

**All the Electrons that are fit to flow.**



# OSCILLATOR

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 12, No. 6, July, 2004

## Summer tailgate at the DVHRC in July

### June 2004 Minutes and Notes by Dave Snellman

June 8th was the date for our regular meeting at Telford. Our regular business session was rather short. First off, we'd like to welcome a new member, Charles Adams, to our ranks. We had some reports on the last month's Kutztown Radio meet. The club did well. Vendors were happy. It was a great two-day "sell-out!" Kutztown has become the "meet to beat."

The club treasury is in good shape. Kutztown added around \$1000 to the good.

We have a call out for articles for the Oscillator – your monthly newsletter. Without your input the newsletter will only get thinner. We also have a call out for a "tech talk" for the August meeting.



In the news... A.G. Tannenbaum is going out of the tube and parts business. They will retain the manual side of the business. Parts and tubes will be auctioned by Estes on August 25. Also, Mike's wireless collection will also be auctioned by Estes. Check their website for details on both auctions.

### *Inside the Oscillator*

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**NEXT MEETING IS AT KUTZTOWN, JULY 13TH**

**Meeting Notes continued from Page 1**

Your club has a chance to obtain a sizable estate that could be auctioned at the September Kutztown Radio meet. Stay tuned for details.



The rest of the meeting was occupied by a rather large auction. A large number of items from Ed Skilton's collection were auctioned at the meeting. Ed passed away recently and the club helped the family out by auctioning a wide variety of lots. Radios, tubes, parts, books, and all the other things collectors enjoy found new homes.



*Newsletter of the  
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club  
P. O. Box 5053  
New Britain, PA 18901  
www.dvhrc.org*

The Oscillator is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide information on radio, information on and communication with collectors and promoters of vintage radio technology.

We welcome and solicit information relating to radio history or collecting. Submissions should be on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, typed and accompanied with clear photographs or diagrams. Material on discs should be in Word and PDF format.

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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 transactions incurred.

To join DVHRC dues are \$20 per year. The membership year runs January - December. Please mail to the club P.O. box above. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Telford Community Building, Telford, PA.

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Material submitted is subject to acceptance and editing by the editor. A full page article is approximately 400 words. Printed photos may be submitted for a covering. JPG files should be under 100K.

That's it for the June meeting. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 13 at the Telford Community Center. We will have our annual tailgate auction in the parking lot. We will auction items without commission. PLEASE NOTE WE WILL START at 7:00 PM PROMPTLY. The early start should mean we won't be standing around in the dark as the auction progresses. See you there.



## The Radio Collector's Library by Dave Snellman

The idea for this series of articles came to me the other night. I've seen a number of articles and presentations on how to fix, repair, and restore radios and the like, either in print or presented at one of our meetings. I've observed individuals referring to schematics while repairing and aligning radios. These schematics usually come from bound Rider volumes or SAM's PhotoFacts. We announce new books for collectors when they first hit the market. These books usually have theme of detailing some aspect of collecting vintage electronics. These might be a book on the Zenith TransOceanic, one on RCA's 45 players, or it might be on vintage guitar amplifiers. I see tube manuals and ARRL Radio Handbooks sell well at our auctions. I thought it's about time to compile a list of books that collectors should have in their reference library. As many of us have progressed in our collecting endeavors we find it necessary to do research on our findings. While the Internet has been a great boom to collectors, many of still prefer books, hence, I'd like to present what I call "the radio collector's library."

I'll start with a listing of books for those just starting out in the hobby. Many of these books help identify particular makes, models as well as providing photos of the set. Some will deal with basic electronic theory, troubleshooting problems, and simple repair. Collector information makes up parts of these books. This includes the year manufactured as well as typical pricing for the set. You will find certain titles are readily available through booksellers, some may be available at your local library, and others may be out of print and hard to find. This last group usually turns up at antique radio swapmeets.

### 1. Books for beginners

When I think of books for beginners, two readily come to mind. They were both written by Morgan McMahon. The titles are Vintage Radio, 1887-1929 and A Flick of the Switch, 1930-1950. These two books give you a capsule history of early radio, the people involved in its start-up, and information on the programming you would hear at the time. The books are filled with many black and white photos of vintage sets and re-prints of radio advertisements. While the photos do not show a lot of detail, they are valuable in identifying many early sets. The date of the set is also provided. It would only take you a hour or two to go through each book cover to cover, but you'll find yourself referring to the photos and info available many, many times.

The next two books I would place in the beginner's category were also written by the same individual. Both are in their second edition, too. David Johnson's Guide to Old Radios, Pointers, Pictures, and Prices, 2nd ed and Antique Radio Restoration Guide, 2nd ed are the titles. The first title is just what its name implies – a book full of pictures (some in color,) a price guide (somewhat dated,) and information on the development of radio. Tips for first-time buyers is also included.

The second title begins to take a "look under the hood" to see what makes a radio work. It takes you through basic electronic theory, troubleshooting problems, and basic cabinet repair. There is also a section on what you need to service your radios. This book doesn't go into repairing specific models, but does lay down the basic

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Two more books round out the beginners section. How to Repair Old-Time Radios by Clayton L. Hallmark This book picks up where Johnson's Antique Restoration Guide stops. It is full of more detailed information on how a radio works, on how the various components function, and how to read a schematic. Many more tips and tricks fill the book. It also delves into aligning your radio.

