



ARCI NEWS

www.antique-radios.org

Affiliated AWA
Antique Wireless Association 

Volume 36, Issue 6
December 2017



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!

UPCOMING INDOOR MEET DECEMBER 10, 2017

AMERICAN LEGION HALL
570 South Gary Avenue, Carol Stream, IL

December 10, 2017
7AM - 11AM

Donation Auction
BUSINESS MEETING

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast



2018 ARCI MEET SCHEDULE

February 25, 2018	7AM-9:30AM Indoor Swap Meet People's Choice Contest, Officers' Meeting 9AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)
April 29, 2018	7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Inside Business Meeting 9:30AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)
June 17, 2018	Outdoor - Gates Open 7AM Combined Meet With 6-Meter Club of Chicago	DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL (See Advance Ticket Form & Map)
August 24-25, 2018	RADIOFEST	Medinah Shriners/Addison, IL
October 7, 2018	7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Business Mtg./Officer Election 10AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)
December 9, 2018	7AM-11AM Indoor Swap Meet Business Meeting 10AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)



ARCI



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

<u>Membership Option</u>	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
Annual Membership	\$ 25	Full benefits: <i>ARCI News</i> subscription, Fee Discounts At Events, Seller Privileges at ARCI Events.
Spousal Annual Membership	\$ 10	Discounts at Events.
Student Annual Membership	\$ 5	Must Be 18 or Under, Full Benefits.
Lifetime Membership	\$340	Full Membership Benefits For Life (non-transferable).

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO ARCI AND SEND TO:

Antique Radio Club of Illinois
P.O. Box 1139
LaGrange Park, Illinois 60526

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Warmest Holiday Greetings from your ARCI President! After all the excitement of this past Fall, I think it might be a great time to finally settle down and concentrate on what is really important this holiday season. Your radio collection that you have been neglecting for many months once again beckons for your undivided attention. ARCI has just the thing to focus your attention and to get you back on track this December 10th, more on that a little later.

The October meet at the American Legion Hall in Carol Stream was another great one. The rain that was predicted during much of the previous week did not develop, leaving us with a dry Sunday morning. We registered a total of 24 seller spaces, about the average for an October meet. There were some really tempting items for sale, particularly a pair of blondes—blonde Grundig Majestic consoles that caught my eye in the donation auction. Again, thanks to Art Bilski and Tom Kleinschmitt for schlepping many of the donated items. Everyone's efforts in the donation auction brought in \$714 for ARCI.

Next, here is some preliminary information about *Radiofest 2018*. We have already secured the venue and hotel, and are now in the process of assembling the teams that will manage the various events. Here is the news so far:

- **Our dates for *Radiofest 2018* will be Friday-Saturday, Aug. 24 and 25.** Our normal early August weekend was not available, so we moved the dates a bit later temporarily.
- **We will change the schedule a little due to the elimination of Sunday morning.** We will open with the auction on Friday evening and hold the outdoor swap meet on Saturday through mid-afternoon. The speaker programs, display, and contest setup will take place during the day on Saturday. The awards event will be held on Saturday night. There will be the usual donation auction late Saturday afternoon to close the event.
- ***Radiofest 2018* will again be held at the Medinah Shriners facility in Addison, Illinois with the adjacent Hilton Garden Inn providing overnight accommodations.** We are very much looking forward to returning to these superb facilities that provided us with such a wonderful experience for the last two years.
- **We have already secured a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn for Thursday-Saturday at the same \$95 rate that we had in past years.** Online and over-the-phone hotel reservations will be opening up soon, and we will keep you up to date on all the developments as they occur. Make sure to mark your calendars for *Radiofest 2018*.

I hope to see all of you at our next meet on December 10th. This will be our third annual Janet LaVelle Holiday Party, and as in the past, it promises to be another great one. Our December meets have historically been some of our best, with lots of sellers and a great donation auction. Come on out to Carol Stream and buy yourself or someone close to you a nice holiday gift. And don't forget about our business meeting following the meet. This is an important meeting, and we invite all ARCI members to attend. In addition to numerous topics of discussion, we will be holding the final votes for our roster of 2018 club officers. If there's anything you'd like to suggest for discussion regarding club activities or policies, this is the time to bring it up.

On a closing note, I want to inform you that this will be my final installment of the President's Message in the *ARCI NEWS*. Effective December 10, I will be resigning my position as ARCI President, and a new candidate for president will be voted into office at the upcoming business meeting. It has been an honor to serve as your President over the past year, and I want to thank all of you for your support. I have learned a lot during my term and hope that I have made the club better in some small way during the process and look forward to seeing all of you at our future meets. I will no longer be your club president, but of course will remain active in the club over the coming years.

