



# The Oscillator



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

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

LATE WINTER, EARLY SPRING 2022

## DVHRC Plans for 2022

During the January meeting on a cold winter's night, attendees discussed the following initiatives as proposed by the DVHRC board:

**1)** DVHRC will continue to create video and audio content to preserve radio knowledge and time tested wisdom of the art and science of radio restoration. Lewie Newhard's AA5 series continues to be popular on You Tube. One more video will be recorded during the March membership meeting on the subject of grill cloth installation as demonstrated by Jarret Brown. More presentations are welcomed and can be recorded as well.

**2)** Regarding audio podcasts, please listen to the first *Antique Radio Podcast* produced by Jarret who interviews fellow member Mike Koste, recounting his lifelong journey in radio professionally, as a side business and imagining the future of the hobby via:

<https://anchor.fm/dvhrc> or as hosted on Spotify or the DVHRC home page link. Speaking of web links, Jarret has also refreshed the DVHRC website vintage radio links removing some expired sites. Renovated Radio is now back with a new owner and great promise. If you have any additions to those links, please let him know.

**2)** The DVHRC discussed the current level of participation and attracting new folks to the hobby. It was agreed that some marketing changes are needed to find a new generation, often with allied interests such as high fidelity audio and the like. We all believed that any minor verbiage changes in promotion of Kutztown events would help in attracting a cohort of younger participants as our Facebook demographic shows only about 10% of views aged under 45 years old. Also, to repeat previous year's message, DVHRC could consider another repair clinic, perhaps in the greater Philadelphia area given the successful NMIH Bethlehem event of July 2019. Finally, please continue to consider our invitation to support and exhibit artifacts of the history of automobile radios as requested by the America on Wheels Museum (see Fall 2021).

**3)** Kutztown Radio shows are what we are most known for! The club will continue to bring our best efforts and bolster the volunteer complement at the club table. Remember to cheerfully sign up for these jobs at our meetings preceding events. Auctions will continue to be managed by John and Darren who will be

appreciative for you continued assistance.

**4)** A new member directory is being assembled; a questionnaire was distributed at membership meetings or can be filled out remotely. A copy can be emailed to you by sending a request to the editor at [gdotter@yahoo.com](mailto:gdotter@yahoo.com). Also, since we are again paying rent for our Telford meeting place, dues are due in the amount of \$20 at our meetings or may be sent to: DVHRC, P. O. Box 5053, New Britain, PA 18901.

**5)** Property management initiatives to maintain the trailers will continue and moving the Ottsville storage inventory might finally make the list of projects this year after pandemic and flooding delays in the past two years. Tube sorting and management will require continued volunteer efforts as well. Stay tuned for invitations to participate in work parties to assist the club.

## 2022 Monthly Themes

The Board has proposed these themes for our Telford meetings. Access to these can also be found on our web page Events tab.

*Images or associated documents from your flash drives can be*



Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club  
PO Box 5053  
New Britain, PA 18901  
[www.dvhrc.com](http://www.dvhrc.com)

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

Articles on radio and television history or collecting can be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of month prior to quarterly issue dates of April, July, October and January to the editor at [gdottor@yahoo.com](mailto:gdottor@yahoo.com).

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. Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Telford Community Center.

#### DVHRC Board of Directors

##### President:

Jarret Brown / 610-704-0803  
[jpb205@lehigh.edu](mailto:jpb205@lehigh.edu)

##### Vice President:

Tom Spiegel  
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##### Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Snellman / 267-328-8857  
[dsnellman@comcast.net](mailto:dsnellman@comcast.net)

##### At Large members:

Fred Saul / 484-357-6537  
[fsantiqueradio@dejazzd.com](mailto:fsantiqueradio@dejazzd.com)

Greg Dottor / 610-844-6326  
[gdottor@yahoo.com](mailto:gdottor@yahoo.com)

*projected on our big screen and audio played.*

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM except planned August Tailgate (TBA) at Kutztown- Renningers pavilions.

[Jan 11](#)- *What I Got for Christmas.*

[Feb 8](#)- *Valentine's Day Radios.*

[Mar 8](#)- *Grille Cloth Installation.* Jarret Brown will demonstrate. Presentation to be recorded for YouTube.

