



The Oscillator



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

The Official newsletter of the DVHRC

SUMMER 2017

Kutztown XXXVI Review



As we sing our summer song, we can give thanks for another great Kutztown Antique Radio meet. What better way to capture the spirit than watching John Hagman's fine video review of the meet. Many thanks to John for his passion in videography and the Kutztown events which he has produced since 2006! It's all there on DVHRC.com for your enjoyment.

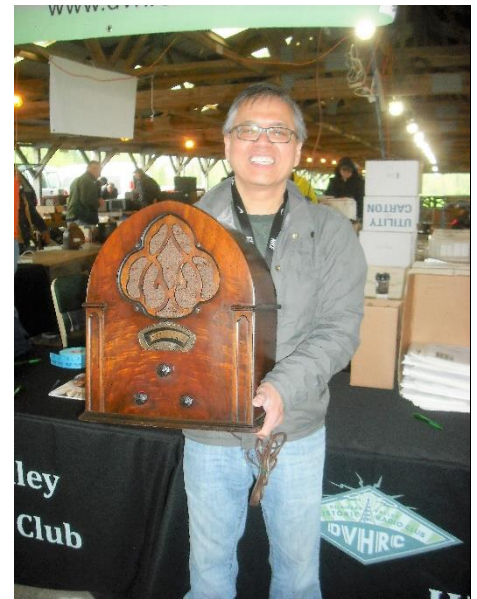
We heard many stories of camaraderie and grateful customers, even on Saturday when rainy weather visited the meet. Bob Bennett related a story of a Saturday shopper looking for certain tubes he had and how thankful he was. Fans of "Radio Free Kutztown" were looking for program transcriptions but Mike will keep programming exclusive to K-town events. A compact but successful Friday night auction had its share of bidding wars and good values. The Thursday noon vendor setup queue worked in an

orderly fashion with minimal time for check-ins. At the club table, members pitched in with their successful programs. In attendance with a table was MAARC, the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club, including several key officers who offered several interesting displays, sample newsletters, and of course membership applications. Membership provides access to their great *Radio Age* monthly publication. We hope they picked up some members and DVHRC looks forward to their future attendance. They also publicized the National Capital Radio and Television Museum. A preview of NCRTM can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p6YivP30oM&feature=youtu.be>

Although the timing of this DVHRC newsletter missed MAARC's large Radio Activity event held in June, our own Dave Snellman had visited an earlier monthly meeting held in Davidsonville, MD, on the 3rd Sunday at 1100. Not too long of a commute and well worth it for the show and tells and auction values of estate items recently acquired. Visit MAARC at:

http://www.maarc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=101.



Above: Raffle Radio winner Anthony Escolin of New Jersey is all smiles as new owner of this beautiful and rare Pathe' cathedral set. The noon drawing has been a highlight on Saturday and the club hopes to add more to that day in future. At the risk of sacrilege, an earlier image of same radio I pasted incorrectly seemed to smile back!





Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
PO Box 5053
New Britain, PA 18901
www.dvhc.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 25th of month prior to quarterly issue dates of April, July, October and January to the editor at 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 2nd Tuesday of each month at Telford Community Center.

DVHRC Board of Directors

President:

Jarret Brown / 610-704-0803
jpb205@lehigh.edu

Vice President:

Tom Spiegel
Adxymox62@netzero.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Snellman / 267-328-8857
dsnellman@comcast.com

At Large members:

Fred Saul / 484-357-6537
fsantiqueradio@dejazzd.com

Greg Dottor / 610-844-6326
gdottor@yahoo.com

Tube Appeal

Dave Dean informs us that the club inventory of audio tubes, especially the rarer audio tubes such as 12AX7, 12AU7, 6SL7 and similar have been fairly depleted during the spring Kutztown radio meet. These vintage tubes will only become scarcer over time accordingly to following link from a commercial supplier:

<http://www.audiotubes.com/12ax7.htm>.

