



OSCILLATOR

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 9. No. 5, August, 2001

DVHRC at Kutztown...August 18th



Photo courtesy of Al Klase

Last year at Kutztown, auctioneer Pete Grave auctions a large black box in front of spirited bidders including a visitor from Hawaii at left and a young collector specializing in large black boxes. Ted Sowirka, at right, holds the crowds back.

Your club is about to take it's next step forward on Saturday, August 18th. We are now the sponsoring organization behind this show and sale and we need you to be there to show the flag, sell your stuff and raise funds for the DVHRC

At our meeting on August 14th, we will be looking for volunteers to help at the club table selling books and taking memberships. We will need help getting auction materials to the auction site and strong backs to display them at auction. And any other idea to help make this a first-class show will be welcomed.

We should be able to staff our efforts with our members rotating in and out of the needed areas. An hour away from your table will be a big help.

And if you cannot make it to the show, be sure to bring your items to the monthly meeting/auction at Telford on August 14th. Rest assured that in the spirit of recycling, your items will make it to Kutztown. Club donations gladly accepted.

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Lou Scuppler Inducted Last Thursday...

*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 discs should be in Word and .jpg formats.

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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 transactions incurred.

To join: DVHRC dues are \$15 per year. The membership year runs January - December. Please mail to the club P.O. box above.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Telford Community Building, Telford, PA

DVHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Abramson
Pete Grave
Lewie Newhard
Bill Overbeck
Ted Sowirka

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President Bill Overbeck
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Secretary Dave Snellman

OSCILLATOR EDITOR

Dave Abramson

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ADS

DVHRC Editor
1649 Yellow Springs Rd
Chester Springs, PA 19425
610-827-9757 phone/fax
dtatv@worldnet.att.net
(deadline is the 20th of each month)

Material submitted is subject to acceptance and editing by the editor.
A full page article is approximately 400 words. Printed photos may be submitted for scanning. JPG files should be under 100K.

Announcing Atwater-Kent Battery Meter

AN INGENIOUS BATTERY TESTING METER

The Atwater Kent Manufacturing Works, of Philadelphia, Pa., manufacturers of pocket volt-ammeters, voltmeters and amperemeters, has recently put on the market a new meter called the Atwater Kent "DriSel" Tester, which is having a large sale. This meter is designed as a convenient instrument for making quick and accurate readings on dry cells. As shown in the cut, no leads are necessary, the back of the instrument being placed on the zinc terminal and any part of the side of the instrument on the carbon terminal. This instrument is made up either as a voltmeter, reading from 0 to 3 volts or as an ampere meter, reading from 0 to 30 amperes. Each one is finished in the finest manner and furnished with a handsome leather case. The regular meters made by this company, known as the "Kent Pocket Meters," are increasing in demand each year and there are now said to be some twenty thousand in constant use. These instruments are all calibrated by hand to standardized apparatus, made by skilled workmen, have a "Dead-Beat" needle giving a quick and accurate reading, and every instrument is fully guarantee. The Automatic Volt-Ammeter has but one lead and no change is made in the connection to the battery for the two readings, as that in amperes is obtained by simply pressing the button. The voltmeters and amperemeters are the same in size and appearance as the automatic volt-ammeter, but without the button attachment.

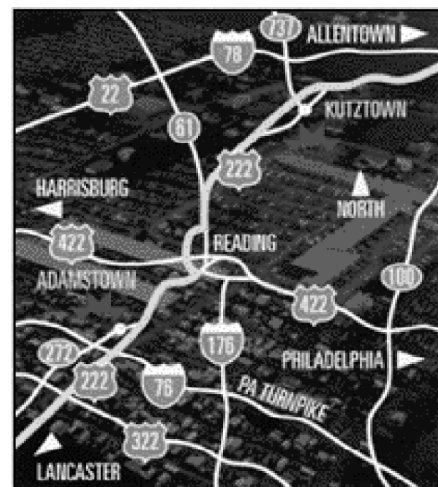
A hand-sewed leather case is furnished with each instrument. The instruments of this company are sold at an extremely low price. Further information may be obtained on application to the company. American Telephone Journal, May 26, 1906.

From the collection of Ralph Williams via Ludwell Sibley

Kutztown Antique Radio Meet

**DVHRC at Renningers August 18th
7am - 3pm
Auction at 11am**

Call 570-385-0104 for reservations



Upcoming Events:**Date/Time Event/Location/Info.**

August 10, 2001 - 8:00 AM till ???New Jersey Antique Radio Club
Swapmeet, Dover, NJ. For info: www.njarc.org

August 14, 2001 - 7:30 PM Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
monthly meeting in Telford, PA

August 17, 2001 - 7:30 PM (Please note date change!) New Jersey Antique
Radio Club monthly meeting in Freehold, NJ

August 18, 2001 - 7:00 AM - even earlier! Radio Meet at Renninger's
in Kutztown, PA. See this issue for info.

