

The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

May 2023

Volume 29 Issue 5



The *Jersey Broadcaster* is distributed to members of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club via email as a PDF file. Back issues of many of our newsletters are available on the club's website:

www.njarc.org/broadcaster/

Meeting Notice

Our May meeting will be held on Friday, May 19th at InfoAge. Darren Hoffman will talk about basic metalworking skills for electronic projects. Our Radio Technology Museum will be open for browsing before the meeting.

For our non-local members and anyone who is unable to make the meeting in person, it will also be livestreamed on Youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/@njarc>.

Meeting Review

At our April meeting Bob Tevis talked about SPERD-VAC, the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy. Bob also showed a short video of one of the organization's live radio plays. Due to technical difficulties we were unable to offer a live webcast of the meeting, but a recording of the presentation will eventually be available on the club's YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/@njarc>.

Check the calendar on our website for the latest information about upcoming events. Some key dates are:

Upcoming Radio Events

May 19: NJARC meeting, InfoAge
May 27: BARA Hamfest, Westwood NJ
June 9: NJARC meeting, Princeton University
June 23-25: NJARC/ARRL Field Day, InfoAge
July 14: NJARC meeting, Princeton
July 16: Sussex Hamfest
July 22: NJARC Summer Swapmeet/Hamfest, InfoAge

Kutztown Radio Show

Kutztown XLVII was held this past week and once again it lived up to its reputation as the the biggest and best radio show in the area, by far. Both pavilions were once again full of radio vendors offering a wide assortment of high end items as well as 'project' offerings and parts. The Friday evening auction featured over 100 lots of fine quality offerings as well as many bargains too good to pass up.

You can view a video recap of the event by RadioWild on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/oMKQbIUHQg> and as usual John Hagman put together a comprehensive photo album: <https://bit.ly/42Z414R>

Kutztown XLVIII will take place on Sept. 15-16, 2023.

From the President's Workbench

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts.

With all the talk of our beloved Amplitude Modulation hanging in the balance, I requested our membership to show solidarity by listing their go-to AM stations. Proof that AM is alive within the NJARC!

The following is what I received.

WNYC 820 kHz News, talk, opinion. NYC
WCBS 880 kHz News, talk, weather, traffic, baseball. NYC
WINS 1010 kHz News, talk, weather, traffic. NYC
WBBR 1030 kHz Business news, talk, opinion. NYC
WPHT 1210 kHz News, talk, opinion. Philadelphia
KYW 1060 kHz News, talk, weather, traffic. Philadelphia
WBWD 540 kHz South Asian news, talk, music. Parsippany N.J.
WFAN 660 kHz Sports talk and opinion. NYC
WMTR 1250 kHz Oldies music. Morristown, N.J.
WCTC 1450 kHz News, traffic, Fox sports, New Brunswick N.J.
WOR 710 kHz News, talk, opinion. NYC.
WNYM 970 kHz News, talk, opinion. NYC
WICC 600 kHz News, talk, opinion, music. Bridgeport, C.T.
WRCR 1700 kHz News, talk, music, baseball. Rockland County
WZON 620 kHz Oldies music. Bangor, Maine
WRKO 680 kHz News, talk, weather. Boston, Massachusetts
WJTO 730 kHz Oldies music. Bath, Maine
WIGY 1240 kHz Classic oldies music. Lewiston, Maine
WBZ 1030 kHz News, talk, opinion, sports. Boston, Massachusetts
WHTG 1410 kHz Oldies music. Neptune, N.J.
WRNJ 1510 kHz Oldies music. Hackettstown, N.J.
WLIW 1100 kHz Oldies music. Hempstead, L.I. N.Y.
WRIV 1390 kHz News, weather music. Riverhead L.I. N.Y.

Many of our members listen to CHML on 900 kHz (after dark.) News, opinion and old radio shows! In Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

On Saturday April 29th, Phyllis Williams, held a memorial luncheon for her husband Bruce, who died a few months ago. A number of our members attended, along with friends and family. Bruce was a great friend to our club and to InfoAge!



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 on the second Friday of each month either at InfoAge or at Princeton University. Neither the editor nor NJARC is liable for any other use of the contents of this publication other than for information.

