



The Oscillator

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



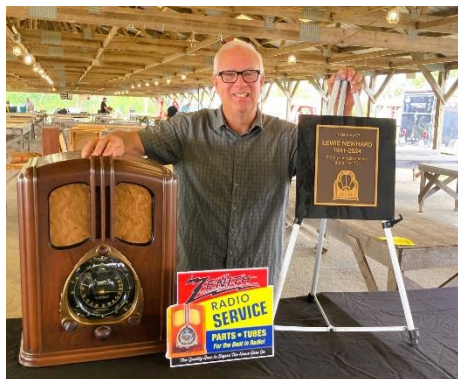
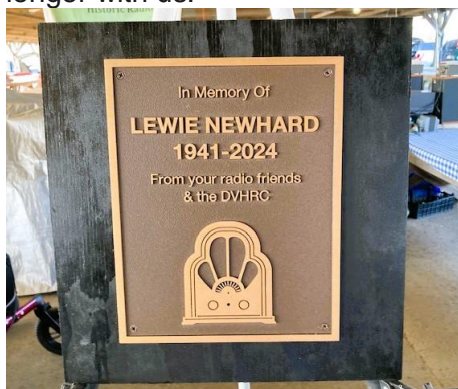
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

FALL 2024

Kutztown L Review



The September Kutztown Radio show #50 was held September 20th and 21st. It was an event celebrating our long partnership with our greater antique radio and vintage electronics community and a fitting tribute to members no longer with us.



The Walton Zenith was our grandest radio ever raffled and drew much attention; the DVHRC thanks you for your support! The lucky winner was Bob Kushnerick of Douglasville, PA. Friday Night's auction included over 500 lots, with many items from Lewie Newhard's fine collection.



BELOW: You may view more coverage of K-50 via John Hagman's photo essay on the DVHRC website on the first link. Radio Wild's coverage is second link; check his recent releases too! One more walk-around video is included as well.

<https://john-h.smugmug.com/The-50th-Show-Kutztown-Fall-2024/n-dqFkXS>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HjEckOzsng>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT3ackqfg58>



We also learned of the schedule changes for future Kutztown events just prior to Kutztown 50. The change was basically a business decision of the Renninger family as the cost of insurance and help on Thursday had made the business model a break-even proposition. We listened to many comments regarding removing Thursday in September and we truly had some of the same concerns. However, we cannot force the hand of our host and spoke of making the best of the new format at our recent meeting. Beginning in May for Kutztown 51, there will be dealer setup beginning at 8 am on Friday with the meet opening at 10. Renninger's events are mainly Friday-Saturday, with Saturday's being their key day. So the opportunity will exist to make Saturday vibrant again and possibly attracting younger folks who have shown up Saturdays to find everyone packing. Changes are never easy and we are sensitive to your concerns but trust we'll figure it out. We at DVHRC are concerned with working with our host to ensure there will be a Kutztown 70 and 90! So we are very appreciative and thank you in advance for your patience in working through and adapting to these changes!

Delaware Valley Historic Radio
Club
PO Box 5053



New Britain, PA 18901
www.dvhrc.com

The Oscillator is the quarterly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club.

Articles on radio and television history or collecting can be submitted by the 25th of month prior to quarterly issue dates of April, July, October and January to the editor at gdottor@yahoo.com.

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. Meetings held 2nd Tuesday of each month at Telford Community Center.

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2024 Monthly Themes

Here are the remaining themes for our Telford meetings. Access to these can also be found on our web page- **Events tab**. If you would like to make a presentation, please let us know as images or associated documents from your flash drives can be projected on our big screen! The club would love to hear about your adventures in the vintage radio hobby.

Nov 12- Setchell-Carlson Radios.

