



ARCI NEWS

www.antique-radios.org

Affiliated AWA
Antique Wireless Association 

Volume 40, Issue 1
February, 2020

Hear Ye...Hear Ye...

Congratulations to ARCI on achieving
40 wonderful years of fun, friendship,
comradery, historical preservation, and
good times in the realm of
old time radio collecting!!



40th Anniversary
1980 - 2020

UPCOMING INDOOR MEET FEBRUARY 23, 2020

AMERICAN LEGION HALL

570 South Gary Avenue, Carol Stream, IL

February 23, 2020

7AM - 11AM

Business Meeting 9:30 am

FREE COFFEE, AND 40TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE!



2020 ARCI MEET SCHEDULE

February 23, 2020	7AM-9:30AM Indoor Swap People's Choice Contest, Officers' Meeting 9AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)
April 26, 2020	7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Inside Business Meeting 9:30AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)
June 21, 2020	Outdoor - Gates Open 7AM Combined Meet With 6-Meter Club of Chicago	DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL (See Advance Ticket Form & Map)
August 7-8, 2020	RADIOFEST	Medinah Shriners / Addison, IL
October 4, 2020	7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Business Mtg./Officer Election 10AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)
December 13, 2020	7AM-11AM Indoor Swap Meet Business Meeting 10AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)



ARCI

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

<i>Membership Option</i>	<i>Dues</i>	<i>Benefits</i>
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

EMAIL DELIVERY OF ARCI NEWS? YES OR NO (CIRCLE ONE)

PRINT DELIVERY OF ARCI NEWS? YES OR NO (CIRCLE ONE)

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Application Date: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

This is ARCI's 40th year!!! Started in 1980, we are still going strong in 2020. What an accomplishment! ARCI was one of the earliest clubs formed to support a new interest in collecting and preserving radio and related communications history. A few clubs are older, a few younger, some are larger, and many smaller, but ARCI continues to operate as one of the largest public venues for radio collecting.

Radiofest has an international reputation and continues to thrive, even as the hobby has changed in recent years. It continues to attract more than 200 seller spaces and many hundreds of participants each August. Our local meets have ranged from small open-trunk affairs, to the more typical assemblage of two or three dozen sellers and about 100 participants. Our partnerships with other local ham radio clubs continue to provide a mix of audiences. And, our members have contributed in many national and international organizations. Did you know our members have held leadership positions at the IEEE, Radio Club of America, AWA, ARCA, and many other organizations? Our members have literally travelled the world, participating in Canadian, British, Japanese, Australian, and other countries' radio and scientific instrument preservation groups. We have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Proceedings of the IEEE*, and other publications. We have made many contributions to museums and temporary displays of radio history. We have helped form other clubs in other parts of the country, and our own volunteers come from across the country, bringing news about their own clubs and contacts.

But, most of all, we gather as friends. How lucky we have all been to share in both good times, and some sad ones, as we enjoyed each other's' friendship and comradery. Congratulations ARCI, thank you to our founders, and in remembrance of our friends who have passed on, to all: we wish you a wonderful 2020 and look forward to sharing our celebration of 40 magnificent years.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and happy 2020 to all our ARCI members and friends. While the weather has been somewhat milder so far this winter, collecting is an activity that we can enjoy during all seasons.

ARCI enjoyed another terrific year in 2019 with successful regional meets and a very memorable *Radiofest 2019*. The club is financially sound and boasts an active membership that has been consistent for many years at approximately 250, with a dozen life members. Our ongoing success is the result of dedicated volunteers and ARCI members-at-large that truly enjoy collecting and supporting this club with its long history of friendship and promoting the hobby. I want to thank all of the officers and board members that agreed to serve for another one-year term in 2020. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Our *Radiofest* planning team is already making arrangements for our big event in August 2020. Our Friday-Saturday schedule continues to be very well received; and so, we will return to that format this year. *Radiofest 2020* will, once again, be held at the Shriners Facility located in Addison, Illinois with the adjacent Hilton Garden Inn providing overnight accommodations. *Radiofest 2020* will be held on Friday, August 7th and Saturday, August 8th. For more *Radiofest 2020* details, see future issues of *ARCI NEWS* and the website.

As always, we really want to hear your thoughts and suggestions about all aspects of the club. Your feedback is most important because we each have a unique perspective on the club and what elements might be incorporated for improvement. Volunteer a little of your time to help out at our meets or serve a term as an officer to help insure ARCI's future. New volunteers with new ideas and energy are always welcome!

