



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

March 2010

Volume 16 Issue 3



**MEETING/
ACTIVITY
NOTES**

Reported by Marv Beeferman

THE ON-LINE BROADCASTER

The New Jersey Broadcaster is now on-line. To date, 97 of your fellow NJARC members have subscribed, saving the club over \$1900 a year. Interested? Send your e-mail address to: mbeeferman@cs.com
Be sure to include your **full name**.

Fred Carl, Director of InfoAge, called John Dilk's lecture at the February meeting "top notch." John, after meticulously researching and documenting the original diaries and photographs of a 21-year old ham named Don Mix who wintered-over at the edge of the Artic between 1923 and 1924, held the attention of our members right from the beginning and did not let go. Thanks John for a very absorbing evening.



Thanks to all who submitted pictures of their DX Contest "rigs." You'll find them and the contest results in this month's *Broadcaster*. You'll also find some great photos from our February repair clinic.

Ray Chase reports that members Wendy and Mark Kuligowski, who have been in New Jersey on assignment for the past year or so, have returned to their home in Colorado. Last month, they brought a nice bunch of radios and parts to the museum that they could not haul back home. It will show up in the March auction at InfoAge. Wendy and Mark promised to visit us as



MEETING NOTICE

The next NJARC meeting will take place on Friday, March 12th at 7:30 PM at InfoAge. Directions to InfoAge may be found on the club's website (<http://www.njarc.org>). We'll be presenting awards to the winners of the 2010 BCB DX Contest and looking forward to see the results of all that hard work on your Homebrew Equipment Contest entry. Be prepared to say a few words about the design and construction of your equipment. At press time, a technical topic has not been agreed upon but there might not be enough time to fit one in.



Dressed for the occasion...Tom Provost was ready to spend some time with Don Mix while Don was frozen in the ice at Refuge Harbor.

much as possible in their travels as they are really impressed with the club.

Also, member Chuck Farina recently mailed a box of parts to Marsha Simkin as a donation to the club. Marsha gave it to Ray and we're incorporating it into our stock for repair clinics. Also, between Al Klase, Dave Sica and Ray, in the last 6 weeks, about three or four trips were made to a house in Morris Plains to pick up a couple of loads of miscellaneous stuff for InfoAge. In the next week, we'll be receiving a batch of ham gear from a Bob Parks in Bridgewater.

The museum is quite a draw to flush stuff out of attics and keep it from the dumpster. It also means that we must catalog it, sort it and dispose of what we do not want to retain. On the other hand it provides a source of funds when we sell it. We could not easily do any of this without the resources of InfoAge.

By the way; did you know that the lat-

est news about what's happening at InfoAge is available on the web? Check out <http://infoage-blog.blogspot.com/> - you might be surprised at how much is going on. InfoAge Director Fred Carl reviews what has taken place during the past week (like our club's February meeting) and what's coming up. Updates are posted every Wednesday.

The club's condolences go out to the family of Ed Bell who was a fixture at numerous radio swap meets and auctions for many years. Ray Chase notes that Ed always offered rare pieces in excellent condition, albeit at high prices, but you could eventually work with him. He was very knowledgeable and always willing to share his knowledge with you. He was also a fixture at Estes auctions whenever there was superior merchandise offered, working with up to three bid cards to buy for others and load his van for the trip back to North Carolina. Ed was also a numismatist and antique and classic car collector. As Ray notes, "his place in the radio collecting fraternity will be hard to fill.

Upcoming events include April 24th when we'll hold our Spring swapmeet at the Pal Center in Parsippany. On July 25th, we'll hold our Tailgate swapmeet at InfoAge.

Finally, please send your 2010 dues renewal, with checks made out to "NJARC" to our membership secretary at the following address:

**Marsha Simkin
33 Lakeland Drive
Barnegat, NJ 08005**

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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ELECTRONIC WARFARE DISPLAY AT INFOAGE

By
Ray Chase

The AOC (Association of Old Crows), which is a member organization of InfoAge and represents those who have worked in Electronic Warfare, both military and civilian, is now setting up an exhibit that will display how electronic warfare has evolved mainly from WWII to the present. I have been able to help them by obtaining several WWII radar and communication jammers that were vital in protecting our bombers over Germany during that conflict. However, they really could use some of the intercept receivers that were used to detect enemy electronic initiatives and determine how to counterattack them.

