

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

August 2006

Volume 12 Issue 8



Reported by Marv Beeferman

THE ON-LINE BROADCASTER

The New Jersey Broadcaster is now on line. To date, 69 of your fellow members have subscribed, saving the club some \$1,242 per year. If you are still getting a mailing, wouldn't it have been great to receive this issue early enough to research going prices for this month's auction items? Interested? Send your e-mail address to: mbeeferman@cs.com Be sure to include your full name.

The July meeting of the NJARC was well-attended considering that this is the height of vacation season. Perhaps no one wanted to miss our always popular show-and-tell session. Members had quite a few interesting pieces and stories to share with club members, and, as always, pictures were captured on page 3 and 4:

- Rich Skoba showed a very colorful 1939 Detrola 274 which he quickly recognized as a great buy when it showed up at a recent estate sale. This AC/DC Bakelite radio is very similar to Detrola's "split-grill" Catalins of the same vintage.
- Although not associated with a radio, Richard Lee's "fan" story was not to be missed. He rescued the fan for \$5 from a yard sale's junk pile headed for the dump. The fan turned out to be a DC bipolar type from 1897 and was manufactured by Western Electric out of Chicago. But what made this fan very unique was its "star" emblem in the center which the company used for only one year. Richard was quite amazed that 10



MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club will start at 7:30 on Friday, August 11th, at the David Sarnoff Library in Princeton, NJ. Contact President Phil Vourtsis (732-446-2427) for directions. This month will feature the first phase of an estate auction of some very desirable items. Ray Chase has volunteered to organize the auction so it will be sit-down and cataloged affair "worthy of Sotheby's." Ray has only one suggestion..."Bring lots of cash!" A listing of items appears in this month's issue.

seconds before the end of bidding, the offering price had increased to \$2600, only to erupt to \$4,101.98 at bidding's end. John Dilks commented that he swore he could see a green glow cover the Sarnoff auditorium at the end of Richard's talk that seemed to linger for the rest of the meeting.

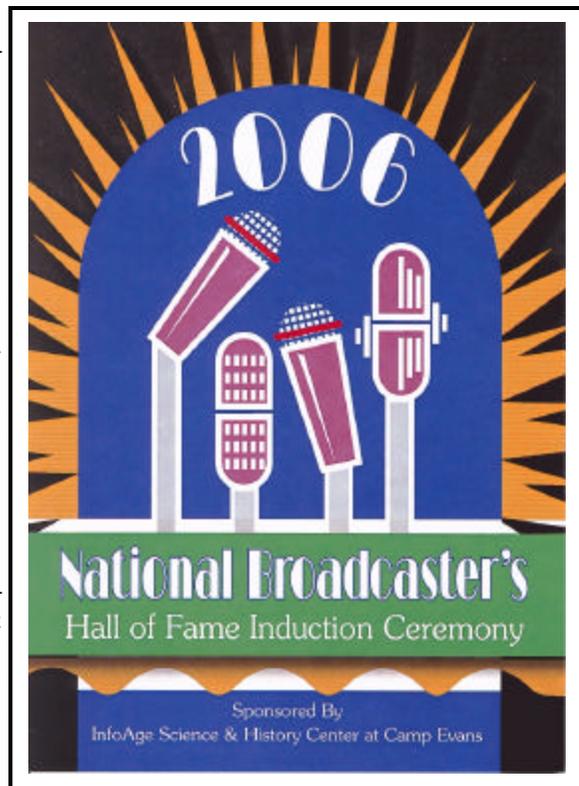
• John Dilks talked about my kind of radio - a well preserved 3-dialer made by the Reception Radio Corporation of Philadelphia. John is still researching the origins of this company.

• Mike Littman felt it was quite a coincidence that an article on the Splitdorf Abbey had appeared in last month's Broadcaster just after he had completed his restoration of a Splitdorf 500. The finished product looked quite nice accompanied by a Music Master horn and original operating instructions.

• Rob Flory displayed a type US/C-3 (RCA MI-2558) Navy signaling telescope. It uses large aperture optics for sensitivity and a short focal length to facilitate scanning for signals. Rob's grandfather, Leslie E. Flory worked on both the basic image tube and the associated circuitry for this and similar devices at RCA Laboratories in Princeton (later to become the David Sarnoff Research Center). They were deployed by the Navy for secure signaling by near infrared and by the Army for night-time reconnaissance and targeting.

• Steve Tyminski's Malboro cigarette pack novelty radio was a recent find at the Columbus flea market. It seems to me to be a much better use for this type of packaging.

• Walt Heskes talked about his summer project TRF set based on a Gernsback article which turned out to be pretty selective. Blown tube filaments greeted the power-up of the prototype until adapters were fabricated. Walt also faced another unique problem with the oscillator coil until a "gimmick" winding with deteriorated insulation was replaced by a capacitor.



