



*Hi-Fi at the auction!*

# OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO

*The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC*  
*March 1999*

*Vol. 7. No. 3,*

*From the President's desk:*

## The Fisher Doctor

The March meeting will feature Al Pugliese from Staten Island. Al, known as The Fisher Doctor, will talk about Fisher Hi-Fi equipment. Avery Fisher was an interesting man, and Al's presentation should prove interesting and informative.

You are invited to bring Fisher items for show and tell (or, maybe, show and ask.) Our auction theme will be Hi-Fi especially Fisher items. Other auction items are always welcome.

Let's have a good turnout for our guest presenter. See you at the meeting.

## Thanks people!

On February 6 the Grimes Center doors opened to the DVHRC Wintermeet guests from ten states and the District of Columbia. This year's meet outsold last year's in a possibly declining market (internet, etc.) Sellers reported brisk sales, and there were lots of treasures carted home by a full house of buyers. In past years, this was a good show for high-dollar items, and I saw and heard of many changing hands.

This, as all our club functions, would not be possible without our trusty volunteer base. Thank you to all who helped with everything from the first fliers to the accounting after the meet.

Bill Overbeck

## Wintermeet Report

By Dave Snellman

DATELINE: Havertown, Pennsylvania, February 6, 1999

The serenity and tranquility of the neighborhood surrounding Campbell and St. Dennis Avenues in Havertown, PA was shattered by the influx of a multitude of antique radio enthusiasts. The influx began shortly after 6:00 AM and continued throughout the morning. Local residents had no idea of what to expect. The first wave to enter was the seventy-plus vendors ready to ply their wares to the hundreds of willing buyers who comprised the second wave. Local authorities reported no casualties. Order was restored to the area sometime after 1:30 PM the same day. After extensive work, local authorities discovered the group responsible for this whole affair. A local antique radio club, led by its president, one William Overbeck, a local resident, members of the club's executive board, club officers, and some well-meaning club members and friends were listed among those responsible.

Authorities reported that the preparations for this event began months ago at a regular DVHRC club meeting. Additional work was done at the ringleader's residence in Havertown. Flyers were designed, printed, and distributed. Advertisements were sent to national and local publications.

## COMING EVENTS

<b>Mar. 9</b>	<b>DVHRC Meeting, Telford</b>
<b>Mar. 12</b>	<b>NJARC Meeting, Freehold, NJ</b>
<b>Mar. 13</b>	<b>Hamfest, West Orange, NJ</b>
<b>Mar. 20</b>	<b>NJARC Swapmeet, Freehold, NJ</b>
<b>Mar. 21</b>	<b>Hamfest, Trenton (Tall Cedars)</b>
<b>Mar. 27-29</b>	<b>Hamfest, Timonium, Md.</b>

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irect mailings were made to interested parties. Vendors were  
contacted. Enthusiastic club members repaired tables at the  
Grimes Center, the location of this event. Most of this activity

was concluded using phone and e-mail; however, some  
information was spread by word of mouth. All this activity  
went unnoticed by local residents – until the day of the event.

**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 are \$15 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

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**COPY DEADLINE:** The 20th of each month.

What could cause this group of individuals and their club to cause this disruption to this normally quiet neighborhood? Nothing short of the THIRD ANNUAL SUPERWINTERMEET (a.k.a the Havertown Meet) sponsored by the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club!!!!

Dramatic introduction? Maybe. You heard about it first here, in the *Oscillator*. But if you attended the meet – either as a vendor or as a buyer – you had a day filled with interesting items for sale, old friends, new friends, the traditional auction, and a few surprises. Almost 80 tables of goodies that make all of us radio enthusiasts' gruel and hundreds of anxious buyers made for a great day for everyone.

The activity began the night before the meet. Tables had to be set up. Vendor spaces were laid out. A core of volunteers were there – Bill, Byran, Phil, Dave, Frank, Jimmy, Pete, Jan and Ted. Marty Bunis, of *Collector's Guide to Antique Radios* fame, was also there. With the meet laid out, we only had to wait for the morning.

Seven o'clock came early for most people, but the vendors were lined up at the door waiting to get in and set up. Buyers were left outside to wait till the official opening time of 8:00 AM.

The hall filled up quickly, first with vendors and then the buyers. Buying and selling was feverish from the start. As a first-time vendor, your reporter was excited. What to do first? Run around and see what's for sale? Or should I man the table in hopes of making money to spend later? Well, I did a little of both. I guess that's what most vendors do. (Actually, I was more interested in getting a donut or other munchie as I've been here since 6:00 AM.)

