



OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 4 No. 7, July 1996

JULY MEETING

Per DVHRC tradition, there won't be one. Next: August 13.

GO GET 'EM, MIKE . . .

POWER 99 FM WINS MERCURY AWARD

(From a press release): EZ Communication radio station POWER 99 FM (WUSL-FM) in Philadelphia has won the prestigious Mercury Gold Award for best radio Public Service Announcement. The winning PSA was "Yolanda Erwin: Summer of Peace - No Guns in the Street." The spot featured an impassioned message from West Philadelphia resident Yolanda Erwin, who lost her two young sons to senseless violence last year. . . The PSA was produced by POWER 99 FM production director Mike Koste from an interview with Erwin conducted by news director Loraine Ballard Morrill. . . There were 40 finalists in the 1996 awards, selected from a field of 1013 entries; eight awards besides the Mercury Gold Award were presented in New York by the Radio Creative Fund, which was formed in 1991 to promote excellence in radio advertising.

A nice honor for Koste, DVHRC president-emeritus. The trophy itself is a hefty RCA 833A tube mounted on a marble vase. That's a clever idea: surely more fledgling announcers got their start in radio reading the news, etc., with the cherry-red glow of a pair of 833As in the background than any other tube. - Ed.

MARC EXTRAVAGANZA

Italians and Michiganders have a word for it: *EXTRAVAGANZA*. The Michigan club is about to present its annual blowout event in Lansing, on July 12-14, Friday-Sunday. It will feature a flea market outdoors, a 10-category equipment contest, four talks by high-powered speakers, an auction Friday evening, a banquet - the works. It's at the Holiday Inn South, 6820 Cedar St. off I-96 (800-333-8123). For more details, see p. 41 of the July A. R. C., or call 517-349-7187.

MAARC PUTS ON "RADIOACTIVITY 96"

All reports indicate that the Mid-Atlantic club's annual event was successful and jolly; the weather was hot, but there were 80 or so vendors in the flea market. The auction was big and offered numerous bargains; in particular, one seller came in with a truckload of console radios, many of which sold for bids in the single digits.

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

Bill Overbeck

On June 26, long-term DVHRC member Frank Maggiore died from complications of a heart attack. He was 59 years old.

The passing of our friend inspires one to think about Frank and, more generally, the relationships we form in this hobby. Often we relate to a latest radio acquisition and how important it is to share the good feeling with a friend, someone who is pleased, not envious, of one's good fortune. Frank was that kind of person.

Traveling to MAARC meetings and Rochester with Frank often led to deep conversation as the miles clicked away, and I learned about the family he loved so much . . . enough that when they spent time at the funeral trying to make *me* feel better I was not surprised.

Frank leaves his wife Darina, children Paul, Diana, and Joe, and the legacy of being a gentleman in the radio-collecting community. On behalf of all of us, I offer the Maggiore family our deepest sympathy.

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.

Unless indicated otherwise, attributed reproduction for nonprofit purposes of any material in this publication is welcome. (Contact the editor to obtain copy on-disc.)

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.

DVHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pete Grave Mike Koste Tony Molettieri
Bill Overbeck Ludwell Sibley

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Jay Daveler

1996 DVHRC OFFICERS

President Bill Overbeck (610) 789-8199
Vice-President Tony Molettieri (215) 723-7459
Treasurer John Kern (215) 538-2128
Secretary Mike Koste (215) 646-6488

OSCILLATOR EDITOR

Ludwell ("Scoop") Sibley

OSCILLATOR CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Douglas

Alton DuBois, Jr Mike Koste
Bob Thomas, W3QZO Ted Sowirka

DVHRC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Jim Amici Ned Borger
Lewis Newhard Ted Sowirka

FLEA MARKET & AUCTION COMMITTEE

Pete Grave Dave Abramson

LIBRARIAN & TUBE PROGRAM

Charlie Class

MEMBERSHIPS

Mike Koste

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: Aug. 13, Sept. 10

TRANSISTOR NETWORK STILL AROUND

Bill Overbeck

We recently reported the demise of *Transistor Network*. Fortunately, all is not lost. A July, 1996 "test edition" has come out since the former publication of Marty and Sue Bunis went up for adoption. It "will hereafter be published by Dave Gibson," who has "graciously agreed to continue the new *TN* for at least 12 months."