[Apr 12](#)- *Philco Presentation.*

[May 10](#)- *Baseball Radios, Kutztown XLV Final Planning.*

[Jun 14](#)- *What I Found at Kutztown.*

[Jul 12](#)- *Atomic Age Radios.*

[Aug 9](#)- *Tailgate Meet & Drone Flying Fun.* At Renningers Kutztown [Date and Time TBA](#)

[Sep 13](#)- *Kutztown XLVI Planning.* Theme: Antennas.

[Oct 11](#)- *Portable Audio.*

[Nov 8](#)- *Turkey Radios. (Election day)*

[Dec 13](#)- *X-mas Party at Red Cedar Grille-* details TBA.



#### 2021 Christmas Party

DVHRC members and friends broke bread and exchanged some gifts at Red Cedar Inn on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Jarret thanked all for their efforts for a great year managing our events during

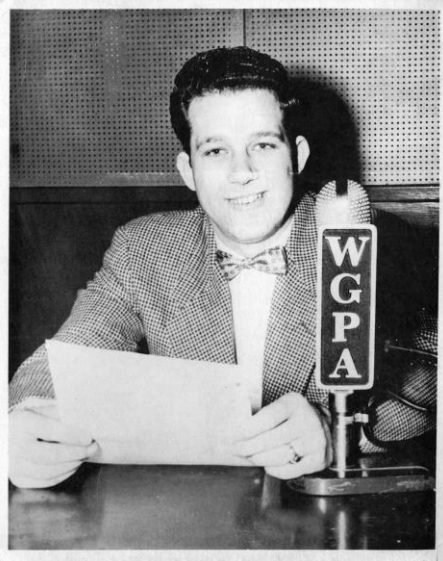
challenging times and it gave attendees a chance to celebrate our continued friendships, remembrances of those departed and hope for the new year to come. Thanks to Tom Spiegel for his organization of this party.





## Rave Records Presentation,

**10.12.2021** On this night, Jarret Brown made a presentation on the Rave record label and catalog of music he acquired. It is a story of a close friendships, personalities, niche marketing, mom and pop local radio, perseverance, marketing and much more!



**Above and Below:** It all starts with Bethlehem band leader & musician, Radio/Cable TV personality and entrepreneur, Joe Timmer, also known as “Jolly Joe”.



Born in 1930 and growing up in south Bethlehem amid the blast furnaces and steel mills strung along the Lehigh River, Joe’s parents ran a small market serving the bustling community of factory workers who could walk to work. Many in this community were new citizens from eastern Europe, Italy

and other depressed countries after wars, economic strife and other conditions caused many to emigrate to fill many newly created jobs during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with a promise of a better life and new opportunities for their children. It is Joe’s identify with and experiences within this community where seeds were sown for Joe’s passion for music, especially the European Polka music popular with many of these hard-working folk. In 1948 at age 18, Joe formed a Polka band as drummer and leader and promoter which would begin a continuous string of gigs until 2015- that’s eight decades! Joe’s band played on the Ted Mack amateur hour TV and was inducted into the IPO Polka Hall of Fame in 1990.



Joe, as a true entrepreneur, worked more than your typical schedule keeping extremely busy. His second gig was as a radio announcer which began at Bethlehem’s WGPA in 1949. With his folksy style he had a loyal following on the radio which also included WHOL in the 1960’s. Joe’s third gig, as an outgrowth of his continuous musical career, was that of owner of Timmer’s House of Music where sheet music, instruments and recorded music could be acquired in the same building as his dad’s market.

Joe inherited his childhood home where his family had run this neighborhood store and now turned it into his “House of Music”, living upstairs with wife Dottie who managed the new store.



As we continue with Joe’s lengthy list of ventures, for his fourth gig, he ran a dance hall. This was Jolly Joe Timmer’s Grove, in Point Phillips, near the Blue Mountain, where many bands, mainly polka, played over the years. He promoted thousands of bands through the dance hall.



A final venture or as Joe’s fifth gig, we are introduced to the subject of this presentation, *Rave Records*. Joe ran the whole process of recording his band and others.

