



Super Winter Meet, February 6!

OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC
1999

Vol. 7. No. 1, January

Next Meeting: Jan. 12

The January meeting of the DVHRC will be held on Tuesday the 12th at the Telford Community Center. We'll have some organizational work to do for the upcoming Swap meet. Ted Sowirka will be bringing a video tape on the history of stereo for our edification and enlightenment. Of course, the usual auction will ensue.

Dues and Tables

Club dues, now \$15, are due in January. You can pay at the meeting or send a check to the Havertown P.O. Box.

We expect the Feb. 6 Havertown meet to be a complete sellout. To avoid disappointment, sellers should contact Bill Overbeck for reservations.

December Meeting Notes

Reported by Dave Snellman

Well, the December meeting was one of our more "quiet" meetings. Not because of lack of activity or lack of interest, but because everyone was too busy enjoying the bounty of food, drink, and desserts that can only mean – it was our annual holiday party! We had about 35 members and guests in attendance and everyone enjoyed a festive evening of food, friends, the election of DVHRC board members, and the usual equipment auction. Something of note, the cake, decorated with the likeness of a cathedral radio was a big hit. Being true radio collectors, no one would "destroy" the cathedral by cutting a piece out of it!

Other pleasantries included the announcement of the recipient of the second annual Sylvia award. None other than our own Ted Sowirka was this year's winner. Congratulations go out to Ted! Ted is very active in all club

activities. He serves as our technical program coordinator, often giving the presentations himself.

Last month we published the list of candidates for the DVHRC Board of Directors. Twenty-eight voting members were present at the December meeting. When all the votes were tabulated and verified the results showed that the current directors were re-elected. The board consists of: Dave Abramson, Jim Amici, Pete Grave, Al Klase, and Bill Overbeck. Officers will remain the same for 1999.

The call for dues went out and twenty-six members paid their dues Tuesday evening, so we're off to a good start. Remember dues are due in January 1999. Dues were set at \$15.00 for the year. If you've paid already, thanks. If not, please pay at the January meeting or send them to Box 847, Havertown, PA 19083.

Don't forget the upcoming Super Wintermeet. It's February 6, 1999 at the Grimes Center in Havertown. We sold 11 tables spaces at the meeting and more are arriving daily. If you want a table, sign up by sending a check for \$15.00 per table to the address listed above. Be sure to indicate it's for the table and not for dues.

We had an interesting "show and tell" item. Bill Overbeck brought in a model of a semaphore signal used on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Apparently, it was used as a training tool for Pennsy engineers. The signal system used by the PRR was unique to that road, so this model is a really neat (and probably rare) piece of railroad memorabilia.

A new part of our holiday party met with great success. We had our first holiday gift exchange. Al Klase came up with the idea that anyone wanting to participate would bring a radio-related gift, not to exceed \$10 in cost, to the meeting and we stage a gift exchange. We even ended up with more gifts brought in by gift-givers than gift-getters, so some "lucky" soles got more than one gift. Gifts ranged from transistor radios to books to clock radios to even a pair of socks and a pair of gloves! All in all a lot of fun. It's sure to become a regular part of our annual holiday festivities.

THE OSCILLATOR

Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
P.O. Box 847
Havertown, Pa. 19083

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" DOS/Win95) is particularly welcome.

Unless copyrighted by the author, material in this publication is available for attributed reproduction for nonprofit 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 the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM

DVHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Abramson Jim Amici Pete Grave
Al Klase Bill Overbeck

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Jay Daveler

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COPY DEADLINE: The 20th of each month.

No DVHRC meeting would be complete without an auction and this month is no exception. We did have a slight variation as members could "donate" an item to be auctioned with the proceeds used to pay their dues. Any amount over the dues would benefit the club's treasury. Bryan Irwin and Abe Diehl took advantage of this to pay their dues and the club thanks them. Some items of note in this month's auction include radios from Silvertone, Clarion, Emerson, Fada, GE, Normende, and Philco, a nice assortment of books and other paper, a lot of SAM's Photofacts, some WWII headsets and mics, and a box of lenses.

If you subscribe to ARC and are planning to sell at the Havertown meet, you can get a "plug" for the items they are selling as well as a "plug" for the club by placing an ad in ARC. All subscribers get a free 20-word ad. So advertise the fact that you'll be at Havertown and get an extra word in your club.

That's it for this month. Hope the holidays were good to all and we'll see at our next meeting on January 12th.

DVHRC web page

Remember to check out our page at: <http://pw2.netcom.com/~firstake/dvhrc.htm>. DVHRC webmaster Bryan Irwin has done a great job setting up our page. Now it's our turn to contribute material. He'd be happy to add a link to your web page. We'd also like to set up a membership registry including member's name, interests, and preferred method of contact. Please e-mail your inputs and comments to Bryan. His e-mail address has been added to the Oscillator masthead.

