

# RadioActivity 2025

Thursday Evening, June 19 Through Saturday, June 21

RadioActivity 2025 will be held at the same venue as last year, the Byzantium Center, 2747 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD, June 19-21. This conference facility has worked out well for the past two years.

The theme this year is The Evolution of Cabinet Design. Radio and electronic cabinet designs changed through the years, reflecting cultural styles, technological capabilities, and designer inspirations. Consumer radio designs moved through breadboards; metal and wood “coffins;” wood cathedrals and tombstones; highboy and lowboy consoles; Bakelite, Catalin, and other plastics; HiFi cabinets; and transistors. Cultural trends included traditional furniture, Art Deco, Atomic Age, mid-century modern, and miniaturization. Noted designers included Walter Dorwin Teague, Norman Bel Geddes, Harold van Doren, and Ray and Charles Eames. These topics will be highlighted at the meet.

The event features three Friday seminars on a variety of interesting topics plus Ed Lyon’s always-popular radio repair clinic on Saturday morning.

Several hotels are close by (see page 4). Choose whichever one you prefer. Note that hotels a little farther from the Byzantium Center may have rates considerably lower than the closest ones.

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. **Meet pre-registrations must be received by MAARC by May 31.** (The registration fee includes your family, but banquet tickets and extra flea market spaces are additional.) After May 31 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. MAARC strives to break even on this event, but rental and food prices are increasing.

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 will be open between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Thursday night, **but there will be no vendor selling until Friday morning.**

The registration desk and flea market open at 7 a.m. Friday. Parking lot flea market for outdoor vendors: \$20 for 2 spaces (one for your car and one for your own tables) for Friday and Saturday. Tables on covered patio for entire meet: \$25 first table, \$10 each additional table. Air-conditioned space in the gym for Friday and Saturday: \$30 per table, including table rental, \$10 for additional tables. (Don’t bring your own tables for indoor or patio spaces.) Table spaces are limited, so book early. **No food or drink allowed in the gym at any time! Carts or hand trucks may enter only through the two doors shown—NOT through the main entrance.**

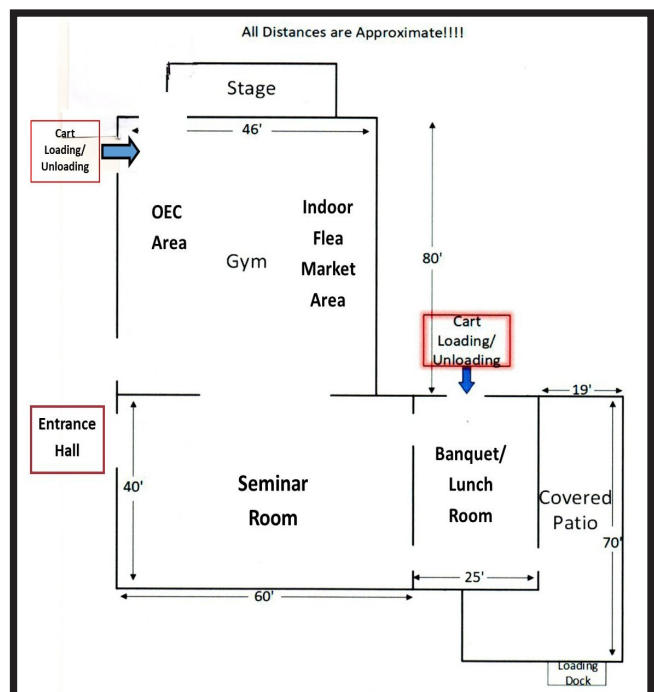
At the Saturday main auction there is a minimum opening bid of \$10 per item, and a \$1 fee for any item that does not sell. **Those who are not MAARC members will pay a higher seller’s commission (15%) for their items.** (That’s another good reason to join MAARC.) At the Thursday evening auction, the \$10 minimum bid requirement is waived, and there is no charge for no-sale items, but the commission charges are the same as at the main auction. Once an item is consigned, it may not be removed. When a registered attendee sells items at auction for someone not registered, it loses commissions for the club. If it is only one item, that is not a big problem, but if someone has lots of items to sell, that person should register!

