



The Oscillator



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

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

SPRING 2021

Ready for Kutztown?

As the weather warms up and our spirits in turn, we are sure you are all ready for another Kutztown Radio Show. Recently, the club met at Renningers of Kutztown on Saturday morning, April 10th for our first face to face membership meeting since March, 2020 to put those plans in place.



Our main theme was to keep you safe but to have as much of the traditional K-town experience as possible. Although we have postponed the Friday night auction normally held in the White Room's close quarters, most of the other aspects will remain. Since the *Just Grillin* food vendor will not serve this time, there are many places to grab food in Renninger's, close by eateries, or food delivery. We'll have more time to socialize around the fire and for the first time, you'll be able to "tap the Stratosphere for beer"!



Above and Below: A cooler coolerator does not exist. Our classic tapped refrigerator has been converted to a refrigeradio- none other than the classic Zenith Stratosphere. Come out and drink it in on Friday night at Kutztown XLIII and get your photo taken with this classic! Our thanks to Amanda Wolfe for her graphic design skills!



There will be a special raffle radio and the capacitor and LED lamp inventories have been restocked. Tubes and "Buy it Now" will be featured at the DVHRC club table manned by DVHRC volunteers.

Meeting of January 12, 2021

[Zoom Meeting Included Video Shares of Workbenches.](#)

Dave Snellman treated himself to both a December birthday and Christmas present to rebuild his flood damaged radio lab, the unfortunate result of an August flash flood affecting his living quarters. Luckily, only paper items were casualties but the long rebuild of floors and windows had Dave moving and storing his radio hobby materials in a 3-move process. So the happy result was to recreate an even better space.



Dave is configured to service solid state armed with a multi-featured transistor analyzer (lower right blue and silver unit) combining power supply, RF generator, voltmeter, transistor tester, and current drain tester. This unit has dual power supplies supplying either 6 or 12 volts with a robust higher current setting for older car radios.



Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
PO Box 5053
New Britain, PA 18901
www.dvhrc.com

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

Articles on radio and television history or collecting can be submitted by the 25th of month prior to quarterly issue dates of April, July, October and January to the editor at gdottor@yahoo.com.

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. Meetings held 2nd Tuesday of each month at Telford Community Center.

DVHRC Board of Directors

President:

Jarret Brown / 610-704-0803
jpb205@lehigh.edu

Vice President:

Tom Spiegel
Adxymox62@netzero.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Snellman / 267-328-8857
dsnellman@comcast.com

At Large members:

Fred Saul / 484-357-6537
fsantiqueradio@dejazzd.com

Greg Dottor / 610-844-6326
gdottor@yahoo.com

There are two scopes, a variable temp. soldering station, isolation transformers, solid state circuit board caddy/holders in the mix. Dave utilizes overhead LED array as fill light and key light via the magnifier lamp on the left. He highly recommends Sencor test equipment "designed for people who fix things". Dave has other sectors of his work area for storing other equipment and states the lab is a work in progress but certainly ready for any tasks at this point.

Mark Hilliard has his lab located in the basement of his home with multiple work areas. The primary work area is shown below, geared to the hollow state restorations he has worked on. Mark was guided in best practices by his father who ran a repair and retail electronics business in Allentown for many years. Mark has combined his other radio hobbies as seen by the ham HF transceiver on the lower left and A/V transcription projects are done in an adjacent space. Mark also employs a PC to assist with manuals and research.



Next, we heard from Tom Lager who exhibited his workbench and adjacent areas via a walk-around tour. Tom, like many of us, utilized what is available and what will do the job best. His main work bench is a surplus postal sorting table

saved by his father, a letter carrier, when his office renovated. It has served Tom well for decades. Tom also has the PC and nearly complete Rider's hardcopy for research. He also stocks most common capacitors, resistors in bins above his work space along with all colors of wire. A true working man's setup, the picture below shows his current project in progress, a Silvertone. Tom also has a wood shop in another room.



All these examples show frequently utilized equipment in an accessible location arranged vertically, clear work areas, excellent light sources and separation from other home traffic. Please share your lab pictures with us for future issues.

Finally, ergonomics and healthy posture can be improved for those with physical limitations by making alternate work areas where the user can stand and work at about 36" +/- which can also be good for wood and vise-held work.

Six tools you may not have, but could use on your bench

By Stan Saeger (sk) - DVHRC

In light of our shop talk above, I thought it appropriate to again share this contribution of our fallen pal Stan who produced this excellent feature for us back in Spring of 2019. ed

We all have screwdrivers, pliers and soldering irons, but there are other tools that are handy when working on vintage electronics.

