



# ARCI NEWS

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

Affiliated AWA  
Antique Wireless Association 

Volume 35, Issue 4  
August 2016

# Radio Corporation *of America*

1919-1929



RCA's Acquisition of Victor Talking Machine Company in 1929



1929-1968



1968-Present  
(RCA, as of 1988, is now owned by Technicolor S.A.,  
formerly Thomson S.A.)

***RADIOFEST 2016 THEME: RCA!!***

# RADIOFEST JULY 29-31, 2016

**MEDINAH SHRINERS' FACILITY IN  
ADDISON, ILLINOIS**

**I-355 and Army Trail Road**

**Hilton Garden Inn Addison  
551 N Swift Road, Addison, IL 60101**

**See Details In This Newsletter**



## 2016 ARCI MEET SCHEDULE

July 29-31, 2016	<i>RADIOFEST</i>	Medinah Shriners Addison, IL
October 2, 2016	7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Business Mtg./Officer Election 10AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)
December 11, 2016	7AM-11AM Indoor Swap Meet Business Meeting 10AM	American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am going to cut right to the chase: *Radiofest 2016* is fast approaching! Are you ready?

If you have not already done so, it is not too late to make your plans to attend "*The Antique Radio Event of the Summer*". Your ARCI club officers and *Radiofest 2016* volunteers are hard at work to make *Radiofest 2016* a truly memorable experience. Registrations are running well ahead of last year, with 110 selling spaces already reserved in our swap meet lot as of this writing. It looks like turnout is going to be really strong, so you do not want to miss out! We are also really enthusiastic about our new *Medinah* Shriners venue, which gives us a large, fully separate swap meet lot directly adjacent to an equally large parking lot for *Radiofest* attendees. There is plenty of room for both buyers and sellers! And the Shriners' banquet facility is equally nice on the inside, with a huge ballroom for our auction and banquet, and plenty of additional space for our programs and displays. We think you will be impressed! Please find the latest updated information about *Radiofest 2016* throughout this issue of *ARCI News*.

**AUCTION...**Registration for the *Radiofest* auction on Friday evening, July 29, opens officially at 3:30 PM, but we will make every effort to open up as early as possible, once our auction volunteers have completed their setup. We strongly urge you to arrive early to avoid long lines and delays at the registration desk. The auction is always a very popular event, and the registration lines get longer as the afternoon goes on. Your patience and understanding are always appreciated. All items for auction must come through the main entrance of the Shriners' facility. There is a driveway directly in front of the entrance where you can park temporarily to drop off your items. We want to avoid vehicles blocking the entrance, so we ask that you immediately move your vehicle to the parking lot before taking your items to the ballroom. The Crescent Ballroom entrance is located straight across from the outside entrance to the facility.. We strongly suggest you bring a hand truck or cart with you, especially if you are transporting large or heavy items. There will also be some carts available, but expect these to be in "heavy rotation". Parking for auction attendees will be in the parking lot directly in front of the facility. Ample parking will be available. Please also note that only sellers with permits to park in the swap meet lot will be allowed to park there during the auction. The swap meet lot will not be available for general parking at any time during *Radiofest*.

**HOTEL ROOMS...**As of July 11, the Hilton Garden Inn informs us that a small number of rooms are still available for Friday and Saturday night at the special ARCI rate. But we do expect to completely sell out the entire room block before July 29th. If you haven't made reservations yet, please do so as soon as possible. In the event the Hilton is completely full, the closest alternate hotels to the Hilton Garden Inn are:

### *Alternate Hotels*

Hampton Inn & Suites: (630) 495-9511

Fairfield Inn & Suites: (630) 629-1500

**FOOD & DRINKS...**We are working closely with the Shriners' catering department to provide a selection of food and drinks for purchase during both the auction and the swap meet. Details are still being worked out as of this writing. In addition, the nearby Hilton Garden Inn restaurant will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, on all days, with extended lunch hours on Saturday. A list of restaurants in the vicinity of the Shriners facility will also be available at the *Radiofest* registration table.

**NO ELECTRONICS DISPOSAL...**The Illinois EPA has substantially tightened the rules regarding disposal of electronics items in state landfills. This situation will affect us at *Radiofest 2016* and beyond, and we need your help. We are required to keep regular trash and electronic waste separate at the meet. This means no electronics may be placed in our trash container at *Radiofest*. A separate area for electronic items will be provided. Due to cost and size constraints, we will be required to place limits on items that are placed in the disposal/donation auction area. The main purpose will be for disposal of items that did not sell in the donation auction. We therefore ask for your cooperation on the following: Do not use our recycling area at *Radiofest* for any electronics you simply intend to throw away. We cannot accommodate such items and they should not be brought to *Radiofest*. Items to be placed in our donation auction should have a reasonable possibility of being useful to another collector. In other words, please exercise discretion when placing items in the auction pile. If you do not believe anyone will really want it, then please do not put it in the auction. We will be monitoring the donation auction area carefully, and ARCI does reserve the right to reject any item that we do not deem acceptable for the donation auction. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter.

**TENT STAKES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED...**Just a friendly reminder: Our agreement with the Medinah Shriners strongly stipulates that no tent stakes will be used in the swap meet lot. This rule will be strictly enforced by ARCI.

*See You At The Next Meet,*  
*John Stone*  
*ARCI PRESIDENT*

## **ARCI UPDATE**

**The President's Column — All The News That's Fit To Print**

### **ARCI EMAIL LIST**

ARCI is updating the email listings used for club announcements and our notifications of radios available for sale. If you wish to be added or removed from this ARCI distribution list, please send a request to [clubinfo@antique-radios.org](mailto:clubinfo@antique-radios.org). Be sure to include the email address where the notifications are currently being received.

# RADIOFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need your help at Radiofest!! Please consider volunteering. You can talk with one of the officers, a Board Member or current volunteers for more information: Our needs are in:

- Main Auction and Parking Lot Preparation (Friday afternoon and evening). Please contact John Stone at [arcipresident@comcast.net](mailto:arcipresident@comcast.net).
- Old Equipment Contest registration. Please contact Jeff Aulik at [akent36@insightbb.com](mailto:akent36@insightbb.com).
- Registration. Please contact Judy Huether at [oldradioshoppe@aol.com](mailto:oldradioshoppe@aol.com).

# JUNE COMBINED MEET DRAWS LARGE CROWD

Our June 19 ARCI meet, was once again combined with the Six Meter Club and the Midwest Classic Radio Net (MCRN) Hamfest at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton. The weather was very warm and sunny, and the turnout of buyers and sellers was considerably larger than last year. The Amateur Radio swap area contained a huge variety of “boat anchors” radios, parts and the usual range of eclectic items typically found at a classic hamfest. ARCI participation was larger than last year, with “Radio Row” once again filled with interesting offerings. The usual array of items was on display, including great deals on radios, audio gear, and parts. ARCI’s sales of donated items through its donation auction added over \$250 to the ARCI bottom line. Thanks to Tom Kleinschmidt who ran another successful donation auction. And thanks again to all who spent the early hours of their busy Father’s Day to participate in this great meet.



# RADIOFEST SPONSORS

ARCI Thanks All Our Partners and Sponsors

## RADIOFEST SPONSORSHIPS

It is not too late to participate in our ARCI Corporate Sponsorship program and our Member-Sponsor program for *Radiofest*. We encourage all our members to participate. *Radiofest* and other ARCI announcements directly reach almost 20,000 targeted readers with interests in historical and technical subjects. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of inexpensive advertising to a targeted audience while providing substantial assistance to our club. Please contact John Stone at [arcipresident@comcast.net](mailto:arcipresident@comcast.net) or Art Bilski at [myantiqueradio@myantiqueradio.com](mailto:myantiqueradio@myantiqueradio.com) with any ideas or suggestions for new sponsors interested in discussing arrangements with ARCI.