See You At The Next Meet,
Jeff Aulik
ARCI PRESIDENT

ARCI UPDATE

The President's Column ~ All The News That's Fit To Print

OFFICERS FOR 2018

ARCI will hold its annual business meeting and officer elections at the December meet. The following people are nominated to serve another year:

Board of Directors

Dr. Barry Janov, Chairman
David Bart
Art Bilski
Harry Blesy
Ed Huether
Tom Kleinschmidt
Steve Muchow
Robert Piekarz
Olin Shuler
John Stone
Jeff Aulik

Officers

Steve Muchow, President
Jim Novak, Vice President
Keith Schreiter, Secretary/Membership
Rudy Hecker, Treasurer

VOLUNTEERS FOR 2018

ARCI has been fortunate to have a great team of volunteers over the years who have faithfully and generously served the club. They deserve your thanks and recognition for all the support they provided. Remember, ARCI is your club and we need your help too! As we all pitch-in, the club will continue to improve for everyone's benefit. Please talk with one of the officers, Board Members or current volunteers for more information on how you can lend a hand. ARCI looks forward to working with the following during the upcoming year.

Nicholas Tillich, *Radiofest* Auction Coordinator
Jim Sargent, *Radiofest* Auctioneer
Tom Kleinschmidt, Bill Cohn, Donation Auction
Ed & Judy Huether, *Radiofest* Coordinators
Elaine Hecker, Registration
Art Bilski, Public Relations
Julia & David Bart, *ARCI Newsletter* Editors

John Stone, *Radiofest* Auction Coordinator
Jim Novak, WA9RCI Ham Radio Station
Ron Grams, WB9IMR, Trustee of FCC License WA9RCI
Rudy Hecker, Signage, People's Choice Contest
Jim Rajkovic, Webmaster
Cindy Fudge, ARCI Newsletter Publisher
Karl Johnson & Pete Nauseda, Parking and Information

YEAR END 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

By Jeff Aulik, ARCI President

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

I am happy to report that ARCI has remained on solid ground throughout fiscal year 2017 with respect to membership, activities, and finances. Our membership levels remain solid, our meets are well attended by both buyers and sellers and our finances have continued to strengthen. Here are some additional details about each of these areas.

MEMBERSHIP: ARCI's paid membership is now approximately 260 members, and continues to remain mostly stable in an environment where many other clubs are experiencing substantial attrition. Due to our year round membership renewal schedule, there is considerable short-term variation in the number of active paid members. While renewals do occur on a year round basis, the bulk of them take place in the time period from just prior to *Radiofest* through our December regional meet. Between mail-in renewals accompanying *Radiofest* applications and on-site membership renewals at *Radiofest* itself, we have totaled approximately 100 *Radiofest*-related membership renewals alone. We also hope to see somewhere between 20 and 30 total additional membership renewals taking place during the December meet. Please check your membership expiration date! If your membership has expired, please help your club by remembering to renew at the next meet or by mail. Your membership dues are critical to the health of our club and we cannot continue without your financial support. Thanks to all of you for your support of ARCI over these many years.

ACTIVITIES: Our meets, including both regional meets and *Radiofest*, remain very popular and well-attended events. Our regional meets in Carol Stream have an average of 25 seller spaces per meet and approximately 75-85 buyers and sellers in attendance, depending on the time of year. One of our most popular regional meets is our December indoor Janet LaVelle Memorial Holiday Party that features around 30 sellers and a large donation auction. *Radiofest 2017* was a highly successful and well-attended event. Our venue and hotel were a hit, and we anticipate a repeat performance in 2018. Over 130 individual selling spaces were sold in our swap meet lot, with more than 500 estimated buyers in attendance from 18 different states plus Canada. Our main auction tallied gross sales of nearly \$36,000, our second highest result ever. Items consigned to our main and donation auctions helped us fully finance the costs of our auction facilities and support. This, in conjunction with our registration fees, again enabled us to completely self-fund *Radiofest 2017* without tapping directly into the club's cash reserves. We have excellent working relationships with the Shriners, Hilton Garden Inn and the Carol Stream Legion and are confident these will continue.



