



# OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO

*The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC*

*Vol. 7. No. 10, October 1999*

## This Month

Our next meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Telford Community Center. We will have a technical presentation on soldering by Charlie Class. While I'm sure most of us think we understand making electrical connections with tin-lead alloy, Charlie was a certified solderer in the aerospace industry. I'm sure he'll have some interesting insights into this ancient and essential craft.

## Round Up the Usual Suspects!

I found myself armed with a Maglight poking around the Packrats Hamfest in nearby Wrightstown in the pre-dawn gloom, no, make that darkness, last Sunday morning. It's must be the rays emanating from Venus or the Moon, clearly visible in the sky, that make me do stuff like this. At any rate I wasn't alone. It wasn't long until I encountered a host of other DVHRC notables who shall remain nameless. I'll bet there were more than a dozen of them!

The fest seemed to have survived its transplantation from the Buck County Drive-in, but the number of vendors was probably down a little. Pickings were kind of slim for vintage gear, but I did pick up a few odds and ends. (Ed.)

## COMING EVENTS

Oct. 8	NJARC Radio Meet, Freehold, NJ
Oct. 9	Hamfest, Teaneck, NJ
Oct. 12	DVHRC Meeting, Telford
Oct. 17	Hamfest, Sellersville, Pa.
Oct. 9	DVHRC Meeting, Telford
Oct. 12	NJARC Radio Meet, Freehold, NJ



National Radio's answer to the Hallicrafters S-38, the SW-54.

**THE OSCILLATOR**  
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-disc (3-1/2" DOS/Win95) is particularly welcome.

Unless copyrighted by the author, material in this publication is available for attributed reproduction for nonprofit purposes. (For convenience, the editor can supply copy on-disc.)

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 transaction incurred.

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

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM

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**COPY DEADLINE:** The 20th of each month.

# September Meeting Notes

by Dave Snellman

Well it's hard to believe that September is already behind us. Rochester is over for another year. Everyone who attended is back with treasures in hand.

Our monthly meeting took on a "new order" (at least in the order in

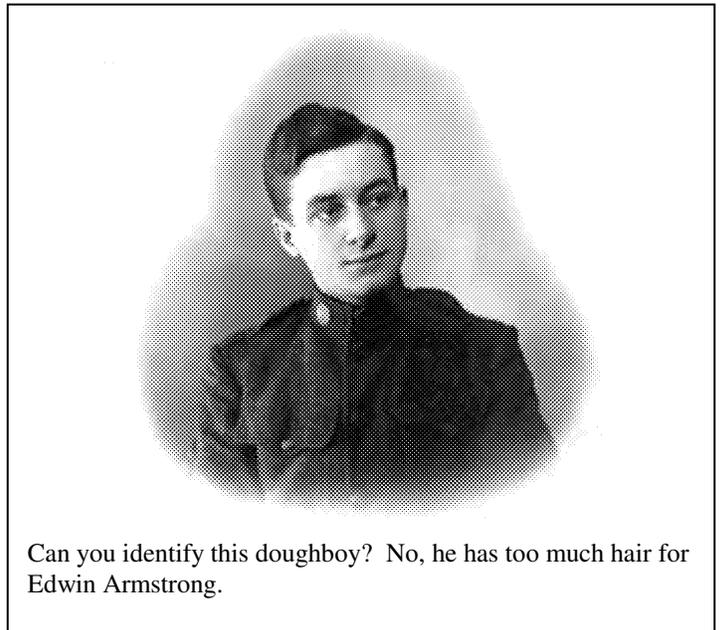
which things happened at the meeting.) We started out with a great presentation by Al Klase on "High Performance Crystal Radio Sets." Al took us through the early development of radio, the basic circuits that were used, and how to "tweak" your crystal set for top performance. Club members responded with many questions and much lively discussion on the matter. Obviously crystal radio is still a hot topic after all these years and the developments that have taken place in the field of radio and electronics,

Our "fear-less leader" arrived a little late due to a traffic snafu. So after Al's presentation we dealt with the regular business end of the meeting. A few reported on their experiences at Rochester and we even had a few "show and tell" items.