## RADIOFEST SPONSOR-MEMBERS

ARCI is again offering “Sponsor-Members” status to members who are dedicated to assuring the financial strength of *Radiofest*. Members who feel they are able to contribute \$25, \$50, \$100 or more to the sponsorship fund may do so. Sponsor-Members will be listed in *ARCI NEWS* (but not the amount of contribution), and recognized as a group at the banquet, along with a certificate. I am aware of a number of organizations that regularly produce events similar in size to *Radiofest*. Member-Sponsors help to provide the “emergency backing”. You, as a member, are invited to help and participate as you see fit. Funds, by cash-in-person, or check identified as “Member-Sponsor Fund”, should go directly to our treasurer Rudy Hecker. If you have any questions or comments, please email John Stone at [arcipresident@comcast.net](mailto:arcipresident@comcast.net).

*Radiofest* is a joint enterprise involving four national radio collecting clubs spanning from New York to Wisconsin to Texas. ARCI has received terrific assistance from our partners at the Antique Wireless Association, Wisconsin Antique Radio Club, Inc. and the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society, Inc.! We thank our partners for their contributions and participation in one of the best radio shows of the summer!



Capacitors and Schematics For Tube Radios  
[www.justradios.com](http://www.justradios.com)



Post 76



Boy Scout Venture Crew 32



# RADIOFEST 2116

## COMMEMORATING RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

*Radiofest 2016* will take place July 29-31 as we move to the Medinah Shriners' facility in Addison, Illinois. Our theme this year commemorates Radio Corporation of America. Get ready as we plan another banner year, and team up with the Wisconsin Antique Radio Club, Inc. (WARCI), the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society (VRPS) of Dallas, Texas and the Antique Wireless Association (AWA). *Radiofest* will again be co-sponsored by four important clubs, making it truly THE national event of the summer!

As in past years, we invite other clubs to join us and to participate in the summer's great radio celebration. Bring your banners and marketing materials to introduce yourself! We want to recognize everyone's participation in a wonderful hobby that ARCI has been so proud to take part in for all these years.

### NEW LOCATION

We will be at a **NEW LOCATION** this year at the **Medinah Shriners in Addison, Illinois**. This is a new, modern, upscale facility across from a **Hilton Garden Inn**. These facilities represent a huge improvement over last year's location that will make the 2016 *Radiofest* an even more interesting and enjoyable event. Just like last year, we will start off with our Friday night auction, followed on Saturday morning by the swap meet. Our speakers' programs, contest, and display will occur throughout the day on Saturday, followed by the Carl & Carolyn Knipfel banquet on Saturday night. 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 2016* 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. You don't want to miss this one!

<b><u>RADIOFEST</u></b> Medinah Shriners 550 Shriners Drive Addison, IL 60101	<b><u>HOTEL</u></b> Hilton Garden Inn Addison 551 N. Swift Road Addison, IL 60101 <b>(630) 691-0500</b>
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Our official hotel for *Radiofest 2016* 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. Our contact at Shriners helped us negotiate a really great rate with the hotel at \$95 per night. This is a really nice hotel at a really nice price. You won't be disappointed!

Reservations for the hotel are now open! You can go to the online reservation system, which has been set up exclusively for *Radiofest* reservations. Enter <http://tinyurl.com/he6y8m9> in your web browser to go directly to the special reservations page for *Radiofest* attendees. You can also find a clickable link for hotel reservations on the 2016 *Radiofest* Information Page at [http://www.antique-radios.org/radiofest\\_2016\\_info.html](http://www.antique-radios.org/radiofest_2016_info.html) or you can call the hotel directly at 630-691-0500. Mention *Radiofest* to the friendly reservation agent to get the special discount rate.

## **RADIOFEST KEY INFORMATION**

**Main Clubs:** Once again, we will team up with the Wisconsin Antique Radio Club, Inc. (WARCI), the Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society (VRPS) of Dallas, Texas and the Antique Wireless Association (AWA). *Radiofest* will be co-sponsored by four important clubs, making it truly THE national event of the summer!

**Fees:** AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN DUES, SWAP MEET SELLING SPACE, OR AUCTION FEES. Dues: \$25. First selling space: \$45 Pre-registered, \$50 on site registered. Additional selling spaces: \$25 Pre-registered, \$35 on site. Table rental: (6 ft) pre-registered only, \$15. One-day single space: Saturday, \$30.

<b><i>RADIOFEST 2016 FEES</i></b>
<i>Selling Spaces – 1st \$45.00 Pre-registration, \$50.00 On site registration; Additional Spaces \$35.00; Sunday Only \$30.00</i>
<b><i>Banquet – \$40.00 each</i></b>
<b><i>6' TABLE RENTALS – \$15.00 each</i></b> <i>Only through pre-registration</i>

**Banquet Entertainment** The entertainment at the Saturday Night banquet will feature a performance by the Windy City Harmonica Trio. Come and enjoy! Banquet tickets are priced at \$40 per person.

**RCA Display:** RCA, was a worldwide leader in radio and television technology. A special display will feature hardware and memorabilia from this legendary company. We invite all those interested in participating to bring their finest examples to share in the display.

**Contest Categories:** This year's contest categories are: Radios Pre-1930, Radios/TVs Pre 1945, Radios/TVs Post- 1945, Advertising / Premiums, Catalin & Rare Plastic Radios, Transistor and Novelty Radios, Speakers, Vacuum Tube Audio, Radios Made In the Midwest, and Open.



**Main Auction:** The opening night auction will be in the Medinah Crescent Ballroom, with overflow space in the adjacent Medinah Music Room. The large quantity and excellent quality of items available in the auction make this a “must attend” event. You never know what you will find here, including rare and highly collectible items. Jim Sargent from VRPS is returning to co-manage the auction.

**Speaker’s Programs:** The presentations are shown below. They feature five sessions, with a break during the noon hour. Shure Microphones, Vacuum Tube Audio, B-Battery Replacement, The Bill Ross Memorial Ham Radio Forum, and Antenna Design.

**Donation Auction:** The Donation Auction is scheduled for Sunday morning. We need your donations, which benefit the club by helping to offset operating expenses. Thanks to our members who have helped so much in years past.

**Ham Station:** Special plans are brewing for the vintage ham station, WA9RCI, that will operate Friday afternoon and all day Saturday at Radiofest.

**QUESTIONS/IDEAS:** Remember, Radiofest is your show!! We are always looking for suggestions on ways to improve it. If you have a good idea, please contact John Stone at [arcipresident@comcast.net](mailto:arcipresident@comcast.net).



# RADIOFEST

July 29 thru July 31st, 2016



**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 begin at \$95.00

RADIOFEST Will Feature a Large Radio Swap Meet, Radio Contest, 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-radio.org](http://www.antique-radio.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 \_\_\_\_\_

### One Day Single Space Rate

Sunday Only (\$30.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Banquet (Buffet Style) and Show

Buffet Selection:

Beef, Chicken, or Pasta served with Garden Salad, 2 Sides, Fresh Fruit, Coffee, Regular or Iced Tea

# \_\_\_\_\_ Attending times \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL OF ALL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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, 2016. 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](http://www.antique-radios.org) or send e-mail to [clubinfo@antique-radios.org](mailto:clubinfo@antique-radios.org)

### FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Registration # \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Spaces \_\_\_\_\_