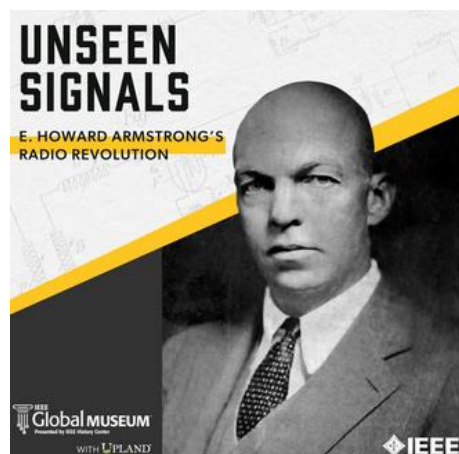
Dec 10- Christmas Party at **NEW VENUE!** This time, we'll be at the **Copperhead Grille in Center Valley** just north of Coopersburg, PA. The official address is 5737 Route 378, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

Upcoming Regional Events

Following are some excellent programs and a reason to have multiple club memberships in our region's clubs! Paste links into your browser to load. Also view regional hamfest events via:

https://www.arri.org/hamfests/search/page:1/Location.division_id:AT/model:Event

National Museum of Industrial History, Bethlehem, Pa. "Unseen Signals" Traveling Exhibit, November 2, 2024 through April 30, 2025.



The Unseen Signals traveling exhibit celebrates the life of the unsung genius and IEEE Medal of Honor winner E. Howard Armstrong by highlighting his technological innovations, patriotism, and the continuing relevance of his achievements. It delves into Armstrong's intellectual and professional journey against a backdrop of progress in wireless communication. Beginning with an exploration of the humble origins of the radio era during the early 20th century, we invite visitors to immerse themselves in Armstrong's university years, his military service during the First World War, his alliance with the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), and the rise of the radio broadcasting industry. There is a lot more to see there as well! Where: 602 E. Second St., Beth., PA 18015. 610.694.6644. See link for more:

<https://www.nmih.org>

JD's Antique & Vintage Radio Electronics Auction Saturday, **November 9, 2024 Begins 9 am, Auction starts 10.** This one will be at **Renninger's, 740 Noble Street, Kutztown, PA 19530 in the White Room.** Antique Electronics, Cameras, Fans & Fountain pens will be auctioned. Many lots, pix & details may be viewed here for this event.

<https://www.gotoauction.com/sales/view/1655674.html#gal>

More events include one **back in New Jersey at Jackson Mills Vol Fire Company on Jan 4, 2024** Banquet Hall 465 N County line Rd Jackson NJ 08527. **Over 200 lots for Jan. event. One more will be held January 18th JD'S first winter record Show / Swapmeet at Kutztown beginning 9am.** Search future JD auctions periodically. <https://jdauctionsny.com/>

NJARC Fall Hamfest/Swapmeet Saturday, November 16, 2024 **8:00am-12:00pm.** Where: Parsippany PAL, 33 Baldwin Rd, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Vendor setup at 7:15am. \$7 admission and \$35

non-member table fee. Email NJARC President Richard Lee to reserve a spot. For details, see last page (11) of recent "Broadcaster" newsletter: <http://www.njarc.org/broadcaster/BC202410.pdf>

Kutztown LI (51) Friday, May 9, through Saturday, May 10, 2025. Sellers do not come on Thursday. Vendor setup starts 8AM Friday. Hours: Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-3. Auction is Friday, 5.9.25 @ 5:30 in white room, Preview at 4:30.

Where: Renninger's Farmer's Market, 740 Noble St., Kutztown, PA 19530. **MORE IN WINTER NEWSLETTER AND RELATED COVER STORY ON PAGE 1, THIS EDITION.**

National Radio Institute 1948/1949 7RK-AC Radio

by: **Dean C. Reonieri, Sr.**

Assembled with Skill and Pride: The story of a 1948/1949 National Radio Institute Kit Radio

While browsing in the aisles of a local Adamstown, PA antique mall, a unique radio in a seemingly homemade case, tucked in a corner, caught my eye. Upon closer inspection, the tuning scale displayed: National Radio Institute (NRI). As a former student of the NRI, completing a course on Computer Electronics in the late 1970's, this experience sparked a lifelong passion for distance learning. An NRI radio... that's all it took for this radio to "follow me home." However, I had no idea of the year and the model – I was thinking 1950's. The quest was on...



THE STUDENT: Upon inspecting the underside of the radio chassis, the student who assembled this radio inscribed: "MADE BY E. SEMOK FEBRUARY 24, 1951". And the speaker opening had a stylized "N" to signify National Radio Institute. Mr. Semok certainly was proud of this radio, and even went beyond the information given in the assembly guide as he added two switches between the volume and tuning knobs for tone control and phono/radio switch.