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Collecting Juvenile Communications Fiction

by Marsha Simkin

(Author's note: These books are a reflection of their times and might not be considered politically correct by today's standards.)

Boy's Series Books Devoted Entirely to Radio

In the early part of the 20th century, radio was a very popular subject for everyone. Ordinary people were intrigued by this fascinating new invention. Young adults were particularly engaged by this astonishing technology and like this same age group today were amongst the first to "get into it". Books were one of the first contacts available to them. This will be the first of a series of articles on what is known as Juvenile Communications Fiction. Books about signaling, electricity, the telephone, telegraphy, wireless, radio, and television are included. Later technologies are not. The plots of the books were pretty similar. The "good" or "popular" boys or girls used radio to outwit their "bad" or "mean" rivals and win the day.

We will break this topic down into more manageable segments and start with boy's series books devoted entirely to radio.

The most well known of these books is the **Radio Boys** series which was written between 1922 and 1931. The series encompasses twenty nine different titles that were known to be published. A few others were promised but not generally believed to have actually been issued. Six different authors have lent their names to the books and four different publishers are listed. The Radio Boys depended on storylines in which two or more young friends are introduced by mentors into a world in which the mentor's inventions and/or the friends own engineering ingenuity propels the plot. Each author defined his heroes early on. They went from early teens to high school seniors and recent graduates to a little older. They were usually sons of the wealthier or more prominent citizens of their towns. They were supported in their quests and hobbies by their parent/s/guardians both financially and productively. They were usually good students, respectful, clean cut and athletic although they might have friends that didn't fit this mold.

Gerald Breckenridge was the author of ten Radio Boys titles written between 1922 and 1931. They were published by A L Burt of New York and featured individual dust jackets that pertained to each book. Each book had a printed cloth cover that is the same as the dust jacket but not in color. The first volume included an interesting foreword by the author as well as a six page description of how to build your own radio set. The cover of this book also differs from the dust jacket. On the cover, the Radio Boys look like sinister characters, whereas the dust jacket depicts them as more clean-cut teens. This trend to look more like wholesome young adults continued as the series progressed. The back of one of the early dust jackets from 1922 shows the price of these books as 65 cents. The Radio Boys with the Air Patrol written in 1931 is considered by most to be the most scarce of the entire series.

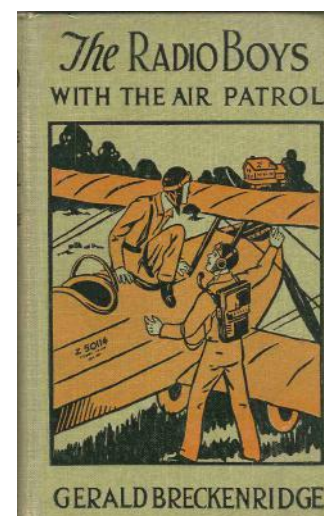
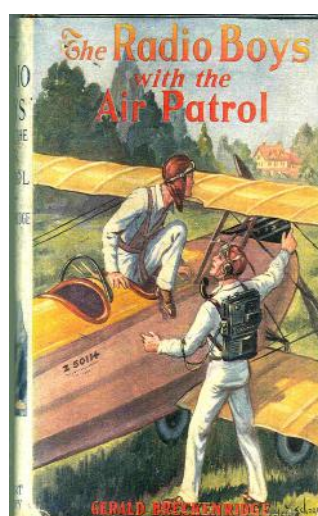
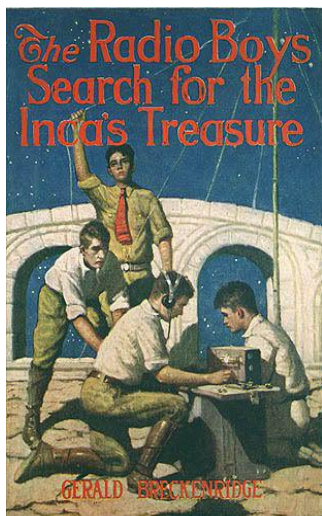
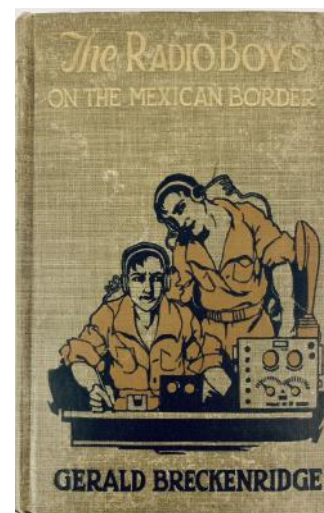
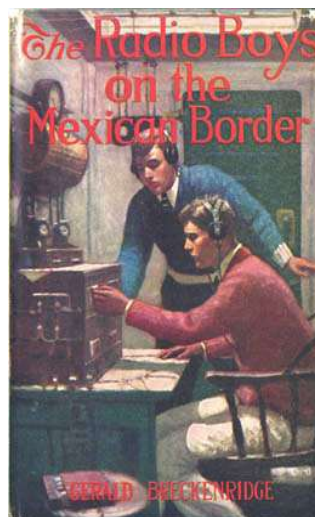
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Collecting Juvenile Communications Fiction