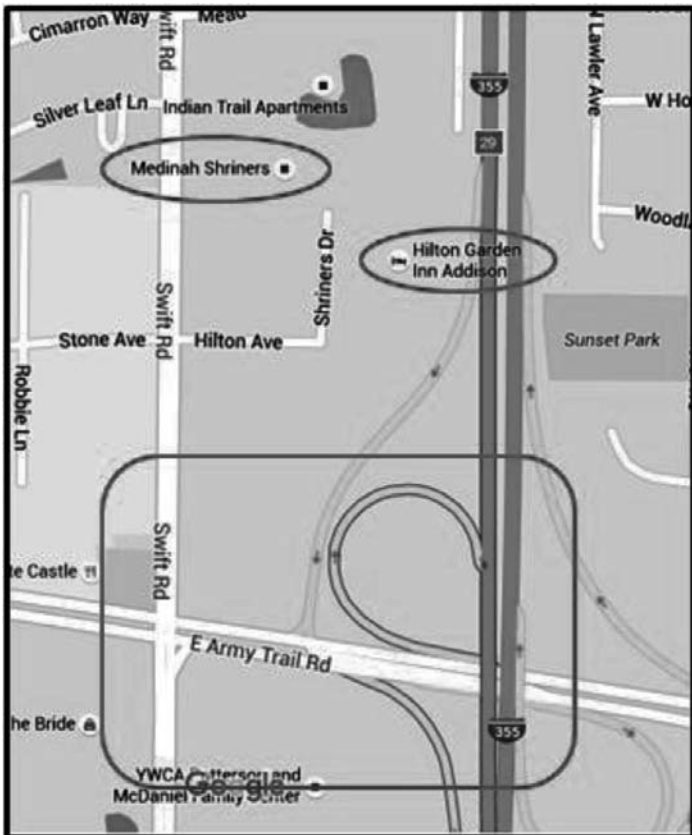
# RADIOFEST HOTEL — NEW LOCATION

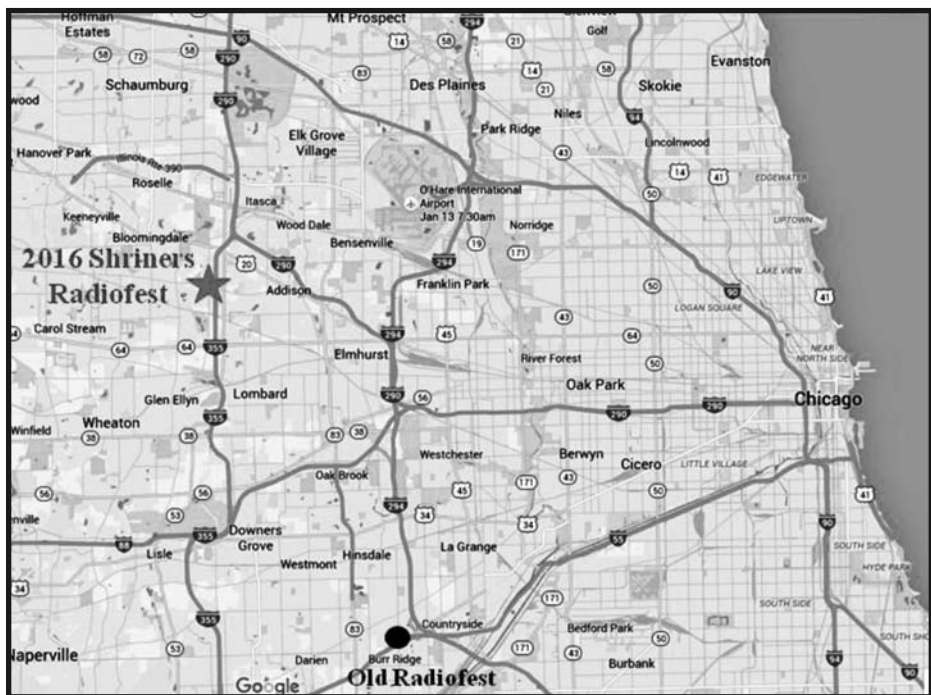
*Radiofest 2016 has relocated to the Medinah Shriners' facility in Addison, Illinois with hotel service provided by the Hilton Garden Inn. (I-355 and Army Trail Road)*

Radiofest remains close to both Chicago airports (20 miles from O'Hare and 26 miles from Midway). Hotel reservations for July 29 - 31, 2016 must be made directly with the Hilton Garden Inn. The hotel is offering discounted rates for radio show attendees starting at \$95.00 for standard rooms. Please contact the hotel directly at (630)691-0500 or use the direct reservation online link, which can be found on the ARCI web site. When reserving by phone, you must mention ARCI to get the discounted rate. We strongly recommend that you make your reservations as soon as possible. Reservation activity has been very brisk to date, and we have a limited allocation of rooms at the discount rate.

## RADIOFEST 2016 HOTEL

Hilton Garden Inn Addison • 551 N Swift Road • Addison, IL 60101  
(630) 691-0500







# Radiofest 2016

**July 29 to July 31**

*Friday – Saturday – Sunday*



**Medinah Shriners**

550 Shriners Dr. (I-355 & Army Trail Rd.)

Addison, IL 60101

## COMMEMORATING THE RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

### FRIDAY

- Setup Day (NO SALES)
- Main Auction 6:30pm in the Crescent Ballroom
- Food Services Available
- Seller's Packets Available After 5pm

### SATURDAY

- 7am Radiofest Opens
- Registration open
- Flea Market open All Day
- Educational Programs
- Ham Radio Ops All Day
- Food Services Available

### **SPECIAL EXHIBIT** *Radio Corporation of America*

- Wireless
- Radios
- Advertising
- Memorabilia

### **EQUIPMENT CONTEST**

- 1 Radios Pre-1930
- 2 Radios/TV's Pre-1945
- 3 Radios/TV's Post-1945
- 4 Advertising/Premiums
- 5 Catalin & Rare Plastic
- 6 Transistor & Novelty
- 7 Speakers
- 8 Vacuum Tube Audio
- 9 Electronics Made In Midwest
- 10 Open Category

### **SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET**

Dinner, Annual Recognition & Contest Awards

### **ENTERTAINMENT:**

*The Windy City Harmonica Trio*

See Radiofest registration form for further information

### SUNDAY

- Free Sellers' Raffle 9:15am
- Donation Auction 9:30am
- Flea Market Until Noon

### SATURDAY PROGRAMS

**Shure Unidyne Microphone** – *Michael Pettersen (Engineer)*

**Antennas: Spark Gap To WWII AM** – *Warren Shulz (Broadcast Engineer, retired)*

**Vacuum Tube Audio Q&A** – *Pete Nauseda (Vintage Audio Expert & Enthusiast)*

**Electronic 67-1/2 Volt Battery Replacement:** *Mike Bafaro (Owner, Bafaro Engineering)*

**Bill Ross Memorial Ham Radio Forum** – *Joint presentation by Harry Blesy, Bob Drake, and Ron Grams (long-time club members and ham radio enthusiasts)*

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**ARCI Registration Form:** <http://www.antique-radios.org>. **Pre-Registration Deadline:** July 8.

**Hotel Reservations:** Hilton Garden Inn 1-630-691-0500. Ask for ARCI room rates \$95 per night.

**Seller Fees:** 1st space: \$45 pre-reg./\$50 onsite. Additional spaces: \$35 pre-reg./\$35 onsite. Saturday Only \$30. Banquet tickets: \$40/person. **TABLE RENTALS:** 6' (\$15) (pre-registration only). No charge for general admission. Membership required for attending programs.

**Questions?** Email: [clubinfo@antique-radios.org](mailto:clubinfo@antique-radios.org) or visit: [www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org) for latest info.

# **MAIN AUCTION ON FRIDAY NIGHT**

The Main Auction will take place on Friday evening in the Crescent Ballroom and adjoining Music Room, with a starting time of 6:30 PM. Check-in for the Main Auction will open no later than 3:30pm. We anticipate another very busy auction this year, so we suggest you allow as much time as possible to register and get your items in place. Sellers will be able to unload their items through the front entrance of the Medinah facility until 6:00PM on Friday. The Crescent Ballroom is easily accessible from the front entrance, but we strongly suggest you bring your own hand truck or rolling cart with you, if you are bringing heavy or oversized items. Ample parking for buyers and sellers will be available in the lot directly in front of the facility.

This year, ARCI will again partner with the Vintage Radio Phonograph Society (VRPS) from Irving Texas to run the main auction, and Nick Tillich, president of the Wisconsin Antique Radio Club, Inc. (WARCI) will handle the computers and processing. Jim Sargent, VRPS member and professional auctioneer, has again generously contributed his time and skills to call the auction, and will be assisted by our team of volunteers.

