



The Oscillator



"ALL THE ELECTRONS THAT ARE FIT TO FLOW . . ."

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Volume 17, No. 4 April 2009

DVHRC EVENT SCHEDULE

Monthly Meeting - April 14
7:30pm Telford CC

Monthly Meeting - May 12
7:30pm Telford CC

Kutztown Radio Show XX - Fri-
day,
May 8 and Saturday May 9

North Penn Community Day -
Sunday, May 16

MARCH 2009 MEETING NOTES AND MINUTES

The regular meeting of the DVHRC was held on Tuesday evening, March 9th, at the Telford Community Center. The meeting started out with the usual call for new members and the business report. Our treasury is in good shape. We discussed the idea of creating a memento for the upcoming Kutztown Radio Show. It will be our 20th meet and the thought was to have something to commemorate that.

We have confirmation that Richard Estes will be there for the Friday evening auction. We also have confirmation that our regular food service will be there.

In some other business, the club is revamping its tube pricing to reflect the current trend. While we aren't going to "list price" – we will raise prices. Half off the list offered by

AES will be the norm.

We have a new brochure for club promotion in time for Kutztown and on Saturday, May 16, for the North Wales Community Day. The club is planning to set up a table at this event.

The club was co-sponsor of a program at the Southern Lehigh Public Library featuring the "Spirit of the Airwaves Players" on March 12th.



Those in attendance were treated to a program that included vintage radio commercials as well as vintage radio programs. A troop of re-enactors, complete with vintage sound effects, brought the golden age of radio back to life.

We heard "Little Orphan Annie," "The Shadow," and "The Lone Ranger." This was interspersed with commercials for "Lucky Strikes" and many others.

The club had a number of vintage radios set up on display. Thanks to Stan Saeger and his wife, every one enjoyed an evening in front of the radio – rather than in front of the TV! (Stan's wife is the Director of the

Southern Lehigh Public Library.)



We went on to the presentations, or "Show and Tell." **Dave Abramson**, one of our TV gurus showed us a



new digital TV offered by Radio Shack. The set is a small battery operated portable set. You'll have to be close to a transmitter in order to make it worthwhile. The bottom-line on it is – it's neat, but doesn't work well.

Dave also told about the Phillies' Clearwater stadium and radio. They added radio coverage to the stadium using a Rangemaster AM transmitter running on 1620 kHz.

Dave Dean, a show and tell regular,



showed off a radio cabinet fitted with stained glass inserts. Dave retrofitted a superhet set into the cabinet. The glass inserts light up, making it a unique set.

Jiri Placek brought along two multi-



band transistor radios. The first was an upscale set from 1964. It was a Schaublorenz Intercontinental. The other was a NordMende Globetrotter 808, later renamed Globetraveler. It included SSB reception.

The usual auction followed. That's all for this edition. Next meeting is April 14th (hope your taxes are finished) at 7:30 PM in Telford.

- *Dave Snellman*

UPDATE ON OUR WEBSITE

Continue to use www.dvhrc.info, as

we have had no response from the person who bought up our original site URL.

SEVENTEEN YEARS OF THE OSCILLATOR

I recently began the task of assembling a complete set of *The Oscillator* in electronic format to be published to the club website, www.dvhrc.info.

Most of the issues already exist in electronic format, but those prior to 1995 exist on paper only and have to be scanned.

Going through all the issues was interesting and provided a look back at the history of the club.

When was the first issue? Near as I can tell, the inaugural issue was a typewritten single page and includes the quote "the DVHRC would like to introduce you to *The Oscillator*". Missing is a publishing date, although a number of clues help to place it as November 1993:

1. It describes a number of events in November (no year specified), the earliest being the next monthly meeting on November 9th. November 9th in 1993 was a Tuesday.
2. The format is very similar to what appears to be the second issue, which is dated December 1993.
3. The September 1994 issue mentions that *The Oscillator* has been "published for one year".

Who have been the editors?

Mike Koste was the first editor, starting with the inaugural issue and concluding in September 1994, serving just short of one year. **Ludwell Sibley** served from October 1994 to May 1998, over 3 1/2 years. Next came **Al Klase** from June 1998 to December 2000, or 1 1/2 years. From January 2001 until March 2001, well-known DVHRC member "**Your Guess is as Good as Mine**" is listed

as the editor. **Dave Abramson** took over in July 2001 and holds the record for length of service, serving until January 2009 -- over 8 years. **Stan Saeger** is the current editor, relieving Dave in March 2009.

... And a surprise

In April 1998, a tongue-in-cheek April Fool's issue was created called "*The Oscillator*" published by the "Delaware Valley Hysterical Radio Club". The humor still rings true today.

The author of this issue is not mentioned. Anyone care to fess up?

(The inaugural and April Fool's issues are reprinted in this issue.)

- *Stan Saeger*

DVHRC AT NORTH PENN COMMUNITY DAY

The DVHRC will have a table at the North Wales Community Day on May 16, 2009. Details are still being worked out. If you would like to help, contact Frank Krider, Dave Abramson or Mike Koste.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

How can you help to make *The Oscillator* a better newsletter for the club? The answer is simple - submit an article, old advertising or photos. Submissions can be emailed to saegers@ptd.net.

