



The Oscillator



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

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

September 2012

DVHRC Donates \$1000 to help restore KRE

Club members voted at the August meeting to donate \$1000 to the California Historical Radio Society to help restore historic radio station KRE in Berkeley, CA.

Our club is fortunate to be able make a major contribution to such a worthy radio-related cause.

Details from the CHRS website: **CHRS** has signed an agreement with Inner Cities Broadcasting Corporation to occupy and restore the historic **KRE** radio station building located at 601 Ashby Avenue in Berkeley, CA. Originally constructed in 1937, the **KRE** station was one of the first facilities built in California specifically for broadcasting and was also the venue for the famous scenes featuring "Wolfman Jack" and Richard Dreyfuss in the 1973 George Lucas film, "American Graffiti".

The **KRE** site has been transmitting AM radio signals for over 70 years and still operates today as KVTO, making the **KRE** station an important landmark in S.F. Bay Area radio history.

The restoration of the station and creation of a museum and educational center gives us an environment to share our knowledge and love of radio. It allows us to create

a level of appreciation and understanding for a new generation of antique radio collectors and historians.

CHRS seeks to purchase this historic building and site to create a permanent legacy to radio and its rich history.

You can help, by making generous contributions to our funds, donating radio artifacts, setting up an endowment, becoming a member and volunteering some time to this worthwhile educational and historical Society.

The members of our organization are the people with the knowledge needed to perpetuate the fascination for vintage radio. We endeavor to impart their knowledge to the young, to foster the interest in collecting and preserving radios and to teach the historical information that enhances the collecting experience.

We are extremely fortunate to be in the historic **KRE** radio station building. This facility is allowing us to fulfill our educational goals. We believe that **CHRS** is the only vintage radio society to have an historic radio station as its home. Almost all the work on this project is being done by a dedicated group of people who have volunteered countless hours to help create this West Coast center devoted to Radio.

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Looking Ahead

Monthly meeting:
Sep 11, 7:30PM Theme: Kutztown XXVII Prep

Kutztown Radio Show XXVII
Sep 21-22 Renningers, Kutztown, PA



**Delaware Valley Historic
Radio Club
PO Box 5053
New Britain, PA 18901
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.

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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*Monthly meeting:
Oct 9 - 7:30PM Theme: Obscure
Radio Brands*

History of Radio Call Signs

The US government began licensing radio stations in late 1912, and from the beginning it has assigned call letters starting with K and W to commercial and broadcasting stations. From the start, the policy has been that stations in the west normally got K-- calls, while W-- calls were issued to stations in the east.

The original K/W boundary ran north from the Texas-New Mexico border, so at first stations along the Gulf of Mexico and northward were assigned W calls.

It was only in late January, 1923 that the K/W boundary was shifted east to the current boundary of the Mississippi River.

With this change, K's were assigned to most new stations west of the Mississippi, however, existing W stations located west of the Mississippi were allowed to keep their now non-standard calls.

Reviewing the stations on the AM band, many people have noticed that some of them have the "wrong" first letter for the side of the Mississippi River on which they are located. There are a number of reasons, including:

1. Stations located east of the Mississippi which were assigned calls from the KD-- ship block, instead of W--, during a June 1920 to April 1921 anomaly. (For some reason, during this anomaly almost all new land stations, east and west, got KU-- or KD-- four-letter calls. This included two broadcasting stations

that just happened to be first licensed during this time: KDKA and KDPM).

2. Stations west of the Mississippi that were licensed before the late January 1923 boundary shift, and were located in the slice of W territory that existed west of the Mississippi prior to the shift. (Originally about 170 stations, not including Minnesota and Louisiana. However, due to very high deletion rates plus later call changes, only eleven of these original calls survive: WEW, WHB, WKY, WOC, WOI, WBAP, WDAY, WJAG, WNAX, WOAI, and WTAW).

3. Portable stations (prior to 1928), which got W call letters because their original owners were located east of the Mississippi, but settled in a permanent home west of the Mississippi. (Four stations: WBBZ, WIBW, WLBN, and WMBH).

4. Regular stations that changed their community of license to the other side of the K/W divide. (Seven stations: KFKX, KSGM, KWEM, WKBB, WPLX, KQQZ and KOTC.

5. Owner requests such as WACO in Waco, Texas and WMT (Waterloo [Iowa] Morning Tribune).

6. Assigned by the Government KTGG in Spring Arbor (later Okeanos), Michigan reportedly got a "K" call sign because someone at the FCC thought that the "MI" postal code stood for Missouri, a west-of-the-Mississippi state. Also, two additional call assignments appear to have been selected by government regulators: KYWA Chicago, a booster station for KYW, and KOP, licensed to the Detroit Police Department.