



# The Oscillator

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



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

FALL 2025

## Kutztown LII Review



The September Kutztown Radio show #52 was held September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The weather was beautiful throughout this late summer event and sales of the Buy-Now-Table set a record along with 320 lots sold at the Friday night auction. Our post mortem of KTZ-52 at our recent meeting acknowledged success but with some needed improvements. Those include the outdoor lighting at the pavilion Friday night, improvement on food and drink availability there and anything that would increase the social aspect of the community. We discussed filling in the food deficit Friday PM by providing some of our own. While there never will be perfection, we'll always strive for it as our club seriously plans for the best possible event. We thank those who volunteered at the club table and can always use a few more hands! We need to continue to explore ways to make Saturdays as vital as possible.



**BELOW:** You may view more coverage of K-52 via John Hagman's photo essay on the DVHRC website on the first link. RadioWild's coverage is second link; check his recent releases too!

<https://john-h.smugmug.com/Kutztown-53-Vintage-Electronics-Spectacular>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTz3vuRxWb8>



Greg Dottor was the very lucky raffle radio winner- this time a transmitter and not a receiver in the form of a Ramsey model FM 100B FM. Greg has promised to have the transmitter available for backup service if needed at future Kutztown events.

## In Loving Memory of Jan Grave

Many friends of Jan celebrated her life outdoors at Nockamixon State Park on the cloudless, crisp autumn day of November 2, 2025. Many stories were shared of the inseparable Jan and Pete who complimented each other throughout a life of adventures (sometimes crazy) and Jan's love and caring of friends, animals and all of you!



Jan was the "human counterpoise" to Pete's chaos. Extremely intelligent, holding several higher education degrees, she was said to have taken tests in behalf of Pete to insure his graduation! Her caring guidance of others led them to their salvation and success.



Delaware Valley Historic Radio  
Club  
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New Britain, PA 18901  
[www.dvhrc.com](http://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 25<sup>th</sup> of month prior to quarterly issue dates of April, July, October and January to the editor at [gdottor@yahoo.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Telford Community Center.

**DVHRC Board of Directors**

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She was an accomplished dog rescuer and trainer, saving so many over the years. She would insist on the SPCA releasing many canine which she would train, many at a time, at her residence at the "yard". Dogs she had trained and their owners expressed their gratitude.



We also learned of Jan's need for speed while driving many hot cars. The story of her college professor who needed to get somewhere in 15 minutes was accomplished via her Corvette back then and the Prof left "permanent impressions" on the upholstery that day! She later updated her ride.



Many folks on this morning expressed their sadness for how much both Jan and Pete will be missed while their influence and memories will carry on forever.



## 2025 Remaining Events

**Dec 09-** Christmas Party at **Copperhead Grille in Center Valley** just north of Coopersburg, PA. The official address is 5737 Route 378, Bethlehem, PA 18015. Cocktails 6PM, Dinner at 7.

## Links for Upcoming Events

It is our hope that you are able to load links (in blue) on your device directly from this format; also, much richness is provided by links within the stories that follow!

### **NJARC Fall Swap Meet and Ham Fest**

**Sat., November 22, 2025 8 am to 12 pm.** Vendors 7:15am. Parsippany PAL Bldg., 33 Baldwin Rd, Pspny NJ 07054.

Also, see website for 2026 NJARC BCB DX Contest – usually begins 3<sup>rd</sup> week in Jan.

