

New England Antique Radio Club

Radio News

The Newsletter of the NEARC



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NEARC Fall Antique Radio Flea Market & Training Sessions

September 24, 2016 7:30am-12:00pm Rain or Shine

Indoor Flea Market from 7:30am to 12:00pm

Outdoor Tailgating from 6:30am to 1:00pm;

Training Sessions from 12pm to 2:00pm

Brookline Event Center-32 Proctor Hill Road, Brookline NH 03033

Exit 6 off Rte 3 Nashua and 9 miles west (Rte 130)

www.nearc.net or call (603) 772-7516

60 Indoor tables and unlimited tailgating space. This is a family event, and with one adult admission, spouse and children under 18 are free. Admission during Dealer setup- 7:30-8:30 is \$10. Admission 8:30 to 10:00 is \$5, and after 10:00 is absolutely free. There is free onsite parking. Breakfast and Lunch are available inside the Brookline Event Center, and the show is guaranteed to run Rain or Shine.

More Information on the New England Antique Radio Club at: www.nearc.net.

The Terrey Collection of Vintage Radios

Contributed by John Terrey



The view upon entering the museum.

Once I found my way to radio collectors in the New England and radio collecting clubs, I began to realize that there were others with the same “collecting gene” that I had. I was not unique, just off kilter!

In 1962, just after I graduated from MIT and started my first real job, my father visited me in Boston. Out of the blue, he gave me an old radio. He had been visiting a rancher in South Texas (where I was raised) and bragged about his electrical engineer son. The rancher excused himself for a moment and returned with an old radio. That set was the classic broadcast receiver from 1921, a Westinghouse RC/RADA, and that set is still in my collection today. There could have been no better set to start my collection!

That one set spawned a collection of nearly 1,000 radio items and now occupies 2,000 square feet in The Barn in Carlisle, Mass. The pictures here show just a portion of the collection.

Many of you have visited, often following the winter Sunday morning RADIO flea markets. The guest book shows hundreds of entries from around the world.

So, how is it that I decided to

offer the collection for sale through auction?

Over the years, I have attended many auctions, some of entire collections such as the 1,700+ item Ralph Muchow auction in 2001, the Robert Orr auction in Alabama in 1982 and the museum de-accession auction at the Ford Museum in Michigan in 1995. Yes, I purchased quite a few radios at these events.

I have realized, as did Ralph Muchow, “As collectors, we truly are temporary caretakers of these historical artifacts.”

As a temporary caretaker, I want to host and meet these future caretakers of my sets! Thus, the two events this Fall. Each auction will be held on a Sunday, preceded by a preview/BBQ/reception on Saturday. Come one, come all, and share in this celebration of old radios and collecting. Enjoy the Grand Events even if you don’t plan to bid.

About the Collection

That first Westinghouse RC set did not sit on the shelf by itself for long. In the 1960s and 1970s, the flea markets and antique stores of New England presented lots of old radios. By the late 1970s, the collection had grown to cover a

wall of shelves in my basement rec room

Eventually, I happened upon an article about collecting old radios by Jim Fred in an electronics magazine. That article introduced me to Morgan McMahan’s book, “Vintage Radio”, which at that time was one of the very few books about radio collecting. As with so many collectors when they first see “Vintage Radio,” I wanted to collect every radio in the book.

Once I found my way to radio collectors in the New England and radio collecting clubs, I began to realize that there were others with the same “collecting gene” that I had. I was not unique, just off kilter!

Our family vacationed on Cape Cod and there I ran across a small radio and sound museum. I recall that it had vintage phonographs and a few radios, including the small Howe crystal set. The Howe became the first entry on my new “want list”.

Then, in one of the many antique shops on the Cape, I found an RCA Radiola Grand receiver, an impressive set. But the set that really caught my eye was the Radiola III-A receiver on the counter, with its vacuum tubes

poking out. The radios were not for sale, but my radio-collecting engine was shifted up a notch and more items were added to my want list.

My first radio meet was a 1980s AWA Conference in Canandaigua, N.Y. I wandered, gawking at the “so many radios” in the flea market, on tables, blankets and the grass! After scouring the New England antique shops to find only a radio or two, here were piles of Grebes, Atwater Kent breadboards and box sets, Federals, early wireless sets and more. Yes, I added a few more sets to my collection.

I attended as many meets as I could, from Boston to California, from Chicago to Louisville, from Texas to Minnesota and Michigan. I joined every radio-collecting club I could find, and was active in many. These experiences educated me rather quickly and more additions worked their way into my collection.

In my collecting education, I benefited from the work of older and established collectors. Many had contributed articles to journals, presented at meets and wrote books. One of the first books on battery sets after “Vintage Radio” was Alan Douglas’s three-volume “Radio Manufacturers of the 1920s”, which became the new standard for the battery set collector. I gradually realized I wanted to find a way to contribute in my own way to the radio collecting community.

That possibility materialized when at the Elgin, IL Radiofest, I bumped into Gary Schneider, who had founded a monthly magazine on radio collecting a year earlier.

The magazine had become too “successful” for him to continue part time and he was looking for a buyer. I realized that this was “The Opportunity”. Late one evening, in the bar, I became the publisher of “Antique Radio Classified”. I continued to publish it for 24 years.

for the auction catalogs, keeping in mind the requirements for a collection book. Actually, it is the book that helps me part with my old radios, for as a book, the collection will live on.

Auction Details

The auction of the Terrey



An RCA Radiola VIII B center and an Ozarka set, left. Atwater Kent box sets, shelves left, and Clapp Eastham sets, shelves right.

All this time I was adding radios to the collection. The single basement wall grew to a full room... then the living room upstairs... and everywhere in the house that a radio could be placed. Eventually, my wife suggested that it was time to build that barn, something that I had been fantasizing about for years. So The Barn was constructed in 2006, and the radio collection had a new home!

In a few months this collection will be spread across the U.S. and beyond. Enjoy the photos here of the collection and if you want to see the complete collection before the auction in person, I invite you to come visit The Barn.

I plan next year to find the time and commitment to complete a book on the collection. Thousands of photographs have been taken

Collection of Vintage Radio will be held in two sessions. The first auction is on Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 11am, with an opportunity to preview from 9-11 am that day. A preview will be held on Saturday, September 17 from 1pm to 9m with a BBQ and reception from 6pm to 9pm. The second auction session will be on Sunday, November 13, 2016 with opportunity to preview from 9-11 that day as well. A preview will be held on Saturday, November 12 from 1pm to 9 pm. The auctions will be held under a tent at The Barn at 498 Cross Street, Carlisle, Mass. Don't miss these Grand Events. The details are at terreyauction.com with an email of: info@terreyauction.com.