



The Jersey Broadcaster

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

September 2026

Volume 32 Issue 9



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/broadcasterO

Meeting Notice

Our September meeting will be held at InfoAge and the *Tech Talk* topic will be "An illustrated History of RCA Victor" by Frederick O. Barnum. Mr. Barnum is the author of the book "His Master's Voice in America." Not to be missed!

Afterward, there will be a small auction of Sam' PhotoFacts in binders, and a few radios.

Meeting Review

At our August meeting, NJARC member Nevell Greenhough presented FOSDIC and the Counting of America" which was the story of how the U.S. census records were first computerized back in 1960.

While somewhat atypical a subject for an NJARC *Tech Talk*, it was an absolutely fascinating presentation, made all the more interesting by the accompanying artifacts and documents that Nevell brought in to help illustrate the story. And the cherry on top of it all was that the architect of the FOSDIC program was none other than his own father!

The meeting was livestreamed on our YouTube channel and an on-demand recording is available for viewing at

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Mu4tWuocn-Q?si=TUNtPU0JUJehG-yD&t=5389>

Many other past meetings are also viewable on YouTube and as part of our "Throwback Thursday" series of archival meeting recordings at www.youtube.com/njarc.

Calendar of Events

September 11: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge

October 9: NJARC monthly meeting, InfoAge

October 24: Fall Repair Clinic, InfoAge

November 13: NJARC monthly meeting, Princeton

November 15: Fall Hamfest/Swapmeet, Parsippany

December 12: NJARC Holiday Party, Jackson

From the President's Workbench

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts!

We held our summer repair clinic on Saturday, August 22nd in room 9032a, as usual. But what was not "as usual" were the number of clients, experts, visitors and observers attending.

It was nice to have folks wandering into our clinic after walking through the museums!

Some interesting radios and test equipment were brought back to life and a Philco Predicta got it's raster back, thanks to Matt and Dave. I want to **welcome** Walt Heskes as a new Clinic Expert, and extend best wishes for a speedy recovery to Clinic Experts Doug Poray and Phil Vourtsis who are rehabbing at home after nasty falls. The "Hole in One" Radio Bagels were gobbled up quickly as were the 7 Radio Pizzas from Anthony's Italian Restaurant. Be sure to watch Radio Wild's YouTube video on the clinic. A **special thank you** goes out to the **Sylvia Baking Co.** of N.Y.C. for continuing to supply our repair clinics with freshly baked cookies!

Our Fall repair clinic is scheduled for Saturday October 24th. If you would like to be a client, contact me via email: radioricardo61@gmail.com 2 weeks before our clinic and **not** the day before the clinic!



The President's Workbench.

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.

PRESIDENT:

Richard Lee (914) 589-3751

president@njarc.org**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Paul Mondok

VP@njarc.org**VICE PRESIDENT EMERITUS:**

Sal Brisindi

SECRETARY:

Marsha Simkin

secretary@njarc.org**TREASURER:**

Harry Klancer (732) 238-1083

treasurer@njarc.org**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**

Dave Sica (732) 382-0618

newsletter@njarc.org**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:**

Darren Hoffman (732) 928-0594

TRUSTEES:

Ray Chase (908) 757-9741

trusteel@njarc.org

Phil Vourtsis (732) 208-4284

trustee2@njarc.org

Bill Zukowski (732) 833-1224

trustee3@njarc.org**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:**

Al Klase (908) 892-5465

guru@njarc.org**TUBE PROGRAM:**Darren Hoffman tubes@njarc.org**SCHEMATIC PROGRAM:**

Aaron Hunter (609) 267-3065

schematics@njarc.org**CAPACITOR PROGRAM:**

Richard Lee (914) 589-3751

president@njarc.org**MUSEUM CURATOR:**Ray Chase museum@njarc.org**WEBSITE COORDINATOR:**Dave Sica webmaster@njarc.org**ARCHIVIST:**Matt Reynolds archivist@njarc.org**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

Marsha Simkin (609) 660-8160

33 Lakeland Drive, Barnegat NJ 08005

membership@njarc.org

My Radio Recollections of September 11, 2001

By Richard Lee

Greetings Fellow Enthusiasts.

We are now 25 years out from that beautiful clear Tuesday morning in September. 19 jihadist terrorists hijacked 4 American aircraft to suicide attack the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and presumably the White House.

