

# RCI NEWS www.antique-radios.org

Affiliated AWA Ant que W reless Assoc at on Volume 38, Issue 5 October, 2019









RADIOFEST 2019 - A HUGE SUCCESS!!

(Photos by Dan Schoo)

## **UPCOMING OUTDOOR MEET OCTOBER 6, 2019**

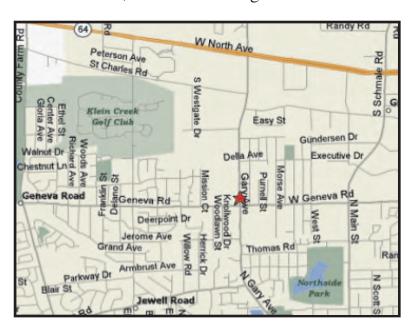
#### AMERICAN LEGION HALL

570 South Gary Avenue, Carol Stream, IL

October 6, 2019 7AM - 11AM

**Business Meeting 9:30 am** 

Free Coffee and Donuts 50/50 Cash Drawing Raffle



## **2019 ARCI MEET SCHEDULE**

October 6, 2019	7AM-11AM Outdoor Swap Meet Business Mtg./Officer Election 10AM
December 8, 2019	7AM-11AM Indoor Swap Meet Business Meeting 10AM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message in mid-September, it is raining and the Northwest Chicago suburbs are under a "flash flood watch". We certainly have had our share of wet weather this summer and there were many crossed fingers in early August hoping that the rain would stay away from Addison, Illinois and *Radiofest 2019*. As it turned out, that was not the case, and the weather could not have been nicer for our premier annual event. What a great *Radiofest* it was! Our indoor/outdoor venue was again nothing short of fantastic, and our hotel accommodations continue to be top-notch. Our seller registrations were similar to 2018, and the main auction bottom line was the highest ever. As always, *Radiofest* was a packed event, and it is likely that even those who stayed for the entire duration could not possibly have experienced every part of it. However, now you can read all about it right here! This month's *ARCI NEWS* features individual, detailed articles covering individual aspects of *Radiofest 2019*, including the main auction, ham station, display, equipment contest, speaker presentations and banquet. So take a little time to sit back, relax, and read all about what actually happened at our premier ARCI event.

It goes without saying that pulling off a complex event like *Radiofest 2019* was no small feat. Yet, as has been true for prior years, a small, highly dedicated group of volunteers stepped up to the plate and, once again, hit a home run. These volunteers come from all over the country and belong to a variety of different radio clubs. Without their valuable contribution of time, talent and energy, *Radiofest*, as we know it, would simply not be possible. This is something that every ARCI member should never take for granted. So once again, I want to take this opportunity to thank each *Radiofest* volunteer for your help and support in making *Radiofest 2019* one of the very best ever.

Please remember to mark your calendars for our next ARCI meet and business meeting, scheduled on October 6 at the American Legion Hall in Carol Stream. We have many topics to discuss and we would really appreciate your input! This will be our last outdoor meet of the year, weather permitting, but keep in mind that we can always move the festivities indoors should a little rain come our way. We will hold our usual swap meet starting at 7AM, and there will be free coffee and breakfast items. Be sure to stay for the donation auction. The donation auction continues to be a big part of our meets and we really appreciate the generosity of our members—and some nonmembers—in both donating items and bidding high prices at each auction. Thank you!

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



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING BUSINESS MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2019

Every October, ARCI reviews its results from *Radiofest* and begins to conceive of planning for 2020. Please join us for our annual business meeting at 9:30AM on October 6, 2019. There are many items to discuss regarding the needs and future direction of our club. All are welcome to share your thoughts!

The meeting will include a discussion about the officer elections that will take place at the December Meet. We welcome all volunteers to consider running for office. Most of the volunteers return annually, and the use of email, cell phones and other technology has greatly simplified or eliminated many tasks. We anticipate returning to the Shriner's facility as our 2020 location for *Radiofest*. We also anticipate remaining at the American Legion Hall in Carol Stream for our other meets during the year. This means the tasks performed by our volunteers are more automated, and the volunteers have better support; but, we still need new volunteers to preserve the vitality and initiative of one of the best radio collecting clubs in the country. WE NEED YOU! ARCI is your club! Please plan to participate and lend a hand. See you at the meeting.

