



"Since Uncle Sam closed the Kaiser's window there is no draft."
- Found scrawled in a basic algebra textbook of 1920 vintage

OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB

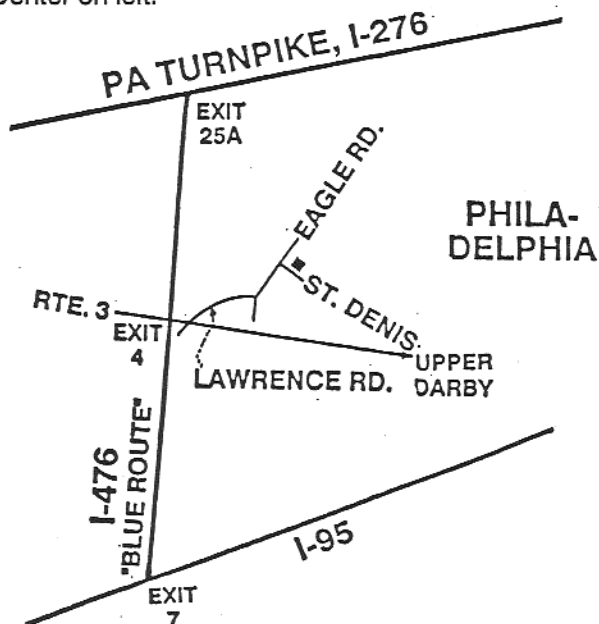
The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 6 No. 3, March 1998

HAVERTOWN!!!

The big news for March is the Havertown swap-meet/auction this Saturday, the seventh. At press time the hall is nearly sold out (check with Mike Koste on [215] 646-6488 or Bill Overbeck on [610] 789-8199 for last-minute availability). Seller setup will begin at 7:00 AM. Auction checkin opens at noon, with the auction starting at 1:00. See last month's Oscillator for a starter list of auction material. Food and beverages available. As anyone who attended last year can verify, the location has lots of parking and ground-floor access. Rates are \$2 to buyers, \$15 for tables (\$20 on the day of the event if space is available).

Directions: From the PA Turnpike: Use Exit 25A (I-476 South) to Exit 4 (Rte. 3 East / Upper Darby). Go left at light onto Lawrence Rd. At next light, go left onto Eagle Rd.. At third light, turn right onto St. Denis Lane; head for Grimes Center on left. From I-95: Go north on I-476 to Exit 4 (Rte. 3 East / Upper Darby). Go left at light onto Lawrence Rd. At next light, go left onto Eagle Rd.. At third light, turn right onto St. Denis Lane; head for Grimes Center on left.



FEBRUARY MEETING

Members present enjoyed the RCA 1937 "industrial movie" *Electrons on Parade*, which gives (besides some nostalgic laughs) an informative picture of how tubes were assembled back in the Octal Age.

Brian Irwin passed around test prints of his new DVHRC coverage on the World Wide Web. The URL, for those who wish to check it out, is:

[http://pw2.netcom.com/~firstake/dvhrc .htm](http://pw2.netcom.com/~firstake/dvhrc.htm).

Brian's email address is firstake@ix.netcom.com.

RADIO INTELLIGENCE BY "FIST"

HAMS IN WW II -

CW SKILLS MADE A DIFFERENCE

Bob Thomas, W3NE

In his book, Most Secret War¹, R. V. Jones, head of Scientific Air Intelligence for England during WW II, relates an incident demonstrating the value of amateur radio in the war. With the entry of Russia and consequent massive diversion of Luftwaffe resources to the Eastern Front, the bombing of Britain subsided substantially. The Germans tried to compensate for their ineffectual offense against England by attempting to fool the British into thinking entirely new Nazi bomber squadrons were being deployed throughout France and the Low Countries, thus tying up RAF resources with unnecessary defensive activity. The chief element in creating this sham air force was transmission of numerous fake messages related to "new" bomber installations. However, according to Jones, "the radio intercept operator who was listening on our side took down the signals, and sent them on to his headquarters - but with a note saying that in his opinion all the signals had been sent by a single man. It turned out that to an experienced listener the way an individual operator makes his Morse characters is as personal as his handwriting, and our operator had been alert enough to spot the attempt at radio forgery in this way." And so a ham or former wireless op had been able to expose the Nazi hoax by his ingrained ability to recognize a CW fist!

