

# RadioActivity 2020

Thursday Evening, June 4 Through Saturday, June 6

RadioActivity, the premier East Coast antique radio meet, will be held at the same hotel as last year—The Sheraton College Park North Hotel in Beltsville, Maryland, located at Exit 29B (Rt. 212) off I-95 between Washington and Baltimore, 4095 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705. The hotel (now owned by Marriott), which is pet-friendly, is on the southwest corner of the interchange.

Hotel reservations are *separate* from meet registrations. To reserve a room, call the hotel toll-free at (800) 325-3535 or for more personal service, contact Paula at the hotel at 240-965-4235. Be sure to specify the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club. **Hotel reservations must be received by May 4 for the discounted rate.** Book early—last year discounted rooms filled up even before the cut-off date! (And, late reservations cost more.) The hotel's special conference rate is \$119 per night, \$129 for two beds—contact the hotel for details.) Washington/Baltimore area hotels are expensive. Prices have gone up recently, and this is an attractive rate for a hotel of this caliber.

Meet registration is required to participate in the auctions and Old Equipment Contest, attend seminars, and sell in the flea market. The conference name badge provided at the meet should be worn at all times. There is a discount for those who pre-register for the meet, and MAARC members get an additional break. **Pre-registrations must be received by MAARC by May 22 for the discounted rate.** (The registration fee includes your family, but banquet tickets and flea market spaces are extra.) After May 22 you must register at the meet. Note that for those who plan to attend ONLY on Saturday, there is a one-day registration fee option.

Pioneer Pittsburgh station KDKA began broadcasting in November 1920, so this year's theme is a century of entertainment broadcasting and history of KDKA, for which there will be special Old Equipment Contest categories. David Rossetti will present the banquet talk on KDKA history.

This year our meet features *four* seminars on Friday on a wide variety of interesting topics, vs. three in past years. (See the schedule on page 2.) Ed Lyon's always-popular radio repair clinic is on Saturday morning.

The registration desk will be open between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Thursday night, **but there will be no flea market selling until Friday morning.**

Thursday evening (7:30 p.m.) will feature a tube, literature, and ephemera auction similar to those of past years, and there is a distinct possibility that it may be combined with an estate auction, so plan to arrive on Thursday.

The registration desk re-opens at 6 a.m. Friday, when the flea market also opens. Each flea market space is one

standard parking space. The cost for registrants to participate in the flea market is \$15 for the first two spaces and \$10 each for additional spaces. Spaces are not numbered and are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. If you and a friend wish to have adjacent spaces, coordinate your arrival times. If you vacate your space, someone else may take it before you return. Sellers must display the flea market registration card where it is visible to buyers.

We strongly encourage attendees to enter items in the Old Equipment Contest (OEC). The contest categories, guidelines, and criteria are listed on pages 2 and 3 of this insert.

The main auction will be Saturday, during which there is a minimum opening bid of \$10 per item and a \$1 fee for any item that does not sell. **Those who are not MAARC members will pay a higher seller's commission (15%) for their items sold in the auction than members (10%).** This is yet another good reason to join if you are not already a MAARC member. At the Thursday evening tube and ephemera auction, the \$10 minimum bid requirement is waived, and there will be no charge for no-sale items, but the commission charges will be the same as at the main auction. Once an item is consigned, the consigner may not remove it from the auction. Check page 3 for a complete explanation of auction policies.

A no-reserve walk-around auction in the flea market parking area is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning. The auctioneer walks through the parking lot auctioning items from tailgates. No commission will be charged during the walk-around auction and no paperwork will be kept. The buyer pays the seller in cash immediately upon having the winning bid. This is the place to get rid of those boxes of junk or other items that are unlikely to bring \$10 or more in the main auction. But not all walk-around offerings are junk. At a recent RadioActivity, a new-in-the-box type 6T5 tube showed up, and sold for a high price.

A breakfast buffet is included in the hotel room fee, so the Sheraton will *not* be selling breakfast and lunch items in the flea market area. Attendees staying at the hotel get breakfast buffet coupons upon check-in. RadioActivity attendees not staying at the hotel can purchase breakfast tickets for the reduced rate of \$16 if registered for the meet. Other food options include the hotel restaurant as well as fast food and other restaurants across the street from the hotel.

The Friday night buffet banquet will feature door prizes. Banquet tickets are \$35 each. (A vegetarian entrée will be included.) You must present your banquet ticket to enter the banquet room. A cash bar/social hour precedes the banquet. We anticipate that only a few banquet tickets will remain for sale at the door. Pre-register so you won't miss this event.

