

**All the Electrons that are fit to flow.**



# OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 9. No. 4, July, 2001

## Newsletter Returns - Thousands Rejoice

*After a short absence, the Oscillator makes a return to your mailbox, workbench, and reading room. Dave Abramson has immersed himself in Borderbrund's Print Shop software and hopes to give our little journal a new look. His column on the effort is inside. We hope, to borrow a phrase "...keep it local!". By this, we hope to focus on our members and their hobby efforts, tips, projects, desperate appeals for help, and discoveries.*

*The look of the Oscillator may change a bit in following editions as we fine tune it, but the news, the photos, and the features, will be there. We hope to add business card ads to generate a little revenue, with free classified ads for our members, and any other items you want. You tell us.*

Stay tuned!

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### Renninger's Swap Meet is now "DVHRC at Kutztown"

*At the June meeting of the DVHRC in Telford, PA, the Board of Directors, voted to align our club with the Renninger's Swap Meet at Kutztown, PA., just west of Allentown, PA. The past meets, organized by our own Lewie Newhard have been more and more successful. The last meet on May, 5th, had over 65 dealers, good attendance, and the auction at the end netted the DVHRC over \$200 in commissions for our treasury. Our participation will give the meet the authenticity that is so important to other collectors. It will give us the chance to make collectors and non-collectors aware of us and our hobby and our club. We will be able to collaborate with the antique community and the radio community to promote ourselves to the benefit of both of us. With a superb, under cover location, we look forward to your buying, selling, participation, suggestions and especially your volunteer help for the good of the club. See the ad for the next meet inside.*

### Three-dial radio market explodes - Faulty batteries suspected

Coverage on Page 45V



# OSCILLATOR

Newsletter of the  
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club  
P.O. Box 847  
Havertown, PA 19083

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 discs should be in Word and .jpg formats.

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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 transactions incurred.

To join: DVHRC dues are \$15 per year. The membership year runs January - December. Please mail to the club P.O. box above.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Telford Community Building, Telford, PA

## DVHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Pete Grave  
Lewie Newhard  
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Dave Abramson

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND ADS

DVHRC Editor  
1649 Yellow Springs Rd  
Chester Springs, PA 19425  
610-827-9757 phone/fax  
dtatv@worldnet.att.net  
(deadline is the 20th of each month)

Material submitted is subject to acceptance and editing by the editor.  
A full page article is approximately 400 words. Printed photos may be submitted for scanning. JPG files should be under 100K.



A man without thought for the future - must soon have present sorrow.  
Think of the coming clear cold nights  
and buy that Grebe Receiver  
Now!

Doctor Thee



LESLIE TOW  
Illustration by Leslie Tow  
No. 111218

**D**EALERS who realize the value of highly satisfied customers recommend and sell Grebe Radio Apparatus. These dealers know good apparatus. They know also that the Grebe slogan—"Each instrument manufactured by us must give satisfactory service"—means exactly what it says.

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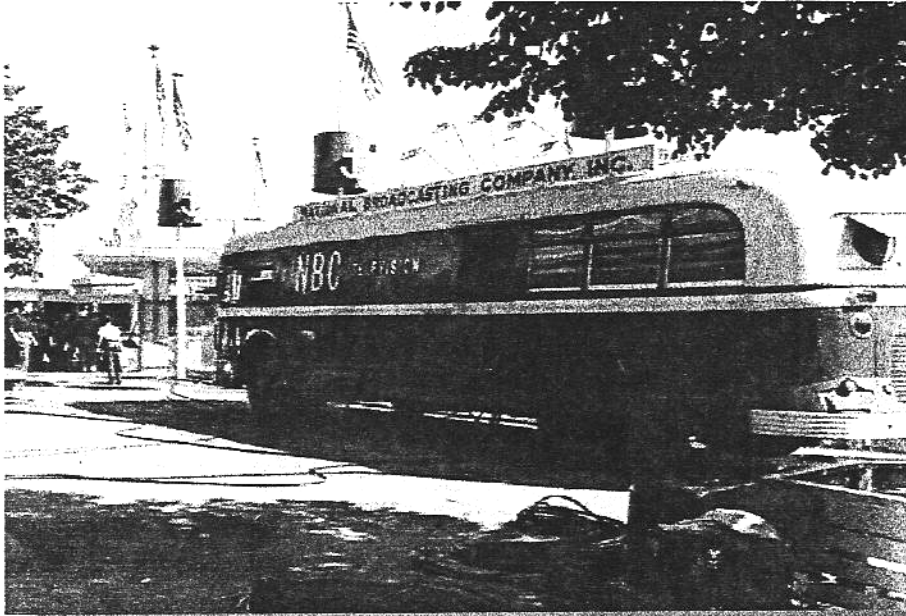
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# Kutztown Antique Radio Meet

