ANTIQUE RADIO COLLECTORS & HISTORIANS (ARCH) OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

ARCH CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

Special points of interest:

Join us for our next meeting:

July 8th, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Maryland Heights Community Center
300 McKelvey Road,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Meetings are temporally being held at in Maryland Heights Community Center while the Kirk-

Meeting Notes:

14 Members were present at the ARCH June Meeting.

Fred Smith showed a video at the meeting titled "The Great Radio Bonfire of 1929" Google this phrase to find the video on-line. This video featured the burning of 25,000 radios. These radios were not selling due to superheterodyne radios being far super to TRF. The fire occurred to simply reduce the surplus of unsold outdated radios to keep the price of superheterodyne radios "high".

Old & New Business

Appreciation was expressed to Canio and Kathleen for hosting the ARCH Spring picnic at their home. The date & location of the ARCH Fall picnic will be announced later this year.

Check out the Picnic section of this newsletter for a review of the picnic.

The ARCH May newsletter mistakenly stated ARCH club member Stan had passed away. This was an editor's mistake. I thought Stan, when referenced at the meeting, had been a different past ARCH club member. Stan is alive and well.

The radio collection of recently deceased ARCH Club Member Chuck R. is now for sale at the West County Antique Mall. Check out Booth *#89*.

West County Antique Mall
15892 Manchester Road
Ellisville, MO 63011
Hours: M-F 11:00 AM—7:00 PM
Sat & Sun 10:00 AM—6:00 PM

Club dues for calendar year 2025 is again $20.00 dollars. Please support the club and become a paying member. Dues go toward the Christmas party, room rental, and club picnic events.

Event Announcements

Zerobeaters (ZBARC) Washington Hamfest

The 63rd Zerobeater's Hamfest!
July 20th, 2025
Knights of Columbus Hall
1121 Columbus Lane
Washington, MO 63090
https://zerobeathers.org

Antique Radio Club of Illinois—2025 RadioFest Expo

Dates: Friday August 1 & Saturday August 2
Website: https://www.antique-radios.org/

Expo location:
Medinah Shriners
550 N. Shriners Dr.
Addison, IL 60101

Hotel - on Shriner campus:
Hilton Garden Inn
551 North Swift Road
Addison, Illinois 60101
Discounted Hotel rate is $119.00. Ask for "Radio Club of Illinois" through July 4, 2025
Reservations: (630) 691-0500

Local Radio News

Federal Court approved the sale of 88.1 FM KDHX. KDHX, a community media radio station is being sold to Gateway Creative Broadcasting. Gateway Creative Broadcasting is the owner of both Joy FM (99.1 FM) and Boost Radio (95.5 FM).

In December 2024, KDHX management had planned to sell the station to Gateway Creative Broadcasting for $5.2 million. For some unknown reason, in early 2025, KDHX Management decided to sell the station to a different buyer. In March 2025, KDHX planned to sell the KDHX transmitter and license to K-Love. K-Love, an American Christian radio network, does not have a presence in the Saint Louis radio market. The sale price at the time was reported to be between $4.35 and $4.8 million. (Less than agreed before with Gateway Creative Broadcasting.)

Many KDHX volunteers fought within court hearings regarding the future of KDHX. KDHX was found to be a non-profit community radio station. Any selling of the station would violate the original founding philosophy of the station. When the station's hearing was heard within bankruptcy court, a judge simply stated an auction for the stations assets must occur. A competitive bidding started between the two religious station owners. The final sell price became $8.75 Million. (Double the original sell price.) Notably, Gateway Creative Broadcasting is also licensed as a non-profit based organization.

Gateway Creative Broadcasting has committed to host future KDHX Community Media within an HD digital signal created on 88.1 FM. By having an HD presence, this will preserve, to some extent local based programming and community awareness.