Dave asks that we examine our own tube inventories and possibly donate any extras to the club inventory. Also, Dave and the club are extremely grateful for a donation before K-town of many rarer tubes by Dave Snellman. This added greatly to the tube income of our spring event. Please contact Dave Dean with your tube offerings and other related questions.

2017 DVHRC Meeting Themes

Jul 11- Tailgate Auction **STARTS AT 7PM**

Aug 8- Car Radios and associated service equipment, etc. Also Crystal Radios

Sep 12- Kutztown XXXVII Planning, Art Deco Radios

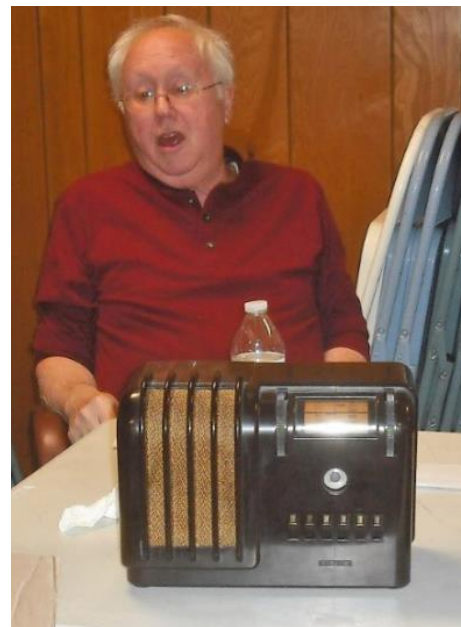
Oct 10- High-End Radios

Nov 14- Decade- 1950's Radios

Dec 12- X-mas Party

More Rare Radios Shown

Following are some very valuable and in-demand sets that DVHRC members have acquired and shown at our recent May and June meetings.



Above: Dave Dean shows off a pristine Airline 93WG602 with art deco styling and startionized dial and stunning tuning eye shown below.



Above: Lewie Newhard exhibited a Television and Broadcast Equipment (Jenkins Television Corp) JD-30 receiver used with a mechanical TV.

Below: a low serial number on the JD-30 attests to limited production at that time in 1932. Also, the receiver is shown along with the matching "Projector Radiovisor" mechanical television. See an advertisement for this "set" at: http://www.earlytelevision.org/jenkins_ads.html



Since many of these radios were in the art deco style, there was a discussion of this design. Art Deco was a pastiche of many different styles, sometimes contradictory, united by a desire to be modern. The style was introduced by France in 1925 and included elements of cubism (geometric shapes like cylinders), fauvism (bright colors), updated furniture craftsmanship in France (Louis XVI), and also exotic styles of China, Japan, India, Persia, ancient Egypt and Mayan art.



Some designs mentioned include Lincoln autos from the early 40's and the RCA 621 TV. The Chrysler Building and skyscrapers built in the 20's are monuments of the art deco style.



Above: Wilbur Gilroy shows off a nice green catalin Emerson BT-245 with no cabinet flaws. The discussion surrounded what to do, or better, what not to do to catalin cases to preserve them.



Above: The rare Radio Keg model 6, cork intact, is displayed to buyers and was quite the bidding star at the recent May Kutztown Radio Meet Friday auction. See more about this model below.



The Radio Keg Model 6 was manufactured by R. K. Radio Laboratories in Chicago. A 1933 model, the Radio Keg 6, is an AC/DC, 5-tube superhet with a 175 kHz IF. The tube complement consists of the following types: a 6C6 mixer-oscillator, a 6D6 IF amplifier, an 85 detector 1st AF, a 43 AF output and a 25Z5 rectifier. A resistance line cord is used to drop the line voltage for the series-string filaments. The radio employs a 6 1/2" electrodynamic speaker and a separate filter choke. The keg is 12 inches in length, and the ends measure 8 3/4 " in diameter. Just like a full sized keg, it is made of oak staves and metal hoops and features chrome-plated hoops.



