

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



# OSCILLATOR

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 13, No. 6, July, 2005

## Kutztown in Telford...The July Tailgate Auction

**June 2005 Meeting Notes and Minutes by Dave Snellman**

**REMINDER:** July's meeting is on Tuesday, July 12, 2005. There will not be any business meeting as it's our tailgate auction. We will start at 7:00 PM sharp!

Back to June...

June's meeting started off with a re-cap of the Kutztown Radio Meet. With 225 tables taken, there was overflow into the second pavilion. All comments from those in attendance were very positive. We had lots of help at the club table.

In the business portion of the meeting we discussed ways to improve the auction at Kutztown. The auction has grown substantially since the first meet was held. This time the auction ran over hours. We ran out of buyers before we ran out of items to sell.



We're open to suggestions on how to make it better. Many ideas were voiced, but no firm decisions were made. I'm certain we'll be discussing this more before the next meet.

Our technical presentation was on the subject of the Armstrong Commemorative Broadcast. Al Klase took us to the event through his PowerPoint presentation. What started out as simple way to celebrate the 70th

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### Next Meeting Program

## **Tailgate Auction At Telford**

Telford Community Center  
July 12th, 7:00pm



*Newsletter of the  
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club  
P. O. Box 5053  
New Britain, PA 18901  
www.dvhrc.org*

The Oscillator is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide information, education, information and communication with collectors and promoters of vintage radio technology.

We welcome and solicit information relating to radio history or collecting. Submissions should be on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, 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 \$20 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.

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Material submitted is subject to acceptance or modification by the editor. A full page article is approximately 400 words. Please photos may be submitted for coloring. JPG files should be under 100K.

celebrate the 70th anniversary of FM broadcasting turned out to be a gala media event. On June 11, 2005, from the location of Edwin Howard Armstrong's original Alpine, NJ transmitter site listeners were treated to a rare broadcast.



**FM**  
THE ARMSTRONG SYSTEM  
70 Years  
1935 - 2005

**WA2XMN 42.8 MC**

Special Commemorative Broadcast  
11 June 2005  
From the Armstrong Tower  
Alpine, NJ  
Wide-Band Frequency Modulation  
Power Output - 250 watts  
Phasitron Transmitter by Solid Electronics Labs.  
Tower Facilities Courtesy of CSC Management, LLC

**SAMPLE**

W2XMN was "on the air," broadcasting on the "old" FM band.

On the technical side, the transmitter was built by Steve Hemphill. The frequency used was 42.8 megacycles, Armstrong's original frequency. Power output was 250 watts, derived from four 250A EIMAC's. The vertically polarized antenna was mounted above the 400 foot level on the original tower.

The original tower is still very much in use today. When 9/11 struck, taking out many of New York City's AM/FM and TV transmitting antennae, frantic calls were made to the Alpine, NJ site. This site provided antenna space for these stations.

Right; Dr. Edwin Armstrong







**Alpine broadcast photos**

Upper left; The original Armstrong transmitter building

Upper right; The Alpine tower today

Lower left; Transmitter designer Steve Hemphill holding the Ringo antenna array next to the rear view of his Phasitron transmitter

Lower center; Steve's recreation of the Phasitron FM transmitter

Photos on this and previous pages courtesy of NJARC, WFDU-FM, Steve Hemphill



# MEMBERS PHOTO PAGE

A new occasional feature of the Oscillator as contributions arrive at your editors transom. You too can have your new treasures featured here for all to see and admire and wonder how you stole them. A few digital photos from the club camera you can borrow and a few lies about how little you paid for the item gets you in print. Honest history of the item would help also. Help me fill the page!

On the right is my newest battery set, a Radiola 60 set with it's companion RCA 103 tapestry speaker.

The speaker came to me first from a phone call and a meeting with the seller in a Chinese restaurant to consummate the sale. I then had to have the proper Radiola 60 to go with it. I found it at Kutztown, but the cabinet had been improperly refinished and was missing the top veneer. I found a complete and empty cabinet at the same meet and gave it to club member Lowell Schultz to refinish. Swapping the chassis to the good cabinet, I have the perfect display of this early AC socket power set. Works like a champ!

It now joins my Amberola and two Freshman Masterpiece battery sets. I bought the AES battery eliminator kit and installed it in an antique wood box to power those A/B/C battery sets.



On the left is a recent Ebay purchase of my normal interest in televisions. It came from a basement in Syracuse, NY. And an odd basement it was. The seller runs a Halloween fright house and the place was full of costumes and fright heads. I left very quickly after picking it up.

It is a 1962 RCA New Vista color television in a Chinese black lacquer cabinet. It is trying to work, but needs the usual cap swap. When restored, these early color sets have an amazing picture.

My daily color set in my den is a 1959 set in a French Provincial cherry wood cabinet and has never been restored. It just works.





