



OSCILLATOR

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 10, No. 2, April, 2002

Cap off your night with the DVHRC

March meeting notes and minutes - Dave Snellman, club secretary, reporting

The regular monthly meeting of the DVHRC was called to order shortly after 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 12, 2002 by President Overbeck. Minutes of last month meeting were accepted as reported.

The membership report shows that our numbers are increasing. With the addition of six renewals and two new members our total membership has risen to 72.

The treasury grew through membership renewals, 50/50 proceeds, commissions, and the refreshment "kitty." The treasury is "up" almost \$1000 since last month.

The club has pressed ahead with its "capacitor program." The idea was approved at a previous meeting. Lewie Newhard will initiate the order for the capacitors. Ted Sowirka has volunteered to be the custodian of the capacitor program. Thanks Ted!

The intent of this program is to provide members with standard value capacitors for their repair or restoration projects at a fair price - with the club making a small profit on the sale. Look for further details and the price list in future bulletins.

Dave Abramson and Al Klase distributed the latest supplement to Lub Sibley's Tube Lore.

There was a book sale at the March meeting. The club's supply of radio related books were available at "let's make a deal" pricing.

We had a quick report (unofficial) report on the "NJARC vs. DVHRC DX Contest." Four members from our club took part. Al Klase, Mike Koste, Dave Snellman, and Abe Diehl all took their turns at tuning in the most distant AM stations they could log. The most mileage wins. We'll report the official returns in next month's column.

The DX contest prompted suggestions for some type of theme night, or a "can you top this" night. Ideas like "how many Zenith Trans-Oceanics can we bring to a meeting?" Let us know what

**Next Meeting, April 9, 2002
Telford Community Center**

ZENITH Night

Bring your Chicago Radio stuff, Zenith radios and accessories. Mom's old Stratosphere! One or two for a show and tell and any others you want to display.



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*Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
P.O. Box 847
Havertown, PA 19088*

Zenith Trans-Oceanics can we bring. Let us know what you think of the idea.

"Yours truly" was caught totally by surprise when Bill Overbeck presented this year's "Sylvia award" to ME - Dave Snellman! The Sylvia award was conceived as a way to recognize club members who go the extra mile to make the DVHRC a great club. The club president makes the choice. The plaque reads, "Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club 2002 Sylvia award presented to Dave Snellman for his outstanding contribution to the success and growth of the DVHRC." It was named after Sylvia Molittiere. Tony and Sylvia Molittiere were founding members of the club. For years club meetings were held at their establishment. Sylvia passed away suddenly and the award was set up in remembrance of her. I feel very honored to be this year's recipient. Thanks you all.

Our swapmeet will be June 15th. It will be held at Renningers in Kutztown. If memory serves me correctly, this is the fourth time DVHRC will be associated with the meet in Kutztown.

Renningers makes overnight camping available and we're looking to take advantage of this. We hope to have some Friday night activities set up. More details will follow.

Peter Weick made a suggestion about holding a "radio clinic" at the Kutztown meet. This would not be one where someone will fix the radio you buy, but a table set-up and manned to provide suggestions on servicing and restoring a set you purchase at the meet.



Al Klase brought in some photos of his listening post that he used for the DX contest. Dave Abramson brought in photos and other information on some British TV sets he has in his collection.

We had no scheduled "tech talk" for the March meeting. We would greatly appreciate anyone who would like to volunteer to make a short (20-30 minute) presentation at one of our upcoming meetings. Instead, we had an impromptu discussion on the future of our hobby. It turned out to be a well-received (no pun intended) discussion about radios, radio listening and technology in general.

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Current prices and availability of radio sets was discussed. Interesting facts as well as current technology updates were presented. For example, 300 million sets were manufactured between 1923 and 1963. It is reported that KYW (1060 kHz AM) is broadcasting in "digital" format on one sideband.

One observation that seems to have really "hit home." Al Klase commented on the fact that "current technologies are not accessible." Radio and TV as we know it relied on discreet components. You could see what made up the circuit. In this digital age of microprocessor driven devices made up of millions of components all crunched into the space of a square inch, you can't see (or sometimes understand) what makes the technology tick.

As we just got over our DX contest, there were many comments on AM radio, including what you can still find on the AM band. A few of us reminisced of how much we enjoyed AM and that the recent contest brought a lot of those memories back. We even discussed which version of the "GE Super Radio" was the best for long distance reception.