1. R. V. Jones, Most Secret War (London: Coronet Books - Hodder and Stoughton, 1978).

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 copyrighted by the author, material in this publication is available for attributed reproduction for non-profit purposes. (For convenience, the editor can supply 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.

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

Meetings are held monthly except July at 7:30 PM.

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Ludwell ("Scoop") Sibley

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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: No meeting in March
because of the Super Winter Meet at
Havertown); April 14, May 12.

MEET REPORT: NJARC, FEB. 21

The New Jersey club held a highly successful meet at Freehold on the 21st, heavily attended by DVHRCers. The National Guard armory was pretty much packed, with the usual panorama of goods on sale. The auction, handled by Pete Grave (Mr. Energy), included a vanload of test gear and WW II military equipment, with enough counter-radar gear (AN/ARR-5 and AN/APR-4 search receivers; AN/APT-2 and AN/APT-5 jammers, etc.) to equip an electronic-countermeasures aircraft. The military collectors present snapped it up. The meet was another production of impresario Marv Beeferman.

CHATELS & TCHOTCHKES

Free exposure for your wanted 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: Tektronix 556 dual-beam oscilloscope with roll-around cart. Includes the following plug-ins: Type 53C, Type 53/54B; Type 1A4 four-channel amp; and a Type 1A1 dual-trace. Manuals also included. It works! All for \$75. Also selling a pair of Ritron, Inc. (Carmel, IN 46032) two-channel portable walkie-talkies, Model RT-150, for \$25. They work and take a 9-volt battery. John Okolowicz, 624 Cedar Hill Rd., Ambler, PA 19002, (215) 542-1597 or email: grillecloth@compuserve.com. (3-4/98).

WANTED: 1950 Coca-Cola cooler radio, red bakelite. Tony Molettieri, 105 main St., Souderton, PA 18964, (215) 723-7459. (3-4/98)

FOR SALE: Philco 19H highboy, Electro-Voice Sentry II speakers, mammoth Howard console ca. 1932, Emerson BA-199, Emerson 255 "Emersonette," RCA 5X, Admiral 21A6 white Plaskon, Airline 04BR-508A, Airline 62-288 "Miracle" w/ PBs and tuning eye, Philco 60-B tombstone, Stromberg-Carlson 125-H, Emerson 250 Ingraham cabinet, others. Check my table at the Super Wintermeet in Havertown. Mike Koste, 57 Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19002, (215) 646-6488. (2-3/98)

FOR SALE: The DVHRC book program offers the new Genuine Plastic Radios, this year's Zenith Transistor Radios, the recent Zenith Radio - The Early Years, the Bunis Transistor Radios, and the workhorse Tube Lore - all priced well below normal retail. Pick up a copy at Havertown!

FOR SALE: Communications and military radios, test equipment, and some radar items. Send long SASE for large list. No sales until you have received my list, looking for some trade items. Ray Chase, 1350 Marlborough Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060, (980) 757-9741. (2-3/98)

FOR SALE: Next list of *highly collectible* tubes now being assembled. Send SASE for list of duplicates, to be mailed in May: Jerry Vanicek, PO Box 4743, Chicago, IL 60680. No phone calls, please. (1-4/98)

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.

ON THE HORIZON

Mar. 7	DVHRC Super Winter Meet, Havertown, PA.
Mar. 28	MoR&T/PARS "Spring Fever," Washington, PA.
Mar. 28-29	Baltimore Hamboree/Computerfest, Timonium Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD
April 25	Spring Radio Trader show/auction, Museum of Radio & Technology, Charleston, WV
June 11-13	MAARC "RADIOACTIVITY," Laurel, MD.