Remember, ARCI is your club! So please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions for activities or events that you would like us to consider for 2020. You can email ARCI's website address clubinfo@antique-radios.org or you can email me directly at akent36@comcast.net.

See You At The Next Meet,
Steve Muchow,
ARCI PRESIDENT

ARCI UPDATE

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

UPCOMING BUSINESS MEETING FEBRUARY 23, 2020

We strongly urge all interested members, Officers and Board members to attend the upcoming business meeting. WE NEED YOU!!! New blood is needed to preserve the vitality and innovation of one of the best radio collecting clubs in the country. Planning for *Radiofest 2020* is already underway. ARCI is your club!! Please plan to participate and lend a hand! See you at the meeting!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Remember to send in your membership dues for 2020. Dues remain unchanged from 2019 and will continue at \$25 per year and \$340 Lifetime. Please see the enclosed form. We apologize for any confusion stemming from a past issue of *ARCI NEWS* which included an old membership form

OFFICERS FOR 2020

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

Board of Directors

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

Officers

Jeff Aulik, President
Jim Novak, Vice President
Mary Johnson, Secretary/Membership
Rudy Hecker, Treasurer



VOLUNTEERS FOR 2020

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

Gary Bernstein, Tom Kleinschmidt, 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 & Information



I WANT YOU
TO VOLUNTEER WITH ARCI !!

We Need Your Help To Run Your Club!!

- ARCI News – Authors, Contributors
- Radiofest – Volunteers
- Local Meets – Volunteers
- Radiofest Staff – Auction, Registration
- Radiofest Hospitality Tent – Donors, Staff

Earn your stripes today!

Please Contact Your Board Members & Club Officers

RADIOFEST 2020 PLANNING UPDATE

Radiofest 2020
Friday, August 7 – Saturday, August 8
Medinah Shriners
550 N. Shriners Drive
Addison, IL 60101

Radiofest 2020 will again be held at the Medinah Shriners' location in Addison, Illinois with the adjacent Hilton Garden Inn providing overnight accommodations. We are very fortunate to return and enjoy these fine facilities. The Medinah Shriners is located at the junction of I-355 and Army Trail Road in Addison. This is a very convenient location that can be easily accessed from all directions within the entire Chicago area. See the map below for location details.

We are enthusiastically assembling the activities for *Radiofest 2020*. The two-day schedule of events will be very similar to last year. We will begin with our Friday night auction, followed on Saturday morning by the swap meet through mid-afternoon. There will be plenty of seller spaces available in the large parking lot at the west end of the facility with plenty of room between rows for maneuvering a small truck or a vehicle with a trailer. The sellers' lot is also separated from the main traffic flow, which is good for those walking around the swap meet. The main parking lot, adjacent to the seller spaces, has more than 170 spots available for buyers and visitors. It is an easy walk from one lot to the other, and to the hotel on the east side of the general parking area.

We will again feature our speakers programs during the day on Saturday. We will also have our outdoor ham station with special ARCI club call letters WA9RCI. The usual donation auction will be held later in the afternoon. The awards dinner event will be held Saturday night.

The indoor facilities of the Shriner's building will host our auction and banquet. For 2020 we will be using the former contest/display room for our speaker presentations, which is located directly across the hall from last years' location.

The official hotel for *Radiofest 2020* is the Hilton Garden Inn, located directly adjacent to the Medinah Shriners complex, and a very short walk from the banquet facilities and parking lots. Medinah Shriners and Hilton Garden Inn are completely independent entities, but they coordinate closely on events. *Radiofest* participants can receive a discounted block-rate of \$99 per night.

RADIOFEST

Medinah Shriners
550 Shriners Drive
Addison, IL 60101
(630)-458-0200

HOTEL

Hilton Garden Inn Addison
551 N Swift Road
Addison, IL 60101
hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com
(630) 691-0500