DVHRC at Renningers August 18th  
8am - 3pm  
Auction at 11am





## *Pete Grave buys new show bus*

*Pete's new bus was found on an impound lot behind the old NBC Brooklyn Studios while Pete was picking up a NYC police car. It had been in use as a HassidiMobile throughout the 5 NYC boroughs. Pete is will not need to strengthen the suspension to allow carrying a full-range of boat-anchors he needs to get rid of. Look for it at Kutztown on August 18th or in any State Police weigh station.*

# Your ads here!

Details for business card ads  
and classified ads next issue

## From the Parts Bin

Dave Abramson, Editor

*By now you may have noticed some amount of irreverence and good-natured fun in the pages and a new look. Please forgive me...I cannot resist. I hope to explain.*

*This issue starts a new version of the Oscillator broadcasting forth from my laptop WinBook with considerable help from Borderbrund's Print Shop. So many things to play with! BUT...I can only print and play with your help. If not, I will fill the white space with my bad puns.*

*I am hoping to keep the Oscillator focused on the activities of the DVHRC and it's members. I want to feature our members and their interests, restorations, collections, adventures, businesses, successes, and failures. I need articles, press releases, diaries, either professionally written or scribbled on the margins of a schematic. Your editor will cleanse, purify and reform the words. There will also be articles borrowed from other publications and the Internet which will further our hobby and affliction.*

*And as you run to the mailbox or email to send me volumes of articles, don't forget the photos! POP (plain 'ol photos) can be mailed to me or you can email them (under 100K JPEG please) with your article. Try to use the photos that show and compliment your story. Two or three at the most. The addresses are in the publishers box elsewhere in this tome.*

*This effort would not be complete without the help of some who have volunteered or have been volunteered' already. We could use an Internet editor to dig up articles and sites that we can use. It's your magazine. I'm just the typesetter.*

*Lord help the club that lets a television director and collector print this thing.*

May and June meeting notes.

First, the May meeting was held at the usual place and time. Dave Abramson presided over the meeting in the absence of our President, Bill Overbeck. This is the first meeting I can remember that Bill missed.

Speaking of firsts, Mike Tannenbaum presented the treasurers' report. The club is not broke! Mike reported our income sources as dues, book sales, the "50/50," auction commissions, and donations to help defray the cost of the refreshments. Club expenses include printing and mailing of the Oscillator, rental of the meeting hall, refreshments, and insurance.

Robert Seiwel, joined the ranks of DVHRC at the May meeting.

We moved into an informal business meeting session. Several members expressed concerns over the Oscillator - actually the lack of an Oscillator for the past two months.

The Board of Directors will look into problem and promised resolution as soon as possible. (As you're reading this article in the Oscillator, you see they did take action.)

Next we had some comments about the recent meet at Kutztown. Sales were reported to be fair to good. Dave Snellman suggested a club table for the next meet. More help is needed with the auction, held as part of the meet. (Remember the club makes money on the sales commission.) Mike Koste seconded the idea, added that we should be selling books and taking memberships at these meets. Another suggestion was to have a "special" edition of Oscillator printed up for distribution at the meet. Renningers allowed us to use their sound system to "advertise" our presence at that day. Suggestions favoring expanding its use were made. DVHRC should have a "banner" to use at events. Have notice on tables showing what's going on throughout the day was also suggested.

All this may sound as though DVHRC has "taken over" the event at Renningers. Well, the Board of Directors has been asked to approve just such an idea. Look for the DVHRC meet at Renningers in August!

The evening's technical talk was presented by Jiri Placek. Pre-WWII European tubes was the topic. He showed an early 1933 Phillips radio. Tubes were very large with metallic covers. Differences between American and European tubes were not random rather the difference was driven by market and real technical differences. Apparently an agreement existed in which Phillips will not interfere in US market and RCA will not interfere with European market. The time line we're talking about now is the early to mid-'20's. There were also different filament voltages and base diagrams. Europe had two standard bases: the A (4 pin) and the O (5 pin.) Tube codes were also different for different companies.

Standardization began in the early 1930's. With British Valve Assoc. (BVA) stamped on the tube, it couldn't be sold in England. There was a "tax per tube" on radio sets.

Philips started as a lamp company. Anton and Philip - brothers. One was an engineer - one acted as a marketer. Philips sold tubes as Triotron brand in some countries.

Philips later acquired: VALVO, MULLARD, DARIO, TRIOTRON, AMPEREX, Rogers, Sylvania, as well as, Magnavox, Norelco, and Philco.