<https://njarc.org/>

KUTZTOWN RADIO PRESENTS  
**HOLIDAY-  
RECORD  
SHOW**

2025

NOVEMBER 29  
2025 9 AM TO  
3 PM

TABLES  
\$25  
EACH

AT  
RENNINGERS  
IN THE WHITE  
ROOM

RECORDS, 33S, 45S, 78S, CDS, TAPES,  
8 TRACKS, TURNTABLES, VINTAGE AUDIO  
GEAR, VINTAGE ROCK POSTERS T-SHIRTS  
AND OTHER ASSOCIATED MUSIC  
MEMORABILIA  
VENDORS CALL 609-947-9071

740 NOBLE ST  
KUTZTOWN PA, 19630  
[KUTZTOWNRADIO.COM](http://KUTZTOWNRADIO.COM)

**Regional Hamfests** Insert search ranges:

<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

**Kutztown Antique Radio and Vintage Electronics Show LIII (53)** Friday, May 8 through Saturday afternoon, May 9, 2026. Sellers do not come on Thursday. Vendor setup starts 8 am Friday. Hours: Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 7 am-3. **Auction is Friday, @ 5:30 in White room, Preview at 4:30.** Where: Renninger's Farmer's Market, 740 Noble St., Kutztown, PA 19530. Antique radios, parts, and related items. Audio and Ham welcome. Tables, electric available. Dealer spaces 10' x 10' incl. table \$55, extra tables \$10. **Exhibitor reservation advised: Phone M-Th 570.385.0104; F-S 610.683.6848.** See links at:

<https://www.dvhrc.com/>

**Kutztown FAQ listing**

[https://www.dvhrc.com/Kutztown\\_101.pdf](https://www.dvhrc.com/Kutztown_101.pdf)

## Meeting of July 8, 2025

This summer meeting was a general show and tell format.



**Above & Below:** Keith Seiwel acquired a 1958 French Oceanic model Surcouf made in Paris where Keith had served in the military. It sports a very colorful mid- century Euro style and receives LW, BC, and two SW bands with RF stage. This model was named after Robert Surcouf, a French naval officer and privateer with a colorful past.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Surcouf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Surcouf)



Most Oceanics of the 50's era were named after naval vessels.

[https://www.radiomuseum.org/m/oceanic\\_f\\_en/\\_year.html](https://www.radiomuseum.org/m/oceanic_f_en/_year.html)



**Above and Below:** Bob Seiwel shows his Philco PT89 from 1940 (batteries only) which included antenna built into leather carrying strap. Strap repair was made by a crafter from Bethlehem, PA. Plastics of this era can smell bad when heated!



**Below:** Mark Thierbach displayed a Precise model III tube tester. Precise is not to be confused with Precision tube testers (Oceanside vs

Elmhurst, NY). Precise were branded as below unless in kit form sold at Radio Shack w/ Realistic branding. Production was 1954 into the 60's



The Realistic kit version was much cheaper at \$79 versus the assembled model. It uses both a 5U4 and 6X4 rectifiers. Here is a restoration video for the Precise III:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4nSOxsCaV0>

**Below:** Dave Snellman shows a NIB 1963 Philco Madison portable- nice! Dave's Madison included an FM band in addition to MW and LW. This set was made in France by Philco Société de Radio.



**Below:** There is also a MW/LW only version with only 6 transistors (see link below) which had fewer components than Dave's version below.

[https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/philcofran\\_madison.html](https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/philcofran_madison.html)



**Below:** Dave also showed another early 60's set, a complete Onkyo TR-710 7 transistor model with original box, case, and earphone.

[https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/onkyo\\_7\\_transistor\\_tr\\_710.html](https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/onkyo_7_transistor_tr_710.html)



**Below:** Ernest Allen shows what seems to be early amateur radio equipment, both labeled "KRS Radio" with terminals for "FIL" filament and KEY, and terminals on back right corner of a transmitter. Under that is a unit having a phone jack, possibly for a receiver. We did not have information regarding the KRS branded sets but this AWA video demonstrates a similar transmitter of late 1920's, a Hull Hartley design.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cox7-0nz7fy>



## WLRN Victim Of Snow Hoax

A statement over WLRN at 10:55 last night, announcing the cancellation of today's classes, almost set the campus agog.

Following a deluge of telephone calls from students wondering about the meeting of Friday classes, including one which told of a report of their cancellation via a local radio station, the announcers began calling university officials to verify the story.