DVHRC ON THE RADIO

Lewie Newhard, Greg Dottor and Stan Saeger were the guests of KUR, Kutztown University's college radio station, on March 31st.



A one hour interview show "Town and Gown on Common Ground" allowed us to cover the history of radio

and the club and plug the upcoming Kutztown Radio Show.

Tentative plans were also made for KUR to do a remote broadcast at the Kutztown Radio Show in May.

DVHRC TUBE INVENTORY

The club is looking for tube donations as follows: (in order of most needed) 12AY7, 12AX7, 12AT7, 12AU7, 12SQ7, 12SK7, 6L6, 6SN7, 6SC7, 6K6 and 6K7. They can be brought to a meeting, or contact Dave Dean directly (610-933-0330 or email dw.dean@verizon.net with the word TUBES in subject heading).

If members need tubes, Dave can tell right away if we have it in stock and the club's price.

THANKS . . .

. . .to Charlie Class for his years of service to the club by taking care of the club's tubes.

. . . To Dave Dean for spending an enormous amount of time testing, cataloging and boxing the DVHRC tube inventory.

. . . To Greg Dottor for setting up the KUR radio interview.




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The Kutztown Radio Store
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Open Saturdays, 8:30-4
Sales and Repair of antique radios  Buying old radios and related parts
Lewie- (610) 262-3255 lewallie@aol.com
Dale- (610) 262-1807 tubenet@webtv.net



TAILGATE SWAPMEET NOVEMBER 13TH

Don't forget the Third DVHRC Tailgate Swapmeet is Saturday, November 13th from 9am until Noon in Souderton at the North Penn Amusements parking lot. Dealer spaces are just \$5 if you sign-up on or before the November club meeting and \$10 afterward. Set-up time is 7am on a space-available basis. Call Jay Daveler at 368-2520 for further details.

Along with a free listing and paid ad in the November ARC, this event is being heavily promoted in newspapers, radio and TV stations from Allentown to Philadelphia, so we're expecting a major turnout.

Incidentally, if you should spot any publicity for the Swapmeet in your local paper, kindly clip it out for inclusion in the club scrapbook.

Cross your fingers in hopes of fair weather. In the event Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, advance dealer registrations will be refunded.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joining the ranks of The Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club: Ned Borger of Northampton, PA...Raymond Martin of Shillington, PA...Jim Tate of Malverne, PA...Edwin Tyrrell of Willow Grove, PA...and Mark Hilliard of Allentown

"SHOW AND TELL" A SMASHING SUCCESS

A popular new addition to the monthly meetings of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club is called (with simple dignity) "Show and Tell"...the opportunity to showcase unusual, unique or specialized items from your collection with other club members.

In the past couple of months, transistor fancier Bill Overbeck has displayed a number of interesting items including an RCA beanbag ashtray radio, an exceptional solid-state set with wind-up motorized tuning, transistor radio/slide viewer combinations resembling television sets, a larger leather-clad Westinghouse model along with a full color magazine ad touting the set's virtues and long battery life, and a wooden coin bank in the shape of a 1940's console.

One of the organizations newer members, Alex Voros presented an AM/SW pocket radio from the USSR, a peculiar Russian metal radio tube and a rarely seen Heathkit portable clock radio.

Following an updated article in the October '93 ARC on left-handed radios, Mike Koste showed off his latest find: a black plastic Emerson 708 from 1952.

Finally, resident communications receiver enthusiast, Pete Grave brought in a modified Collins 51J4 he wished to un-modify and bring back to factory specs. Because of Show and Tell and the technical expertise of the DVHRC Membership, mission accomplished. Both father and radio are now home, resting comfortably.

The sharing of knowledge and information is what the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club is all about. The Oscillator urges you to be an active participant in Show and Tell.

THE OSCILLATOR NEEDS YOU

For those club members we haven't seen in awhile, and for those of you thinking of joining, The Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club would like to introduce you to The Oscillator.

Our purpose is to keep you abreast of upcoming events, ongoing club projects, and to be your link to other antique radio collectors in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Hopefully, something you see here in this, our second issue, and in coming months will encourage you to become actively involved in the organization.

But we can't do it without you.

If you have an article, story, or other useful information to share, we'd be more than happy to include it in The Oscillator. Bring it along to the next meeting, or fax it to Mike Koste at (215) 483-6060. Photographs, drawings and diagrams are acceptable, so long as they're clear and of high contrast. Copy must be submitted no longer than the 25th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue. If you have any further questions, you can reach Mike at home most evenings at 646-6488.

THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th AT 7:30pm AT OUR USUAL LOCATION, NORTH PENN AMUSEMENTS, 117 MAIN STREET IN SOUDERTON, PA. Don't forget to bring your items for the auction table, Show and Tell, and be prepared for a final discussion of the November 13 tailgate swapmeet.

DVHRC AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

With the diversified backgrounds and collecting interests of the DVHRC members, the auction tables at recent meetings truly resembled an Antique Radio Smorgasbord.