BOOK REVIEW

GENUINE PLASTIC RADIOS OF THE MID-CENTURY (WITH VALUES)

by Ken Jupp & Leslie Pina, Schiffer Publishing, 1998
Reviewed by Mike Koste

There are different-flavored leaves in every collector's cup of tea. Spend a few moments with Genuine Plastic Radios of the Mid-Century and it's clear where lies the author's taste. Jupp and Pina are self-proclaimed "plasticoholics."

Light on text and heavy on color photography, this new Schiffer publication will probably be more at home on your coffee table than in your antique-radio reference library. Though many of the images depicted here are available in other books, this is the first to cater exclusively to fanciers of the vivid brittle plastic radios of the rock-and-roll era, suggesting that even some of the less flamboyant creations of the 1950s and 1960s have their own special appeal.

Due to the scores of well-known manufacturers and hundreds of models produced during this period, to produce a truly comprehensive guide to these sets would be next to impossible. Rather, Ken and Leslie do a commendable job of providing a realistic overview of this collecting niche.

Using plastic laminate backgrounds manufactured by Wilsonart, the photography is eye-appealing, though some combinations of lighting and exposure can over-accentuate the true hues of the subject matter. In addition, there's evidence that some of the radios may have been repainted or show typical signs of age in cracks, scratches and corrosion.

It's not likely that the price guide in Genuine Plastic Radios will become obsolete in the near future. The author's estimates seem pretty much on target in the \$25-50 range. Unless there's a major boom in collecting these kitschy artifacts in the next couple of years, it's doubtful that this book will do for plastic prices what Philip Collins' Radios: The Golden Age did to Catalin radio prices.

BOOK REVIEW

BAKELITE RADIOS (A FULLY ILLUSTRATED GUIDE FOR THE BAKELITE RADIO ENTHUSIAST)

by Robert Hawes in collaboration with Gad Sassower,
Chartwell Books, 1996
Reviewed by Mike Koste

When Dr. Leo Baekeland's concoction first appeared on the market, the first truly synthetic man-made plastic must have seemed the answer to radio manufacturers' dreams. Here was an immediate alternative to the old, expensive and labor-intensive process of manufacturing radio parts and cabinets. What's more, molded bakelite freed designers from the restrictions of wood and metal and let them develop an entirely new line of possible

forms. With a more economical means of production, it meant more consumers could afford the luxury of a second or third radio to supplement the big wooden console in the living room.

Robert Hawes, noted British broadcasting historian, tells the whole fascinating story in his remarkable book Bakelite Radios (A Fully Illustrated Guide for the Bakelite Radio Enthusiast). The one-time editor of the *Bulletin* of the British Vintage Wireless Society is also the author of the 1991 book Radio Art. In his latest offering of text and excellent color illustrations, Hawes presents a true celebration of phenol-formaldehyde resin (Bakelite) and cast phenolic resin (Catalin).

Unlike Radio Art, which was devoted almost exclusively to unusually designed radios from the British Isles, Bakelite Radios tours the world and exemplifies outstanding examples from Russia, Poland, Italy, Spain, and the U. S. You're probably familiar with most of the domestic sets pictured, but rarely will you see some of the really stunning examples of style produced by Pye, Sonora, Nora, and Philips. Most notably, Mr. Hawes devotes several pages to the highly collectible round British Ekco bakelite radio, and covers the evolution and variation of this revolutionary set over the years.

This is not your typical cookie-cutter antique-radio picture book. Aside from a few obligatory references for collectors who are new to the hobby ("... when you find an old radio, don't plug it in . . ."), Bakelite Radios is as valuable a reference work as you'll find anywhere. And if you enjoy this one, you'll probably want to seek out a copy of Radio Art as well.

NOTE: Genuine Plastic Radios of the Mid-Century is available through the DVHRC. Bakelite Radios is available through Book Sales, Inc., 114 Northfield Ave., Edison, NJ 08837, and Radio Art from Antique Radio Classified, PO Box 2, Carlisle, MA 01741, (508) 371-0512.

READERS' COMMENTS

ANOTHER RADIO SCREWDRIVER

In response to the Philadelphia School of Wireless Telegraphy promo screwdriver in the last *Oscillator*, our Bob Dennison, W2HBE, came up with photos of a souvenir of his own: an '30s item from the Carlisle Radio Co. / Carlisle Radio Service of Salina, Kansas (Phone 480). Looks as if the challenge is to "Collect the Set!"

