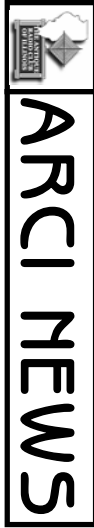


**RADIOFEST
UPDATE
INSIDE**



Antique Radio Club of Illinois
PO Box 1139
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

 **ARC NEWS**
www.antique-radios.org

Affiliated AWA
Antique Wireless Association

Volume 34, Issue 2
April 2014



*Radio Related Sheet Music From Sweden
(Courtesy Marsha and Jerry Simkin)*

RADIOFEST 2014 IS COMING!!

UPCOMING INDOOR MEET MARCH 30, 2014

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

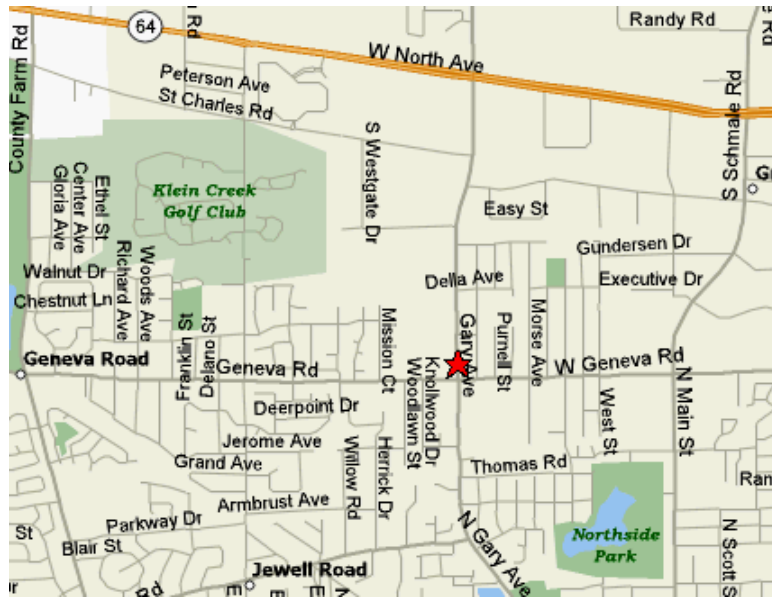
March 30, 2014 7AM – 11AM

Peoples' Choice Contest: Awards For 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place

Business Meeting 9:30am

Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast / Free Coffee, Juice & Cookies

50/50 Cash Drawing Raffle



FROM FEBRUARY 2014



2014 MEETING SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| March 30, 2014 | 7AM-11AM Indoor Swap Meet Inside Business Meeting 9:30AM | American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map) |
| June 15, 2014 | Outdoor - Gates Open 7AM Combined Meet With 6-Meter Club of Chicago | DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton, IL (See Advance Ticket Form & Map) |
| July 31-Aug. 2, 2014 (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) | RADIOFEST Thurs. Main Auction/Full Program on Fri./Donation Auction Sat. | Willowbrook Inn 7PM Thurs. – 1PM Sat. |
| October 5, 2014 | 7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Business Mtg./Officer Election 10AM | American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map) |
| December 7, 2014 | 7AM-11AM Indoor Swap Meet Business Meeting 10AM | American Legion Hall Carol Stream, IL (See Map) |

FACES AND SCENES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, a tip of the hat and thanks to our hardy members who turned out for the February meet. I see that Daniel Schoo made it and provided some of his usual fine photography for the website and the newsletter. Our club members throughout the mid-west have all been affected by the presence of an “old fashioned winter”. A note to Mother Nature; “You can turn on Spring-time the first chance you get. It’s OK with us.” We did not hold an officers meeting at the February 9th meeting due to the weather. Action items were expedited and resolved by email in the days following.

Working with the Board of Directors and Officers, *Radiofest* planning has been uppermost in our minds and efforts. We believe we can continue to provide an attractive and enjoyable event, appealing to a wide range of collectors’ interests, while maintaining expected quality, variety and value for our members and visitors. You will notice in this month’s *Radiofest* updates that dues, selling space and auction fees remain unchanged. Our sellers and buyers “make or break” the event, so we must be attractive to them. We realize the club will likely see some price increases for the necessary services related to *Radiofest*. (Tents, tables, dumpster, security, etc.). If the weather cooperates and attendance is good, we foresee a financially successful event. Our financial condition is not in danger, but in the event of unforeseen outcomes, we need a plan.

ARCI is 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 oshuler@comcast.net or call my cell phone 217-257-5830.

Our next meet is Sunday, March 30, 2014 at the American Legion Hall in Carol Stream (570 South Gary Avenue, just south of North Avenue Route 64). We look forward to seeing everyone there. And yes, there will be a People’s Choice Contest Table. See you there!

ARCI continues to need your support!! In order to properly support all of the planned *Radiofest* activities we “need a little help!” Not necessarily for all day, but what about one or two, two-hour stretches, to help us out? Please consider giving us a hand when asked.

See You At The Next Meet, 30 & 73

OLIN SHULER W9PQD
ARCI PRESIDENT

ARCI UPDATE

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

RADIOFEST CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

It's not too late to participate in our ARCI corporate sponsorship program for *Radiofest*. The *Radiofest* brochures and other *Radiofest* advertising will be printed in May. We encourage all our members to participate. *Radiofest* and other ARCI announcements placed in *Antique Radio Classified*, *Antique Wireless Journal*, *ARCI Radiofest* flyers and *ARCI News* 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 David Bart at jbart1964@gmail.com or Art Bilski at myantiqueradio@myantiqueradio.com by May 1, 2014 with any ideas or suggestions for new sponsors interested in discussing arrangements with ARCI.

HEALTH & WELFARE



Charlie Stinger Standing By One of the Tube Sockets for the 898 Final Amplifier Tube Section of Crosley's 500 Kw Transmitter at WLW.

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Charlie Stinger, W8GFA, on February 15. Charlie was 89 years old. He was a long time member of Antique Radio Club of Illinois and was one of the original members of the Antique Wireless Association.

He was born in Hamilton, Ohio on April 12, 1924. Charlie lived in Woods Station and Reily, Ohio, and was a 1942 graduate of McGuffey High School. He attended many radio schools where he received his telephone and telegraph, and radio licenses. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corp where he was stationed in Foggia, Italy with the 15th Air Force 483rd Bomb Group. On June 19, 1951 he married Della Jean Thomas. She preceded him in death on August 1, 2013.