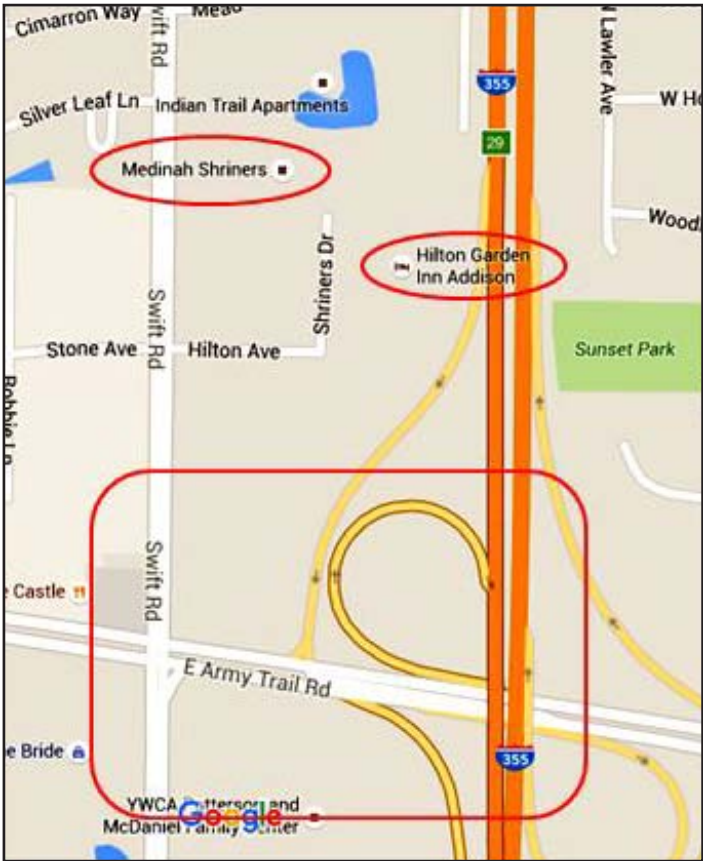
We have secured a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn and reservations for the hotel are now open! You can go to the online reservation system, which has been set up exclusively for *Radiofest* reservations, at this web site:

https://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/C/CHIAHGI-RAD20-20200805/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Or, you can call the hotel at: 630-691-0500. Mention *Radiofest* to the friendly reservation agent to get the special discount rate. Note: This discount rate is valid for reservations made before July 24th.

Watch for additional *Radiofest 2020* information in future editions of the ARCI NEWS, *Radiofest* mailings and our ARCI web site www.antique-radios.org. With our wonderful location and our dedicated team of ARCI volunteers, you can understand why we are enthusiastic as we plan for our largest event. So, mark your calendars and start making plans to attend!

LOCATION OF RADIOFEST 2020



RADIOFEST

August 7 and August 8th, 2020



SIGN UP NOW!

Event: Medinah Shriners ~ 550 N. Shriners Dr. Addison, IL 60101

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn ~ 551 North Swift Rd., Addison, IL 60101
Hotel Reservations: (630) 691-0500

All hotel reservations must be made directly with the Hilton Garden Inn
Discounted Hotel rates for ARCI members (before July 24th) begin at \$99.00

RADIOFEST Will Feature a Large Radio Swap Meet, Informational Presentations, Appraisal Tent & Auctions. Our Banquet also returns with great food, entertainment, and awards. Events and Schedule subject to change. Watch our website for updates at: www.antique-radios.org

All sellers must be members of ARCI - NO ADMISSION CHARGE FOR NON-SELLERS

ARCI Membership (\$25.00)

(If not currently a member) \$ _____

First Selling Space \$ _____

\$45.00 Pre-Registration

\$50.00 On Site Registration

Additional Spaces

\$25.00 Each Pre-Registration

\$35.00 Each On Site Registration

_____ times \$25.00 or \$35.00 = \$ _____

Table Rentals-Pre-registration only

6 ft. # _____ times \$15.00 = \$ _____

Free parking for attendees in the lot directly adjacent to the swap meet lot. If you are reserving a paid space in the swap meet lot for parking purposes only please check here _____

Banquet (Buffet Style) and Show

- Hand Carved Beef and Glazed Ham
- Boneless Chicken Breast-Herbed Lemon
- Parmesan Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Penne with Marinara Sauce, Rolls & Butter
- Green Beans Amondine, Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea
- Tossed Garden Salad, Fresh Fruit or Pasta Salads
- Vanilla Ice Cream with Chocolate Topping

_____ Attending times \$40.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL OF ALL \$ _____

Names for banquet name tags _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE # DAY: _____ EVENING: _____

E-MAIL: _____ APPLICATION DATE: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Please list any special requests or comments below

In order to receive confirmation of your registration and selling space assignment from ARCI by mail, we must receive your registration form on or before July 1, 2020. All sellers must check-in at the Registration Area upon arrival at Radiofest, to receive their parking permits. All selling and parking spaces in the swap meet lot will be assigned by ARCI.