Below: Nicely restored innards of the model 6 done by Ray Bintliff, W1RY. See full story at: http://antiqueradio.com/Aug08_Bintliff_RadioKeg.html

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. Most of what follows and even more hamfest events can be viewed via this website: [n2lvi delaware valley area hamfests](http://n2lvi.delawarevalleyarea.hamfests)

NJARC Summer Tailgate Summer Swapmeet Saturday, 07.22.17, 8AM to 12PM, vendor setup 7:15.

Outdoor event in the shade of the trees at historic Camp Evans, InfoAge. Cost: \$5; Vendors \$20 per table (non-members \$25). Vendor setup 7:00 AM, Walk-around auction starts at 11:00. Free appraisals. Expert antique radio repair available. Refreshments available. Where: InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum, 2201 Marconi Road, Wall Township NJ 07719. <http://www.njarc.org/#calendar>

Reading Radio Club Mini-Fest Saturday, 08.05.17, Opens: 8 AM, Vendors 7 AM; Auction at 12 Noon (for unsold items buyers wish to auction off). Cost: \$2, spouse & under 18 free; sellers \$5. VE Testing*: 8:30 AM (free admission for VE Exam only; test fee applies). Free repair evaluations by club experts. Where: Heritage Park, 992 Clematis St, Sinking Spring, PA. See website for details and nice newsletter: <http://www.readingradioclub.orgent@njarc.org>

KUTZTOWN RADIO SHOW Friday, 09.15.17 through Saturday, 09.16.17 opens 7am. Vendor setup starts 12 noon Thursday 9.14.17. Auction starts at 6:30 Friday. No Early entry shoppers Thursday. Free parking

and free admission for shoppers.

Where: Renningers Farmer's Market, 740 Noble St., Kutztown, PA 19530. Antique radios, parts, and related items. Audio and Ham welcome. 10 x 10 space includes table & electric for \$40, extra table \$5. Contact: Lewie at 610.262.3255 or email Lewallie@aol.com. Exhibitor reservation advised: Phone M-Th 570.385.0104; F-S 610.683.6848. See links at: www.dvhrc.org or facebook.com/renningerskutztown

Military Radio Collectors Association (MRCA) Military Radio Friday, 09.15.17 through Saturday, 09.16.17 opens 8am.

Cost: \$5 (under 12 free) plus \$5 fairgrounds fee; Vendors \$5 plus admissions (\$15 total). Formal presentations will be given at 11 AM Saturday, and will be followed by a "show-and-tell" session. Where: West End Fairgrounds, Fairground Road off US Rt 209, between Lehighton & Stroudsburg; 13.4 miles east of Exit 74 on I476, or 8.5 miles west of PA Rt 33. <http://www.mrca.ar88.net>

Hamfest- RF Hill Amateur Radio Club Sunday, 10.15.17, 7AM to 1PM for general public, 6AM for vendors.

Indoor tables \$12 for vendors, outdoor spaces available \$8. VE testing begins at 10AM sharp. Where: Sellersville Firehouse, 50 N Main St., Bethlehem Pike, Sellersville, PA. Contact Jim Soete, WA3YLQ at 215.723.7294. See website for details including flyer: <http://rfhillarc.org/events>

MAARC Radio Fall Fest Sunday, 10.15.17 11AM to 5PM. Tailgating at 11:30 AM and meeting at 1:00 PM. We will be featuring audio and HAM gear. Where: Davidsonville Family

Recreation Center, Address: 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road, Davidsonville, MD. See the MAARC website for details: <http://www.maarc.org/>.