(Continued)

The Gerald Breckenridge Radio Boys Series

The Radio Boys on the Mexican Border	1922
The Radio Boys on Secret Service Duty	1922
The Radio Boys with the Revenue Guards	1922
The Radio Boys Search for the Inca's Treasure	1922
The Radio Boys Rescue the Lost Alaska Expedition	1922
The Radio Boys in Darkest Africa	1923
The Radio Boys Seek the Lost Atlantis	1923
The Radio Bots with the Border Patrol	1924
The Radio Boys as Soldiers of Fortune	1925
The Radio Boys with the Air Patrol	1931



Allen Chapman, was a pseudonym for Edward Stratemeyer of the famous Stratemeyer syndicate. He is said to have been the author of about 500 juvenile series books. He authored thirteen Radio Boys titles. The Stratemeyer Syndicate was a publishing company that produced a number of book series for children, including Nancy Drew, The Hardy Boys, the various Tom Swift series, the Bobbsey Twins, the Rover Boys, and others. They published and contracted the many fictitious authors doing the writing of the series from 1899 through 1987, when the syndicate partners sold the company to Simon & Schuster. Chapman's titles were the best known, and biggest sellers of the series.

These books were published by Grossett & Dunlap of New York and had individual dust jackets that pertained to each story. Each book had the same printed blue cloth cover that showed a black battery set. The Radio Boys to the Rescue is one of the more difficult to locate titles.

A Grosset & Dunlap advertisement introduced the books as -

"A new series for boys giving full details of radio work, both in sending and receiving-telling how small and large amateur sets can be made and operated, and how some boys got a lot of fun and adventure out of what they did. Each volume from first to last is so thoroughly fascinating so strictly up-to-date and accurate we feel sure all lads will peruse them with great delight."

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Collecting Juvenile Communications Fiction (Continued)

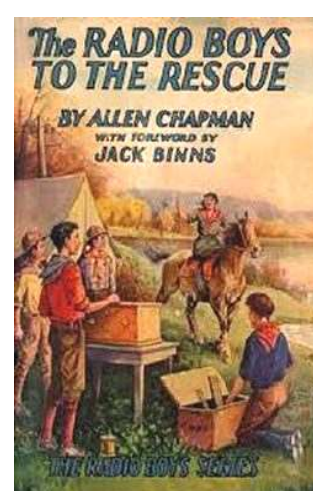
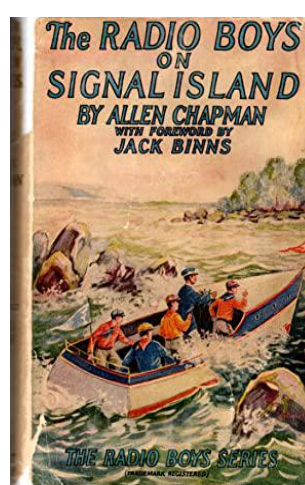
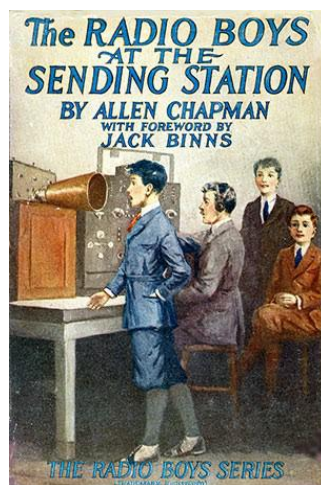
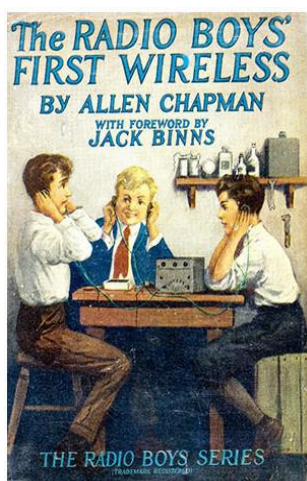
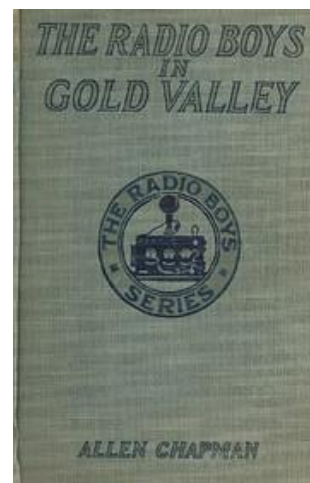
It also mentioned that each volume had a foreword written by Jack Binns the well-known radio expert.

