



"Svetlana":
A Russian word meaning
"Eat Eimac's lunch."

OSCULATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 5 No. 4, April 1997

MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Mike Koste

First, a look in the mailbag: "Dear Bill, Havertown Show was great. Sales greatly exceeded expectations. Stuff flew off the table. Auction was good too. Hope the club made money. Seemed like a good date. Let's make it an annual event."

That gracious postcard from DVHRC's Ray Chase seemed like a logical way to bring everybody up to date on the club's growth and momentum. Membership now stands at 180, the coffers have reached the point where Treasurer John Kern is investigating the possibility of investing a portion of our humble wealth into some kind of short-term interest-bearing account, and a couple of the association's long-range projects are showing encouraging signs of progress.

One of those goals becomes reality on June 14th, as DVHRC and NJARC present our first true co-sponsored event. Through the diligence of Presidents Bill Overbeck and Jim Whartenby, the two clubs will come together for a day-long picnic, swapmeet, auction and confab at the Elks Lodge on Route 617 in Clinton, NJ, convenient to NJ 31 and I-78. Please note that every effort has been made to make this location accessible to as many Jersey and DVHRC members as possible, particularly those traveling from the Lehigh Valley area. Your support and participation will hopefully make this event an annual tradition.

In other club news, we call your attention to the April 26th radio auction in Downingtown. Editor Lud Sibley has prepared a detailed list of the hundreds of lots being offered and will provide a report on the outcome in the May issue. Discussion at our March meeting also included the possibility of establishing our own website on the Internet. A show of hands revealed only a limited number of club "on-liners" and it was suggested we may be better off sharing time with the existing NJARC page. John Dilks has done a truly remarkable job establishing the Jersey Club site and is always open to your input and contributions. Bill Overbeck made a short presentation as a followup to Ed Lyon's *Radio Age* article on Father Coughlin, the infamous "Radio Priest" of the 1930s, and shared some revealing quotes from a rare book of

Coughlin's sermons. Don Rector offered a combination show-and-tell/tech-talk with a number of early radio books he's collected over the years. To further demonstrate the diversity of our collecting interests, Vice President Tony Molettiere is making arrangements for a future tech-talk on development of the Edison phonograph, complete with a working replica of the original device. Stay tuned! Finally, steps are being taken to produce a DVHRC membership book which not only will give everyone's name, address and phone number, but will pinpoint members' collecting interests, reference resources, repair and restoration services, tube and parts supplies, and so forth. Along with your free membership listing, you'll be able to purchase display ads to help the club defray publishing costs.

There're twelve new faces in the group since our last update. January recruits include Peter Antastos of Cherry Hill and Vincent Damiano of Trenton. Yeagertown, PA's Richard Yingling signed up in February, and since the Havertown meet we've recruited Stewart Simon of Doylestown, Dave Snellman of New Britain, Philadelphian John Romanski, Sandra Gonzales of Langhorne, Ed D'Auria of Springfield and Mike Muderick from Havertown. From the Garden State, DVHRC welcomes Dave Chmielewski from Ewing, Al Klase from Flemington, and Norman Sandbach of Long Branch, NJ.

Regrettably, there's still an embarrassing number of you (over 30%, in fact) who have not paid your 1997 membership dues. If you're unable to attend the April 8th meeting and pay up in person, make it a point to drop a \$10 check in the mail to PO Box 41031, Philadelphia PA 19127. (Otherwise, you may be subject to Secretarial Spring Cleaning and have your name purged from the roster.)

Finally, one more interesting item from the mailroom: The premier edition of *Transistor Radio Collector*. In an era of specialization, it's no surprise that transistor people have a monthly publication to call their own. Even to a non-collector, *TRC* is a real eye-opener. The January issue featured 16 pages on glossy magazine stock with

THE OSCILLATOR

Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
Post Office Box 41031,
Philadelphia, PA 19127

The *Oscillator* is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide a forum to educate, inform, entertain, and communicate with collectors and preservers of vintage radio technology.