NJARC Fall Swap meet Saturday, 11.04.17, 8AM to 12PM, Cost: \$5; Vendors \$25 per table (non-members \$30). Vendor setup 7:00 AM, Walk-around auction starts at @ 11AM. Expert antique radio repair available. Where: Parsippany PAL, 33 Baldwin Rd, Parsippany, NJ 07054, USA. <http://www.njarc.org/#calendar>

Important Safety Warning Regarding the EC-1, the S-38 and S-38B Hallicrafters *By John Fuhring*

This warning includes any "hot chassis" radio of similar design (including many of the famous "All American Five" radios). This warning does not apply to some late model AA5 radios that were designed with an "isolated return bus." You can tell if your radio has a "hot chassis" or not by running some simple tests detailed in the text below.

WARNING STATEMENT: As they are wired from the factory, these radios are deadly dangerous and you shouldn't even plug them in until they have been made safe. These radios have what is called a "hot chassis," and that makes them very dangerous to work on or even to plug in. Do not attempt to test or repair them until you or a skilled technician have rewired them as I will describe below. I

cannot emphasize too strongly how important it is that you follow my advice because over the years, many people have been killed by "hot chassis" radios and many others have received painful shocks. The fact is, the modifications I shall describe are not only very effective, but are quite easy to do and will cost you less than \$10, so there is no excuse for not doing the work.

Why are these radios so dangerous? Depending on which way their original unpolarized plug is plugged into the wall socket, the chassis of these sets have a 50/50 chance of being "hot" if turned on and a 50/50 chance of being "hot" if simply turned off. On or off, the chassis will be hot at some point and you will get a bad shock if you simply touch the insides of the radio. To make matters really deadly, if the grommets that insulate the chassis from the outside case are in bad shape, you will get electrocuted just touching the radio.

How did Hallicrafters and other manufacturers of "hot chassis" radios get UL approval to manufacture and sell such dangerous radios? Back when these radios were new, there were no polarized wall sockets and power plugs so radio manufacturers made them safe by insulating the case from the chassis with rubber grommets or by putting the chassis in wooden/plastic cases. All these radios had Masonite rear covers that prevented probing fingers from touching the chassis and they

all had bold warning labels telling you NOT TO TOUCH THE CHASSIS OR CHANGE THE TUBES WITH THE BACK OFF AND THE SET PLUGGED IN. The warning labels said that the set was to be worked on only by a Trained Radio Technician (who knew what a "hot chassis" was).

We can't trust the old safety devices anymore because the insulating grommets have deteriorated with age and the Masonite backs of most of these old radios are now missing. Even if they were still there, the warnings that were printed on the backs of these radios are equally useless because The Trained Radio Technician profession has been extinct for decades (with only a few of us old dinosaurs left). Today we have to be our own "Trained Radio Technician" and the truth is, most of us aren't "trained" and most of us don't even know what a "hot chassis" is. The whole idea of this essay is to give you the training you need to make your radio safe before you try to fix it or use it.

DOES YOUR RADIO HAVE A "HOT CHASSIS" OR NOT? As mentioned, some All American Five (AA5) radios are safe to use without using a polarized plug and without rewiring the on/off switch, but only if they were designed with an isolated bus. Just looking at the schematic, it is hard to tell if such a bus exists and just looking at the chassis won't tell you anything unless you really know what to look for.

The following test assumes you have a ohmmeter and know how to use it. The best way to tell if your radio has a hot chassis is to take an ohmmeter and set its scale to read 20 K ohms or greater. Unplug your radio, but turn the on/off switch to the 'ON' position. Measure the resistance from a blade of the power cord to the chassis. After you get a reading, read from the other blade to the chassis. If BOTH readings are greater than 20K Ohms, then your radio has one of these isolated buses, it is intrinsically safe and you don't need to install a polarized plug or rewire it. BUT If you get a low reading on either blade to chassis, your radio is dangerous and you should follow the instructions below.