Charlie had an amazing working career starting on August 17, 1947 with WLW and then Voice of America in Cincinnati where he was a

CLUBING AROUND

EARLY TELEVISION FOUNDATION CONVENTION

The ETF will host its annual convention in conjunction with the Dayton Hamvention on May 16-18, 2014, the same weekend as the Dayton Hamvention, at the Early Television Museum in Hilliard, Ohio. Additional information can be found at http://www.earlytelevision.org/2013_convention.html.

ANTIQUÉ WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

The Antique Wireless Association will have its next meeting in May 3, 2014 at the AWA Museum in Bloomfield, New York. The 2014 Annual Convention will be August 12-16. The theme will be Hallicrafters. The AWA, our national affiliate, publishes the *AWA Journal* and the *AWA Review*. Dues are \$25 per year. Information can be found at <http://www.antiquewireless.org/>.

WISCONSIN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB, INC.

The next two WARC meetings will take place March 23 and June 1, 2014 from 8-11am at The Terminal, located at 5917 South Howell Street in Milwaukee near the airport. For more information, please contact President Greg Hunolt at 920-893-0422 or at ghunolt@excel.net or see the website at www.warci.org.

NORTHLAND ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

Radio Daze 2014, the Upper Midwest's ultimate vintage radio collecting event, will be held Friday and Saturday, May 16-17, 2014 in Plymouth, Minnesota. For more information, please see <http://www.northlandantiqueradioclub.com/index.shtml>.

MICHIGAN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

MARC's VINTAGE ELECTRONICS EXPO will be Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 8am-1pm at the Valley Plaza Resort, Midland, MI; located at 5221 Bay City Road, in Midland. For more information see www.michiganantiqueradio.org.

INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY

The IHRS Spring Meet in Kokomo will be Friday and Saturday, May 2-3 at the Quality Inn Suites, Kokomo, Indiana. New for 2014 will be a "build your own one tube radio" contest held in addition to the annual old equipment contest. For more information see <http://www.indianahistoricalradio.org/ihrsched.htm>.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: Oscillator coil for Zenith Model 4V31 Farm radio. Please Contact: Michael Guillemette at mikeg52@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED: Bottom chassis cover plate for RCA 262. Contact: Jeff Aulik, 1708 Parkview Ave, Rockford, IL, 61107. Phone 815-399-1902, Email akent36@comcast.net.

THE VINTAGE HAM RADIO OPERATORS AND COLLECTORS
EVENT OF THE YEAR

MIDWEST CLASSIC RADIO HAMBOREE

The 2014 event will be held as part of the

SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO

and the

ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS'

HAM RADIO AND ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2014

AT THE

DU PAGE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

WHEATON ILLINOIS

<http://hamboree.tripod.com/>

protégé of Floyd N. Lantzer, engineer, and Dick Walker. He retired in 1985 as a plant supervisor of the VOA Bethany Relay Station that was built in 1944 and operated by Crosley for many years.

Charlie was one of the original members of the Antique Wireless Association. He wrote articles and spoke many times, twenty in one year, about WLW being the first in many innovations with radio and television broadcasting. He also published articles about Powell Crosley, the Crosley Company, and the Doron Brothers of Hamilton Ohio in the AWA Review. Charlie obtained his ham radio license, W8GFA, in 1950 and was a member of the ARRL, QCWA, OOT and many other clubs. Charlie was known for his kindness and great sense of humor. He was very knowledgeable about early wireless and all facets of ham radio, and he enjoyed sharing his stories.

Charlie was a member of the Westwood Presbyterian Church, Lindenwald Kiwanis, and Hugh Bates Lodge #686 F&AM, the Antique Clock Association, and the Butler County Historical Society where he served as treasurer for thirty years. Charlie was a goal oriented person serving early on the formation of the Butler County Park Service, creating Gov. Bebb Park and the Indian Creek Church committees.

Charlie and Jean enjoyed caring for their antique filled home, extensive library including books about radios and televisions, and surrounding garden. Beekeeping was one of his many hobbies. The Stingers were very proud of their home being the first house to be placed on the National Registry.

For a very short time Charlie was employed by Mosler Safe Company where he enjoyed playing fast pitch softball and once won the city tournament. He was inducted into the Butler County Softball Hall of Fame.

Charlie is survived by his two sons Randy Stinger and his wife Debbie of Blue Ash, Ohio, and Scott Stinger of Jacksonville, Florida. He had four grandchildren, Elizabeth, Truax, Joseph, Thomas, and Jonathon Stinger.

Funeral services were held at the Weigel Funeral Home in Hamilton, Ohio on February 19. Masonic services, with ring service, followed. He was interred at Somerville Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Lindenwald Kiwanis Club, PO Box 13082 Hamilton, OH 45013. Online condolences are available at www.weigelfuneralhome.com and an obituary can be found at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hamilton/obituary.aspx?n=charles-jacob-stinger-chuck&pid=169730095&fhid=15767#sthash.hiWVIKoW.dpuf>.

**REGISTER EARLY FOR JUNE HAMFEST
COMBINED MEET WITH SIX METER CLUB**

The June ARCI swap meet will be a joint event with the Six Meter Club of Chicago on Sunday, June 15, 2014 at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Rd., in Wheaton - just a bit south and west of our ARCI meets at the American Legion in Carol Stream. Last year more than 1,200 radio enthusiasts and

BUSINESS CARD ADS



Just Radios
Capacitors & Schematics for Tube Radios

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

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

and send it to jbart1964@gmail.com and mail a check for \$80 to Rudy Hecker, ARCI Treasurer, 127 Weymouth Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193. Thank you all for your continued support of ARCI!!!

hams from 16 states and even two visitors from Japan participated in the giant flea market and other events, including many ARCI members who were able to park in a special area designated as ARCI Swap Row.

We will have displays from AMSAT, ARRL, NWS/Skywarn and dealer displays. And, the Midwest Classic Radio Net's *Hamboree* will be back with us again. MCRN is a gathering of hams that operate "boat anchor" equipment on a weekly 3885 kHz AM net.



