The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

December 2025 Volume 31 Issue 12

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

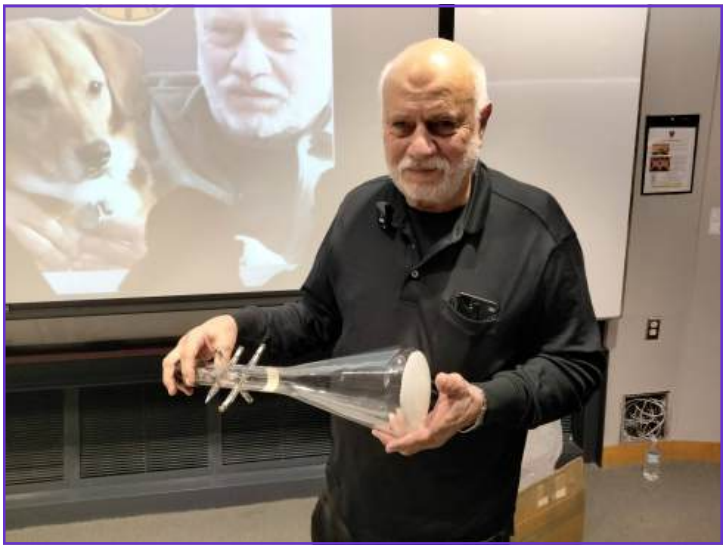
There is **no** regular monthly meeting in December. Instead, our Annual Holiday Party will be held on **Saturday**, December 13. Location: West Lake Golf & Country Club. There will be a cocktail hour, dinner and gift exchange. Reservations required. See the NJARC Communicator for details.

Directions can be found on Google Maps at https://bit.ly/4pSzbwV.

Meeting Review

At our November meeting, Mike Molnar gave another of his extraordinarily well-researched autumn presentations: *Timeline to Television: 1840 to the 21st Century*. Mike took us on a tour of television technology from primitive concepts, through early experiments to the 'perfection' of cathode ray tube television and beyond. The presentation is available on our YouTube channel and it's definitely worth a watch!

https://www.youtube.com/user/njarc



Mike holding a *very* early CRT with electrostatic scanning

(more photos inside)

Calendar of Events

December 13: NJARC Holiday Party, Jackson NJ
January 9: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge
February 13: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton
February 21: NJARC Repair Clinic, InfoAge
March 13: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge

From the President's Workbench

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts!

The President's Workbench.

I am reviewing for you our November 22nd, Fall Hamfest Swapmeet Show at the Parsippany PAL. It was not the best show ever, nor was it the worst show. But I was extremely disappointed with the number of vendors who reserved tables! To compound my disappointment were the 3 vendors who cancelled their table reservations the day before our show. This left 6 tables vacant. Not good "optics" for the buying public! So I had to institute the "Neighbor Share Plan". I asked vendors to spread their wares North or South, left or right to cover all empty tables, "at no additional cost to them". That statement hurts, considering the high costs we incur at Parsippany PAL!

As I said, it was not the worst show for our club at PAL, but that was thanks to the "Gate" and especially to Lady Judith and Jerry Ingordo, who were our Gate Keepers! They sold over 120 entrance stickers to our intrepid collector/buyers. I'm sure it was caused by our presence now on Social Media! Speaking of Social Media, we need to thank Matt and Paul and Bill and Dave for their work. The new $8 entrance fee/ donation helped to cover the New $100 cost of

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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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President's Workbench
(Continued)

a "Sanitary Permit" required by PAL for our Radio Bagel Vending.

So to conclude my rant, our club did make some money, and the buyers I talked with were happy with the diverse amount of radio related items available.

Thanks go out to Lady Judith, Jerry, Fred, Vince, Paul, Ziggy and Darren for all their work in making our Fall Show happen. Also, "Thank You" to ARRL Assistant Director of our Hudson Division, Nomar Vizcarrondo NP4H for supplying a General Class License Manual to the raffle. A big shout-out to our ever-generous club member Joe Conner for his donations that will be auctioned during the coming New Year.