We welcome and solicit information relating to radio history or collecting. Submissions should be carefully researched, typed and accompanied with clear photographs or diagrams. Material on-disc (3-1/2" or 5-1/4" DOS) is particularly welcome.

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Personal views, opinions and technical advice offered in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or Board of Directors of the DVHRC, nor is the organization responsible for any buying or selling transaction incurred.

To join: DVHRC dues is \$10 per year. The membership year runs January-through-December. Please mail to the club PO box above.

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ARTICLES & MEMBER ADS

may be sent to the editor at 44 E. Main St, Flemington,
NJ 08822, (908) 782-4894.

COPY DEADLINE: The 20th of each month.

NEXT MEETINGS: April 8, May 13.

depth article on estimating the age of a set from capacitor date codes found on many early Japanese (and American) radios. Another piece suggested that Zenith Royal 500 production dates can be identified by markings on the variable capacitor. Closer examination of the transistors themselves may provide even more insight as to the set's date of birth. Profusely and crisply illustrated, *Transistor Radio Collector* offers buyer and seller classifieds (free to subscribers), a photo gallery of collectible radios with updated prices and minimal display ads. Publisher Richard Ammon has made a commendable effort on *TRC's* maiden voyage; it is well worth checking out. First-class subscriptions for 1997 (11 issues) are \$22 with your name and address, to *Transistor Radio Collector*, 1249 Solstice Lane, Fort Collins, CO 80525-1239. They welcome your photos, articles and suggestions.

FOR THE APRIL MEETING

We'll have a special "April Fool" show-and tell: bring in the most bizarre item in your collection - "truth is stranger than fiction" - or make up a spoof one and let the audience judge whether it's real. The weirder the better - and we all have some funky/showable stuff.

AUDIO CLUB BEING FORMED

DVHRC founder Tony Molettiere announced at March's meeting that he's interested in starting a new group, named (for now) the Eastern Vintage Audio Club. A dozen of those in attendance expressed an interest in joining. Stand by for more news. . .


WESTERN ELECTRIC TUBES NOW "FOR REAL" (?)

The Westrex Corporation in Atlanta has issued a press release advising the start of regular shipments of 300B tubes as of March 1. As you've seen before (*Oscillator*, Feb. and March 1995), the plan is to reactivate manufacture of this famous power triode, last made (by WE, at least) in 1988. Things have been a slow since then; a few samples have gotten out, plus reportedly a shipment to the Far East, but it apparently has not been easy to reactivate a basically forgotten production process. Anyhow, the claim is that they have the problem under control and can make good on all those full-page ads promoting the product. We're not talking low-budget here; the "suggested list" price is \$350, vs. \$138 for the Sovtek one or \$49 for the Chinese version. By year-end, they're supposed to be making 274B rectifiers and, in the second quarter of next year, the burly 212E triode. (Why anyone would make *rectifier tubes* in the Silicon Age is beyond me, but there's no accounting for taste.)

Meanwhile, the Sovtek version has been advertised as the "ultimate" 300B: the "discriminating audiophile no longer has to choose between inferior tubes" . . . [it] "sonically outperforms . . . the legendary Western Electric model. . . ." Pretty strong talk, or hot air, from the ex-comrades.

MARCONI AUCTION REMAINS DEAD

Like Generalissimo Franco, this ill-conceived sale remains defunct. Latest evidence is a fax from Christie's auction house (courtesy our Midwest correspondent) confirming that "the entire collection will be donated to the Science Museum in London." There are rumors of a fund of some £3,000,000 having been raised to expedite the donation. Never underestimate the power of British public opinion; irritated enough, they took on Hitler . . .



AIRWAVES **TIMELINE**

"This Month in Radio History" **Compiled by Mike Koste**

(A special April Fool's Edition - with apologies to Nostradamus)

April 19, 2009 With the opening of the Telechron Temple, Sylvia Molettiere not only becomes the first woman to operate a radio museum, but has the first museum dedicated exclusively to 1950s' clock radios.

April 30, 1997 Catalin prices fall dramatically with the discovery of a warehouse full of NOS Fada Bullets in an abandoned subway tunnel beneath Brooklyn.