FINANCES: One of the most important tasks for any ARCI president is to ensure the financial health and stability of the club. I am very happy to report that the club's finances are still strong. During the course of FY 2017, we have improved our club's bottom line by approximately \$7,500. Much of this increase can be attributed to generous donations to the club, both in cash and items for our donation auctions, proceeds from our *Radiofest 2017* auction that helped make *Radiofest* self-funding in total, and the cost savings we have realized through our arrangements with the Medinah Shriners *Radiofest* venue. We have also saved by changing how we handle our AV requirements and by carefully selecting other vendors that offer us the highest value for our money. These savings give the club a much-needed financial buffer to weather issues like increasing costs for *Radiofest*, membership attrition, and other unforeseen challenges. We continue to look at ways to get more for each club dollar and welcome new ideas

RADIO ZONE

An Occasional Column About Radio Related Topics By Donald Christiansen

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the February 2014 issue of IEEE-USA Today's Engineer in the Backscatter column and is reprinted courtesy of IEEE.

REMEMBER HEATHKITS?

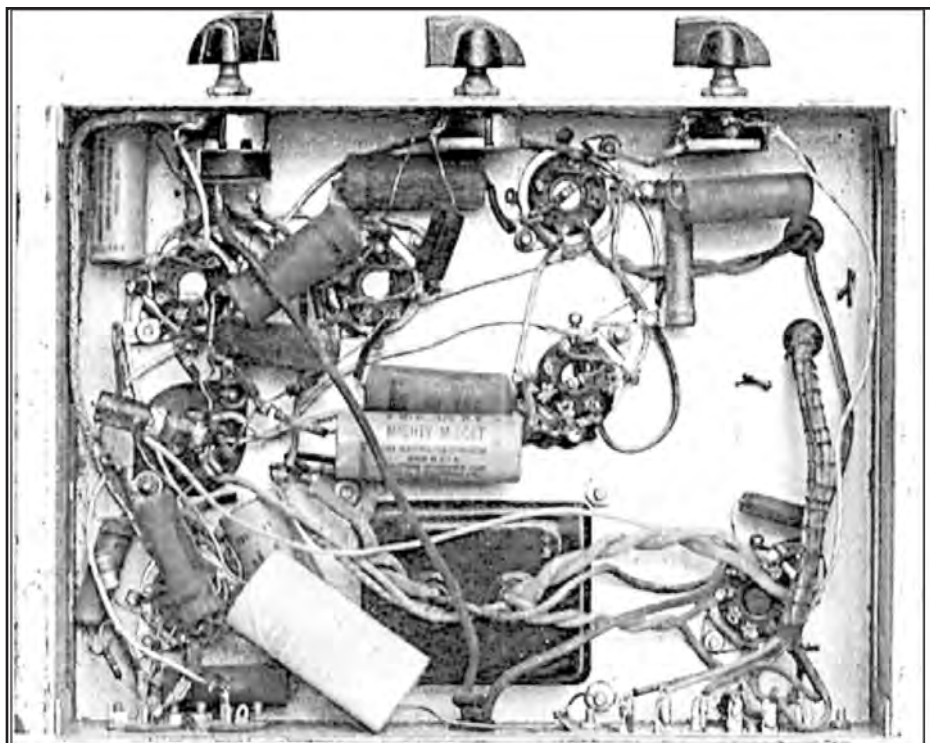
When I recently learned that Heathkit was hoping to stage a comeback as a purveyor of do-it-yourself electronic kits, I was transported to the 1950s and my own experience in building early Heathkits. I rummaged through the basement and retrieved the audio amplifier pictured here. I had forgotten how heavy it was and so was careful not to drop it on my foot. (It weighed over 12 pounds, due mostly to the beefy power and output transformers.)

I also retrieved, from my extensive file of items too interesting to discard, a clipping from The New York Times from March 30, 1992. The front-page headline read "Plug Is Pulled on Heathkits, Ending a Do-It-Yourself Era." In the article, William Johnson, Heathkit's president, said society's concern for instant gratification meant that young people no longer had the interest in electronics as a hobby as had their parents. Plus, he noted, the arrival of the integrated circuit and its use in do-it-yourself kits left the builder with little comprehension of what might be happening in the assembled product. Furthermore, Heathkits that once cost perhaps 75 percent of comparable assembled products had lost that cost advantage. The writer of the Times article reported that Senator Barry Goldwater, 83 years old at the time, grieved for the end of Heathkits. He had built more than 100 of them and said their demise "leaves the amateur, like me, no place to turn."

The Origin of Heathkit

The company had been founded in 1926 by Ed Heath, a barnstorming pilot, to sell light airplane kits. But it was not until the end of World War II, following the earlier

death of Heath on a test flight and the reorganization and relocation of the company to Benton Harbor, Michigan, that the first electronic Heathkit was introduced. The company was then buying and selling war surplus aircraft and electronics equipment. One lot included hundreds of 5BP1 cathode ray tubes, and inspired the company to offer its first Heathkit, an oscilloscope kit for \$39.95. Advertised in *Radio News* magazine in 1949, it became a best seller, and was followed by kits for a VTVM and an RF signal generator.