September also meant we had our second "high end" auction. Members brought some premium items for the auction along with some regular stuff. Some highlights included a Radiola 25, a RCA "International," a Motorola 5T tombstone, and a beautiful Silver-Marshall console. Some nice

Philco pieces didn't quite make the minimum bid, so their owners got to take them back home. We had a nice assortment of test gear, audio equipment, books, magazines, records and radios in the auction, too. Almost \$80.00 in auction commissions were taken in by the end of the night.

That's it for September. Look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting.



Can you identify this doughboy? No, he has too much hair for Edwin Armstrong.

*Travels with Ted...*

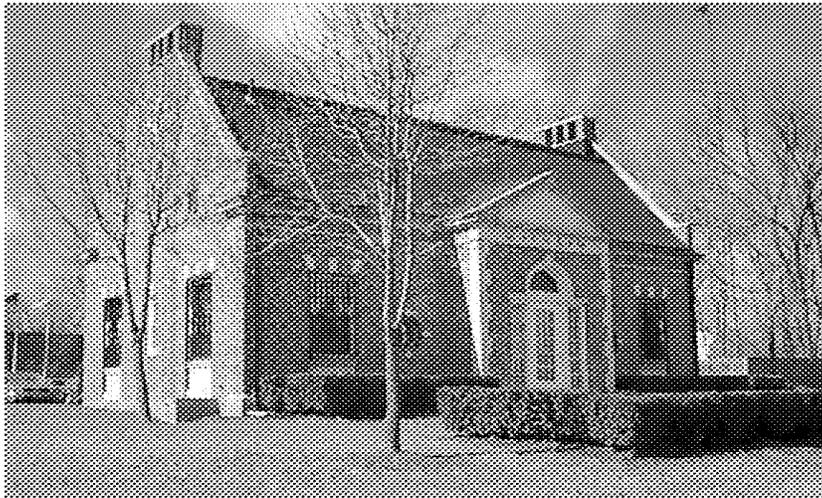
# Visiting ARRL Headquarters

By Ted Sowirka

During the end of August, my wife Dora had to spend some time in Hartford, Conn. On business. Since there was a free weekend, I drove up on a Friday, and we toured the sites in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Monday was a full workday for here leaving me with nothing to do. Scanning a Hartford visitors guide, I noticed that a vintage radio/communications museum was listed in East Hartford.

Close to the Hotel was Interstate 84 with the museum right off Exit 56. What should have been a ten-minute drive too half an hour because of some road construction at the exit. Even though there were no hours listed for Monday, I had nothing to lose in stopping by. When I located the building at the address shown in the book, I found that it was a mortuary for pets!

At this point, I changed course for Newington, about fifteen minutes south of Hartford. After ten minutes on the thruway and five through quiet suburbs, I spotted the antenna farm above the trees. The parking lot had about twenty cars on it with room for about



forty more. The receptionist informed me that I just missed a tour, and I could wait for the next one. I admitted to her that I was not a member currently but had been in the past. The room had shelves along

the back wall with vintage communications receivers on them. On a side wall were shelves and tables loaded with ARRL publications.

While waiting, I took a few photos of the room. An old timer came by, said a few words to the receptionist, and then introduced himself. He was the staff photographer. Upon hearing I was from the Philadelphia area, he mentioned he was a Temple grad in 1946. We chatted for a while exchanging war stories.

The tour came out, and we were going to see the station tied to the antennas in the building on the other side of the parking lot. I joined in. Inside the building, the operating positions were enclosed in glass with the latest gear in each cubicle. The main rig was a series of racks behind glass. This equipment was made by Harris. The equipment was spotless as was the entire station.

