



The Oscillator



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

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

September 2010

EXTRA! Special Kutztown XXIII Edition EXTRA!

A Brief History of DVHRC-sponsored shows

By Stan Saeger, President, DVHRC

The September 2010 Kutztown Radio Show, (Kutztown XXIII), is the latest in a series of radio shows sponsored by the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club (DVHRC). Currently held semi-annually in May and September, the show has gone through a number of changes over the years including frequency, format, location and name.

The monthly newsletter of the DVHRC, *The Oscillator*, has been published monthly (with gaps here-and-there) since November 1993. A perusal of back issues (available at www.dvhrc.info), provides information about the shows through the years.

3rd DVHRC Tailgate Swapmeet - November 13, 1993

The first mention of a DVHRC

event appears in the first issue of *The Oscillator*, dated November 1993. The article advises "don't forget the *Third* DVHRC Tailgate Swapmeet from 9am to Noon on November 13th at North Penn Amusements in Souderton, PA". Since this was the "third", there must have been two previous events, perhaps November 1991 and November 1992.

Dealer spaces were \$5 in advance or \$10 the day of the meet. The weather "could have been better" (not the last time this has happened), but it was the "best event thus far".

Ten DVHRC members attended plus some members from the New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC). Also, a Gary Williams from Lancaster, OH brought a vanload of consoles and sold most of them.

Summer Swapmeet - June 26, 1994

Buckingham, PA The club secured the Tyro Grange Hall in Buckingham, PA for the Sum-

mer Swapmeet on Sunday, June 26, 1994 from 8am to 2pm. Tables were \$10 in advance for club members, \$12 for non-members and \$15 the day of the meet. Tailgate spaces were also available at \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members. There was a display of DVHRC member radios called "Our Member's Favorite Radios" and well as a raffle for a radio. Prizes winners included Tony Mollitiere for his Pilot TV-37 television and Lewie Newhard for his Radiola 60 with tapestry speaker.

Fall Swapmeet - November 13, 1994

Buckingham, PA The meets start building steam - this one boasted 29 vendors and over 100 visitors. There was a People's Choice award, displays and a bookmobile. The raffle radio, an American Bosch 640 table radio, was won by DVHRC member Ralph Brown. The auction grossed \$700.

Swapmeet IV - June 25, 1995



Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club

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www.dvhrc.info

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

We welcome information relating to radio and television history and collecting. Submissions should be sent 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.

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Buckingham, PA Gloomy weather again with attendance down by about 50%. There was a display with the theme "Made in Philadelphia".

Ned Borger won the People's Choice award for his Atwater-Kent radio, and Lewie Newhard won Best of Show for his Atwater-Kent grandfather clock radio.

Tables were \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. 38 sellers from 5 states attended. DVHRC member Jim Amici won the Firestone AirChief raffle radio, which he had volunteered to restore for the club.

Third Annual Fall Swapmeet - November 18, 1995

This was billed as a "no frills" tailgate auction at North Penn Amusements in Souderton, PA. There were 18 vendors - attendance was held down by a nearby radio auction, and - you guessed it - cold and damp weather. Denny Moore of Sellersville, PA won the General Electric raffle radio.

Outdoors Swapmeet - April 20 1996

A new location was chosen for this event - the Downingtown Farmer's market. The meet was held in conjunction with a radio auction held by Smith Auction Co. Seller tables were \$15 in advance. Mike Pilotti won the Victor Tombstone raffle radio.

There were 26 vendors and 150 bidders at the auction. A rare RCA 77 broadcast microphone was sold at the meet.

Super Winter Meet - Feb 15, 1997

Another new location - Grimes Hall at St. Denis' Church in Havertown, PA. This meet was the first of many sellouts and had quite an agenda - auction, swap meet, book sales, bake sale and an equipment contest. Over 50 vendors attended.

Super Winter Meet - Saturday, March 7 1998

Havertown, PA. Another sell-out. Meet started at 7am with an auction at 1pm. Tables were \$15 tables in advance or \$20 the day of. AL Klase demonstrated a crystal set for attendees.

Bob Kushnerick won the CBS-Columbia-Hytron raffle radio. Member Al Klase had a crystal set demonstration.

Super Winter Meet - February 6, 1999

Havertown, PA. The meet started at 8am with an auction at 11am. 80 vendors were in attendance. A 50/50 raffle was held which netted \$58.

Super Winter Meet - March 4, 2000

Havertown, PA. Started at 8am, tables were sold out. 85 vendors were in attendance and some quality boat anchors were offered for sale.

Kutztown Spring 2001 - May 5, 2001

A seminal event in DVHRC shows - the first Kutztown event at Renninger's Antiques and Farmer's Market in Kutztown, PA. 65 dealers attended.

Kutztown Fall 2001: August 18, 2001

11am auction netted \$300 commissions. Weather perfect.

Kutztown Summer 2002 June 15, 2002

Raffle radio was an RCA table radio. 175 lot auction netted \$325. Friday night events begin.

Kutztown Fall 2002: September 13-14, 2002

First Friday night steak dinner enjoyed by many. Recorded music transmitted throughout the area. A Halton AA5 was the raffle radio. 248 lots in the auction with total commissions of \$165.50.

Kutztown Spring 2003: May 9-10, 2003

Raffle radio was a Motorola table radio. 297 lots in the 11:30 am auction which lasted 3 hours, the first of many I-o-n-g auctions.