Many of these receivers are well known to us radio aficionados since they were commercial communications radios in use prior to and during WWII. Many of them have passed through my hands over the years but did not stick; now I wish I had them back. Anyway, the AOC would like to have some of them for display in their part of the museum at InfoAge. If any of you would be willing to loan them, or donate them, or know where any of them can be obtained at "reasonable" prices, please let me know. These are all Hallicrafters products and we can readily document their use in WWII.

- Model S-27, 27 to 143 Mhz. Receiver
- Model SX-28, 550 Khz. to 42 Mhz. Receiver
- Model S-36, 27 Mhz. to 143 Mhz. Receiver
- Model S-37, 130 Mhz. to 210 Mhz. Receiver
- R-44/ARR-5 (military repackaging of the S-36 for airborne use)
- R-45/ARR-7 (military repackaging of the SX-28 for airborne use)

InfoAge is a designated WWII Living Memorial and we are on the cusp of becoming the official state WWII me-

morial. In August we will be presenting an all-day seminar on the 65th anniversary of VJ Day, the end of WWII, so the creation of this new part of InfoAge is timely and appropriate.

Can you identify any of these receivers on Ray's list? (If you don't get at least one, you're not looking very carefully.) Do you have one in your basement or attic?



**2010 DX CONTEST:
GARY D'AMICO
LOGS TOP DISTANCE**

By
Marv Beeferman

The results of this year's NJARC DX Contest have been compiled by Tom Provost and Gary D'Amico has earned top honors in logging the greatest total distance. Tom felt that Gary's entry was somewhat of a surprise. We had some other interesting entries this year including president Richard Lee's Crosley that was featured in last month's *Broadcaster*. In addition, we were able to collect some photos of a few of the entrants diligently scanning the ether for some far-off station.

John Ruccolo reported receiving KOA in Denver although it was not part of his 24-hour log and could not be counted. John tells us that he received special dispensation to set up his DX listening post on the dining room table that made it much less fatiguing than being in a musty basement. The picture of John's rig was taken late one night during the contest and he asks us to notice three things; a mess was made of the table, a Variac was used to keep the line voltage at 110 VAC and hopefully reduce stresses on the as-found receiver, and part of the nice loop antenna built by Jerry Dowgin can be seen to the left.

Al Klase spent one night at InfoAge and created a log using his broadcast-band R-24/RC-5 receiver. He tried a long-wire that ran from the antenna test tower to the Marconi Hotel attic; results were inconclusive. Later, Al settled into the comfort of the museum using simple tuned loops and the 100-foot "T" that feeds the museum's antenna distribution system. As Al suspected, signals were not as strong as previous years, but there was still some good DX to be had. He eked out 9,139 miles for ten stations with the best being ZIZ-St. Kitts and Nevis (555 KHz) at 1726 miles.

Al was joined by John Tyminski using an AK cathedral and Steve Goulart who let the smoke out of his Scott "moral set" and resorted to a Rider Channelyst as a TRF set. Although the Marconi Hotel attic gets pretty spooky at night, Al reports that a "good time was had by all."

2010 NJARC BCB DX Contest - Results

Category A - Crystal Radios

No entries

Category B - Primitive Tube Receivers/ 1-2 Tubes

***Richard Lee**, Crosley 51 two-tube regen using HB "Helical" loop
986 points, MDS 1520 WWKB Buffalo, NY 299 miles

Cat. C - 1920's Battery Sets

No entries

Cat. D - Home Entertainment Tube Radios

***Gary Damico**, Sparton 5-tube beach portable using built-in loop
9,267 points, MDS 820 WBAP Fort Worth- Dallas, TX, 1,379 miles

Rich Mueller, Zenith 6G601 portable using built-in wave magnet
9,137 points, MDS 530 Radio Vision Cristiana, Turks and Caicos Is., 1309 miles

Rich Skoba, GE A-63 w/75" random wire
7,842 points, MDS 530 Radio Reloj, Havana, Cuba, 1279 miles