Rave Record Company 1959-2002

- Started Rave in 1959
- 35 LP’s- King Brothers, Kryger Brothers, CoalDiggers, Max Smulevich, Polka Chet, Steve Huber, Local Churches & Others until 2002
- At least 46 singles on 45rpm
- Best selling LP 84k copies



**Above and Below:** Background on Rave Records and sample of issued LPs.





As this is a radio story, it includes Joe's eventual purchase of WGPA in 1990 going back to where he started, in an attempt to revitalize this AM property as many small outlets were in a period of decline at this time. Now we enter into the story of Jarret and his friendship with Joe Timmer who would hire Jarret in 1999. Jarret served at the station on and off air in many capacities as you would at a local station for a tremendous amount of experience wearing many hats. Joe, who had no children of his own and Jarret, not having a grandfather hit it off right away forging a close friendship over the following years. Joe also helped pave the way for greater

things later recommending Jarret to nearby Lehigh University and he continues to serve Lehigh as a Media Production Specialist.



April 8, 1947

Mr. Norman L. Maguire  
185 Williams Street  
Glastonbury, Conn.

Dear Sir:

This will verify your reception of our station WGPA on March 27th from 5:45 p.m. to sign-off. As of April 1st, our new sign-off time is now 6:45 p.m.

WGPA-FM will start full-time operation next week, operating from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on 94.7 megacycles. It is a 10 kilowatt station.

Thank you very much for your report. We are always happy to receive and verify such reports.

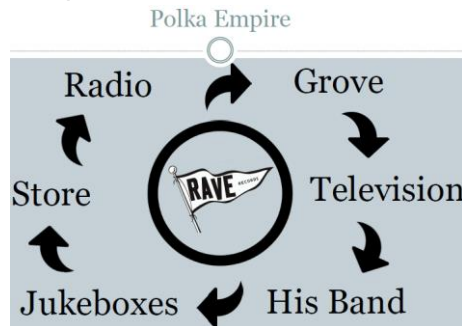
Sincerely yours,

L. E. Rybak  
Chief Engineer

LLR/bg

Regarding radio history, Jarret produced a history of WGPA including much discussed in portions above. The link below will lead you to an accurate and entertaining multi-part series of the life of this station via the following: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WGPA/Sunny1100/videos>

At the time of Joe's ownership of WGPA, he had the makings of a Polka Empire; all activities aimed to promote the second aspect of this presentation- *Rave Records*.



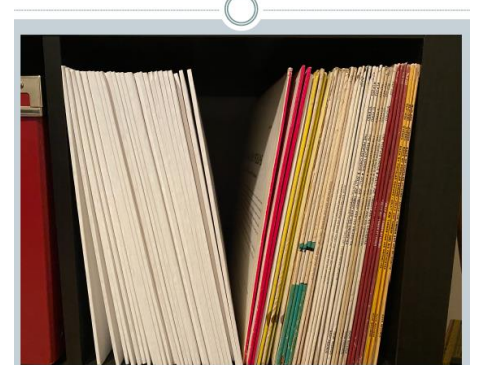
Jarret, sadly lost his dear friend Jolly Joe when, after a period of failing health, he passed in 2015. Knowing the closeness of his

friendship with Joe, his nephew contacted Jarret and offered him any collections or memorabilia from Jolly Joe's residential estate that Jarret wanted to preserve. This is when Jarret became more fully aware of the *Rave Records* material including tape masters of recordings, equipment, LP catalog stock, memorabilia from various performers and more.

### Masters



### Collection



Preservation of history is a duty we, as collectors, all strive for and Jarret, after this acquisition, was off on an adventure of discovery, evaluation and restoration of these collections. Joe ran the recording equipment, selected the best takes to create magnetic tape masters sent to be manufactured as finished LP stock. Upon return of the product, he even managed the distribution to each sales outlet along with smaller mail order

purchases somehow finding time to do all this. At the meeting we wondered how, with some delegation of those efforts, what the business could have become. Joe was not one to delegate and his energy level to accomplish all of this while running and maintaining his other enterprises is really quite amazing. Joe also had an "in" with the local jukebox franchise to make sure his latest Rave recordings were carried in those music boxes of social clubs and venues throughout the Lehigh Valley to build local sales of his 45 RPM stax.