Everyone MUST have a Hamfest ticket to attend. Tickets are still only \$6 in advance, or \$8 at the gate. There is no charge for outdoor flea market space - please see the registration form for information. Jim Novak will have advance tickets at our April 14th ARCI meet. As usual, ARCI will have its donation auction at 10 am along with the 50-50 drawing. In addition, if you deposit your Hamfest ticket stubs in the drum near the stage in Building 2, you have a chance to win many other prizes including \$300, \$200 and \$100 cash.

Indoor flea market sellers and commercial dealers will be in Buildings 2, 3 and 4 with the outdoor flea market to the east of the Exhibition Hall building and extending north along the east side of the fairgrounds. All traffic will enter and exit through gate S-7 located east of the main exhibition hall. For ham operators, station K9ONA will be on the air, serving as a talk-in station on two meter FM, 146.52 simplex and through the 146.37/97 repeater (107.2 Hz tone). Food, coffee and soda will be available from the Romeoville Knights of Columbus.

For anyone wishing to take an FCC Amateur Radio license exam, testing will be held from 9 to 11 am.

The Hamfest opens to the general public at 7 am (buildings at 8 am), but ARCI members who are willing to help direct traffic for parking – we will need help keeping ARCI Swap Row open for members – can enter at 6 a.m. providing you have an advance ticket and can show positive ARCI ID (your current membership card). You

PAID ADVERTISING



Scientific Instrument Society

Join fellow enthusiasts – visit our website for details: www.sis.org.uk

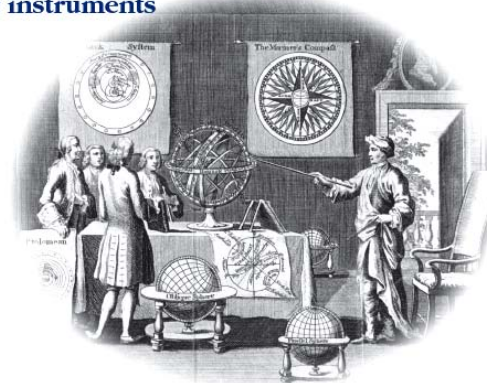
The Society has existed for over 25 years to promote the history and preservation of scientific instruments

How to join

The annual subscription is due on 1 January. New members receive copies of the Bulletin for the year in which they join. By joining the SIS you will support instrumental history and meet fellow enthusiasts with a wide range of interests.

The Scientific Instrument Society
90 The Fairway, South Ruislip
Middlesex HA4 0SQ
Tel: 020 8582 3895
Email: sis@sis.org.uk
Website: www.sis.org.uk

(The Society is registered as a charity in the UK No 326733)



For the current Annual Subscription rates, see the SIS website www.sis.org.uk and click on 'join', or consult the latest *Bulletin*.

Join using online application at www.sis.org.uk

IARCHS 8th Annual Antique Radio Auction Saturday, May 3, 2014 10:00AM

"Hayracks" of parts radios, parts, etc. to start at 9:00AM, if consigned
Auction Building at Hawkeye Downs, 4400 6th Street SW

Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Plan on attending!

Radio check in and auction set up will be Thursday and Friday, May 1st and 2nd from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. (\$5 minimum bid) Auction organized by IARCHS and professionally conducted by Brent Wears, one of Iowa's leading auctioneers. Send digital photos of items to be consigned to Dwight Baker for advance promotion. Watch the Wears Auctioneering website for featured radios and the latest auction information!

Questions or if you may have items to consign? Please contact us:

Dwight Baker – Club President (515) 965-0999 – e-mail: vtaudio@hotmail.com

Dave Perkins – (641) 485-7919 – e-mail: spamhole1951@gmail.com

Brent Wears –

Wears Auctioneering, Inc. (319) 624-3779 – e-mail: brent@wearsauctioneering.net

www.wearsauctioneering.com (auction information)

www.iowa-antique-radio-club.com/ (club information)

Sponsored by Iowa Antique Radio Club and Historical Society

– the Span Master has a transformer type AC power supply built in, with a selenium rectifier. The radio’s standard wooden cabinet, about 14” wide by 6” deep and 6” high, was covered in blue-gray heavy synthetic fabric, probably treated with Pyroxylin or something similar. The front panel is enameled perforated metal, with anodized aluminum trim along the bottom. The rear chassis apron has a terminal strip for Antenna and Ground connections, a slide switch to select internal speaker or headphones, and pin jacks for plugging in headphones.

Quoting from the radio’s instruction manual, “In a couple of evenings you can build the Span Master and hear thrilling foreign broadcasts from all over the world. The Span Master is a regenerative type receiver which covers regular programs on the standard broadcast band as well as short wave, including American and foreign broadcasts, amateur phone and code transmissions, ships at sea, and aircraft.”

The radio uses only two tubes, a 6BZ6 detector and a dual purpose 6AW8A, triode half acting as the audio preamp and feeding the pentode half which is the audio output stage. I didn’t build my Span Master – I found it at a local estate sale. But it was nicely constructed, and just needed a little contact cleaner on the switches and controls. Regenerative radios can be pretty sensitive, and the Span Master certainly is. Using a ten or twelve foot long wire attached to the antenna terminal, all of the local Chicago area AM Broadcast Band stations come in with room filling volume – including WTMJ in Milwaukee. On Band 2 – 1650 kc to 5 Mc –I was able to tune in ham operators using AM in the 160 Meter band and 75 Meters, around 3885 kc. Band C, 4.5 to 16.5 Mc, yielded the WWV time signal transmissions from Boulder Colorado on 10 Mc plus several foreign shortwave broadcasting stations in the 31 and 25 Meter bands. And on Band 4, I did hear some CB chatter around 27 Mc.

Radios such as this were marketed in the days before Single Sideband (SSB) became popular in the amateur bands, and this mode is difficult to tune in on such a receiver to say the least. Neither the Main Tuning nor the Bandsread variable capacitors have any gear reduction drives so tuning is pretty fast except on the broadcast band. By carefully advancing the fine regeneration control I was able to pick out some CW (Morse code) transmissions, but it wasn’t fun. And the instructions do suggest the use of a (high impedance) long wire antenna rather than one of the modern 50 or 72 Ohm coax fed antennas.