Editor's Note: I personally do not own an HD receiver/radio other than the original manufacture radio installed within my vehicle. I have never personally witnessed an HD receiver made for home use for sale at Best Buy or other local electronic stores. The cost of a home based receiver that can receive HD digital signals start at $200.00 on-line. Receiver manufactures must pay a royalty fee for using the proprietary digital signal decoder. This cost is reported to be the main reason HD radio has not been accepted as a standard feature. (This is similar to Motorola's C-QuAM technology that was to provide AM Stereo. Many have thought that bringing both digital stereo to the AM broadcast spectrum will revolu-

National Radio News

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries is supporting two bills. A bill titled "AM Radio in Every Vehicle Act" will require all new vehicles be sold with an AM radio. This bill has currently received half of the Senate support. The 2nd bill being reviewed is titled "American Music Fairness Act". This act would require AM Broadcasters to pay royalties to copyright holder of songs played on an AM radio stations. *Editor's Note: I am sure many AM radio stations are not in a financial position to pay royalty fees… whatever amount these royalty fees are.*

ARCH Spring Picnic

Canio and his wife Kathleen welcomed ARCH Club members to their home. Many club members exchanged stories of radio collection, past members, their current/past jobs, and the local beer industry. A great time was held by all. (*I was sad to see the day end… but all great things come to an end.)* A favorite of many attendants was a 1930s Automaton starring a singing bird. This bird automaton, built by Karl Griesbaum, was commercially made in the 1930's. The bird moves and sings when wound up. (The bird "sings" with the use of a slide whistle.) Many found the bird's craftsmanship and operation to be remarkable, just like individuals in the 1930s likely had. Search for videos of this bird on YouTube.

ARCH Spring Picnic (continued)

Joe Tauser brought the chassis of a Jefferson Travis MR-3 radio he is currently restoring. This radio was brought to illustrate some repair tricks he has recently discovered.

The use of small syringes allows the application of liquid products in tight (confined) areas. These syringes can be found online for ~50 cents each. Joe illustrated how he fills a syringe with WD-40, 3-IN-ONE oil, glue, grease, and other fluids one may need. The use of a syringe permits rapid dispense in a targeted area. Keeps the work bench clean as cans and bottles do not take up space on the table. Joe described how a volume control was stuck. A squirt of acetone at the base of the shaft quickly freed the stuck potentiometer. This is also a great method of cleaning tube socket pins!

Show and Tell - June 2025 Club Meeting

Canio Vaccaro - 1926 King-Hinners Model 25-S
(Mfgr. King Manufacturing Corp, Buffalo, New York)

Canio procured this TRF radio from the Raffle Table at a previous ARCH meeting. Club Member Carl K. had brought this radio to the meeting. Carl purchased the radio at an Estate Sale. Canio stated he had his eyes on the radio quickly because of the front meter. (Front meter is a volt meter to permit the accurate adjustment of tube heater voltages.)

The radio with the front and top lids open. Notice the driver and speaker. The speaker is made of paper machete.

This 6-volt battery operated set had an original price of $185. (Equivalent to $3,353 in today's dollars.)

This radio came in three different models. A console version and two coffin table top models. The table top versions featured an internal speaker or no internal speaker. (Model 25-S has the internal speaker.) This radio is very heavy due to the use of solid Mahogany wood. *"Weighs like a tank because it is built like a tank!"*

The radio with both the front and top lids closed.
This is a photo after the finish was restored

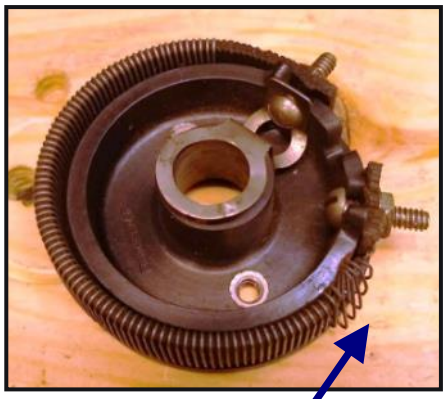
Two rheostats on the front. One controls the volume and the other controls the voltage to the heater filament. The button on the top permits the removal or insertion of a stage of RF amplification. (This stage is not needed when tuned to a strong station.)