Fees are unchanged from last year: \$7 per item for sellers (\$10 for non-members), bidding cards at \$3 each (\$5 for non-members) and a 10% buyer's premium applies. There is a limit of 10 lots per person

The auction format will be the same as last year, allowing sellers to continue to state a confidential reserve. We plan to have our trusty team of volunteers and assistants in place to make the check-in/check-out process as smooth as possible. We will do everything to make the check-in/check-out process as smooth and quick as possible, but we know that sometimes the lines can get a little long during these periods. We very much appreciate your continued patience and courtesy during this process.

Our Radiofest main auction has gained a well-deserved reputation for having some of the most unique, high quality goods, and we expect much the same for this year. We have been informed that there will be some very interesting items placed in this year's auction, including some rare and collectible vintage hi-fi equipment! So, please plan on making this part of your Radiofest experience. It's great fun, and you may just find that rare treasure you've been looking for! There will food and refreshments available for purchase throughout the duration of the auction.

Please contact John Stone at [arcipresident@comcast.net](mailto:arcipresident@comcast.net) if you have any questions or comments regarding the auction.

# **SATURDAY & SUNDAY SWAP MEET**

The Swap Meet will be held in the west parking area of the Medinah Shriners' facility. This is a large, well-maintained parking area that will give us plenty of space for sellers, including those bringing in larger vehicles and trailers. All selling spaces will be pre-assigned by ARCI, and we will strictly enforce those space assignments.

As in previous years, all sellers will be asked to check-in at the Registration Area at the entrance to the parking lot prior to occupying their selling space. Parking permits, which must be prominently displayed in each vehicle's windshield, will be given out upon arrival at the lot.

**\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTICE: NO TENT STAKES ARE ALLOWED\*\*\***

**To be used anywhere in the parking lot!**

**The Medinah facility will invoice the club for any repairs of damage to their parking surface, so please take this requirement seriously.**

**ANY SELLER CAUGHT DRIVING STAKES INTO THE PARKING LOT WILL BE BANNED FROM SELLING AT FUTURE RADIOFEST EVENTS.**

Parking for buyers and all other Radiofest attendees will be in the main parking lot, directly adjacent to the sellers' lot. It is a short and easy walk from one lot to the other. The Hilton Garden Inn Hotel has its own separate lot for all hotel guests.



## **SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET**

The Crescent Ballroom will be the site of the annual “Carl and Carolyn Knipfel Banquet”. The entertainment this year will feature the Windy City Harmonica Trio. Banquet tickets are priced at \$40 per person. This year, we will change the food service format from pre-ordered limited menu choices to a buffet style banquet with a large variety of meal choices available. The Medinah Shriners’ facility is famous for the high quality of their buffets, so come prepared for a great meal, wonderful entertainment, and an all around good time with your ARCI friends!

## **PLANS UNDERWAY FOR VINTAGE HAM STATION AT RADIOFEST**

Jim Novak, WA9FIH is currently planning our vintage amateur radio station for Radiofest. We typically set up stations capable of AM, SSB and CW operation on the 75/80, 40 and 20 meter ham bands, as well as two meter FM (146.520 simplex and via the Six Meter Club's 146.970 repeater 107.2 Hz tone), using gear that dates from the vacuum tube era into early solid state units. A Special Event Station will be on the air Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. We will be using the new ARCI call letters WA9RCI.

Last year, equipment and antennas were provided by Jim Novak WA9FIH, Ed Schumacher WA9GQK, and Chris Farley KC9IEQ. If you have a piece of equipment you would like to bring, either for display or to put on the air, or can assist with operating the station and/or setting up or taking down antennas, please contact Jim at 708-442-4961 or WA9FIH@aol.com. Thanks!

## **FREE SUNDAY SELLERS’ RAFFLE**

To thank our sellers for participating, we will offer a free Sellers’ Raffle scheduled on Sunday. A number of great items will be raffled off. Sellers must be in attendance to win.

## **DONATION AUCTION**

The donation auction, everyone’s favorite place for real bargains, is scheduled for Sunday morning. Items donated to the club will be sold at either the Donation Table or the Sunday Donation Auction at the discretion of the auctioneer. We encourage everyone to walk the show regularly to see what becomes available. Questions can be addressed directly to Tom Kleinschmidt at tomkleinschmidt@comcast.net.



# SPECIAL RCA DISPLAY

This year we are celebrating Radio Corporation of America, RCA. We invite you to participate in our special display theme for Radiofest 2016. ARCI members are invited to bring one or several pieces of equipment for display, but MUST preregister to avoid duplication of entries in the limited space available.

We will have a display of any and all RCA related items. We are looking for your contributions such as:

- Radiola and RCA items
- Wireless and early radios through the 1930s including tabletop and console radios
- WWII era items
- 1950s-1970s era
- 1980s and related items from famous news stories and other events
- Any original documents and advertising items.

We would like to feature any items with newspaper or magazine articles and original equipment instructions, documentation and photos. The display is not limited to commercially produced items.

Please submit the RADIOFEST 2016 SPECIAL DISPLAY REGISTRATION FORM which will be available at the June meet and can also be downloaded from the ARCI website. Submit it to Keith Schreiter or David Bart no later than July 20 for consideration by the committee.

NOTE: The Special Display is a special feature of Radiofest that operates in addition to the contest room. We invite our members to participate in both venues. Please email Keith Schreiter at: N9QDS@ARRL.NET or David Bart at JBART1964@GMAIL.COM if you would like to participate.

# EQUIPMENT CONTEST

The equipment contest will be set up in the Oak Ridge meeting room. See the listings below. Note, the “Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Muchow Best of Show Award” as well as the People’s Choice Award and Chairman’s Trophies will be awarded. Questions? Contact Jeff Aulick at akent36@comcast.net.

<b>RADIOFEST 2016 CONTEST CATEGORIES</b>	
<b><i>With Awards For: Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Muchow “Best Of Show” Award People’s Choice Award Chairman’s Trophy; Best Restoration; Best Historical Display 1st, 2nd, 3rd Per Category</i></b>	
<b><i>Radios Pre-1930 Radios/TVs Pre-WWII (to 1945) Radios/TVs Post-WWII (1946 &amp; later) Advertising / Premiums Catalin &amp; Rare Plastic Radios</i></b>	<b><i>Transistor &amp; Novelty Radios Speakers Vacuum Tube Audio Electronics Made In The Midwest Open</i></b>

# RADIOFEST 2016 FEATU (SATURDAY



## **The Shure Unidyne Microphone**

*Michael Pettersen  
10:00am – 10:50am*

Michael Pettersen is the Corporate Historian and Director of Applications Engineering at Shure Brothers Inc., where he has been employed since 1976. His presentation will provide an overview of the Unidyne microphone's unique position in the history of 20th century broadcast, politics, and entertainment, plus the amazing story of the 24 year old immigrant from the Ukraine who invented it.



## **Vintage Vacuum T**

*Pete N...  
10:00am -*

Pete's knowledge and experience extends back to the first Golden Era of the early 1950s. Fascinated by the sweetness and warmth of vintage vacuum tube sound, he found out for himself, and, with the help of his restored, he did! His ventures into vintage CD sources, driving both vintage and modern amplifiers. This year's session will be setting up a vintage tube system with an informative Q & A session on maintaining vintage high fidelity.



## **Bill Ross Memorial Ham Forum**

*Harry Blesy - Bob Drake - Ron Grams  
2:00 pm – 2:50 pm*

Harry, Bob, and Ron are long time ARCI club members and avid ham radio enthusiasts. They have combined their resources and put together an interesting and enjoyable ham radio forum in the long tradition of recently deceased ARCI member Bill Ross. A "Show-and-Tell" of amateur related equipment will also be a part of the program. There will be a door prize drawing for all participants at the conclusion of the forum. All radio amateurs and those with an interest in the hobby are invited to attend.