This spring I made an interesting discovery regarding alligators and the “vacuum tube sound” produced by old radios. More on the ‘discovery’ later, but first an explanation of how it occurred. (You may want to read this “tongue in cheek”.)

We had not gone south for several years so my wife and I concluded that mid February would be a good time to get away from the snow and cold of our northern climate. We packed our motor home with food and clothes and a restored Philco Model 41-245 (for that “vacuum tube sound”). We traveled slowly south for several days (as we get older, we travel slower) and arrived at one of our favorite campgrounds in southern Georgia. It is a small campground located near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

While at the campground, we took several jaunts into the wildlife refuge. We found it very interesting to see the large alligators out sunning themselves on the shores of ponds in the huge swamp. One large ‘gator had a favorite spot on the bank of one of the ponds. We called him “Ollie”. He seemed to enjoy just lying out there, soaking up the sunshine.

We have also added a small inverter to our motor home that operates from the 12 Volt DC system and produces the AC for a small AC appliance, such as a computer or the table top radio, without running the generator. I connected a portable CD player output to the Philco’s ‘Television Sound’ input terminals to allow listening to our small collection of CD’s “over the radio”.

One day while stopped at Ollie’s resting area we had ‘Alley Cat’ playing over the radio. Ollie seemed to be quite fascinated by the sound of what was apparently one of his favorite tunes. I slowly approached him, keeping in mind an admonition from a park guide. “Alligators can accelerate extremely rapidly and reach speeds of up to 40 mph while running straight ahead but cannot change direction quickly”.

However with the radio playing it appeared that I need not be concerned about the alligator’s potential speed. At the time Ollie was so interested in the Alley Cat song, I could walk right up to him and pose for pictures which Doris conveniently snapped from a window of the motor home.

The resulting picture is evidence that the “vacuum tube sound” produced by old radios is indeed special.



## DVHRC RADIO STORE

CAPACITY	VOLTAGE	<u>LIST PRICE</u>		<u>CLUB MEMBER PRICE</u>	
		QTY/25	EACH	QTY/25	EACH
.001	630v	\$7.20	.35	\$6.00	.28
.0047		\$7.50	.35	\$6.25	.29
.0068		\$7.60	.36	\$6.35	.30
.01		\$7.80	.36	\$6.50	.31
.022		\$8.30	.37	\$7.00	.33
.033		\$8.60	.42	\$7.25	.35
.047		\$9.00	.43	\$7.50	.36
.1		\$9.60	.48	\$8.00	.48
0.22		\$18.00	.86	\$15.00	.72
0.47		\$24.00	\$1.06	\$20.00	.96
1.0		\$31.20	\$1.50	\$26.00	\$1.25

**ELECTROLYTICS:**

		QTY/10	EACH	QTY/10	EACH
10	160v	\$6.60	.70	\$5.50	.64
22	160v	\$7.70	.90	\$6.40	.75
33	160v	\$10.10	\$1.30	\$8.40	\$1.01
47	160v	\$11.50	\$1.40	\$9.60	\$1.16
10	450v	\$9.00	\$1.10	\$7.50	\$1.10
22	450v	\$13.30	\$1.45	\$11.20	\$1.20
47	450v	\$21.60	\$2.50	\$18.00	\$2.10
100	450v	\$34.50	\$3.20	\$28.50	\$3.85

**AND NOW AVAILABLE; LINE CORDS, DIAL LAMPS,  
TUBES, DVHRC SPORTSWEAR**





**DVHRC returns to Kutztown  
Sept. 16 & 17, Friday setup...Saturday auction  
Information at [www.dvhrc.org](http://www.dvhrc.org)**

#### UPCOMING RADIO EVENTS

JUL 10 MID-ATLANTIC ARC HAMFEST, KIMBERTON, PA (Info at [reservations@marc-radio.org](mailto:reservations@marc-radio.org), or Steve Maslin, N3ORH, 610-327-8666)

AUG 4-6 ARCI RADIOFEST XXIII (ELGIN), HOLIDAY INN, BOLINGBROOK, IL. (Info at [www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org))

AUG 23-27 AWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE CENTER, ROCHESTER, NY. (Info at [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org))

SEP 10 EASTERN PA ARA POCONO AREA HAMFEST, STROUDSBURG JR. HIGH SCHOOL, STROUDSBURG, PA. (Info at [www.qsl.net/w3mj](http://www.qsl.net/w3mj), or Bill Connelly, 570-424-0845)

**SEP 16-17 KUTZTOWN RADIO MEET, RENNINGER'S, KUTZTOWN, PA.**  
(Info at [www.dvhrc.org](http://www.dvhrc.org))



# The Kutztown Radio Store

AT RENNINGER'S ANTIQUE MART KUTZTOWN, PA

Open Saturdays, 8:30-4

Sales and Repair  
of antique radios



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