## THE RADIOFEST 2019 REPORT

By steve Muchow

## **HUGE SUCCESS AT RADIOFEST 2019**

As usual, the few weeks prior to *Radiofest* are always especially busy for ARCI's *Radiofest* team. There are follow-up phone calls to vendors, emails back and forth with each other, last minute changes, and the inevitable "one thing we completely forgot about." This year was no exception. But taken as a whole, *Radiofest 2019* came together even more smoothly than last year as we were able to incorporate improvements learned from previous events. Much of the credit certainly has to go to our wonderful hosts, the Medinah Shriners, with their highly professional banquet staff, and their dedication to helping us pull off a successful meet. The quality of the facility and its employees is second-to-none, making our jobs much easier and less stressful. *Radiofest 2019* was, again, a two-day event (no formal Sunday activity) based on the success and favorable response we received from this format started last year. The theme of *Radiofest 2019* was "ART DECO AND MACHINE AGE ELECTRONICS."

### **Set-Up and Registration**

My first task of the day early Friday morning was to review the weather forecast. Unlike the rainy Friday morning that greeted us last year, this year there were few clouds and mostly a sky of blue! I cannot stress enough what a great feeling that is to know, that we will likely have a dry outdoor swap meet! My wife, Linda, and I grabbed some chalk and marked the parking spaces before



vehicles arrived. The chalk markings, and the nicely printed parking assignment maps

provided to sellers by Judy and Ed Huether, offer a pretty-solid method for sellers to identify their parking assignments. That, coupled with the fact that the lot itself has smooth and unbroken pavement with well-marked lines helps immensely to find spots and allows traffic to move in and out. Our rental items, the tent, Porta Potty and A/V projector were then delivered and set-up in their proper locations. Many thanks to our sellers for not driving stakes and screws into the pavement. This is a requirement for maintaining the excellent condition of the parking lot and for returning to the Medinah Shriners next year. I then noticed that the ham radio operators (Jim Novak and Ron Grams) had arrived and began to set up antennas and move vintage ham gear into the tent.

Rudy Hecker was also in the parking lot setting up a dual-speaker wireless Bluetooth PA System for use during the Saturday outdoor swap meet. Last year, we attempted using a low-power broadcast band AM transmitter to broadcast announcements to automobile and portable radios, but soon found out how limited and unreliable that system was. So ... it was back to the drawing board. The wireless Bluetooth system worked well during our pre-*Radiofest* testing, so we decided to go with it. Ultimately, we were able to broadcast music and announcements, but still need to "fine-tune" a couple of things for next year. This was a big improvement over last year and we have proven that this technology is viable for our outdoor application.

Next, I went indoors to check out the progress for setting up the Friday evening auction. All chairs and tables were in place and John Stone and Nick Tillich were discussing auction logistics. We had moved the auction start time up by one-half hour this year, so the auction "crew" was already busy preparing to check-in and catalogue auction items. An auction event of this size requires many volunteers and most members of the "auction crew" have helped for several years. That goes a long way to ensuring a smooth event. As I watched people bring in their items, I was reminded how great the Shriner's facility is, in that it offers a convenient, sheltered space to unload auction items from vehicles into the auction area. Judy Huether had moved Registration inside the Auction room and was busily handing out pre-registration packets and assigning seller spots for the swap meet. The auction floor and tables were filling up quickly with historical radio-related pieces and I knew it would not be long before auctioneer, Jim Sargent, would call the first item!

Meanwhile, back outside in the swap meet lot, the first group of sellers was already arriving to claim their spaces. Auction attendees were streaming in, and with them, a large number of quality items. In the end, it was a great auction with the final auction item falling under the gavel at about 11PM. This was roughly an hour earlier than last year! Find out more about the *Radiofest 2019* auction in the separate ARCI NEWS article "About the Auction" in this issue.

#### **Swap Meet**

The outdoor swap meet began "in the dark" at 7AM on Saturday morning ... a reminder that the days are getting shorter and that Fall is around the corner. The swap meet area soon became extremely busy. Most sellers seemed happy with the level of activity for the rest of the day and virtually everyone gave a positive review of the facility. Around 8AM, the friendly folks at the Shriners set up a concession stand with coffee and



donuts. Many bleary-eyed attendees were glad to oblige. Later on in the morning, the Shriners switched the concession stand to lunch service, selling hamburgers, brats, chips and drinks--a brisk amount of business went on at the stand between 11AM and 1PM. We are grateful to the Shriners for providing us with this service, since the only other options were either at the hotel restaurant or off premises.

