

All the Electrons that are fit to flow.



OSCILLATOR

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 11, No. 3, May, 2003

Old radios...\$\$\$ DVHRC and Kutztown...Priceless

Kutztown – May 14, 2003

Reported by Dave Snellman

“Ring bologna once, ring bologna twice, DVHRC was at Kutztown in May, Cheese, dat’s nice!” (You’ve got to say that with a Pennsylvania Dutch accent. My apologies to the KSU cheering squad for stealing their cheer!) Yes, the May 2003 meeting of the DVHRC was held at Renninger’s in Kutztown on Friday evening, May 14th rather than our regular Tuesday evening session in Telford. While no real business was transacted at this meeting, members enjoyed a rib-eye steak dinner with all the “fixin’s.” The reason for this change of venue was the Radio Swap Meet scheduled for the next morning.

What started out as one day (Saturday) meeting



about three years ago has grown into a full-blown two-day meet. Club members and vendors begin arriving at Renninger’s on Friday afternoon. Trading starts when the first vendor and buyer arrive! Renninger’s generously offers free overnight camping, which many people take advantage of. Some bring campers, some tents, some just sleep in

the next morning.

Inside the Oscillator

Meeting notes.....	1
More notes.....	2/3
Auction results.....	4
Kutztown photos.....	5
Television convention.....	6
More television.....	7
Advertisers.....	8



BACK TO TELFORD
JUNE 10, 2003
7:30PM

*Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
P.O. Box 5053
New Britain, PA 18901*

Meeting Notes continued from Page 1

their vehicles. Of course their goal is to be the first in line on Saturday morning as more vendors arrive.

The second pavilion at Renninger's was filled to capacity by early Saturday morning. Buyers and vendors were



doing a brisk business throughout the morning. I was up at around 5:00 AM and there was a lot of activity at that time.

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Kutztown photos courtesy of Dave Abramson and Ted Sovicka

The food vendor was up and ready to serve much-needed coffee along with a variety of breakfast food. Food was available throughout the day.

DVHRC had its usual club table set up and was offering tubes for sale, capacitors for sale, as well as many discounted books for sale. The club also was raffling off a Motorola table radio. We had our new club membership directory available to members. Of course they were soliciting new members, too. We did enlist five new members to the club.

DVHRC would like to welcome the following to our membership ranks: Paul Farmer from Washington, VA; Walter Jacobsen from Red Bank, NJ; Gary D'Amico from South Bound Brook, NJ; Bill Beyer from

NJ; Gary D'Amico from South Bound Brook, NJ; Bill Beyrer from Chambersburg, PA; and James Venneman from Stroudsburg, PA.

In addition to DVHRC, we had two other clubs represented at the meet. Sharing a table with DVHRC was NJARC. Club president Phil Vourtsis and secretary Marv Befferman were manning the table. Phil also had his book, The Fabulous Victrola "45" for sale. Paul Farmer from MAARC, the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club, was set up as a vendor. Paul also had MAARC membership available for those interested. MAARC publishes the excellent monthly newsletter, "Radio Age."



If for some reason you became bored with the radio swap meet, you could always visit the Renninger's regulars. They are located in the other pavilion, or outside, or inside. One mandatory trip was to visit the Kutztown Radio shop, located inside at Renninger's. They are open every Saturday from 8:30 to 4:00 PM. So if you need a "radio fix" between swap meets, stop in and see Lewie, Bob, or Dale.

One of the events that is a major part of the Kutztown Radio Meet is the auction. Run by members of the DVHRC, it usually beginning around 11:30 AM on Saturday and runs until the last lot is sold. Vendors are encouraged to bring items that they did not sell that day to the auction. For a ten-percent sellers' commission, we'll try to find a new home for these items. Many times items will be donated to the club for auction. This year the club had many lots from a recently acquired estate for sale. These items were listed in the last edition of the "Oscillator."

The auction this time consisted of 297 lots, the largest numbers of lots since we began running the auction. Auction proceeds totaled \$1490.00. Almost \$600.00 was paid to various vendors for their goods that were sold. The rest was either donation items or estate



sold. The rest was either donation items or estate items. Here is a sample of some of the items from the estate and what they brought. All items listed were either from the estate or from the club's library.