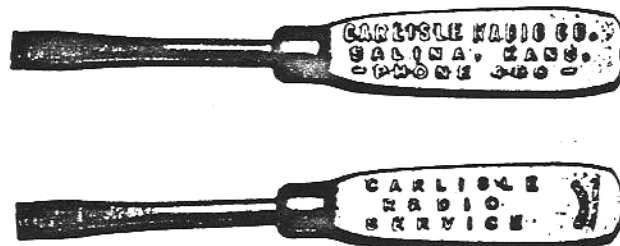


TABLE MODEL RADIOS

Statement of Minimum Service Charge and General Service Performed

All table model radios which have not been serviced by this firm for a period of six months preceding receipt of instrument for repair shall be subject to our minimum service charge and general service procedure before any specific repairs are performed.

Any material used in the general service will be charged to the customer in addition to the minimum service charge.

MINIMUM SERVICE CHARGE \$2.00

General Service Performed

1. CHECK tubes for dead, noise, shorts, loose grid caps, etc.
2. CHECK A.C. cord and plug for frayed, bare, brittle or broken wire.
3. CHECK tuning condenser for bent plates, dirt corrosion, etc.
4. CHECK dial belt or cable for wear, binding, slipping.
5. CHECK dial indicator for accurate setting.
6. CHECK dial drive shaft for binding, slipping, wear.
7. CHECK internal wiring in radio for loose or poor connections.
8. CHECK dial bulbs for dirt, grease, burnouts, loose, incorrect size.
9. CHECK speaker cone for brittleness, proper centering, loose rim.
10. CHECK volume control for noise, intermittent, open.
11. CHECK waveband, push button, phono-radio, tone switches, for noise.
12. CHECK antenna, R.F. and oscillator coils for loose turns of wire.
13. REPLACE defective tubes.
14. REPLACE defective dial lights.
15. REPLACE or repair A.C. cord and plug if defective.
16. CLEAN dial window.
17. CLEAN and lubricate tuning gang, straighten bent plates.
18. CLEAN dirty or greasy dial lights.
19. CLEAN and lubricate sliding contact type switches.
20. REMOVE dirt and grease from chassis.
21. REMOVE dirt and grease from tubes.
22. REMOVE dust from speaker cone and frame.
23. REMOVE dirt and grease from chassis.
24. REMOVE dirt and grease from dial scale.
25. RESET dial indicator accurately.
26. LUBRICATE volume control.
27. LUBRICATE dial drive shaft.
28. CEMENT speaker cone rim if loose from frame.
29. CEMENT loose turns on antenna, R. F. and oscillator coil.
30. SOLDER and loose or poor connections in radio wiring.

FLAT-RATE RADIO REPAIRS

Bill Overbeck recently came up with a copy of the Radio Service Standard Rate Book from 1947. It was produced by Oelrich Publications of Chicago, which had done tube-substitution books during WW II and published similar service-oriented material. Analogous to flat-rate manuals used in car repair, it gives proposed labor charges for auto radios, AC-DC-battery portables, consoles, table sets, and record changers.

The service routines for table sets are reproduced here. They give a glimpse into how radio servicing was (supposed to be) done. The "General Service Performed" reads like a checklist for restoring a radio today.

Average Labor Charges For Table Model Radios

These charges are for actual labor time used only in repairing a specific major defect, and do not include the price of any parts used. Testing of tubes and other necessary checks and repairs listed in the General Service Procedure are covered by the minimum service charge and make possible the average times shown below for one major defect only.

These are average labor charges. Our labor charges may be slightly higher or lower than these rates, depending entirely on the amount of time used.

We offer these rates only as a means of comparison.