Harry Klancer, Philco 38-89 with HB rotating ferrite
7,734 points, MDS 830 WCCO Minneapolis, MN, 1018 miles

Cat. E - Amateur, Commercial and Military Tube-Type Receivers

***Al Klase**, ARC-5 using Skywaves loop and WAS-100
9,139 points, MDS 530 Radio Vision Cristiana, Turks and Caicos Is., 1,309 miles

Tom Provost, Hammarlund HQ-150 w/HB loop
8,600 points, MDS 870 Radio Reloj, Havana, Cuba, 1,309 miles

John Ruccolo, Mackay 3010B w/1920's loop
8,576 points, MDS 870 WLS New Orleans, LA, 1,128 miles

Cat. F - Transistor Radios Introduced before 1970

No entries

Cat. G - "Light - Weight"

No entries

* = **Winner**
MDS = Most Distance Station

Compiled by Tom Provost, 02/06//2010



Rich Mueller added up 9,137 points using this Zenith 6G601 portable and "wave-magnet" antenna.



Harry Klancer adjusting a ferrite rod antenna on his Philco 38-89.



Richard Lee and "friend" try to coax the best out of a Crosley 51...and winds up a winner in Category B. Might the fact that this was the only entry in this category have something to do with the outcome? One can only speculate.



The Marconi Hotel Crew

"Steve Goulart let the smoke out of his Scott 'moral set' and settled with a Rider Channelyst operated as a TRF Set."



The attic is pretty spooky at night. Here's John Tyminski with an AK cathedral and what appears to be a small Emerson.



Al Klase ended up using an R-24/ARC-5 from the comfort of the museum. He eked out 9,139 miles for ten stations.



Amazing! Gary D'Amico logged 9,267 miles with his Sparton 5-tube "beach" portable and built-in loop.



John Ruccolo's Mackay 3010B makes a "mess" of the kitchen table. Can you find the Variac, loop antenna and Waldo?

ADDRESS: 84 Noble Street
S. Bound Brook, NJ 08880

ANTENNA: Built in air loop
CATEGORY: D

| TIME | FREQ | LOG | CALL | LOCATION | COMMENTS |
|-------|------|-----|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 18:44 | 780 | | WBBM | Chicago | |
| | 760 | | WJR | Detroit | |
| | 750 | | WSb | Atlanta | |
| | 740 | | | | |
| 18:49 | 720 | | WGN | Chicago | Loop works good against WOR |
| 18:54 | 650 | | WSM | Nashville | |
| 19:25 | 570 | | WMCA/RR | Cuba | |
| 19:27 | 670 | | WSCR | Chicago | |
| 19:34 | 840 | | WHAS | Louisville | |
| | 820 | | WBAP | Fort Worth-Dallas | |
| | 890 | | WLS | Chicago | |
| | 870 | | WWL | New Orleans | Tough to get noise from 880 NYC |
| 19:54 | 1000 | | WMPV | Chicago | |
| | 1040 | | WHO | Des Moines | |
| 19:44 | 1030 | | WBZ | Boston | |
| | 1100 | | WTAM | Cleveland | |
| | 1110 | | WBT | Charlotte | |
| 20:15 | 1120 | | KMOX | Saint Louis | |

Gary D'Amico's impressive log.

SMOKIN' SOLDERING IRON BATMAN!

ANOTHER GREAT NJARC REPAIR SESSION

By
Marv Beeferman

Is it radio bagels or radio pizza? Radio coffee or radio cookies? What actually draws so many satisfied members to our repair sessions? Well, the answer might just be something as simple as sharing a common interest with a great group of people. Whatever the case, over 20 NJARC members showed up at InfoAge this February for another opportunity to pit their circuit skills against the whines, squeals and squawks of those misbehaving artifacts of a bygone era. We also witnessed the unveiling of our rolling inventory cart. The concept was suggested by Walter Heskes - a moving source of basic repair materials, including tubes, that could be easily shared by members throughout the day. The concept became

reality with the help of Al Klase and the museum crew.