This Heathkit A-5 audio amplifier; circa 1950, featured a 6J5, a 6SJ7, and a pair of 6L6s, plus volume, bass, and treble controls.

In the process of following the well-defined step-by-step instructions, the Heathkit builder without any formal knowledge of electronics would nevertheless become familiar with the individual components and had the option of learning more in a “theory of operation” chapter in each instruction manual. The post-war interest in high-fidelity audio equipment was a boon to Heath. That was followed by a line of kits for radio amateurs. By the mid-1970s some 400 kits were available, including mono and stereo amplifiers, tuners, tape recorders, speaker systems, and radio and television sets. For the ham radio crowd, there were d-i-y kits for receivers, transmitters, and transceivers. A line of test equipment kits ranged from VTVMs and oscilloscopes to tube testers and Q-meters.

The AT-1, a three-tube crystal-controlled transmitter kit, was introduced in 1954, and by the late 1960s, it was believed that Heathkit had as large a selection of amateur radio equipment as any company then in the field.

Enter Computers

In 1960 Heathkit introduced an analog computer, EC-1, making it available in both kit and pre-assembled formats. Then in 1978 it launched its first digital personal computer, the H8. It was followed by the H89, featuring a pair of Zilog Z80 processors. A year later, when Zenith Radio acquired Heath, the H89 in assembled form was combined with a monitor and floppy disk drive for sale to small businesses. A later design used a dual Intel 8085/8088 and was available in either kit or assembled form.

By 1989, Heathkit had been purchased by Groupe Bull, and a few years later it ceased producing kits. According to Johnson, the PC revolution siphoned off the most enthusiastic kit builders. “Once they found computers, it became all consuming,” he told the Times. The kinds of fans who once built stereo amplifiers, he said, now spent their leisure time writing software code. Assembling IC-based PCs was but a minor task.

The Heathkit Legacy

Many veteran Heathkit fans still swap memories of building, operating, and upgrading Heath products. A selection of vintage Heathkits can be found online, including some pristine, unbuilt kits carefully hoarded by their owners. Because the instruction manuals and circuit diagrams of the surviving Heathkits are often lost or misplaced, vintage manuals are in demand, and many are offered online.

Fans also describe how they restore aging Heathkits. Rule number one is to swap out all electrolytic capacitors, and plug and re-plug everything that isn’t permanently connected, including vacuum tubes, to restore good contact. And re-soldering of some connections may be needed.

No doubt the celebrated success of Heathkit has inspired newcomers to enter the electronic kit business. Analog Metric of Hong Kong offers a line of tube-based kits for the audiophile. A typical PCB-based stereo preamplifier uses a pair of 12AX7s and a pair of 12AT7s and dedicated ground and power rails. Based on photos of the neat and colorful assembled kits, I am guessing that their owners would not want to hide them in any enclosure.

For audiophiles who have abandoned their loyalties to tube amplifiers when seduced by the advantages of reduced size, weight, and power consumption of class D amplifiers, kits are available from Parts Express and classDaudio, as well as from sure-hifi and Weiliang Audio, the latter two based in China. Class D amplifiers use MOSFETs operating as binary switches and exploit pulse-width modulation or pulse-frequency modulation to reduce power requirements.

Hope for the Future?

A series of sales and resales of the company ended in Heathkit filing for bankruptcy in 2012, and its promise of restructuring in 2013. By 2011 the company, whose workforce once exceeded 1800, had but 15 to 20 employees.

In 2013 a group of investors announced its interest in resuming the production of Heathkits. It posted an online survey (Heathkit Customer Survey—Spring 2013). The introduction to the survey read in part “. . . we’d really like to know more about you, and what’s important to you—your kit-building interests, your thoughts about old vintage Heathkits, your interest . . . in amateur radio, and your thoughts and ideas about Heathkit.”

Will Heathkit return to recapture its importance in the electronic kit marketplace? If so, some Heathkit watchers suggest it concentrate on audiophile kits, as well as the ham market, and forego an attempt to re-enter the volatile computer field. (Arduino and Raspberry Pi seem to have a commendable head start here.)

Upgraded kits perhaps should slip in a few vintage resistors and capacitors along with the inevitable ICs, via through-hole and surface mounting on PC boards. The required soldering will present an interesting challenge to first-timers in avoiding cold-solder and dry-solder joints, a test of craftsmanship that plug-in and snap-together components and prototyping breadboards cannot provide! But handling the minuscule components of contemporary kits requires a vise to clamp the PC board, excellent eyesight and possibly a magnifier, and a steady hand to coax the tiny components into position for soldering.