TUBES:

DeForest DVx could be DV2 (dud)	\$ 4.00
DeForest DV3A, tested OK	\$25.00
DeForest DV3A, tested OK	\$37.50
DeForest DV3, tested OK	\$20.00
DeForest DV3, tested OK	\$22.50
Lot of four DeForest DV-3's	\$22.50
Myers Tubular Audion	\$25.00
Westinghouse WD-11, BBT, OK	\$47.50
Westinghouse WD-11, BBT, open	\$15.00

BOOK, MANUALS:

RCA HB-3 tube manuals	\$31.00
RCA "Red Book" 1923-1937	\$47.50
RCA "Red Book" 1938-1947	\$42.50
RCA "Red Book" 1947-1948	\$20.00
RCA "Red Book" 1950	\$17.50
RCA "Red Book" 1951	\$17.50
RCA "Red Book" 1952	\$17.50

The club had offered it set of *Rider's Perpetual Troubleshooters* manuals in the auction; however, they did not meet the minimum bid.

Overall, the auction was a great success. It took almost three hours to get through all the lots. Pete Grave was our auctioneer. Dave Snellman clerked the auction. Dave Abramson took care of managing the auction proceeds. Al Klase assisted with providing descriptions of auction items, moving items through the auction and assisted Dave Abramson with the proceeds. Ted Sowirka, Fred Saul and a few others assisted with moving the many lots through the

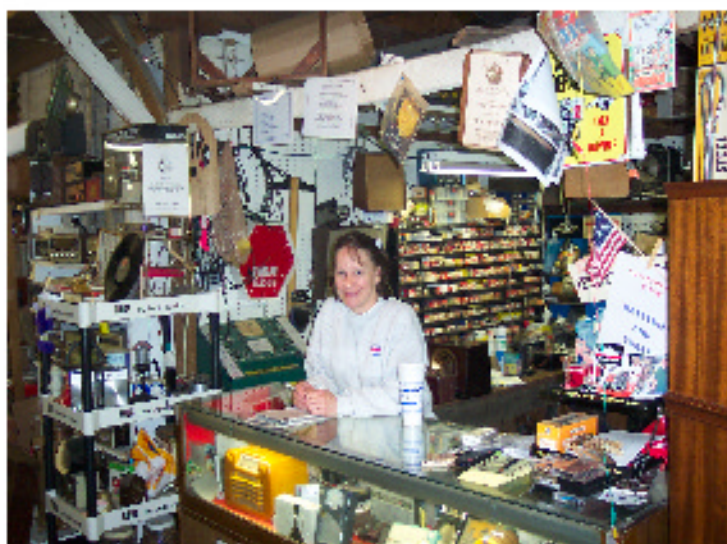
assisted with moving the many lots through the auction. If I forgot anyone, I do apologize. We could not have run such a large auction in the time we did without your help.

Some of the figures from this year's swap meet: \$1033.00 auction proceeds, \$285.00 pre-auction estate items sold, \$242.00 club tube sales, \$82.00 club book sales, \$113.00 raffle radio ticket sales, and \$115.00 from memberships. After expenses, the club added \$1485.00 to the treasury.

That's all for me this time. For June, we'll be back at the Telford Community Center on Tuesday, June 10th at 7:30 PM for our regular meeting and auction. Expect a recap of Kutztown, some details on the new e-mail reflector, as well as our regular monthly business issues. You'll also be able to pick up a copy of the membership directory incase you missed it at Kutztown. Hope to see you there.



More photos from Kutztown. Always lift the lid to check the television. And a young collector gets her first view of Kutztown.



If you missed this show, fear not, the DVHRC will be back at Kutztown on September 12 and 13 for the same fine event. Hope you can make it!

The first annual television collectors convention

Dave Abramson, Editor, The Oscillator
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club

Having been a television director for 33 years and a television collector for half of that time, the 1st annual Television Collectors Convention in Hilliard, Ohio on the weekend of April 12-13 was too good an opportunity to pass up. I just had to journey to meet my collecting competitors and Internet friends and the one collector who has changed the face of our hobby but worked the hardest to get all of us to be together.



Dave Johnson displays his Col-R-Tel color converter. It was an aftermarket attachment to convert a B&W television to color via mechanical scanning.

