two HF stations and one VHF station were set up. Station 1 had an Icom 746 Pro 100W transceiver feeding a 133' off-center-fed dipole with its wire axis headed north-south at about 35 feet high. This antenna is a complex design by ON4AA from Belgium. Its main feature is a mid-point L-C loading network intended to better align the resonances to the center of the ham bands. Its VSWR was low enough that the internal tuner of the 746 easily tuned it on all bands. Richard Lee's quiet 2kW Honda provided power.

Station 2 was an Icom IC-7410, 100W transceiver feeding a conventional 100' dipole at 40 feet high with ladder-line feed and its wire axis east-west. A wide-range LDG tuner handled the matching. Bob Maddox's beautiful Honda 3kw generator provided the juice.

Ed Papson and friends brought a complete 2m-70cm VHF setup. A pair of beam antennas were set up atop a 40-foot rather wobbly pole made up from ex-military camouflage-net poles. A Yaesu transceiver provided 40 watts of punch. FT8 on HF was also in the mix.

A big part of Field Day is the camaraderie of the place. Ted Copp's wife, Ann, did a superb job this year. All thanks to a very generous anonymous donation from a club member. Rich also came with good wine which kept everything well-oiled.

Just before the start of the contest at 2PM, Ted started up a contact with W2KVI on 7.269 MHz. 2PM, on-the-dot, Ted says "Great, you can be our first contact!!" and so it started. His booming voice, compressor microphone and the big antenna held the frequency for many hours despite all intruders. Our rig, W2RTM, created a pile-up and we worked them one-by-one. They just kept coming in to us. Fantastic!

It wouldn't be Field Day without some rain. The Saturday afternoon showers took out a Wi-Fi router that was interconnecting two laptops with logging software. The rain also washed out VHF ops for several hours, but we survived.

Station 2 went on the air in search-and-pounce (S&P) mode and did well into the evening. But it was clear that there was a big difference between the two antennas. The N-S axis one on station 1 clearly out-performed the E-W axis one on station 2, whatever the reason. Station 2 also did some VHF with a pair of Bob Forte's Heathkit 2m AM "Benton Harbor Lunchboxes". By midnight, station 2 had fished out just about all the phone contacts available.

Dinnertime on Saturday gave Ed's FT8 setup a chance on the big N-S antenna and grabbed some nice contacts, including Poland and Germany on 17m. VHF ops continued but contacts were very scarce even with a 4-element beam. Bruce Williams brought along a broadband "discone" antenna. Next year we may be able to put it atop a decently high pole along with some beams for VHF.

In the wee hours of the morning, station 1 went on CW in S&P mode while station 2 went dark for the night. S&P mode gave us not-so-great CW ops several tries at the call sign and exchange as they whizzed along north of 25 WPM. Still, one-call-one-contact was the rule. Decoding software on a laptop helped, too. Rich's nice wine had an effect, but I'm not sure which way. MI? MS? OH? Take your pick. Only the call sign knows for sure.

Sunday morning, station 2 resumed operations on SSB, snagging W1AW on phone and many others. John Ruccolo brought a "big iron" 1959 Gonset G-76 on AM. These gave Bob Maddox's 3kw Honda something to do by heating all those filaments. The highlight of his AM run on 7290 was a QSO with legendary AM operator Tim (WA1HLR) of Maine with his famous 4-250 transmitter modulated with a pair of 811's topped off with a Hallicrafters SX-62 receiver.

Sunday morning also gave solar-powered 10W QRP a chance at station 1's antenna using an IC-705 and tuner. The required 5 contacts came almost as easily as 100W. Very surprising. Again, the N-S axis antenna was a real winner.

Things we learned: 1: Our 133' N-S axis OCF dipole antenna outperformed our 100' E-W axis ladder-line-fed dipole, whatever the reason. 2: We need more operators! 3: It always rains at least on some Field Day...be prepared! 4: An "unguyed" 40 foot mast with beams on top more closely resembles a wet noodle than a tower. Sorry, no video. 5: A 1lb weight in the middle of a 133' antenna requires Herculean strength to pull tight! 6: Al can sneak up a "stealth" antenna while nobody's looking. The rest of were still struggling with the OCF! 7: Ted says premium gas with "Startron" for generators. Sure worked! 8: Calling CQ endlessly on an ineffective antenna isn't much fun. 9: This a learning and emergency-practice event, not just a contest. 10: Compressor-microphones add punch! (Not to be confused with AM CB "clipper" mics.) 11: Thanks to (someone?) who awarded me with a blue Arcturus #27 tested by P.E. Greenough, Elmira, NY in 1950! 12: Generators tested before FD this year. All worked with no failures! 13: We might want to go 1A next year, to give everybody a chance on the most successful antenna. It made a difference!

In the end we made north of 550 contacts, of which over 100 were on CW. The 80, 40 and 20 meter bands yielded the most fruit, with 15 meters starting to show some promise. Of course, FD is more than contact counts. It's the getting together after a long pandemic drought, getting new and less-used licensees on the air, vetting the equipment for an actual emergency, and just plain HAVING FUN! See you next year!