Who was Jack Binns?

Jack Binns was a Marconi wireless operator stationed on the White Star liner, Republic. The Republic left New York on January 22, 1909 for a Mediterranean cruise. The next day the Republic was involved in a collision with the Lloyd Italiano liner, Florida. Binns sent a "CQD" distress call from the stricken Republic and continued to handle emergency communications. His efforts led to a full scale rescue operation and very few lives were lost. Thanks to many reports of his role, Binns was recognized as a national hero.

The Gerald Breckenridge Radio Boys Series

The Radio Boys' First Wireless or Winning the Ferberton Prize	1922
The Radio Boys at Ocean Point or The Message that Saved the Ship	1922
The Radio Boys at the Sending Station or Making Good in the Wireless Room	1922
The Radio Boys at Mountain Pass or The Midnight Call for Assistance	1922
The Radio Boys Trailing a Voice or Solving a Wireless Mystery	1922
The Radio Boys with the Forest Rangers or The Great Fire on Spruce Mountain	1923
The Radio Boys with the Iceberg Patrol or Making Safe the Ocean Lanes	1924
The Radio Boys with the Flood Fighters or Saving the City in the Valley	1925
The Radio Boys on Signal Island or Watching for the Ships of Mystery	1926
The Radio Boys in Gold Valley or The Mystery of the Deserted Mining Camp	1927
The Radio Boys Aiding the Snowbound or Starvation Days at Lumber Run	1928
The Radio Boys on the Pacific or Shipwrecked on An Unknown Island	1929
The Radio Boys to the Rescue or The Search for the Barmore Twins	1930