Subscriptions may be entered by sending \$17 for one year to Dave Gibson, 781 W. N St., Springfield, OR 97477.

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.

FOR SALE: 36 consecutive issues of *Radio Guide*, starting 7-2-38 (Jack Benny) to 3-18-39 (Benny again), in good condition. Please send an offer to PO Box 598, Claymont, DE 19703. (An anonymous want ad! - no endorsement intended). (7-8/96)

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 Seiberger, 714 Moredon Rd., Meadowbrook, PA 19046-1907, (215) 886-6124. (7-8/96)

ESTATE SALE: Collins S-Line amateur station: receiver, transmitter, station control, and 2-kW linear, winged emblem, pick up for \$2500 or best offer. Huge selection of '40s-'50s-'60s tubes and oldie radio parts. Will have a vanload of the latter at the Sussex hamfest on July 14. Also: looking for spark gear; have Pepsi Bottle radio to trade for same. Call eves. John Dilks, K2TQN, (609) 927-3873.

FOR SALE: Howard W. Sams repair books: transistor (TSM), auto radio (AR), and hi-fi (MHF). Good supply. Lewie Newhard, (610) 262-3255 eves. (6-7/96)

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.

YOU'LL PROBABLY SEE MORE ABOUT THIS, BUT . . .

OLDIE RADIO SCOOP ON CD-ROM

There's been an Internet announcement (from <http://www.flash.net/~tsm/>, forwarded by John Dilks) to the effect that "Radio Era Archives" plans to introduce a series of CD-ROMS

ON THE HORIZON

July 12-14 MARC EXTRAVAGANZA, Lansing, MI.


July 14 Augusta Hamfest, Sussex Co. Fairgrounds, Plains Rd., off US 206, Augusta, NJ.

July 20 Cherryville Hamfest, Warren Co. Fairgrounds, on Rte. 519, Warren Co., NJ; 5 mi. from Exit 3 of I-78; indoors-outdoors. Open to vendors at 6 AM; to buyers, at 8 AM.

of interest to the antique-radio community. "Radiophile Vol. 1" is to contain 29 books on troubleshooting, including AK and Philco factory books, RCA and GE tube manuals, the 1955 ARRL Handbook, the 1938 "jubilee" issue of *Radio-Craft*, a full index to Rider's manuals, etc.; for \$59 (through the end of August). A series of six discs is to cover the entire 23 volumes of Rider's manuals. A search database is to be included. Intro price for the full set is \$450. Another series, to be added later, will offer all 80 years of *QST* magazine, with an index to all. A brochure covering these products is offered, for a biz-size SASE to Terry Muncey, Radio Era Archives, 2043 Empire Central, Dallas, TX 75235. Phone is 800-684-3912 or 214-358-5195; fax is 214-357-4693. E-mail address is tsm@flash.net.

AIRWAVES

"This Month in Radio History"



TIMELINE

Compiled by Mike Koste

1897, July 17-18. Guglielmo Marconi demonstrates wireless telegraphy between the Italian coast and the cruiser *San Martin*. Best DX: 10 miles.

1898, July 20, 22. The Kingstown Regatta is reported by wireless for the *Dublin Daily Express* from the steamer *Flying Huntress*, equipped with Marconi gear.

1902, July 14-16. Marconi's DX record is improving: now receiving messages from Poldhu, Cornwall on the Italian battleship *Carlo Alberto*, at Cape Skage, 800 miles away.

1915, July 8. U. S. Navy takes over operation of the Telefunken-owned wireless station WSL at Sayville, L. I., after investigating alleged breaches of neutrality.

1947, July 11. WSNI, Phila., signs on, on 1540 kHz; station later enjoys a presence as WPGR (Philly Gold Radio), with 50 kW daytime-directional; still around, after abandoning the archaeo-rock format.

1947, July. WFMZ, Allentown, signs on, now on 100.7 MHz with 12.5 kW @ 870'.