The original recordings were made in a studio located in the second floor of his music store/residence with a two track Scully unit but a killer microphone, a Telefunken U47 for which Joe paid \$400 in 1949. This was a major expenditure for the time but absolutely worth it as Joe was able to capture high fidelity recordings. After 2002 as Rave ended

recording activities, Joe would sell the U 47 for \$9,000. Today, the market price has nearly tripled!



Originally released in 1947, the U 47 was a revolutionary tube microphone design which significantly increased fidelity over earlier "bottle" microphones and offered switchable polar patterns without the need to change capsules. What solidified its place in recorded history was not just its technical advancements, however. An original U 47 produces a larger-than-life tone which will raise the neck hairs of the professional engineer and casual listener alike.



**Above:** A Scully model 280-4 two track recorder. Scully Recording Instruments founded in 1919 by John J. Scully & his son Larry Scully in Connecticut, also manufactured cutting lathes used to make records. Almost all major masters were cut on a Scully Lathe until the 1960's. <https://reel-reel.com/tape-recorder-brand/scully/>

A second Bang and Olufsen Fen-Tone BM-4 ribbon mike was placed with the immobile piano since too large to move to the microphone such as with the other portable instruments. The recorded best takes were then spliced and sequenced into a

"Compilation Reel" which became the basis sent to the manufacturer for mastering of the LP pressing. On the original takes reels, Jarret noticed the spots where these cuts were removed for compilation by a "one, two, three" and then dead air! Jarret has also found that the master compilation tape splicing has degraded from age, causing occasional breaks when playing or rewinding. Therefore, he'll painstakingly replace each compilation reel with new splice material between cuts. Then he'll be able to digitally record for long-lived preservation and easy access.

The mastering transfer and lathing of pressing process remains the same as back in the days of the first Rave pressings. The process begins with the initial lacquer disk (aka acetate) of aluminum or glass covered with a thin layer of nitro-cellulose (lacquer) which is soft and will be cut by a precision lathe machine using the input of the master tape to cut the groove into this initial disk, one record side at a time. The lacquer disk could be played but would not last long. There were certain uses for acetates for limited or promotional purposes such as limited run advertising or advance releases for radio play.





The lacquer disk also has an etching on the trail-out after the end of recorded audio in middle of record with identifier code serial, date made, etc.

For larger scale production, the acetate needs to be metalized by first dipping in a solution and then spraying coats of a tin chloride + liquid silver solution. After sufficient thickness is achieved and cleaned, then it is re-plated with nickel coating. The "mother" metal press record is carefully peeled from the original acetate. Next, a "coining machine" cuts out a precision center hole and trims edges to create the "stamper". The stamper is really a negative impression of the grooves to be stamped, one stamper for each side. At the vinyl factory, the stamper works a little like a waffle iron, turning preheated "Vinylite" pellets into "biscuits" of various colors pressing them into a true LP record. Once the vinyl disc is cooled and hardened, it's labelled, trimmed and closely inspected. Even the slightest imperfection means that the finished LP record will be melted back down into the vinyl biscuit to restart the process over.

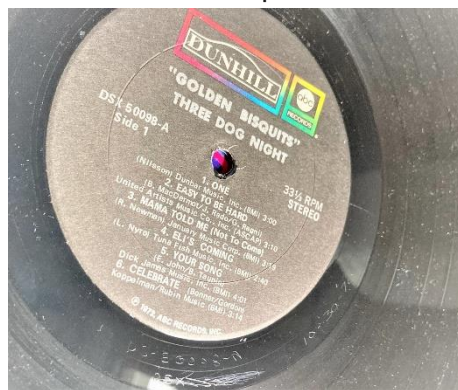


Most masters are cut from outside to inside when certain applications

may have required recording inside for matching successive disks since fidelity on the inner grooves does not contain the same audio quality (loss of higher frequencies). It is due to the speed (inches per second differential of 20 IPS outside versus 8 IPS inside) when the original lacquer is cut. Lathes could be set up to start at either end. This may have been done with transcribed programs of early radio to match the ending audio frequency profile of one disk to the next thus matching the perceived quality by the listener during segues.