The comments I received from both sellers and buyers at the swap meet were overwhelmingly positive. As previously mentioned, the Shriners facility received a unanimous "thumbs up." Accessibility is great, parking is ample and close by, restrooms easily accessible, and the food concession continues to be a big hit. While overall satisfaction was high, there is always room for improvement. This was our fourth year at the Shriners and we are continually learning what works well and where improvements might be made. Our *Radiofest* team volunteers will discuss *Radiofest* 2019 logistics at the next regular meeting on October 6 in anticipation of planning for *Radiofest* 2020.

#### **Programs**

This year's speaker programs were held in Room B at the Shriners facility. This is a class-room style space has room for about 60 people, making it an ideal venue for all of our presentations. Again, the caliber of the topics and presenters this year was excellent.

 Session 1 Bill Ross Memorial Ham Forum: Our guest speaker for this popular forum was Michael Pettersen, Director of Corporate History at Niles, Illinois based

Shure Incorporated. His topic was "How Shure moved from a war-based economy to an extremely successful peace-time business in the years 1946 to 1955". Shure is a well known manufacturer of high quality microphones, and Michael's presentation was well received by forum attendees. Prior to his presentation, Michael offered a "microphone road show" where attendees brought in microphones for him to appraise.



Michael shared his in-depth knowledge of Shure history and answered many questions from an enthusiastic audience.

- Session 2: Scott Collector and Historian Kent King presented "E.H. Scott in the Art Deco Era." This was a perfect topic and a perfect presenter to complement our "Art Deco and Machine Electronics" theme. As expected, there were many questions for Kent, and a large number of Scott fans and others interested in radio history from the Art Deco era enjoyed his presentation.
- Session 3: ARCI's Vintage Audio guru, Pete Nauseda, presented "Building and Auditioning a Chinese Single-Ended Stereo EL34 Amplifier." Pete has given many Vintage Audio presentations at Radiofests and has quite a following when it comes to Vacuum Tube audio topics. He discussed the amplifier kit he was constructing and the unanticipated challenges he encountered such as lack of readable instructions and lack of shipped parts. He plans to continue sharing his experience with us as he completes this kit

#### **Old Equipment Contest and Special Display**

Immediately across the hall from Room B was The Music Room. We used this large space to hold our combined Old Equipment Contest and our Special Display. Barry Janov managed the display, while Jeff Aulik concentrated on the equipment contest. We have much more detailed info for you on both of these Radiofest 2019 events contained in separate articles in this issue of the *ARCI NEWS*. You can also check out some of the great contest and display photos in these pages as well as on our ARCI web site, <a href="https://www.antique-radios.org">www.antique-radios.org</a>. Thanks to club photographer, Dan Schoo, for supplying photographs.

#### **Donation Auction**

At 3:30PM, Tom Kleinschmidt and Bill Cohn commenced our *Radiofest 2019* Donation Auction, with several eager buyers in attendance. Again, this year we offered an all-day "Donation Sale" (in addition to the Donation Auction). People could buy and sell donated items all day up until 3PM. Items not sold during the day were then placed on the auction block. By 3:30 PM, the auction pile had swelled substantially even with the Donation Sale activity. Tom and Bill spent the next hour or so skillfully working their way through the entire collection of "stuff" ultimately finding homes for much of it. At the end, a recycling company removed unsold consoles, wood cabinets, cardboard boxes, and a few miscellaneous pieces of trash. Between items sold and auctioned off on Saturday, the sale of donated items totaled \$2,461.00, which greatly helps the club's bottom line. Our sincerest thanks to Bill Cohn and Tom Kleinschmidt and volunteers for a job well done and to everyone that donated and purchased items.

#### The Banquet

Our annual Carl & Carolyn Knipfel Awards Banquet commenced at 6:00 PM in the East Medinah Ballroom, with many hungry people in attendance. After a long and occasionally stressful day, it was time to settle in for an evening of great food and drink, pleasant conversation and finally, a little bit of fun. The Medinah Shriners prepared an excellent meal of chicken, hand-carved beef, hand-carved ham, pasta and many "sides" for the group, and served it buffet style. The evening closed with a very entertaining performance by the popular Chicago area musical group: Legacy 3. A special thanks to Judy Huether and Bob Piekarz for ensuring that this closing event at *Radiofest* also ended on a high note!