# URED PRESENTATIONS ( ~ ROOM B)



## Tube Audio Q & A

*causeda*  
- 11:50am

experience in high quality audio  
en Age of High Fidelity in the  
audiophile claims of about the  
vacuum tube audio, he wanted to  
the collection he amassed and  
s range from vinyl, to tape, to  
vacuum tube and solid state  
n focuses on purchasing and  
them from start to finish along  
A session on repairing and  
lity equipment.



## Electronic 67 1/2 Volt Battery replacement

*Mike Bafaro*

1:00pm – 1:50pm

Mike Bafaro worked at Motorola for 37 years, as an engineer specializing in power supply design. Mike's presentation will describe an electronic 67.5V substitute battery pack that will bring many portable radios back to life. The design and use of the module, originally created for an early Nems – Clarke portable field strength meter, will be covered in detail. It uses AA batteries and a boost regulator to provide a very clean and stable power source.



## Antennas: Spark Gap to WWII AM

*Warren Shulz*

3:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Warren Shulz is a retired radio broadcast engineer and former Chief Engineer at WLS with 45 years of "experiences". He is a Life Member of IEEE, AES, SBE, and holds Extra Class ham license WA9GXZ. Warren's presentation will focus on early spark transmitter antennas, "T" top AM radiators and migration to Vertical radiators. Early history of AM vertical radiators and history of the WLS 1938 vertical radiator technology

**RADIOFEST 2016**



**SPECIAL DISPLAY JULY 30, 2016**

**REGISTRATION FORM  
APPLICATION DEADLINE JUNE 15, 2016**

**\*\**RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA*\*\***

AFTER REVIEWING THE CATEGORIES LISTED IN THE DISPLAY ANNOUNCEMENT, PLEASE LIST EACH ITEM THAT YOU WISH TO DISPLAY WITH BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS. WE INTEND TO HAVE THE DISPLAY ROOM OPEN FOR VISITORS BY SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT APPROXIMATELY 3PM WITH TAKEDOWN AFTER 10PM SATURDAY NIGHT. SUNDAY MORNING RETREIVAL OF ITEMS IS OPTIONAL BUT MUST BE PRE-ARRANGED. SECURITY WILL BE PRESENT AND THE ROOM WILL BE LOCKED DURING HOURS WHEN IT IS CLOSED TO PUBLIC VIEWING. WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS WHO CAN ACT AS "DOCENTS" TO SPEND 30-60 MINUTES IN THE DISPLAY AREA ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DISPLAY.

ITEM(S) YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISPLAY:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SERVE AS DOCENT? (CIRCLE ONE) YES NO HOURS \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KEITH SCHREITER AT:  
N9QDS@ARRL.NET, 847-707-6574, 351 CHERRY COVE LANE, ROUND LAKE BEACH, IL 60073**

## OTHER WEEKEND EVENTS

Plan to stay the entire weekend to pick up these other great events located near Radiofest!!

<b>RADIOFEST 2016 WEEKEND EVENTS</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CANTIGNY PARK &amp; 1ST DIVISION MUSEUM</b></p> <p><i>Park &amp; Grounds: 7am–Sunset; Museums: 10am–5 pm; Golf: 7am–Dusk; Winfield Rd. South of Rte. 38 (Roosevelt Rd.)Wheaton, IL See <a href="http://www.cantigny.org">www.cantigny.org</a></i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>81ST ANNUAL HAMFESTER'S RADIO CLUB HAMFEST IN PEOTONE, IL</b></p> <p><i>Sun., Aug. 7, 6am-3pm; Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL I-57 South of Chicago, Exit 327, 1 Mile East. See <a href="http://www.hamfesters.org">www.hamfesters.org</a></i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WOLFF'S FLEA MARKET (LARGEST IN CHICAGO)</b></p> <p><i>July 31 &amp; Aug. 7, 6am-1:30pm; Allstate Arena; 6920 N. Mannheim, Rosemont, IL; (Mannheim between Higgins &amp; Touhy); See <a href="http://www.wolffs.com">www.wolffs.com</a></i></p>

### PLEASE NOTE

All activities are subject to rescheduling. ARCI has contracted Black Knight Security to patrol the premises. However, individuals are responsible for safeguarding their own property. Neither ARCI, nor AWA, including their individual directors, officers and/or members, assumes liability for any injury to any person or any loss, theft or damage to any personal property.

## **IN MEMORIUM Burt Katz, ARCI Charter Member**

**By Jim Novak, WA9FIH**

### Burt Katz Passes Away

We are deeply saddened to report that Burt Katz, 78, beloved husband of Sharon Katz and devoted father and grandfather, passed away on April 30. Services were held on May 2. Burt was a legendary Chicago pizza master and a Charter Member of ARCI. He was the founder of The Inferno in Evanston, Gulliver's Pizza in Chicago, Pequod in Morton Grove and long-time owner of Burt's Place in Morton Grove. In recent years, he was featured on the cover of the international food magazine *Saveur* and on Anthony Bourdain's television show *No Reservations*. David Manilow, creator and executive producer of the WTTW restaurant review TV show *Check, Please!* said, "Burt was one of my favorite characters in the 15 years of *Check, Please!*" Bourdain said, "His was the only deep dish pizza I ever loved."



*Sharon and Burt Katz at Burt's Place.*

Burt's iconoclastic attitude was his trademark, "I've always been independent. I'm like a salmon—I swim upstream." Pequod, and later Burt's Place, were known for their homegrown atmosphere with their old furniture, mismatched dinnerware, and walls covered with vintage radios, telephone and photos. Burt's dismissive and crusty demeanor was somewhat of an act that was offset by Sharon's warm and welcoming hospitality. Swamped by regulars at the restaurant, both Burt and Sharon were well loved and were recognized for their generosity to the community. They both cared deeply for the customers and their product.



*Burt Katz in the backroom of Pequod in the late 1970s.*

Born in 1937 in Chicago, Burt grew up in the Wicker Park neighborhood. His mother died when he was 10. His father died when Burt was in the U.S. Marine Corps. He studied history at Roosevelt University. Burt and Sharon traveled the world on a honeymoon trip that made headlines in 1962. They went around-the-world starting in Japan and then drove through several countries including Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. In Lisbon they shipped the truck to Chicago, but they never drove it again. Katz donated it to a friend's auto museum, which eventually closed and sold it for scrap. Two years ago the original truck was sold on eBay with its original markings from the 1962 trip still painted on it. With no culinary training, Burt opened The Inferno and later Gulliver's. He tried working in the corporate world but found it limiting, so he left and last shaved in April, 1971, eventually growing his trademark beard. That year he opened the original Pequod in Morton Grove. After a short retirement, he returned in 1989 to open his final and most famous restaurant, originally called Starback's, that was later renamed Burt's Place. Burt manned the kitchen while Sharon dealt with the customers. All of Burt's pizzas were known for their unique caramelized crusts and their ultra fresh toppings which Burt personally shopped for each morning at local stores.

Burt was well known to radio collectors. He frequented garage and estate sales and attended ARCI in the first ten years of its existence. Burt loved the radios and his collecting friends, but he opposed the high pricing and speculative nature of the hobby as it expanded in the 1990s. Still, he continued to collect on his own, and was always happy to show his latest find or gift received from a customer. The restaurant remained a popular dinner location for north side ham radio operators and collectors. Burt's Place closed for short intervals in the past few years as Burt and Sharon dealt with health issues. The restaurant was finally closed in fall 2015. Pequod and Gulliver's remain open under their current ownership (both restaurants were sold many years ago).



*Burt's Place and Pequod Pizza.*

For Julia and me, we often went to Burt's Place late, near closing time, so we could enjoy the rare privilege of staying after hours with Burt and Sharon. We will always remember our young sons, John and Mike, freely exploring the restaurant and its collections, with Burt's encouragement, while we sat and visited with Burt and Sharon. He always wanted to show the latest radio or odd antique, quizzing the kids to see if they knew what it was. It was like visiting your grandparents, and Burt and Sharon treated us like family. We, along with all of the other customers who had the good fortune of getting to know Burt and Sharon over the years, will miss them both.