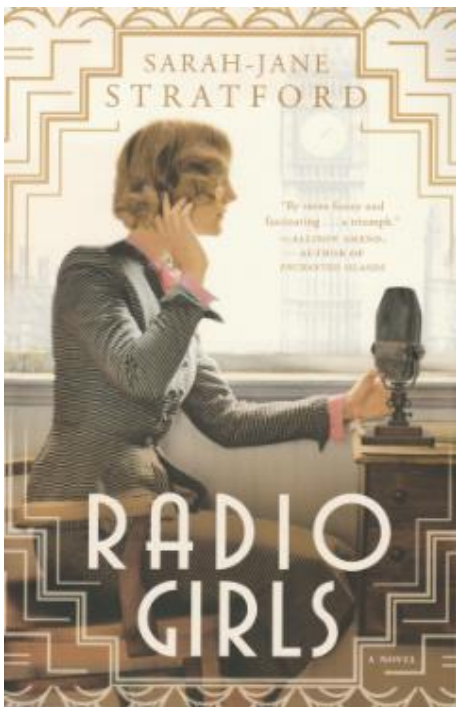
If your radio failed the test above, but already has a polarized plug installed, put the on/off switch in the 'off' position change your ohmmeter to the lowest scale (usually the 200 ohm scale) and then measure the resistance from the wide blade to the chassis. If the reading is high (more than a few ohms), your radio is dangerous and you should follow the instructions below. On the other hand, if the resistance from the wide blade to the chassis is only a few ohms with the radio on and only a few ohms with it off, somebody has already wired it up for safety.

OK, assuming your radio has failed and needs to be made safe, here's what you do: **We now ask you to access the remainder of this story on the website below due to**

detailed schematics and explanations for which you will need a larger view. John also offers up some good information on GFCI outlets, cords and isolation transformers as safety measures. <http://www.geojohn.org/Radios/MyRadios/Safety.html>

Summer Beach Books

Here's a book that both you and your spouse/significant other can enjoy.



Radio Girls, ISBN 9780451475565, a novel by Sarah-Jane Stratford, provides an eye-opening journey to London in the early 20's and 30's with a backdrop of upstart national broadcasting service known as the British Broadcasting Corporation, the BBC. Interwoven into the story of Maisie Musgrave is her interactions with officers who really did serve at the BBC in those early days as their shared administrative assistant. The *Radio Girls* title

refers to both Maisie and the real Hilda Matheson, Director of the Talks Division producing programs of news and information. Hilda Matheson was the first to realize that there is a specific art to talking on the radio, and she introduced high production values. In December 1931, she had a spectacular falling out with the BBC's managing director, John Reith, leading to her resignation. Hilda would later write the book *Broadcasting* in 1933 alluded to in this novel.

In the book, Maisie, the fictional character, has interactions with both Hilda and John with many tantalizing situations during a period of rapid growth in radio, world politics and power. The characters including Reith and Matheson are true to documented historical description even in this fictional setting. There are themes of restrictions of women in the workplace and John Reith's iron-fisted control of the BBC programming in keeping with the mission of "Educate, Inform and Entertain". Also, the book surveys the limits of political programming including propaganda against the fascist regimes- specifically Nazi- that were now gaining popularity and found on competing radio broadcasts from mainland Europe. The book is well-researched by the author but also light-hearted and fun at the same time while still giving an accurate view of a pioneering professional women of the day. An easy read and a good beach book, I recommend you find a copy or ask Greg to borrow it at a future meeting.

Here's another book that actually discusses the BBC and Pirate Radio.



The British rockers the Who used pop art both in design and in the album content whereby they actually recreate the pirate sound of "The Highly Successful Sound of Wonderful Radio London" pirate broadcast. John Dougan, PHD real nails it in the excellent middle chapters as he describes the evolution of the BBC from John Reith's era of "Educate, Inform and Entertain" to the later growth of the pirate offshore stations quashed by new legislation. Throughout, the Who live through the 60's getting airplay on many of those pirate stations so popular at the time. Even if you do not like the Who's smashing of their instruments, this is a great survey of how they made it and how radio helped.



This is Gary Owens saying Cherrio from the BBC World Service.