### AN ART DECO ERA

The theme of *Radiofest 2019* focused on ART DECO and a "surprise" was in store for this year's attendees at the Shriner's facility. Parked just outside the entrance were two immaculate 1930s automobiles. One was a 1938 red Cadillac and the other was a 1935 black Chrysler. Another "surprise" was a beautiful display of ART DECO radios and period pieces located just inside the building lobby. These displays lent an elegant touch to the *Radiofest* experience, and we want to thank ARCI Information Director, Tom Kleinschmidt for handling the logistics to make it all possible. See the pictures below for details.



1938 Cadillac, Fleetwood series 38 7557B coupe, V 8, 5 passengers Owned by Jim and Marge Kleinschmidt from Stew Kleinschmidt collection.



1935 Chrysler, Imperial Airflow C2 sedan, Straight 8, 6 passengers Owned by Mark Smith and Tom Kleinschmidt.



ART DECO LOBBY DISPLAY. Radios left to right: 1937 Stromberg Carlson Model 231 Arm Chair, AM & SW, 7 tubes. 1932 Westinghouse model WR 8 Columaire, AM, 9 tubes. 1937 McMurdo Silver Masterpiece VI with Clifton cabinet, AM, 4 SW, 21 tubes.



An unknown parking scofflaw.

## **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

The ARCI Volunteer of the Year Award was created to recognize individuals who, through their efforts, have made significant contributions to ARCI in support of our vocation, our club, and its activities.

The 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award went to Keith Schreiter (N9QDS) for his tireless efforts in the role of ARCI Secretary/Membership. Keith joined ARCI in 2001 and has faithfully performed the responsibilities as Secretary/Membership since 2009. Readers of ARCI NEWS will also recall his many interesting articles on radio-related topics over the past decade. Due to medical and family issues, as well as a likely move out-of-state, Keith has requested that another person take over his current responsibilities. However, he also graciously volunteered to remain at this position until a replacement can be found.

The ARCI board and Officers thank Keith for unselfishly remaining as our Secretary/Membership Coordinator during the past year and thank him for the many contributions he continues to make to our club.

Congratulations, Keith, on your well-deserved title of Volunteer of the Year!



Keith Schreiter, 2019 Volunteer of the Year.

## FIVE CLUBS MADE THE DIFFERENCE

*Radiofest* continues to have a national reach and typically attracts international participants. Our attendees this year included people from across the country. Radiofest is truly the product of five major clubs and volunteers that span New York to California. We thank each of these organizations and all our volunteers for their tremendous hard work!!









VINTAGE RADIO & PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY, INC.

### **ABOUT THE AUCTION**

The Radiofest 2019 Main Auction was once again a rousing success! Building on our experience from previous years at the Shriner's facility, we decided to make a few minor changes this year to improve efficiency and allow attendees to leave early enough to get some sleep on Friday night! Some changes to streamline the event were to move up the start time by  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour to 6 PM, allow a maximum of 8 lots per registered seller and cap the maximum number of lots at 260.

Our regular auction staff also returned, mostly unchanged from last year. Auctions of this size and scope are never easy to pull off, and we are very fortunate to have such an experienced and dedicated group of individuals to do the "heavy lifting" year after year. Nick Tillich continues to refine his data processing program to make the registration and payment processes work more efficiently each year. This year, these small refinements, aided by good weather and decent traffic conditions, allowed us to come very close to an on time auction start!

As always, Jim Sargent, our auctioneer, did a fantastic job calling the auction, efficiently gaveling his way through 249 lots in a period of about 5 hours. By the final gavel drop, Jim's efforts, and those of all our other volunteers, resulted in the largest auction total in ARCI history, with total sales of over \$46,000!

Here are some key statistics from the auction. 135 persons representing 21 states participated in the auction this year, which is nearly the same as the 137 who participated last year. We had 53 persons who consigned lots, slightly down from the 59 last year (52 in 2017). We had 249 lots consigned, which was a 15% decrease from the 292 lots last year (229 lots in 2017). This lower number was largely driven by the club's decision to limit lots to 8/person and cap the maximum number of lots at 260 so the auction would end at a reasonable hour.

The average sale price was \$260, up from \$170 last year and \$155 in 2017.