August 19, 2001 - 2:00 PM Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club
monthly meeting in Burtonsville, MD. Info at: www.maarc.org

September 5-8, 2001 Antique Wireless Assn. Conference in
Rochester, NY. Info at: www.antiquewireless.org

Classified Ads

Free to a good home: Zenith console radio - no model # - working - recapped - cabinet in good shape. Also a small GE floor model (circa 1937) that needs some work. Additional chassis available: Zenith and GE in working condition. Contact Paul Wnek at 215-332-3768.

Philco Model 90 with spare set of tubes. Radio is fully functional, original cabinet. Make offer. Contact Paul Wnek at 215-322-3768.

Blaupunkt Stereo, Model 4633, console. It's complete with turntable. It's functional, but probably needs some work. Make offer. For additional details, contact Manuel Tubio at 215- 538-2045.

Classified ad policy.

Ads will be accepted without charge from DVHRC members. Please edit them to a reasonable size to accommodate others. Ads will run per your instructions or until you notify the editor. All other ads at \$5/month or \$50/year. Contact the editor for artwork details.

From the Parts Bin

Dave Abramson, Editor

After catching a computer virus called Sircam and it's variants, this computer is purged and the Oscillator is in your hands. It was an insidious annoyance as it was trying to mail up a storm while I was trying to download a fix (which I have available if you get stung). It actually came to me as an attachment on an email from "Boatanchors.com". The attachment read "2ndBusCard". I was actually waiting for a card ad and thought this was it. Later research showed a double extension on the document ".doc.pif". That is the clue. The result is I am going to be very careful opening anything. Period. If you have something to send me, make sure your name is in the subject line to identify yourself or just spend 34 cents and mail it to me and I will take it from there.

My thanks to all of you who had very kind words about my attempts at this publication. It is a very enjoyable use of my time and provides endless fun searching on the internet for information. The website page this month is proof. I look forward to your input of any sort.

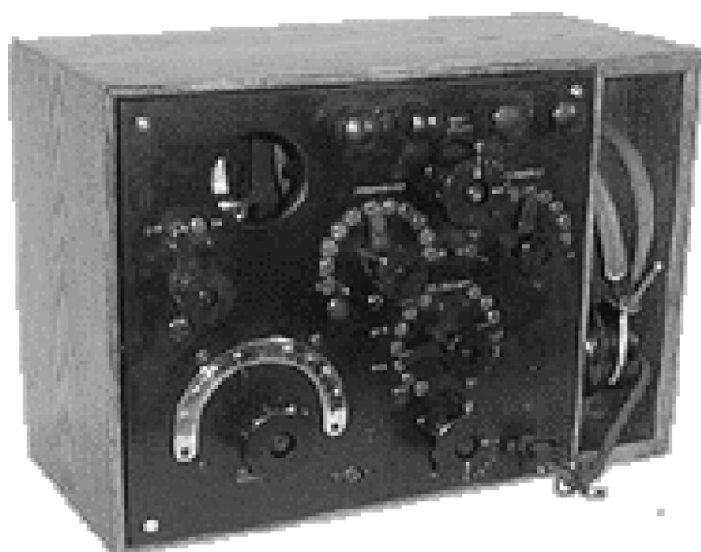
Wanted: Muchow reports/photos!

-30- the editor

Website of the Month

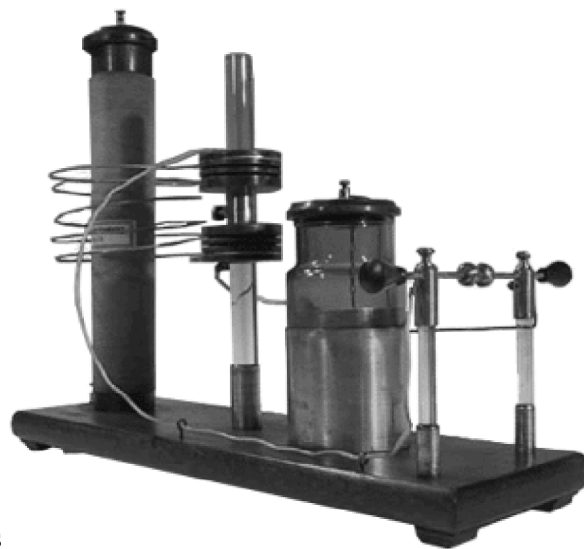
I needed help with my gawd-awful loose coupler pun on the front page, so I went to Google (the only search engine to use - ed.) to search for information and this site popped up. The quality of the items in John Jenkins' collection of early battery everything is a museum right on your screen. With John's permission, I picked two to show. Transmitters, receivers, spark gap, test equipment, early AC sets and all of their cousins are represented in John's collection.