NATIONAL RADIO INSTITUTE: Started as a classroom-based Washington, DC, National Radio School in 1914, by James Ernest Smith (1881–1973) and Emanuel R. Haas (1891–1947), it evolved into the National Radio Institute focused on home study courses (Wikipedia). Students of the NRI, had some noteworthy graduates, including none other than television pioneer Philo T. Farnsworth. Mr. Farnsworth earned "Junior Radio-Trician in 1924 and his Certified Radio-Trician in 1925 from the National

Radio Institute."

<http://www.byhigh.org/History/Farnsworth/PhiloT1924.html>

Moving forward to the post WWII era, the NRI capitalized on providing career education for returning veterans, touting "Veterans: Get this Training under G.I. Bill Mail Coupon Now" (NRI Ad).

Given the course date of 1948 and assembly completion date of February 24, 1951, there's a strong possibility that student Mr. E. Semok was a WWII veteran, especially since NRI had ads in the various post WWII do-it-yourself and electronics hobby magazines.

THE RADIO: I still was trying to find the course and date of this 5 Octal Tube Superheterodyne radio. RadioMuseum.org did show a *similar* radio with a wooden case from the 1950's, but it had 6 tubes: 1 Octal and 5 Miniatures.

https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/nri_correspondence_course_studytest_radio_assembly_or_kit.html

This radio had to be older... With a good amount of detective work, I was able to find the 1948/1949 NRI Course Instructions for this radio kit 7RK-AC, thanks to <https://steampoweredradio.com/>

The confirming piece of the puzzle was the same radio chassis shown below in an NRI ad. But where's the case? Apparently, the wooden case was an option for \$4.95, and furnished in a knocked-down form for inexpensive shipping.



The course lesson material revealed the student was required to assemble 3 "building block" kits and perform 60 prior experiments before assembling the radio. What's unique to the NRI radio kit, is many components from the 3 prior kits, and had to be "harvested" for use in the radio! I estimate that it took about 2 years of lessons before the student could begin assembling the radio.

But Wait... There's More! Once the radio is assembled, it is checked against NRI's Go-NoGo parameters for resistance and voltage at specific test points, and then aligned (preferably with a signal generator), With a working radio, the requirement is to perform Experiments #61 to #70, all which involve introducing specific faults into the radio, with the focus on identifying symptoms of each fault. Upon the completion of these experiments, the student is required to complete "Report Statement 70," and submit this document to NRI for a final grade.

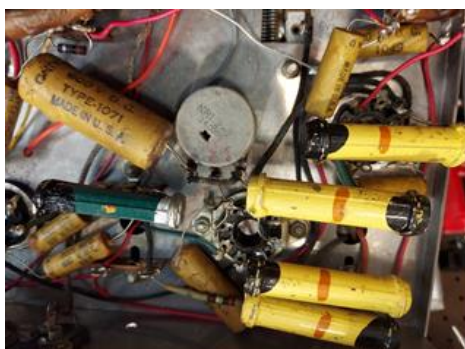
TUBE LINE-UP:

Function	Tube
Octal Rectifier	5Y3GT
Octal Local <u>Osc.</u> /Mixer-First Detector	6A8GT
Octal IF Amplifier	6SK7GT
Octal Audio Amplifier	6F8G
Octal Pentode Audio Output	6K6GT

RESTORATION: With the lesson material in-hand, I was able to begin restoring the radio. Since the student went beyond the lesson material given, by adding a tone control and phono input jack, I made the decision to remove the tone control along with a plethora of associated wax capacitors.



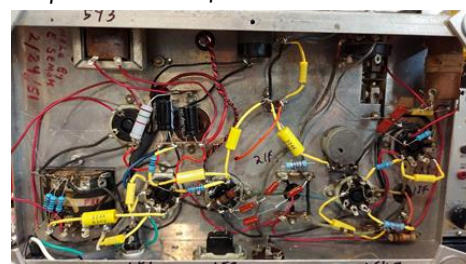
Above and Below: Dean shows "before" view of left and right side of inside chassis components placed by the original builder, Mr. Semok.



I then went step-by-step, as if I were assembling the radio as a student, confirming each connection and replacing all capacitors and out-of-tolerance resistors. I also added a 1 Amp fuse for safety, as well as a new 3-wire grounded power cord.

The wooden case required fine sanding, an application of a red chestnut stain, and 3 coats of polyurethane sealer. A new speaker cloth was installed.