<https://www.sageaudio.com/blog/mastering/what-is-mastering-for-vinyl.php>

Given the production runs of a popular recording and the number of copies a stamper could produce without degradation, an interesting discussion ensued whether discount record clubs of the 60's and 70's may have used "re-used" original stampers. Some might suspect this was a way to support free records bonus promotion.



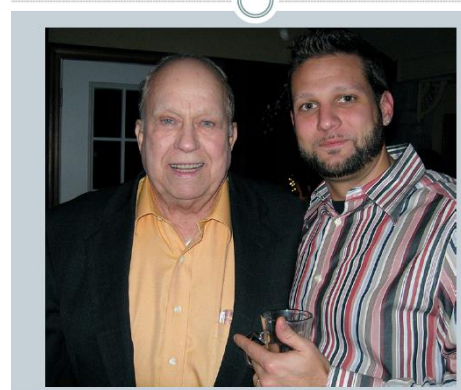
**Above:** Record purchased from Record Club of America, York PA with a scratch-out of original serial number (off by one digit) and re-etched. The "Manufactured by Record Club of America" apparently is what led to their downfall. After achieving a certain

amount of success, the company started cutting deals with the big labels to buy these custom pressings so they could get better wholesale prices. The "Manufactured by ..." indicated that the records weren't returnable to the record label, which lowered the label's cost (in those days, regular pressings were 100% returnable if they didn't sell – big cost to the label). They'd also forgo the shrink wrap and maybe use cheaper vinyl to shave the cost some more. But, if the records didn't sell, RCOA was stuck with them!

Jarret has investigated the value of Joe's collection and does not necessarily see it as a profitable venture to reissue vinyl records. It is an awesome collection along with the various artifacts of Jolly Joe's polka legacy. Jarret is always looking to acquire preowned Rave records of the past in others' estates or collections to make sure his collection is stocked with multiple copies and that can be made available for others to enjoy. Make sure to contact him should you find any!

Jarret has curated a great collection by caring for what was left him- a true testament to a great friendship that changed his life forever!

### Jolly Joe & Jolly Jarret



## Meeting of February 08, 2022

The theme was *Valentine Radios*. We love our radios but not as much as our significant others of course!



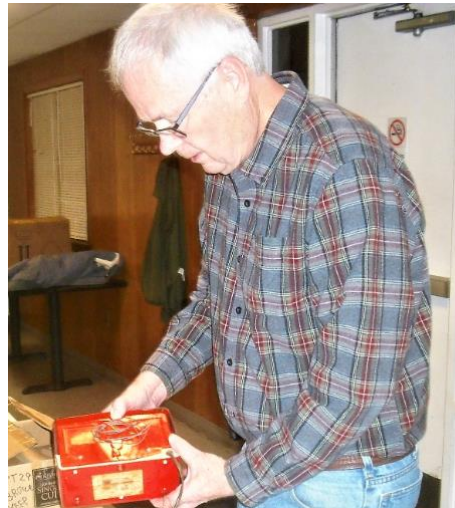
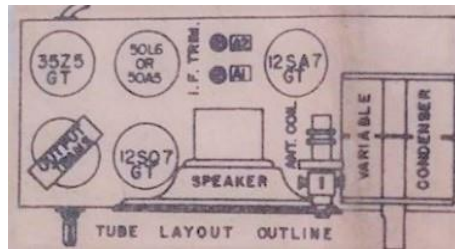
**Above and Below:** Mark Hilliard shows off his first radio, a handsome red Admiral 5T, supplied by his dad who operated a radio TV shop for years. Young Mark quickly destroyed the radio but now has reacquired his first love (in radios) as many of us do!



**Below:** Bob Seiwel went also went back to his childhood and the Adventures of Hopalong Cassidy with this red version of the 1950 Arvin 441T. The original design, with Hoppy's horse Topper reared onto his hind legs, was discontinued after concerns from the "public" that Hoppy would not treat Topper that way and risk an injury.



