



# ARCI NEWS

[www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org)

Affiliated AWA  
Antique Wireless Association 

Volume 36, Issue 1  
February 2017

## GET READY FOR 2017 WITH THE THOUGHT RECORDER *(Electrical Experimenter, May, 1919)*



***HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!  
DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR ARCI MEMBERSHIP!***

# UPCOMING INDOOR MEET

## FEBRUARY 12, 2017

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

**February 12, 2017**

**7AM – 11AM**

**Peoples' Choice Contest: Awards For 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**  
**Business Meeting 9:30 am**

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast / Free Coffee, Juice & Cookies  
50/50 Cash Drawing Raffle



## 2017 ARCI MEET SCHEDULE

February 12, 2017	7AM-9:30AM Indoor Swap Meet People's Choice Contest, Officers' Meeting 9AM
April 30, 2017	7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Inside Business Meeting 9:30AM
June 18, 2017	Outdoor - Gates Open 7AM Combined Meet With 6-Meter Club of Chicago
August 4-6, 2017	RADIOFEST
October 8, 2017	7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Business Mtg./Officer Election 10AM
December 10, 2017	7AM-11AM Indoor Swap Meet Business Meeting 10AM



# ARCI

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



**PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR MEMBERSHIP:**

<b><i>Membership Option</i></b>	<b><i>Dues</i></b>	<b><i>Benefits</i></b>
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: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Application Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 2017 to all our ARCI friends. Most of you long time members know me; I have previously served as club president from 1993-1996 and was newsletter editor for about 15 years. I certainly cannot trump John Stone's presidency—his attention to detail and ability to lead the club to today's levels were outstanding and I would like to thank and congratulate him for his service.

Probably the biggest hurdles facing ARCI and its future are the same ones that other organizations grapple with—younger people have different priorities than older people and are not inclined to join clubs or possess vast collections of items such as cars, radios, coins or stamps. All clubs scratch their heads over this as it affects everything from traditional churches to country clubs to fraternal organizations, such as the Shriners and local service clubs like the Rotary.

I welcome all comments and suggestions about ARCI—what is right and what is wrong with it. Stop and talk to me at a meet, email me at [akent36@comcast.net](mailto:akent36@comcast.net), attend a business meeting to learn something about what has to go on behind the scenes to keep our club functioning and make Radiofest happen every year. 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 just what our club needs.

My purpose as President is to serve ARCI and all its members and I will do my very best. Thanks.

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 2017. You can email ARCI's website address [clubinfo@antique-radios.org](mailto:clubinfo@antique-radios.org) or you can email me directly at [akent36@comcast.net](mailto:akent36@comcast.net).

*See You At The Next Meet,  
Jeff Aulik  
ARCI PRESIDENT*

## ARCI UPDATE

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

### UPCOMING BUSINESS MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2017

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 2017 is already underway. ARCI is your club!! Please plan to participate and lend a hand! See you at the meeting!!

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Don't forget to send in your membership dues for 2017. Dues remain unchanged from 2016 and will continue at \$25 per year and \$340 Lifetime. Please see the enclosed form. We apologize for any confusion stemming from the December issue of ARCI NEWS which included an old membership form.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016 SWAPMEET REPORT

About three or four inches of snow fell early Sunday morning, making many of the secondary roads slippery. But the parking lot at the Legion Home was beautifully plowed and the hardiest of radio collectors made the trip. About 10-12 sellers tables were filled with choice items and even the donation auction included one of my favorite Philco consoles, a Bel Geddes designed model 118. The donation auction raised \$272 for the club—a good figure considering the attendance.

To make travel matters worse, a second round of snow began to fall during the meet, which hastened the exit of those who had the furthest to travel and those that had the baldest tires.

Since there was no quorum, the business meeting was not held. A new slate of officers was to be voted upon, so an email election was held and since there were no “no” votes, the new officers were elected unanimously.

The weather will be better for our next meet, which is February 12, 2017. Come on down, buy, sell, swap, and plan to attend the business meeting afterward.





# 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*  
*Jeff Aulik, ARCI President*  
*[akent36@comcast.net](mailto:akent36@comcast.net)*

# **RADIOFEST 2017 PLANNING UPDATE**

**By Jeff Aulik, ARCI President**

## **Radiofest 2017 Friday August 4 - Sunday August 6 Medinah Shriners 550 N. Shriners Drive Addison, IL 60101**

I am very enthusiastic about *Radiofest 2017*, especially after last year's event. Just like 2016, we will start the action with our Friday night auction, followed on Saturday morning by the swap meet. We have our speakers' programs, contest, and display throughout the day on Saturday. And, of course, we will also have our appraisal tent and the ham station. On Sunday morning we reopen the swap meet, followed by our seller's raffle. We close out *Radiofest 2017* with our traditional donation auction. So as you can see, we are planning for another fun packed event, full of great stuff to buy and fun things to do.