Some interesting stories came out of the session. One involved a painting, a daughter and a graduation, but you'll have to wait for the April *Broadcaster* to read about all the details. However, Phil Vourtsis's Philco 71 had an interesting tale. His troubleshooting came down to what was thought to be a bad antenna coil that he removed from the set; it had 5 terminals and one connection had been resoldered previously. Phil showed the coil to a few of our members but no one could figure out how the coil showed be wired, so it was put back into the set. Then, Al Klase had some free time late in the afternoon and asked to see the coil again. It was removed again and Al spent some 15 minutes working on it. He handed it back, said "try this" and the coil was re-installed. It worked! After an alignment, which the radio desperately needed, Phil's Philco was "playing up a storm by the end of the clinic." Exactly what magic did Al perform? Here's his story:

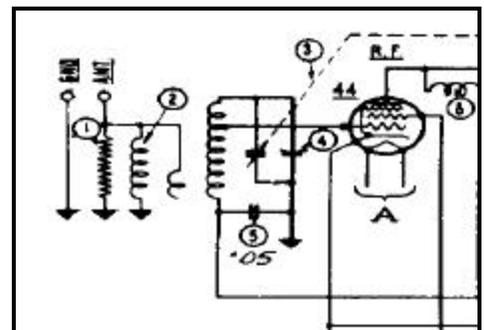
I was asked to help with an open-RF-coil problem in a Philco Model 71 at the recent repair clinic. The message is that some common sense and careful

craftsmanship can overcome this sort of difficulty.

The Problem

Ohmmeter reading had revealed that the RF-input transformer primary was open. Phil Vourtsis had been searching for a replacement for weeks to no avail. The transformer was removed from the radio at the clinic, but now there was confusion about its connections.

Read the Schematic!



The schematic from Rider's shows the input transformer. It has three windings: a primary connected to the antenna and ground terminals, a tapped secondary connected to the tuning capacitor with the tap

going to the grid of the type 44 RF amplifier tube, and a third winding with just one end connected to the primary. This third winding actually serves as a coupling capacitor between the primary and secondary.

Inspect the Part - Your DVM is Your Best Friend

Sure enough, the coil had three windings: a long single-layer solenoid close-wound along the length of the main form, a small winding over this at the top of the form, and a separate universal-wound coil (looking like one winding of an IF transformer) supported by a spider inside the top of the coil form. The main form had five solder terminals at the bottom. Three of these showed continuity on the ohmmeter. This had to be the secondary and, by examining both the inside and outside of the form, you could clearly see where the terminals connected to the top of the solenoid, a tap near the

top, and the bottom of the winding, just like in the schematic. It could also be seen that the small external winding connected to one of the other two terminals, but there was an open circuit between these terminals. A further look inside the form revealed the leads to the primary hanging loose.

Surgery - Good Light, Proper Tools and MAGNIFICATION

In our younger years we would have done the procedure with our naked eyes under the light of a 25-watt bulb on the ceiling, but that doesn't work anymore. Get a good work light and a magnifying visor.

I started to drill out the hollow brass rivet that held the primary coil in place, but discovered the three-legged "spider" that held the coil was a pretty flexible fish-paper sort of material. I carefully removed it from the slots in the main coil form with long-nosed pliers. Both ends

of the inner coil were visible, but one was pretty short. I tinned both. I got away without having to scrape the enamel off the wires. The ohmmeter showed the coil still had continuity.

I extended the coil leads with #30 bare wire salvaged from a piece of stranded hook-up wire. I avoided using heavier wire, as I didn't want to stress the delicate leads of the coil which were smaller than #30.

The coil and spider were reinstalled in the outer form, and the #30 leads were sleeved with Teflon spaghetti, handy stuff to have around. The leads were then soldered to the appropriate base terminals.

Phil reinstalled the transformer in the radio, and, after a bit of alignment, it played well. Rf-transformer design is something of a black art. If the set had not seemed to work well, I would have suggested flipping the connections to the primary. We had a 50-50 chance of getting it right the first time.



Al Klase and Richard Lee unveil our rolling repair inventory cart.



Phil Vourtsis works on a pesky coil in a Philco 70.



Aaron Hunter tackled a 1940 Emerson. Re-capped filters cured the hum problem but the audio failed on warm-up. The coupling capacitors are the next project.