While updating both designs and components, a new line of Heathkits ought not to jettison vacuum tubes completely, especially for the audiophile market.

Your comments are welcome.

Resources

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HISTORY ZONE

**An Occasional Column about Topics of Historical Interest
By Michael Adams**

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the Fall 2017 issue of the Proceedings of the Radio Club of America and is reprinted with permission of the author. Michael Adams, is a member of RCA and the California Historic Radio Society. He has attended and presented at Radiofest.

A TRIBUTE TO MORGAN MCMAHON

Legendary radio historian Morgan E. McMahon, N6VY, passed away on May 20, 2017 at his Southern California home at the age of 92. He was an entrepreneur, author, ham, and the first RCA Ralph Batcher Award recipient.

A very significant voice in the antique-radio-collecting community is now a silent key. He was a longtime member of RCA and the Southern California Antique Radio Society (SCARS).



Morgan in 1985 holding a copy of his book, Vintage Radio, as he appeared on the PBS series: Radio Collector. Morgan served as the on-camera historian for this documentary show

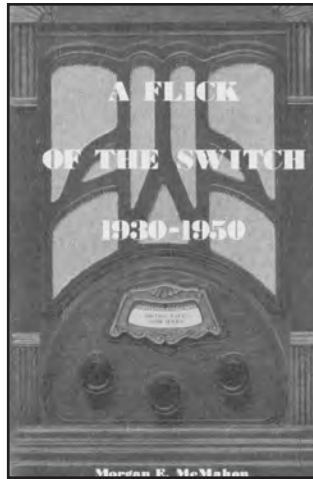
Morgan clearly was part of the “greatest generation.” He served in World War II as an expert in advanced electronic systems aboard the USS Stephen Potter. Morgan was responsible for radar, which was highly classified at the time. After completing a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, he concentrated on solid-state electronics and taught the first transistor course given in the West, at UCLA. He started his own semiconductor company and worked as chief scientist and later consultant for a major manufacturer of electronic parts.



Herold Greenwood's original 1961 "A Pictorial Album of Wireless and Radio, 1905-1928, and Morgan's version of it, Vintage Radio.

I met Morgan through his historical books on antique electronics, and more generally through the hobby of collecting old radios. He founded Vintage Radio as a publishing company specializing in preserving early radio and television technology. His first publication, *Vintage Radio 1887-1929*, was issued in 1973. This work, according to the opening page was “Herold Greenwood’s historical album expanded with more old ads, illustrations and many photos of wireless and radio equipment.” Greenwood’s original 1961 work, which Morgan used with permission of Greenwood’s estate, was called *A Pictorial Album of Wireless and Radio, 1905-1928*. Morgan’s expanded version covered 1887-1929. This work established McMahon as the most important writer about historical radio devices at that time.

The old radio collecting hobby began several generations ago with wireless and battery sets, followed by an emphasis on broadcast sets from the 1930s and 1940s. So, Morgan continued his research into radio sets after 1929. A few years later in 1975, Morgan published what was to be his most popular book, *A Flick of a Switch, 1930-1950*. This work proved to be instrumental in sparking interest in the hobby, and laid a foundation for new collectors. His style was infectious. The opening lines in *Flick of the Switch* were: “*A Flick of the Switch*—that’s all it took to summon the new genie of radio entertainment... We’ll help you meet old friends, like Just Plain Bill, The Lone Ranger and Jack Benny. We’ll see lovely old radio sets. We’ll meet the radioman, the ‘ham,’ and the radio collector. We’ll see electronic wonders of World War II. Fascinating!”



Cover, *Flick of a Switch* with Morgan's notation inside to me, "Good hunting, Mike."

Morgan was instrumental in inspiring the formation and proliferation of clubs devoted to radio collecting, repair and display. Remember, back in the mid-1970s, *A Flick of the Switch 1930-1950* and *Vintage Radio 1887-1929* were the only reference books available to collectors. They provided photos, historical information, descriptions of circuits, and company information covering radio, television, ham radio apparatus and World War II military equipment, including tables of data on production and model numbers. Imagine, these were the days before the internet, and Morgan compiled simply an amazing amount of information by hand. There were eventually five printings of *Flick of the Switch*, but only one edition; consequently all books, whether published by McMahon or later Antique Electronic Supply have the same content. You still can buy *A Flick of the Switch, 1930-1950* through Amazon.

That book influenced me as a young radio-TV-film professor in Los Angeles. I accidentally discovered *A Flick of the Switch* and, just as the title indicates, a switch was flipped in my creative consciousness. I began to visualize a video series (*Radio Collector*; PBS 1985) based on radio collecting using Morgan's book as the timeline. This was convenient because Morgan, the resident expert, lived less than 10 miles away. We met, he agreed to be a resource and the on-camera historian, and we became good friends. He was a good and giving person, you might say a Great Man.

