



# *The Oscillator*



*“All the Electrons that are Fit to Flow . . . “*

**The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC**

**December 2012**

**From DVHRC member Al Klase:**

As some of you know WA2XMN is an experimentally licensed wide-band FM station, at the Armstrong tower in Alpine, NJ, operating on 42.8 MHz in what was the original FM broadcast band.

See:

<http://www.wa2xmn.ar88.net/>

Due to operational realities, this historic station is on the air only sporadically. When it is on the air it can be heard as much as 100 miles from Alpine. To give you a better chance of logging WA2XMN we have established an email reflector to provide notification and feedback. The reflector is on qth.net, the same organization that hosts the DVHRC and NJARC reflectors. To subscribe visit:

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/wa2xmn>Also

from Al Klase:

The DVHRC Reflector can now handle HTML and attachments.

For information on how to use the Reflector, go to Contact Us page of [www.dvhrc.info](http://www.dvhrc.info).



**Delaware Valley Historic  
Radio Club  
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[www.dvhrc.info](http://www.dvhrc.info)**

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

Articles on radio and television history and collecting can be submitted by the 25th of the prior month to the editor at [saegers@ptd.net](mailto: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.

#### **DVHRC Board of Directors**

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#### **And even more from Al Klase:**

The Armstrong Days observance has been rescheduled to January 26, 27 2013 due to the Hurricane Sandy aftermath. This will align this hopefully annual event with Armstrong's demonstration of his regenerative receiver to Chief Inspector David Sarnoff at the American Marconi High-Power Station at Belmar, NJ on January 30-31, 1914.

This site is now the home of the InfoAge Science History Learning Center and the New Jersey Antique radio Club's Radio Technology Museum. See: [http://www.rtm.ar88.net/Armstrong\\_Days\\_at\\_InfoAge.html](http://www.rtm.ar88.net/Armstrong_Days_at_InfoAge.html)

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the development of the regenerative radio circuit by Edwin Howard Armstrong an electrical engineering student at Columbia University.

This invention not only greatly improved the performance of radio receivers, but would also become the basis for modern radio transmitters, making voice transmission, and radio

as we know it, a reality. The New Jersey Antique Radio Club's Radio Technology Museum will host an observance of the occasion at the InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum in Wall Township, NJ on January 26th and 27th, 2013 from 1 to 5 PM.

There will be a display and demonstration of a wide range of vintage regenerative radio receivers with a formal presentation at 2 PM. The other InfoAge museums will be open as well. Admission is free. A five-dollar donation to InfoAge is suggested. Working receivers on display will include a mock-up of Armstrong's original circuit receiving a simulated spark radio-telegraph transmission, a WWI era naval receiver, early regenerative broadcast receivers, more sophisticated "regens" that dominated amateur radio and the early phases of the short-wave-broadcast craze in the 1920's and 30's, and a naval RAL receiver that served throughout WWII. Armstrong is arguably the greatest radio inventor since Marconi. His regenerative receiver was followed in 1918 by the super-heterodyne, the basis for near-

ly all modern radio receivers. During the 1930's Armstrong developed high-fidelity FM broadcasting. His FM technologies also found their way into two-way mobile radio, and radar during WWII.

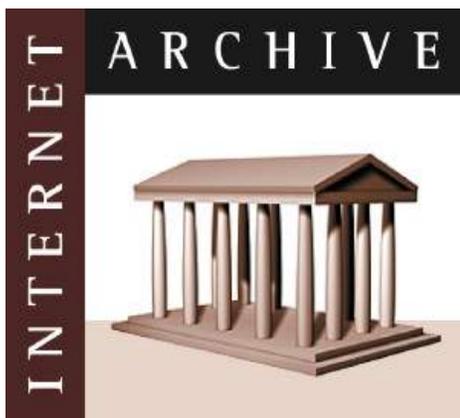
## Looking Ahead

*Monthly meeting:*

December 11, 2012 – DVHRC Christmas Party and board elections.