Canio Vaccaro — 1926 King-Hinners Model 25-S *(Continued)*

This TRF radio utilizes Neutrodyne capacitors. Neutrodyne capacitors were frequently used within Tuned Radio Frequency (TRF) radios. The use of these capacitors, and an associated specialized coil, reduced the possible occurrence of tube self-oscillation. (Tube self-oscillation occurring will results with an audible squealing sound.) The use of this circuit design was phased out with the development of a tetrode tube. TRF radios were eventually surpassed with the development of a superheterodyne receiver.

The audio driver of this radio was made of pot metal. The case of the driver was cracked. Canio was surprised the coil was still showing continuity when tested. The driver was restored by replacing a dried up rubber gasket.

A rheostat had failed. The wire in the rheostat likely failed due to age. The solid chassis the wire was wound upon was restored and the wire was pushed back into place. Since this is a 6 volt radio, this repair will likely last for the life of the radio.



Notice the mangled rheostat wires. This prevented proper operation.

Cabinet was sanded progressively from 800 grit to 1,500 grit. The use of Goodfilla™ Wood Filler, a water based wood filler, reduced many wood imperfections of this 99 year old radio cabinet

Canio concluded that this radio is now indeed in a presentable and working shape. He wishes he could do more to this radio. Replacing the failed power switch with a OEM style switch is needed. The switch was unique as it was incorporated, via a stack configuration, into a rheostat. The style of this switch has not been seen before by other club members.

The front face of the radio is actually metal. Any type of restoration of the metal front face is not possible. The face looks good also due to the new speaker grill. Canio demonstrated the radio working via a video recorded within his home. This radio is notably more than 3 feet long.

Joe Tauser - A Discussion on Selenium Rectifier replacement

At the picnic, Joe brought his Jefferson Travis MR-3 Radio. When speaking with club members, Joe was asked if he would be replacing the selenium based rectifier. If a selenium based diode or rectifier shows a 1.5 volt drop per fin, the diode is still good. Joe had decided that if it tested good, than he would keep it in the circuit. Joe reported that it later tested good, so he left it alone.

After the picnic, upon replacing a few capacitors, Joe powered on the MR-3 Radio. The radio immediately produced a 60-Hz hum. This hum was baffling to Joe. He put a wire to test the supply voltage and was struck with B+ voltage. He discovered High Voltage (B+) was getting onto the metal chassis.

A picture of a selenium rectifier. Different colors existed between red, green, brown, and gray.

Joe was literally shocked (mentally and physically) that such a high voltage was present on the chassis. Troubleshooting occurred. It was discovered the small mounting bolt was no longer electrically isolated from the chassis. High voltage was traversing the mounting bolt to get on the chassis.

Editor's note: Many selenium based rectifiers/diodes will emit a sweet smelling gas as they heat up due to an internal failure. Selenium rectifiers have a higher forward voltage drop compared to silicone based diodes/rectifiers. Selenium rectifiers were used in place of tube rectifiers. Selenium had many positive attributes, specially for AC & DC radios. Battery draw was reduced due to the reduction of a tube's heater requirement. In addition, a Selenium rectifier is more efficient that a tube rectifier. Ultimately, the selenium was cheaper to produce so it became a common component. A drop-in silicone rectifier diode is not always possible. One must take into account the voltage drop of a selenium diode. This drop may require multiple silicone diodes in series.

Stan Viglione - 1927 Philips-Eindhoven Loudspeaker

Mr. Frederik Philips founded a lightbulb factory in Eindhoven, a town within Netherlands. Philips, a Dutch technology company today, made strives in many technologies after starting the production of light bulbs.

In 1917 Philips started producing vacuum tubes and the production of radios followed starting in 1927. Philips, advanced speaker design by eventually developing the electromagnetic speaker. Philips took pride in developing products that were both functional and had an elegant design.