Make check payable to ARCI and mail to: ARCI c/o Edward & Judy Huether; 1039 Troost Ave.; Forest Park, IL. 60130
Have Questions or need more information? Check our website at www.antique-radios.org or send e-mail to clubinfo@antique-radios.org

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date Received _____ Registration # _____ Check # _____ Spaces _____

NEWS FROM THE HAMSHACK

By: Jim Novak, WA9FIH

REMEMBERING REGENCY – WHAT AN I.D.E.A.!

Regency Electronics was founded in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1945 by two friends who had worked together at RCA, John Pies and Joe Weaver. It was originally badged as a division of I.D.E.A. – Industrial Development Engineering Associates. The company initially produced a number of consumer electronic products, including TV signal boosters and UHF converters (I recall that my folks had a Regency UHF converter sitting atop our black and white Zenith TV back in the 1960s!). One of their major achievements was the development and marketing of the first transistor radio, the Regency TR-1.



Regency TR-1.

Regency also manufactured VHF monitor receivers in the 1950s, tunable table top vacuum tube FM radios that covered 30-50 and 150-174 Mc, allowing listeners to tune in police and fire calls and various other services. The two meter Amateur Radio band is situated at 144-148 MHz, just below the public service and business band allocations, and listeners could usually find some nearby hams talking right at the lower edge of the dial.

As solid state devices (transistors) became available that would perform well at VHF frequencies, Regency marketed smaller crystal controlled monitor receivers; for example, some had tone activation options useful to volunteer firemen. Their first product for the ham radio market was the 1956 model ATC-1, a compact solid state converter that allowed reception of the 80 through 10 Meter ham bands on a standard AM broadcast receiver. The folks at Regency went on to offer a variety of transistorized transceivers for the 30-50 and 150-174 MHz business bands in the 1970s, and later came out with UHF (450-470 MHz) versions.



Regency ATC-1 Converter.

In 1971, Regency debuted the HR-2, a small twelve channel 15 Watt output FM transceiver for the two meter ham radio (146-148 MHz) FM band. It was housed in the same case as their scanner radio but requiring an external 12 Volt DC power supply. Over the next several years, the HR-2 was updated to the HR-2A which sold for \$229, and later, HR-2B models with various improvements. The early radios had wider bandwidth ceramic filters in the receivers, for 60 kHz channel spacing. As hams adopted 30 kHz channel spacing to accommodate more users, the HR-2B used an appropriate narrow filter. These filters were made in Japan by Murata. I was able to find a local source and helped a number of my fellow hams install the new filters to update their radios. A base station with built in 110 VAC power supply, the HR-212, also appeared on the ham market.



Regency HR-2B Radio.



Regency HR-212.

Regency went on to develop a rather extensive line of business band radios for 30-50, 150-174, and 450-470 MHz use, including mobile, base, and repeater systems. They also marketed a limited line of test equipment, including the EC-175 frequency counter.

Regency no longer manufactures ham radio gear. Regency abandoned the consumer electronics market by 1980. Today, the Regency name continues as the first two words in Regency Electronics Land Mobile, better known as RELM. It continues to operate in the land mobile business, and acquired Uniden and the Bendix-King land mobile product lines. RELM did not abandon the BK or Uniden names, both still exist as if they were separate companies.



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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David and Babylyn Cantelon
6 Ferncrest Gate, Scarborough
Ontario, Canada, M1W 1C2

www.justradios.com
justradios@yahoo.com
(416) 502-9128



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Over 50 Years Experience
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CLUBBING AROUND

ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

The Antique Wireless Association will have its next meeting in May 2020 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 meetings will take place March 15 (Hampton Inn & Suites Milwaukee West, 8201 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis) and May 3 (in Madison). For information about the club, please see www.warci.org.

NORTHLAND ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

The Minnesota Club has its next event is scheduled for February 23, a workshop and outdoor mini-swap meet. Radio Daze, the Upper Midwest's ultimate vintage radio collecting event, will be held May 15-16. 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 Electronics Expo is scheduled for July 2020 at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. Details will be announced. Please see the MARC website for more information at <http://michiganantiqueradio.org/>.

INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY

The IHRS 2019 Winter Meet will be in March. For more information please see <http://www.indianahistoricalradio.org/>.



