



The Oscillator



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

The Official newsletter of the DVHRC

SPRING 2017

Meeting of February 14, 2017

On Valentine's night, we celebrated the DVHRC's 25th Anniversary with high attendance, good eats and goodwill towards members of the past and present. Stories of the club's history were told and Jarret Brown offered thanks to those founding and current members, especially presidents, board members, organizers, and program managers who make the club what it is today. Jarret also had a special surprise for us in the form a commemorative anniversary pin.



Many slices of pizza were consumed and there was a great feeling in the air about our club milestone with the hope of many years to come. This discussion of the future led to identifying our greatest challenge as attracting youth who have little knowledge about vintage electronics and the hollow state. We discussed the outreaches of the past such as the displays at local libraries and

historical societies and the feeling was strong that we should reenergize those efforts. Other clubs such as MAARC and NJARC have outreaches that include youth programs to build an electronics project or listen to DX signals. We all admitted our biggest outreaches are the Kutztown meets which students and other youth attend. Also mentioned was the potential for regional club alliances including ham radio clubs to promote Kutztown and other events.

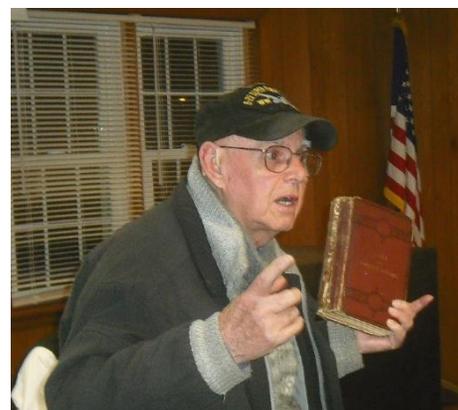


There is a lot to celebrate but also much work to do to remain a vital club for the next 25 years. Many thanks to Jarret and others for organizing this celebration.

Professor Ted Speaks

This follows up on a story in last issue about preserving the printed book volumes now being removed or scrapped from our local public libraries. It just turns out that Ted Sowirka was able to save such a book from his local library of

historical importance to our hobby which was a great biography about the life of Samuel Morse, published in 1875. The book was somewhat dried out from age so this volume had to be carefully handled to read.



Ted explained how Morse was the true Renaissance man- both an artist and curious about the scientific world. Morse began as a portrait painter having trained as such in many European countries and his great skill later as a painter exposed him to many influential subjects in the early 19th century. On the many trips taken to Europe via steamship, Morse became interested in scientific subjects such as magnetism and electricity and in 1832, specifically in the telegraph. Although his version of the telegraph was not the first, he managed to provide the first system using one wire producing a line on a ticker tape. The dips in the line had to be decoded into



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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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letters. Morse needed assistance to improve the design and was able to secure \$30,000 from the US government to continue development. Morse filed for a patent in 1844 and it was granted in 1849. Because of his invention, Western Union was founded in 1851 and the first successful transatlantic cable link was established in 1868. Even though he did not invent the telegraph, the popularity and use of his innovative design was the result of his vision and hard work.

Some Housekeeping Notes

Due to the winter storm-cancelled March 14th meeting, you may still owe annual dues of \$20. We are always looking for a good story to publish, especially projects and technical fare which are harder to come by. You may forward them to gdottor@yahoo.com.

2017 DVHRC Meeting Themes

May 9- Kutztown XXXVI Planning

Jun 13- Crystal Radios

Jul 11- Tailgate Auction

Aug 8- Car Radios and associated service equipment, etc.