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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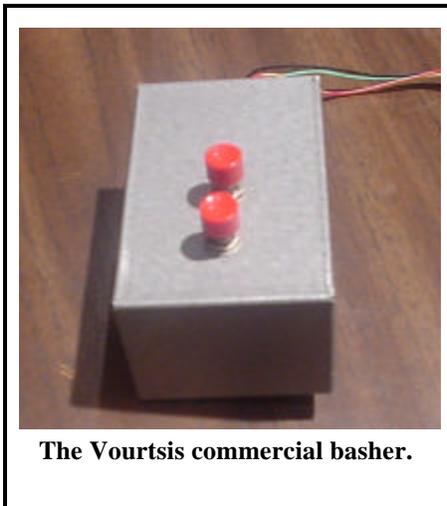
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- Phil Vourtsis took us back to the early days of his electronic experimentation with a precursor to an AC line checker and an FM radio "commercial basher." Phil must have been really proud of these since he held on to them since the 70s.



The Vourtsis commercial basher.

- Ray Chase talked about a Boer Radio Labs (New York) model 5602 RF/AF signal generator. Joe Boer worked with Harry Houck when Houck was president of Measurements Corporation in Boonton, New Jersey. Prior to this, Houck worked with Edwin Armstrong during the development of the super heterodyne. On Friday, August 4th, the remainder of the Joe Boer estate was auctioned in Boonton. Ray Chase reported earlier that it should prove to be a "calamitous affair." Let's hope we can get an update at the August meeting.

- Owen Gerboth showed us a miniature electronic component display case from 1965 used to promote Grayhill products.

- Leo Assur described two pieces of test equipment that he purchased at an estate sale on New Year's day (and yes, quite a few people showed up). Included was a GE precision galvanometer and a Weston 566 set analyzer.

- Following the war, RCA made an effort to restore telecommunications in Japan. In 1945, Charles Jennings became liaison to the Ministry of Telecommunications under McArthur and became engaged with the culture, eventually learning to read and write Japanese. He eventually became RCA's "man in Japan," and wrote a six volume history of Japanese telecommunications. Sarnoff Library director Alex Magoun was invited to rescue some items from Jennings's es-

tate, including numerous one-of-a-kind posters that encourage servicemen to stay in touch with family members at holiday time. Alex says he plans to place Jennings's history on the Sarnoff Library website sometime this fall.

Ray Chase reports that Saturday, September 16th, has been officially set as the next Broadcaster Hall of Fame (NBHF) induction ceremony. It will be held at InfoAge from 1 to 3 PM. The confirmed recipients are Les Paul, Charles Osgood of CBS and disc jockey Arthur Anderson. Fred Floyd will be the ceremony announcer.

This will be the first induction ceremony in 10 years and marks the return of the NBHF and a defining moment for InfoAge. The NJARC has been asked if we could make the museum section of the Library building presentable by the 16th of September. After consulting with other club members, Ray feels that this is a feasible project so, unless any serious objections are raised, the club will need lots of help along the way.

The room is really in pretty nice shape and a quick coat of paint on the walls will finish them off (Landmark Volunteers did quite a bit of work in this area). InfoAge will carpet the area and we need to move a lot of stuff out of the room, position showcases, arrange radios, decorate the walls, etc. This will clearly be shown as a work in progress but will also show that we can make good use of the radio artifacts that have been entrusted to us.

As Ray says: "These are exciting times; if you think that the \$10,000 radio got us recognition, just think what this induction ceremony will do."

UPCOMING EVENTS

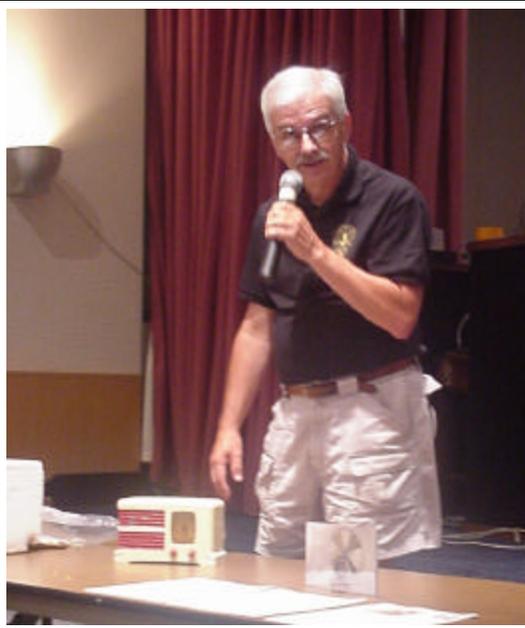
9/08: Monthly NJARC meeting at the InfoAge Telephone Exchange Bldg.; member's auction.

9/22-23: Kutztown Radio Meet (www.dvhrc.org)

9/30: Open Repair Clinic, Sarnoff Library
10/13: Monthly NJARC meeting, Sarnoff Library; Teaneck auction/Phase II.