A no-reserve walk-around auction in all vendor areas will be held at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning. The auctioneer walks around the vendor areas auctioning items offered by vendors. No commission will be charged during that auction and no paperwork will be kept. The buyer pays the seller in cash immediately upon having the winning bid.

The Friday night buffet banquet speaker will be MAARC member and industrial design expert John Okolowicz.

The banquet event will feature door prizes. Tickets are \$49 each. Banquet tickets are partially subsidized by MAARC. (A vegetarian entrée will be included.) You must present your banquet ticket to enter the banquet room. A 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 2025 Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Location
June 19 (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.	Entrance Hall
	7:30 to 9 pm	Tube, ephemera, & literature auction, possible estate auction	Seminar Room
June 20 (Friday)	7 am	Conference registration desk opens	Entrance Hall
	9 am to 11 am	Old Equipment Contest entry log-in	Cordoned off area of gym
	11:00 am to noon	Seminar: "History of Arvin" by Brian Belanger	Seminar room
	Noon to 1 pm	Old Equipment Contest judging (contest room closed)	Cordoned off area of gym
	1:30 to 2:30 pm	Seminar: "Evolution of Vacuum Tube and Circuit Design in the Early 1930's" by Paul Hart	Seminar room
	2:30 to 3 pm	Contest Viewing	Cordoned off area of gym
	3 to 4 pm	NOTE CHANGE - Seminar: "Collecting Pocket and Hand-Held Televisions" by Rod Matzko	Seminar room
	4 to 6 pm	Contest Viewing	Cordoned off area of gym
	6 pm	Social Hour	Banquet room
	7 pm	Banquet begins. Banquet Speaker: John Okolowicz, "A World of Radio Cabinet Art."	Banquet room
	For 1 hour after the banquet	Old Equipment Contest Viewing (Remove all contest entries by 10:30 pm.)	Cordoned off area of gym
June 21 (Saturday)	7 am	Registration desk and flea market re-open	Entrance Hall and vendor areas
	8:30 am	Walk-around auction	All vendor areas
	8:30 to 11:30 am	Auction consignment check-in	Cordoned off area of gym
	9:30 to 11 am	Ed Lyon's Radio Repair Clinic: "The Heterodyne Stage and How to Diagnose its Problems."	Seminar room
	11:30 am	Auction consignment closes. All entries must be logged in	Cordoned off area of gym
	Noon	Main Auction	Seminar Room

## Old Equipment Contest Categories for RadioActivity 2025

### Theme: Cabinet Design Evolution

This year for most categories, our emphasis is on the design of cabinets of vintage electronics. Several categories will focus on notable, elegant or beautiful cabinets. Several types of equipment are eligible—radios, phonographs, computers, audio/HiFi equipment, and/or test equipment.

There have been many styles over the years, including Art Deco, Atomic Age, Machine Age, Mid-Century Modern, early computers, among others, and some styles were popular over a span of several years.

An important aspect of cabinet design was the use of different materials through the years, some only briefly or for special equipment. These include wood, metal, plastics, fiberboard, rep wood, glass/mirrors, and more.

1. Equipment of notable design from the 1920s
2. Equipment of notable design, 1930-1934
3. Equipment of notable design, 1935-1939
4. Equipment of notable design from the 1940s
5. Equipment of notable design from the 1950s
6. Equipment of notable design from the 1960s

7. Equipment of notable design from 1970s and 1980s, including vintage computer equipment
8. Homebrew radios
9. Farm radios from manufacturer
10. White radios (from the factory – in honor of Paul Farmer)
11. Military radios
12. Cone speakers (in honor of Buford Chidester)
13. Lazarus restoration
14. Chairside radios
15. Open category

**All OEC entries MUST be removed by 10:30 Friday night. The area is not secure after that.**

## OEC 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:

- A. General Appearance [0-20 pts]. Is item restored, cleaned, and generally presentable, or just “as-found”?
- B. Item Rarity [0-10 pts]. Not as important as authenticity, but it counts for the item to be relatively hard to find.
- C. Authenticity [0-20 pts]. How much of the item is demonstrably authentic and not modified? Documentation may be crucial.
- D. Documentation [0-20 pts]. Ads, journal articles, books, schematics, news clips, restoration/repair notes,