Fixing Up Nice Old Radios by Ed Romney is by far the one essential book for beginners. The author was first trained at the Signal School at Fort Monmouth, NJ and later taught electronics at a number of electronics schools. The book gets you started with the basics – what you need in terms of tools and test equipment. It also emphasizes SAFETY (as do many of the other books.) Theory is presented in a straight-forward manner. Then the book moves on to “teaching” you how to repair sets by using a case history approach. Early regen sets like the Crosley 50 and Radiola III are detailed. Atwater Kent radios are covered in the early AC section of the book. Superheterodyne sets are introduced and the All-American Fiver is covered in detail, from repair to alignment. Multi-band sets, such as consoles from the 30's and 40's are covered. The Zenith TransOceanic portable is covered, model 8G500YTZ1 to be specific. If HI-FI is your thing, this book covers more complex radios and early hi-fi gear, and this is a good basis for developing troubleshooting skills. Ed finishes with a look at early amateur radio gear – both receivers and transmitters. The Harvey-Wells Bandmaster transmitter is examined. Receivers covered include the Hallicrafters S-20 and the National NC-100. I could go on and on about this book, but I recommend you pick one up for yourself.

### **Publishers' information on the books covered in this installment**

Vintage Radio, 1887-1929, 1973, published by Vintage Radio, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

A Flick of the Switch, 1930-1950, 1976, published by Vintage Radio, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA, ISBN 0-914126-09-1

Guide to Old Radios, Pointers, Pictures, and Prices, 2nd ed., 1989, published by Wallace-Homestead, a division of Chilton Book Co., ISBN 0-87069-740-4

Antique Radio Restoration Guide, 2nd ed., 1992, published by Wallace-Homestead, a division of Chilton Book Co., ISBN 0-87069-638-6

How to Repair Old-Time Radios, 1979, published by Tab Books, Blue Ridge Summit, PA, ISBN 0-8306-9737-3

Fixing Up Nice Old Radios, 1990, published by Romney, Drayton, SC., ISBN 1-886996-56-3

If you have any comments, or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at one of our meetings, at the Kutztown Radio Meets, or via e-mail at [dsnellman@comcast.net](mailto:dsnellman@comcast.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### *Regular meetings:*

**DVHRC monthly meeting.** July 13, 2004. Telford Community Center, Telford, PA. Meeting starts at 7:00 PM and includes a "tailgate" auction.

**NJARC monthly meeting.** July 9, 2004. Location – David Sarnoff Library at the Sarnoff Corporation, Princeton, NJ. Check their website at [www.njarc.org](http://www.njarc.org) for more details and directions

**Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club (MAARC) monthly meeting** 2:00 PM, Sunday, July 18, 2004. 7th Day Adventist Church, Burtonsville, MD. Check their website at <http://www.maarc.org>

### *Swap meets and local hamfests:*

July 3, 2004 – Murgas Amateur Radio Club Hamfest – Wilkes-Barre, PA

July 4, 2004 – Harrisburg Amateur Radio Club Hamfest – Harrisburg, PA

July 11, 2004 – Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club Hamfest – Kimberton, PA

July 11, 2004 – Sussex Amateur Radio Club Hamfest – Augusta, NJ

July 25, 2004 – Baltimore Amateur Television Society Hamfest – Timonium, MD

For information on these hamfests, please check out the ARRL website at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

New Jersey Antique Radio Club/Delaware Valley Radio Club hamfest and swap meet. July 31, 2004, Hazlet, NJ. For information, check [www.njarc.org](http://www.njarc.org)

Kutztown Radio Meet – September 17-18, 2004. Renningers, 740 Noble St., Kutztown, PA For info, call 504-385-0104

Military Collectors Meet – September 18, 2004 – West End Fairgrounds, Gilbert, PA. Check [www.milradio.org](http://www.milradio.org) for details.

## DVHRC CAPACITOR SALES

| PRICE<br>CAPACITY | VOLTAGE | LIST PRICE |        | CLUB MEMBER |        |
|-------------------|---------|------------|--------|-------------|--------|
|                   |         | QTY/25     | EACH   | QTY 25      | EACH   |
| .001              | 630v    | \$7.20     | .35    | \$6.00      | .28    |
| .0047             |         | \$7.50     | .35    | \$6.25      | .29    |
| .0068             |         | \$7.60     | .36    | \$6.35      | .30    |
| .01               |         | \$7.80     | .36    | \$6.50      | .31    |
| .022              |         | \$8.30     | .37    | \$7.00      | .33    |
| .033              |         | \$8.60     | .42    | \$7.25      | .35    |
| .047              |         | \$9.00     | .43    | \$7.50      | .36    |
| .1                |         | \$9.60     | .48    | \$8.00      | .48    |
| 0.22              |         | \$18.00    | .86    | \$15.00     | .72    |
| 0.47              |         | \$24.00    | \$1.06 | \$20.00     | .96    |
| 1.0               |         | \$31.20    | \$1.50 | \$26.00     | \$1.25 |

**ELECTROLYTICS:**

|     |      | QTY/10  | EACH   | QTY/10  | EACH   |
|-----|------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| 10  | 160v | \$6.60  | .70    | \$5.50  | .64    |
| 22  | 160v | \$7.70  | .90    | \$6.40  | .75    |
| 33  | 160v | \$10.10 | \$1.30 | \$8.40  | \$1.01 |
| 47  | 160v | \$11.50 | \$1.40 | \$9.60  | \$1.16 |
| 10  | 450v | \$9.00  | \$1.10 | \$7.50  | \$1.10 |
| 22  | 450v | \$13.30 | \$1.45 | \$11.20 | \$1.20 |
| 47  | 450v | \$21.60 | \$2.50 | \$18.00 | \$2.10 |
| 100 | 450v | \$34.50 | \$3.20 | \$28.50 | \$3.85 |

**Prices reflect 20% savings with DVHRC membership!**  
**Available at all club meetings!**

<http://www.radioswapmeet.com>



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