40 YEARS OF ARCI

Images, and Memories of the Past 4 Decades

Congratulations to ARCI on its 40th anniversary!! Over the next year, ARCI News will bring you memories of the past by decade from clips, photos, and pages of our publication.

We salute ARCI's founding members, former officers and past and current volunteers for all their hard work making ARCI one of the premier radio clubs in the country. ARCI had its first meeting in February 16, 1980, and it incorporated on March 16 of that year. From 1982-2004, ARCI hosted *Radiofest* and its local meets in Elgin at the old Holiday Inn, which was renamed several times prior to closing. Since then, *Radiofest* has been held at the Holiday Inn in Bolingbrook and then Willowbrook. Today, *Radiofest* is held at the Medinah Shriners facility in Addison. Our local meets are at the American Legion Hall in Carol Stream. Throughout these moves, we have successfully maintained the core of ARCI's activities.

Over the years, we held a special place in our hearts for Dr. Ralph Muchow, his family and their world famous radio museum. Visits to the Muchow Museum were an annual event during the Elgin days. We also visited the Clock Museum at the Clock Tower Inn in Rockford (site of the 1985 *Radiofest*), and sent many tours to the Motorola Museum. We even held our June 1985 meet at Navy Pier next to the USS *Silversides*. In 2010, we visited the Paquette Microphone Museum in Milwaukee, the Sanfilippo Estate in South Barrington and even held a joint meet with the Wisconsin Antique Radio Club.

We have hosted speakers from across the country including the Directors of the David Sarnoff Museum, the Western Electric Museum and the AWA Museum. We had special exhibits of Zenith, Art Deco Radios and TVs, Atwater Kent, RCA, Vacuum Tubes, Motorola, Stewart Warner, Advertising, Radios Made in Chicago, and a Titanic Centennial. And, who could forget seeing the original Sputnik satellite at our 25th anniversary! What a terrific contribution from our members to bring their collections for all to share!! We continue to have a special relationship with the *Those Were The Days* radio program and the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago. These are just some of the activities and people that make our club special.

We are proud of our affiliations too. Did you know that ARCI was an original affiliate of the Antique Radio Club of America (ARCA) beginning on February 1, 1982, and that we shared board members? Many of our members have, and continue to, actively serve and make contributions to the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), local ham radio organizations and the Antique Wireless Association. In June 2004, ARCI formalized its relationship with the AWA becoming a recognized affiliate. Several years ago, ARCI began hosting a very large joint meet with the 6-Meter Club in Wheaton each June. These relationships are strong, ongoing and growing, and we are proud of them.

But, most of all, we have shared 40 years of memories. Our children grew, they married, we became grandparents, and some of us passed away. Through it all, we continued to gather and share our collections, swap stories and enjoyed each other's company. These are the things memories are made of!

As we move forward, ARCI looks forward to another decade with our friends. From all of us at ARCI, happy anniversary!!

ARCI's Origins: the Collectors



ARCI's early members in the news: EJ Wisner



Greetings:

The Antique Radio Club of Illinois was formed on February 16, 1980 at the Holiday Inn in Elgin, Illinois. Committees were formed to: write the bylaws and articles of incorporation; design a seal and emblem; and to set the time and place of the next meeting. Temporary officers were elected as follows:

President: Joe Willis
525 Oakdale Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614

Vice President: Dr. Barry Janov
1304 Cariann Lane
Glenview, IL 60025

Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Larry R. Wright
131 Hilltop Drive
Lake in the Hills, IL 60102

Incorporation as a non-profit corporation in the State of Illinois will take place in March, 1980.

The purpose of the club is to be a regional magnet that draws the members together so that they may carry on the activities of radio collecting. We encourage all types of radio collectors to participate whether they be primarily interested in AC sets, battery sets, consoles, T.V., or whatever.

The first meeting was very successful with approximately forty persons in attendance. The swap session was excellent with the following sets and much more present: Federal 161, BC 32A, Radiodyne WC-11, Tuska 225, 2 - Pandora Crystal Sets, 2 - Loop Antennas, Aerola Sr, AK-10, Grebe CR-9, 2 - Music Master Horns, BC-14A, 2 - Scotts, Kennedy 281, Kit Super-Het, Targe Kolster, Edison Recorder, and 8 or 9 Cathedral Radios.