His publishing company, Vintage Radio, went on to reprint *Most Often Needed 1926-1938 Radio Diagrams and Servicing Information*.

In 1976 Morgan received the very first RCA Ralph Batcher Award. When I was selected to receive the same award 36 years later in 2012, I spoke with Morgan. I used some of his words and showed his books as well as Batcher's book and my Lee de Forest book to provide context to the RCA banquet audience. I live in the shadow of many great men in the history of radio. But, in particular, I never will forget my friend and mentor, Morgan McMahon.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Adams completed his graduate work at Ohio State University. He spent 12 years as disc jockey and program director of legendary station WCOL-AM in Columbus, Ohio, made documentary films, and taught at several universities. He retired from San José State University after serving as chair of the Department of TV, Radio and Film and the associate dean of the College of Humanities and the Arts. He authored numerous articles and six books on radio history topics. He created an Emmy-nominated video series for PBS, *Radio Collector*. He presented papers on broadcast history topics at the Broadcast Education Association (BEA), the IEEE, SMPTE, SBE, the Antique Wireless Association (AWA), and the Audio Engineering Society (AES). He received the Antique Wireless Association's Harry Houck Award and the Radio Club of America's Ralph Batcher Award for historical documentation. He currently serves as board chairman of the California Historical Radio Society.



NEWS FROM THE HAMSHACK

By Jim Novak, WA9FIH

HALLICRAFTERS' FIRST NOVICE TRANSCEIVER

Back in 1951, the FCC began offering a new “entry level” Amateur Radio license, the Novice, requiring passing a 5 WPM Morse code exam and a set of multiple choice questions relating to rules and regulations, some basic theory, and operating practice. It was good for one year, non-renewable, and operating privileges were restricted to CW (code) only in segments of the 80, 40 and 15 Meter bands, using crystal control. Novices were expected to upgrade within the year to General Class with an exam requiring mastery of 13 WPM CW and more rigorous questions regarding theory and regulations.

Ham equipment in the early 1950s mainly consisted of separate transmitters and receivers, either commercial, converted World War II military surplus, or homebrew sets constructed from articles in the ARRL Handbook or magazines. Hallicrafters, a well-known name in communications equipment since the 1930s, saw the need for an inexpensive, relatively easy to operate, entry level transmitter-receiver. So they modified an existing small short wave receiver, the S-38B, to meet the needs of the new Novice ham. The new radio was dubbed the SR-75. Although referred to as a “transceiver,” the radio was really a receiver and transmitter in one cabinet, about 13” wide x 7” high x 8” deep, with some shared components, such as the receiver's audio output tube which also served as the transmitter's power output tube.



The Hallicrafters SR-75 (l) and S-38B (r).

The receiver's original tube line-up of five octal tubes – 12SA7-12SK7-12SQ7-50L6-35Z5, was modified in the SR-75 by adding a 7 pin miniature 12BA6 as the transmit crystal oscillator and changing the rectifier to a 117Z6. A battery holder for two “D” cells was added to provide voltage for a transmit/receive relay. They also added a socket for plug-in coils used in the transmitter. The oscillator's RF signal drove the 50L6 audio output tube, which also served as the transmitter RF output amplifier, running about 7 watts on 80 and 40 meters, a bit less on 15 and 10 meters. The back panel also had an additional terminal strip added which provided connection to a long wire transmitting antenna.

The SR-75, as well as all of the S-38 series receivers, were “hot chassis,” transformer-less radios and did pose a risk of electrical shock. The only safe way of using it was with an isolation transformer. How well did it work? Well, let's just say as well as could be expected for a simple, relatively inexpensive unit. Receiver tuning was tricky, with an uncalibrated 0-100 band spread scale. But those were different times, when people accepted such equipment and used it without the modern amenities that we expect in today's gear! It gave new hams an inexpensive way to get on the air and to hopefully get “hooked” on ham radio, eventually upgrading to “bigger and better” in the process!



LISTENING ZONE

An Occasional Column For Your Listening Pleasure
Submitted By Keith Schreiter

RICK HAGERTY & RADIO ROOTS ON WRLR 98.3 FM

The *Radio Roots* program presents early radio transcription recordings from shows which were broadcast during the depression, through World War Two and even into the post war years. There still exists a treasure trove of sit-coms, dramas, adventures news flashes, musical and variety shows that have been preserved for the ages.