AVERAGE LABOR CHARGES

New Parts Installed	Average Time	Labor Charge
Antenna Coil.....	30 minutes	1.50
Antenna Loop.....	30 minutes	1.50
Audio Grid Coupling Condenser.....	15 minutes	.75
Bias Cells.....	15 minutes	.75
Band Switch.....	30 minutes	1.50
By-Pass Condenser.....	15 minutes	.75
Canohm Resistor.....	30 minutes	1.50
Carbon Resistor.....	15 minutes	.75
Cathode Filter Condenser.....	15 minutes	.75
Dial Belt.....	30 minutes	1.50
Dial Cable.....	30 minutes	1.50
Dial Drive.....	15 minutes	.75
Dial Scale.....	15 minutes	.75
Filter Condensers.....	30 minutes	1.50
Intermediate Frequency Coil.....	15 minutes	.75
Mica Condenser-Oscillator Circuit.....	45 minutes	2.25
Oscillator Coil.....	45 minutes	2.25
Output Transformer.....	15 minutes	.75
Padder Condenser.....	30 minutes	1.50
Permeability Tuning Assembly.....	45 minutes	2.25
Permeability Tuning Slug.....	30 minutes	1.50
Power Transformer.....	30 minutes	1.50
Radio Frequency Coil.....	30 minutes	1.50
Resistance Cord.....	15 minutes	.75
Selenium Rectifier.....	15 minutes	.75
Speaker (new or reconed).....	15 minutes	.75
Tone Control.....	15 minutes	.75
Tone Switch.....	15 minutes	.75
Trimmer Condenser.....	30 minutes	1.50
Tube Socket.....	30 minutes	1.50
Tuning Condenser.....	30 minutes	1.50
Voltage Divider.....	30 minutes	1.50
Volume Control.....	15 minutes	.75

WOOLAROC

Ever wonder about the origin of the trade name "Woolaroc," as used briefly on postwar table radios? It appears on 1946-47 sets distributed by the Phillips Petroleum Company, headquartered in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Well, it's apparently an acronym for "WOODs, LAKes, ROCKs," and was first used on an airplane that Phillips sponsored in the Dole California-Hawaii race in 1927. As the January issue of the *Broadcast News* (Oklahoma Vintage Radio Collectors) puts it, "[t]he company's plane, a Travel Air 5000 piloted by Art Goebel, won the race. This race, which came on the heels of the Lindbergh flight, was punctuated by a horrible loss of life. Fifteen planes originally entered the event, and only two made it to Hawaii. An account of the Dole flights, the WOOLAROC, and Art Goebel can be found in the book *For the Greatest Achievement* (Smithsonian Press, 1993)." Despite negative aspects of the race, Phillips apparently thought the name had enough public recognition to use on radios 20 years later - but then abandoned it in favor of the "Phillips 66" brand.

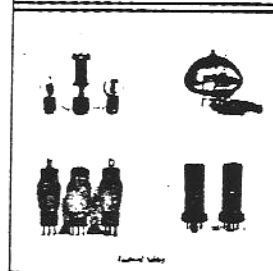
Scientists Find Immense Void Deep in Space

COD. B-056 - L.45.000

TUBE LORE

by Ludwell Sibley
186pp. - F.to 21,5x28

Tube Lore **NOVITA**
A REFERENCE FOR USERS AND COLLECTORS



Libro dedicato ai collezionisti, ma soprattutto a

riparatori, audiofili, e chiunque nel suo lavoro o hobby abbia a che fare con le valvole. Raccoglie dati e informazioni da varie fonti per dare un servizio completo e il più attendibile possibile. Risulta ad essere una indispensabile guida per riparatori e tecnici che troveranno un ottimo aiuto per selezionare i tipi di valvola più idonei al loro lavoro e per i collezionisti

che saranno in grado di determinare con mag-

giore facilità il tipo e l'impiego di un nuovo acquisto. Un ricchissimo vademecum di valvole americane completo di una assortita sintesi di tutti i parametri indispensabili per il radioriparatore. Sicuramente un libro che non deve mancare nel laboratorio o sulla biblioteca dell'appassionato di radio americane. (Inglese)

Local book reaches the Continent - from the 1997-98 *Antique Radio Magazine* catalog.

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DVHRC
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WE SPECIALIZE IN **SYLVANIA** RADIO TUBES

■ **HAVERTOWN MEET, MARCH 7 !!!** - See p. 1