Thanks to all who participated: Al Klase, N3FRQ; Ted Copp, N2KPS; Annie Copp, fantastic cook and N2LAL; John Ruccolo, K2TPP; James Doran; Bob Bennett, KC2RDU; Robert Forte, K2RGM; Ed Papson, KC2QKB; Ben Brezinski, AD7JI; Joe Serafin, WA2DZO; Bob Maddox; Bruce Williams, KD2FZU; Marv Beeferman; Paul Mondok, AA2PM; Anonymous SK donor of the IC-746pro and IC-7410; Anonymous donor of the food $$; Nev Greenough, N2GX, and many others.
When Nevell finally finished up the Field Day logs from two computers and a pile of paper, he found that we almost doubled our score from last year with a score of 2,096 points - 1,546 QSO points and 550 bonus points. There was a total of 103 CW and 567 Phone points.

Among all the nice comments thanking the NJARC organizers and participants were many positive comments from our members. The following comes from John Ruccolo K2TPP:

"Vintage equipment is not officially part of Field Day activities. But since we are the New Jersey ANTIQUE Radio Club, I
KATHLEEN FLANAGAN PASSES

By Marv Beeferman

The NJARC sadly reports the passing of honorary and charter member Kathleen Elizabeth Flanagan of Freehold Township on February 15, 2021. Kathleen was the wife of the club’s founder and first president Charles “Tony” Flanagan who died in 1998. She was a legal secretary for Smith and Shaw, PA, Howell Township before her retirement.

In July, there was a Communicator discussion on the high price of Zenith “Walton” radios. One member brought up the fact that some time back, he remembered that one of our member’s son was an excellent woodworker. The member was Jim Fisher and his wife Onalee is sitting opposite Kathleen in the picture in this column. Not pleased with the high price of “Waltons,” even back in 1999, the younger Fisher decided to build his own. Jim exhibited both radios, the original and duplicate, at one of our June meetings at the Grace Lutheran Church in Freehold. Can you tell “which twin has the Toni?” I’m afraid you’ll have to wait for the next Broadcaster to find the answer.

AL CAPONE’S RADIO

By Marv Beeferman

The following is based on a story in the Philadelphia Daily News from May 31, 2016...Ed

During a tour of Eastern State Penitentiary, Joey Warchal, 13, a seventh-grader at St. Christopher School in Somerton, sensed something was wrong. The guide said that the Prohibition-era gangster Al Capone was incarcerated in 1929 and 1930. The radio displayed in Capone’s cell, a Philco A-361, was made in 1942.

After his tour, Joey politely e-mailed Eastern State Penitentiary’s senior vice president Sean Kelley that “The radio featured in the display is historically inaccurate.” He offered to help Kelley find an historically accurate substitute.

Joey began acquiring pop collectibles when he was 8. Among them, he has a dozen radios, five record players and about 1,000 45’s. He got into radios and record players because “I liked the way they looked and the way they worked.”

Sean Kelley allowed Joey to become the prison’s agent, authorizing him to spend up to $400 for an historically authentic radio. Joey eventually reported: “I have actually found a fine radio from late 1929, a Philco 76, that I think would be appropriate for the display. The radio is in very good condition and, it still works! The man selling it wants 300 dollars for it, however I will offer him less. I would be happy to pick up and deliver the radio to ESP to save shipping charges.”

Kelley accepted the offer. The radio was turned over at an afternoon cider and cake ceremony at the penitentiary.

Send this kid an NJARC application!
NJARC Holiday Party

Date: Saturday, December 11th, 2021
Time: Cocktail Hour: 5:00 PM/Dinner: 6:15 PM
Place: West Lake Golf & Country Club
1 Pine Lake Circle, Jackson NJ 08527

Members            $25 each
Non-Member Adults and Children over 12:  $25 each
Children under 12:            $5 each

Cocktail Hour, Dinner Buffet, Mystery Grab Bag, Surprises
*****RESERVATIONS REQUIRED *****

If you plan to attend, please fill out the attached coupon, detach it and mail it with a check made out to "NJARC" to:

Marvin Beeferman
2265 Emerald Park Drive
Forked River, NJ 08731
609-693-9430/mbeeferman@verizon.net

by December 4th. Everyone who plans to attend must send back a response form with the full name(s) of attendees. Reservations must be made via the form below; please refrain from telephone or email reservations unless absolutely necessary! Payment must accompany the form. Please indicate member (M), non-member (NM) or child (C).

-------------------------------------Cut here-----------------------------------------
Name(s): _______________________________        _____________________________
___________________________________________            _________________________________________
___________________________________________            _________________________________________
Telephone or email: _____________________________________________

Number of Members:       ______  X  $25  =  $ _________
Number of Children under 12:         ______  X  $5  =  $ _________
Number of Non-Members:         ______  X  $25  =  $ _________

TOTAL:  $ _________

Make checks out to NJARC, enclose with this form and mail before 12/04/21.
New Jersey Antique Radio Club's
Fall Swap Meet and Ham Fest
Parsippany PAL Building
33 Baldwin Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054
Just off Route 46,
Adjacent to Smith Field

Saturday November 6th, 2021
Refreshments Available
(40) 8 Foot Tables
$30.00 for members
$35.00 for non-members
Reserve Additional tables $25.00
At the door $30.00

Open to the Public
8am to 12 noon
Vendor setup at 7:15am
$7.00 Entrance Fee
Club Donation

For Directions
Visit our website: www.njarc.org
or use your favorite phone app
33 Baldwin Road
Parsippany NJ 07054

Vendors Make Your Reservation Now!

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