There are before and after photos, and an especially helpful page on how the photographs were accomplished and edited. A very well designed and informational resource for our hobby. *Editor.*



At left is a Westinghouse SCR-70 aircraft receiver, circa 1917. It was designed by Frank Conrad for Westinghouse. Conrad is considered by many to be the father of modern broadcasting.

At right is a very rare specimen of one of the first devices used for tuning early wireless telegraph transmissions. This model was used for the didactic laboratories first demonstrations around the beginning of the 20th century. At about that time there was a significant problem of interferences between signals coming from different sources, due to the increasing number of transmitting stations. Guglielmo Marconi was the first to adopt a tuning system of this type. It's essentially composed of a tesla type high frequency transformer, whose primary circuit is connected to a leyden jar, forming a resonant circuit which reduces the bandwidth of the signal to be transmitted coming from an induction coil. The signal then goes to the central coil (secondary circuit) whose terminals are connected: one to the transmitting aerial, and one to the earth circuit, to be sent into the space. A similar tuning circuit, mounted inside the receiver, ensures the reception only of the signal coming from that transmitting station, ignoring all other signals present in the aerial. This circuit has been called a "JIGGER" by Marconi, and was patented in April 1900.



*Transmitter tuner
Ferdinand Erneke - Berlin*

This site can be seen at;

www.halcyon.com/johnj/radios

Monthly meeting notes - July 2001

By Dave Snellman

Well the July meeting had fewer than usual members in attendance. Perhaps it was the threat of severe weather, or perhaps they stayed home to watch the "All-Star" game, or perhaps they were on vacation; anyway, we had fewer smiling faces in Telford that night.

Anyway, on to business. The OSCILLATOR, our newsletter, is back!!! Thanks go out to Dave Abramson, the new editor. The first edition was a smashing success.

Much of the evening's business centered around the newsletter and the upcoming swap meet at Kutztown.

Look to this issue of the newsletter as well as future issues to feature a "letters to the editor" column. Here's a chance to sound off on what right, wrong, etc. with radio collecting, the club, and other radio-related topics. Of course, letters appear at the discretion of the editor.

Here is the latest information on ads for the Oscillator. Classified ads for members will be free. Your ad will run as long as you want or until you tell us to cut it. We'll be adding a new feature - Business card ads. These ads will run as long as you want. The cost is \$5/month or \$50 per year. Furnish the editor with a suitable business card, in card or electronic form and furnish the club treasurer, Mike Tannenbaum, with the suitable amount of \$\$\$ for the time the ad will run.

Look for details on the Kutztown meet in this issue. Mark you calendar, August 18th is the day.

We are also going to try to add an events calendar of radio-related events to the Oscillator. To have an event included, get the information to Dave Abramson or Dave Snellman at least one month in advance.

Lewie Newhard gave the group a report on the recent Michigan meet. According to Lewie, it was the finest meet ever. There were lots of bargains. A Zenith "chair-side" went for \$120.00. There were lots of Zeniths and Scotts on hand. Organizers of the event provided free food and beverages at the meet. Lewie stayed over for the Saturday auction, which he said had lots of good items and good deals. A 600 mile trek, but for the avid collector it sounded well worth it.

Others reported on RadioActivity, a meet held just north of Washington, DC. The report included plenty of hot and humid weather and a noticeable lack of attendance. As one put it, "A good place to dump your junk." There were an estimated 60-70 sellers at the meet.

cont. on next page

Meeting notes cont.

SHOW and TELL

We had a number "Show and Tell" items at the meeting. Don Rector made some "electronic stick figures" out of components you'd find in any collector's junk box. A "fisherman" made out of resistors, caps, and wire. Clever, Don. Mike Tannenbaum added some additional information. It seems Philco ads from the WWII era showed a number of these figures - most of the ads depict them looking at ladies, also part of the advertisement. I guess that was Don's inspiration.

Dave Abramson reported on a recent acquisition. It's a HMV model 900 from around 1937. Lewie showed an example of Philco cabinet refinishing that he did.

That brought us up to auction time, a regular part of our meetings. We had some nice radios in the auction; however, they did not meet the minimum bid price. We also had some donation items. A Heath kit SWL receiver brought \$35.00 in the club treasury and some test equipment brought an additional \$10.00.

All-in-all, a good meeting. Be sure to join us on August 14th for the next meeting at the Telford Center. Remember Kutztown is August 18th. Hope you can make them both.