My story begins that morning at 7 am in the loading dock of a building on 14 W. 53rd St. in Manhattan. My partner, Dan Fast and I were both electrical construction foremen for E-J Electric Company. We were both waiting for some larger work to break, but were happy to work together on this one floor, retrofitting the fire-alarm and security systems. Dan was an interesting fellow. He was a few years my senior. He completed the IBEW Local 3 apprenticeship (5 years) and then won a full scholarship to Cooper Union College in lower Manhattan, where he graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree! Dan started his career in the office, but preferred to work out in the field.

We were down at the loading dock unloading gang boxes, tools, and equipment from our company's truck at about 10 minutes to 9 when the driver heard on the truck radio that a plane had run into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. At that moment we all thought of a small Cessna crashing into the tower. By the time we travelled on the service car up to the 24th floor, it was 9:10. The office was in total panic: hijackers had just crashed Flight 175 into the South Tower.

Desktop CRT's were blinking, the Internet was going down, and cell service was spotty and then non-existent. In the executive dining room, someone found an old, dusty 13" GE black-and-white portable TV. A "rabbit ears" antenna was improvised with a metal coat hanger. There were distorted images of the Trade Center towers 1 and 2, but with no audio. The panic was growing with men and women crying and moaning. Apparently, this office was a satellite brokerage office to the main office in the North Tower. Everyone knew someone in the towers. Unfortunately, this was a familiar story for so many of us in the metropolitan area.

The office went silent with no communication to the outside until I remembered what always travelled with me in my RCA Tool/Tube caddy kit. I took out my Panasonic 6-transistor AM "shirt pocket" radio!

I found a strong signal near a window, from the transmitter on the Empire State Building, WCBS 880 news, at the time. It was good to finally have an outside source of information. But that information became even more devastating when we heard that the towers fell! For the rest of the morning, the office was huddled around the little blue radio. Never any good news, more terrorist

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(Continued)

hijackings, Manhattan bridges and tunnels closed, possibility of more planes crashing into skyscrapers, and the “The Dust People” getting on shuttle boats to New Jersey. The bad news seemed to never end! But it was news the office needed to hear, and thanks to my old AM transistor radio, it was a small comfort.

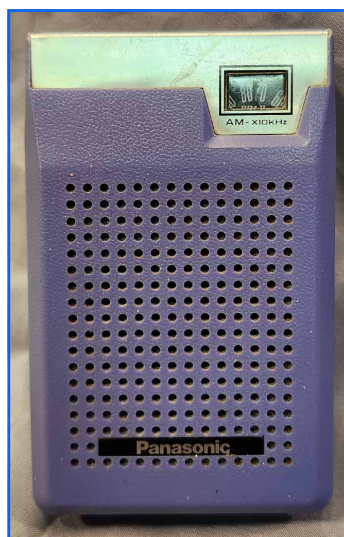
At each 5 year anniversary of 9/11, Dan and I would call each other and reminisce about that day together. It ended when Dan passed away in 2012. He was a good guy and the smartest electrician I ever knew!

I need to remark that our young people, under 30 years of age, know nothing about the Jihadist terror attacks that took place 25 years ago this week. Please, be sure to educate them!

- Richard Lee, President NJARC

Addendum

Panasonic model R-1028. [6] Transistor BC, Matsushita Industrial Co., 1966, made in Japan. I still own it, and it still plays!



Resurrecting a dormant Lafayette HA-225 Communications Receiver

By Walt Heskes

Unlike general coverage receivers, the beautifully styled Lafayette HA-225 is a “communications receiver” which skips the medium waves of the AM broadcast band and, instead, focuses on both the long- and short-wave bands, with special attention to the handful of frequencies allocated to the amateur radio community.

The front panel, which features many useful controls, is dominated by two richly expansive slide rule dials for main tuning and an incredibly selective bandspread control.

Fourteen 6-volt miniature tubes support a very refined, power transformer-based circuit developed in the early 1960’s by thoughtful Japanese engineers and carefully assembled by trained technicians using point-to-point wiring.

The sample that found its way to my bench via a JD Auction Services event a few years ago was missing both the mandatory external loudspeaker and the optional 100 KHz crystal for the onboard dial calibration circuit but, happily, all of the knobs and vacuum tubes were supplied.