Mrs. Leith told the radio crew the dean of students was "sleeping" Associate Dean Preston Parr told WLRN the official announcement would have to come from the provost.

Seconds later, another call came in. Within another minute, an excited announcer broke into a chamber concert broadcast and gave the bulletin, supposedly from Provost Harvey A. Neville.

However, a call to Dr. Neville showed that WLRN had been taken. At intervals throughout the night correcting announcements were made.

**Above:** Courtesy of Lehigh University archives, this story from the Brown & White campus newspaper describes a snow hoax of March 4, 1960 inadvertently broadcast on the university carrier current station WLRN on 640 AM. Rest assured- DVHRC will never fall for such misinformation but when winter weather is forecast check our website and Facebook by 4 PM the day of the meeting for any cancellation and possible Zoom meeting in its stead. In that case our distant members are able to join in which is great!

## Meeting of October 14, 2025

This night included a presentation from Jarret Brown on the history Setchell Carlson of St Paul, Minn.



Bart Setchell formed the company in 1928 and was the driving force from the beginning with Carlson later serving in a supporting role. The company was first formed as the Karadio Corporation.

- Credited with being the "first" to use vibrators in auto/aircraft radios
- Eliminated bulky B&C Batteries
- Did not get a patent



It is curious that Bart did not file a patent at the time for this vibrator invention since by his death in the 1990's he had accumulated hundreds of patents making this a lost opportunity. Without the patent in place, Philco would later file a vibrator patent to Bart's dismay. There are two types of vibrators: synchronous and asynchronous, with Setchell's likely being the former.

- Claimed Philco took his idea & patented the vibrator



Possibly related when it comes to (motors), asynchronous motors operate on the principle of electromagnetic induction, while synchronous generators rely on a constant magnetic field to generate electricity. Below, the unrelated Mr. Carlson explains the 1950's version of vibrator supply.

<https://hackaday.com/2024/04/08/1950s-switching-power-supply-does-it-mechanically/>

While we are discussing the Carlson name (and also unrelated to the Stromberg partner from Rochester NY), Donald Carlson was made a partner in 1930 having served Bart within the

company and the Setchell Carlson Corporation was established. The 1930's saw expansion of electronic product lines including the first audio intercom system and ones we are most familiar with as collectors.

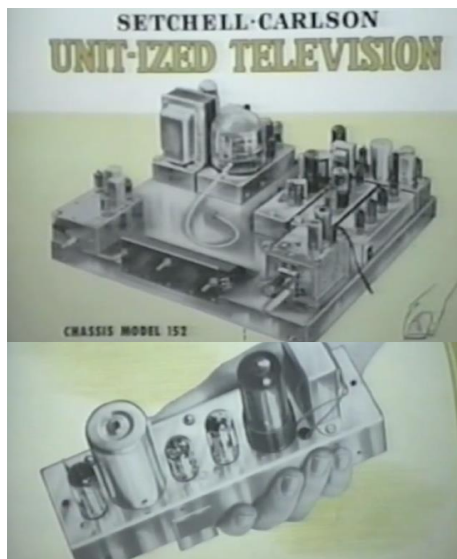
- In 1930, Employee Don Carlson joined to create "Setchell-Carlson Inc"
- Product line expanded in 1934 to include:
  - consumer radios
  - audio amplifiers
  - world's first intercom