## A Nearby Museum to Visit

**National Capital Radio & Television Museum  
2608 Mitchellville Road  
Bowie, MD 20716**

The National Capital Radio & Television Museum ([www.ncrtv.org](http://www.ncrtv.org)) is ~12 miles from the Byzantium Center. The Museum will be open Friday (9 to 4) and Saturday and Sunday (Noon to 4). Free parking. Admission: Adults \$7, Seniors \$5. Exhibits feature consumer radios and television.

provenance, and description of historical significance of the item all help.

E. Entrant Effort [0-20 pts]. How much was done by entrant, based on item appearance and documentation?

F. Qualitative Bonus [0-10 pts]. The bonus is based on judges' judgment and experience.

Entries (except consoles) must 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. Should the contest room fill to overcrowding, the contest officials reserve the right to limit the number of items submitted.

## MAARC's Main Auction & Flea Market Policies

To participate in the auctions as a buyer or seller you must be registered for the meet. Vendors and buyers may register for Saturday only for \$15. 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. Please sell boxes of junk during the walk-around auction Saturday morning. **Items or lots 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 is at 11:30 a.m., 30 minutes before the start of the auction. MAARC reserves the right to terminate consignment early if the number of items becomes too large. By the 11:30 cutoff, all paperwork must be turned in and all items tagged and in the pre-auction area. **Once the auction starts, only auction staff are allowed in the consignment area.** 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.

**DO NOT leave the auction before all of your items are sold and you have retrieved all items you have purchased!**

If a consigner does not pick up an unsold item at the end of the auction, or if a buyer does not take home a purchased item, it becomes the property of MAARC and may be discarded or sold at a future auction, with the proceeds going to MAARC.

### Registration Desk Hours:

- Thursday (19th): 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Friday (20th): 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., with some breaks
- Saturday (21st): 7 to 8, and 9 to 10 a.m.

## Hotel Information

You are responsible for choosing a hotel and booking your own reservation. MAARC is looking into getting a block of rooms at a reduced rate. Check MAARC's monthly email and the next issue of *Radio Age* for more information. Google maps will show the exact location of the hotels. The closest hotels to the Byzantium Center are less than a mile away but are costly. Some hotels further away have considerably lower rates. Your rate will depend on what days you check in and check out, and factors such as whether you are an AAA or AARP member. Hotel booking sites such as hotels.com and priceline.com may have better rates. Here are six nearby hotels, but there are others:

**Best Western**  
2520 Riva Road  
1-855-516-1090

**Hampton Inn**  
124 Womack Drive  
1-888-861-8331

**Red Roof Inn**  
2520C Riva Road  
1-937-328-1741

**Courtyard by Marriott**  
2559 Riva Road (Edgewater, MD)  
1-866-994-6675

**Hilton Garden Inn Downtown**  
174 West Street  
1-410-990-1100

**Spring Hill Suites**  
189 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
1-866-994-6675

**On or prior to May 31, 2025** 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 31** 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 31</b> (MAARC member registration at the meet will be \$30)	\$25	
<b>Non-member</b> family registration mailed <b>on or before May 31</b> (Non-member registration at the meet will be \$40)	\$35	
Registration (member or non-member) for Saturday ONLY	\$15	
Parking lot flea market spaces in vendor parking area Total number of spaces wanted [ ____ ]	<b>First two outdoor spaces \$20, \$10 for each <i>additional</i> space</b>	
Saturday only parking lot flea market spaces. Number of spaces [ ____ ]	<b>First two outdoor spaces \$10, \$10 for each <i>additional</i> space</b>	
Table(s) in covered patio both Friday and Saturday (only Byzantium tables allowed) # tables [ ____ ]	\$25 first rental table, \$10 each additional table	
Table(s) in air-conditioned gym (only Byzantium tables allowed) Total number of tables wanted [ ____ ]	\$30 first rental table, \$10 each additional table	
Banquet tickets: Number of tickets [ ____ ] (Tickets may or may not be available at the meet.)	\$49 per ticket	
<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 \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

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