Well in my wanderings I found everything from A-K's to Zenith's. Battery sets to transistors. Books and other paper. Telegraph keys and communications receivers. Audio equipment and LP's. (LP's were the predecessors of the CD for those younger members. HA!)

The club had tables offering a variety of collector books for sale. The "tube chaplain" was also there making tubes available at a modest cost. A great "food court" was available for everyone in attendance. 50/50 tickets were sold and the lucky winner walked away with around \$58.

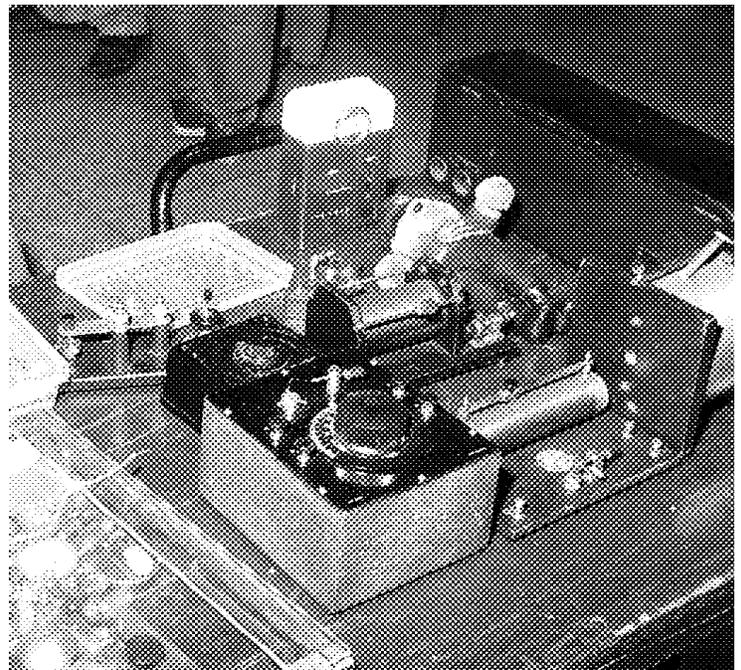
Auction tables began to fill as soon as vendors arrived. As we moved toward 11:00 AM, the official starting time for the auction, the tables were overflowing.

The last event of the meet was the auction. Numerous lots of merchandise went to successful bidders. The auction moved along quickly, due mainly to the auction team. The team consisted of auctioneer "Colonel" Pete Grave, Jan Grave and Jim Amici recorded the sales, Dave Abramson and Dave Snellman moved auction pieces.

After all the sales were made, after the auction was over, after the crowds left the neighborhood, work still remained. Vendors left with their windfall. Buyers left with their treasures. Work still remained. Auction receipts had to be tallied. Other receipts had to be accounted for. The hall had to be cleaned. Tables and chairs had to be put away. Who was left to do all this work? That same group of volunteers – those responsible for the invasion of this quiet neighborhood.

Well next month we'll return you to your normal "meeting notes" of the DVHRC. If you missed this year's SUPERWINTERMEET, plan to attend next year's event. It's fun. Get a table and it could be profitable. Volunteer to help with the meet and REALLY enjoy yourself!

Join us again at one of our mild-mannered monthly meetings of the DVHRC. They are held the second Tuesday of each month, except for the month of "The Havertown Meet." Our next meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Telford Community Center.



## 500 kc

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by Jeffrey Herman  
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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.

## Part 2. MF CW at NMO

Sitting adjacent to the HF CW position was a smaller room, enclosed on three sides in brick painted off-white. The fourth side was glass, including a sliding glass door, with a small sign glued on which simply said "MF CW". This little booth of modest appearance was well out of proportion with respect to the role MF CW had played in the history of maritime communications. Also, though I'm sure not by accident, the Chief's desk was positioned so he had a direct view of the MF CW booth. The Chief's position had a compliment of Collins rcvs, and one was ALWAYS set on 500kc. More often than not I'd get a glimpse of the duty Chief listening, with a gleam in his eye, to the evening traffic on 500.

Upon entering the MF position one was struck with the sight of the largest 24 hour clock known to mankind. It had the most unusual red markings on its face. Two red wedges, starting from the center and flaring outward covered, respectively, minutes :15 to :18, and minutes :45 to :48; these, of course, were blatant reminder to the op of the two worldwide silent periods (more one these later). In addition, each of the twelve five-second intervals around the perimeter had the first four seconds blocks marked in red with the last second left white: 4 seconds red, 1 second white, 4 seconds red, 1 second white, etc., around the entire circumference. Now, these markings were to aid the 500kc op in manually sending the distress auto alarm: key down 4 seconds, key up 1 second, key down 4 seconds, key up 1 second, etc., for one minute (more on the auto alarm later).

