



# The Oscillator



*"All the Electrons that are Fit to Flow . . . "*

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

October 2011

## Kutztown XXV Review

It's difficult to believe what Lewie Newhard and Steve Wallace started a little over 12 years ago would blossom into the Kutztown Radio Show - the meet to beat in the east!

Well, it did and Kutztown XXV (25 for those not remembering their Roman numerals) was the proof.

A sellout meet again . . . Friday was busy as usual. Vendors and buyers as far as one could see. The main pavilion was a sellout out again. (As of September 24, 2011, the pavilion is sold out for May 2012!) The second pavilion was quick to fill with those either arriving late and wanting space or those who like the more spacious offerings that it affords.

The Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club (DVHRC) had it's table ready to go. Tube and capacitor sales started early and the table officially opened for business at noon on Friday. Dave Dean and Walt Peters were on hand to sell club tubes and capacitors. Other club members joined in the task of selling raffle radio tickets, taking membership renewals, and answering questions.

Something new this year, a calendar - Kutztown Kalendar 2012 - with

photos by John Hagman was for sale. It sold out almost immediately, as quantities were limited. John's work can be viewed at the DVHRC website - [www.dvhrc.info](http://www.dvhrc.info) John has been photographing the Kutztown event for many years and it's always a delight to see his work.

As it was the 25th Kutztown event, the club had some special handouts for the vendors. A mug - "Kutztown: where the only rule is ... Radios rule!" - highlighting DVHRC and Renningers was given out to vendors and club volunteers. Extras will be available for sale in the future. In addition to the mug a vintage radio repair reference sheet was given out. This laminated sheet showed the resistor color codes, old style capacitor color codes, micro - nano/pico farad capacitor markings, along with common dial lamps used in old radios.

A Philco model 52 radio, fully restored, was offered in the radio raffle. The story behind this set can be found in last month's "Oscillator."

Those sticking around on Friday evening were treated to a steak dinner, fireworks, a "console" bonfire, and musical entertainment. All in all a nice finish to a fine day.

Speaking of the steak dinner, our food vendor "Just Grillin" was around throughout the event, providing breakfast specials, lunch specials, and that great coffee that gets you going in the morning.

Saturday - Kutztown XXV, day two... Activity started as the sun was rising as more vendors arrived. Always billed as a two day event, some vendors don't show up until Saturday because they have to work or for some other reason. This means there is always "fresh meat" for buyers to pounce upon.

Saturday also sees the DVHRC's "Buy-It-Now" table open for business. This is where anyone with items they just don't want to take home can donate them to the club for them to sell to help raise money. The auction, held by the club, is the culmination of the event. Setup for the auction starts at around 10:00 AM with the main auction starting around 1:00 PM.

The beautiful Philco 52 raffle radio was won by Michael Crain of Harveys Lake, PA. - Dave Snellman

## Kutztown XXV Report Card

In addition to Dave Snellman's per-



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Radio Club**  
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*The Oscillator* is the monthly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club.

Articles on radio and television history and collecting can be submitted by the 25th of the prior month to saegers@ptd.net. Personal views, opinions and technical advice do not necessarily reflect those of members, officers or Board of Directors of the DVHRC, nor is the DVHRC responsible for any buying or selling transactions.

Dues are \$20 per year and can be paid at a meeting or mailed to the above address.

### **DVHRC Board of Directors**

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sonal comments, your editor would like to provide a report card on various aspects of the show.

**Weather** – The one item we have no control over. Mother nature cooperated with cool weather and no rain until things were pretty well finished at 2pm Saturday.

**Grade: A**

**Attendance** – Getting to be a broken record – another sellout with quite a bit of action in the second pavilion.

**Grade: A**

**XXV Giveaways** – A one-time effort to give our supporters a memento of Ktown XXV. The beverage mugs and radio repair references were well-received. John Hagman also had 2012 calendars that sold out quickly. John, always supporting the club, shared the sales proceeds with the club.

**Grade: A**

**DVHRC sales** – Cap, tube and logo items sold well.

**Grade: B**

**Vendor sales** – Most vendors reported strong sales assuming their items were 'priced to move'

**Grade: B**

**On-line Feedback** – Nothing but positive comments on the usual Internet forums.

**Grade: A**

**Camaraderie** – The bonfire, fireworks and general fun makes Ktown a great event above seeing great radios

**Grade: B**

**Food** – Just Grillin' did its usual bang-up job. Anyone who went hungry had only themselves to blame.

**Grade: B**

**Buy-it-Now** – Holding its own. We don't have the tons of items like we used to, but we also don't have any left-overs.

**Grade: B**

**Auction** – The one poor grade. No one to blame here – just a situation that needs to be addressed. Without an estate like we've had on a couple of occasions and a reduction in vendor items, the quality and quantity of items was way down. The board realizes this and plans to come up with ideas to turn this around.

**Grade: D**

**Raffle radio** – A beautiful radio and and over \$200 in ticket sales – not a record, but still strong.

**Grade: B**

**On-site publicity** – Imagine my surprise when I heard the very professional audio spots being broadcast over the air. Only after careful listening did I realize the announcer was our very own Mike Koste.

**Grade: A**

**Overall** – A report card any student would be proud to show their parents. All good grades except one – lets call that an opportunity for improvement.