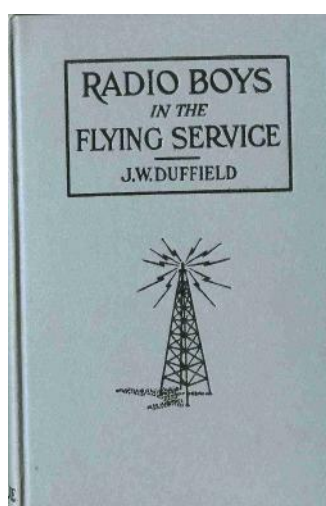
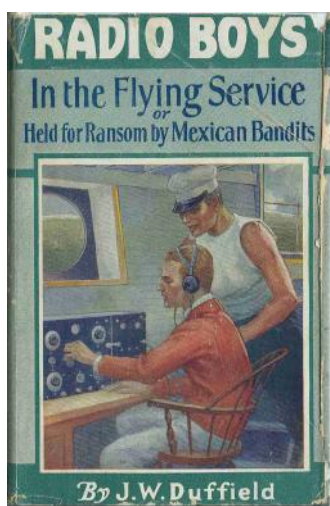
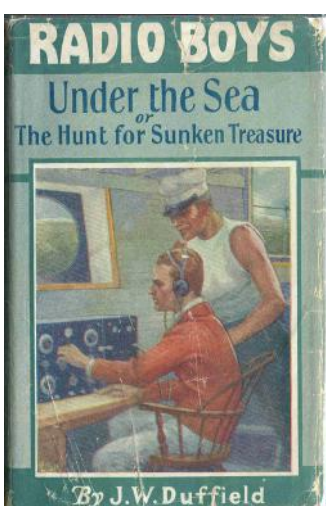
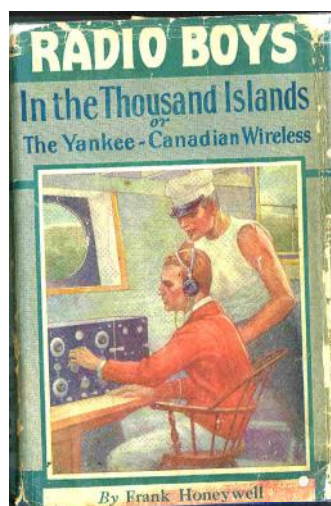
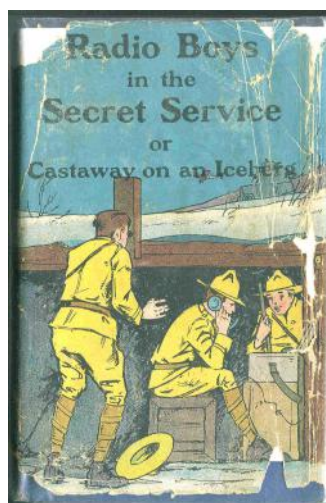
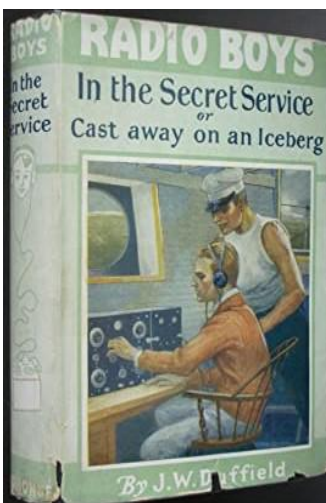
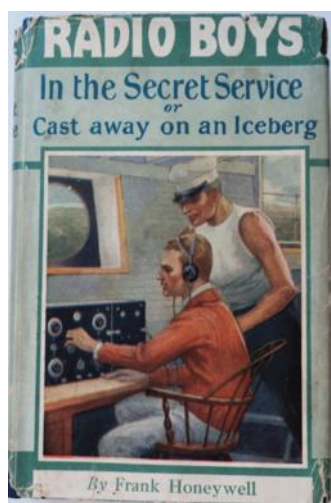
Four titles were authored by J W Duffield and/or Frank Honeywell. These volumes were published by M A Donohue of New York and Chicago. Sometimes one author would be given credit for a specific title, at other times a different author would be named for the same book. Their dust jackets varied with one that showed two men and a radio in a ship's radio room being the most often seen. A common cloth cover was issued in different colors and showed a radio tower. Two additional titles The Radio Boys in the Rockies or The Mystery of Lost Valley and The Radio Boys and the Sky Plot or Bottling the Borealis were mentioned in the stories but they do not appear to have been actually published.

(Continued on next page.)

Collecting Juvenile Communications Fiction (Continued)

The Duffield / Honeywell Radio Boys Series

The Radio Boys in the Secret Service or Cast away on an Iceberg	1922
The Radio Boys in the Thousand Islands or the Yankee - Canadian Wireless	1922
The Radio Boys in the Flying Service or Held for Ransom by Mexican Bandits	1922
The Radio Boys Under the Sea or The Hunt for Sunken Treasure	1923