Knight Span-Master

can then pick out your favorite flea market parking space and lend a hand for a few minutes when the gates open at 7. We could also use some help Saturday afternoon after 2 pm setting up signs, the PA system, tables, etc.

Anyone who can help out or who needs advance tickets or more information can call Jim Novak at 708-442-4961 or email WA9FIH@aol.com.

HAM RADIO AND ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET
Also featuring Antique and Vintage Radios – now Bigger and Better than ever!
SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO
57th ANNUAL
HAMFEST
and Antique Radio Club of Illinois Swap Meet
plus Midwest Classic Radio Net Hamboree!
Sunday, June 15, 2014
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Illinois
 2015 Manchester Road (North of Roosevelt Rd. [Rte. 38], East of County Farm Rd.
 GPS COORDINATES: N41.866667, W-88.132989
GATES AND FLEA MARKET OPEN 7 A.M. BUILDINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC 8 A.M.



- All Weather, Large Outdoor Flea Market AND More than 20,000 square feet of indoor selling space for those who prefer to be inside
- AMSAT, ARRL, NWS/Skywarn and Dealer Displays
- Good Food and Refreshments at Reasonable Prices
- Free Parking – no extra charge for outdoor space
- Donation Auction at 11 a.m. – Proceeds to ARCI (Radios, Test Eqt., Parts Only – NO PCs)
- Overnight RV Parking w/110 V hookup -- must Register in Advance!
- 1st - \$300, 2nd - \$200, 3rd - \$100 awarded at 1 p.m.
- TICKETS: Advance \$6.00; At Gate \$8.00 – Use form below to order advance tickets.
- ARRL VE Testing 9-11 a.m. \$15 Exam Fee
- ARRL Awards QSL Card Checking 9-11 a.m.
- TALKIN: K9ONA 146.52, K9ONA/R 146.37/97 (107.2)
- **ALL TRAFFIC ENTER GATE S-7 EAST OF BUILDING**
- INFORMATION: E-Mail WD9GJK@arrl.net or call our 24 Hour InfoLine – (708)442-4961.



VISIT OUR WEB SITES:
 SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO: www.k9ona.com
 ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS: www.antique-radios.org
 MIDWEST CLASSIC RADIO NET: www.mcrn.tripod.com
PLEASE NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED
NO SALE OF FOOD OR BEVERAGES IN FLEA MARKET -- All Sellers Responsible for Cleanup of Their Spaces!

Return with check payable to "Six Meter Club of Chicago" and Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope to: Six Meter Club of Chicago, 3532 Raymond Avenue, Brookfield IL 60513-1204 *no later than June 1, 2014.*
 Please send Tickets/Reservations as follows:

ADVANCE TICKETS (every attendee age 12 and over).....# _____ @ \$6.00 ea. = \$ _____
 COMMERCIAL DEALER TABLES 8 ft. w/110 V.....# _____ @ \$12.00 ea. = \$ _____
 NOTE: No extra charge for tables w/110V as available, first come first served!
 OVERNIGHT RV PARKING FAIRGROUNDS FEE (includes 110V).....# _____ @ \$25.00 ea. = \$ _____
 PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

RADIOFEST 2014 PLANNING UPDATE

By Olin Shuler, ARCI President

COMMEMORATING THE WORLD WARS

RADIOFEST 2014 IS COMING! Reserve the dates of July 31st, August 1st and 2nd. We will be returning to the Willowbrook Inn and Conference Center. 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 be co-sponsored by four important clubs, making it truly THE National Event of the summer!

AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN DUES, SWAP MEET SELLING SPACE, OR AUCTION FEES. Dues: \$20. First selling space: \$45 Pre-registered, \$50 on site registered. Additional selling spaces: \$25 Pre-registered, \$35 on site. Table rental; (8 ft) pre-registered only, \$15. One-day single space: Saturday, \$30.

Special Notice: The entertainment at the Friday Night banquet will feature Chicago's very own *LEGACY GIRLS*, a trio deftly re-creating the amazing sounds and style of the 1940's *ANDREWS SISTERS*. Come and enjoy! Banquet tickets are priced at \$35 per person, or 2 for \$65.



The Legacy Girls – The Sounds and Style of the Andrews Sisters.

NEWS FROM THE HAM SHACK

By Jim Novak, WA9FIH

ALLIED RADIO'S KNIGHT-KIT SPAN MASTER RECEIVER

Allied Radio offered many radio kits under the Knight name over the years, including some very basic “beginner” sets using one or two tubes in a regenerative type circuit, the least expensive using plug-in coils for different band coverage – one AM broadcast band coil included with the kit, others optional and with only a chassis and front panel, cabinet optional as well. When I was a young ham back in the 1960's, Knight kits were designed and packaged in a modern plant in Maywood, alongside the Congress (now Eisenhower) Expressway.

An advertisement for the Knight Span Master receiver kit. At the top, there are three small illustrations: a person tuning a radio, an airplane, and a person listening to a radio. Below these are the phrases "TUNE IN ON HAM BANDS . . .", "LISTEN TO AIRCRAFT . . .", and "PLUS ALL YOUR FAVORITE AM PROGRAMS". The main headline reads "Fun to Build . . . Fun to Use . . . a Pride to Own!". In the center is a photograph of the Knight Span Master receiver kit, a rectangular metal cabinet with two large round dials on the front panel and several smaller knobs and switches. Below the photo, it says "COMPLETE WITH CABINET". Further down, it says "travel the world from your armchair—hear history in the making!" and "Famous 'Span Master'® 4-Band Shortwave Receiver Kit". At the bottom, there are four bullet points: "Covers AM Broadcast and International Shortwave from 540 kc to 30 mc", "4 Tuning Ranges with Handy Bandswitch", "AC Transformer Power Supply for Peak-Efficiency Tube Performance", and "Sensitive Regenerative Circuit". On the right side, there is a price tag that says "ONLY \$25.95 NO MONEY DOWN".

Allied Catalogue Listing For The Knight Span-Master.