This reed based speaker, designed by industrial engineer Louis Kalff, was one of two components that formed the 1927 Philips brand radio. The speaker is made of a material called *Philite* which was Philips own brand of Bakelite, a popular resin. (The patent for Bakelite expired in 1927.) This specific speaker was made in 3 or 4 sizes and in 4 or 5 versions. Each version had a driver of a different model. This speaker was the largest size available.

This speaker was known as the "shaving plate", "flying saucer", or "pancake" when it was new. These names are still used among radio collectors. The paper based cone is contained within the smaller bowl. The larger parabolic bowl acts as a sound reflector.

Note: This speaker was hard to photograph at the club meeting. The speaker may appear flat in the pictures. The speaker in fact has many curves and round edges. Pictures simply do not do it justice.

The Philips radio combo available in 1927.

The radio pictured is a Philips No. 2514

Carl Kleinsorge — Jamerson Music House, a company in East Saint Louis, AM Radio

Carl found this radio at an estate sale sitting on a basement shelf. Carl has since searched many resources. He is unable to find anything regarding the existence of this radio's manufacture. From his experience with radios… he believes this radio was built in 1930 or 1931. This is believed as a horseshoe magnet is used within the voice coil speaker. (Internal Speaker is on the left side.) In addition, the tube line up is what would have been used around this time period.

This radio is not currently working and is again a shelf display piece. This is a super-regeneration based radio. Testing of the radio has discovered the regen coil is electrically open. He is not ready to meticulously unwind the coil and discover where the break is. (The wire is of equal thickness than the hair on a frog.)

The radio dial states "Assembled in East Saint Louis". The chassis layout and the style of internal tags/labels identify this as possibly being a Belmont radio. A label tag on the front states it was manufactured by "Jamerson Music House". Notably, this was likely a form of a budget radio due to the tunning knob being directly located on the tunning capacitor.

Dave Kunkle —Various Radio Tube Books & Magazines

Dave has been collecting paper magazines and service manuals. He now has the complete set of RCA receiving tube manuals. (He stated the last manual he needed cost as much as the entire collection!)

Dave brought a collection of magazines. These magazines are in pristine condition as the colors are still vivid. He enjoys looking back at these past, now historical, magazines to see what was for sale and the advertisements. Advertisements Dave mentioned included Concord Radio and Lafayette.

When he started working as a professional engineer, he was given two magazines. A Newark electronics catalog and a McMaster catalog. At the time, these magazines were large in size and are still today very large in size.

The pictured 1938 Newark Electric Company magazine is neat. This was the first Newark magazine to feature the selling of model railroad track, controls, and transformers. Notably, Newark had started in 1934 as a supplier to Amateur Radio enthusiast.

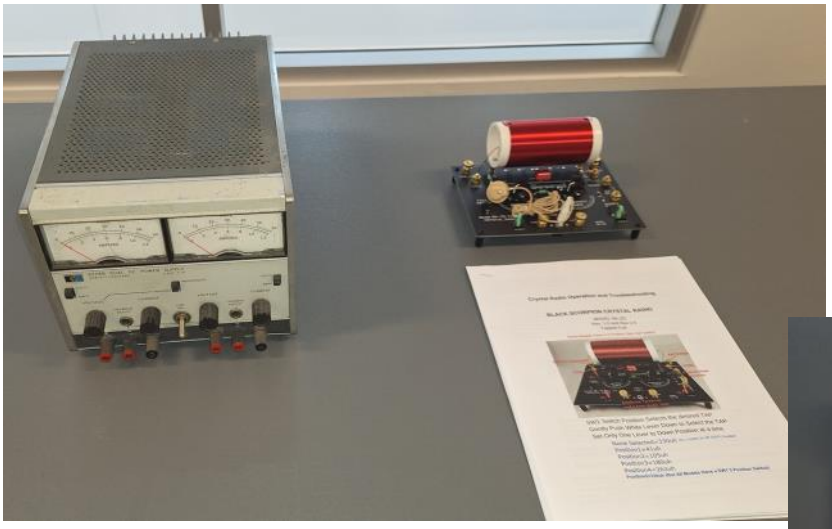
Dave discussed how Newark got its name of "Newark". Newark took this name based upon the tallest AM transmitter tower at the time located in Newark, New Jersey.