Burt's Place has now been sold to two former customers who have no culinary experience. They are intent on preserving the original recipes, and they intend to maintain the atmosphere in tribute to Burt and Sharon. They are in the process of training and are working toward reopening Burt's Place soon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

# RADIO ZONE

An Occasional Column Featuring Radio Collecting Topics

By David Bart

## RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

### Organization by General Electric

After World War I began in August 1914, the western Allies cut the German transatlantic telegraph cables and radio traffic across the Atlantic Ocean increased dramatically. The Central Powers including Germany, Austria-Hungary, and their allies in Europe maintained contact with neutral countries in the Americas via long-distance radio communications, as well as telegraph cables owned by neutral countries such as the Netherlands and Denmark.

In 1917, the United States took charge of patents owned by the major companies involved in radio manufacture in the U.S. in order to devote radio technology to the war effort. All production of radio equipment was allocated to the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The War Department and the Navy Department sought to maintain a federal monopoly of all uses of radio technology. The wartime takeover of all radio systems ended late in 1918 after the U.S. Congress failed to pass a bill which would have extended this monopoly. The war itself ended in November of that year.

The termination of the federal government's monopoly in radio communications did not prevent the War and Navy Departments from creating a national radio system for the United States. On April 8, 1919, Navy Admiral W. H. G. Bullard and Captain Stanford C. Hooper met with executives from the General Electric Corporation (GE) and asked them to discontinue selling GE's Alexanderson alternators (used in high-power AM radio transmitters) to the British-owned Marconi Company and its subsidiary, the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America.

The Navy proposal argued that if GE created an American-owned radio company, then the Army and Navy would create a monopoly of long-distance radio communications via this new company. A series of negotiations ensued through which GE acquired the American Marconi company and then incorporated the new Radio Corporation of America (RCA).





## Establishment

The consolidation of assets from the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America (including David Sarnoff as an employee), the Pan-American Telegraph Company, and other assets already controlled by the U.S. Navy formed the core of a new public company, RCA. GE owned a controlling interest in RCA which was established on October 17, 1919.

Cooperation among RCA, General Electric, United Fruit Company, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T) led to hundreds of innovations in high-power radio technology, and also the creation of the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and eventually television broadcasting and TV products. The U.S. Army and U.S. Navy each granted RCA the former American Marconi radio terminals that had been confiscated during the War. Admiral Bullard received a seat on RCA's Board of Directors. All of these efforts resulted in federally-created monopolies for GE and Westinghouse Corporation in radio and monopolies in telephone systems for AT&T.

The Department of War and the Department of the Navy continued to argue that the usable radio frequencies were limited, and should be appropriated for use by the U.S. government before other countries, such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Canada, monopolized them. This assumption collapsed in the mid-1920s after the discovery of practical shortwave radio bands (3.0 MHz through 30.0 MHz) for very long-range radio communications.

RCA's first chief executive officer was Owen D. Young, and David Sarnoff became its general manager. RCA's incorporation documents required that a majority of its stock must be held by American citizens. RCA agreed to market the radio equipment manufactured by GE and Westinghouse, and RCA later acquired the radio patents held by Westinghouse and the United Fruit. As the years went on, RCA either took over, or produced for itself, a large number of patents, including that of the superheterodyne receiver invented by Edwin Howard Armstrong.



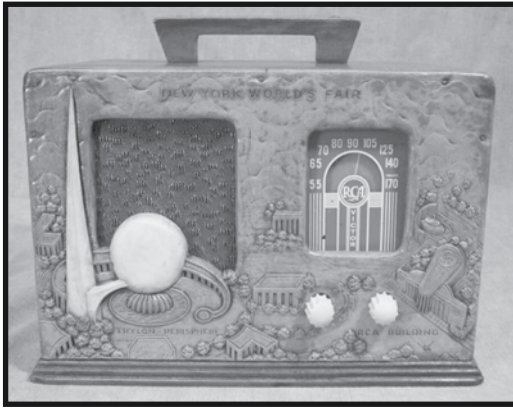
*RCA Model 143 Tombstone Radio (1934).*

Over the years, RCA continued to operate international telecommunications services, under its subsidiary RCA Communications, Inc., and later the RCA Global Communications Company.

## Expansion

By 1926 the market for commercial radio had expanded, and RCA purchased the WEAf and WCAP radio stations and networks from AT&T. RCA merged them with its WJZ (the predecessor of WABC in New York) and WRC (presently WTEM in Washington) smaller chains of stations to form the National Broadcasting Company (NBC).

RCA significantly expanded its radio manufacturing activities. GE used RCA as its retail arm for radio sales from the beginning in 1919, when GE began production, until 1930. Westinghouse also marketed home radios through RCA until 1930



*RCA Model 40X-56 "New York World's Fair" Radio.*

who now displays Nipper in Silhouette.) RCA Victor produced many radio-phonographs and also created RCA Photophone, a sound-on-film system for sound films that competed with William Fox's sound-on-film Movietone and Warner Bros.' sound-on-disc Vitaphone. The acquisition of Victor also gave RCA superior manufacturing and distribution capabilities in Camden, New Jersey. RCA soon added the manufacturing of radios as well as phonographs and records to the facilities' production.

RCA began selling the first electronic turntable in 1930. In 1931, RCA Victor started selling 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  rpm records. These had the standard groove size (the same width as the contemporary 78 rpm records), rather than the "microgroove" that was used in post-World War II 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  "Long Play" records. Unfortunately, the format was a commercial failure. It was launched at the height of the Great Depression and the records and playback equipment were expensive. In addition, the audio performance was poor. The smaller-radius stylus of the microgroove system had not yet been developed which would make slower-speed records perform acceptably. The system was withdrawn from the market after about a year. In 1932, RCA introduced the Duo Jr. turntable, that was designed to be plugged into radios. Later in the decade, RCA sold the modernistic RCA Victor M Special, a polished aluminum portable record player designed by John Vassos, which became an icon of 1930s American industrial design.

The year 1930 also brought RCA's agreement to occupy the yet-to-be-constructed Rockefeller Center complex, 30 Rockefeller Plaza in New York City. This landmark building was known after 1933 as the RCA building. RCA had provided the critical lease in this massive project that enabled it to proceed as a commercially viable venture.

**Separation from GE**

In 1930, the U.S. Department of Justice brought antitrust charges against RCA, GE and Westinghouse. In a complex settlement, GE and Westinghouse gave up their ownership interests in RCA, RCA was allowed to keep its radio factories, and GE and Westinghouse were allowed to compete in that business after 30 months.

**Television and WWII**

RCA demonstrated an all-electronic television system at the 1939 New York World's Fair, and developed the USA's first television test pattern. RCA began regular experimental television broadcasting from the NBC studios to the New York metropolitan area on April 30, 1939 via station W2XBS, Channel 1 (which evolved into WNBC channel 4) from a transmitter atop the Empire State Building. At the same time, RCA began selling their first television set models in New York stores. With the introduction of the NTSC standard, the Federal Communications Commission authorized the start of commercial television transmission on July 1, 1941. World War II slowed the deployment of television across the U.S., but RCA again began selling television sets almost immediately after the war ended. During the war, RCA was heavily involved in research and manufacturing of radar and radio development in support of the war effort. RCA ranked 43rd among all U.S. corporations in the value of its wartime military production contracts.



*Gen. General David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board, Radio Corporation of America*

## Sees No. 1 wish come true!

**Television Tape Recording  
by RCA Opens New Era of  
Electronic Photography**

In 1936, RCA's General Sarnoff will celebrate his 50th year in the field of radio. Looking ahead to that occasion, three years ago, he asked his family of scientists and researchers for three gifts to mark that anniversary: (1) A television tape recorder, (2) An electronic air conditioner, (3) A true amplifier of light.