An announcement for the next meeting will be mailed in the future. We also hope to have a newsletter or magazine in the future. Any equipment for sale or trade, announcements or articles for the magazine may be submitted with the membership application. Comments, ideas and suggestions are welcomed. Let's all work together and make this the best of all radio clubs.

Joe, Bari

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Cabin Fever

Winter Blahs

or

Just Plain Old Boredom

Come Join

THE ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS

In Celebrating
Our First Birthday

at

THE HOLIDAY INN in ELGIN, ILL.
(Route 31 and River Road)

on

FEBRUARY 22nd-FROM 1:00 to 3:30 P.M.

There will be:

A short business meeting

A big SWAP & SELL SESSION

REFRESHMENT & SURPRISES GALORE

Join the Fun in '81

with

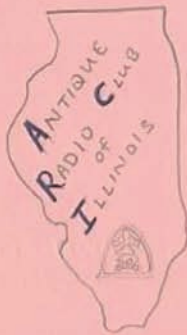
The Antique Radio Club of Illinois

additional info needed, contact any club officer



NOTE: \$1.50 entrance fee

ARCI's First Meetings and the Charter Member Money Clip



Early ARCI Logo Designs 1980



First ARCI Meeting in 1980



Start of ARCI business meeting with auction of Fullerphone donated by member to help defray expenses.



Swap Meet sets available in good quantity at the same meet.

Radiofest 1st Prize Winner in 1981: RAF R1155 Receiver



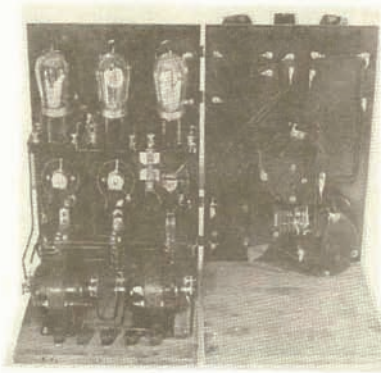


**THE ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB
OF ILL. NEWS**

**VOL 1
MAY**



**NO 1
1980**



Would you believe that this is the rear end of a Duck? See page 6

The Birth of ARCI News

**THE ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB
OF ILL. NEWS**

**VOL.1
WINTER**



**NO.3
1980**

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ARCI!!



1980s Radiofests

MEMORIES FROM RADIOFEST 1982



Memories of Radiofest '86



RADIOFEST '88



thing that will be more effective, with possible reduction of Proscar's occasional side effects. They include impotence (3.7% of the patients); decreased libido (3.3%); and potential fetal damage in pregnant or likely-to-become pregnant women exposed to the drug or to the sperm of men taking the drug.

Proscar isn't the only new option. Prostate researchers are moving forward on another, less publicized class of drugs—the so-called alpha blockers, which have already been approved for the treatment of high blood pressure. Among the alpha blockers now on the market are Hytrin, marketed by Abbott Laboratories, and Pfizer Inc.'s Cardura.

In their primary mission of reducing blood pressure, alpha blockers serendipitously relax the muscle fibers of the prostate. This relaxation seems to ease urinary obstructions, and at least one study shows a 38% improvement in urinary flow rates. That's a higher batting average than Proscar boasts.

There is one possible side effect, however—low blood pressure. But Dr. William Catalona, chief of urology at the Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, thinks that in most cases this risk is a sensible tradeoff against a still bigger risk he senses in Proscar: suppression of an antigen that is an important marker in the monitoring of prostatic cancer. In any case, pending formal FDA approval for their use in treating enlarged prostates, alpha blockers, it appears, could become an increasingly important treatment option.

Nondrug treatments like balloon dilation of the urinary passage are showing less promise. This procedure, akin to the angioplasties used to open up coronary arteries, inserts a balloon into the urinary tract and inflates it, thus pushing back on the constricting prostate.

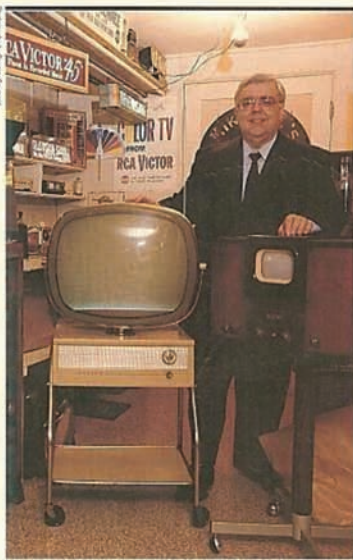
Microwave shrinkage of the gland and laser surgery are also being tested. These procedures are, at best, years away from widespread use.