Curious, I connected a loudspeaker to the 8 ohm terminals and plugged an aerial into the SO-239 antenna socket on the rear apron. I powered up the rig through a “dim bulb” tester and it quickly came to life. The audio circuit roared with healthy static but, sadly, there were no radio signals as I slowly spun the tuning knobs across the dials. Happily, I could inject audible RF signals from my EICO 324 generator but, otherwise, the bands were dead.

Being a superheterodyne receiver, this radio circuit comprises a local oscillator which beats against all incoming RF signals to convert them to a single 455 KHz intermediate frequency which is amplified and detected to become the audio waves that we hear. Without its local oscillator, a superhet radio cannot “push” unconverted radio signals through its intermediate frequency-sized transformers.

Fortunately, you can easily check the operation of the local oscillator if you: (1) power up an old-fashioned transistor radio, (2) tune it to about 1000 Hz, (3) hold it near the tuning cap of the suspect radio receiver and (4) listen for the squeal in the transistor radio as you tune across any of the bands of the suspect radio receiver. Remember to turn down the audio volume of the suspect receiver and turn up the audio volume of the transistor radio. If the local oscillator of the suspect radio is generating a 455 KHz signal, as you tune the suspect receiver, you will hear a squeal in the transistor radio. No squeal; no local oscillator.