Below: Dean has replaced all suspect components in this "after" shot



Oh No! A final continuity checklist from the workbook revealed an open winding in the power transformer -- a show-stopper for sure, as that transformer is *unobtainium*. After a close examination with a magnifying glass, I found a broken whisker-thin wire from the transformer core to the transformer's terminal lug. A quick application of solder solved the problem.

All is Good! After bringing up the power with a Variac and keeping an eye on the current draw, I was amazed that the radio was operational, and receiving a local station. Performing a check with a frequency generator confirmed that the radio's alignment was right on track with the dial scale. I performed the alignment per NRI's instructions.



FINAL THOUGHTS:

After restoring the NRI 7RK-AC radio, it performed reasonably well considering it was essentially a hands-on learning platform, built from the parts of 3 prior kits.



Hopefully, this story gives honor to Mr. E. Semok, the student who assembled the radio. After reviewing the original construction, Mr. Semok possessed excellent soldering and assembly skills. Assembling the radio, the 3 prior kits, and performing all of the experiments was quite an accomplishment. I can only hope that in some way completing this course provided Mr. Semok with practical and theoretical knowledge that he put to good use in whatever vocation he pursued.



Meeting of June 11, 2024

this summer meeting included a showing of our members' displays via projected images. Since there are numerous pictures, this story can be spread over future editions. The editor may contact those exhibiting that night since he was not in attendance. We'll begin with two members' displays for this fall 2024 edition.

Below: Donna Acerra uses smaller shelves within this space showing distinctive designs and colors for multiple focal points within the same area, fitting into a family space, occasionally regrouped or replaced by units in storage.



Below: Mark Hilliard has wrap-around shelving raised above window level in his family room utilizing that space for an eye catching purpose. Many of these sets have a story behind them including admired radios, gifted ones and ones from his dad who operated Penn Allen Radio of Allentown for many years.



Above: Mark also employs shelving units for historic radio displays showing horns and an AK breadboard on top, also sharing shelf areas for family books and pictures. **Below:** It is a good idea to allow other family members to share in the display scheme and blend in a radio or two!



On this night, we also had displays from Dave Snellman, Jarret Brown, Mike Koste, Bob Seiwel and Al Simmons.



Meeting of July 9, 2024

This mid-summer meeting was designated to show various higher end audio equipment we have collected. It can be said that high end tube and performance built solid state audio equipment are highly sought items as witnessed by recent offerings at Kutztown events and especially at vintage electronic auctions. Brands like Fisher, McIntosh, Marantz and many others can command high values these days.

Below: Dan Schwartzman shows several high fidelity table receivers including a KLH 21 from 1970 with add on speaker, a Fisher 100 from 1968, and Magnavox FM 16-1 AM/FM, 1956.



The original KLH Model Twenty One (21) FM only radio with walnut cabinet and beige knobs and grille is legendary among collectors. Designed by Henry Kloss, it creates wonderful sound for a small table radio. Dan's model is an AM-FM model with 10 transistors. Later versions of the

21 include a 21-2 with black knobs and grille.

https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/klh_model_twenty_one_am_fm.htm

<https://antiqueradio.org/KLHModelTwentyOne21FMRadio.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pVpLFntppc>



https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/magnavox_fm_16_school_radio.html

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFBPuvr4jDc&t=134s>

Above and Below: Dan's Magnavox 16-1, made in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is clean with the oft-missing Magnavox crest. This new logo was introduced in 1954 which traced the history of the company. The original prototype below shows: the oscilloscope wave across the top, the masks of comedy and tragedy recognizing the history of radio-theater, the harp for music, the original trademark Lion, and the electronics symbol with the first loudspeaker. The very top of the shield has four parapets recognizing the home of Magnavox; Fort Wayne, Ind. The parapets were subsequently put on the fronts of all Magnavox buildings. Magnavox also had facilities in Greeneville, TN producing televisions, Hi Fi consoles, and even their first solid state radios. A great website is maintained by those who had worked there.

<https://magnavoxhistory.com>



Above and Below: The Fisher 100 FM only radio with five presets shown in ad from Nov. 1967 appearing in High Fidelity Magazine.