PHILADELPHIA and VICINITY				
WFI WLIT	560	535.4		
WFAN WIP	610	491.5		
WPG	1100	272.6		
WCAU	1170	256.3		
WCAM WOAX	1280	234.2		
WABY WAID WNAT	1310	228.9		

This small section from a 1929 Bright Star battery and tube brochure is a three-dialer logging chart for the Philadelphia area. *From the collection of Lew Newhard.*

500 kc - Part 1

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The following series is for the historical record. We are witnessing a never-to-return era of communications style and format that was so perfect that nothing will ever be its equal. I am very glad that I was able to be a part of it, if only for three years.

1. US Coast Guard Radio Station Honolulu (Callsign: NMO)

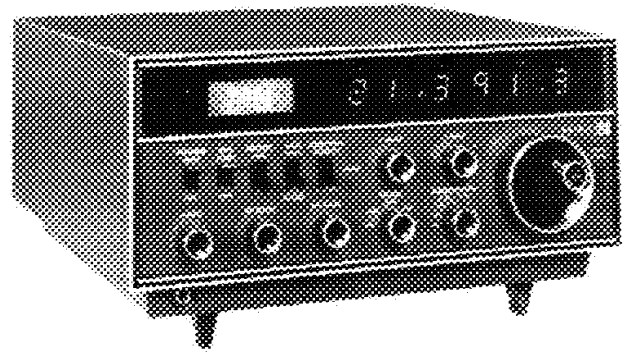
In July of 1977, as a 3rd Class Radioman Petty Officer for the U.S. Coast Guard, I received orders to report from Coast Guard Group Monterey, CA, to Coast Guard Radio Station Honolulu in Wahiawa, Hawaii. I had graduated from Radioman School a year earlier concluding 5 months of training in code, propagation, radio fundamentals, ITU procedures, and other such things. 22 words per minute was the minimum code speed needed to graduate; mine was 25.

Radio Honolulu, NMO, is situated on a huge plot of land owned by the Navy, centered in the pineapple fields of Oahu. In addition to NMO, the Navy and the Marine Corps had their Central Pacific Communications command there also. By the way, NMO has the longest over-water microwave link in the world: Oahu to the island of Kauai (for VHF marine band ops).

NMO was set up with the following glass-enclosed operating positions: 500kc CW, HF CW, HF and VHF voice, air-to-ground, RTTY, Fleet Broadcast, landline TTY, and the Chief's desk. From where the Chief RM sat he could watch all of the ops to make sure no one fell asleep; whoa to the operator (op) who was caught sleeping while on watch!

The Coast Guard is the only military service that communicates directly with the public. Thus we had to know when to turn off the military radio jargon, in particular on 2182 kc (MF international voice calling and distress freq) and ch. 16 / 156.80 Mc (VHF international voice c & d freq). The voice op was kept busy monitoring over a dozen voice channels: 2182 kc, the 4, 6, 8, 12, and 16 Mc high-seas SSB ship to shore freqs, four VHF repeaters for ch. 16 (NMO had a repeater on Kauai [the above microwave link], Oahu, Maui, and the Big Island, four repeaters for VHF ch. 23, and whatever else the Chief felt needed to be listened to. Several times each radio day the voice op had to make broadcasts (WX, Notice To Mariners, etc) on all these frequencies (the timing was critical so the clock had to be checked frequently).

The HF CW position required 2 ops with two racks each consisting of four Collins 651S digital readout receivers scanning the CW calling bands on 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, and 22 Mc Daytime hours one op would take 8 and 12 - the other operator would take 16 and 22; night time one had 4 and 6 - the other would have 8 and 12. So, an operator might have 8 Mc scanning in his left ear and 12 Mc scanning in his right (the rcvrs automatically scanned a preset band of freqs, for



example the 8 Mc calling band for ships calling shore stations runs from 8360.4 to 8374 kc).

A ship calling us might have to send our callsign 20-30 times (no 3X3 format here!) while our rcvr scanned. When the NMO op would hear, from the highest to lowest to highest notes possible (within 1-2 seconds) our callsign being sent; he would quickly shut off the scanner, tune in the ship and turn off our CQ tape (when no traffic is being passed we'd keep the transmitters busy sending: "CQ CQ CQ DE NMO NMO NMO QRU QRU IMI OBS AMVVER QSS 4 6 8 12 16 22 MHZ A"- sort of an advertisement for traffic), and the exchange might go some thing like this:

DE NMO

NMO DE KNFB OBS 8360 K

KNFB DE NMO R UP

UP

EE

EE

Meaning the ship has a weather observation (every 6 hours starting at 00Z every ship worldwide takes an OBS and passes it, at no charge, to the closest shore stn), and he wants me to listen for him on 8360 kc. He'll continue to listen to me on NMO's fixed xmtr freq. Notice the sig UP meaning "I'm shifting up to that freq". An exchange ALWAYS ends with "dit dit" (and hams thought they invented that!).