Next Meeting!

You didn't ask for it, you got it. A stunningly informative presentation on the beginnings of the BBC's television service *including* a showing of "Television Comes to London", produced by the BBC in 1936. Your editor as presenter. Black tie optional.



YOU CAN'T HELP INHALING - BUT *you can help your throat!*

WATCH yourself . . . and you'll realize that *all* smokers *sometimes* inhale. And when you do, there's *increased chance* of irritation for sensitive nose and throat passages. But *now* . . . look at the findings reported by eminent doctors—who compared the five leading cigarettes:

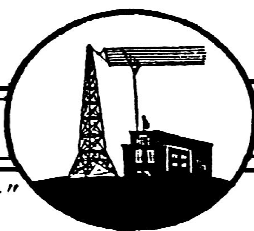
**IRRITATION FROM THE SMOKE OF THE FOUR OTHER CIGARETTES
AVERAGED MORE THAN THREE TIMES THAT OF THE STRIKINGLY
CONTRASTED PHILIP MORRIS—AND, WHAT'S MORE, SUCH
IRRITATION LASTED MORE THAN FIVE TIMES AS LONG!**

You're bound to inhale *sometimes* . . . but you *can* have this *proved protection*. Full smoking pleasure . . . without smoking penalties . . . if you smoke Philip Morris. No wonder they're "stealing the show"!



CALL FOR PHILIP MORRIS

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REAL PROTECTION—
AMERICA'S FINEST CIGARETTE**

AIRWAVES**TIMELINE***"This Month in Radio History"*

Compiled by Mike Koste

AUGUST 20, 1920 With the sign-on of station 8MK in Detroit, now WWJ, the argument with KDKA and others as to "who-was-on-the-air-first" begins.

AUGUST 1, 1921 451 stations are on the air, and all 48 states, except Wyoming, has one. Four days later, Pittsburgh's KDKA airs the first play-by-play of a major league baseball game.

AUGUST 14, 1933 WLW, Cincinnati premieres "Ma Perkins", moving to NBC in December. (Long associated with it's sponsor, Oxydol detergent, this daytime drama gave birth to the term "soap" opera.)

AUGUST 5, 1935 The first trial and tribulation of "Backstage Wife" airs on Mutual. (Moving to NBC in '36 and later to CBS, it remained a network soap staple through the 1959 season.)

AUGUST 15, 1936 Philco demonstrates its television system, transmitting a 345 line-image seven miles.

AUGUST 1, 1937 Guglielmo Marconi dies in Rome at the age of 63.

AUGUST 6, 1939 After local guest appearances on WSM, Nashville and WNEW, New York, Dinah Shore gets a show of her own on the Blue Network.

AUGUST 31, 1941 Graduating from character status on "Fibber McGee & Molly," Hal Peary debuts as "The Great Gildersleeve" on NBC.

AUGUST 31, 1942 Clayton "Bud" Collyer takes to the air as "Superman" on the Mutual Network. Meanwhile over at the Blue, Chester Stratton starred as "Hop Harrigan," ("America's Ace of the Airways.")

AUGUST 2, 1943 Divesting himself of WMCA, New York, Edward Noble buys NBC's Blue Network, paving the way for the formation of ABC.

AUGUST 25, 1949 Before the Anderson family moved to television in the 50's, "Father Knows Best" starring Robert Young had a prosperous four year run on NBC Radio.

AUGUST 22, 1955 U.S. Census figures show that 67 percent of American homes have TV.

AUGUST 25, 1963 "CD" markings disappear from radio dials as The Emergency Broadcast System goes on-line, replacing CONELRAD (Control of Electromagnetic Radiation).

AUGUST 24, 1970 "The Good Guys" are shown the door as WMCA, New York drops Top 40 for talk. Also on this date, Arbitron reports more FM than AM listeners in Grand Rapids, Michigan and West Palm Beach, Florida.

AUGUST 1, 1970 Philadelphia's WPNA signs on at 94.1 mHz, now WYSP.

AUGUST 15, 1990 After more than sixty years, CBS dumps Philadelphia's historic WCAU call letters in favor of WOGL-AM. (Failing at oldies, it later became WGMP "The Game", and even later, "Philadelphia's Talk Station", WPHT, where it remains today.)



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Next Issue...

Look for a very informative article by our own Mike Koste on the history of Plaskon along with tips on obscuring those annoying stress marks and cracks. We hope to have news and photos from the Muchow auction.

VISIT THE DVHRC WEBSITE AT;

<http://pw2.netcom.com/~firstake/dvhrc.htm>



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1649 Yellow Springs Rd.

Chester Springs, PA 19425