The guide then took me on a one-person tour of the main building. The hall was lined with glass display cases with old gear and artifacts relating to the history of the ARRL. There was a screen room loaded with modern test gear used to verify the specifications of items advertised in QST. A shop with power and hand tools permits the fabrication of home-brew projects. In the back of the building, the largest room, devoted to the generation of League publications, contained lots of desks with lots of computers and people doing their thing using a three month lead to publication.

On the way out the receptionist asked if I wanted to join. I said "I'll think about it."

## ARRL

The American Radio Relay League is a service organization headquartered at 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, USA, serving the over 600,000 Amateur Radio operators, enthusiasts, experimenters and hobbyists in the United States, its territories and possessions.

## VISITS

League Members and the general public are always welcome during regular office hours (8:00 A.M. -5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday). Tours are given at 9, 10, and 11 a.m. and 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Guests who request a tour while one is in progress will be given the opportunity to join the tour in progress or to wait until the next scheduled tour. Special tour times can be arranged in advance. Large groups should make arrangements, a week in advance, by writing to our address c/o the Membership Services Department or by calling 860-594-0200. Please give the date and time of arrival and the number of people who will be coming.

## W1AW

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 10 A.M. through 11:45 A.M. and then at 1 P.M. through 3:45 P.M. Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring your current FCC amateur license or a photocopy.

Headquarters and W1AW are closed on New Year's Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the following Friday, and Christmas Day.

The ARRL (email [hq@arrl.org](mailto:hq@arrl.org),

NEW ON THE BOOKSHELF.....

# Machine Age to Jet Age Volume III

by Mark Stein

Radiomania Publishing 1999

\$27.95

Reviewed by Mike Koste

We were critical of the first Radiomania book, encouraged by the improvements in *Machine Age to Jet Age II*, but were left somewhat confused when Mark Stein's third volume arrived in early September.

Advance publicity for MATJA 3 promised 3000 models not pictured in the previous publication, and we applaud the new edition for including band and tube counts. Stein has ventured beyond comparable antique radio books by including views of some truly unique pieces by manufacturers overlooked elsewhere. (You won't find radios by smaller companies like Brown, Tiffanytone, Lasalle, Espy, and Stratford detailed in Bunis, for instance.) It's also worth pointing out that Mark has illustrated a wealth of sets produced in Canada by Westinghouse, Northern Electric and RCA Victor. (A handy feature if you ever attend a swapmeet in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and wonder what you just bought.)

Due to the very volume of the illustrations, the spacing and layout problems that plagued his first and second efforts (a lot of partially blank pages) are thankfully missing from Volume 3. Sixteen different sets per page, with a brief description and estimated value, makes for a very balanced looking presentation.

In comparison, what's right about *Machine Age to Jet Age Volume* is also what's wrong about it.

Five years ago, Stein's first attempt, though short on color, exhibited remarkably clear photographs of some truly beautiful radios, primarily from Mark's personal collection. We began seeing a handful of examples of what was to come in the second book when illustrations were obviously lifted from old catalogs and advertising. Hence, the source of a majority of the images in Volume 3.

Even with the advances in digital print processing, fuzzy and undetailed source material remains fuzzy and undetailed when it is reproduced. Combine the spotty images with the fact that in many cases the shots were reduced to a standard of approximately one by three inches per radio, the illustrations more closely resemble the contents of a postage stamp catalog than a fine photo gallery.

We also must question the author's continued abbreviation of model numbers, most notably in the Zenith and Emerson sections. The first number and letter on most 1930's and 1940's Zeniths indicate tube count and model type. For some reason, the Radiomania books only refer to these desirable radios by the last three digits.

It was probably no easier a task to accumulate a sufficient amount of radio ephemera than it would have been to seek out the actual radios and photograph to create MATJA 3, so to suggest that the author "cut corners" on his new is preposterous. The information contained, in most cases, is available elsewhere. Despite it's shortcomings, and being of the opinion that there is no such thing as a "bad" book on antique radio, it's still a valuable resource and deserving of space on your bookshelf.