177 of the 249 lots consigned this year sold. That means that there were 72 no-sale (reserve not met) lots this year, a no-sale rate of 29%, down from 31.5% last year (22.2% in 2017). Of the no-sale lots, 39 were radios, and 7 were speakers. The remainder of the no-sale items were either advertising items, amplifiers, tubes, test equipment, televisions, parts, or documentation.

The total sales were 46,045, up 35% from last year! Those figures compare with the past 8 years as follows:

Year	Total Sales
2019	\$46,045
2018	\$34,050
2017	\$35,885
2016	32,900
2015	24,705
2014	37,783
2013	26,480
2012	25,300

Compared to last year, the number of items in the  $$50 \sim $99$  price range was nearly identical. The percentage of items in the \$100 and higher categories grew significantly, while the number of items in the \$50 and under category dropped by half!

Hammer Price	Lots Sold 2019	Lots Sold 2018
\$500 or higher	20 (11%)	15 (7%)
\$250 ~ \$499	24 (14%)	22 (11%)
\$100 ~ \$249	58 (33%)	57 (28%)
\$50 ~ \$99	45 (25%)	46 (23%)
Less than \$50	30 (17%)	60 (30%)

Top 15 Lots	Hammer Price
Webster Electric 1920's 6-piece Radio	\$3,200
Troy Model 5X Peach Mirror Radio 1935	2,600
Sterling Primax Cone Speaker	2,100
Capehart Pedestal Speaker	1,600
RCA/GE Dolls 1935	1,500
Emerson Blue Catalin 1947	1,500
Confucius Horn Speaker	1,400
RCA 77DX Microphone 1945	1,400
EKCO A22 Round Radio G.B. 1946	1,400
RCA 40X57 Golden Gate Exposition Radio	1,300
Sparton 557 Sled 1936	1,200
Fada Bullet Green/Blue 1946	1,000
Altec Speaker Pair	800
Dynaco System Incl: PAS-3X, FM-3, ST-35	750
50 Hi-Fi Tubes, most N.I.B.	725

The total price of the top 15 priced lots was \$22,475, up from \$12,625 last year and up from \$13,590 in 2017. The quality of the top 15 items drove the higher overall totals for this year's auction. Several donated items brought in \$1605 for the club (which also helps to cover some costs of Radiofest 2019).

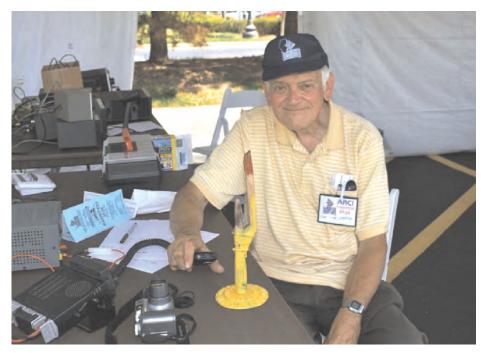
Our sincerest thanks to everyone who participated in the auction, and helped to make it one of the most successful auctions in ARCI history. The auction proceeds will help to offset the costs of Radiofest, and will contribute to the financial stability of our club.



### WA9RCI ON THE AIR AT RADIOFEST

Our Vintage Ham Station at *Radiofest 2019* once again consisted of an interesting array of HF equipment provided by our station trustee, Ron Grams, WB9IMR. And, thanks go to Steve Muchow, K9AHS, for providing the HF vertical antenna. Jim Novak, WA9FIH, brought a 1980's era two-meter FM radio and VHF antenna for local contacts. The HF shortwave bands have been in generally poor shape again this year – propagation is very spotty due to low number of sunspots. But we did manage to make a number of contacts locally with hams on site as well as through the Six Meter Club of Chicago's two-meter (146 MHz) FM repeater system, which extended our range considerably to suburbs such as Elgin, Gurnee, and Joliet.

Jim also brought an interesting ham artifact – a "Wouff Hong" which he is shown holding in the photo by Dan Schoo. The Wouff Hong goes back to the early days of radio just after World War I. It was intended to keep hams operating along a "straight and narrow" path, exhibiting proper operating techniques and procedures. This Wouff Hong, about twelve inches tall and made of heavy cast metal, was given to Jim by an old time ham friend many years ago – it was presented to ham operators who attended the 1938 convention of the ARRL – American Radio Relay League – which was held in Chicago.