Raffle Table

Two great items were on the raffle table.

Item #1: A current and voltage controlled dual DC power supply. This Hewlett Packard 6228B dual power supply was working and cable of delivering more than 60 volts at 1.2 Amps. Bench Power supplies like this are great to have. .

Item #2: A Black Scorpion Crystal Radio Model RK-ZD. This crystal receiver was in great cosmetic condition. Appears to have been fully functional. This is a battery less radio. Energy to hear radio stations, like with all crystal based receivers, gathers all necessary energy within the signal itself.



George Burns and Gracie Allen

Burns was born Nathan Birnbaum in 1896 in New York's Jewish ghetto. He loved to perform as a child and decided early on that he wanted to be a vaudeville star. He left school as a teenager and worked up a number of different song and dance acts. Grace Allen was born in San Francisco in 1905 and as a child appeared in her father's song and dance act. She quit school at 14 to tour with her sisters in a vaudeville company.

The two met in 1923 when both were looking for new partners. When they first performed together that year, he was the comedian and she had the straight part. But the audience laughed at her lines, not his. Burns knew the audience was right and reversed their roles. They moved up the vaudeville ladder and became headliners shortly after their marriage in 1926. In 1929 they were playing in London and made their first radio appearance on the BBC. As Burns recalled it: "I recognized then that if we were ever given a chance at it back home, radio was a good medium for us."

Back home, they played the Palace several times, including a nine-week run in 1931. After one of those performances, Eddie Cantor invited Allen to be a guest on his successful show. She went on (using material Burns had written). Her daffy personality, naiveté and high voice were a hit. Invitations for both of them came from other shows and in 1932 they were featured on CBS's Robert Burns Panatela Program, sharing the show with Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians.

In 1934 Burns and Allen got the show to themselves and renamed it *The Adventures of Gracie*. They played their old vaudeville roles of Gracie the scatterbrain and George trying to make sense of it all. The show shot into the top 10 with the help of a clever gimmick. Gracie began looking for her missing brother with her search taking her to other radio shows on NBC and other networks as well (possible since the stunt was backed by the powerful J. Walter Thompson ad agency). She showed up on the Rudy Vallee, Eddie Cantor and Jack Benny shows. Mention was even made in dramatic shows, while newspapers and magazines covered the "search" that continued for months.

George Burns and Gracie Allen

By 1941, slipping ratings convinced Burns that perhaps something newer than vaudeville-style material was needed. The answer was a new format. That year, The Burns and Allen Show appeared as a sitcom set in Beverly Hills with the two playing husband and wife for the first time. In addition, a talented supporting cast was added that included Mel Blanc, Gale Gordon, Hans Conried and Elvia Allman. Audiences responded and the ratings rose.

In 1950, Burns decided that television was where they needed to be; the radio show ended in May of that year and the television version began on CBS in October. The show used the same premise as the radio version, but Burns introduced an innovation when he would talk directly to the audience — "breaking the fourth wall" — and then rejoin the story. "That was an original idea of mine," Burns later wrote, "I know it was because I originally stole it from Thornton Wilder's play, Our Town."

The episodes all ended with Burns telling Allen to "Say goodnight, Gracie." Gracie said good-night for the last time in 1958 when she retired and the show ended.

Burns returned in the 1958-59 season with The George Burns Show on NBC. He played a theatrical producer and many of the cast from The Burns and Allen Show were on board, but the magic wasn't there. His next attempt at TV was the ABC sitcom Wendy and Me, which ran from 1964 to1965 and featured Burns as the owner of an apartment building he bought to give him a place to practice his vaudeville routines. His last series came in 1985 when he hosted George Burns Comedy Week on CBS when he was 89. It ran for three months.

The Burns career took a new turn in 1975 when he got a role originally planned for Jack Benny in the film version of Neil Simon's The Sunshine Boys. His Academy Award-winning performance led to other film roles and appearances on more than 10 TV specials between 1976 and 1991.