One Knight radio with a more sophisticated appearance was the Span Master, which first appeared in ads during the fall of 1958, and was still cataloged until 1977, toward the end of Knight's vacuum tube offerings. The Span Master, initially offered as a \$25.95 kit, featured two prominent round dials for Main Tuning and Bandspread, covered 540 kc through 30 Mc with bandswitching through four bands, a built in speaker (other basic Knight receivers required the use of headphones), and in addition to a main regeneration control, also had a “Fine Regen” control to make setting the rather critical level of regeneration much easier. No batteries required, either

Jerry Siegal, designed several logo options. The one we chose was a sketch based on a radio I owned at the time, a Priess Straight 8 radio and antenna. It is still our logo today.

After we were established, George Hausske from Wheaton, IL became our newsletter editor. The following year we added a fourth officer, Rosemary Dittmer, as Secretary. A year later in 1981, we decided to organize a major meet each year called *Radiofest*. *Radiofest* was an immediate success and drew collectors from around the world. One of the highlights of *Radiofest* was when Dr. Ralph Muchow generously opened his radio museum in Elgin to all attendees.

The Antique Radio Club of Illinois grew quickly thanks in large part to two people, Anita Gold and Chuck Schaden. Anita Gold was one of the country's top antique experts who promoted *Radiofest* in her nationally syndicated column that she wrote for the Chicago Tribune. Chuck Schaden, a Chicago area broadcaster and historian who frequently mentioned the club, promoted our events including *Radiofest* and interviewed club officers on the air.

Today, the Antique Radio Club on Illinois has more than 500 members from around the world. The group holds bimonthly meetings, which draw collectors from across the Midwest. *Radiofest* continues and will celebrate its 34th anniversary this August - when temperatures are sure to be above zero.

Barry Janov, a founder of the Antique Radio Club of Illinois, now serves as Board chairman. Barry has been collecting antique radios since 1978. He has arranged numerous historical displays at museums and other facilities, given talks on the history and collecting of antique radios and had a feature article on his collection along with his friend, Danny Gustafson, a TV and RCA collector in Forbes magazine. He has been interviewed for articles that appeared in the Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune and other publications. Barry is a member of the Antique Wireless Association, The British Vintage Wireless Society, the Indiana Historical Radio Society, The Radio Club of America, the Michigan Antique Radio Club, the Wisconsin Antique Radio Club and, of course, the Antique Radio Club of Illinois.



*Founding Officers of ARCI:
Joe Willis President, Larry Wright Treasurer, Barry Janov Vice President.*

This year *Radiofest 2014* will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, and the 70th anniversary of D-Day in World War II. Communications technology leaped forward as a result of each historic event. A special Atrium display will feature hardware and memorabilia from both periods. – And a heads-up to our military radio collectors and their friends. Special plans are brewing for the vintage ham station that operates at each *Radiofest*.

This year's contest categories are: Radios Pre-1930, Radios Pre-WWII (to 1945), Radios Post-WWII (1946 & later), Military Radios, Catalin & Rare Plastic Radios, Transistor and Novelty Radios, Speakers, Vacuum Tube Audio, Radios Made In the Midwest, and Open.

The opening night auction will be in the hotel Ball Room followed by our traditional pizza party. Our enhanced A/V equipment makes it a "class-act!" The huge quantity and excellent quality of items available in the auction made this a great event. Jim Sargent from VRPS is returning to co-manage the auction. We look forward to refinements in our computerized check-in, sale tracking, and expedited check-out procedures.

Radiofest 2014 speaker's programs will feature four sessions, with a break during the noon hour, to accommodate the ladies luncheon. Subjects include military radio in World War II, Amateur radio activities on a radio-silent home front, vintage radio repair, and more. Stay tuned for further details.

The Donation Auction is scheduled for Saturday 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. -- And remember, *Radiofest* is your show!! And, we are looking for suggestions on ways to improve it. The feedback we received last August was extremely helpful. If you have a good idea, please contact Olin Shuler at oshuler@comcast.net.

| RADIOFEST 2014 FEES |
|---|
| <i>Selling Spaces – 1st \$45.00 Pre-registration, \$50.00 On site registration; Additional Spaces \$35.00; Saturday Only \$30.00</i> |
| <i>Banquet – \$35.00 each; \$65.00 per couple</i> |
| <i>8' TABLE RENTALS – \$15.00 each; Only through pre-registration</i> |

**RADIOFEST 2014
PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE**

THURSDAY (7/31)

Pre-Registration Available After 5pm
Main Auction at 6:30pm (Main Ballroom)
Free Pizza Party After Auction

FRIDAY (8/1)

7am Registration / *Radiofest* Opens
Flea Market All Day
Special Event Ham Radio Station - All Day
Hospitality Tent & Food Service - All Day
Educational Programs (East Ballroom)
Ladies Luncheon (Restaurant)
Old Equipment Contest (West Ballroom)
Banquet & Entertainment (East Ballroom)

SATURDAY (8/2)

Free Seller's Raffle at 9:15am
Donation Auction at 9:30 am
Flea Market Until Noon

**RADIOFEST 2014
PRELIMINARY PROGRAMS (As of March)**

**RADIOFEST PROGRAM PLANNING IS IN PROGRESS
PRELIMINARY TOPICS INCLUDE:**

WWII Radio

Ham Radio In The War

Vacuum Tube Audio Panel

Additional Topics Will Be Announced In June's ARCI News

OUTSIDE PROGRAM UNDER THE TENT

**THE RADIO CLINIC
*Ed Huether***

An informal radio clinic out in the tent from around 9:00 AM continuing as long as there is interest. Ed will cover radio repair topics (e.g. trouble-shooting, alignment). He will also be very open to questions, and people can bring in a radio they are trying to fix to ask about it.

statewide meeting was inspired the previous summer after my friend Joe Willis and I attended the Antique Radio Club of America's (ARCA) annual meeting at the same hotel in Elgin. I met Joe, a jewelry salesman, through Zenith dealer Wally Holiday. Wally had a large collection of antique Zenith radios, some of which were displayed in his showroom window at his electronics store in Lombard, another suburb directly west of Chicago.

Joe and I were new to collecting when we attended the ARCA meeting hosted by renowned radio collector Dr. Ralph Muchow, a resident of Elgin with a remarkable radio collection. As inexperienced collectors, we were in disbelief when we arrived in Elgin for the ARCA meeting and saw so many radios in one location. Collectors had traveled across the country and the world. They were selling, trading and displaying hundreds or radios in the hotel parking lot.