April 4, 2006 Following mergers with numerous radio clubs in the Northeast, AWA finally agrees to consolidate with the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club. For legal purposes, association is now referred to as "DVNJAWAARCAPARSMAARC" (or "DVHRC" for short).

April 30, 2022 Bunis XVII published. Used copies of Volume I, dating back to the early 1990's, now sell for \$20,000 at radio swapmeets.

April 27, 2003 FCC bans further development of the Worldwide Web, forcing many on-liners to homestead on the long-abandoned 1740-5930 kHz band.

April 26, 2019 Westinghouse pays \$5.5B for the last remaining privately-owned radio station in the US. In tribute, the city of Pittsburgh renames itself "Aeriola." Mel Karmazin becomes FCC Chairman.

April 3, 2003 Radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh reveals to a nationwide audience, "It's all just an act." (Tearfully retires on the air to become assistant groundskeeper at the Bill Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock.)

April 19, 2008 DVHRC buys-out *Antique Radio Classified*. *Oscillator* subscriptions now top 400,000. Former A. R. C. Editor John Terrey last seen peddling manuscripts to *Woman's Day*.

April 2, 2001 Black & Decker scores an instant hit by reintroducing the classic Zenith Transoceanic. Advertising proclaims "the first all-wave portable with a built-in cordless drill."

April 4, 1998 Bowing to pressure from younger collectors, AWA opens old-equipment contests to historic eight-tracks, boom-boxes, beepers and electric can

openers.

April 5, 2031 Lou Scuppler, last surviving member of AWA, succumbs to Lubcz Syndrome at age 132.

April 30, 1999 Due to the weight of his Hallicrafters collection affecting the Earth's axis, Pete Grave is cited by Ottsville, PA officials for "crimes against nature."

April 26, 2000 Ted Sowirka's garage finally dries out.

April 11, 2020 First monthly DVHRC meeting at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Board of Directors agrees to continue pursuing a larger venue.

March 29 thru April 3, 2024 Overflow crowds jam traffic as DVHRC Winter Meet XXX (aka "Tailgate on the Delaware") convenes at the old Philadelphia Navy Yard.

April 1, 1998 Philadelphia's legendary classical music station WFLN changes hands for the 20th time in five years. New owners say no format change "in the foreseeable future."

April 16, 2014 Mike Koste ends his lifelong search and finally completes his collection of *Radio Boys* books.

April 19, 2007 Nobel prize for physics awarded to Editor Emeritus Ludwell Sibley for "achievements in vacuum tube rejuvenation." Profits from the manufacture of his patented 6E5 Reactivator enable Lud to purchase the entire city of Flemington, NJ.

April 3, 2002 Antique Electronic Supply goes belly-up when RCA begins manufacturing 1L6s again and selling them for 59¢ each at Radio Shack.

April 1, 2006 Hell Freezes Over. Tony Molettiere pays "the asking price."

April 12, 2009 Former DVHRC Treasurer John Kern banned from club 50-50s for life after having the winning ticket a record 179 times.

April 24, 2019 PENNDOT recognizes antique-radio collecting as legit and authorizes production of "DVHRC Member" license plates. Bill Overbeck is first to take advantage by ordering a vanity version reading "XTR8EO."

AUDIO SHOW, APRIL 6

The Single-Ended Triode Exposition will take place at the Adams Mark Hotel on City Line Ave. in Philadelphia at 1 PM. Exhibitors will include Cary Audio, Wavelength Audio, Caztech Audio, Audio Note, Welbourne Labs, Koyuro Audio, Bel Canto, Morrison Audio Labs, Insound Audio, Wyetech Labs, FI, and David Berning Audio Co.; also Classic Audio, Nordost Flat Line, and Timbre Technology. This event is sponsored by the Philadelphia Audio Society. At 1:30 PM, amplifier exhibitors will shof off their wares, with 3 min. of demo time each. Bill Overbeck can be contacted for further details.