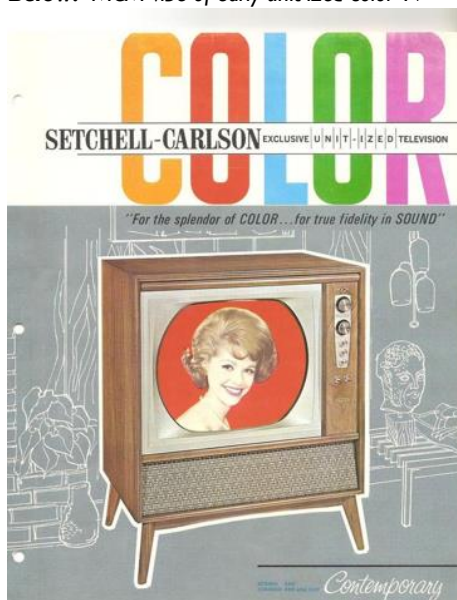
During WWII Setchell Carlson was a defense contractor producing military radios for aviation such as the BC-1206C, an aircraft range receiver, using a 5 tube superhet running on 28 volts for the purpose of receiving beacons.



In 1949 the company moved to New Brighton, Minnesota and started producing television sets in addition to radios. They pioneered "Unit-ized" TV design based on small modules which simplified manufacturing & servicing and became the standard by the 1970's into the years of color TV. In the 60's the company, now with 500 employees & 2 plants, created a high quality color television



**Above:** Early unit-ized model 152 is shown.  
**Below:** MCM vibe of early unit-ized color TV



By the 1970's S/C had pivoted from consumer to institutional electronics, crowded out by other national brands. They pioneered closed circuit TV, and became part of Audiotronics, Inc. Children of the 60's remember these record players and TVs from school days.



if you were in the 1970's, I bet this is Carlson, then a subsidiary with an address in Brighton, MN March 1972!

<https://onetuberadio.com/2014/12/15/minneapolis-school-a-v-equipment-of-the-1960s-and-1970s/>

## SETCHELL-CARLSON

- Never a big name nationally, strong regionally near Minnesota
- Setchell retired to West Palm Beach in 1966
- Was inducted to the Minnesota Broadcasting Hall of Fame
- Died in 1995 with over 100 patents



Donald Carlson later passed away in 2019, having played a significant role in the development of television technology, shaping the company's reputation for quality and innovation. The vintage radio community collects Setchell Carlson radio models with innovative designs; some remain highly collectible.



Model 407 (1939)

**Above:** Pre-war radios from S/C were more common with the usual wooden cabinets **Below:** The "frog-eye" models below, models 416 and 427 enduring designs- many are re-painted. Both feature a chassis mounted upside down.



Model 416- (1946)



Model 427- (1947)



Model "Jet" Model 58A-375- (1949)

**Above:** A highly collectible S/C model is known as the "Jet" sporting a large speaker and modern design during the same timeframe of the Philco "Boomerang". Such radical styles were short-lived making them rare. **Below:** The model 485 "Dor-A-Fone" was a radio/intercom combination enabling control between remote wired rooms.



Model 485 (1948) Dor-A-Fone



Model 570 —(1948)

**Above:** Model 570 had a cylindrical design, with dual speakers. Originally advertised as a "personalized" cylinder radio that "may be carried from room-to-room, set on a table, or hung from a bed. The end speaker may be removed to be placed under your pillow or beside your ear".

**Below:** Nowadays, cylindrical boom boxes, marketed as portable speakers feature blue tooth, subwoofers, dual- passive bass radiators, battery operation and more!

## 2025 BLUETOOTH



**Below:** Finally, here is a Satchell Carlson model C102 from 1958 with aluminum cabinet and inner chassis using the unit-ized concept. These were well designed, high quality sets made until the early 60's, many of which can be restored.



**Below:** Also this night, Dave Snellman showed a recent acquisition, a well preserved Regency TR-1



**Below:** Sometimes you find the coolest stuff at the Kutztown Buy It Now table- this one from the book, paper and literature section. Someone was dropping off various antique radio clubs' back (way back) issues and this editor working there found an old letter going back to Lud Sibley, then editor, who received this little tale from Alton DuBois, a frequent contributor to the Oscillator in 1997. Having looked at those issues (accessible through the DVHRC website), I could not find its inclusion in that time period March – June. It is a funny tale about the art of soldering. You may need to read on a PC or magnify on your device.