The above was rare, for during the obs hour, not just one ship would call but dozens and dozens would be calling (in both ears with the rcvrs scanning!), so the NMO operator would have to line them up numerically:

KNFB DE NMO UR NR 1

R 8360 TU

WSLH UR 2

R 12561 TKS

7XYM UR NR 3

DE 7XYM 8370 R UP...

JGFD UR 25

OK UP 8375 TU

Then the op would copy the WX obs from each ship one by one. After working that group of 25 ships he'd turn on the CQ tape and scanners again, and dozens more ships would pounce on him.

Since WX is time-sensitive it was a race to 'collect' as many OBS as humanly possible. A lazy op might only get 100 during the 30-45 minute period.

End of Part 1.

The remaining parts will be devoted entirely to 500 kc.

73,
Jeff KH2PZ / KH6
jeffreyh@hawaii.edu



Lud Sibley's newly established Gold Hill Signal Depot

The following is from Lud and Marilyn's Christmas Communique:

"We bought ourselves a project: a 1922 four-classroom school, with separate gym and teacher's cottage on five acres outside Gold Hill, Oregon. (The town of Gold Hill is between two mountains, Gold Hill and Nugget Butte, which hints at the town's origins in the 1850's.) Medford is the big city, 12 miles away, and California is another 30. The school will eventually become our house. In the meantime, we live in the cottage, redecorated this summer, and store stuff in the other buildings. The gym building houses a former basketball court, and provides enough elbow room to swing a sheet of plywood around the table saw."

You can contact the Sibley's at 102 McDonough Rd., Gold Hill, OR 97525.

BUY SELL SWAP

WANTED: Toshiba transistor radios and transistor radio brochures. See Bill Overbeck at the DVHRC Super Winter Meet, February 6.

WANTED: Hand-held TV's. Please bring to DVHRC Super Winter Meet. – Marty Bunis

WANTED: Panasonic TR005 "Flying Saucer" TV. – John Okolowicz Look for me at the Winter Meet.

FOR SALE: 1200 classical records. I'll have them at the Super Winter Meet. Peter Breuninger.

FOR SALE: Old radios and 78 RPM records from an estate. Includes **Zenith #5614**, **Silvertone** radio/disk recorder, and **RCA ACR-175** communications receiver. Contact: George Rottina, 17A Lumberjack Cir., Horsham, Pa. 19044. Phone: 215-675-9055.

FOR SALE: Heathkit W5 mono PA and preamp. Available at the Super Winter Meet, Feb. 6. – Bill Overbeck

FOR SALE: **7JP4 CRT**, good filament, screen looks OK, make offer. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, Phone 518-792-3130

WANTED: Cast aluminum lid for **Eveready #2** radio circa 1928. Good photo would be a help if lid not available, Need two four inch black No, 488 dial knobs for **Fried Eisemann NR-6**. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, Phone 518-792-3130

FOR SALE: Radio books. 100's of tubes. DVHRC Club Table. Super Winter Meet III at Havertown, Pa/

FOR SALE: Blue 558 Sparton mirror radio, 10,000 original knobs, and over 100,000 original parts. Bring what you want to match. Dave Fursh – See you at Winter Meet III.

HELP: Would the person who sold Marc Ellis the Philco 70 cabinet please contact him at PO Box 1306, Evanston, Ill 60020-1306; ellis@interaccess.com; 847-869-5016.

WANTED: Looking for accessories for AN/GRC-9 field radio, especially front cover, and whip antenna.. Al Klase, 908-782-4829, skywaves@bw.webex.net

WANTED: Howard Sams book "From CB to Ham Beginner" by J.A. Stanley. Richard C. Yingling, 2 S. Locke Ave., Yeagertown, Pa. 17099, (717) 242-1882

HELP WANTED: Need someone to repair a Philco 4654 Predicta TV. Ray Casper (609) 695-8312

WANTED: Emerson AU-190 chassis; FADA 659 dial glass; Chelsea ZR-4 audio transformer; Sentinel 400 Television; Plastic CRT cover (front) for 17" Philco Predicta; Pilot TV-37 tuning knob (wood). Frank Johnson, 530 Elford Rd., Fairless Hills, PA 19030-3624 (215) 943-8295

WANTED: Japanese tubes: UF134, UZ135, UF109A, UF111A, UY133A. Lewie Newhard (610) 262-3255

WANTED: Sales literature, service manuals, and equipment for theatre sound / broadcast use by RCA Photophone, Century Sound, Motiograph, Altec, Western Electric, etc. Theatre catalogs by Jay Emmanuel Publications, Philadelphia. Scott Stillwell, 2328 Cambridge Circle, Hatfield, PA 19440 (215) 393-1833 pager: (800) 717-9306

YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOOSE: Get your Winter Meet III space **NOW**. We are selling tables faster than ever. Contact Bill Overbeck.