In the early- to mid-twentieth century, radio was the only source for home entertainment and electronic information. Rick Hagerty delivers this history rich and delightful programming for everyone to experience once again.

Besides nostalgic and educational values, *Radio Theater* provides an art-form which creates vivid and colorful images with nothing more than sounds. Radio is therefore a timeless medium. Utilizing just the ears and the mind, we can enrich ourselves while allowing the body to move about freely to carry out other duties. That's multitasking.

As producer and host of the *Radio Roots* program, Rick regrettably confesses that his background professionally does not include radio related activity. His early vocation began as an electrician. He changed careers midway into the printing industry, from which he is now retired.

Having grown up in the forties and fifties, he has had a lot of exposure and developed a great love for vintage radio programs. Rick even had the opportunity to attend a live radio broadcast of the *Life of Riley* show starring William Bendix when it was being performed at the newly built Milwaukee Arena, circa 1951.

TV was in its infancy while Rick was in his grade school years. He was extremely fascinated with “behind the scenes” glimpses which were occasionally revealed on various local programs. He became absolutely obsessed with the microphones. He was determined to one day obtain some of them. It was not until many years later that he had the opportunity to accumulate a small microphone collection. Eventually, Rick acquired examples of all the most historically significant types. Unfortunately, he has since needed to sell off most of the collection due to economic circumstances. A very few still remain in his possession.

Over the years, Rick was also able to acquire some recordings of the old radio shows. He found them in various mediums, such as tape, vinyl, CDs, and more recently in other digital formats. Essentially, the collection has grown to thousands of shows.

Since his retirement; opportunities have opened like magic. In early 2007, RG Productions, a new radio theater group, was formed in the lower Wisconsin and Northern Illinois area. Rick was able to attend their debut performance. They re-create old time shows exactly as done in the early days of radio. The performers stand before microphones with their scripts in hand and act out the scenes in same manor. The shows include live mechanical sound effects and an organist. RG's first performance was great with the exception of one component. The microphones employed were neither vintage nor even of similar style. Since Rick happened to own several vintage microphones, he contacted the co-founder of the group, Ms. Nita Hunter and offered his assistance. Rick was welcomed aboard, and he is currently the permanent sound engineer for the group. (rgaudioproductions.com)



The live re-creations needed an outlet beyond the stage. After all, it is only appropriate for a radio show to indeed be on the radio. Ms. Hunter made arrangements with WRLR 98.3 FM in Round Lake, Illinois, and they went on the air, sharing live discussions with the actors while delivering their recorded performances.

Rick asked the WRLR station manager if he would like to air actual vintage programming on a regular basis. Rick offered to produce and host the shows. The offer was accepted, and in May, 2008, Radio Roots was born. Since then, Radio Roots has become syndicated in several small markets across the country.

Rick continues to deliver the Radio Roots programming with great love for preserving the art-form of audio theater and nostalgia. Vintage shows have varying levels of audio deterioration. With all available technology, every attempt is made to restore acceptable sound quality. Anomalies beyond repair are chalked up to what Rick likes to call “audio patina.” Regardless of the condition, Rick says, “We are extremely blessed with the survival of so many great shows performed by such legendary personalities as Fibber McGee and Molly and Jack Benny. Chronicles of a bygone era are priceless. Even comedy shows were abundant with information concerning current events, lifestyles and conditions of the period. This timeless material is not only entertaining but has since become valuable lessons in history.

Radio Roots opens with the statement of returning to the days prior to current technologies, when sound was the singular source of entertainment in the home. Even with that limitation, mental images are formed with vivid clarity in full dimension. Through radio, we can witness history unfold and examine the fabric of America in times of enormous tribulation. It is with great pleasure that Rick Hagerty does indeed turn the radio dial back to when prime time radio was in its prime.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF BROADCAST COMMUNICATIONS REACHES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY AND LAUNCHES MAJOR NEW EXHIBIT

The Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago (MBC) celebrated its 35th anniversary in September. What started as a premise 35 years ago—that television history should be preserved and shared—has evolved into one of the country’s most respected media museums. In 1982, TV producer Bruce DuMont proposed the idea and received \$250 from the Chicago Chapter of the Television Academy to set in motion what has become MBC. Over the years, DuMont’s initial vision expanded from preserving historical recordings and broadcast industry milestones into an institution that connected with members of the public in a personal way, using media to capture history and to reflect their lives.



MBC is home to the National Radio Hall of Fame, and beginning October 21, 2017, MBC is hosting a major exhibit on the history of *Saturday Night Live* with support from NBC to celebrate that program’s 40th anniversary.