Gift No. 1—the video tape recorder—has already been successfully demonstrated, two years ahead of time! Both color and black-and-white TV pictures were instantly recorded on magnetic tape without any photographic development or processing.

You can imagine the future importance of this development to television, broadcasting, to motion pictures, education, industry and national defense. And you can see its entertainment value to you, in your own home. There the tape equipment could be used for home movies, and—by connecting it to your television set—you could make personal recordings of your favorite TV programs.

Expressing his gratitude for this "gift," General Sarnoff said it was only a matter of time, perhaps two years, before the finishing touches would bring this recording system to commercial reality. He described this RCA achievement as the first major step into an era of "electronic photography."

Such achievements as this, stemming from continuous pioneering in research and engineering, make "RCA" an emblem of quality, dependability and progress.

**RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA** 

*World leader in radio—first in television*

14 TIME, FEBRUARY 15, 1954

*Time Magazine February 15, 1954 Advertising Sarnoff's 50th Anniversary in Radio and announcing the TV video tape recorder, electronic air conditioner and the light amplifier.*

## **Tubes**

RCA was a major producer of vacuum tubes under the Radiotron brand. RCA created a series of innovative products ranging from octal base metal tubes co-developed with GE before WWII to the transistor-sized Nuvistor used in the tuners of the New Vista series of TV sets. The Nuvistor tubes were one of the last successes for vacuum tubes, and were meant to compete with the newly introduced transistor. Their combined power in the marketplace was so strong that they effectively set the selling prices for vacuum tubes in the U.S. By 1975, the company had completely switched from tubes to solid-state devices in their television sets, except for the main cathode ray tube (CRT).

## **NBC Breakup**

Antitrust concerns led the FCC to force the breakup of the NBC radio networks, which was affirmed in cases brought before the U.S. Supreme Court. On October 12, 1943, the “NBC Blue” radio network was sold to candy magnate Edward J. Noble for \$8,000,000, and renamed “The Blue Network, Inc”. It would become the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) in 1946. The “NBC Red” network retained the NBC name, and RCA retained ownership.

## **Diversification and Research**

RCA produced its RCA Television Quad head 2” color recorder/ reproducer used at broadcast studios in the late 1960s through the early 1980s. Based on a design originally developed by Ampex in the mid-1950s, it used a vertical scanning drum with head motion at 90° to tape direction. This method was developed prior to helical scanning, used in commercial and home tape machines.

In 1941, prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, RCA laid the cornerstone for its new research and development facility, RCA Laboratories in Princeton, New Jersey. This lab, led for many years by Elmer Engstrom, developed many innovations, such as color television, the electron microscope, CMOS-based technology, heterojunction physics, optoelectronic emitting devices, liquid crystal displays (LCDs), videocassette recorders, direct broadcast television, direct broadcast satellite systems and high-definition television. From 1988 to January 2011, the Lab was called Sarnoff Corporation, a subsidiary of SRI International, after which it was fully integrated into SRI.

Beginning in World War II, RCA set up several new divisions for defense, space exploration and other activities. The RCA Service Corporation provided large numbers of staff for the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line. RCA units won five Army–Navy ‘E’ Awards for Excellence in production. Also during the war, ties between RCA and JVC were severed.

In 1949, RCA Victor released the first 45 rpm record to the public, to compete with CBS/Columbia’s 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  rpm “LP” format. The RCA 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  rpm “LP” records themselves became a reality in 1950, and in 1951, so did the CBS/Columbia 45 rpm record.

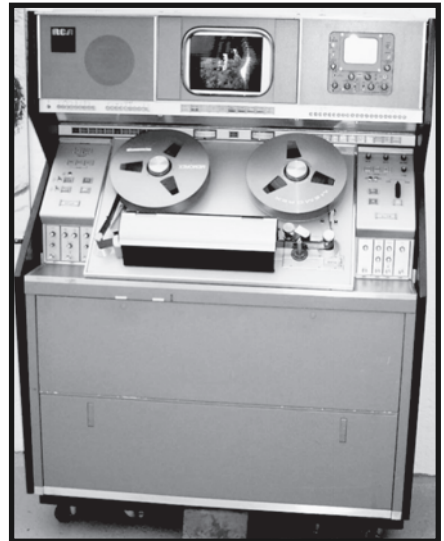
In 1953, RCA's all-electronic color TV technology was adopted as the standard for American color TV. It is now known as NTSC (after the "National Television System Committee" that approved it). RCA cameras and studio gear, particularly of the TK-40/41 series, became standard equipment at many American television network affiliates, as RCA CT-100 ("RCA Merrill" to dealers) television sets introduced color television to the public.

In 1955, RCA sold its Estate large appliance operations to Whirlpool Corporation. As part of the deal, Whirlpool was given the right to market "RCA Whirlpool" appliances through the mid-1960s.

Incredibly, despite RCA's indisputable leadership in television technology, David Sarnoff in 1955 commented, "Television will never be a medium of entertainment".

## Computers

RCA's scope grew to encompass computers. It was one of several major computer companies that also included IBM, Digital Equipment Corporation, Burroughs, Control Data Corporation, General Electric, Honeywell, NCR and Sperry Rand through most of the 1960s. RCA marketed the Spectra 70 Series (models 15, 25, 35, 45, 46, 55, 60 and 61) that were hardware, but not software, compatible with IBM's System/360 series, and the RCA Series (RCA 2, 3, 6, 7) competing against the IBM System/370. These systems all ran RCA's real-memory operating systems, DOS and TDOS. RCA's virtual memory systems, the Spectra 70/46 and 70/61 and the RCA 3 and 7, could also run their Virtual Memory Operating System, VMOS. VMOS was originally named TSOS (Time Sharing Operating System), but was renamed to expand the system beyond the time-sharing market. TSOS was the first mainframe, demand paging, virtual memory operating system on the market. The English Electric System 4 range, the 4-10, 4-30, 4-50, 4-70 and the time-sharing 4-75 computers were essentially RCA Spectra 70 clones of the IBM System/360 and 370 range. RCA abandoned computers in 1971. Sperry Rand officially took over the RCA base in January 1972.



*RCA Television Quad head 2" color recorder/ reproducer used at broadcast studios in the 1960s-1980s*

RCA Graphic Systems Division (GSD) was an early supplier of electronics designed for the printing and publishing industries. It contracted with German company Rudolf Hell to market adaptations of the Digiset photocomposition system as the Videocomp, and a Laser Color Scanner. The Videocomp was supported by a Spectra computer that ran the Page-I and, later the Page-II and FileComp composition systems. RCA later sold the Videocomp rights to Information International Inc. (III).

## Later years

RCA was a major proponent of the eight-track tape cartridge, which it launched in 1965. The eight-track cartridge initially had a huge and profitable impact on the consumer marketplace. Sales of the 8-track tape format peaked early as consumers increasingly favored the compact cassette tape format developed by Philips.

David Sarnoff, whose ambition and business acumen had helped RCA become one of the world's largest companies, turned the company over to his son Robert in 1970. David died the next year, aged 80.

On September 17, 1971, the NBC Nightly News read a news bulletin issued by the RCA Board of Directors just minutes before the broadcast, announcing the Board's decision to cease operation of its general-purpose computer systems division (RCA-CSD). This marked a milestone in RCA's move away from technology and into a diversified conglomerate. (The introduction by IBM of the 370 series required RCA to make a substantial new investment in its computer division, and the Board decided against making that investment.)

During the late 1960s and 1970s, RCA Corporation, as it was now formally known, ventured into other markets. Under Robert Sarnoff's leadership, RCA diversified far beyond electronics and communications, in a broader American corporate trend toward "conglomerates." The company acquired Hertz (rental cars), Banquet (frozen foods), Coronet (carpeting), Random House (publishing) and Gibson (greeting cards), yet slipped into financial disarray, with wags calling it "Rugs Chickens & Automobiles" to poke fun at their attempt at becoming a conglomerate.