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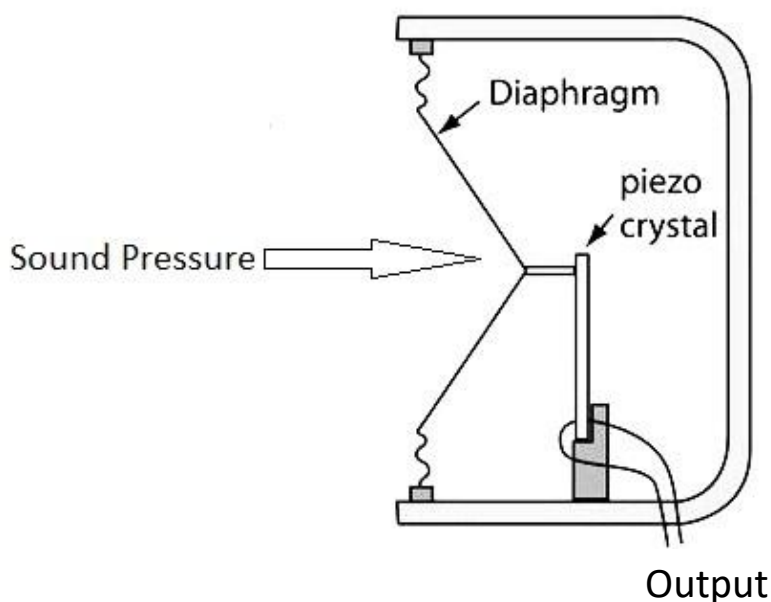
Can You Hear Me in the Back?

By Bill Zukowski (Continued from last issue)

Crystal Microphone

History: The ceramic or crystal microphone was invented 1933 by the Astatic Corporation when C. M. Chorpening and F. H. Woodworth found that they could make a microphone out of Rochelle salts or piezoelectric crystals. They found that when sound waves struck these crystals, they vibrated and created an electrical current.

The **CRYSTAL MICROPHONE** uses a thin strip of piezoelectric material attached to a diaphragm. The two sides of the crystal acquire opposite charges when the crystal is deflected by the diaphragm. The charges are proportional to the amount of deformation and disappear when the stress on the crystal disappears.



Advantages: Inexpensive.
High output.

Disadvantages: Poor frequency response
Very high impedance makes long cable runs impractical.
Extremely sensitive to temperature variations, especially heat.

Can You Hear Me in the Back? (Continued)

Examples of Crystal Microphones



Astatic D-104, introduced in 1933
Production ceased 2001



Shure Model 777 "Slim-X", \$25 list, 1959

STUDIO CRYSTAL MICROPHONE

- DUAL CRYSTAL CARTRIDGES
- ALL DIRECTIONAL
- FINE QUALITY
- HIGH OUTPUT

4.95

Here is a microphone with a 360° pickup, and the added power and sensitivity of two individually shock mounted and phased crystal cartridges. This arrangement assures you of maximum pickup from all sides. Swivel mounted to give fuller flexibility. Case is chrome plated. Standard 5/8"-27 thread. Overall size 7Hx3"W complete with 4 ft. cable. Shpg. wt., 4 lbs.

PA-17 Net 4.95

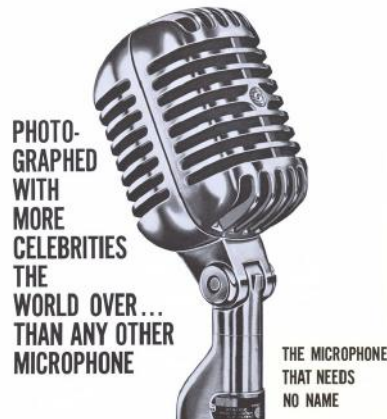
1959 Lafayette Radio Catalog



Lafayette AR-57/PA-17
Now \$100 +!!
(Continued on next page.)

Can You Hear Me in the Back? (Continued)

Examples of Dynamic Microphones



Shure Model 55
"Elvis microphone"
Introduced 1939



Electro Voice Model 666



Electro Voice Model 664



Electro Voice Model 635A
Widely used for ENG

(Continued in next issue.)



New Jersey Antique Radio Club's

Summer Tailgate Swap Meet and Ham Fest



Infoage Science History
Learning Center and Museum
2201 Marconi Road
Wall, New Jersey 07719



Saturday July 22nd, 2023



Refreshments Available

40 spaces available
\$25.00 for members
\$30.00 for non members
Bring your own tables

Open to the Public

8am to 12 noon
Vendor setup at 7:15 AM
\$5.00 ENTRANCE FEE
CLUB DONATION

For Directions

Visit our website: www.njarc.org
or Mapquest
2201 Marconi Road, Wall NJ 07719

Vendors Make Your Reservations Now!

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