Dear Ludwell,

For THE OSCILLATOR

In the prehistoric age, before World War II, I was doing some solder work on parts of a radio. This was also the age of the "button up" pants fly. Soldering over portions of the body is dangerous. A drop of hot solder fell and hit a vital portion of my anatomy, instantly followed by the front board of the bench coming loose, caused by my vertical jump. This caused me thereafter to be more frugal with excessive solder on the iron.

Soldering is an art form that has been explored by many people who have found that minimum solder, properly applied, is as good as a huge gob of solder on a terminal. Some also explored the method of attaching a wire to a terminal before applying solder. They found that a small hook of wire is as good as wrapping it around and through the loop, which later is a pain to remove.

I once saw a television kit built by a kid who had big gobs of acid core solder hung all over the terminals; consequently, the TV set did not work.

Sincerely,

Alton A. DuBois, Jr.  
67 Peggy Ann Road  
Queensbury, N. Y. 12804  
March 11, 1997

*Alton A. DuBois*

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



Society to  
Preserve  
Encourage  
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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! Our fellow club member, Connie Campanella can provide more information.

<https://www.sperdvac.com>

## Road Trip to AWA Conference

Dave Snellman attended the AWA annual conference in October at Henrietta near Rochester, NY. The theme for the conference was television. Noah Hopkins did a presentation on early German television through WW2.



This included the use of TV projection transferring rapid film developed to TV in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, shown only in the athlete's lounge. Just as the Volkswagen or "peoples car" was developed, so had they developed a "peoples TV" which turned out to cost the same as the VW! In August 1939, Nazi Germany introduced the Einheits-Fernseh-Empfänger E1 (i.e. Unitary-TV-receiver E1), also called Volksfernseher (i.e. People's TV)

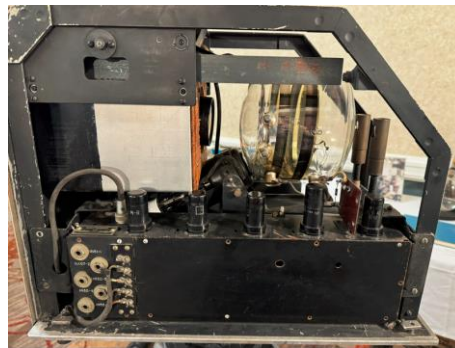


a 441-line, 25 interlaced frames per second television system. By 1939, only 1,000 TV sets were used by a few wealthy urbanites with most used in TV parlors. Thus the Nazi regime abandoned a plan to use TV for propaganda purposes using instead, radio.

There is always an equipment contest related to the television theme with the 1939 world fair era camera won best of show.



**Below:** Side view of the world's fair era camera



Other excellent presentations were made at AWA including one on Charles Proteus Steinmetz and one by Brian Harrison on the RCA AR series shortwave receiver.

The AWA museum in nearby Bloomfield, NY is one all of us should experience at some point and worth the conference trip alone. The AWA Communication Technology Museum is open

Tuesdays 10 AM to 3 PM and Saturdays 1 PM to 5 PM except when New Year's Eve and Day, Easter, Fourth of July and Christmas Eve and Day fall on a Tuesday or Saturday. The last guided tour begins one hour before closing. Until you get there, check out a 2022 video tour below. There have been changes and new displays including working ham stations since this video tour. The AWA offers many videos via their Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hu4x59-Tp-I>

Also, more recent changes to the AWA museum may be experienced by participating in the zoom meeting Dec 17, 2025 at 8 PM eastern time as part of the AWA Shares series. Please register in advance using the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/registration/H4lpZTRCGKYFRmyHyLQ#registration>

One of those new items was viewed by Dave- a rare 1930's Hallicrafters DD-1 dual diversity receiver and this and other recent additions will be explained during this AWA Shares Zoom. The receiver is two in one and selects the best signal of the two.



This is Gary Owens- saying personalities like me will never be replaced by A. I..... right?