So, the front was redesigned to have Topper with only his left foreleg raised. This seems to be the case on previous picture with the advertisement on its hind legs and the radio, the second addition with one leg raised. The short production run, well done art, and crossover collectability for Hopalong fans make this radio highly sought. It featured a four tube single IF design, the same 4-tube chassis from the 40's that would go into millions of sets including this Hopalong which included a saddle stamped into the metal back panel for the user to hang the wire "lariatenna" designed to look like a rope. <http://www.preservingarvin.com/hopalong-cassidy.html>



**Below:** Al Simmons joked that a floral gift such as the RCA 103 speaker with such tapestry is never out of style for V-Day.



Al explained that this speaker, which sold for \$37.50 in 1928 (equivalent to over \$600 now) was meant to bring the radio into the living room with its stylish tapestry. With styled rep wood and a back dustcover, this was a progression from the metal model 100. However, Al opted to buy his wife a box of chocolates instead of presenting her with these flowers.

<http://www.indianaradios.com/RCA%20103%20Tapestry%20Loud%20Speaker.htm>



**Above:** Jiri Placek had a few handsome red radios including a 1952 RCA 2B4054-tube battery only portable. Seems to be pretty in red and more elegant than most of this type. You may watch one in operation here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZPeqUboxyA>

**Below:** Jiri shows his repainted Temple G-418. Having a metal cabinet gives you the chance to easily repaint with less preparation and permanence. These feature the same 4 tube single IF transformer circuit of the

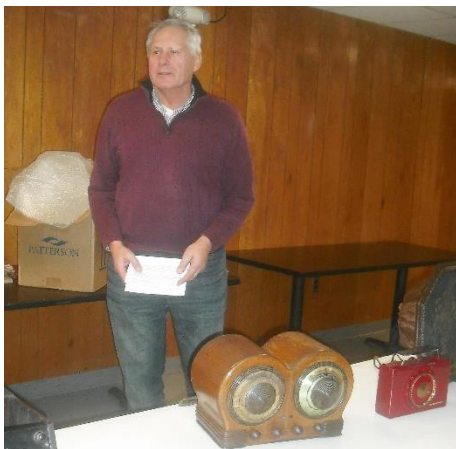


aforementioned Arvin Hopalong. This was a budget radio selling for \$12.95 in 1948 for local and stronger night signals, made by Templeton Mfg. of Mystic and New London, Connecticut.

[https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/temple\\_g418.html](https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/temple_g418.html)



**Below:** Jiri had one more surprise for us this night as he displayed this fine Emerson BD-197 "set". This was one of the many streamlined designs by the renowned Count Alexis de Sakhnoffsky whose amazing story included being born into nobility, escape during the Russian revolution, starting over with his Aunt's help, ending up in Belgium to learn design, and a climb to be a top designer, especially auto body designs.



An excellent history of this man who had many interesting adventures and pursuits and came to be responsible for futuristic designs of numerous automobiles from Packards to Labatt beer trucks is found at: <http://www.coachbuilt.com/des/d/desakhnoffsky/desakhnoffsky.htm>



**Above and Below:** As this was a presentation of Valentine Radios, the streamlined human form-inspired design by Alex was discussed as was the history of the lady below in various decades of censorship from the early 30's broadcasts which continues in media to this day!

[https://radio-antiks.com/IndexRadio-Antiks\\_Emerson\\_MaeWest\\_2.htm](https://radio-antiks.com/IndexRadio-Antiks_Emerson_MaeWest_2.htm)



**Below:** One of our newest members showed a Michigan Radio Midget M 10. In the great Valentine tradition,



this set was supplied with two sets of headphone connection for a shared listening experience. This TRF regenerative set uses one UV200 or 201A tube. With controls for



wave length, tickler, tuner and detector, it will take some mutual conductance and much patience to maintain the romance of this shared tuning experience.