11/18: NJARC Fall Swapmeet, Parsippany PAL building.

SHOW AND TELL



John Dilk's Reception Radio Corp. three-dialer



Rich Skoba's Detrola 274



Mike Littman's Splitdorf 500



Rob Flory's US/C3 scope.



Steve Tyminski's cigarette pack novelty radio.

Photos continued on page 4.



Alex Magoun talks about Charles Jennings, RCA's "man in Japan."



Owen Gerboth's Grayhill display case.



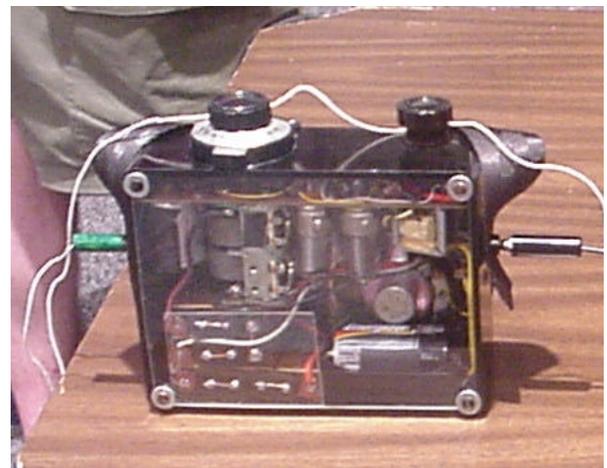
Ray Chase talks about this Boer Radio Labs 5602 signal generator.



Marv Beeferman displays the "clock radio" described in last month's Broadcaster.



Leo Assur's GE 32C 224/G2 galvanometer.



Walt Heskes describes his Gernsback-based project.

INFOAGE SWAPMEET



TEANECK AUCTION LISTING: PHASE I

The following is a listing of the items expected to be auctioned at the August meeting; this will be the first of two auctions. Do not consider the list to be completely accurate; there may be some deletions and additions at the time of the auction. Please try to get to the meeting a little earlier so that you may get a chance to thoroughly inspect each item.

Ambassador receiver
 American Bosch 512
 AK 35, no tubes
 AK 55C chassis only
 AK model F speaker
 AK model M horn speaker
 AK 20, small box
 AK 20, big box, with tubes
 Candlestick brass telephone w/rotary dial
 Crosley 1121 Tryrdyn, no tubes
 Crosley 51, no tubes
 David Grimes "Baby Grand" Simplex, no tubes
 Day Fan OEM 7 type 5042, with tubes
 Emerson CT275 portable; "Rhein RT" on front
 Emerson 558
 Freshman Masterpiece A70676, with tubes
 Freshman Masterpiece power supply
 GE P710A transistor
 Grebe Synchrophase (WSRN)
 Hickock tube tester made for Western Electric
 Hickock 532 tube tester
 Homebrew slide coil crystal set
 Homebrew one tube set
 Homebrew VOM
 Kellogg 22409 power supply
 Kolster 6d TRF receiver
 Majestic model 50
 Me model 26 VTVM
 Military R174 receiver, new in box

Mohawk model 1925 receiver, hacked up
 Motorola 67L11 portable
 Motorola 78 RPM phonograph
 Paper, misc. lot
 Radiola 100 speaker
 Radiola 18Radiola III
 RCA wind-up Victrola
 RCA model W091B scope
 Remler variometer
 Silvertone model 1915 chassis only
 Simpson VOM
 Vibraplex bug telegraph key
 Weston 519 radio tester
 Zenith portable, (sailboat)
 Zenith G503Y portable
 Zenith B600 Transoceanic
 Zenith H500 transoceanic

Additionally we advertised that the Crawford three dialer, (the \$10,000 radio) would be auctioned. This is still under consideration.

Photos of a portion of these items are posted on page 7.



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.

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.

Are you aware that NJARC now has a resistor program which includes many commonly needed replacements? Contact Walt Heskes at any club meeting for details.

Howard Sams volumes 1 thru 674 inclusive. All volumes from 1 thru 670 are in Howard Sams 3-ring hardback black binders — a total of 67 binders of 10 volumes per binder. All for \$99, local pickup only.
John Okolowicz, Ambler PA 19002.
Phone 215-542-1597 or email: john@grillecloth.com

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Jon Butz-Fiscina might be one of the most devoted NJARC members around. Jon is a pilot living in Texas and he tries to time his flights just to attend as many of our meetings and swapmeets as possible. At our InfoAge meet, John let us take some photos of his latest acquisition; a Marconi cigar box label from the Italian Cigar & Tobacco Co. of Brooklyn, New York. As you can see, the text is all in Italian and the NRA tag, conspicuously attached to the front, dates the label to the mid 30s. This is truly a "one of a kind" item. Usually, you can find a few offerings on google from a multitude of label collectors, but this item produced zero hits. Nice find, Jon!