– Richard Lee, Pres. NJARC

The Hoards Lined Up at 7:55

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President's Workbench
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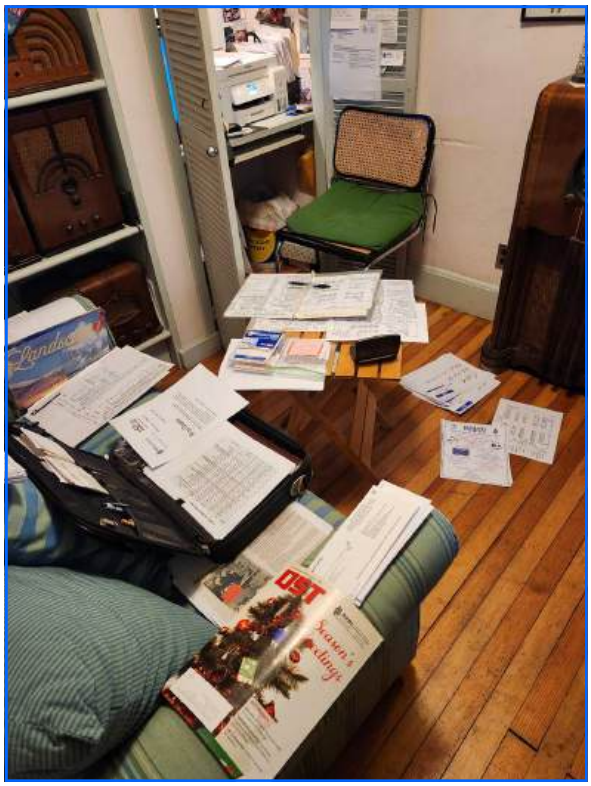
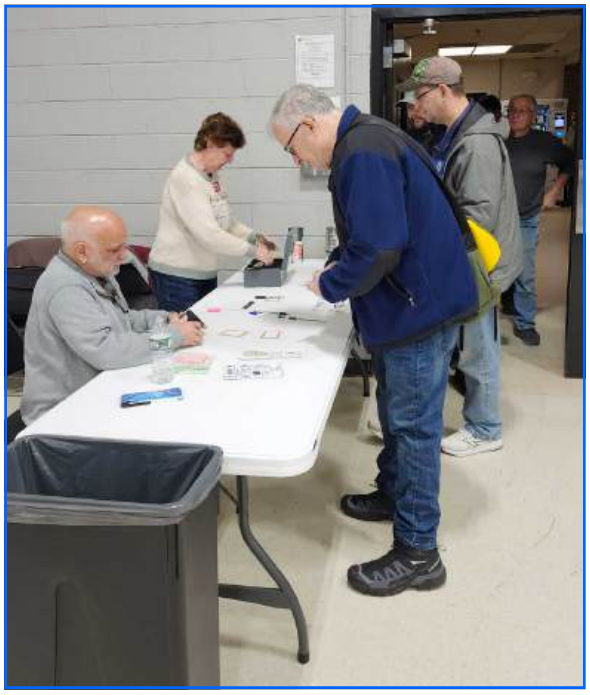


Home Preparation



Lady Judith and Jerry Doing What They Do Best!

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President's Workbench
(Continued)

Fred Distributing the Sanitary Radio Bagels

Vendor Mike Rosen

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President's Workbench
(Continued)

Nomar and Gene: Ol' Buddies

Vendor Bruce D'Adamo

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President's Workbench
(Continued)

Jon Butz Fiscina: Last Man Out

Fun With Loops
By John (IT) Stoll

Greetings and Felicitations. I have long experimented with antennas for better reception, lower noise, or DXing. We are entering a quieter time of the year for AM radio reception which always has me freezing to death outside with some latest contraption I am building for experimentation. Some of my experimentation included loops, most often using published designs, for decades. They do have strengths and weaknesses like every antenna will but often can help improve reception regardless if you have adequate reception to start with.

All antennas have strengths and weaknesses. Just the nature of the beast. Loops by nature want to have a directionality along their long axis. In a strong reception area this often is not a significant issue. But radios with internal loops do not always point in the direction of the station. Or the building structure itself can cause reception issues. A loop may help in just reducing interfering noise closer to the receiving location. So let us discuss loops for a bit. I intend to do another article as well.

Early loops, like longwires, were bigger affairs. Take my Bodine Basketweave as an example:

The Bodine Basketweave Loop

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Fun With Loops
(Continued)

The Basketweave stands 28 inches tall, 12 inches wide. Swivel base. I admit it, as a radio geek I enjoy the general style. It was a mess when I bought it, the corner spreaders had suffered a large indignity and insulation was missing in places from the wires. As a result, it was quite inexpensive. Also note that it is untuned, it is just a rectangle of wires.

I will say that it does show a decent amount of directivity. I am sure that it was a major receiver helper allowing rejection of noise from sources broadside to the rectangular layout. I do still use it occasionally.

Consoles came along and were always imposing. Early consoles had spindle legs and were a lot of sculptured woodwork. Later consoles tended to be boxier affairs but lurking inside some of those big cabinets were loops. Which then could be big. I have an unknown loop which is sizable.

The Mystery Loop

To start, the dimensions are 12 inches wide by 28 high, but it is also 7 inches deep. Note the curvature of the wire spreaders. It was supported top and bottom in whatever radio it lived in. I trash picked a “Butler”, a wooden stand that was used to hold pressed clothes for someone who certainly had more income than I did. I saved the bottom half as the legs and feet are nicely sculptured, added a horizontal plank and then drilled a hole for the bottom shaft of the loop. Part of the reason for the expansive base was that I wanted not only to have a substantial base but also a platform for experimentation. Note the brown square in the background. That is a General Radio variable capacitor which is in parallel with the loop to form a tank circuit. Also note my homemade open wire connection to the radio. I added 1 single turn around the center of the loop as a pickup lead.

This works. I wondered if the depth of the loop would make it a poor performer, but using it as a tank has worked quite well. Right now it is partnered with a National NC-98. It performs better than any longwire I have partnered it with by a substantial margin.