Even though our costs have gone up, we are doing our best to hold the line on fees charged to our *Radiofest* buyers and sellers and right now it looks like any changes will be minimal.

The Medinah Shriners' facility is located at the junction of I-355 and Army Trail Road in Addison, IL. This is a very convenient location that can be easily accessed from all directions within the entire Chicago area. You will find a map elsewhere in this issue to give you a clear picture of the location.

The outdoor parking areas are well suited for *Radiofest*. The swap meet will again be located in its own large parking lot at the west end of the facility. There will be plenty of seller spaces available with lots of room between rows for maneuvering a small truck or a vehicle with a trailer. The sellers' lot is also totally out of the main traffic flow, which should be good news for those walking around the swap meet. And speaking of good news, the pavement still has well marked parking spaces and is in excellent physical condition. No more potholes or ruts! Directly adjacent to the sellers' lot is the main parking lot, with over 170 spaces available for buyers and visitors. It is an easy walk from one lot to the other, with plenty of spaces available.

As we saw, the indoor banquet facility is just as impressive as the outside: modern, beautifully maintained, and very spacious. We will only use part of the ballroom and still have plenty of space for the auction and banquets, along with an adjacent space for our equipment display and contest areas. Again, we will be using one of the large "classroom" spaces for our speaker presentations which are located right down the hall from the ballroom.

Our official hotel for *Radiofest 2017* is again 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. Our contact at Shriners again helped us negotiate a really great price with the hotel at a rate of \$95 per night—same as 2016. This is a really nice hotel at a really nice price. You won't be disappointed!

**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

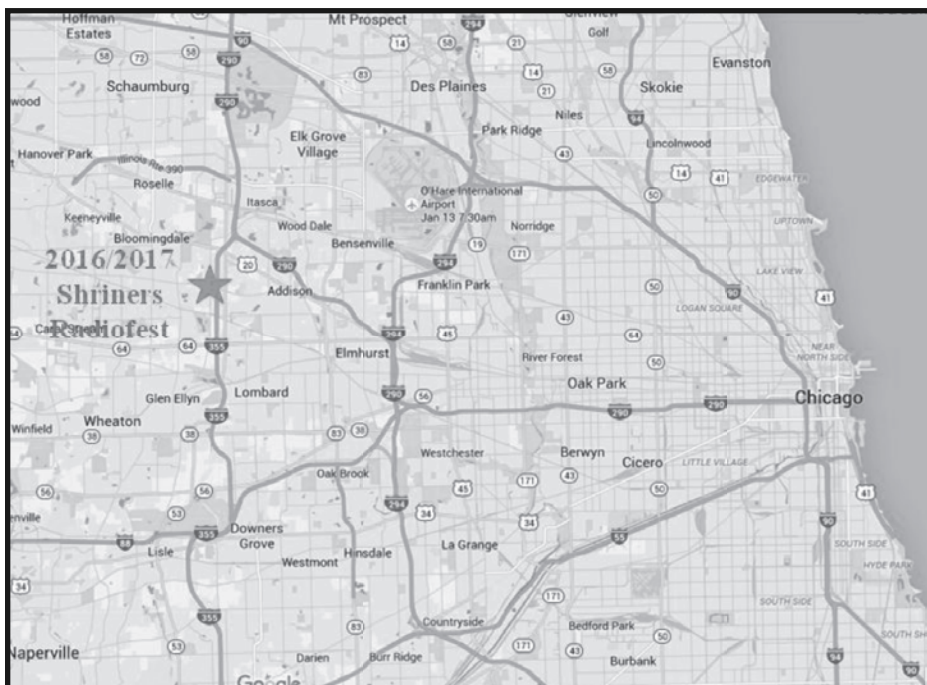
Reservations for the hotel are now open! You can go to the online reservation system, which has been set up exclusively for *Radiofest* reservations, at this web site: [http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/C/CHIAHGI-RADIO-20160728/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/C/CHIAHGI-RADIO-20160728/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.

So that is your first brief glimpse of *Radiofest 2017*. There is more information to come in future editions of the *ARCI NEWS* and in our upcoming *Radiofest* mailings. Even though it is only 15 degrees outside as I write this, you can see that we are already well into the planning phase of our largest event. With our wonderful location and our dedicated team of *ARCI* volunteers, this will definitely be the one meet this summer that you do not want to miss. So, mark your calendars and start making plans to attend! Let's make this another one for the record books! And, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at akent36@comcast.net.

***LOCATION OF RADIOFEST 2017.***







## RECOLLECTION CORNER

An Occasional Column About Topics Of Interest  
By Jeff Aulik

### WHO REMEMBERS “THE YOUNG SOUND?”

The Young Sound was a music format played on WBBM-FM when I was in high school and part way through college. It was the only station my mom, dad, sister and I could agree on without arguing. Our big RCA stereo console in the living room poured out many hours of relaxing tunes that, I'm sure, helped my dad from blowing a gasket after some rough days at work.