ON THE HORIZON

April 5-6	Greater Balto. Hamboree/Computerfest, Timonium Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD.
April 6	Single-Ended Triode Exposition, Adams Mark Hotel, Philadelphia.
April 26	Major catalogued estate auction, Smith Auction Co., Downingtown.
April 26	Cherryville Hamfest, Warren Co. Fairgrounds, Harmony, NJ.
May 4	Warminster Hamfest, Middletown Grange, Wrightstown (Penn's Park Rd., near Rtes 413 and 232).
May 31	Central PA Radio Collectors swapmeet, Cloverleaf Antique Barn, Danville.
June 12-14	MAARC RADIOACTIVITY, Best Western Maryland Inn, Laurel, MD.
June 14	DVHRC-NJARC joint picnic/swapmeet/auction, Clinton, NJ.

MEET REPORT: NJARC, MARCH 1

Well, it was a predictable success for the New Jersey club with their Hightstown meet on March 1: tables were sold out, the slightly dowdy "Country Club" was packed to capacity with buyers, and a couple of hardy souls set up outside. Vibes were good all around, the food truck produced good stuff, and lots of goods changed hands.

WANT ADS

Free exposure for your desired or excess stuff! Unless requested otherwise, we'll run each ad for two months, and will send ads to NJARC's *Jersey Broadcaster* for double coverage.

- WANTED:** Thanks to *Oscillator* readers, I'm rounding third and heading for home! Duffield's Radio Boys Under the Sea will finish the collection. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19022, (215) 646-6488.
- FOR SALE:** RCA Victor 10" television, model 9-T-246, nice original cond., complete, not working, \$75. Pilot TV-37U parts set, missing only grille, knobs, and CRT socket; an unaltered original chassis; \$100. Frank Johnson, 530 Elford Rd., Fairless Hills, PA 19030, (215) 943-8295. (4/5-97)
- WANTED:** Radio made by Wurlitzer-Lyric. Any model considered but prefer high tube count. Must be complete and original; need not work. Ray Pietak, 2033 Woodland Rd., Abington, PA 19001, (215) 885-2744. (4/5-97)
- FREE TO A GOOD HOME:** Two Silvertone combination radio-phonos - one model 6449, ca. late '30s, and one 7111, chassis 434.140, ca. early '40s. Both with fair-to-good cabinets. Aaron Hunter, 23 Lenape Trail, Southampton, NJ 08088, (609) 267-3065. (4-5/97)
- WANTED:** Photos, and video of Channel 10 news coverage, of Havertown swapmeet from Feb. 15. Bill Overbeck, (610) 789-8199. (3-4/97)
- FOR SALE:** Complete Instructions for Adjusting All Philco Radio Receivers, a reproduction of a 1934 Philco Service Department publication, \$3.50 ppd. H. W. Petersen, 5214 120th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006. (3-4/97)
- WANTED:** Schematic for a Hallicrafters Sky rider Jr. Ralph Berglund, 109 Box Hill, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003, (609) 429-2138. (2-3/97)
- NOT FOR SALE, BUT WE CAN TALK . . .** Supplement 2 to the book Tube Lore is now available. If you have the original two-page supplement, the new eight-pager is available as follows: (1) you can download it as an RTF file from the Web at <http://www.eht.com/oldradio>, for local printing via a word processor; (2) you can accost the author at a club meeting, or (3) you can send a 32¢ SASE to "More Lore," 44 E. Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822. - Ludwell Sibley. (4-5/97)
- WANTED:** Cabinet (or good cabinet/dead chassis) for Radiola 20. Tom Provost, 19 Ivanhoe Dr., Robbinsville, NJ 08691, (609) 259-7634. (4-5/97)
- FOR SALE:** Moving from area. Must dispose of radio collection, 1920s, '30s, and '40s. 11 sets; table and console; wood and plastic. Also lots of tubes, and Beitman's Most Often Needed Radio Diagrams - 1941. Prefer to sell as one lot. Call Ron Moyer, home (610) 367-8386, work (215) 256-7741.
- FOR TRADE:** Saba "Lindau" radio, long table model with SW and FM, superb audio and polished veneer. Mint condition. Trade-only for miniature or vintage portable tape/wire recorder. Joseph A. Morinelli, 901 Fairfax Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026, (610) 715-1720. (4-5/97)
- WANTED:** Phonograph-related items - top dollar paid immediately for Vogue Picture Records, wax-cylinder records, needle tins, Nipper, record cleaners, puzzles, advertising mirrors, pins, phonograph toys, posters, original advertising from Edison and Victor. Thanks! Bernie Seinberg, 714 Moredon Rd., Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1907, (215) 886-6124. (3-4/97)
- INFO WANTED:** On SCR-838 radar set, the last known Signal Corps SCR-designator. Also need info on AN/GRR-4 clandestine receiver, and AN/PRR-1 through -10 receivers. Fred Chesson, 144 Fiske St., Waterbury, CT 06710, 203-754-4764. (3-4/97)
- INVITATION:** Browse our informative Web page, at www.voicenet.com/~k2bn. A. G. Tannenbaum, PO Box 386, Ambler, PA 19002, (215) 540-8055. (4-5/97)
- WANTED:** Digital LED (electronic) wrist watches such as Pulsar, etc. Gold or chrome cases plus booklets and advertisements. Also: miniature and vintage portable tape/wire recorders; and related accessories and printed matter such as manuals, books, magazines, photos, and advertisements. Joseph A. Morinelli, 901 Fairfax Rd., Drexel Hill, PA 19026, (610) 715-1720. (4-5/97)
- FOR SALE:** The DVHRC tube program offers clean, tested, boxed tubes at very reasonable prices with availability at any club meeting. Proceeds go to the club. About 300 types are currently in stock. Of course, donations of radio-type tubes in any condition are welcome. See Charlie Class at any monthly meeting to obtain or donate tubes.
- FOOD & DRINK:** a good place to join fellow collectors for dinner before meetings is the Hillside Tavern, half a block uphill from the meeting site.