[https://www.radiomuseum.org/dsp\\_hersteller\\_detail.cfm?company\\_id=2869](https://www.radiomuseum.org/dsp_hersteller_detail.cfm?company_id=2869)



**Below:** The only radio for Jarret's wife was this "pretty in pink" Zephyr, which makes up for its unassuming name in cuteness. She proudly displays the radio in her work office. <https://antiqueradio.org/zeph01.htm>





## Upcoming Regional Events

Following are some excellent programs and a reason to have multiple club memberships in our region's clubs! Paste links into your browser to load. The following includes many of the antique club and even hamfest events which may be viewed via:

<https://www.qsl.net/w2vtm/hamfest.html>

**NJARC Spring Swap meet** Saturday, April 2, 2022 8 am to 12 pm. Check contacts below. Vendor setup at 7:15AM. \$7 entrance fee. \$35 vendor fee (\$30 for members). Additional table \$25 reserved. \$30 day of event subject to availability. Where: Parsippany PAL, 33 Baldwin Rd, Parsippany, NJ 07054. [president@njarc.org](mailto:president@njarc.org) [www.njarc.org/directions.html#swapmeets](http://www.njarc.org/directions.html#swapmeets) <http://www.njarc.org/images/njarcFall2021swapmeet4.jpg>

**Hamfest-Warminster Amateur Radio Club (WARC) including ARRL EPA Section Convention** Sunday, 05.01.2022, 7am, vendors setup 6AM rain or shine. Where: Bucks County Community College's Lower Bucks campus, 1304 Veterans Hwy (Rte. 413) Bristol, PA. 19007. <http://wp.k3dn.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/warminster-hamfest-flyer-2022.pdf>

**Kutztown Radio Show XLIV (44)** Friday, 05.13.22 through Saturday, 05.14.22 opens 7AM on those days; Vendor setup starts 12 noon Thursday. Early buyers will not be permitted on Thursday without a dealer tag. Free parking and free admission for shoppers. **Auction is Friday 5.13 at 5:30 in white room, Preview at 4:30.** Where: Renningers Farmer's Market, 740 Noble St.,

Kutztown, PA 19530. Antique radios, parts, and related items. Audio and Ham welcome. Tables, electric available. Dealer spaces 10' x 10' incl. table \$48, extra tables \$10.

**Exhibitor reservation advised:** Phone M-Th 570.385.0104; F-S 610.683.6848. See links at: [www.dvhrc.org](http://www.dvhrc.org) to download or [facebook.com/renningerskutztown](https://www.facebook.com/renningerskutztown)

**RadioActivity 2022 TBD** Thursday, 06.02.22 4PM through Saturday, 06.04.22. To be held at North College Park Wyndham Hotel in Beltsville, MD. The theme is 100 Years of Broadcasting. Thursday evening auctions, seminars, workshops, and an equipment auction are planned for the event. More detail will follow in the club's March RadioAge. The North College Park Wyndham Hotel is off of Exit 29B (Rt. 212) of I-95 between Washington and Baltimore, at 4095 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Maryland, 20705. [Check MAARC.org later/ web site in development at time of publishing.](http://www.maarc.org)

**2022 AWA Annual Conference** Tuesday, October 4 to Saturday October 8, 2022. AWA will be held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 W Henrietta Rd, Henrietta, NY 14467.

The dual themes will be "100 Years of Car Radios" and the "Evolution of Audio"

Stay tuned to the site below to review presenters and to even take a look back to previous year's event. <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/annual-conference/>

## Tubes Needed for DVHRC Kutztown Inventory



Be generous and clean up some of your old stuff by donating to DVHRC's tube program. Here are the tubes the club is looking for.

- Any and all Globe tubes,
- Any high end audio tubes ,
- Any "unusual" transmitting tubes.

- |       |        |
|-------|--------|
| 5751  | 10     |
| 5842  | 12A7   |
| 6AQ8  | 2A3    |
| 6AZ8  | 45     |
| 6BD8  | 6Q7G   |
| 6DC8  | 6U7G   |
| 6BK8  | 85     |
| 396A  | 12AX7  |
| 417A  | 83     |
| 6072A | 6SN7GT |
| EL37  | 1L6    |
| 6A3   | 50A1   |
| 6F5   | 6L6GC  |
| 6F6   | 6L6GAY |
| 6L6GA | 6L6GB  |



Ah the changing of the seasons, what could be better?... and now this from the Four Seasons, Let's Hang On!