Among the goodies sold: A box lot of NOS Switchcraft parts including coils, panel jacks and assorted switches for \$15...An extra-clean brown bakelite Philco 46-200 for \$17.50...a government type TV7/DU tube tester with all cords and manuals for \$40...a black Emerson 888 Vangaurd transistor (fair condition) for \$30...an excellent June 1930 edition of Radio News magazine for \$4...an extra-clean white plastic Emerson 587-A for \$22.50...a Hallicrafters HT32 for \$40...and a truly outstanding Philco 37-62 with heavy Art Deco lines sold for \$72.

The club treasury benefits from all auction sales, collecting a ten percent commission with a cap of \$5 on more expensive items.

FOR DVHRC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, WRITE OR CALL:

THE DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO CLUB
POST OFFICE BOX 624
LANSDALE, PA 19446
(215) 368-2520



The OSCILATER

DELAWARE VALLEY HYSTERICAL RADIO CLUB

The Unofficial Newsletter of the DVHRC

NE Edition

Vol. 68 No.4, April 1998

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

PHILCO PLANT TO REOPEN!

A group of businessmen from the Byberry section of Philadelphia announced they have purchased a factory at C and Tioga Streets in Philadelphia with the intent of resuming production of Philco television and radio products. Led by C.E.O. Paul Bullwinkle, the new consortium is optimistic about the success of their venture, which Bullwinkle characterized as "a new start for a grand old Philadelphia company that everybody loves."

Bullwinkle said first model off the production line will be the *Predicta 21* TV receiver. He noted, however, that new production will integrate the picture tube and chassis in a single cabinet, in contrast to the original concept, which Bullwinkle called "stupid." Other models, slated to follow in quick succession are the Model 89 "Cathedral," so named because it was popular with churches when introduced in 1931, and the Model 6-D-525 which, although actually manufactured by Zenith, was a radio Philco always wished they had thought of.

W.E. TERMINATES PRODUCTION OF 300B

Officials of the Western Electric Tube Division have announced cancellation of production of the 300B, citing recent availability of more attractive profit centers. They recommend a triode-connected 3-500Z with 3kV. plate supply for single-ended output stages of less than 3-watts peak output. W.E.Co. has no plans to discontinue manufacture of the 50L6GT, which has become *the* output tube of choice among savvy high fidelity dilettantes.

AMAZING NEW RESTORATION PRODUCT

Colonel Cement Co., manufacturer of electronics chemicals and dial belts, has introduced GasX™, a revolutionary new product for restoring vacuum tubes which otherwise would have to be discarded due to accumulation of internal gas.

The envelope is wiped with a gentle motion using a soft cloth moistened with the GasX fluid. The tube is then set aside for ten minutes while GasX restores a perfect vacuum. The manufacturer does not recommend GasX for use on thyratrons, VR tubes, neon bulbs or certain types of phototubes.

BOOK REVIEW

Transistor Lure, by Lidwell Subley

The neglected field of solid state technology has finally been given its due in 7,382 pages of listings for every registered and developmental transistor ever made. Cross references simplify comparison of each of the 896,774 transistor types listed with the 2N404, the traditional standard against which all transistors are compared.

The author has not ignored the romance of the transistor. *Transistor Lure* is alive with anecdotes, such as the little known tale about how the new device developed at Bell Labs was named after the Philco Transitone table radio that happened to be playing in the development lab. Fascinating stuff! Subley might well consider a similar tome devoted to the vacuum tube.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

SALE: HRO formerly owned by James Millen. Fell off bench onto floor in 1937. Restorable one-of-a-kind. First \$5500. Larry Dayglo, Cheshire, N.H.

SALE: Hi-Fi Products: Radioactive Indium solder, \$93/gram. Gold plated de-oxygenated titanium #24 hookup wire, \$85/per ft. Quadruple-shielded mike cable with 4-0 center conductor and 18K solid gold shields, \$1900/foot. Aluminum gauge plate with precision ground surfaces for preamp chassis, 3/4" thick, \$200/sq.ft. Astatic crystal pickups, \$3.50ea. Aluminum strip 1/8" x 2" for edge-winding your own woofer voice coils, \$35/FT. N.O.S. cactus stylus sharpeners, \$1.75. Giant 6-page catalog of great Hi-Fi specialties, \$40. Reely Nyce Audio Co., Grand Cayman, BWI 809-358-2020.

WANTED: Looking for Bryn Mawr mansion to house my collection of unusual transistor radios. Cost no object. Bill Overunder. Hilltop-5965R

SALE: Bendix Direction Finder ca.1937. Identical in every respect to the one Amelia Earhart tried to use during her historic last flight. Not working. \$35,000. Larry Dayglo, Cheshire, N.H.

WANTED: All 38 volumes of *Radio Girls* books by Edna Ferber. Starting new collection. Mike Costly, E-mail @ <http://www.k-boomfm109.com/costly/>

SALE: Echophone EC-1 used by Eisenhower in Normandy invasion. Some water damage, minor bullet holes. \$7700. Larry Dayglo, Cheshire, N.H.