The Fisher 100, FM Radio

The Fisher 100 is an FM table radio. But it doesn't sound or perform like a table radio. The 5 1/4-inch speaker, completely sealed in its own box, has a mammoth, 2-lb. magnet. The tuner section has 2.5 μ v sensitivity. And hum and noise are 90 db down. The 100 has five tuning dials, each with a corresponding pushbutton below it. You can pretune your favorite stations and hear them just by pressing the appropriate button. \$99.95.

Mark Thierbach showed us his ADC Accutrac 400 turntable he purchased at an auction. This turntable allows you select tracks in any order including repeats via an IC controlled infrared sensor. Mark's cartridge and stylus are in good condition, which is key since they are specially designed to allow track divider sensing.



Produced by British BSR for US ADC, Heathkit even sold a partially assembled/kit version for \$380 in 1975 where the ADC sold for \$500. These turntables are highly collectible in the high fidelity community when working. The

Accutrac features a direct drive motor, remote control and remote receiver link. Many are available for sale but most are in need of repair. Following are a few useful links to show features, operation and repair of these units.

Overall Review of Product:

http://www.thevintageknob.org/adc-Accutrac_4000.html

Demos of Operation, second one with remote control:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxcLgLVN7EI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlIlloQuCARw>

Opening up and repair sequence:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6ZxXAUeb4I>

A Radio Shop That Will Not Close

The Kutztown Radio shop is under new management. In 1992 Lewie Newhard opened Kutztown Radio inside Renninger's Antique and Farmer's Market located in Kutztown, PA. For many years Kutztown Radio has been one of the very few places in the country that offered quality radio sales and service. The shop has also served as a place for those in the antique radio community to gather and share expertise and camaraderie with one another. Through that camaraderie came the idea for the Kutztown Radio Show that we have all grown to love.

Lewie leaves a big hole in the antique radio community and will be greatly missed. But does this mean the end of Kutztown Radio? Absolutely not! JD Auction Services (Darren Hoffman and I) have decided that the Kutztown

Radio shop is a good fit for our business and we made arrangements to acquire it.

Darren and I look forward to continuing the Kutztown Radio tradition of quality radio sales & service. We also look forward to offering a fresh inventory of restored radios, record players, TVs, HiFi gear and a wide variety of parts. Most radio shops have closed within the last few decades, but we look forward to continuing to run the Kutztown Radio shop for many years to come!

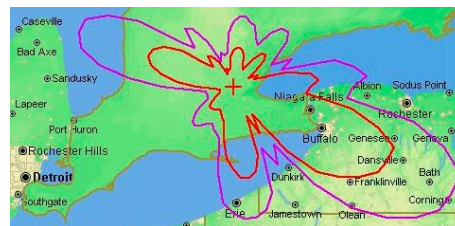
Regards John T.

NorthEast Radio Watch 8/19/2024: CHML's Abrupt End

By **SCOTT FYBUSH** It came out of nowhere on a Wednesday morning last August: after 97 years as the solid, dependable voice of news and information in Hamilton, one of CANADA's oldest radio stations abruptly shut down just after the 11 AM news, leaving its own staff just as shocked as its listeners. *See Scott's story below- this editor will miss the nighttime presence on 900 kHz from the former 50 KW nighttime signal.*

<https://www.fybush.com/nerw-20240819/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/900-chml-global-news-radio-closing-hamilton-1.7294411>



Note also that Scott Fybush sells calendars of radio station antenna arrays and the 2025 edition is nearing completion. Check it out...

<https://www.fybush.com/shop/>

SPERDVAC is time well spent- so what's it all about?



Society to
Preserve
Encourage
Radio
Drama
Variety
And
Comedy

By becoming a SPERDVAC member, you will belong to one of the longest-operating premier audio preservation societies in the world. In addition to preserving our audio heritage, you will be furthering the Audio Arts with the creation of new productions. Every member receives SPERDVAC's publication RADIOGRAM 6 times a year, offering insightful articles and news pertaining to Classic Radio programs, New Audio Theater, Star Profiles, fascinating interviews, book reviews, and much, much more. And all for as little as \$20/ year!

<https://www.sperdvac.com>



OK, so we're well into November but my neighbors can't seem to get enough of Halloween. In my humble opinion, I'd suggest adding a burning radio to their display! Your wireless editor,



Eddie



This is Gary Owens- your proud paid political pundit saying I will sure miss all these great campaign ads! We've really raked it in this year but now it's back to the greatest hits of all time!