Radiofest 2019 Ham Station WA9RCI with Jim Novak, WA9FIH, at the microphone with his 1938 Wouff Hong





## ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB OF ILLINOIS RADIOFEST 2019

## WA9RCI

QTH: Medinah Shriners Center Addison Illinois DuPage County Grid EN51

Operation on Aug. 25-26 on HF with Heathkit HW-104 on SSB; VHF FM, a Kenwood TM-621A with vertical antennas.

Confirming QSO with UTC Freq Mode

QSL to 2335 South 2nd Avenue, North Riverside IL 60546-1308. Tnx & 73

ARCI's 2019 QSL Card.

### GRATEFUL RECOGNITION

Each year, ARCI tries to thank all those who contributed to the success of the club. It takes the efforts of many people to make our club function. On behalf of the ARCI Board of Directors and the membership, congratulations to everyone for their many contributions in achieving a very successful year for ARCI and an outstanding Radiofest 2019!

### RADIOFEST SPONSOR MEMBERS

ARCI offers "Sponsor-Members" status to members who are dedicated to ensuring 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. Sponsor-Members help to provide the "emergency backing." You, as a member, are invited to help and participate as you see fit. Funds, cash-in-person, or checks identified as "Member-Sponsor Fund," should go directly to our Treasurer Rudy Hecker.

We are grateful to 2019 Sponsor Members: Marc Ellis, Ed Huether, Harvey Mattel, Mike Sauer, Daniel Schoo, Olin Schuler, Al Svirmickas, John Warren and the Jay Whipple Family. Thanks to each of you!

# ARCITHANKS ALL OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

We wish to express a special thanks to our sponsors. Thanks to you, many costs are alleviated or reduced. We encourage all our members to help support ARCI throughout the year, but Radiofest in particular requires generous help. Please contact Steve Muchow at smuchow@att.net with any ideas or suggestions for new sponsors interested in discussing arrangements with ARCI going forward.











Post 76



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# RADIOFEST WINNER'S CIRCLE EQUIPMENT CONTEST WINNERS

Radiofest held its annual Old Equipment Contest in August under the direction of Jeff Aulik and Barry Janov. Many great and quite a few rare items were on display. Congratulations to everyone on all the fine entries, and of course, congratulations to the winners!!

#### Dr. Ralph Muchow Best of Show Award

Dwight Hill-Ramstein "Tube Booster" Display

#### **People's Choice Award**

Mark Detgen-Majestic 161

#### Chairman's Award

Harvey Mattel- Sterling Primax Speaker

#### Radios, TV's and Apparatus Pre-1945

1st – Dwight Hill: Ramstein "Tube Booster" Display

2nd – Harvey Mattel: Audia Speaker

3rd – John Reinicke: GE 32C-245 Galvanometer

#### Radios, TV's and Apparatus Post -1945

1st – Rudy Hecker: Erla 22P

Cathedral

2nd – Jim Novak: Hallicrafters Clear Plastic Dealer Display Radio

3rd – John Reinicke: Motorola 5H11

#### **Art Deco and Machine Age**

1st – Geoff Bourne: Lamp Radio-Brand Unknown

2nd – Mark Detgen: Majestic 161

3rd – Tom Kleinschmidt: Majestic

Park Avenue

#### **Advertising and Premiums**

1st – Kip Wallace: Philco Neon Sign 2nd – John Reinicke: RCA Radio Catalog

#### **Open Category**

1st – John Reinicke: Playtape 1200 2nd – Harvey Mattel: Sterling Primax Speaker



## SPECIAL RADIOFEST DISPLAY

# ART DECO AND MACHINE AGE ELECTRONICS

This year we celebrated ART DECO AND MACHINE AGE ELECTRONICS at *Radiofest 2019*. ARCI members brought one or several pieces of equipment for display. We displayed any, and all, radio and electronics items, including:

- Art Deco Radios
- · Machine Age Radios
- Related items that feature the above mentioned styles
- Related items such as original boxes
- Any original documents such as advertising items.

Thanks to Jeff Aulik and Barry Janov for organizing the volunteers, and thank you to everyone who brought items for display.



## NEWS FROM THE HAMSHACK By: Jim Novak, WA9FIH

### REMEMBERING BARKER & WILLIAMSON

Back in the late 1950s when I was in elementary school building little radios out of plans in Popular Mechanics magazine, some of the parts lists referenced "miniductor" coils from Barker and Williamson. Miniductors were sturdy little air coils held together by four thin plastic ribs, and a variety of them could be found in the Allied and Newark Radio catalogs. But, B&W made a lot more than just those coils!