1. Screw and nut starters - For starting screws and nuts in hard to reach locations on the chassis. Once started, you can use a normal screwdriver or nut driver.

There are three varieties.

For standard slotted screws or bolts:



For phillips screws or bolts:



For nuts:



2. Heyco strain relief pliers - Heyco is the brand name of the plastic fittings used to fasten power cords to the chassis on more recent radios.



Installing using a normal pliers makes them look like your dog chewed it. Heyco pliers compress them properly for installation or removal.



3. Electronic Contact Cleaner - Used like a pencil, the fibre-glass tip removes dirt and grease from controls.



4. Welder's cleaning brushes - These come on a key ring with assorted sizes - perfect for cleaning tube sockets.



5. Solder Sucker - A vacuum device that removes solder from an existing connection. I suggest the Edsyn Soldapullt - it's large but also the most effective.



6. Burnishing Tool - A small, flexible file used to clean the contacts on switches.



Sources:

Screw and nut starters: search (www.mcmaster.com) for "screw starter".

Heyco strain relief pliers: search www.ebay.com for "strain relief pliers"

Electronic Contact Cleaner: search www.ebay.com for "fibreglass pencil brush"

Welder's cleaning brushes: search www.ebay.com for "welding tip cleaners"

Solder Sucker: search www.ebay.com for "edsyn soldapullt". (Note the unusual spelling.)

Burnishing Tool: search www.ebay.com for "burnishing tool"

Meeting of March 9, 2021

Zoom Meeting Included Historic tube presentation presented by Darren Hoffman, preserved on DVHRC Youtube.

This was a most excellent presentation by Darren who started out at age 13 at the very tail end of the tube era repairing the twilight tube sets for those that had not purchased new solid state televisions and devices. Darren collected tube stock dumped at the end of the receiving tube era and now sells from this accumulated inventory of several hundred thousand units. Some of the topics covered were the origins of the major post WWII manufacturers such as RCA and Sylvania.

He also shares information about the sometimes nefarious practices by unscrupulous re-branders such as the standard brands. There were some legitimate re-branders as well where quality full service manufacturers such as Zenith, Fisher and Magnavox wanted to provide a full line of branded, labeled parts for their products and to add to their business. Also, these companies got involved in providing contracts to share manufacturing capacities to lower tooling and production costs which lowered the price for consumers. You will be amazed at the knowledge Darren has as you [watch this video at the following address](#) with thanks to Jarret for recording the presentation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oa54C9D0TnU>

A Pennsylvania connection can be made since Sylvania produced tubes in Emporium, Pennsylvania. Please read the following about the Sylvania and how they moved to remote Cameron County, Pa. way up there in God's country.

Sylvania electronics of Emporium, Pennsylvania was the second largest receiving tube manufacturer and R.C.A.'s arch rival. As with most of the "New Jersey" bunch, Sylvania got its start in the light bulb business. Yes it was the light bulb manufacturers who had the skills and experience in glasswork, metallurgy & high vacuum that are needed to make a fine tube. Like the rest of the NJ bunch, Sylvania sought out and retained the most skilled men and women available, including former Edison employees. They also lured away R.C.A.'s chief tube engineer of seven years, Roger T. Wise in 1927. This was a real jewel in Sylvania's crown, and was reportedly announced with much fanfare. It's hard to say why he did it for sure, but he moved out to Emporium and built a beautiful house 5 months before he took up his post at Sylvania which makes me think that part of the reason for the change was he just wanted to get out of the smoke and clatter of NJ to start his new family.

For tours of more vintage tube manufacturers including Sylvania and their "reject tube crusher" click on "Tours" within this audiophile tube site:

<http://vintagetubeservices.com/>

Watch RCA "Electrons on Parade"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtUlj0_oJAQ

Another tube manufacturer of Pennsylvania is documented via the following article from a 1984 Allentown Morning Call article. Even though ITT legitimately re-branded receiving tubes for a short period per Darren, this ITT facility instead made complex specialty tubes in small quantities.

ITT ELECTRON TUBE: AN OLD-FASHIONED NAME FOR HIGH-TECH COMPANY [MORNING CALL, April 8, 1984](#)

Jack Feehan might find it easier to recruit new engineering graduates to work for him if his company had a different name. "When they hear ITT Electron Tube Division, they balk," he says. "They think we make the old-fashioned glass radio tubes. Today, they all want to think transistors and solid state." The Palmer Township ITT subsidiary doesn't make the old-style vacuum tubes. It is a high-technology company involved in the design and manufacture of specialty electronic devices for use in military, aviation, medical and industrial applications. Examples of applications in which ITT tubes may be used include navigation systems for commercial airliners, transmitters for UHF television stations, long-distance telephone transmission systems, missile defense systems for jet fighters, new microwave cancer treatment machines and shipboard antimissile systems for the Navy. The "tubes" made at the plant range in size from a few inches to several feet tall. They are made from combinations of ceramics and precious metals and are designed to act as switches or amplifiers in electronic installations.