**Grade: A-**

## **September Meeting Minutes**

The monthly meeting of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club was held on September 13, 2011. 17 members and four board members were in attendance. In the absence of Mike Koste, Dave Dean called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

There were no new members or guests.

Dave Dean passed around the volunteer sign up sheet for the upcoming Kutztown XXV radio show.

Dave Snellman gave the Treasurer's Report stating that we have \$7314.52 in the checking account plus about \$400 in petty cash. All of the Club's bills have been paid.

Lewie Newhard gave the show report saying that both pavilions have been sold out with many spaces taken by first time exhibitors. Lewie also noted that recent auctions have been weak in sales. Since we continue to grow and pavilion space is quickly sold out, it was suggested that we look into tent spaces.

Stan Saeger showed the plastic mugs we are giving to exhibitors and volunteers. We ordered 200 at \$1.71 each and we will sell any extras at \$3.00 each. Stan also created a radio repair reference guide to be given away with the mugs.

In show and tell, Don Richter pointed us to a number of websites on radio broadcast history. Dave Abramson showed us an Internet radio from Grace Digital Audio, which was styled like an antique. The price for this radio was \$169. Dave Dean showed us a Filmore Transistor radio from the early 1960s in which the wires and caps are clipped in-not soldered. Finally, Chuck Azar told us about Blue Coral Touchless polymer filler he used to fill the cracks on a Bakelite set.

With no further business, Dave Dean adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM. - Walt Peters

## Next meeting

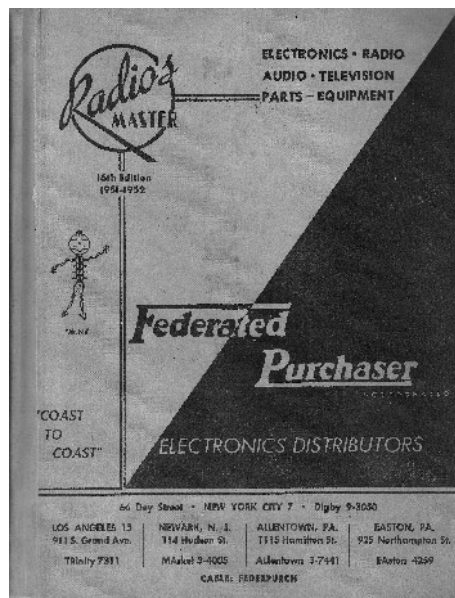
The next meeting will be Tuesday,

October 11 at the Telford Community Center. Since this is an auction meeting, there is no theme.

## Kutztown XXV in Pictures

DVHRC comrade, John Hagman, has posted his usual great slide show of the meet. Go to the club's website ([www.dvhrc.info](http://www.dvhrc.info)), then the Kutztown tab.

## Radio's Master

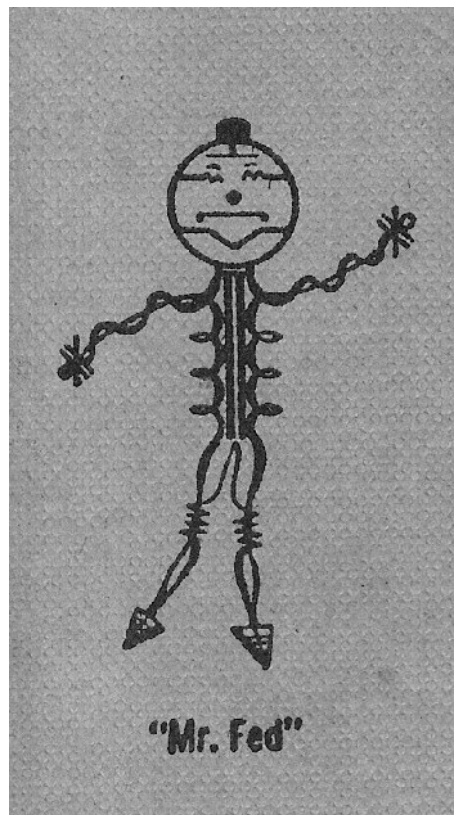


One of the most useful reference items I have in my library is a 1951 copy of the "Radio's Master". Vintage radio enthusiasts should keep their eyes open for these valuable books at auctions and yard sales.

This book is interesting for something else than its rather stilted title.

The Radio's Master is a compilation of radio parts offered for sale by scores of vendors. My guess is that individual retailers (Federated Purchaser in my case) gave away

these reference books to their customers as a one-stop listing of available parts. My Federated Purchaser copy has a cool "Mr. Fed" character with a schematic tube symbol for a head,



More than just listings of parts and prices, there is an abundance of information that allows you to identify old parts by vendor part numbers and even appearance.

My 1951 volume is the 16<sup>th</sup> edition. If we assume one edition per year, the first edition appeared in 1936. As with many things, the older the better.

For your amusement, here are some prices circa 1951: Simpson Model 260 - \$38.95; Volume and tone controls - any size, any resistance, any brand - \$.30-\$0.50; Hickok Model 600 Tube Tester - \$146.95; RCA 45 Tube - \$2; RCA 50 Tube - \$6; Weller Dual heat Soldering gun \$13.95. If only those prices held today.