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Fun With Loops
(Continued)

One last mystery loop:

Mystery Loop 2

This came out of a GE console, model unknown. What makes this worth discussion is that it is a Shielded Loop. The top and bottom are brass plates, they are connected via a copper wire which is visible over the weave. I hope to experiment with this one over this winter. Shielding is an attempt to reduce electrical noise, allowing the magnetic component of the radio wave to dominate. 17 inches tall, 10 inches in diameter. I was unable to get a clear picture of the loop internally, it is very difficult to see the internal structure. Backlighting allows me to see part of the loop. I look forward to playing around with it.

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Fun With Loops
(Continued)

Not everyone has the real estate to play with larger cumbersome loops, I get it. Let us look at some of the commercially available ones.

First is the Teksun (Which I am sure was originally sold under the "Terk" brand.)

Teksun Loop

The base and loop are 10 inches in diameter, with a depth of 1 ½ inches. On the back of the base you will see a tuning know for a variable cap. Also note the small jack in the base. This loop is supplied with a cable so it can be used either to couple with a radio's internal antenna, or to substitute for an antenna.

A loop like this does allow you to reposition the loop for best reception which is better than trying to turn the radio itself.

A firm, Select-A-Tenna made a family of loops. Most were passive but there was an active model as well. Starting with one of the passive models.

This a basic and most common model. Tuned loop design. 9 ¾ inches diameter, the winding is 3./4ths deep. There is another model which sports a jack just like the Teksun and it was supplied with a cable, just like the Teksun, to facilitate connection to a radio. That cable is not coax, but a very small gauge zipcord type.

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Fun With Loops
(Continued)

I did try once to add a cable but my mistake was using coax. That killed reception.

I also have tried to phase 2 Select-A-Tenna units together. I didn't try to parallel them physically, but rather I had one slightly behind and to the side of the other. I could note a difference but it was minimal, and very difficult to get positive results. I do intend to repeat that experiment again.

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Fun With Loops
(Continued)

Here is the active family member:

Active Antenna

Front panel controls are the obvious tuning cap, but there are 2 others. Lower left is a gain control and lower right is Fine Tuning.

Again, the front jack allows you to connect it to a radio directly for those lacking internal antennas.

There is another use for the jacks on Select-A-Tennas. You can also connect a Longwire antenna to this jack and the other wire goes to ground. Since antennas are subject to so many outside influences, one can never tell what will work best in any given location. I have used Select-A-Tenna units with 40 or so foot horizontal antennas with mixed results. I will freely admit that I did not have a good ground in those experiments as I lived in an apartment. No access to actual soil. I also have had enough lousy experiences to trust using the buildings electrical system for a solid RF ground. There is always something that the electrical system ground interjects.

Having my own yard, I installed a decent RF ground. My soil is very sandy so I installed 4 copper ground rods, each about 5 feet away from each other in a line. And this row is not near the buildings power system ground. The 4 rod system is the only antenna ground I use. Using a lot of vacuum tube radios means no 3 wire power cord. I do have ground wires I have snaked into several rooms to yield true quiet grounding.

I intend to write up another mess on powered antennas. Stay tuned, lotsa fun coming up!

Theoretics Demystified

By Fred Wawra, W2ABE

This time we are talking about power supplies. These are a necessary part of testing as a lot of operational failures of a device are due to power supply problems. There are many types of power supplies used depending upon the circuits being tested. Below is a high voltage supply for working with tube equipment and has the voltages to power the heaters in the tubes. This supply even uses tubes as part of its circuitry.

High Voltage Power Supply

The more common type of supply these days is the low voltage adjustable regulated power supply. Most are switching supplies which means that the line voltage is changed to a much higher frequency to eliminate the expensive bulky 60Hz Transformers. The higher frequency transformers are much smaller, cheaper and more efficient. Below is a picture of one of these types of supplies.

Low Voltage Adjustable Regulated Power Supply

As you can see, there are many adjustments for voltage output, current limiting which helps to not burn up parts if the current requirement is not known. Again, this type of supply uses switching technology which keeps costs lower and the number of design features more readily available. The only drawback is that they are very expensive if not impossible to fix the switching part of the supply if there is a failure. It is cheaper to buy new than pay for repairs unless it is something very basic like a power switch. Then there is an adjustable AC power supply, a variable autotransformer commonly referred to as a Variac. It controls the AC output voltage from zero to in some cases above the input voltage. This type of supply is used when you do not know if the device under test has a short circuit or even if you do not know the proper input voltage. This supply uses a circular transformer winding that a selector arm travels across thereby selecting a voltage for the output. In most cases there is no isolation between the input and the output so the general thing to do for protection is to use an isolation transformer. Which protects the person testing, say an old AC/DC radio, from getting a shock from a fault in the item being tested. As you can see, there is a voltmeter on the variac so you can set the output for a specific voltage. As an aside, some very old 'dimmers' in the wall were variacs. This was before the advent of solid-state devices.

Variable Autotransformer

Another common type of power supplies are the typical 'wall-wart' and the familiar brick type supplies used with computers, monitors, and other devices.