"LOOK OUT, KAISER BILL" - PHILLY RADIO NOSTALGIA

550 WIRELESS MEN AVAILABLE IN PHILADELPHIA

A trained body of 300 expert wireless operators now working on ships at sea or at commercial or naval stations along the coast, and 250 amateurs capable of completing their radio studies within a few months, is Philadelphia's contribution to the nation in event of war. In addition, forty students are now enrolled in the Philadelphia School of Wireless Operating.

This school was the first to be established in America. It was started with a few pupils back in 1911, and since that time has turned out more than 300 trained men, nearly all of whom are holding commercial licenses to-day.

All licenses for wireless operating are issued by the federal authorities, so that the records at Washington constitute an index of the operating force of the country. In this respect Philadelphia is said to lead every other city with its 250 amateurs.

Altho the operation of wireless stations is kept under government regulation, no order has been issued since the breaking off of relations with Germany to make regulations more drastic, and none is expected. In some respects the large number of amateur stations means better protection of the city, for there is hardly one hour out of the twenty-four when some stations are not operating or listening.

In addition to this force, Philadelphia is guarded by three powerful stations, Wanamaker's, League Island, and Cape May. Most of the commercial business of the city is handled over the plant on the roof of the Wanamaker store. This is rated at 100 miles, but its messages have been picked up as far south as Florida. The plant is generally closed now at night, but should the need arise it could be kept in constant operation and could pick up messages from a considerable distance out in the Atlantic. - From *The Electrical Experimenter*, May 1917.

"INDUSTRIAL DESIGN" IN RADIOS - A 1934 VIEW

In recent years, DVHRC's John Okolowicz has written several articles on the "industrial design" of radios and TV sets in *Radio Age* and the *OTB*. On the same topic, here's a whimsical review of radio design, as excerpted from *Fortune* magazine from the Deco Age.

Apex of all fiascoes in design is the radio, the home's most modern instrument, yet the product that has had more difficulties with its dress than any other. In the metal-cabinet era of five or six years ago, one plant [*Philco!*] employed 150 art students to paint pretty rural scenes on the cabinets. This music-box era gave way to a vertigo of period designs, which was followed by a game of hide-and-seek in which a radio pretended to be a console, a wine cooler, a bookcase, or a coffin stool.