The format was created for a specific reason—the FCC declared in the mid-1960s that networks with both an AM and FM station in the same city could no longer simulcast—play exactly the same thing on both their AM and FM station. CBS-FM had a solution—“The Young Sound.” Brainchild of CBS’ John DeWitt, who held Bachelors and Masters degrees from Juilliard School of Music, DeWitt set about devising a format that targeted young people ages 20-35 but would also appeal to older folks. He and his staff listened to countless renditions of popular music, cataloguing each one on a special index card which gave the artist, composer, tempo, beat, key and other information they felt they would need to put together those 15 minute segments of

music that would flow together in such a way to entertain each listener but also, and more importantly, keep them from changing the dial. Most songs chosen were instrumental arrangements, but about a quarter were vocal. A special mixing engineer, Raili Syreeni, was brought in from Finland to assure the songs had perfect transitions.

Each hour consisted of four 15 minute segments (naturally) with the first song in each segment being the format's instrumental theme song over which the announcer would ID the songs and insert some low key ads. Bud Kelly was the announcer on WBBM-FM. Another 15 minute segment would follow—well, you see the pattern. It took about seven months to create the first tapes.

CBS-FM affiliates all over the country picked up The Young Sound with the first being KBOI-FM in Boise, ID on September 1, 1966, which proved to be quite successful. About 130 hours of programming was played by these CBS-FM stations each week. CBS would supply five new tapes every week and have the stations remove the five oldest from the rotation to keep things fresh.

When I started at Rockford College in August of 1969, I was pleased to learn that my roommate, who had grown up in Glenview, was also a big fan of The Young Sound, and we were constantly climbing trees and poles near our dorm trying to get our FM antenna just a little higher hoping to improve the weak, sporadic reception of WBBM-FM, about 80 or 90 air miles away.

By mid-1971, The Young Sound had begun to sound a little old, and stations began dropping it as more stations began their own programming and each city's stations could now tailor their music to appeal to their own unique listener base. WCBS-FM, in New York, for example, went to an oldies format which was extremely successful. But The Young Sound had done its job by providing CBS-FM stations a no fuss, no muss solution to the FCC's anti-simulcast rule.

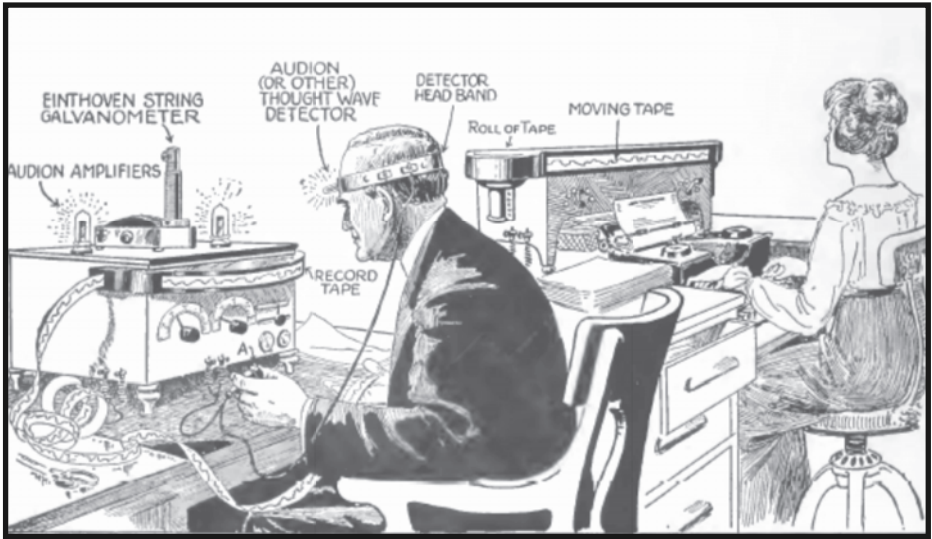
Writing this article brought back lots of memories and I was happy to see that quite a bit of music is available simply by searching "The Young Sound" on You Tube and Google. There are also Young Sound half hour mixes on Mixcloud. All these are perfect to download on a thumb drive and help a road trip seem less boring. Try it, you'll like it.



# HISTORY ZONE

An Occasional Column on Topics of Historical Interest  
By David Bart

## THE THOUGHT RECORDER (See ARCI NEWS Cover Image)



*Electrical Experimenter, May, 1919.*

The thought recorder is an instrument recording thoughts directly by electrical means, on a moving paper tape. The illustration shows what a future business office will look like when the invention, which as yet only exists in the imagination, has been perfected. By pushing the button a, the tape is started and stopped automatically so that only thoughts that are wanted are recorded.