Founded in Pennsylvania in 1932 by two ham radio friends, Barrie Barker, W3DGP, and Jack Williamson, W3GC, the company supplied coils to Hallicrafters, who had several government contracts for military radio equipment dating back to the pre-World War II era, the most well known being the BC-610 transmitter. Hallicrafters was having problems supplying the U.S. Army Signal Corps with a suitable antenna tuner for that radio, but B&W came to the rescue with their design, the BC-939. Hallicrafters' founder, Bill Halligan, came to rely on B&W as a source for quality components, especially "air wound" miliductor-type coils for many of their radios. In fact, one magazine advertisement placed by Hallicrafters, which featured their HT-19 ham transmitter, specifically mentioned the company's use of B&W coils!



B&W and Hallicrafters HT 19.

Although B&W was a major supplier of high quality inductors for many other manufacturers of electronic equipment, they also produced a highly regarded line of amateur radio gear in the 1950s and early 1960s. For example, they offered the model 5100 transmitter, an AM/CW "boat anchor" using a pair of 6146 tubes in the final RF output stage, modulated by another pair of 6146s. Early 5100s covered 80 through 10 Meter ham frequencies including the 11 Meter band. This band was later deleted when the 5100B model was introduced, since the FCC had reallocated 11 Meters to Citizens' Band use. Single Sideband – SSB – was beginning to replace AM for phone operation.



B&W 5100B and 51SB.

B&W introduced the Model 51SB Sideband Adaptor for the 5100B, which was replaced in 1962 by a state of the art Model 6100 SSB transmitter featuring frequency synthesizer operation instead of the traditional VFO (Variable Frequency Oscillator). This provided a more stable signal than a "drifty" VFO could, plus a highly accurate frequency readout. For hams desiring higher power, a matching L1000A linear amplifier using a pair of 813 tubes was also available.

B&W also produced several accessories for the ham market, including the 380B and 381 electronic T-R switch, which replaced a coax relay that changed the antenna feedline from transmitter to receiver. One of their last ham products was the VS-300A antenna tuner, which covered 160 through 10 Meters rated at a capacity of 300 Watts of RF.



B&W L1000A Linear Amplifier.



B&W 6100 SSB Transmitter.



B&W 380B TR Switch.

B&W is still in business today – the founders sold the company in 1964 and moved operations to Florida, where they continue to produce a wide variety of RF coil products for industry.



## **BUSINESS CARD ADS**

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





## ENTIRE RADIO COLLECTION FOR SALE

Breadboard w/ original box crate,
horns, Neutrawound, standing consoles,
Atwater Kent, Federal, Philco, RCA, Radiola, Zenith ...
most are pre-WW2 tube radios (wood & bakelite radios)
Misc. tube radios. Some plastic radios.
Will sell separately / individualized!

Call 1-815-344-6164 after 6:00 PM for details Leave message for "Cathie" | McHenry, IL 60050

## **CLUBBING AROUND**

#### ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION

The AWA will hold its annual membership and board meetings on Sun., Nov. 3 in the Conference Center (across the street from the museum) at the AWA's Antique Wireless Museum complex at 6925 Routes 5 & 20 (intersection with Rt. 444) in Bloomfield, NY. All members are welcome. The AWA, our national affiliate, publishes the AWA Journal and the AWA Review. Dues are \$35 per year. For more information, please see www.antiquewireless.org.

#### WISCONSIN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB, INC.

The Madison Chapter of WARCI will hold a swap meet on Sun, Nov. 3at 8am at The Terminal, 5905 S. Howell Ave., across from the Milwaukee County Airport in Milwaukee, WI. For information, see www.warci.org.

#### NORTHLAND ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

The NARC Fall Indoor Swap Meet will be Nov. 2. For information, please see http://www.northlandantiqueradioclub.com/index.shtml.

#### MICHIGAN ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB

MARC's Vintage Electronics Expo will be on Feb. 1, 2020. For more information on the schedule for MARC's Vintage Electronics Expo, please see http://michiganantiqueradio.org/events/.

#### INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY

The IHRS Fall Foliage Meet will be in October with details TBD. For more information, please see http://www.indianahistoricalradio.org/ihrsched.htm.

## **CLASSFIED**

Everything I have radio related is for sale. Too much to list. If you want to see what I have, call David at 630-336-9790. I live in Woodridge, IL.































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