Sep 12- Kutztown XXXVII Planning, Art Deco Radios

Oct 10- High-End Radios

Nov 14- Decade- 1950's Radios

Dec 12- X-mas Party

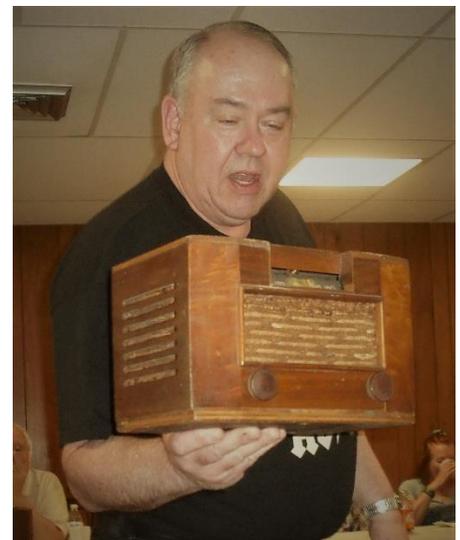
Meeting of April 11, 2017

Pent-up demand was unleashed for show and tell on the subjects of

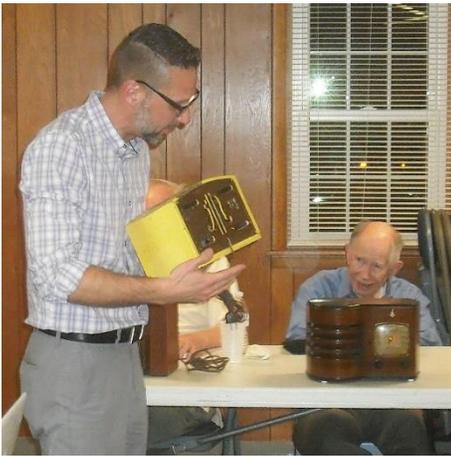
ugly radios and rare radios. We are happy to report that some of the following ugly radios were fostered out to club members as beauty is in the eye of the beholder (or restorer).



Above: Pete Grave is not enthusiastic about the camouflage treatment of this Philco 49-904. A foster parent was found and maybe they will restore to original.



Above: Bob Bennett shows an unknown model with broken dial, collapsing cabinet and shrunken antenna which found a good home as well.



Above: Jarret Brown says the back of this radio is more appealing than the front as currently painted but can anybody recommend a good stripper to remove this yellow paint? Several options of slow acting but powerful stripping agents were recommended to restore this Philco Transitone PT-44 shown below in its original walnut.



Above: Greg Dottor wonders if better to restore correct color over the clandestine repaint of a Minerva Tropic Master case. Maybe this unit was owned by a perturbed Army serviceman as even the normally unpainted handle has been painted khaki on this normally gray outer case and the painted front cursive lettered logo is gone.

Several rare radios were displayed by their proud owners at the April meeting.



Above: Dave Dean showed off rare Climax mini-console 2-band TRF set, also sold as a Detrola, perhaps built in Chicago's famous plant A.



Above: Tom Spiegle exhibits a Simplex Tranistone UA-52P with outstanding dial art made with Philco chassis and Simplex cabinet as assembled in Ohio. Pre-Philco Transistones, as shown here, exhibited great deco styling in the late 30's with some amazing color combinations on plastic versions.



Above: Wilbur Gilroy brought several Catlin beauties; shown here is the DeWald model 501

aka the Harp Radio.



Above: Dave Snellman shows rare Sony Airband and HiScan units. Latter has a complex active antenna frequency convertor module enabling reception of higher VHF frequencies.



What's in your collection?

By Bob Bennett

I should begin by sharing with all of you what inspired me to begin filling my home with old radios. As with some of you, I was born in the fifties and growing up listening to New York and Philadelphia stations on my "Viscount" six transistor radio. As a six year old, I could not believe what I could hear about everything going on around me. News, sports, and great music! Just hope the battery holds up!

Sundays were somewhat special. My family would go to church, then stop off at the bakery for bread and goodies, ultimately going to my Grandmother's house where my parents would play "pinochle" (remember that card game) with other family members. In that house, there was proudly displayed my late Uncles' Zenith H-500 Trans-Oceanic radio. He brought the radio home after serving with the Navy. I would sit in front of this radio and listen to the shortwave bands for hours. This opened up the "shortwave" world to me and it's spectrum of different stations including ham bands to which I never had heard before (AM phone, anyway). I found out that we were the "Voice of America" and I would see how many of those stations I could find (my early DX exploits). I just thought as a young lad that this was just so neat and that I could never forget that radio and that smell of the "black stag" covered wooden box!

Years have passed and growing up things change. I played around with old cars for a while (still do), and didn't really get back into the radio hobby until well into the 1990's. After purchasing my home, I had a space in my basement which became my repair bench for old radios. Although I never knew where that Trans-O went, that vision of my childhood was well etched in my mind and had never went away. Now I had the resources to find one, do any necessary work, and enjoy it again!

I realize by today's standards they are bulky somewhat heavy portables. There's no BFO for sideband or CW, and they are single conversion on all bands. They were special portable radios for their time. Zenith made their first T.O. just before WW2. By the early 50's, there were several manufacturers making these mostly with the same tube lineup (including the 1L6). They are not that difficult to get working either. Even in the worst case scenario, an IF with silver mica disease is not that hard to repair in these sets.