Robert Sarnoff was ousted in a 1975 boardroom coup led by Anthony Conrad, who resigned a year later after he admitted failing to file income tax returns for six years. RCA maintained its high standards of engineering excellence in broadcast engineering and satellite communications equipment, but ventures such as the NBC radio and television networks declined.

In about 1980, RCA shifted the manufacture of its television sets to Mexico. RCA was still profitable in 1983, when it switched manufacturing of its VHS and VCRs from Panasonic to Hitachi. Yet, other forays into new consumer electronics products lost money. The SelectaVision videodisc system, not to be confused with the same trademark that RCA applied to its VCRs, never developed the manufacturing volumes to substantially bring down its price, could not compete against cheaper, recordable videotape technology, and was abandoned in 1985 at a loss of several hundred million dollars.



*1954 was the first year of broadcast color television using the RCA TK-42 color cameras.*

In 1981, Columbia sold its share in the home video division to RCA and its division was renamed outside of North America to “RCA/Columbia Pictures International Video” and the following year, it was renamed in North America to “RCA/Columbia Pictures Home Video”.

In 1983, Arista Records owner Bertelsmann sold 50% of Arista to RCA. In 1985, Bertelsmann and RCA formed a joint venture called RCA/Ariola International which took over management of RCA Records.

In 1984, RCA Broadcast Systems Division moved from Camden, New Jersey, to the site of the RCA antenna engineering facility in Gibbsboro, New Jersey. On October 3, 1985, RCA announced it was closing the Broadcast Systems Division. In the years that followed, the broadcast product lines developed in Camden were terminated or sold off, and most of the buildings demolished, except for a few of the original RCA Victor buildings that had been declared national historical buildings. For several years, RCA spinoff L-3 Communications Systems East was headquartered in the building, but has since moved to an adjacent building built by the city for them. The building now houses shops and luxury loft apartments.



*November, 1977 Communicate magazine announcing the first VHS VCR by RCA.*

### **Takeover and Break-up**

Business and financial conditions led to RCA’s takeover by GE in 1986 and its subsequent break-up. GE sold its 50% interest in then-RCA/Ariola International Records to its partner Bertelsmann and the company was renamed BMG Music, for Bertelsmann Music Group.

GE then sold the rights to make RCA and GE branded televisions and other consumer electronics products in 1988 to the French Thomson Consumer Electronics, in exchange for some of Thomson’s medical businesses.

In 1991, GE sold its share in RCA/Columbia to Sony Pictures and renamed that to “Columbia TriStar Home Video” (later Columbia TriStar Home Entertainment, now Sony Pictures Home Entertainment).

RCA Laboratories was transferred to SRI International as the David Sarnoff Research Center. The laboratories were subject to a five-year plan whereby GE funded all activities for the first year, then reduced its support to near zero after the fifth year. This required the laboratories to change their business model to become an industrial contract research facility.

GE sold the NBC Radio Network to Westwood One and all of its radio stations to various owners. In 2011, Comcast acquired a controlling interest in the NBC, now part of the multimedia venture NBC Universal, and in 2013, Comcast acquired the remaining interests from GE.

Today, the only RCA unit which GE still owns is Government Services.

The historic RCA Building 17 is one of the few remaining buildings in Camden, New Jersey, that once housed the vast RCA Victor complex.



*The historic RCA Building 17, now a luxury apartment building, is one of the few remaining buildings in Camden, New Jersey, that once housed the vast RCA Victor complex.*

## Legacy

RCA's legacy in products and innovation is unrivalled. RCA branded antique radios, RCA Merrill/CT-100s, and other early color television receivers are among the more sought-after collectible radios and televisions, thanks to their popularity during the golden age of radio, their manufacturing quality, their engineering innovations, their styling and their name, RCA. Most collectable are the pre-war television sets manufactured by RCA beginning in 1939, including the TRK-5, TRK-9 and TRK-12 models.

The 1915 original Nipper stained glass atop the "Nipper Tower" in the former Camden, New Jersey, Building 17 was replaced in 1979 and again in 2003 replaced in 1979. In 2003, the historic RCA Victor Building 17, the "Nipper Building", in, was converted to luxury apartments.

This article is derived from Wikipedia and other online resources and content.



# NEWS FROM THE HAMSHACK

By Jim Novak

## ARCI's NEW WA9RCI VANITY HAM CALL

ARCI's long-awaited vanity ham radio club call letters, WA9RCI, were issued May 17, replacing the KC9IPB club call which we held for the past ten years. The change of call letters had been discussed for some time, and our late trustee, Bill Ross, W9WR, had intended to pursue the matter before his passing. Ron Grams, WB9IMR, had agreed to take over the trusteeship of the license, and following discussion and approval by the membership at our April meeting, the vanity call request was filed and subsequently approved by the FCC and issued at no charge to the club (FCC had been charging a fee for these calls until recently, when they decided that it was counterproductive to do so!).

This clears the way for use of our new call, reflecting the club's A-R-C-I initials, for our ham station at Radiofest. An Amateur Radio station, using vintage equipment, has been a Radiofest tradition going back to the Elgin days during the 1990s when Harry Blesy, N9CQX, set up ham gear at the event for a number of years. In 2005, ARCI applied to the FCC for a Club Station license and received the KC9IPB call, and various members, including Chris Farley, KC9IEQ, Ed Schumacher, WA9GQK, and Jim Novak, WA9FIH, supplied most of the equipment that we used. The mailing address listed on the license is Jim's, who has agreed to continue handling requests for QSL (verification) cards from hams contacting our station.

As noted in the Radiofest articles and information, we will be using our new call, WA9RCI at Radiofest with plans to operate all day Saturday. Two meter FM will be either on 146.52 simplex or via the Six Meter Club repeater, 146.970 (107.2 Hz tone).



# 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!!!



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# PAID ADVERTISING

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For more information and to register online, visit [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org)  
Questions? Call Chairman Roy Wildermuth at 585-899-6703.

# CLUBING AROUND

## 81st ANNUAL HAMFESTERS

The Hamfesters Radio Club of Illinois will hold its 80th annual Hamfest on Sunday, August 7, 2015 at the Will County Fairgrounds in Peotone, IL (I-57 South of Chicago at Exit 327). Gates open at 6am. VE Testing is available on site. See <https://hamfesters.org/hamfest/>.

## ANTIQUÉ WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

The Antique Wireless Association will hold its Annual Convention on Aug. 17-20, 2016 in Rochester, New York at the RIT Inn and Conference Center (see separate ad). The dual theme this year is THE ZENITH CORPORATION and WIRELESS BEFORE RADIO. Come see the new Western Union Display and the expanded Voice of America Delano California station in the museum! With more than 30 presentations in the planning, this is the best historical conference in the country for people interested in the history of electronic communications. Come and visit the new museum, see the expanded campus, and explore the library and media center. The AWA, our national affiliate, publishes the AWA Journal and the AWA Review. Dues are \$35 per year. Information can be found at [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org).

## WISCONSIN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB, INC.

The next WARCI meeting will take place September 18, 2016 at the Terminal, located at 5917 South Howell Street in Milwaukee near the airport from 8AM-11AM. For information see [http://warci.org/event/warci-swap-meet-15/?instance\\_id=19](http://warci.org/event/warci-swap-meet-15/?instance_id=19).

## NORTHLAND ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

NARC will hold its annual meeting and mini swap meet in September 2016. For information about the event, please see <http://www.northlandantiqueradioclub.com/index.shtml>.

## MICHIGAN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Information about MARC's annual fall meet can be found at <http://michiganantiqueradio.org/events/>.

## INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY

The IHRS Summer Meet will be Saturday, August 13, 2016 from 8-11 am at the Cool Creek Park Nature Center in Carmel, Indiana (East of US 31 and North of 151st Street in Carmel). The IHRS Fall Foliage Meet will be October 1, 2016 from 8am to noon at the Riley Park Shelter, Greenfield, Indiana (one block north of US40 on Apple Street). For more information see <http://www.indianahistoricalradio.org/ihrsched.htm>.



# ARCI NEWS

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