Gracie Allen died on Aug. 27, 1964.
George Burns died on March 9, 1996.

Novelty Sesame Street Radios

These AM novelty radios were marketed for children. It is notable how a TV show had more than one novelty radio.

Oscar the Grouch* Portable AM Radio
Model Number 4401

Sesame Street's resident grump lives in an old ash can that also houses an AM radio. Push the button on the front of the can, and up pops Oscar. Comes complete with colorful Oscar figure moulded in squeezable P.V.C. plastic. Rotary Tuning and Volume Controls and Carry Strap. Operates on standard 9 volt battery (not included).

Gift Box: 6"H, 5"W, 5"D.
Master Carton: 24 pcs., 25 lbs., 2.4 cu.ft.

Bert & Ernie Portable AM Radio
Model Number 4402

Ernie and his old buddy, Bert, pal around on this portable AM radio. Unit comes complete with colorful Sesame Street characters moulded in squeezable P.V.C. plastic and each has life-like hair. Rotary Tuning and Volume with handy Carry Strap. Operates on standard 9 volt battery (battery not included).

Gift Box: 7⅝"H, 6⅛"W, 4"D.
Master Carton: 24 pcs., 26 lbs., 3.1 cu. ft.

Portable AM Radio Assortment
Assortment Number 4123A

Contains 6 each of Model Numbers 4401, 4402, 4403, and 4404.

Master Carton: 24 pcs., 27 lbs., 3.3 cu.ft.

Big Bird Portable AM Radio
Model Number 4403

Big Bird is right at home as he sits atop a nest that cleverly conceals an AM radio. Unit comes complete with Big Bird figure moulded in squeezable P.V.C. plastic. Rotary Tuning and Volume Controls, and handy Carry Strap. Operates on standard 9 volt battery (battery not included).

Gift Box: 8⅜"H, 5⅛"W, 5⅛"D.
Master Carton: 24 pcs., 30 lbs., 3.6 cu.ft.

Ernie Bathtub Portable AM Radio
Model Number 4404

Ernie and his famous Rubber Duckie love the suds as they splash about in their old-fashioned tub that conceals an AM radio. Ernie and Duckie characters are moulded in squeezable P.V.C. plastic. Ernie has life-like hair, and Duckie is removable for added play value. Rotary Tuning and Volume Controls with handy Carry Strap. Operates on standard 9 volt battery (battery not included).

Gift Box: 6½"H, 6½"W. 5⅝"D.
Master Carton: 12 pcs., 17 lbs., 1.9 cu.ft.

All AM radio stations initially, early 1910's, broadcasted on 833 kHz. Eventually two station frequencies were adopted. Stations providing entertainment were to transmit on 833 kHz and stations transmitting weather forecast, crop price reports, and other government reports were to occur on 619 kHz. In 1923 the Commerce Department Secretary Herbert Hoover, whom will become the United States 31st president, decided to set aside a total of 96 (later it became 106) frequencies due to the increase in radio license applications.

Question: What medical issue did Thomas Edison have that would permit him to, as he believed, work without interruption?

Answer:

Thomas Edison, the creator of the phonograph, was deaf when he invented it. Thomas Edison started to loose his hearing while in his early childhood. By the time he became a teenager, he was essentially deaf. He attributes his deafness to be the reason he could read and think with total concentration. "My deafness has not been a handicap but a help to me", he stated. When working on his phonography, Edison would bite down on the wood cabinet. This action would permit him to hear through his teeth and cheek bones. Many phonographs within the Edison family collection still exhibit the artifacts of teeth marks.

Question for the July Newsletter: Why is FM frequency band plan step upward or downward in odd numbers. For example, 90.3 and the next stations is 90.5. Why is this not even?

Radio Quote Of The Month:

"Our blessed radio. It gives us eyes and ears out into the world. We listen to the German station only for Good Music. And we listen to the BBC for hope."

- Anne Frank

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