It was a time when battery radios such as Atwater Kent breadboards, early crystal sets and associated memorabilia were the hottest items for collectors. For us, meeting other collectors was also a thrill because this was a time when there was no internet to connect collectors or share information. Everything was word of mouth. In the weeks following the ARCA meeting, Joe and I decided to create a statewide group so we could connect with others who shared our eccentric new passion for collecting antique radios, finding deals, discovering pieces of history and talking about topics such as original finish, tubes and crystals.

Joe and I mapped our plans for the Illinois meeting one day while we were enjoying lunch at radio collector Burt Katz's Pequod's Pizzeria in Morton Grove, just northwest of Chicago. We later made arrangements with the Elgin Holiday Inn to use one of their large rooms for our meeting. We told every collector (and potential collector) we knew to attend the upcoming event. We mailed invitations to ARCA's Midwest membership list.

"I remember getting a postcard telling me about the start of ARCI and how I looked forward to that date because I only knew of a couple guys that had interest," said collector Jeff Aulik, who serves on the current club board and runs the *Radiofest* contest. "At the time I only had a few common radios," he added.

Joe and I had no idea if anyone would show up. So when 40 people arrived, we were shocked. That first event included a formal meeting at which we decided to call our new group, the Antique Radio Club of Illinois. Every attendee received an engraved money clip that read "Charter Meeting - ARCI- 2-16-80."

Officers were elected, including Joe as President. We agreed to nominate Wally Holiday as vice-president. However, when Wally did not show up for the meeting, I was elected Vice President. Larry Wright, from Algonquin, IL, still an active club member, was elected Secretary/Treasurer. We decided to hold four meetings per year on Sunday mornings at the Elgin Holiday Inn. All we needed were articles of incorporation and bylaws.

Since the club was new and had no funds, we relied on personal favors. In the following weeks, my niece, MaryAnn Wilson, an attorney, handled the legal paperwork needed to create a non-profit organization. My closest friend, an artist,



My Family Crosley.

assigned bands. One Sunday afternoon the house was quiet, my parents were gone, and with nothing better to do, I turned on the Crosley and moved the band switch to the red band (the first time it had been moved in 6 years), and set the pointer to the word "amateur" between 3.5 and 4.0. I discovered the 75 meter phone band. The band was alive with good natured fellows talking about their "rigs" and the innermost secrets of ham radio. I understood a little bit of what they said, and at least learned the correct pronunciation of the terms I had read about. My education took a leap forward and I was hooked.

Between 1948 and 1951 my interest in ham radio grew. Working in Quincy, I would go home for the weekend and listen on Sunday mornings to the *Illinois Emergency Network Roll Call* check-in at 3940 kc, on 75 meters, at 9:00 AM with W9KCX Springfield (Doc) as net control. I believe Doc was Chief Radio Operator for the Illinois State Police. Roll call lasted about 25 minutes with stations checking in from all around the state, with weather and temperature reports, sage remarks, and occasional traffic. My dad loved to listen to "them fellers" really having a good time. – "The best thing on the radio on Sunday Morning", he said, encouraging my interest.

In spite of the arrival of a 17 inch TV in 1955, after replacing a few capacitors and a new speaker the Crosley held its position of dominance well into the 1970s, at least for daytime use. After my father's death in 1978, it continued as one of my mother's valued possessions, remaining part of her household furnishings until her passing in 1997. Right now it is at rest, powered down, on a table in my living room wondering where all of the good big band music and the AM signals on 75 and 20 meters have gone.

HISTORY ZONE

An Occasional Column On Topics of Interest

By Barry Janov

TWO COLLECTORS MAKE WAVES WITH CREATION OF STATE RADIO CLUB ANTIQUA RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS CELEBRATES 34 YEARS

No hour was too early and no weather too cold to keep collectors away from what would be-come the first meeting of the Antiqua Radio Club of Illinois.

It was 15 degrees below zero and still dark when passionate collectors began showing up at 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 16, 1980, at the Holiday Inn in Elgin - a suburb 40 miles northwest of Chicago. The idea to create a group for Illinois collectors and host a

RADIOFEST 2014 **SPECIAL ATRIUM DISPLAY**

THE WORLD WARS

Military radios and memorabilia from WWI and WWII to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI and the 70th anniversary of D-Day. If you have an item you wish to display, please fill out the form in this issue.

RADIOFEST 2014 **CONTEST CATEGORIES**

With Awards For:

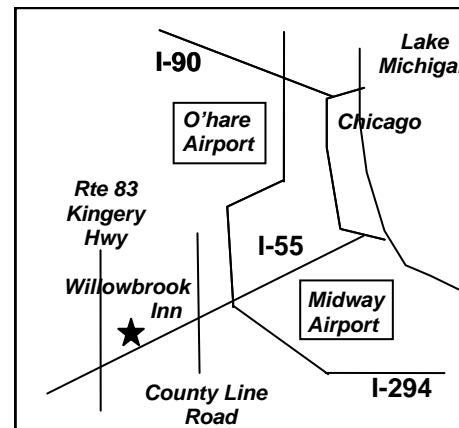
*Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Muchow "Best Of Show" Award
People's Choice Award
Chairman's Trophy; Best Restoration; Best Historical Display
1st, 2nd, 3rd Per Category*

*Radios Pre-1930
Radios Pre-WWII (to 1945)
Radios Post-WWII (1946 & later)
Military Radios
Catalin & Rare Plastic Radios*

*Transistor & Novelty Radios
Speakers
Vacuum Tube Audio
Radios Made In The Midwest
Open*

RADIOFEST HOTEL — SAME LOCATION

Radiofest 2014 will return to the *Willowbrook Inn & Conference Center*, not far from both Chicago airports (20 miles from O'Hare and 15 miles from Midway). Hotel reservations for July 31 - August 2, 2014 must be made directly with the Willowbrook Inn. The hotel is offering discounted rates for radio show attendees starting at \$99.00. You must mention ARCI to get the discounted rate. Last year there was some confusion with the national booking service about room rates, so we recommend calling the hotel directly. We strongly recommend that you make your reservations early. Last year the hotel sold out.