# BUY SELL SWAP

**WANTED:** Gernsback's Official Radio Service Manuals: 5 and 8. Mike Tannenbaum, A.G. Tannenbaum, P O Box 386, Ambler, PA 19002, TEL 215-540-8055, FAX 215 540-8327, URL [www.agtannenbaum.com](http://www.agtannenbaum.com), e-mail [k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com)

**REPAIRS WANTED:** Have wind-up floor-model Victrola. Winds and turns, but stops when needle lowered onto record. Please contact: Mildred Coleman, 5038 Gainer Rd., Phila. 19131, Phone: 215-879-3047, Answering Machine 215-477-8151

**WANTED:** The May 1966 issue of *Electronics Illustrated*. Richard C. Yingling, 2 S. Locke Ave., Yeagertown, Pa. 17099, (717) 242-1882

**WANTED:** Information on "Lang" radios: literature, pictures, pricing, etc. Charles J Dreitleio, 515 Elizabeth St., New Milford, NJ 07646, 201-384-3862

**FOR SALE:** Assorted: 3 Home brew amplifier chassis with UTC and Acrosound transformers- tubes- and meters (SEE: <http://www.netaxs.com/~am004d/equipment> for pictures), Amprobe RS3, AKG D109mic, EV 660A mic, Sony VP2011 3/4U matic-NR, Simpson 371 AC voltmeter, Simpson 260 manual, RCA T2K radios(2), 12" Jensen speaker from floor console radio-with field coil, Triplett frequency counter Model 7000 - Mike Muderick-610-449-6970, or [Mike@Muderick.com](mailto:Mike@Muderick.com)

**WANTED:** Gernsback's Official Radio Service Manuals: 5, 7, 8. **RCA Victor Service Data:** '47, '48, '49, '51. Mike Tannenbaum, 215 540-8055, [k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com) A.G. Tannenbaum, POB 386 Ambler PA 19002, Phone 215 540 8055 Fax 215 540 8327, Web URL [www.agtannenbaum.com](http://www.agtannenbaum.com), e-mail [k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com).

**FOR SALE:** Old radios and 78 RPM records from an estate. Includes **Zenith #5614**, **Silvertone** radio/disk recorder, and **RCA ACR-175** communications receiver. Contact: George Rottina, 17A Lumberjack Cir., Horsham, Pa. 19044. Phone: 215-675-9055.

**FOR SALE:: 7JP4 CRT**, good filament, screen looks OK, make offer. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, Phone 518-792-3130

**HELP:** Would the person who sold Marc Ellis the Philco 70 cabinet please contact him at PO Box 1306, Evanston, Ill 600204-1306; [ellis@interaccess.com](mailto:ellis@interaccess.com); 847-869-5016.

**HELP WANTED:** Need someone to repair a Philco 4654 Predicta TV. Ray Casper (609) 695-8312

**WANTED:** Emerson AU-190 chassis; FADA 659 dial glass; Chelsea ZR-4 audio transformer; Sentinel 400 Television; Plastic CRT cover (front) for 17" Philco Predicta; Pilot TV-37 tuning knob (wood). Frank Johnson, 530 Elford Rd., Fairless Hills, PA 19030-3624 (215) 943-8295

**FOR SALE:** Parted out Stromberg Carlson model 19-20 AC. Power transformer appears O.K. IF's are O.K. Electrodynamic speaker is electrically O.K., needs cone repair. Make offer. Alton Dubois, Jr., 67 Peggy Ann Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, Phone 518-792-3130

**WANTED:** Sales literature, service manuals, and equipment for theatre sound / broadcast use by RCA Photophone, Century Sound, Motiograph, Altec, Western Electric, etc. Theatre catalogs by Jay Emmanuel Publications, Philadelphia. Scott Stillwell, 2328 Cambridge Circle, Hatfield, PA 19440 (215) 393-1833 pager: (800) 717-9306