Three famous scientists' views on thought transmission:

- **Nikola Tesla** -- Although I am clinging to ideals, my conception of the universe is, I fear, grossly materialistic. As stated in some of my published articles, I have satisfied myself thoroughly thru careful observation carried on for many years that we are simply automata acting in obedience to external influences, without power or initiative. The brain is not an accumulator as commonly held in philosophy, and contains no records whatever of a phonographic or photographic kind. In other words, there is no stored knowledge or memory as usually conceived, our minds are blanks. The brain has merely the quality to respond, becoming more and more susceptible as the impressions are often repeated, this resulting in memory. There is a possibility, however, which I have indicated years ago, that we may finally succeed in not only reading thoughts accurately, but reproducing faithfully every mental image. It can be done thru

the analysis of the retina, which is instrumental in conveying impressions to the nerve centers and, in my opinion, is also capable of serving as an indicator of the mental processes taking place within. Evidently, when an object is seen, consciousness of the external form can only be due to the fact that those cones and rods of the retina which are covered by the image are affected differently from the rest, and it is a speculation not too 'hazardous to assume that visualization is accompanied by a reflex action on the retina which might be detected by suitable instruments. In this way it might also be possible to project the reflex image on a screen. and with further refinement, resorting to the principle involved in moving pictures, the continuous play of thoughts might be rendered visible, recorded and at will reproduced.

- **Greenleaf W. Pickard** -- Your article should be an interesting one, particularly as to the audion suggestion. The audion, however, seems to have a certain wavelength limitation, so that unless the waves to be recorded lie between about  $3 \times 10^{10}$  cm and  $3 \times 10^2$  cm, they are not apt to be "picked up." "A more likely range to search would be from  $3 \times 10^2$  cm down to  $3 \times 10^{10}$  cm, that is, down to the harder Gamma rays, or to even shorter wavelengths, starting with the shorter Hertzian waves. Here the audion would be useless, save as a second stage in the detection, i.e., as an amplifier for some other form of detector.
- **Lee De Forest** -- While I have little doubt that there is such a thing in nature as transference of thought from one brain to another, I am not aware that sufficient data has ever been gathered on such a highly abstruse subject to permit forming any definite opinion.

## MEMORY LANE

An Occasional Column on Topics of Interest  
Submitted By Olin Shuler

### BIRTH OF AN 'AUDIOPHILE'

What causes a kid from a rural village of 250 people, in the great depression, to grow up to be an audiophile? Like all the kids around me, we all heard ordinary radios, 1930s and 1940s sound movies, local talent shows, live country dance bands and church music. Sitting alone last night, here in downstate Illinois, contemplating a forecasted 72 hour freezing rain storm, I was in the mood to figure it all out. So here is a list of landmark events that led me down that fateful track.

**1940** -- I was 10 years old. Weekly, each summer about mid-week a "Free-Show-Movie-Night" was sponsored by the town merchants. People brought their lawn chairs to the park to see year-old cowboy movies under the stars with mosquitoes. About 45 minutes before show time, the movie operator would announce his presence by playing country-western music on his sound system at a sufficient level to be heard at least four blocks in each direction (the size of the town). That gave me impressive exposure to high powered loudspeakers, etc. The most memorable song, repeated over and over, was a

mediocre cowboy vocal of “Blueberry Hill,” the same song I would recognize 25 years later when done by Fats Domino. Bob Wills Western Swing and others filled in until show time. Then the volume came down. A cartoon, a not too old newsreel, and the featured B rated western movie followed.

**1940-41** -- The phonograph record “God Bless America”, by Kate Smith became the preamble to World War II, being played on a new Philco Radio-phonograph console at school right after the pledge to the flag each day. All too soon the song carried us into and through WWII.

**1942** -- The first live orchestra I ever heard was early in WWII at a USO Benefit dance held in the school gymnasium. From the top row of the bleachers, I watched the band assemble their instruments and set up under the south basketball goal. Previous radio listening enabled me to recognize the first song they played, “Exactly Like You.” I recognized seeing the musical instruments from movies, and then I found how each of them really sounded. Impressed, it was a really good sound and better than most radios I had heard.



*1925 Brunswick acoustic (no electronics) wind-up phonograph.*

**1945** -- I discovered radio as a possible way to make a living; also DJs, amateur radio, girls and juke box music sound. Expanding on the choices in more detail: DJs at KWK, St Louis; 75 meter phone band; girls who would smile at me; phonograph records; and Wurlitzer Juke Boxes. My record collection started with Bing Crosby, Swingin’ on a Star (good moral content) and Al Dexter’s now politically incorrect Pistol Packin’ Momma. The player at home was a vintage 1925 Brunswick acoustic (no electronics) wind-up phonograph. It scored several points below our 1938 Crosley radio.

