

## MAARC Town Hall Meeting

November 16, 2008

Attendance: There were about 50 members present including the following members of the Board of Directors: Geoff Shearer, Willie Sessoms, Rod Matzko, Brian Belanger, Warren Sprague, Paul Farmer, Domi Sanchez, Eric Stenberg, Charlie Scarborough, Steve McAllister, Steve Hansman, Chris Kocsis and Bill Goodwin.

Geoff opened the meeting at about 1 P.M. noting that the blustery weather had driven everyone inside and that the meeting would be town hall-style as announced at the last meeting. He then introduced the attending board members and highlighted their typical contributions to getting the MAARC work done. He also listed the range of issues typically discussed at the board meetings. Examples included: RadioActivity details, FallFest, T-shirts, etc.

Items discussed with the membership:

- Another example of board decision-making was the use of the boy scouts to provide food for FallFest. Members were unanimous about using their services again next year.

- Eric modeled the MAARC ballcaps and polo shirts that are now available. The caps cost \$15 and the Shirts \$30. The embroidered logo and name of MAARC were well executed and attractive. Shirts can be ordered in a variety of colors and sizes.

- Members discussed the monthly auctions. Some 3-4 members don't see anything of interest to them at auction. One person said that if a radio had a line cord, he wasn't interested. One suggested that people NOT use the auction as a dumpster but bring in "nice stuff" at least to show and tell. Some discussed the relatively low price of radios on eBay with accompanying very high shipping prices. FallFest was again complimented for the very good quality items that were offered.

- Old Equipment Contest: There is the need for more participation by members. Geoff mentioned that the awarding of a blue ribbon requires that there be some historical or other documentation and that perhaps the requirement is an impediment to some. He said that he often enters an item with only the schematic as documentaion, so there is no need to put in extensive work on this aspect if you do not have time. This is not meant to discourage doing so, however.

- ACTION ITEM: Accepted was the idea that the Radio Age feature a column entitled: "Things seen at the meeting."

- ACTION ITEM: Accepted was the idea that program topics be featured in the calendar of events in Radio Age. December will feature Catalin cabinet repair; January will be Show and Tell month; February will feature "bring in your repair job".

- Rod introduced a discussion about finding critically needed repair parts. There was a general discussion about the various commercial sources and then things turned to using the membership as a resource. Domi mentioned that we might vary an old idea and have a post-it note board with needs and wants. Further discussion led to other ideas e.g., an on-line bulletin board. Still others thought that a "mentor list" of willing members be published in Radio Age. An e-mail from

Brian after the meeting suggested the following people if they were willing to be so listed:

- Mike Baird volunteered to be listed as a resource for vintage hi-fi, but Steve McAllister and Paul Farmer might be others to list if they are willing to be listed.
- Ed Lyon would be a top choice for radio theory consulting and radio servicing as well as Catalin matters.
- Lud Sibley could be a tube expert on the list.
- Bob Lozier on foreign radios.
- Bill Goodwin on making decals and dial scales and label repros.

If a list is compiled, it could be posted on the internet site and some hard copies be made available at the meetings for members on on-line.

- ACTION ITEM - Presentations: Members were interested in more interactive repair sessions at meetings. They were unanimous in the already mentioned idea of publishing the presentation topics in advance. One idea floated was borrowed from another club in which the sessions were video shot and played in a large format so members throughout the audience could clearly see. The club needs but a camera and operator to bring this to fruition. John Begg will bring a camera to do that. Paul mentioned that "Podcasting" the meetings could be a useful addition to our web site.

- Dave \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned a number of good book titles for repair including those by Ghirardi, especially the two-volume set in the late 50s or 1960s. They included 20 pages on stringing radio dials. Other books were mentioned but not captured for the minutes. [If recovered they might assist in making a useful article.]

- Dan Seel(?) mentioned that he is interested in the very early history of radios.

- Charlie asked members about pricing for MAARC's tubes. There was strong agreement that the current pricing is appropriate. Pricing of capacitors was also deemed appropriate.

- Future auctions for Radioactivity [and FallFest?] will begin at 12 noon at the members' request.

- There was lukewarm response to the idea of a president's message in Radio Age.

- Members were reminded that they are each entitled to a free ad every month in Radio Age.

- Members were unanimous about the usefulness of today's town hall meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Goodwin

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