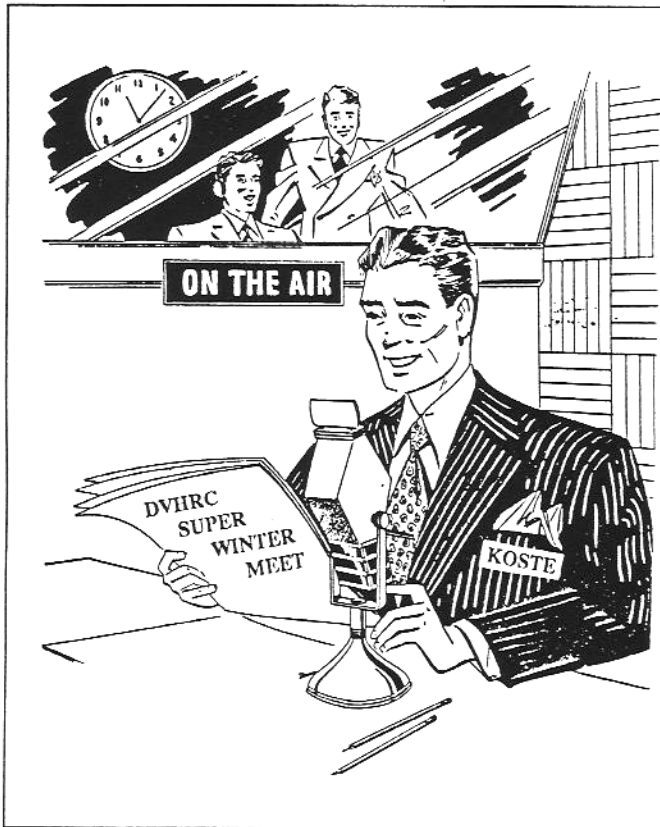
The radio people have tried everything, or at least have started to try everything. Philco called in the great Norman Bel Geddes, was horrified by radios shaped like beer barrels, radios inclosed in glass; got a best seller out of him in the "Low Boy," a low cabinet of light walnut and ebony. Philco has approached nearly every leading independent designer, has designed at top speed itself. Even Leopold Stokowski, Philadelphia Orchestra leader, sent in a design. It was not produced. Philco has accumulated a gigantic dead-man's gulch of radios, storing hundreds of outmoded models, but has gained little real knowledge from it. The latest radio success was designed for Colonial by Loewy. It is a globe, ties up with a current fad for globes in gift and drug stores, yet sells in the high price range. [*Probably the "New World" model Bunis-ed today at \$750-800.*] Vassos is now tackling the radio-design problem for R. C. A. by what he calls the law of averages, about the only method not yet tried. - From "Industrial Designers - Both Fish and Fowl," *Fortune*, Feb. 1934, pp. 40-43.

PUSHING THE (TUBE) ENVELOPE

Scoop

275 volts	Maximum "design-center" rating for 6AQ5 tube, per RCA.
320 volts	Voltage applied to 6AQ5s in Bogen ST10 amp*.
300 volts	Maximum "design-center" rating for 6BQ5 tube, per RCA.
435 volts	Voltage applied to 6BQ5s in Bogen DB115 amp*.
350 volts	Maximum "design-center" rating for 6V6GT tube, per RCA.
425 volts	Voltage applied to 6V6GTs in Bogen CHA20 amp*.
550 volts	Maximum "design-center" rating for 6AV5GA tube, per RCA.
610 volts	Voltage applied to 6AV5GTs in Bogen DB130 amp*.
600 volts	Maximum continuous-commercial-service rating for 807 tube, per RCA.
765 volts	Voltage applied to 807s in Bogen JO100 amp*.

* Per Sams Photofacts 378-6, 376-10, 394-9, 332-4, and 317-5 respectively.



It's time for another...
SUPER WINTERMEET

presented by
THE DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB
SATURDAY MARCH 7th 1998

8am-2pm

*Indoors at the Grimes Center
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