Later in 1995, the plant was acquired by Triton Systems but was closed 2008 due to competition from integrated circuitry.

Tubes Needed for DVHRC Kutztown Inventory

The DVHRC tube program has some types of tubes in very short supply. During your spring cleaning, donate some of your unneeded stock by placing into DVHRC's tube program. Here are a list of the tubes the club is looking for. Upon receipt of donations, a work group will be sought to test them.

Any and all Globe tubes,

Any high end audio tubes ,

Any "unusual" transmitting tubes.

5751	10
5842	12A7
6AQ8	2A3
6AZ8	45
6BD8	6Q7G
6DC8	6U7G
6BK8	85
396A	12AX7
417A	83
6072A	6SN7GT
EL37	1L6
6A3	50A1
6F5	6L6GC
6F6	6L6GAY
6L6GA	6L6GB

Membership Meeting Themes

Meetings after May 15th conditionally scheduled for Telford- Tuesdays at 7:30 PM. This may be changed from Telford to Kutztown or held via Zoom online as necessary. Stay tuned to DVHRC.com/events and Reflector for any changes.

Apr 13- Kit Radios- not covered, met at Kutztown 4.10.21 * possible revisit *.

Saturday, May 15 – German/Euro Radios at Kutztown- **Renningers 10AM**

Jun 8- New In Box.

Jul 13- Tailgate Auction at Telford Community Building **TBD. 7:00 PM**

Aug 10- Jukeboxes.

Sep 14- Kutztown XLIV Planning, Theme: Radio and Industrial Design.

Oct 12- Rave Records Presentation.

Nov 9- Pandemic Projects.

Dec 10- X-mas Party Stove and Tap.

Your Story Desired!

We are always looking for some material for future newsletters. Please send me a story or a picture of a radio project done or adventure you had during this period of social distancing /Pandemic in the radio hobby. Many thanks for stories you provided this past year! Send to the editor at: gdottor@yahoo.com

Upcoming Regional Events

Following are some links for events future events! Paste links into your browser or call for updates.

Kutztown Radio Show XLIII (43)

Friday, 5.7.21 through Saturday, 5.8.21 opens 7AM on those days; Vendor setup 12 noon Thursday. **Early buyers will not be permitted on Thursday without a dealer tag. Free parking and free admission for shoppers.** Where: Renningers Farmer's Market, 740 Noble St., Kutztown, PA 19530. Antique radios, parts, and related items. Audio and Ham welcome. Tables, electric available. Dealer spaces 10' x 10' incl table \$45. **FRIDAY NIGHT AUCTION HAS BEEN CANCELLED.** Exhibitor reservation advised: Phone M-Th 570.385.0104; F-S 610.683.6848. See links at: www.dvhrc.org to download or facebook.com/renningerskutztown

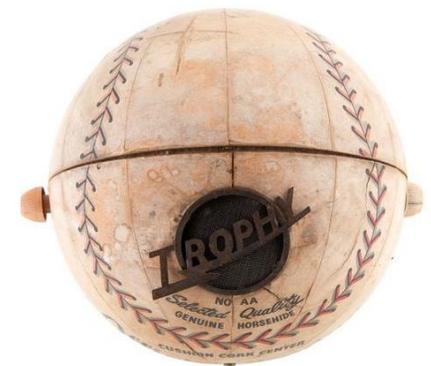
NJARC Events can be found at:
<http://www.njarc.org/index.html#calendar>

MAARC Online Auctions

Some of us have witnessed the rapid fire online auctions and MAARC will hold their next one **Sunday, May 23, 2021.** Get participation details at: www.maarc.org.

Each spring, we list AM flagships for baseball of the 50KW variety. Most of these are within a skip or two but KOA may be tougher with summer lightning and other manmade interference. The list is holding fairly strong with a new Cubs multi-year agreement with WMPV, formerly WCFL.

kHz	station	team
660	WFAN	YANKEES
670	WSCR	CUBS
700	WLW	REDS
850	KOA	ROCKIES
880	WCBS	METS
1000	WMVP	WHITE SOX
1020	KDKA	PIRATES
1080	WTIC	RED SOX
1100	WTAM	INDIANS
1120	KMOX	CARDINALS
1140	WRVA	NATIONALS



This is Gary Owens unmasked.... Well at least in the studio. Does anyone know where that can of Lysol is? DVHRC signing off.