MAARC and its officers are not responsible for any accident, injury, or loss that occurs at this meet.

# RadioActivity 2020 Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Location
June 4 (Thursday)	5:00 to 7:00 pm	Registration desk opens. See page 3 for complete list of registration desk hours. Auction consignment ends at 7 p.m.	Rear of hotel
	7:30 to 9 pm	Tube & literature auction, possible estate auction	Ballroom
June 5 (Friday)	6 am	Conference registration desk opens, flea market begins.	Rear of hotel
	9 am to 11 am	Old Equipment Contest entry log-in	Severn-Lochraven Room
	10:30 to 11:30 am	Seminar: "Getting the Best Performance From Vintage Turntables," by Randy Warren	Potomac Room
	11 am to 1:30 pm	Old Equipment Contest judging (contest room closed)	Severn-Lochraven Room
	12:30 to 1:30 pm	Seminar: "The Sylvania Postwar Date Codes and How They Were Broken" by Paul Hart	Potomac Room
	2:30 to 5 pm	Contest Viewing	Severn-Lochraven Room
	2 to 3 pm	Seminar—"Frank & Hester Chambers: Philadelphia's Early Radio Power Couple" by Bill Goodwin	Potomac Room
	3:30 to 4:30 pm	Seminar—"Jack R. Poppele, Radio Engineer. The Right Man at the Right Time in the Right Place" by Mike Molnar	Potomac Room
	6 p.m.	Social Hour, cash bar	Rear of hotel
	7 p.m.	Banquet, Speaker—"History of KDKA" by David Rossetti	Ballroom
	For 1 hour following the banquet	Old Equipment Contest Viewing	Severn-Lochraven Room
June 6 (Saturday)	7 am	Registration desk and flea market re-open.	Rear of hotel
	7 to 9 am	Remove contest entries.	Severn-Lochraven Room
	8:30 am	Walk-around auction in parking lot	Rear parking lot
	8:30 to 11:30 am	Auction consignment check-in	Registration area
	9:30 to 11 a.m.	Ed Lyon's Radio Repair Clinic	Ballroom
	11:30 am	Auction consignment closes. All entries must be logged in.	
	Noon	Main Auction	Ballroom

## Old Equipment Contest Categories for RadioActivity 2020

### Theme: A Century of Entertainment Broadcasting and KDKA History

1. Tube-type radios, before 1925
2. Early (<1925) crystal sets
3. Early (<1925) broadcasting advertising and ephemera
4. Pre-WWII test equipment
5. Magic eye tube radios
6. Multi-band radios
7. Wood and/or plastic table models
8. Metal and/or cardboard table radios
9. Speakers

10. Yellow radios (in honor of Paul Farmer)
11. As seen in 2019 Radio Age
12. Lazarus radios (basket case restorations)
13. Audio equipment
14. Rare or unusual tubes
15. Open category

### OEK Contest Rules

Remember that documentation, especially noting any restoration or repair, and provenance are essential for an entry to be competitive. Awards may be given in each category.

## Special OEC Awards

- 1. Best of Show.** The entry that, in the opinion of the judges, best represents the contest criteria.
- 2. People's Choice.** The OEC entry voted most popular by those who view the contest.
- 3. Significant Historical Merit.** The entry(ies) that, in the opinion of the judges, has the most historical significance (for example, first of a kind, extreme rarity, influence on the industry, milestone event, etc.)
- 4. Preservation Award.** Given to the entry that best emphasizes keeping the item original—no modern replacement parts, refinishing, etc.

Special awards 3 and 4 will not be given if the judges feel that no entry meets the criteria.

Contest Criteria. The OEC judges use the following scoring weights:

- [0-20 pts] General Appearance. Is item restored, cleaned, and generally presentable, or just "as-found"?
  - [0-10 pts] Item Rarity. Not as important as authenticity, but it counts for the item to be relatively hard to find.
  - [0-20 pts] Authenticity. How much of the item is demonstrably authentic and not modified? Documentation may be crucial.
  - [0-20 pts] Documentation. Ads, journal articles, books, schematics, news clips, restoration/repair notes, provenance, and description of historical significance of the item all help.
  - [0-20 pts] Entrant Effort. How much was done by entrant, based on item appearance and documentation?
  - [0-10 pts] Qualitative Bonus. The bonus is based on judges' judgment and experience.
- Entries (except consoles) must be able to fit on a table and take up no more than 3' x 5' of table space. If your entry requires a display stand, you need to provide it yourself. No mountings may be fastened to the walls.