**1946** -- Wurlitzer juke boxes set the teen-age listening standard for recorded music. No one I knew, not even the richest kids at school had a phonograph that equaled them. When teen age jobs paid under 40 cents an hour, juke box nickels were carefully dispensed. Be sure it pleases the girl. 78 RPM records sold for 50 cents; lesser known artists 35 cents; and two well known artists together went for 75 cents. Movie soundtrack records were \$1.25. Purchases were made carefully. Big discovery: A record shop nearby also ran a large juke box business. Used records taken from service were held for a year or so till popularity declined and sold for 10 cents each. Naturally there would be multiple copies of the same song. The goal was to buy the one showing the least wear. My collection grew.



*Montgomery Ward electric portable record player.*

**1947** -- A Montgomery Ward electric portable record player joined the then 50+ record collection. It had a crystal pickup, the needle was replaced after each play, 1.25 watts into a 5 inch speaker, equaling most similar sized radios. Sufficient and passable, but below the “Wurlitzer barrier.”

**1948** -- Out of high school, through a two-semester trade school business college and into a full time job.

**1949** -- Nineteen years old, working my first full time job at 69.5 cents per hour, but enough to go and hear my first “big band” live, The Eddy

Howard Orchestra. WOW!!! During the intermissions I heard sounds on the house PA system that passed the Wurlitzer barrier. Curiously I looked around and noticed an open door on an equipment closet and inside was a record changer with a big 12 inch record turning very slowly. I realized that was one of the new Long Playing records I had read about in *Radio News*.

The next day at work at the GE Distributor I noticed that some of the console radio phonographs in stock had model numbers ending in “-LP”. The next time I was in the upstairs sales show room, I checked around and found one. It had a two speed motor control and a separate tone arm for the LP record. I immediately searched in the file of available service notes for our dealers and found the inner-most secrets of this wonderful sounding device. Along the way I found their 78 rpm player system used GE’s new variable reluctance cartridge. Noon hour listening tests of some of my favorite 78s were simply great. A must have item.

**1950** -- By February, I bought the unique GE service replacement parts and transmogrified my portable, outfitting it with a GE RPX-050 variable reluctance pickup and pre-amplifier. A visit to a local radio station gave me the dimensions for my rendition of a bass reflex enclosure. With that, the Wurlitzer barrier was broken, and a creature, who would later be known as an ‘audiophile,’ was christened.

**Epilogue** -- Further improvements were made going to push-pull outputs, etc. After military service and some education under the GI Bill, came a 25 watt system which sufficed until stereo emerged. Visits to the annual Hi Fidelity shows in St Louis exposed me to systems that sold for more than my new 1956 Chevy, but I survived. My system, still in use today, was made by Motorola, a 40 watt solid state component stereo system with woofer midrange and tweeter speakers, when I worked there as the production engineer on the project. That was 44 years ago, and the system still continues to work trouble-free. If my ears were as good as they were back then (beyond 15,000 hz), I could appreciate it even more.

# RADIOZONE

An Occasional Column about Topics of Interest  
Submitted By David Bart

## NORWAY FIRST TO START SWITCHING OFF FM RADIO

*[Editor's Note: Courtesy of The Guardian on January 5, 2017, the following article may be of interest. Will all of our FM radios soon become irrelevant as well as vintage? In Norway, all radios capable of receiving the traditional modulated forms of RF transmissions will be replaced by digital-only broadcast. This is going ahead even though the switch is opposed by the majority of the country's population. The changes will be watched closely by other countries.]*

Norway will next week become the first nation to start switching off its FM radio network, in a risky and unpopular leap to digital technology that will be closely watched by other countries considering whether to follow suit.

Critics say the government is rushing the move and fear many people may miss emergency alerts that until now have been broadcast via FM radio. Of particular concern are the 2m cars on Norway's roads that are not equipped with digital audio broadcasting (DAB) receivers, they say.

Sixty-six per cent of Norwegians oppose switching off FM, 17% are in favor and the rest are undecided, according to an opinion poll published by the daily Dagbladet last month.

Nevertheless, parliament has given the final go-ahead for the move, swayed by the fact that digital networks can carry more channels.

Switzerland plans a similar move from 2020, and Britain and Denmark are among those also considering such a switch. A smooth transition to DAB, which is already beamed across Norway, could encourage these countries to move ahead.

The shutdown of the FM (frequency modulation) network, introduced in the 1950s, will begin in the northern city of Bodø on 11 January. By the end of the year, all national FM broadcasts will cease.



*A worker arranges digital radios in an electronics shop in Oslo. Photograph: Reuters.*

“We’re the first country to switch off FM but there are several countries going in the same direction,” said Ole Jørgen Torvmark, head of Digital Radio Norway, set up by the national broadcasters NRK and P4 to help the transition.