Willowbrook Inn Hotel & Conference Center
7800 South Kingery Hwy (Rte 83)
Willowbrook, IL 60527

Reservations: 1-866-539-0036
Front Desk: 1-630-325-6400
Hotel Fax: 1-630-325-2362

Check-In: 3:00 PM - Check-Out: 12:00 PM

RADIOFEST APPLICATION

showing three bands, in blue, red and green, with the globes emblem in the center below the name Crosley. And 4 knobs in a triangle pattern --WOW!

New antenna wire was somehow included in the deal, and with a ladder borrowed from our carpenter neighbor, the antenna was up and working in short order. The short wave bands were interesting to my parents for a while; especially to my mother, who would listen for broadcasts in Czech or Polish. As time passed, some re-broadcasts of Hitler's rantings were heard, and broadcasts in English from London at the start of the War. Shortwave interest faded in the family and the radio settled in as the authoritative source of news and entertainment.

In the winter of 1937-38, I had whooping-cough, measles, chicken-pox, and mumps in rapid succession and, home from school, became addicted to day-time soap operas. *Ma Perkins, Our Gal Sunday, Road of Life, Vic & Sade, Mary Marlin, When A Girl Marries*, etc. And whether sick or well, there was always *Tom Mix and his Ralston Straight Shooters; Captain Midnight; Jack Armstrong, "The All-American Boy"; The Air Adventures of Jimmy Allen; Sky Blazers; The Lone Ranger; Superman; and Little Orphan Annie* with her round eyed dog, Sandy.

Early one Sunday evening, in December, 1941, when afternoon guests had departed, it was time for the Sunday evening radio ritual to begin, with *Gene Autry's Melody Ranch*. On came the Crosley and out came news of the Pearl Harbor attack and our entry into World War II. Between brief news interruptions, the normal Sunday programs continued on through *Jack Benny, The Fitch Band Wagon, One Man's Family* and other regular Sunday evening shows.

Throughout the War, the Crosley kept us informed and entertained. Soap operas by day, news and variety shows in the evening; without repair, and in the six different houses we called home. Then it brought news of D-Day, VE Day, VJ Day, and the Iron Curtain. I chanced to be at my parents home on vacation in June, 1950 when the Crosley told me about the start of the Korean War in June of that year. I realized that the pattern of my life had just been re-set; this would my war go and serve. It told my parents the news of the cease fire and truce in August of 1953 and I was home a few months later.

In 1945 and 1946 I discovered the three passions that would provide enjoyment for the rest of my life; girls, the technical side of radio, and big band jazz. The Crosley provided the driving force for the latter two. The big band era was still in full bloom with very good DJs at three St. Louis radio stations supplying the music and background trivia. Its 6-inch electromagnetic speaker, extra stage of audio, and bass tone control contributed their share.

Along the way, I had built a one tube super-regen set and read enough to more-or-less understand how it worked. From the time the Crosley was new I had noticed the word "Amateur" printed at a couple of locations on the red and green shortwave dial scales. Listening there earlier, as a 9- or 10-year old, I probably didn't understand the words I heard, and just moved on. Now, with enough knowledge to understand, I saw an article in the newspaper announcing the post-war return of radio amateurs to their

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| <h1>RADIOFEST</h1> | |  |
| July 31st thru August 2nd, 2014 | | |
| Willowbrook Inn, 7800 South Kingery Hwy (Rte 83) Willowbrook, IL 60527 (630) 325-6400 | | |
| All hotel reservations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn. Discounted Hotel rates for ARCI members begin at \$99.00. | | |
| RADIOFEST Will Feature a Large Radio Swap Meet, Radio Contest, Informational Presentations, Appraisal Tent & Auctions. Also the banquet returns with entertainment and awards Events and Schedule subject to change. Watch our website for updates at: www.antique-radios.org <i>All sellers must be members of ARCI - NO ADMISSION CHARGE FOR NON-SELLERS</i> | | |
| ARCI Membership (\$20.00) (If not currently a member) | \$ _____ | One Day Single Space Rates |
| First Selling Space | \$ _____ | Saturday Only (\$30.00) |
| \$45.00 Pre-Registration | | \$ _____ |
| \$50.00 On Site Registration | | Banquet (Four Course Meal) and Show |
| Additional Spaces | | Breast of Chicken With Raspberry-Pecan Sauce |
| \$25.00 Each Pre-Registration | | # _____ Attending times \$35.00 = \$ _____ |
| \$35.00 Each On Site Registration | | Trout Almandine |
| # _____ times \$25.00 or \$35.00 = \$ _____ | | # _____ Attending times \$35.00 = \$ _____ |
| Table Rentals — 8 foot table | | Roast Sirloin of Beef Au Jus |
| Rentals - Pre-registration only | | # _____ Attending times \$35.00 = \$ _____ |
| # _____ times \$15.00 = \$ _____ | | Pasta Primavera |
| | | # _____ Attending times \$35.00 = \$ _____ |
| Please check here _____ if you are buying a sellers space | | Less discount (2 for \$65.00) = \$ _____ |
| just to reserve a parking space so that we can keep all | | |
| sellers grouped together. Thank you! | | TOTAL OF ALL \$ _____ |
| NAME: _____ | Special Requests By Sellers And Names of Guests With Banquet Selections | |
| ADDRESS: _____ | _____ | |
| PHONE # DAY: _____ EVENING: _____ | _____ | |
| E-MAIL: _____ APPLICATION DATE: _____ | _____ | |
| EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ | _____ | |
| In order to mail out your confirmation and parking/selling location prior to RADIOFEST we must receive your registration on or before July 10, 2014. Registrations received after that date will need to be picked up at the registration booth at the show. <u>Parking and selling locations will be assigned by ARCI and may vary on day of show.</u> | | |
| Make check payable to ARCI and mail to: ARCI c/o Edward & Judy Huether; 1039 Troost Ave.; Forest Park, IL. 60130 Have Questions or need more information? Check our website at www.antique-radios.org or send e-mail to clubinfo@antique-radios.org | | |
| FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY | | |
| Date Received _____ | Registration # _____ | Check # _____ Spaces _____ |



*The Atwater Kent Model 854
of my childhood.*

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Doctor advertised his Brinkley Clinic where he specialized in male rejuvenation surgery, using goat gland transplants. Many patients claimed effectiveness, and eager new patients flocked to his clinic in Mexico. Priced at \$750, comparable to the cost of a new car, the Doctor became a self-made millionaire during the Great Depression. Several country music entertainers got their start at his station. He was controversial but likeable and had many fans and followers. I remember hearing neighbors and relatives talking about his latest pronouncements on life and morality. He set a 1930's benchmark for today's controversial radio talk show hosts, who are sometimes also sponsored by products offering men similar "benefits".