After our 50/50 drawing and a break for refreshments, we jumped into the monthly auction. As something a little different I thought I'd list some of the items in the auction and what they sold for. (Maybe this will intrigue a few who don't make our meeting to put a little extra effort into attending.)

Atwater Kent Radio - complete - \$50.00. Matching speaker (model E) \$20.00.
Normand radio - \$20.00. AEG table radio - didn't sell.

An RCA model 7-BX-10 "Stratoworld" in good condition didn't make the minimum bid.

Simpson 280 VOM sold for \$5.00. Zenith "Circle of Sound" clock radio (new) sold for \$11.00.

Tektronix style scope probes went for \$20.00. A "VoltOhmyst" sold for \$8.00.

A 16" Rek-o-cut turntable sold for \$20.00. A nice variety of "XLR" type adapters went for \$35.00.

An Atwater Kent 36 went home for a mere \$80.00. A Zenith TO went for \$70.00. A copy of the Radiotron Designers Handbook, 3rd ed. sold for \$5.00.

By the end of the auction, the club was \$60 plus ahead in commissions.

Our next meeting will be held on April 9th, at 7:30 PM at the Telford Community Center. Hope to see you there.

From the Parts Bin Dave Abramson, Editor

Some late news that has no home other than this column.

Lewie Newhard sent me an e-mail note that the Friday night festivities at the Kutztown Meet now include a cookout and possibly a band. Lewie will have detail at the meeting next Tuesday.

And the capacitors have arrived. Lot's of them. From the early list I have, there are 17 different values with some electrolytics. Ted has them at the moment and will bring them to the meeting. We are still working on a pricing structure for bulk lots and individual sale. We are staying away from mail sales at this time to encourage people to come to the meetings and events to get them. They will be discounted from the usual prices we all find.

And be sure to come to the meeting for Zenith night as suggested by El Presidente. Bring the good stuff.

-ed-

UPCOMING EVENTS:

New Jersey Antique Radio Club Swap meet - Saturday, March 30, 2002. North Centerville Vol. Fire Co., Hazlet, NJ. Located off exit 117 of Garden State Parkway. Contact Marv Beferman at 609-693-9430 or Phil Vourtsis at 732-446-2427.

DVHRC monthly meeting. April 9, 2002. Telford Community Center. 7:30 PM.

NJARC monthly meeting. April 12, 2002. Grace Lutheran Church, Freehold, NJ. 7:30 PM

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Hamfest. April 6-7, 2002. State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD. Check out <http://gbhc.org>

Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club (MAARC) monthly meeting. 2:00 PM, Sunday, April 21, 2002, 7th Day Adventist Church, Burtonsville, MD. Check their website at <http://www.maarc.org>

York Hamfest. April 21, 2002. York, PA. Check out <http://www.yorkhamfest.org>

Penn-Del Amateur Radio Club Hamfest. April 28, 2002. New Castle, DE. Check out <http://high-tech-services.com/pemdel>

Antique Wireless Association Spring Meet - May 4, 2002. AWA Annex, Bloomfield, NY. Contact Ed Gable at 716-392-3088.

Trenton Computer Fair. April 4-5, 2002. Edison, NJ

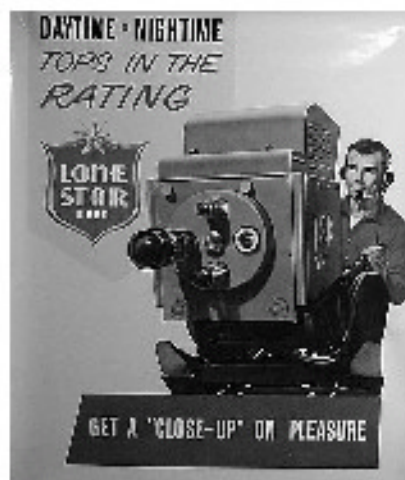
Warminster Amateur Radio Club hamfest. May 5, 2002. Wrightstown Grange Fair Grounds, Wrightstown, PA. Check out <http://www.k3dn.org>

Radio Activity - May 16 through 18, 2002. Sheraton College Park, Beltsville, MD. Sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club. Contact Brian Belanger at 301-258-0708 or check out www.maarc.org.