Jiri provided many other interesting facts and figures about European tube manufacturing. Some of these included:

1. USSR had state run industry. Kept using tubes as they thought a nuclear war was win-able. Tubes would withstand radiation while semiconductors would not.
2. The British market was where the money was.
3. Flame spraying for conductive coating on tubes. Tubes were sand-blasted prior to coating them. Conductive coating connected to cathode usually.
4. Condensed barium cathodes unique to Europe. Getter not needed. Had to have horizontal or inclined plate to avoid barium getting to stem and possible leak.
5. Early pentode had 4-pin base and a side contact.
6. Octodes - unique to Europe.

## Meeting notes cont.

On to the June meeting. Well, what a difference a month makes. Bill Overbeck was back with us. On the newsletter question, it was decided that Dave Abramson would take a turn at editing our newsletter. A "BIG" thanks to Dave for helping us out with this.

This means we are definitely NOT out of the newsletter business. What it does mean is we are calling for input. We need articles, photos, and the like for the Oscillator. Remember, it's your club and your newsletter, show your support. Even if you think you can't write well, let us know. Someone will be glad to help.

We had a number of "Show and Tell" entries.

Our first entry was Mark Thierback. He brought in a Grundig model 80 (Model 80U) three tube AM/FM radio. One unique feature is one of the tubes is used as an AM RF Amp as well as FM IF amp. The same tube is used to amplify on two different frequencies. The radio is dated to circa 1955.

The next entry made military collectors drool. Pete brought in a "current," military transceiver. It's a state-of-the-art, broadband coverage transceiver with an output of 50 watts. Model RCVR/XMTR RT-1648(A) PRC-132.

This brought up a short discussion on cryptology. Digital encryption to the "Enigma" machines was heard in the discussion. Special mention of The Code book, a currently available book that deals with cryptography was made. You can find this book at many bookstores.

Dave Handelman, a new member - showed a Mitchell radio, specifically, a 5-tube, table lamp radio. Dave has quite a nice collection and was featured in a newspaper article.

The club will be planning an outside swapmeet, a tail-gate auction for a future meeting. The auction will be held in the parking lot next to our meeting place. More details will follow.

The Board of Directors moved to support the Kutztown meet to be held August 18th. Again, more details will follow.

We concluded the meeting with the usual auction.

# Website of the Month



Photo courtesy of The Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia

AS the past president of the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia, your editor proudly picked this website for our first Website of the Month. It is an extraordinary effort by Pioneers member Gerry Wilkinson who has created a very valuable resource for Philadelphia broadcasting history. It is endless with biographies, photos, RealPlayer audio files, and notes. If you have anything that you would like to contribute to the website, you can email Gerry from the site. Many of the photos have unidentified people in them. Take a look and help preserve their place in Philadelphia history. Check it out at;

[www.broadcastpioneers.com](http://www.broadcastpioneers.com)

## Andrea Radio

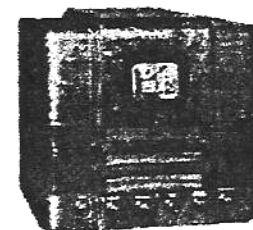
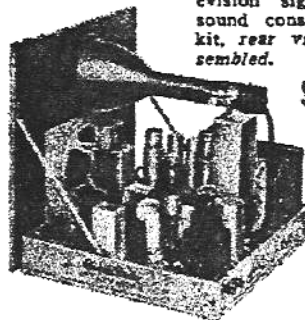
"SHARP FOCUS"

# TELEVISION

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Andrea KT-E-5 television sight and sound construction kit, rear view, assembled.

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less tubes



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# From Lewie's Bench

## RCA 118 1935 Late

Restoration Story April 14 & 15 2001

Buy at auction. Sit 5 hours. Outbid the collectors. eBayers!

Cabinet lousy, ripped cloth, knob missing, tone shaft falling out? ( Loose assembly )  
Take a chance, add 10% buyers premium + 6% sales tax.

Disassemble cabinet, has to be stripped and refinished! Re-glue, fire up compressor, blow out the crud. No Ham MOD's. Good start, repair shaft ( loose nut ), lucky.  
Strip cabinet, refinish, do brass escuteuchon, grill cloth bad, rip out, look for old curtains.

Tackle chassis, Variac up, transformer looks ok, despite excess tar dripping.  
Rebuild supply, candohm looks ok, lucked out again.  
Replace pilot lamp, clean face. Tuner binding, WD-40 all parts, lucked out again. Remount tuner assembly. Grommets gone.

Start to trouble shoot. Replace all H.V. by-passes, spot check resistors, all within 20%, move on. Dead set! Rectifier bad (open 80.)

Check tubes, three really bad. Replace them. Signal inject and find bad IF cable, replace cable and get weak signal. Lots of distortion and no "control of volume". Trouble shoot...guess what! Broken element causing open volume control. Search for the correct control and switch. Guess what...I have to build one!! Assemble, add switch, cut shaft to fit. It works!

