



The Oscillator



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

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

April 2010

Kutztown XXII

The snow has melted, temperatures are higher and the grass is green again. That can mean just one thing – the spring edition of the best radio show in the USA, the Kutztown Radio Show, is not far away.

Your executive board met in late March to discuss some further changes to improve the show.

The Buy-it-Now area will return to a place under the pavilion, but still separate from the actual DVHRC table.

We also plan to adjust the prices on items at the BIN table to make them reasonable, and not make it a give-away.

How can you help your club make the show another success? Simple - volunteer to help staff the various areas. Club members have consistently stepped up to the plate, and we know this show won't be an exception.

Here's what's needed:

1 person to cover the DVHRC table from noon

Friday until 6pm and Saturday 7am to noon.

4 people to help at the Friday night quality auction, 6pm until about 8pm

2 people to man the tube and capacitor sales from noon Friday until 5pm and Saturday 7am to noon.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the April meeting. If you're not going to be at the April meeting, email saegers@ptd.net, or call 610-967-5340 to sign up.

Lewie Newhard, who has weekly contact with Renninger's, reports that tables are nearly sold out (and may be sold out by the time you receive this).

When you think of it, its pretty amazing that a club of our size can consistently hold one of the best (I think it's **the** best) radio shows in the country. Let's keep the momentum going, and make this year's shows something we can be proud of.

An extreme “before and after”

For those of you not familiar with DVHRC member Lowell Schultz, he has refinished a number of raffle radios for the club, gratis, as well as taking on member's radios for very reasonable prices.

Mike Koste asked Lowell to restore a beautiful RCA Model 143 that had been chopped to fit into a bookcase by the previous owner (See the February 2010 *The Oscillator* for the story).

I had in my possession a radio which presented a challenge equal to, or perhaps greater than, Mike's RCA.

A few years ago, I was contacted by a woman who had “a bunch or radio stuff from my husband who died”. The radios were in terrible shape due to being stored for years in a damp basement. The one item I did take was a Zenith S-829R chrome-front, a true classic. Its condition was, in a word, terrible.



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.

We welcome information relating to radio and television history and collecting. Submissions should be sent by the 25th of the prior month to 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

President:

Stan Saeger
610-967-5340
saegers@ptd.net

Vice-President:

Dave Abramson
610-827-9757
dabramson@phillies.com

Secy/Treasurer:

Dave Snellman
267-354-1395
dsnellman@comcast.net

At-Large members:

Dave Dean
dw.dean@verizon.net
Mike Koste
gokmike@gmail.com

After seeing the transformation of Mike's RCA, I called Lowell. In an obvious case of temporary insanity, he agreed to give it a try.

Fast forwarding a month or so, Lowell emailed to say he had completed the project. Imagine my reaction when I saw this picture attached to the email.

Compare the 'after' picture with the 'before' that follows.



I have the chassis nearly com-

plete, and need to fabricate 3 knobs using the single original knob as a pattern. Getting the grille re-chromed will be the final touch.

Once complete, this radio will become the prize of my collection.

DVHRC on the road

The club had a table at the History Expo at the Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum in Allentown, PA on Saturday, April 10th. The table was manned by Stan Saeger and Dave Snellman.

This was the fourth year for the expo but the first time the DVHRC attended. We set up a table with a half dozen radios and played music CDs (mostly Big Band and Frank Sinatra) via an SStran AM transmitter.

The event was very well attended with a constant flow of people starting at the 10am opening up until the 4pm close.

Almost two-thirds of the 100 handouts on hand were picked up, plus the club had direct contact with many of the visitors.

Perhaps the highlight of the day was when a fifteen or sixteen year old boy stopped by with his father. He noted that he listens to heavy metal music on his iPod.

I asked him to hand me his iPod,

and I connected the device's headphone jack to the SStran. When he heard his totally modern music playing on old radios, his comment was "That's righteous".

All in all a great event, and lots of good publicity for the club. We look forward to attending in the future.

March Meeting Notes

Kutztown was the topic of the business side of the meeting. Lewie got the advertisement placed in ARC (Antique Radio Classified.) Walt Peters gave out handbills for Kutztown.

There was a presentation by Dave Dean on various tubes used in the "all-American five" or AA5 radio sets.

The basic design of these sets remained the same for almost 50 years. It got the name all-American five because there were 5 tubes used in each radio.

Starting with sets made in the early 1930's, we find large pin tubes. A typical line-up would include a 6A7 as mixer/oscillator, followed by a 6D6 as an IF stage.

The detector/1st audio stage was a 75 followed by a 43 serving as audio output. The rectifier was usually a 25Z5. As these radios were running

with series filaments, the total of all five tubes did not equal 110-120 V. Either a ballast tube or a resistance line cord was needed to make up the difference.

Remember there was no power transformer in these sets. These resistance line cords did run hot. Be careful when working on these sets, especially when replacing the line cord.

Tube design changed over the years. In the mid 1930's 8-pin octals came on the scene. The typical line-up would be 6A8, 6K7, 6Q7 and 25L6. Again, a 25Z5 was there to provide B+, along with a resistance to drop the line voltage.

Late in the 1930's the need heat producing resistance line cords or ballasts was eliminated by the move to 12 volt tubes. The tube line-up was 12A8 (or 12K8), 12K7, 12Q7, 50L6, and 35Z5. Remember: adding the filament voltages of these tubes we get 121 volts, or regular line voltage.

In the 1940's, another change in tube design allowed us to say goodbye to grid caps on the tubes. The mixer/oscillator was a 12SA7, the IF was a 12SK7, the detector was a 12SQ7 and the audio output was the 50L6. Rectification was still provided by the 35Z5.

Also in the 1940's, we saw the introduction of the local tube.

The design insured the tube remained in its socket even if the set was subjected to vibration.

The mixer/oscillator was a 7A8, IF was 14A7, detector was 14B6 and audio out was a 50A5. The 35Y4 served as the rectifier. When the miniature style tubes were introduced the line-up was 12BE6 as mixer/oscillator, 12BA6 as IF, 12AV6 (12AT6) as detector and audio was 50C5 (50B5.) The 35W4 was the rectifier in these sets.

This line-up carried us into the 60's and on to the end of simple tube style radios. The AAF was manufactured by the millions. The tube designations listed here are typical of the AAF sets made by many different companies. There are some unique sets out there that don't follow the norm.

From the "Jersey Club"

This is an invitation to our sister club to come join us at the Parsippany PAL building in Parsippany, N.J. on Saturday, April 24th. For our club's annual Spring Swap Meet.

We have tables for vending available, and buyers are always welcome.

For more info go to website www.njarc.org or call 914 589-3751 – Richard Lee, Pres. NJARC