But the overall news from the battle against enlarged prostates is definitely good. As Dartmouth Medical School's Margolis puts it: "We're looking at some of the most rapid changes we've ever seen." ■

With the rapid proliferation of cellular phones, radio pagers and other wireless communications tools, it's easy to forget the majesty of early radio and TV sets. These collectors haven't forgotten.

Pioneers of the wireless society

By Christie Brown



LEFT: Daniel Gustafson with his Philco Predicta, made in 1958

ABOVE: RCA projection set, with mahogany and leather trim, made in 1946

Originally costing \$1,600, the RCA set cost Gustafson \$800 a few years ago. Now he has it working like new.

IF YOU LISTEN HARD and look keenly, it's not hard to hear again the voices of Jack Benny or Edward R. Murrow, or see the stone face of Ed Sullivan or the young, gyrating Elvis. Collectors of old radios and television sets say there are ghosts in those old mahogany cabinets.

Classic radios and TVs are collecting arenas where prices have not jumped over the moon. According to Bruce Mager, owner of Waves, a New York

shop that deals in old radios, televisions and accessories, even the rarest and most valued pieces seldom cost more than a few thousand dollars. Most cost far less.

What interests collectors most is not whether the set works or not. Almost all sets can be rendered operable again. What really counts is a model's rarity, historical significance or outstanding design.

Some of the most popular radios



Catalin radios by Emerson (left) and Fada

now are the Catalins, which were made of brightly colored Bakelite from 1938 to 1947. They were inexpensive radios then, sold under various brand names (such as Fada, RCA and General Electric) for under \$30. Today they commonly bring over \$500 apiece. Waves has three exceptional Catalins for sale, priced at about \$1,800 each.

Among TV sets, the 1958 Philco Predicta, with a 21-inch screen, is especially popular now for its Buck Rogers styling. (Cost: about \$900.)

Once you're bitten by the TV and radio bug, it's hard to stop buying old sets. Collector Barry Janov, a Chicago dentist, started with a 1931 tombstone-shaped mahogany General Electric radio picked up at an antique junk store in 1970. He now owns about 200 antique radios dating from 1916 to 1960. About half are in fine working order. They range from a 300-pound, 5-foot high 1928 mahogany console made by Federal to small metal "Kitchenaires" made by Radio Craftsmen Inc. in 1946 to a crystal military set made by American Marconi in 1917. The Marconi cost Janov \$4,000 in 1986, the most he has ever spent for a radio.

For the morning news, Janov might tune in to an AM station on his cathedral-shaped, burl walnut radio made by Radio-chron in 1931 (worth \$375), or a round 1936 blue mirrored glass radio by Sparks Withington Co. (worth \$2,500) or a 1935 chrome model made by McMurdo Silver (worth \$1,500). In his dental office, he might listen to a ball game on his 1933 Emerson "Mac West," so nicknamed for its protruding Bakelite speakers. (Current value: \$350.)

Over the last few years Janov has gotten together every Sunday with fellow collector Daniel Gustafson, president of the Gustafson/Shields

Barry Janov with old mikes and radios
Keeping alive the ghost of Ed Murrow.

Cathedral clock radio (1931), worth \$375

Advertising agency. The two swap collecting news and possible leads.

Gustafson, however, is mainly a TV man. In fact, his collection of some 200 sets dating from 1927 to 1961 is one of the biggest such collections in the world. Gustafson started buying in 1980.

Early TV sets were achievements in cabinetry as much as in electronics breakthroughs. Take Gustafson's 3-foot-high, 4-foot-wide mahogany console sold by GE in 1940. Prop open the lid and the 12-inch screen is reflected to a mirrored panel. It cost Gustafson \$7,500 in 1985—the most he has ever paid.

One of his oldest sets is a small



Emerson's "Mac West" (1933), worth \$350

1928 mahogany set with a 2-inch screen, made by Western Television. It originally sold for \$50 (around \$400 in today's money) and is worth about \$1,500 now.

A favorite set of Gustafson's is relatively new: the first 15-inch RCA color set, made in 1954. It is massive—measuring over 5 feet high and 3 feet wide. New, it sold for \$1,000. Gustafson paid \$400 for it at a television store in Chicago in 1980.