1948, July 11. Bell of PA activates the first installation of the new No. 5 crossbar switching system at Media. No. 5, "the postwar crossbar," serves valiantly until displaced by electronic-analog and then digital switching systems; lasting until ca. 1990.

1951, Aug. 17. AT&T opens transcontinental radio-relay system, New York - San Francisco.

1953, July 9. WRTI, Phila., signs on, now on 90.1 MHz with 20 kW @ 400'.

1957, July 15. Bell of PA starts trial in Allentown-Bethlehem of personal radio paging service.

1958, July 23 WFLN, Phila., signs on, now on 900 kHz with 1 kW, daytime-directional.

1962, July 10. Telstar satellite is launched via a three-stage Delta rocket: "world's first [serious] international communications satellite."

1970, July 1. PICTUREPHONE service opens in Pittsburgh, with Alcoa as an early subscriber.

PHONETICS OVER THE YEARS

In the old days, military users of field telephones often had a hard time understanding each other, what with poor-sounding equipment, leaky lines, and battle noise in the background. A great improvement came from devising a standard alphabet of words for spelling out important abbreviations and messages under poor conditions. Thus was born the first phonetic alphabet.

When voice radio came along, ca. WW I, the need for such an alphabet was equally great. Thus spelling-out became traditional operating procedure. That explains why Britain's first broadcast station was fondly referred to as "Two Emma Toc," and why the English referred to "ack-ack" (antiaircraft) artillery. Likewise, the U. S. Navy's radio-intelligence network in the Pacific, ca. 1940, followed the then-current phonetic alphabet and discreetly coded its stations "Baker" (Guam), "Cast" (Cavite, Philippines), and "Hypo" (Hawaii). Not surprisingly, the Germans in WW II had their own alphabet - "Emil" and "Fritz" come to mind as representing "E" and "F."

The table below shows a variety of phonetic alphabets over the years. The table originated in the *Counterpoise*, Feb. 1992, of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (southern California), as reprinted in the *DXer* of the Northern California DX Club. - LAS



	1904 British Army	1916 U.S. Army	1917 Royal Navy	1927 British Army	Western Union	1945 Allied Services	ARRL	British A	Telecom B	1956 ICAO (today's)
A	Ack	Able	Apples	Ack	Adams	Able	Adam	Amsterdam	Alfred	Alfa
B	Beer	Buy	Butter	Beer	Boston	Baker	Baker	Baltimore	Benjamin	Bravo
C		Cast	Charlie	Charlie	Chicago	Charlie	Charlie	Casablanca	Charles	Charlie
D	Don	Dock	Duff	Don	Denver	Dog	David	Denmark	David	Delta
E		Easy	Edward	Edward	Easy	Edward	Edward	Edison	Edward	Echo
F		Fox	Freddy	Freddy	Frank	Fox	Frank	Florida	Frederick	Foxtrot
G		George	George	George	George	George	George	Gallipoli	George	Golf
H		Have	Harry	Harry	Henry	How	Henry	Havana	Harry	Hotel
I		Item	Ink	Ink	Ida	Item	Ida	Italia	Isaac	India
J		Jig	Johnnie	Johnnie	John	Jig	John	Jerusalem	Jack	Juliet
K		King	King	King	King	King	King	Kilogramme	King	Kilo
L		Love	London	London	Lincoln	Love	Lewis	Liverpool	London	Lima
M	Emma	Mike	Monkey	Monkey	Mary	Mike	Mary	Madagascar	Mary	Mike
N		Nap	Nuts	Nuts	NewYork	Nan	Nancy	New York	Nellie	November
O		Opal	Orange	Orange	Ocean	Oboe	Otto	Oslo	Oliver	Oscar
P		Pup	Pudding	Pip	Peter	Peter	Peter	Paris	Peter	Papa
Q		Quack	Queenie	Queen	Queen	Queen	Queen	Quebec	Queen	Quebec
R		Rush	Robert	Robert	Roger	Roger	Robert	Roma	Robert	Romeo
S	Esses	Sail	Sugar	Sugar	Sugar	Sugar	Susan	Santiago	Samuel	Sierra
T	Toc	Tape	Tommy	Toc	Thomas	Tape	Thomas	Tripoli	Tommy	Tango
U		Unit	Uncle	Uncle	Union	Uncle	Union	Uppsala	Uncle	Uniform
V	Vic	Vice	Vinegar	Vic	Victor	Victor	Victor	Valencia	Victor	Victor
W		Watch	Willie	William	William	William	William	Washington	William	Whiskey
X		X-ray	Xerxes	X-ray	X-ray	X-ray	X-ray	Xantippe	X-ray	X-ray
Y		Yoke	Yellow	Yorker	Young	Yoke	Young	Yokohama	Yellow	Yankee
Z		Zed	Zebra	Zebra	Zero	Zebra	Zebra	Zurich	Zebra	Zulu