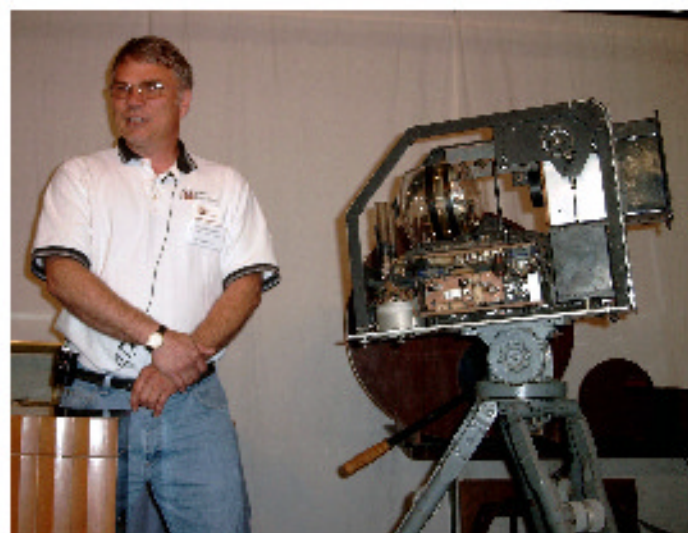
And together we were. 65 plus attendees of about 80 acknowledged collectors of these mahogany monsters. All of us competitors for the earliest and rarest of the examples of arguably the greatest cultural influence of modern times. And all of these competitors in the house of the modern day champion of the collectors... Steve McVoy of the Early Television Foundation. There are certainly others with collections to rival Steve's, but none so visible or accommodating.

Steve has clearly moved to the front of collecting sets of the era through his good fortune in the cable television industry and yet does more to encourage and publicize

and help other collectors than any other source I can think of. His collection and restorations surely are to be marveled at, but also to be learned from. His foundation and website have become a central registry for all of us to benefit from and Steve makes sure that we all know what is happening. We are sure to learn if only we read and share, and Steve will be the first with help.

The immediate downside is that some of the best current items are headed for Ohio and not to our collections. We have all seen the cycles of collecting come and go. Guidebooks printed to the benefit of a few. Ebay muddies up the waters as everyone from Nebraska tries to sell the first television ever made. It was a 1952 RCA by the way. TV's are hot this week... battery sets next week. This too shall pass.

The long-term upside is the institutional knowledge that 80 or so special fans of this bit of history will have. We will all be the keepers of this part of broadcasting history. We met and could not wait to tell each other of



Geoff Bourne brought a RC Ape-war iconoscope camera. This camera was believed to have been at the RCA display at the 1939 Worlds Fair.

We will all be the keepers of this part of broadcasting history. We met and could not wait to tell each other of what we have, what we know, and what we could do for each other. I could not find a hint of competition that weekend. Envy at the worst. It is a relatively fixed group for the time being. Gravity and supply and demand being what they are, these sets will eventually seek their own level and new owners. You will finally get that piece you are looking for if you do not already have it.

I am a firm believer in specializing. It took me a while to learn that I did not have to own one of every set ever made. Now I know what I am best at but I still have that wider knowledge to pass on to anyone who will listen. And I am glad to help in my small way with my small collection. Steve just does it in a bigger way. We are all the better for our special knowledge and Steve's leadership with this convention.

And if we live long enough, we will convince everyone that a one-of-a-kind 1939 Andrea is worth as much as a one-of-a-kind 1939 Packard.



Inside view of RCA's 1934 RR-359 engineering prototype receiver. This set is restored and working.

Photos courtesy of Steve McVoy, Dave Sica and Steve Marshall

RCA's pre-war TT-5 television timer receiver. This set was vision only and had to be connected to a radio receiver with a "Television" input (line input) to hear the audio. RCA had 4 different sets in their pre-war lineup.



The Crosley "Swing-A-View" 12" AM/FM/Phono/TV. The CRT was pulled out and could swivel sideways for viewing at side angles.

The Westinghouse H840 CK15 1954 15" color receiver. This set was on the market about 6 weeks before the RCA CT100. There is documentation that Admiral had their 15" color set available even earlier.



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