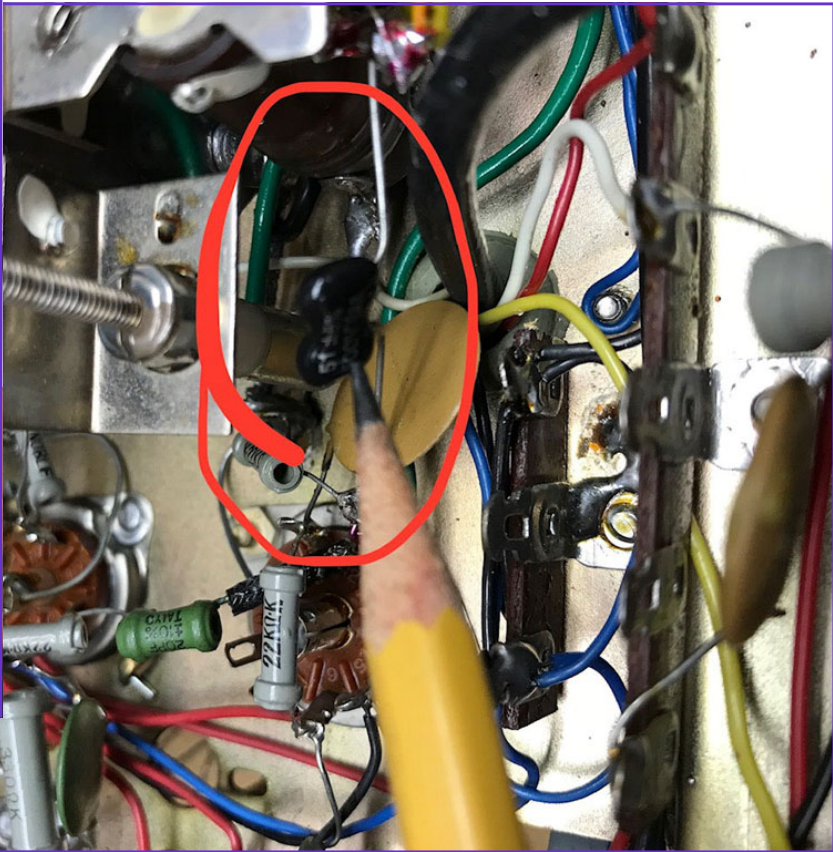
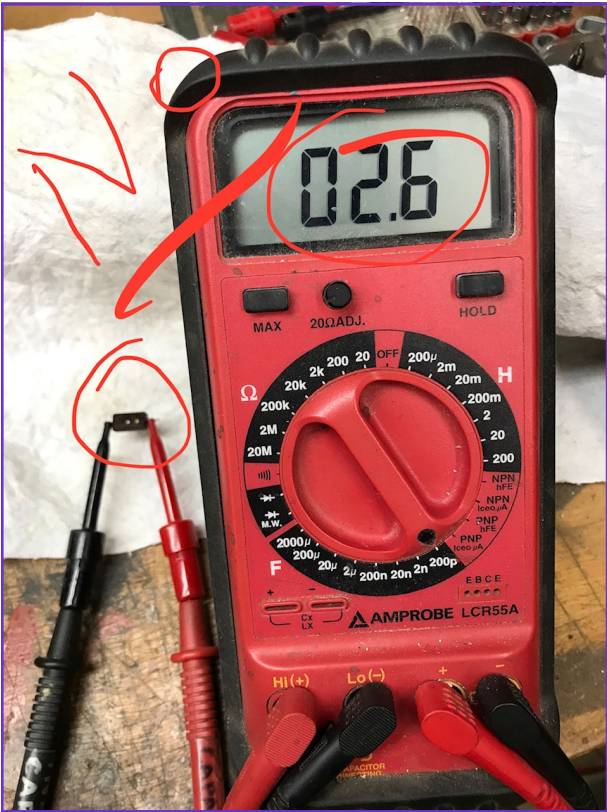
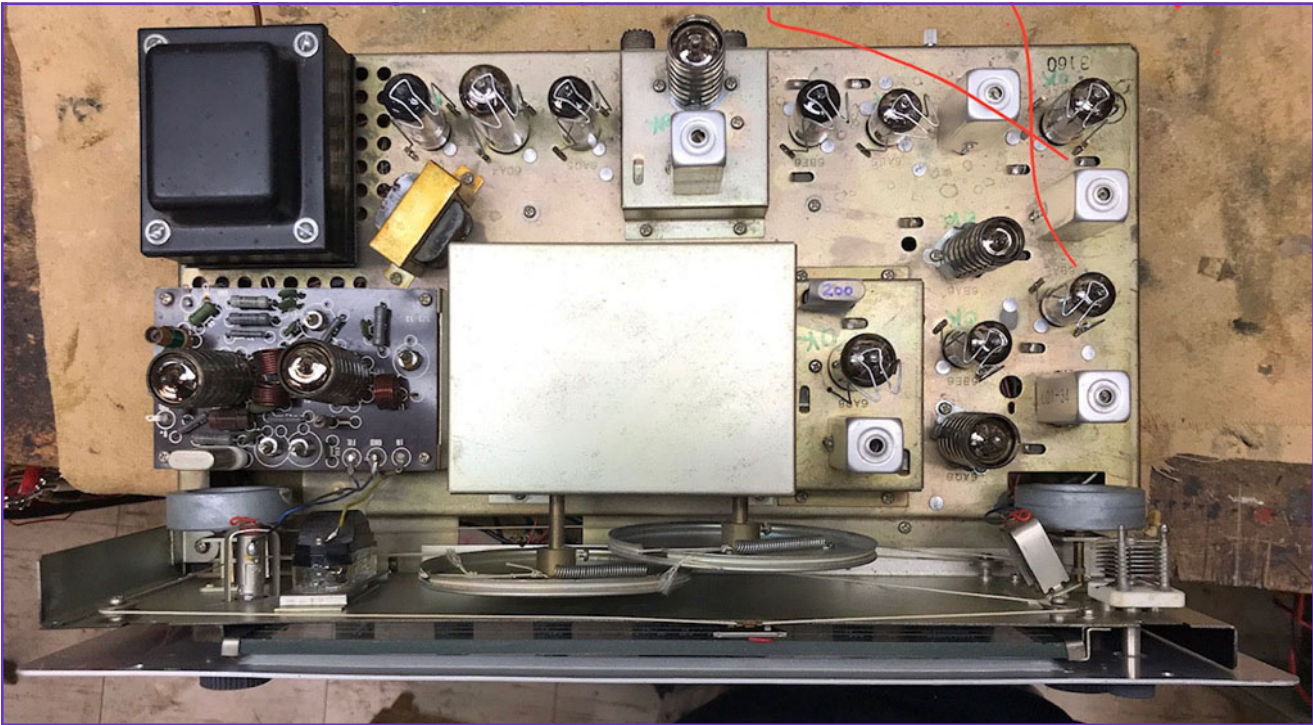
Our HA-225 failed to generate any squeals in the transistor radio and, so, we knew that its local oscillator was inoperative. BINGO!