NJARC ELECTS OFFICERS

Our cousins across the river elected new officers at June's meeting. Jim Whartenby edged out Phil Vourtsis for president by a small margin. The rest of the election was an unopposed slate: Ludwell Sibley as VP, Marv Beeferman as secretary, Gerry Dowgin as treasurer, Don Cruise as sergeant-at-arms, and Mark Mittleman as trustee. Founding president Tony Flanagan will finally get to relax after four years.

CAVEAT EMPTOR DEPT.

DEMAGNETIZE THAT STEREO

Here's a problem you probably didn't know you had: magnetization of your stereo. The current issue of *Glass Audio* has an ad for a magic CD which proposes to fix the problem. The "magnetic domain matrix signals" system conditioning and degaussing CD will "demagnetize ALL SYSTEM COMPONENTS [their emphasis] at a 'normal' listening level" . . . "you don't have to worry about blowing up your amplifier or speakers as with other demagnetizing discs!". It "integrates a maximum amount of degaussing energy into a minimum amount of time" and gives "10 times the effective demagnetization" of other discs with "less than 1/100 the heat dissipated," giving "complete demagnetization of all frequency selective circuits (crossovers, tone controls, filters, etc.)"

There are some interesting possibilities here - play the disc through a phono oscillator and demagnetize the tone control in that ancient Philco? Play it on your boat, and stop worrying about magnetic mines? Who knows?

クラシック・ヴァルヴ

幻の真空管800種の軌跡

THE CLASSIC VALVES

By Hisashi Ohtsuka, ISBN 4-416-19403-X. Softbound, 7" x 10". 287 pp., \$39 from Antique Electronic Supply, 6221 S. Maple Ave., Tempe, AZ 85283, 602-820-5411.

What's the average gringo tube enthusiast doing reviewing a book he can't even read? Well, the text may be in Japanese, but the photography in this book is a knockout. Think of it as a lovely, part-color visual supplement to your copy of Tyne's Saga of the Vacuum Tube. The photography is well composed and crisply printed. A color section has 73 shots of rare and lovely early tubes *with filaments lighted!* The mercury-vapor tubes among them light up in mystic blue, just as in real operation. There's a page of color pix of eye tubes, including the rare 6T5 with its green-glowing indication and some of the foreign ones with their various "wedge" and "Maltese-cross" displays. Everything is identified in Roman characters, so there's no problem of identity.

The rest of the book covers tube history, including American and European types. There's the obligatory coverage of Western Electric tubes. There's a picture of the rare Duovac version of the Signal Corps VT-2. German military types of WW II are included, along with pictures of some of the gear that used them. The interested observer can puzzle out the gist of the text, again via the Roman-character identifications. For one thing, it was a surprise to find that the Japanese had produced a few *octal* tubes during WW II. Having previously seen only big-pin, acorn, and transmitting types of that vintage, I didn't expect to see the DH2, PH1, and RH2/RH4/RH8, which were 1943 equivalents of the 12H6GT, 12V6GT, and 12SJ7GT respectively. The book follows tubes right up to "the end," with coverage of pencil triodes, the odd Westinghouse glass-pillbox types, and Nuvistors - including an odd Toshiba Nuvistor that's standard diameter but 2-½ times as tall as usual. There's also a large table giving the technical characteristics of a 180 or so "landmark" historic tubes, from WW I to the '40s.