Moving right along...speaker rattling. \*#!+%&?!!! Take it apart and check it out.  
Guess what...you got it.. Voice coil is loose. Adjust, tighten spyder, sounds great, lucked out again.. Continue with recap. I'm into this baby now all the way... Budweiser Time!!!

Replace rotten rubber wire with cloth wire and how about a nice new line cord!!  
This guy's gonna make it.. I am now getting 5 stations on BC band. Clean the band switch time! Fire up the URM -25 and the frequency counter. Align the IF's, boy were they off. 1,000 uv to 10 uv after alignment. I can hear the signals coming. Screwed again... there is a putt-putt emanating from the speaker...TROUBLE...Time to trouble shoot againnnnnnnnnnn.

Low frequency putt-putt, filters are new? Ahaa! How about that 4 ufd cap.off the converter? Parallel it, got it. Replace filter, finish alignment, WOW, its got more zoot.  
Align SW band. "WOW", this guy's a keeper! Grab the watt meter, checks out at 125 volts. Put the thermocouple on the power transformer, not bad...runs cool.. DX and have fun. Check the sensitivity with calibrated output attenuator...enjoy...wow, play the dickens out of it!!!!

Chassis is too low for the dial face, gotta chisel out the old rubber chassis mounts.  
Clean chassis metal, brass brush the tube pins and shine those big bulbs with Windex.  
Struggle with the bolt holes and reassemble in cabinet. Play old music, audio superb!!  
Looks beautiful in its newly refinished cabinet and new cloth..... Perfect set, maybe I should keep it? It's Easter Sunday and the bunny hasn't showed up yet, haven't eaten a thing and I'm hungry for ham and a little Sinatra. Easy bench restoration.

PS. No charge for the 2 1/2 packs of smokes or the 24 pack of Budweiser!!!!

Lewie Newhard

# AIRWAVES TIMELINE

July, 2001 by Mike Koste

- JULY 17, 1897 Guglielmo Marconi demonstrates wireless telegraphy between the coast of Italy and the cruiser San Martin. Best DX: 10 miles.
- JULY 20, 1898 The steamer Flying Huntress, equipped with Marconi gear reports The Kingstown Regatta for Dublin newspaper "The Daily Express".
- JULY 8, 1915 Due to alleged breaches of neutrality, the U.S. Navy assumes operation of Telefunken's wireless station WSL, Sayville, Long Island.
- JULY 2, 1921 WEAJ, New York broadcasts the Jack Dempsey/George Carpentier fight.
- JULY 31, 1923 In the first coast-to-coast hookup, President Harding addresses San Francisco listeners from New York.
- JULY 30, 1930 RCA first demonstrates NBC's experimental TV station W2XBS, New York. The following night, radio listeners are introduced to "The Shadow" on an episode of "The Detective Story Hour". The first series to use "The Shadow" as it's title began eighteen months later.
- JULY 15, 1932 A&P Food Stores are the first to take advantage of NBC's decision to drop the ban of on-air price mentions.
- JULY 31, 1933 The first adventure of "Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy" heard on CBS.
- JULY 20, 1933 Originally titled "G-Men", the classic cops and robbers drama "Gangbusters" joins NBC's lineup.
- JULY 1, 1938 According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, radio's average weekly paycheck is \$45.12, the highest of all US industries. Meanwhile, the Census Bureau reveals that 62% of farm homes are equipped with radio.
- JULY 2, 1939 Following guest appearances on the Rudy Valee and Kate Smith programs, "The Aldrich Family earns their own slot on CBS. The following night, Chic Young's comic strip "Blondie" comes to life
- JULY 29, 1940 Initial broadcast of "Duffy's Tavern" on the CBS on-air audition program "Forecast" The program premiered as a regular series eight months later.
- JULY 3, 2001 The revamped Oscillator premieres
- JULY 2, 1946 First CBS network broadcast of Arthur Godfrey's "Talent Scouts"
- JULY 11, 1947 Philadelphia's 50kW daytimer, WRCP signs on at 1540kHz. Now WNWR.
- JULY 19, 1948 Four years before becoming a hit TV series, Eve Arden starred as "Our Miss Brooks" on CBS radio.
- JULY 26, 1948 Major Edwin Armstrong sues NBC and Radio Corporation of America for infringement of five of his basic patents.
- JULY 2, 1951 After their success on Boston's WHDH, "Bob and Ray" move to NBC.
- JULY 9, 1953 Temple University's WRTI-FM signs on at 90.1 MHz.
- JULY 10, 1962 The world's first serious communications satellite, "Telstar" is launched with a three-stage Delta rocket.
- JULY 18, 1966 Daniel Overmeyer announces formation of a United Network, the Big Three's first serious competition since the beginning of the TV age. In less than one year, unable to pay line charges, United Network was off the air.
- JULY 6, 1974 The first broadcast of Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" on American Public Radio.