Torvmark said cars were the biggest challenge: a good digital adaptor for an FM car radio cost 1,500 Norwegian kroner (£140), he said.

Ib Thomsen, an MP from the Progress party, a partner in Norway’s Conservative-led government, was scathing about the move. “We are simply not ready for this yet,” he told Reuters.

“There are 2m cars on Norwegian roads that don’t have DAB receivers, and millions of radios in Norwegian homes will stop working when the FM net is switched off. So there is definitely a safety concern.”

For the same cost, digital radio allows for eight times as many stations as FM, and is said to have clearer sound and less hiss. The current system of parallel FM and digital networks, each of which costs about 250m kroner, saps investment in programs.

Britain plans to review the need for a switchover once digital listening reaches 50%. On current trends that could be by the end of 2017, a Digital Radio UK spokeswoman said.

## **DIGITAL HAS NOT KILLED THE RADIO FREQUENCY IN CANADA — YET**

*[Editor’s Note: In response to the preceding article about Norwegian radio, the CBC News published an article on January 8, 2017 asking whether Canada would follow in the elimination of RF radio. As Norway moves to eliminate FM, 14 Canadian radio stations are experimenting with HD Radio. The article also comments upon the status of the American conversion.]*

Norway may be switching off its FM radio network in favor of digital but don’t expect the same type of tune-out to happen in Canada any time soon.

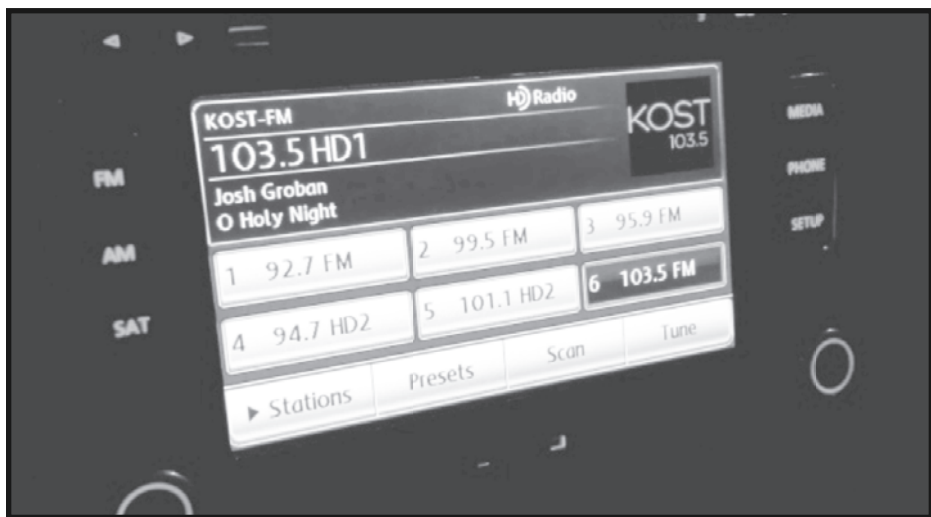
The shift to digital radio technology — touted for its clearer sound and potential for more channels — is taking place at a much slower, wait-and-see pace here, say broadcasters and industry analysts.

That’s not to say we haven’t already tried. During the late ‘90s and 2000s, Canada experimented with the digital audio broadcasting (DAB) model that Norway will shift to this week — and it was a flop.

Duff Roman was instrumental in trying to make DAB a success here as president of Digital Radio Rollout Inc., a consortium of private and public broadcasters, but ultimately couldn’t woo the Americans to follow.

“We tried our best to get them onside. They didn’t want to do it,” he said.





*Canada experimented with digital radio in the '90s and 2000s, but it didn't take off. Now, a small number of Canadian stations are testing out HD Radio, a different kind of digital radio technology. (praiselightmedia/Wikimedia Commons)*

They were already working on adopting HD Radio, another type of digital radio technology that's now slowly seeping its way into Canada. It is developed by a private company and delivers digital versions of the audio from FM stations via a special receiver.

Digital receivers can cost hundreds of dollars and inability to convince consumers to buy into a new system was part of the reason that DAB stalled.

Roman said he is disappointed because he thought DAB was the superior model.

"It's sort of like Beta and VHS," he said of the difference. "The best system didn't win."

"I'm over it now ... I think it will work as sort of an upgrade."

#### **14 Canadian stations testing out HD Radio**

The CRTC stopped renewing DAB licenses after 2012. Now, it oversees 14 Canadian stations who have started experimenting with HD Radio in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and a few other cities.

These stations have largely been using it as a way to simulcast their AM talk radio stations with less fuzz and clearer audio.

It's not like internet radio, which is streamed off the internet, or satellite radio, which uses a particular frequency and has a wider footprint. Instead, HD Radio is broadcast in a local market and can only be heard via a HD receiver.