I have even made a battery pack to make these radios play outdoors. I took one to the "Outer Banks" of North Carolina on vacation. It got some beach folks attention when they heard music playing. The later tube versions also had a "phono" jack for your 45 player or MP3!

Good condition versions of this radio can still be had for less than 100 bucks (with a good 1L6 tube).

Try one on for size and you may be pleasantly surprised!

Since then, I once thought I'd get one of every model. I was about two thirds there when it hit me... "Where am I going to put them"? I kept the H-500, and a leather A-600.



Bob



Above: Sign of the times for Radio Shack Store at 1091 Millcreek Road, Allentown, PA address.

RadioShack Ch. 11 Again

No that's not channel 11 on your CB but rather a chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by RadioShack. Electronics retailer RadioShack has filed for its second bankruptcy in two years and will close 187

more stores this month, about 9% of its 1,943 locations. The chain, based in Fort Worth, Texas, previously filed for bankruptcy in 2015, resulting in about 2,400 store closings. Subsequently, General Wireless, a joint venture of hedge fund Standard General and Sprint, acquired it and has run 1,518 stores. The RadioShack stores that did not close March 13 will remain open and the company will continue evaluating options on them during the bankruptcy process. Also open: Radio Shack.com, which promoted a clearance sale on its home page. As recently as 2013, the company was the eighth-largest consumer electronics dealer. RadioShack started out selling radio supplies to officers on ships in 1921. According to a CBS News history of the store, it later expanded to stores and the mail-order business. It struck it big with two products: first CB radios, then the TRS-80, one of the first mass-produced personal computers. From there, CBS News reports, the company made a series of missteps. It slowed its sales of computers and it missed the digital revolution by first refusing to sell products online. In recent years, it tried to make itself cool, but instead it ended up with an odd array of products on its shelves that failed to draw customers in.

You may find a bargain or two but there will be no warranty on the item and no returns as well. Still, it is a bit sad to stroll through your local RS slated to close and view the limited remnants. However, if you know what you need, this may

be a good time to visit. I snatched up their True RMS 46 Multimeter without warranty at a reasonable price, still feeling a little sad. Ed.

Remembering Lafayette

In a related story, there is a nice piece *Sixty Years of Lafayette Radio* in which we quote the following about to the eventual demise of Lafayette: "The FCC-created "perfect storm" resulted in huge numbers of 23 channel sets being sold at well below cost combined with the reluctance of the public to buy the more-expensive-to-manufacture 40 channel sets. A number of CB manufacturers never recovered. Lafayette losses were reported to be in the millions. At the same time, a company called **Radio Shack** was expanding its network of local stores across the nation. Their electronic offerings were very similar to those of Lafayette. In comparison to a few hundred Lafayette company and associate stores, Radio Shack grew to over 7000 stores.

Please read the entire Lafayette story and an intriguing follow-up, both authored by Rich Post with many great pictures as well. You may need to paste into browser. http://www.ohio.edu/people/posr/bapix/LafArt_60_3.htm

http://www.ohio.edu/people/posr/bapix/Laf_spies.htm

The producer of this video pages through a 1969 Lafayette catalog. <http://player.mashpedia.com/player.php?ref=mashpedia&q=N6SMduVWhTjc>

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. Most of the following and even more can be viewed on the following website: [n2lvi delaware valley area hamfests](http://n2lvi.delawarevalleyarea.hamfests)

Auction- Embassy Auctions Vintage Electronics and Records Saturday, 04.26.17, 10am, Where: 5336 Mine Road, Kinzers, PA 17535, Contact 717.442.8529, website for details: <http://www.auctionzip.com/cgi-bin/auctionview.cgi?lid=2877590>

Auction- RF Hill Amateur Radio Club Thursday, 04.27.17, 7:30pm, doors open at 6:30. Where: new location is Encore Experiences Senior Center, 312 Alumni Ave. off route 63, Harleysville, PA. Look for the yellow ham fest signs. Contact Jim Soete, WA3YLQ at 215.723.7294. See website for details: <http://rfhillarc.org/events/>

NJARC Repair Clinic Saturday, 05.06.17, 10am to 4pm, Vintage radio repair workshop. Free repair evaluations by club experts. ***Reservations required.*** Where: InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum, 2201 Marconi Road, Wall Township NJ 07719. president@njarc.org <http://www.njarc.org/#calendar>.

