

1951 brought the first change in the meeting date from the third Thursday to the fourth Thursday of the month. July 1st of that year brought the introduction of the Novice and Technician classes of Licenses. SJRA responded promptly by holding practice sessions and classes for the benefit of the prospective newcomers into the amateur ranks via this new classification. Many present SJRA members owe their beginning in amateur radio to this club-sponsored activity.



Nationwide recognition was attained in 1952 when SJRA won the club competition in the VHF Sweepstakes. The club went on to win this event eight more times thru 1960. 50 club-sponsored 6 Meter kits, known as Project X, added to the 1957 VHF SS.

Perhaps the South Jersey Radio Association is known best, outside of it's own members, for the annual Picnic/Hamfest usually held early in September. Initially, this event was held in 1948 for members only, but has since become an open affair, with hidden transmitter hunts and the ever popular "Swap Shop" adding considerable interest. In recent years, this affair has been the largest gathering of radio amateurs in the Mid-Atlantic states with attendance in excess of 1,000. This year, the 50th Anniversary Banquet will be held instead at the Ivystone Inn, Pennsauken, N. J. on September 10th.

Of currently active members, two have become nationally recognized: E. Miles Brown, W2PAV, formerly VHF Editor, CQ Magazine and originator of the popular 2 Meter "Browne Beam" and Phillip M. Catona, W2JAV, for his amateur teletype (RTTY) equipment designs.



1960 marked the beginning of SJRA awards to it's members who made top scores in the various ARRL and SJRA sponsored events, such as DX contests, Field Day participation, QSO party and intra-club activities or services. This helped maintain member-interest which became necessary when the membership roll reached the 300 level.

In 1962, a group who called themselves "Panic Productions" recorded an hour long sound color film of a typical year's activities of SJRA. The film was also shown at meetings of various other radio clubs.

ARRL Field Day is a major SJRA activity. Over the period of 1955 thru 1964, K2AA/2 has placed 1st nationally in the four or six transmitter class.

Today, as SJRA enters it's second-half century, it is a group of over 250 area amateurs, diverse in experience and background, but with a common interest in the varied aspects of "Ham" radio--be it CW, Phone, RTTY, DX, Traffic, Rag-chew, Mobile, Satellite Tracking, Home-Brewing, Contests, VHF or Antique Equipment Collecting--you name it! As a group, the club looks forward to the challenges, satisfactions, services and fun ahead.