Having learned how to repair sets as a kid, Gustafson has restored about 100 to working order with original parts scrounged from around the country. Now hooked up to indoor antennas, cable or video players, the rebuilt sets produce remarkably good images.

If you are looking for old radio or TV sets, one good place to start is an antique radio club. They have grown from a handful ten years ago to over 50 now. Janov helped start one of the largest, the Antique Radio Club of Illinois, in 1980. It stages swap meets about six times each year.

Another important group is the Antique Wireless Association, which will stage its next swap meet Sept. 23-26 at the Thruway Marriott, near Rochester, in Henrietta, N.Y. There will be lectures and about 200 dealers present.

Other sources are the *Antique Radio Classified*, a monthly magazine published in Carlisle, Mass. It has articles, classifieds and a calendar of swap meets around the country. Annual subscription: \$27. *The Old Timer's Bulletin* is a quarterly published by the Antique Wireless Association. Address: Box E, Breesport, N.Y. 14816. Annual dues: \$12. *The Collector's Guide to Antique Radios* by Marty and Sue Bunis is a price guide. Price: \$16.95. Write to RR1 Box 36, Bradford, N.H. 03221.



Tribune photos by Walter K.

Dr. Muchow leans on a 1924 Spittdorf radio, one of about 3,400 that he owns.

Radio days

TRIBUNE
4/27/1997

One man's trash is Dr. Ralph Muchow's treasure and provides the base of his museum.

By Wanda Lynn Rice
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Dr. Ralph Muchow grins mischievously as he flips the switch inside the door to the darkened room. When the lights turn on, a fountain sprays water on a small statue of a Roman maiden as the sounds of a modern radio broadcast fill the air.

"I have everything wired so it comes on when I turn on the lights," said Muchow, an Elgin resident. "This was made by Atwater-Kent (Company), who built the Cadillacs of radios in the 1920s. This one must have been made for a men's club or the foyer of a theater."

The radio, called the Fontana and built in 1932, also contains space for plants to grow. Looking at the elaborate, almost rococo design, it is easy to imagine an opulent club populated by members unaware that their music was being provided by a radio that would someday

be part of the largest collection of working antique wireless sound machines in the world.

The fountain radio is only one of 3,400 working radios dating to the turn of the century that have been accumulated by Muchow, a dentist who admits to being "in my 70s." He began collecting radios seriously in 1967, and the resulting project is the Antique Radio Museum, housed in 24 rooms of the sturdy brick office building Muchow owns at 107 Center St., Elgin. The building also serves as his dental office.

Chuck Schaden is host of "Those Were the Days," an old-time radio show, and is vice president of the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago. "Dr. Muchow has a tremendous amount of depth in the collection."

'Each radio has a story behind it, often involving me sitting up late with some strangers, talking them into selling me their radio.'

Dr. Ralph Muchow

he said. "The joy of it is that he shares it with others as that he's worked on 100 radios so they all work."

Muchow's private, not-for-profit museum is open to the public one day each year and is his pride and joy. This year the museum will open on Aug. 7, when the Illinois Antique Radio Club will host one of the largest meetings of antique radio collectors in the world. The meeting in Elgin itself will run Aug. 6-9 and also will feature awards for antique radios exhibited by avid collectors.

It has been many years since Muchow, whose vast collection features many one-of-a-kind items, has entered the competition. This year

SEE RADIOS, P. 20

By Jerry Reedy

Vintage radios by the score

*Tucked into an Elgin, Illinois, office building,
Ralph Muchow's Historical Radio Museum
houses the world's foremost antique collection*

As a young boy growing up in Evanston, Illinois, in the 1920s, Ralph Muchow was hooked on a new and transfixing technological advance, the radio. Within a few years, as the golden age of early airwave programming entered its heyday, he and his siblings had become eager devotees of several serials. "My favorite," he recalls, "was *The Shadow*. I would listen to that whenever it was on." Gathered in an upstairs bedroom of their rambling, wood-frame house, the youngsters followed everything from the adventures of Jack Armstrong, the "All-American Boy," to the ongoing escapades of sisters Myrt and Marge.

Much as he enjoyed these features, though, Muchow's real love was the radios themselves—their intriguingly intricate innards, the vacuum tubes and coils and wires. Even as an 8-year-old, he was building crystal sets, advancing to one- and two-tube radios as the sets evolved.



Radio**craze!**

Oak Forest couple's
home a museum
of radio history

Page 12





ARCI NEWS

Antique Radio Club of Illinois

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