Massive Radio Collection Auction Saturday & Sunday, 05.06,07.17, 10am, Massive, single owner collection of high quality radios, parts and tubes. Including: 4 Atwater Kent breadboards; 4 Early Federal Radios (41, 58, 59 & 110); Leutz Model "C" Super het circa 1924; Western Electric 7A Amplifier; 3 Crosley Pups; Zenith Trans-Oceanics; Gerbe's CR8, CR9 & CR12; Zenith Walton's 12-S-232; 3 Scott consoles; Zenith

consoles; 1000's of vacuum tubes (incl 50+ early Western Electric & a Deforest Audion); much more.

Where: 1500 Paxton Street, Harrisburg, PA. Auctioneer: Cordier Auctions & Appraisals, 717.731.8662. (continued next page)

Load link this for amazing pictures of massive item offerings!

<http://www.auctionzip.com/cgi-bin/auctionview.cgi?lid=2878130&kwd=radios&zip=19002&category=0>

Hamfest-Warminster Amateur Radio Club (WARC) including EPA Section Convention Sunday, 05.07.17, 7am, vendors setup 6am rain or shine.

Where: Bucks County Community College's Lower Bucks campus, on Rte. 413 in Bristol, PA. Please note that this is also an ARRL Convention meeting and there will be a guest speaker from ARRL headquarters and more. See website for details: <http://wp.k3dn.org/hamfest/>

KUTZTOWN RADIO SHOW Friday, 05.12.17 through Saturday, 05.13.17 opens 7am. Vendor setup starts 12 noon Thursday. Auction starts at 6:30 Friday. **No Early entry shoppers Thursday. Free parking and free admission for shoppers.** Where: Renningers Farmer's Market, 740 Noble St., Kutztown, PA 19530. Antique radios, parts, and related items. Audio and Ham welcome. Tables, electric available. Contact: Lewie at 610.262.3255 or email Lewallie@aol.com. **Exhibitor reservation advised: Phone M-Th 570.385.0104; F-S 610.683.6848.** See links at: www.dvhrc.org or [facebook.com/renningerskutztown](https://www.facebook.com/renningerskutztown)

RadioActivity 2017 MAARC

Thursday, 06.15.17 through Saturday, 06.17.17. *RadioActivity* will be held at the Sheraton College Park North Hotel in College Park, MD. The theme will be GENERAL ELECTRIC. Categories are:

1. GE radios pre-1936
2. GE radios post-1935
3. GE ephemera

The Sheraton College Park North Hotel (formerly the Sheraton Washington North Hotel) is located off of Exit 29B (Rt. 212) of I-95 between Washington and Baltimore, at 4095 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Maryland, 20705. The hotel is on the southwest corner of the interchange. See their website for details: <http://www.maarc.org/>.

NJARC Summer Tailgate Swapmeet

Saturday, 07.22.17, 8am to 12pm, Outdoor event in the shade of the trees at historic Camp Evans, InfoAge. Where: InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum, 2201 Marconi Road, Wall Township NJ 07719.

<http://www.njarc.org/#calendar>

Antique Radio Classified Back

You may view the February 2017 issue free: <http://antiqueradio.com/>. This issue highlights the recent John Terrey auction. The magazine has switched to electronic distribution and the good news is that they have lowered the subscription rate to \$30, have no printed page limits and color displays as well. There are also many new old stock radio books for sale as shown in the free volume and updated in each monthly issue.

Nightly Baseball Radio Revisited

Last spring, we mentioned these stations accessible for night time baseball. Turns out, half of these teams made it to the playoffs last year and both 2016 World Series teams are in this group. So pull up a cold beer and tune in your favorite team on your bandbox console while you work on your projects this year! Although many of the following have an FM sister with high fidelity audio, AM just sounds better for baseball.

kHz	station	team
660	WFAN	YANKEES
670	WGN	CUBS
700	WLW	REDS
710	WOR	METS
890	WLS	WHITE SOX
1080	WTIC	RED SOX
1100	WTAM	INDIANS
1120	KMOX	CARDINALS
1500	WFED	NATIONALS



Above: As proof of our oscillator slogan, "all the electrons that fit" here is another Wilbur Gilroy Catalin set, an Emerson 1947 model for your eye candy requirements.



This is Gary Owens saying see all of you next time around! DVHRC signing off.