But, why wasn’t there any local oscillation? The 6AQ8 dual triode at the heart of the local oscillator circuit had tested good, therefore, it was clear that a discrete component must have failed. Examining the components of the oscillator circuit, we found that a tiny 50pf mica cap joining the grids of the dual triode had opened. **Crazy?** We replaced the defective mica cap and the radio promptly came to life on all bands. Thank you, radio gods!



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Resurrecting a dormant Lafayette HA-225 Communications Receiver
(Continued)



Abstract: An Illustrated History of L3Harris & Legacy RCA Victor, Camden, NJ

By Frederick O. Barnum III, 2026

The history of the 20th Century communications-electronics industry in America is a fascinating story of technological achievements in sound recording and reproduction, wireless communications, radio and television broadcasting, home entertainment, science and medicine, and aerospace and defense communications from undersea to deep space.

Three key pioneers in this field were the Victor Talking Machine Company (VTMC), Radio Corporation of America (RCA), and General Electric Company (GE) who, individually and collectively, influenced the course of the communications industry worldwide. Victor introduced the “Talking Machine,” disc record and “Victrola” record player to America and the world. GE and RCA together pioneered telecommunications, radio and broadcasting. RCA brought television into millions of homes and enabled mankind to advance from wireless messages across the ocean to digital messages across the solar system. The contributions of RCA to national defense, from World War I to space-based defense for the 21st Century, have been vital to the continued preservation of our country’s security.

There have been various accounts published on VTMC, RCA and GE over the years, but none addressed the link between the three. Each company carried the world’s most famous trademark of Nipper the fox terrier listening to “His Master’s Voice” emanating from the horn of a Victor talking machine to homes and businesses around the globe. And each designed, developed, and manufactured its communications-electronics products at the same facility in Camden, NJ.

Fred Barnum, who joined RCA Camden in 1984, took immediate interest in this amazing history and began taking steps to preserve it. He uncovered the “lost archives” and, for the next seven years, reconstructed the story from long-forgotten photo negatives, engineering notebooks, and interviews with current and retired employees. In 1991, he wrote and published *“His Master’s Voice in America,” a 400-page hardcover book containing over 700 rare photographs highlighting the ninety years of outstanding achievements of VTMC (1901-29), RCA (1930-86), and GE (1987-91). This compilation was dedicated to the employees of Victor, RCA, and GE for their invaluable contributions to the fields of entertainment, radio and television broadcasting, science and medicine, space exploration and the continuing defense of the United States of America throughout the 20th Century.*

In his subsequent efforts to preserve this critical piece of American technological history, Barnum salvaged, reorganized and transferred the RCA Victor Camden document and photo archives to a nationally recognized corporate archive institution. Additionally, he has written articles for the local and national media, appeared in several television and film documentaries, and entertained audiences throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region and beyond with his presentation of *“An Illustrated History of RCA Victor.”* He was employed by RCA and its successor companies in Camden, NJ for 34 years, retiring as a Business Development Manager with successor company L3 Technologies in 2017.

Barnum remains an authority on the corporate history of The Victor Talking Machine Company and Radio Corporation of America. His updated PowerPoint presentation, *“An Illustrated History of L3Harris & Legacy RCA Victor, Camden, NJ,”* which consists of hundreds of never-before-seen historic photographs from the salvaged company archives and now includes the achievements from 1992 to the present day by successor companies General Electric, Martin Marietta, Lockheed Martin, L-3 Communications, L3 Technologies, and L3Harris in Camden, NJ, continues to be enjoyed by audiences across the Delaware Valley today.



New Jersey Antique Radio Club's Fall Swap Meet and Ham Fest



Parsippany Police Athletic League
33 Baldwin Rd,
Parsippany, NJ 07054, USA



Sunday, November 15th, 2026
8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON



Entrance Fee:
\$8.00 Donation

Open to the Public!
Refreshments Available!

For Directions:
visit www.njarc.org or
set your GPS to:

33 Baldwin Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054

For questions or to reserve a table contact:

Richard Lee
President, NJARC

(914)-589-3751

radioricardo61@gmail.com

Vendor Info: Setup: 7:15 AM

Table Fees:

\$30.00 (NJARC Members)

\$35.00 (Non-Members)

Price Per Extra Table:

\$30.00

(40) 8 Foot Tables Available