"It allows a radio station to use its analogue FM frequency to broadcast multiple digital audio signals on the [same] frequency," CRTC spokeswoman Patricia Valladao explained in an email.

She said the number of broadcasters adopting it remains small.

“Presently there are no public proceedings or applications before the CRTC related to this issue, nor is it under discussion.”

Corus Entertainment has been testing out HD Radio in three of its markets — New Westminster, B.C., Hamilton and Calgary.

But Chris Sisam, vice-president of Corus Radio East, said widespread adoption is still a long way off.

“Really, we’re just dipping our toe in the water,” he said. “For us, it’s just a better way of delivering an AM signal.”

Sisam said the number of people listening to the stations via HD Radio remains small — and that’s just anecdotal. He said there is no way of measuring those who are listening via traditional FM radio separately from those listening by HD Radio.

Bell Media and Rogers Media, two of the other major Canadian broadcasters, are also experimenting with HD Radio in a few large markets. CBC is running a pilot project with HD Radio in Toronto for its French-radio service.

“At this time, we have no plan to abandon FM radio, but we are starting to explore digital technologies for radio broadcasting,” CBC spokeswoman Emma Bédard said in an email.

“CBC/Radio-Canada supports HD Radio as a voluntary North American digital radio standard. As both U.S. and Mexican radio broadcasters have endorsed this standard, this will help ensure the widespread availability of receivers to North American radio audiences.”

### **But will it catch on?**

When it comes to digital radio, America is much further along.

There are around 4,000 stations using HD Radio technology in the U.S. and an HD Radio receiver has become a common feature that’s built into new cars. They are being installed with some new car models in Canada, but owning an HD Radio receiver is still pretty rare here.

“We don’t have the reception system available,” Sisam said. “We could deliver [programming on HD Radio], but no one could receive it.”

David Bray, president of the radio consulting firm Bray and Partners, thinks there is a “real possibility” that HD Radio might not catch on here.

“You still face the challenge of getting receivers out there,” said Bray, who was also involved with the push for Canada to adopt DAB. “That’s a huge practical problem.”

He thinks the better sound and promise of more channels might not be enough of an incentive for people to go out and buy one.

“How are you going to get the public on board? It’s really not that easy,” he said, comparing it to DAB’s struggles. “Apathy is the insurmountable problem.”

Bray suggests creating some unique programming that’s only available on HD Radio, similar to what some speciality satellite radio channels offer.

“Digital radio is almost certainly the future, but in what incarnation I’m not sure.”

# NEWS FROM THE HAMSHACK

By Jim Novak, WA9FIH

## REMEMBERING HEATHKITS: BENTON HARBOR LUNCH BOXES

Heathkit's offerings for ham operators go back to the early 1950s: the AT-1 Novice transmitter, and then the "DX" series – DX-20, DX-35, DX-40, DX-60, and DX-100, all "low band" rigs meant for operation on the high frequency shortwave bands, 80 through 10 Meters. It was not until the early 1960s that VHF equipment showed up in their catalogs: identically styled small low powered single band transceivers for two, six, and ten meters. The HW-30 "Twoer" covered the 144-148 MHz two meter band, the HW-29 "Sixer" covered 50-54 MHz, and the HW-19 "Tener" was meant for the ten meter 28-29.7 MHz range.

All of these rigs were housed in the same style cabinet as Heathkit's audio and signal generators, even including the plastic handle on the top, but came in an attractive tan finish instead of "test equipment gray" and all had built in 110 VAC power supplies, ran about five watts input, and came with a small ceramic hand microphone with a straight, cloth-covered cord. The transmitters were crystal controlled, and the super-regenerative receivers were tunable across the entire bands, and all had RF stages that provided sensitivity of about one microvolt. Plate modulated AM was the only transmit mode; a 12AX7 speech amp drove a 6AQ5 modulator tube which also served as the receiver's audio output stage.

The ten meter HW-19 had a twin, the CB-1, designed for operation on the 27 MHz Citizens Band which had only recently been created from the former 11 Meter ham band. Both used "overtone" crystals that eliminated an extra multiplier stage. This overtone oscillator scheme was also used in the original six meter HW-29, but did not work as well at the higher frequency and after a few months the updated HW-29A with an extra multiplier stage was released. The revised circuit employed the familiar rugged and inexpensive FT-243 crystals, as did the HW-30 Tower. Heathkit also offered a modification kit for owners of the original HW-29, consisting of a little "L" shaped subchassis that would be screwed to the inside of the front panel.