This book isn't for everyone, but it certainly has value for the dedicated tubehead. - LAS

PHILADELPHIA-AREA RESTORATION LORE

"A WORD TO THE WISE"

Several days ago we received a 5-tube AC-DC receiver with the usual tube complement (12SA7, 12SK7, 12SQ7, 35Z5, and 50L6). As received, tubes were in the wrong sockets (there were no socket identifications) and the 12SK7 and 35Z5 were burned out. With replacements, all tubes were installed in their proper sockets. When the set was turned on, the rectifier tube flashed and burned out.

Examination of the chassis showed that the 35Z5 heater terminals were wired to the small section of the filament only, the pilot-lamp leads were clipped, and a pair of shorted 0.005 μ F molded capacitors were connected in series to one terminal of the heater (rectifier socket), with the other end of the series-connected capacitors floating.

After correction of these errors, the receiver was found to tune a local station (560 kHz) over most of the dial, with oscillations on most local stations over the dial. A low audio beat was also produced at approximately 610 kHz.

After considerable time wasted on oscillator circuit and IF tuning, it was finally discovered that IF transformers, although mutually in resonance, had very broad characteristics and were trimmed near minimum capacity to a point approaching the frequency of WFIL, 560 kHz. This signal was apparently being picked up through the IF system and, being ever-present, accounted for spread of reception and the accompanying heterodyne effect.

I believe this experience should bring an old familiar moral to mind. Considerable time and a good 35Z5 might have been spared with cautious forethought. - J. A. Sweeney, Quality Radio & Sound Service, 717 Center Ave., Collingswood, NJ, in *The Photofact Servicer*, Sept. 18, 1947.

Most of us who restore radios have encountered a previous botched repair job or "improvement," like the RCA Victor AC-DC set that had had a phono jack added in such a way that the chassis became "hot." Likewise, if the set uses a 50B5 output tube, the chassis can be "hot" if the 50B5's in the wrong socket. Sometimes it takes longer to back-out previous sloppy rewiring than to fix the actual trouble!

SPECIAL B-BATTERIES - BAH!

Ludwell Sibley

Most of us grew up secure in the knowledge that B-batteries for radios came in fixed voltages, based on using multiple groups of 15 1-½ volt cells. The result was simple: 22-½, 45, 67-½, and 90 volts respectively. Sure, there had been some odd sizes, like 30 volts for tube hearing aids, or "20," "40," or 60 volts in really early radios like the Westinghouse RA-DA or some British sets, but generally things were predictable.

But the world was not so simple. When combined A-and-B packs appeared on the market for use in portable radios

of the late '30s, battery designers working with standard-sized cells had to squeeze a few cells more or less into the available space. The result was special batteries with some weird "B" voltages. Examples:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Volts</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volts</u>
Burgess 3GD4D50*	6 and 75	General 34AAAG	51
Burgess 4GA41	1-½ and 61-½	Philco P41A4G	1-½ and 61-½
Burgess F4A41	6 and 61-½	Ray-O-Vac AB419	1-½ and 63
Burgess G5A42	7-½ and 63	Zenith Z675	6 and 75
Burgess Z59	88-½	Zenith Z985X	6 and 85-½

* a 19-lb. farm-radio pack.

The radios didn't care electronically about a few volts more or less. But when the 1941-42 buildup for defense got rolling and almost all of the country's battery-production capacity became needed for military requirements, these oddball packs were the first ones to be discontinued. Repairmen scrambled to replace them with general-purpose "A" and "B" batteries of normal voltage, using commercially available adapter cables, but before long even regular batteries became unavailable. There was some relaxation of restrictions on production of batteries for farm radios and the like in 1944-45, just as the "MR" tube program allowed manufacture of some replacement tubes, but the standard voltages were naturally favored.

The situation was particularly odd with Zenith Trans-Oceanics, which had been promoted as "the" radio to have for wartime home information - "breaks through blackout . . . you owe it to your family." These - both the 7G605 and the 8G005YT models - used the Z985X special pack. The set must have worked fine as long as the AC power was on, but in a power-off situation in, say, 1943, the civilian user could forget about using the radio!

FIRST CLASS MAIL

DVHRC
 Box 41031
 Philadelphia, PA 19127-0031