One's attention would next be drawn to two Collins 651S rcvrs mounted in the op's console. The top rcvr was locked on 500.000 kc and the bottom was usually a few hundred cps on either side of 500, say 499.500 kc. This, of course, prevented missing signals with whom our rcvrs were zero-beated with. The audio from these two receivers was fed into a 12 tract reel-to-reel tape recorder, as were all rcvrs and xmtrs at the station; one track was reserved for WVVH time signals. A second 12 track tape recorder acted as a back-up to the first. Reels were changed at the beginning of each new radio day (0000Z).

On a panel next to the two Collins rcvrs was a telephone-type rotary dial with 4 red lights above it. If digit 1 was dialed, the first red light would be lit, indicating our MF xmtr was on 500 kc in the A1 mode; if digit 2 was dialed, the second red light would be lit, indicating the xmtr was on 500 kc in the A2, or MCW (modulated CW), mode (more on A2 later); dialing digit 3 shifted the xmtr to 440 kc, in A1, where 440 kc was NMO's working frequency; dialing digit 4 shifted the xmtr to 512 kc, A1 (more on 512 later).

I'm not sure if this was against FCC or ITU regulations, but our 500kc xmtr was ALWAYS set to the A2/MCW mode when I was at the key; I hope there is a statute of limitations concerning this possible violation! I loved the musical notes A2 produced.

Note that our transmitter site was at least 5 miles away, on the 4000 ft peak of the Koolau Mountains. Thus we enjoyed full duplex transmission.

At a right angle to the op's desk was a typewriter containing the MF CW radio log. During radioman school we were instructed to attempt to log every signal were heard on 500 (an impossible feat), but at worst, make an entry every 5 minutes (ITU regs!). If no signals were heard within a 5 minute period (which would never happen at night) then one would enter:

NO SIGS	500	2308Z
NO SIGS	500	2313Z
BEGIN SILENT PERIOD	500	2315Z
END SILENT PERIOD	500	2318Z
KPH KPH KPH DE WNKL WNKL AMVER 425 K / WNKL DE		
KPH R UP / UP / EE / EE	500	2320Z
NO SIGS	500	2325Z

Thus, what ever we heard would be typed directly into the log. At a right angle to the log typewriter was a second typewriter which was used to copy traffic from ships to NMO: OBS, AMVERS Dead Head Medicos (medical reports handled free-of-charge), and other non-commercial traffic. By U.S. law, Coast Guard stations cannot handle commercial traffic, for that would take revenue away from the commercial stations.

Sitting on the ops desk was a Vibroplex chrome-plated bug, and a cheap straight key screwed onto a thin sheet of plexiglass. I, of course, only used the straight key.

Shifts at NMO ran like this:

12 hours on  
12 hours off  
12 hours on  
72 hours off.

The day watch started at 0700 and ended at 1900 (local); night watch ran from 1900 to 0700 the next morning <yawn...>

During my off hours I rebuilt an older wooden sailboat that doubled as my home; that enabled me to collect money from the CG for off-base housing... What a life, huh?

No one on my shift had any particular love for the 500 position ("what fools!" I thought), so, even though we were supposed to rotate positions every 3 hours, I volunteered to remain at the 500 position for the full 12 hours shift (especially during the night watches); I loved it!

It was from this modest console that I would spend the next three years of my life. The things that I copied would, at times, amaze me, cause me laugh so hard I would fall out of my chair, or cause me to break down weeping. To this day I cannot forget the ship's op whom I was working a distress with - how he stayed at his key while his ship broke up in heavy seas - how his transmitter emitted a scream at the moment the ocean flooded his radio room shorting the batteries and radios...

End of Part 2.

Jeff KH2PZ / KH6

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## BUY SELL SWAP

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

**HELP:** Would the person who sold Marc Ellis the Philco 70 cabinet please contact him at PO Box 1306, Evanston, Ill 600204-1306; [ellis@interaccess.com](mailto: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

**FOR SALE:** Parted out Stromberg Carlson model 19-20 AC. Power transformer appears O.K. IF's are O.K. Electrodynamic speaker is electrically O.K., needs cone repair. Make offer. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, Phone 518-792-3130

**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