Owen Gerboth checked-out, cleaned the switch and aligned a Zenith T825. He also started initial repairs on an Emerson 45.



Walt Heskes located a bad 6SA7 converter on a Westinghouse H-122. With the replacement of two electrolytics in the power supply and a fixed dial pointer, the radio has a new life.



Dick Hurff works on a Majestic 70B that hasn't been energized since 1960.



Besides handling the schematic duties, Sal Brisindi replaced the line cord and cleaned the controls of a Zenith G725 AM/FM radio.



The Heskes team, father and son, at work. (Do you think that the lamp is hot?)



Marty Friedman recapped a 1942 Emerson table radio..."it works fine."



Richard Lee refurbishes a late arrival.



The two Johns (Tyminski and Ruccolo) work on the radio from a 1951 Desoto with 16,000 original miles. A bad vibrator was bypassed but possible IF problems still prevented a return to service.



Steve Goulart circulated among projects, settling with a TV-7A tube tester.



Someone insisted that I get a shoot of "those old guys trying to figure out the tube testers."



Dave Sica, Steve Rosenfeld and our host, Fred Carl.



Group think



The day's highlight - radio pizza!

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. **Send your ad to mbeeferman@cs.com**

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.

WHAT TO DO WITH A DEAD RADIO?

By **Marv Beeferman**

A recently published book, "62 Projects to Make With a Dead Computer (and Other Discarded Electronics)" by Randy Sarafan, seems tailor-made for radio collectors; you know, those guys with an attic, closet or garage stuffed with unused, outdated tech junk. Wouldn't you like to do something useful with those old cell phones, broken printers, irredeemable iPods, busted digital cameras, mysterious thatches of cables and wires, orphaned keyboards and of course those dead PC's and laptops.

Sarafin gives you some good (and some goofy) ideas for such geek-chic, do-it-yourself projects as an iMac terrarium, a laptop digital photo frame, a scanner compost bin, a power strip bird feeder, a Walkman soap dish and a flat-screen ant farm. The projects have complete, step-by-step instructions and are arranged by difficulty and use, from stuff for the house, to fashion, toys, arts and crafts, items for pets, etc.

Here's one example...the phone safe, a nice twist on the old "rock keyholder." Finally, a use for the many candy-bar phones from 2000 that we still have in our

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.

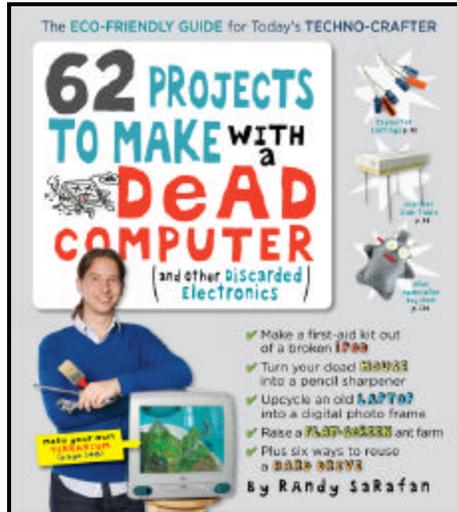
You can't possibly need all that stuff that you collected over the last 20 years!

YOUR "FOR SALE" AD HERE!

WANTED

Now that you've disposed of some of that old stuff by using our FOR SALE section and have plenty of empty space, or just need a few parts to complete that restoration...

YOUR "WANT" AD HERE!



desk drawer. Just open and gut the phone, pretty up the inside, and glue magnets to hold the two pieces together. Don't forget to put something heavy inside the case so it will feel heavy enough to burglars to persuade them that it's simply a piece of dead tech and not a hiding-in-plain-sight mobile safe for stashing your spare \$100 bills or diamond earrings.



How about an 8-bit belt buckle made from a Nintendo game controller?



Or, perhaps a robust mobile sound system composed of circuit boards from old PC speakers and a PC power supply?



Can you see where I'm going with this? What about a future NJARC contest where old radio parts become the raw materials for something useful, decorative or just plain silly? Here's an example (although it was purchased at a flea market).