Kutztown Radio Meet and Auction - Saturday, June 15, 2002. Remigiers, Noble Street, Kutztown, PA. Check future Oscillator editions for more details or contact Lewie Newhard at 610-262-3255.

New Jersey Antique Radio Club Swap meet - Saturday, July 27, 2002. Dover, NJ. Contact Marv Beferman at 609-693-9430 or Phil Vourtsis at 732-446-2427.

That's the list for now. If you know of upcoming events that would be of interest to club members, please let me know. Contact Dave Snellman at 214-345-4248 (leave a message) or e-mail me at snellman@bucks.edu. Feel free to include hamfests, club related events, flea markets, auctions, or whatever you feel would interest your fellow collectors. Don't be afraid to share!



The GE Super Radio III

Having been a fan of AM DXing for a long time, I was fascinated by the discussion of the GE Super Radio and the history by Mike Koste. So I ran home and did my internet search and found many places to buy it. Amazon.com of all places had the cheapest price...\$39 plus shipping. While waiting for delivery, I found several internet sites dedicated to this radio. There are three and 1/2 versions of the radio. The first two used variable caps and is TRF. The III, around since the mid-90's uses a varactor diode tuner which has a problem discussed later. The mysterious 1/2 version has a digital readout with a built-in cassette recorder. It is closest in design to the II. All are AM/FM. Not having a I or II to compare to, I rely on my observations and other notes from the internet. My III is a very good sounding unit with a 6" bass and 2.5" tweeter. The III is very sensitive on the AM band with stations coming in from Iowa eastward as long as I was below about 1200kHz. Above that, it was too crowded to distinguish. It's "wide" mode on AM is only useful on local stations, but does show what AM can be capable of, otherwise adjacent stations sent the noise to unusable levels. FM reception is a bit above normal modern radios but the AFC seemed to diminish the bass level. The devil in this radio is the AM dial calibration. My dial, and most others, was consistently 60-80kHz above the station across the dial. FM was right on. Judging by the AC cord (sheathed, not molded), it is a recent production model and GE has not figured out or bothered to fix this alignment problem. On the website listed below are various suggested fixes for this ranging from creating a new scale to detailed retuning instructions. None of the varactor retuning fixes mentioned what would happen to FM. All in all, a great sounding, modern AM/FM for the money...and picking up Phillies games at night...otherwise, fire up that Zenith. -ed-

For information; http://www1.shore.net/~dmoisan/faqs/superradio/gesr_faq.html

Total cleanout- house to be emptied. Of possible interest to DVHRC:

60-yr. collections: Couple hundred radio tubes- 7 pin-9 pin, octal, and some older 4-5 pin.

Rider TV manuals- almost complete set, some tv fixit magazines,

Various chassis, battery charger, home brew stuff, cb's, old cell phones, speakers, huge amount of telephone equipment- ksu's, phones, 1A2, line cards, powersupplies, interrupters, 8' fluorescent fixtures great for shop--, old intercoms, alarm systems, b/w tv monitors-receivers, closed circuit cameras, wire, ballasts, heavy duty wheels, many tools, jars of hardware parts, computer cables, much more. Possibly 3/4" videotapes, This is all part of a huge house sale with hundreds of items that MUST GO including art magazines, playboy magazines, old famous headline newspapers- complete with all ads, hundreds of LP albums, books, kitchen ware, etc.

Pre-sale viewings can be arranged for DVHRC members. Cash only.

Date- 4/27-28- 8am-2pm. 697 Paddock Road, corner of Paddock and Ellis Rd, Havertown, 5 minutes from the St. Denis location. For more information:

Mike Muderick, 610-449-6970 in the evenings.



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

APRIL 14, 1912 The sinking of the S.S. Titanic proves the value of wireless at sea.

APRIL 19, 1924 The first "National Barn Dance" broadcast on WLS. (Similar to WSM's "Grand Ole Opry," this pioneering country music program went nationwide on NBC in 1933).

APRIL 1, 1929 WPEN, Philadelphia signs on, now at 950 kHz.

APRIL 6, 1930 Never a big fan of radio, Will Rogers gives it a try anyway. "The Will Rogers Program" lasts just two months on CBS. However, Rogers made numerous radio guest appearances on such shows as "The Eveready Hour".

APRIL 6, 1931 "Little Orphan Annie" goes nationwide, moving from WGN, Chicago to the Blue network.