Other XERA programs included live and recorded country music consistently sponsored by mail-in sales of products such as, Kolorbak hair dye, Peruna health tonic, inexpensive razor blades, watches, prayer shawls and Bibles. Listeners who mailed a dollar to fortune teller, Rose Dawn, could have their fortunes told on the air or by return post card. Job security of the "air-talent" depended on the amount of mail they could draw, and XERA often received 10,000 pieces of mail per week! Country DJ Randy Blake, later known in the Midwest for his work at WJJD Chicago was an XERA alumni. I smiled the other day when a lesser syndicated satellite talk show host read a commercial for the "Dollar Shave Club", selling razor blades just like Randy Blake (The Blade-Man) in the good old days on WJJD, but not nearly as convincingly.

In the spring of 1937, I was in the first grade. I could read fairly well, but listening to the radio took priority. One Sunday afternoon my dad quietly disappeared for awhile and returned carrying this rather large box. I recognized the familiar name CROSELY on the front of the box, and the words "You're there with a Crosley", printed below a picture of two world globes in a big circle. On the top of the box were the words "Do Not Drop." Below it was a rather long word, six or seven letters maybe, that started with an F and ending with an exclamation mark. It took a while to figure that out.

I looked on eagerly as dad opened the carton flaps. I saw the polished wooden speaker grille, and caught a whiff of a strange new odor that I would later relate to model airplane glue, lacquer, and the interior of new cars. Out came a flawless new table radio (Model 716) with a stunning large round dial, with white lettered glass



RADIOFEST 2014

SPECIAL ATRIUM DISPLAY

AUGUST 1, 2014

REGISTRATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE JUNE 15, 2014

****THE WORLD WARS****



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 FRIDAY AFTERNOON AT APPROXIMATELY 3PM WITH TAKEDOWN AFTER 10PM FRIDAY NIGHT. SATURDAY 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, 847-265-6574, 351 CHERRY COVE LANE, ROUND
LAKE BEACH, IL 60073**

SPECIAL RADIOFEST DISPLAY

By Keith Shreiter

THE WORLD WARS

This year is the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I and the 70th anniversary of D-Day in World War II. Many new radio technologies were born in both

wars. We invite you to commemorate the anniversaries of THE WORLD WARS by participating in our special display theme for *Radiofest 2014*. 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 WWI and WWII military radio items. We are looking for your contributions such as:

- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard radios
- Related telephone, telegraph, wireless and other communications items
- Advertising and memorabilia from WWI and WWII
- Related items from famous news stories and other events

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

Please submit the RADIOFEST 2014 SPECIAL ATRIUM DISPLAY REGISTRATION FORM which will be available at the April meet and is also downloadable from our ARCI website. Submit it to Keith Schreiter no later than June 15 for consideration by the committee. Our intent is to notify each applicant no later than July 4 regarding which items will be accepted for display.

NOTE: The Atrium 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 if you would like to participate.

RADIO ZONE

An Occasional Column On Topics of Interest
By Olin Shuler

SOME RADIOS I HAVE KNOWN

In December, 1935 electric service first came to our little town of 250 people, located in a rural area half-way between St. Louis, Missouri and Springfield, Illinois. Along with it, came a second-hand Atwater Kent Super-heterodyne Radio, Model 854, which operated from “light socket power” as it was then known. The AK replaced our two-tube Crosley Model 52, battery operated super-regenerative radio, with two sets of headphones. It required a long high outdoor antenna that ran from the gable peak of our house to the peak of a small barn/chicken house 75 feet away. The antenna wire made its way to a lightning arrester and entered the house directly, through a porcelain tube that also contained a heavy insulated wire connected to the lightning arrester and on to a pipe driven into the ground below.

The Atwater Kent didn't have many tubes, but it did have a large loudspeaker that freed us from the headphones. What a joy. With two sets of phones and 3 people in

the house, someone always came up short. (In later years I would learn that the AK did not have an IF amplifier stage; instead going directly from the mixer stage, through a single IF transformer, to the audio detector and amplifier stage.) Our long high antenna overcame most of the radio's inherent short comings and brought in St Louis stations and the 50 Kw stations from Chicago and sometimes FAR beyond.



Our Original Crosley Model 52.

The radio was our main source of entertainment then, turned on each evening shortly after supper, when mother had finished the dishes. Each evening brought another group of favorite weekly programs. Like everyone else our favorites were *Jack Benny, Amos and Andy, Lum and Abner, Fibber McGee and Molly, and Fred Allen*. We knew all of them immediately by the sound of their voices -- and all of the music and

comedy shows, too. News broadcasts were still rare; but there was Walter Winchell with his “telegraph bug” sound effect, every Sunday evening. “Good evening Mr. and Mrs. North and South America, and all the ships at sea; let's go to press!” Gabriel Heater gave news a solemn sound in the early days of WWII. Later in the war, when news was brighter, he was known for his opening phrase “Ah yes, there's good news tonight!”

But in 1936, another compelling, authoritative bass voice stood out and gained my (then 6 year-old) attention, along with many other listeners. Dr. John R. Brinkley, in his own way, was a true radio pioneer and set a sometimes dubious standard for audience appeal, salesmanship, and engineering advancement in the new field of radio broadcasting. On the air nightly, Dr. John R. Brinkley extolled basic conservative virtues, fundamentals of religion, medical advice and his Brinkley Clinic, all interspersed with country music. He pioneered high-powered broadcasting from his one million watt station XERA in Via-Cuna Mexico, deftly positioned at 840 kc on the radio dial, between two powerful Chicago stations. Later, at the peak of his popularity he beamed 1.5 Megawatts ERP, blanketing 90 % of the USA and into Northern Canada and Alaska. Smelling success, other broadcasters and predecessors to Wolfman Jack, also sprang up across the border using similar business models. During WWII, with Brinkley's demise, his transmitter design engineer/builder was recruited by the U.S. State Department to build the *Voice of America* network of world-wide high powered short wave stations.