January 8, 2013 – DVHRC Monthly Meeting. Theme: Christmas Radios

## Massive Internet Archive features historical radio related content



Internet Archive is the world's largest non-profit online digital library. It offers permanent storage and access to collections of digitized materials, in-

cluding, music, moving images, websites and nearly 3 million public domain books.

Among the seemingly infinite amount of content is a group of radio related films that vintage radio enthusiasts may enjoy. These films are generally educational/promotional films produced from the 1920's-1960.

Being that the films are public domain and are copyright and royalty free, you may recognize clips from these films used in some radio documentaries such as Ken Burns "Empire of the Air" (1991). These videos are all available to view on the site and for free download in various file formats including .flv, .MPEG, MPEG-4, .mov among others.

Some of the recommended radio videos to search for include:

Development of Communication (1927)

On the Air (1937)

Back of the Mike (1938)

Radio and Television (1940)

Radio at War (1944)

Voice of Victory (1944)

Behind Your Radio Dial –The Story of NBC (1947)

Independent Radio Station (1951)

Hear and Now (1958)

The Big Bounce (1960)

Plane Talk (1965)

In addition to all of the videos available, there are countless radio related audio recordings as well.

A simple search under Audio/Radio Programs will yield 3,889 results spanning decades of various shows, interviews, airchecks and clips from the golden age to digital age.

There is also an entire Grateful Dead category that contains literally thousands of hours of live recordings available to listen to or download. I have also come across a few Rider & Sams books in .pdf form along with some other radio-servicing guides when searching for texts on the site as well.

Possibly the most interesting

feature on the site is the Way-back Machine. This service allows users to see archived versions of web pages of the past. Millions of websites and their associated data are saved in a gigantic database. The service can be used to see what previous versions of websites used to look like in years past, to grab original source code from websites that may no longer be directly available, or to visit websites that no longer even exist. The functionality is usually not complete as many pages simply show "snapshots" of a given website. It's very entertaining to see what Yahoo, Google, and other websites looked like 10 or 15 years ago!

Due to the vastness of the site and amount of junk content one must sift through to get to what you are looking for, the site seems a bit daunting at first. This is made easier if you make sure to select a specific format when you search for an item instead of the default "All Media Types" category that will bring up everything under the sun. To get to the Internet archive simply go to

<http://archive.org> and have fun exploring.

- Jarret Brown

### **Top Ten signs you are addicted to antique radios**

10. Every time you see a grandfather clock you look for knobs.

9. You refer to a 35+ year old radio from the 1970's as being too "New".

8. You know what Catalin is.

7. You can't remember what the drapes in your house look like, but you can spot Philco grille cloth patterns a mile away.

6. You buy a brand new receiver at Best Buy, bring it home and recap it.

5. You plan vacations, surgeries and children's births around Kutztown shows.

4. You can't string your weed whacker but you can string a tuning dial.

3. You rank John Rider and Howard Sams among the great American authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

2. When someone says they have an AK47 you ask if they have a matching speaker.

1. You bought a radio for

\$30, spent \$15 for supplies and 12 hours restoring it, only to sell the radio for \$30

-Jarrett Brown

### **Gap Auctions**

Every few months, Lee Jacobs and the staff at Gap Auctions in Kinzers, PA solicit consignments for a specialty auction of antique radios and vintage electronics. We've attended these sales in the past and have always managed to bag a bargain or two.

A recent auction was on June 27, 2013. Although considerably smaller than some of the past sales, about sixty anxious bidders attended, snapping up box lots of vacuum tubes, radios, high end stereo gear, cameras, movie and slide projectors, LP's and 45 rpm records, PA systems, guitar amps, and everything in between.

Located in an "L" shaped building just off Route 30 in Chester County, Gap Auctions had many of the larger items on display inside and even more in their back parking lot. Since the lots were from a variety of consignors, nothing was cataloged, I was unable to