MBC’s archives include images from more than 180 television and radio programs and events it has hosted over its 35 years. Scores of local radio and television personalities—as well as respected national media figures such as Milton Berle, Steve Allen, Dick Clark, Don Cornelius, Larry King, Edie Adams, Bob Saget and Betty White—have contributed to the MBC. The museum’s archives include 85,000 hours of video and audio content.

At the beginning, in a pre-YouTube world, visitors found that MBC offered a rare opportunity to see glimpses of past history in personal screening suites. As the archives have grown in content and scope, MBC’s mission and education goals have shifted in emphasis to more focused, research-based pursuits and public exhibits. MBC’s dual mission continues as both preservation and education, reflecting new 21st century opportunities in its current home.

MBC’s founder, Bruce DuMont, has announced that he is stepping down as president at the end of 2017. Larry Wert, president of Tribune Media, was elected chairman of the MBC Board of Directors in late 2016 and is now preparing the path ahead.



Replica of Studio 8H in Rockefeller Center. Courtesy of Premier Exhibitions.

MBC's new exhibit, *Saturday Night Live: The Experience*, opened October 21, 2017. This exhibit, spearheaded by Larry Wert, represents a new phase for MBC. It is the first large-scale, national traveling exhibit hosted at the museum. MBC, in collaboration with Universal Brand Development, Saturday Night Live, Broadway Video Enterprises and Premier Exhibitions, Inc., announced that it will bring Chicagoans behind the scenes of America's most iconic, comedic television show. The 12,000 square foot experience chronicles the history of NBC's iconic SNL franchise while taking visitors through the show's notoriously hectic weekly development schedule. Ten immersive galleries bring visitors into the office of executive producer Lorne Michaels, the writers' room, control room, and more; highlighted by more than 500 authentic artifacts, including iconic costumes, original sets, props and scripts. The experience concludes with a full-scale replica recreation of SNL's longtime home in New York City at Studio 8H in Rockefeller Center. For more information, visit museum.tv. For tickets, visit snltheexhibition.com. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students. Children under 12 are free.

Going forward, both Bruce DuMont and Larry Wert envision MBC's activities moving toward a more recognized and stable national platform, while still celebrating Chicago's many contributions to radio and television broadcasting. SNL offered the perfect vision of the future, where a celebration of this nationally renowned television show will also highlight SNL's deep ties to Chicago (many of SNL's most iconic actors are alumni of Chicago's famed Second City Theater).

Together, DuMont and Wert are launching MBC on its next 35 year journey.



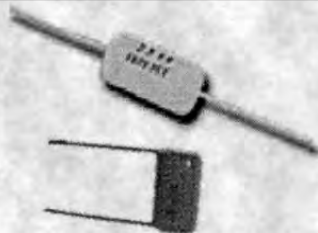


BUSINESS CARD ADS

We invite all of our members to scan and send in your business card to be included in ARCI NEWS. For \$80 your card will appear in the next 6 issues! Your card will be seen by approximately 400 people per issue and up to 1,000 people at Radiofest where we make additional copies of ARCI NEWS available at no charge. If interested, please scan your card and send it to jbart1964@gmail.com and mail a check for \$80 to Rudy Hecker, ARCI Treasurer, 127 Weymouth Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193. Thank you all for your continued support of ARCI!!!



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CLUBBING AROUND

ANTIQUÉ WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

The Antique Wireless Association will have its next meeting in May 2018 at the AWA Museum in Bloomfield, New York. The AWA, our national affiliate, publishes the AWA Journal, the AWA Review and The AWA Gateway. The latest edition of The AWA Gateway is available for free at <http://www.antiquewireless.org/awa-gateway.html>. Dues are \$35 per year. Information can be found at <http://www.antiquewireless.org/>.

WISCONSIN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB, INC.

The next WARCI meeting will take place in January 21, 2018. For information about the club, please see the web site at www.warci.org.

NORTHLAND ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

The Minnesota Club has its next event is scheduled for February 18, 2018, a workshop and outdoor mini-swap meet. Radio Daze, the Upper Midwest's ultimate vintage radio collecting event, will be held in May 2018. For more information and the date which will be announced, please see <http://www.northlandantiqueradioclub.com/index.shtml>.

MICHIGAN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

MARC's Vintage Electronic Expo is scheduled for January 27, 2018 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Details will be announced. Please see the MARC web site for more information at <http://michiganantiqueradio.org/>.

INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY

IHRS Winter Meet will be held late-February/early March 2018 at the Lawrence Park Community Center, City of Lawrence, 5301 N. Franklin Road (north east Indianapolis). For dates and additional information please see <http://www.indianahistoricalradio.org/ihrsched.htm>.





ARCI NEWS

Antique Radio Club of Illinois

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