Kutztown Fall 2003: September 12-13 2003

Author Mark Stein was a guest signing copies of his radio books. Tropical storm Henri visits dropping much rain with heavy winds. Six inches of water was under the pavilion in places and, unfortunately, some damage to radios and vendor stock resulted. Radio Free Kutztown debuts. Sales were reported to be heavy. Overnight camping becoming more popular.

Kutztown Spring 2004: May 7-8, 2004

Jukebox Collector's Association begins its presence. Mae West radio changes hands for \$1700. Friday becoming as

big as Saturday in attendance.

Kutztown Fall 2004: Sept 17-18, 2004

Hurricane Ivan strikes, dumping rain throughout the area. Attendees report rain blowing horizontally through the pavilion. Many roads closed delaying dealers and visitors. Raffle radio was a Philco 38-7 won by Carl Calasanti. 160 lots sold in 2 1/2 hour auction netting \$61 in commissions.

Kutztown Spring 2005: May 13-14, 2005

Good weather for a change with 200 vendors attending, including perhaps the all-time distance winner, a gentleman from New Zealand. Perhaps the longest auction ever clocked in at 4 hours.

Kutztown Fall 2005: September 16-17, 2005

203 lots were offered in a 3 hour auction with the proceeds donated to the Salvation Army for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita relief. First attempt at an upscale auction to reduce length of general auction.

Kutztown Spring 2006: May 12-13 2006

1st pavilion sold out with overflow vendors in the 2nd pavilion. In the general auction an effort was made to save lesser items until the end of the auction.

Kutztown Fall 2006: Sept 22-23, 2006

Sellout. Becoming a true 2-day meet with pavilion 75%

full on Friday. Two radio bars for sales as well as a rare Chicago Radio Labs battery set in working condition. The raffle radio, a Knight Table radio, was won by Dave Abramson. Auction lasted 3 1/2 hours with no buyers left and goods still to be sold. 260 lots totalling \$2600 were sold.

Kutztown Spring 2007: May 18-19, 2007

No report of this show recorded.

Kutztown Fall 2007: Sept 21-22 2007

Sellout. In an attempt to encourage auction buyers to stay until the completion of the auction, a \$25 cash prize was awarded to a random buyer in attendance at the end. Mark Theirbach won the prize. Auction sales were \$3100.

Kutztown Spring 2008 May 9-10 2008

Sellout. DVHRC tries something completely novel - have a "quality" auction Friday evening, indoors, to provide a more upscale atmosphere and reduce the volume of items during the Saturday general auction. The Friday auction grossed \$6000 for about 100 lots. Weather was "windy and rainy".

Kutztown Fall 2008: September 19-20, 2008

Sellout. No report of this show recorded.

Kutztown Spring 2009: May 8-9, 2009

Sellout. Concept of a “debris field” debuts. This was an attempt to send lesser items to a separate area, freeing up room under the pavilion, as well as allowing better items to stand on their own at auction. A cash-and-carry system was used, with proceeds exceeding expectations.

Kutztown Fall 2009: September 18-19, 2009

Sellout, DVHRC holds quality auction with lesser items in a Buy-it-Now area. Ray Falcinelli won the raffle radio - a Delco tabletop with a beautiful dial.

First “official” radio burn with wood radios beyond repair burned ceremoniously in a bonfire. Thursday arrival of vendors becoming more common.

Kutztown XXII: May 7-8, 2010

Sellout. Taking a cue from the Super Bowl, the DVHRC adopts Roman numerals. 257 vendors attend in a sellout. Buy_it_Now returns under pavilion. Bonfires continue as a Friday night highlight.

Kutztown XXIII: September 17-18, 2010

This chapter is yet to be written.

What makes Kutztown Unique?

The antique radio hobby has a number of established radio show and meets. Why has Kutztown continued to thrive through poor weather, poor

economic times and the availability of most any radio on the Internet?

1. Location, Location, Location: Kutztown is easy to get to and close to millions within driving distance and has a definite Pennsylvania Dutch rural flavor.
2. Facilities: Renninger's has it all - two large pavilions under roof, yet open on the sides for an open-air feeling, a nearby farmer's market for food and shopping, free parking and free overnight camping. Plus an indoor hall for auctions.
3. Free admission
4. No starting time: a bit unusual, but the stampedes and hard feelings of a hard-start are avoided.
5. Camaraderie: There's a definite feeling of friendliness here. Maybe its that Pennsylvania Dutch farm air.
6. People: We seem to attract the nicest collectors from across the US and other countries. (This means you!)

Is Kutztown perfect?

Of course not - there have been a few problems over the years, such as some minor theft (thankfully quite rare considering the amount of goods and attendees through the years). Sometimes we were overwhelmed with items

for the auctions, and getting attendees to stay past Noon on the second day has been a real struggle.

All-in-all, however, we're proud of our shows, and look forward to holding them for years to come.

What's all this about “Pennsylvania Dutch”?

Kutztown is located in the heart of an area populated by many known as “Pennsylvania Dutch” (Your editor included).

Pennsylvania “Dutch” is a corruption of the word Deutsch, the German word for German. The “Dutch” came from areas in Germany and settled in Pennsylvania and Ohio among other places.

Some practice the Amish or Mennonite religions and forego the use of automobiles, phones and electricity.

Men dress in dark colors and women wear dresses and caps on their head. (Ed Note: I deer hunt with an Amish family, and the young women hunt in dresses!)

Others dress in the modern way and use all modern conveniences.

Looking forward

The dates for the 2011 meets are **tentatively** May 13-14, 2011 and September 16 -17, 2011 right here in Kutztown, PA. Mark your calendars now!