### Nearby Museums to Visit

(Brochures/maps available at the registration desk.)

#### National Capital Radio & Television Museum

The National Capital Radio & Television Museum ([www.ncrtv.org](http://www.ncrtv.org)) is 20 miles from the Sheraton Hotel. The Museum will be open Friday (9 to 4) and Saturday and Sunday (Noon to 4). Admission and parking are free. Exhibits feature radios and television in the home.

#### National Electronics Museum

The National Electronics Museum ([nationalelectronicmuseum.org](http://nationalelectronicmuseum.org)) is near the BWI Airport, and is open Monday through Friday 9 to 4, and Saturday from 10 to 2. Admission \$5, parking free. Exhibits feature military electronics, radar, etc.

Should the contest room fill to overcrowding, the contest officials reserve the right to limit the number of items submitted.

## MAARC's Main Auction and Flea Market Policies

To participate in the auctions as a buyer or seller you must be registered for the meet. At the main auction (Saturday) there is a minimum opening bid of \$10 per item. Batch inexpensive items in box lots so that each will bring more than \$10. Sell boxes of junk during the walk-around auction Saturday morning. **Items that (in the judgment of the auction officials) are unlikely to sell for at least \$10 during the main auction will not be accepted.** Please limit consignments to antique radio/TV/audio items—no outboard motors! At the main auction, the seller's commission for MAARC members is 10 percent of the selling price, with a minimum of \$1 and an upper limit of \$50. For non-members the commission is 15 percent, and no upper limit. Any item that does not reach its reserve (a minimum selling price set by the seller) or any item that does not receive the \$10 opening bid will incur a no-sale fee of \$1. While sellers may specify a reserve price, lest we inhibit bidding, we mention the reserve price only in cases where the last bid has nearly reached the reserve, in which case we give the highest bidder an opportunity to up the bid (or let the seller drop the reserve price).

Consignment cutoff will be at 11:30 a.m., one half hour before the start of the auction. MAARC reserves the right to terminate consignment early if the number of items becomes too large to handle. By the 11:30 cutoff, all paperwork must be turned in and all items tagged and in the pre-auction room. Once the auction starts, only auction staff are allowed in the pre-auction room. MAARC also reserves the right to limit the number of items consigned by one individual if the total number of items consigned is becoming too large. Once an item is consigned, the consigner may not remove it, or any portion of a box lot, from the auction.

**Sellers: DO NOT leave the auction before all of your items are sold!** If you consign an item that does not sell, and you do not pick up the unsold item at the end of the auction, the item becomes the property of MAARC and may be sold at a future auction, with the proceeds going to MAARC, or disposed of, as MAARC sees fit.

### Registration Desk Hours:

Thursday (4th): 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Friday (5th): 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday (6th): 7 to 8, 9 to 10, and 11 to  
11:30 a.m. (closed 8-9 and 10-11 a.m.).

# Hotel Information

(Hotel reservation cutoff date: May 4)

**Sheraton College Park North—Group Reservations**  
**4095 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705**  
 (800) 325-3535 or (240) 965-4235 (ask for Paula)

Early booking rates: One king bed: \$119, two double beds: \$129, both plus 13% tax.  
 Room rates include coupons for breakfast buffet.  
 Specify Group: Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club.

**On or prior to May 22, 2020** complete, detach, and mail the lower part of this preregistration form (with checks made payable to MAARC) to:

**Rod Matzko**, 3 Coloma Court, Sterling, VA 20164-5507  
 703-406-2713, r2wb@comcast.net

Use a separate form for each registrant. You will NOT receive a registration confirmation in the mail. **After May 22** you must register at the conference at a higher price.  
 Spouses/children do not need to register. Do not send membership renewals along with your registration.



**Detach Here and send to Rod Matzko**

Item	Fee	Amount Enclosed
MAARC <b>member</b> family registration mailed <b>on or before May 22</b> (MAARC member registration at the meet will be \$25)	\$20	
<b>Non-member</b> family registration mailed <b>on or before May 22</b> (Non-member registration at the meet will be \$35)	\$30	
Registration (member or non-member) for Saturday ONLY	\$10	
Banquet tickets: Number of tickets [ _____ ] (Tickets may or may not be available at the meet.)	\$35 per ticket	
Flea market spaces (no assigned spaces) Total number of spaces wanted [ _____ ]	First two spaces \$15, \$10 for each additional space	
<b>Total enclosed. Make check payable to MAARC.</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Print name neatly as you want it on your name tag.)

Names of other family members attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel where you will stay for RadioActivity 2020 \_\_\_\_\_