*Heathkit transceivers.*

My experience with these radios dates back to fall 1962 when I earned my first ham licenses (yes, plural). Back then we started out with a Novice Class license which permitted CW (Morse code) operation on 15, 40 and 80 Meters, 75 Watts input maximum, and the license was good for only one year. During that year, one was expected to become proficient in code to at least 13 words per minute, up from the 5 WPM required for a Novice license. A Novice licensee was also permitted to simultaneously hold a Technician Class license, for VHF – Six Meters and up – operation. I took both exams at the same time and subsequently received both licenses in the mail, WN9FIH (Novice) and WA9FIH (Tech) which I held until Spring Break 1963 when I was able to present myself to the FCC Radio Inspector to earn my General Class license.

Although I had a decent Hallicrafters receiver for use on the HF bands, and was able to find a “good deal” on an already built Heathkit transmitter to use on the Novice frequencies, I did not have anything to use on VHF. So, I sent off about \$50 including postage to Heathkit for an HW-29A Sixer kit. It was relatively easy to build, and amazingly, worked immediately! The only real alignment required was to peak the slug-tuned coils in the oscillator and multiplier stages, and a ceramic trimmer in the RF output stage. Heathkit provided a dummy load of sorts to plug into the RF connector on the back panel – a #47 pilot light, to be tuned for maximum brilliance. The only thing left was to connect the rig to an antenna. My “ham shack” was a spare bedroom with a door to the attic stairway, so I ran a length of coax cable up to a hastily constructed wire dipole, and lo and behold after a few calls, I snagged my first VHF contact, a nearby ham a couple miles away! I received a nice Christmas present from my parents that year, a three element Yagi beam antenna and small rotator which fit perfectly in our unfinished attic until the following spring when I was able to hang it on a mast attached to the back of the house.

As I became more familiar with my Sixer, I made a few changes that provided me with improved operation. I mounted a crystal socket on the rear chassis apron so I could easily “QSX” (change frequency). I also constructed an AMECO six meter receiving converter that fed into the 20 Meter (14 MHz) band of my good old Hallicrafters S-85. This was a huge improvement over the uncalibrated and “wide” selectivity super-regenerative receiver in the Sixer. I managed to contact about a dozen states with that set up during the 1963 E-skip season. The following year I acquired my AMECO TX-86 transmitter which gave me a higher powered signal on 6, and built Heathkit’s vibrator power supply so I could use the Sixer mobile, with a Saturn 6 three ring halo antenna bumper mounted. Back then we all used 50.400 as the common mobile and calling frequency, so I did not have to worry about changing crystals or tuning the receiver. I managed to get several years more good use out of that set up until I finally replaced the Sixer with a higher powered mobile transceiver, and it became a very early part of what is now my collection of old ham gear.

Heathkit offered the Twoer and Sixer in their catalogs through the mid to late 1960s. The Tener was less popular as many hams just picked up a used CB radio and retuned it to the ham band. Nevertheless, these little “lunchboxes”, as we called them, were a lot of fun to play with and introduced thousands of hams to the world of VHF. I recall one local ham who built a “cage” with a handle on top that housed his Sixer, mobile power supply, a motorcycle battery, and a whip antenna which served as a portable “draggy-talkie”. And there are a myriad of modification articles and “Hints & Kinks” in old QSTs and other ham magazines.



## 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](mailto: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!!!

A business card for 'Just Radios' featuring a vintage radio and electronic components. The card includes contact information for David and Babylyn Cantelon in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, and their website and email address.

**Just Radios**  
**Capacitors & Resistors for Tube Radios**

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

[www.justradios.com](http://www.justradios.com)  
[justradios@yahoo.com](mailto:justradios@yahoo.com)  
(416) 502-9128

## CLUBING AROUND

### ANTIQUÉ WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

The Antique Wireless Association will have its next meeting in May 2017 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 Mar. 26 (The Terminal), Apr. 23 (Madison), May 6 (Cedarburg), June 4 (The Terminal), and July 9 (The Terminal). The Terminal is located at 5917 S Howell, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Other locations are available on the website. For information about the club, please see [www.warci.org](http://www.warci.org).

### NORTHLAND ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

The Minnesota Club has its next event is scheduled for February 19, a workshop and outdoor mini-swap meet. Radio Daze, the Upper Midwest's ultimate vintage radio collecting event, will be held May 19-20. For more information and the date which will be announced, please see <http://www.northlandantiqueradioclub.com/index.shtml>.

### MICHIGAN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

MARC's Extravaganza is scheduled for July 13-15. Details will be announced. Please see the MARC website for more information at <http://michiganantiqueradio.org/>

### INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY

IHRS Winter Meet will be announced. For more information please see <http://www.indianahistoricalradio.org/ihrsched.htm>.

# CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted: Volume control and switch assembly for a Crosley 11-102 "Bullseye." Will buy parts chassis if necessary. Tuning capacitor for a Zenith Royal 500H. Again, will buy a parts chassis if necessary. Jeff Aulik, 815-399-1902 or email akent36@comcast.net. Thanks.





# ARCI NEWS

Antique Radio Club of Illinois

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