APRIL 26, 1931 Chester Lauck and Norris Goff appear as "Lum and Abner" on KTHS, Hot Springs, Arkansas. (NBC picked them up two months later where they remained into the early 1950's).

APRIL 1, 1932 WFLA and WSUN, Clearwater, Florida install the first directional AM broadcast antenna system in the U.S.

APRIL 26, 1932 "The Texaco Fire Chief" Ed Wynn slapsticks his way onto NBC. The following week, West Coast listeners first heard the classic serial "One Man's Family".

APRIL 6, 1935 Al Jolson takes up residence on NBC's "Shell Chateau". Two weeks later on the Blue Network, listeners were introduced to "Fibber McGee & Molly."

APRIL 20, 1935 In what was to become a Saturday night tradition, "Your Hit Parade" debuts.

APRIL 1, 1936 CBS buys KNX, Los Angeles for \$1.3 million, the biggest station deal to date.

APRIL 26, 1937 NBC takes a chance on the comic soap opera, "Lorenzo Jones", and ends up with a hit that lasts eighteen years.

APRIL 3, 1939 After a two month tryout, "Mr. District Attorney" is slated as a summer replacement for Bob Hope. So popular a crime show, it becomes part of the fabric at NBC and remains on the air until 1951.

APRIL 10, 1939 Contestants vie for silver dollars and the sponsor's candy as the fast-paced quiz show "Dr. IQ, The Mental Banker" debuts.

APRIL 21, 1940 The durable quiz program "Take It Or Leave It" premieres. Over the years, emcees included Phil Baker, Garry Moore, Eddie Cantor and Jack Paar. By 1950, it evolved into "The \$64 Question", and by the time it made the move to television, "The \$64,000 Question."



AIRWAVES

TIMELINE

"This Month in Radio History"

Compiled by Mike Koste

APRIL 8, 1941 Earle Graser, radio's "Lone Ranger", killed in an auto wreck. (For a period of several broadcasts, the storyline had the Ranger gravely ill and wasn't heard except for heavy breathing. After sufficient time had passed, the show's narrator, Brace Beemer, assumed the role through the final episode in 1954.)

APRIL 10, 1942 Before a successful run on TV, "People Are Funny" had a long happy life on radio. (It's original host was Art Baker... Art Linkletter came later).

APRIL 16, 1945 Radio voluntarily suspends all commercials during coverage of President Roosevelt's funeral.

APRIL 30, 1945 Dud Williamson hosts "Queen For Today" (later "Queen For A Day") on Mutual. Jack Bailey takes over when the show moves from New York to Hollywood in June, and makes the transition to TV. Over at CBS, "Arthur Godfrey Time" joins the daytime lineup and remains through 1972.

APRIL 11, 1946 Official release date of the first set of Sams Photofacts.

APRIL 7, 1947 A.C. Nielson reports the U.S. now has over 35.9 million radio families who listen for 150.8 million hours a day. The following week, CBS introduces the popular sitcom "My Friend Irma"

APRIL 3, 1949 Following the infamous talent raid that sent a number of their biggest radio stars over to CBS, NBC signs Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis for a one hour comedy-variety series.

APRIL 16, 1951 CBS enters the manufacturing field with it's purchase of tube producers, Hytron Radio & Electronics Corp. and it's set-building subsidiary, Air King.

APRIL 26, 1952 A western series for adults? Don't laugh...it worked on radio and later became a CBS TV classic too. "Gunsmoke", starring William Conrad premieres.

APRIL 4, 1955 NBC launches, "Monitor", it's weekend radio magazine format.

APRIL 21, 1955 The final "Bob Hope Show" airs on NBC radio.

APRIL 23, 1956 Ampex Corporation's new video tape recorder steals the show at the NARTB Convention in Chicago.

APRIL 10, 1957 University of Pennsylvania's WXPB signs-on, now on 88.5 MHz.

APRIL 14, 1958 U.S. Census Bureau reports 83% of homes have television.

APRIL 3, 1961 Inventor, industrialist, broadcaster and radio manufacturer Powell Crosley Jr. dies at age 74.

APRIL 24, 1961 FCC exempts FM stereo broadcasting



OSCILLATOR

Inside...

Birth night... meeting notes... upcoming events

GE Super Radio... estate sale... caps 'n us

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