



# The Oscillator



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

## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

### Kutztown 47 Coming Fast!

By the time this *late spring* edition is posted, we will be staring another K-town meet in the face beginning Friday May 12th. It's always a great time and this one will be no different. DVHRC has recently edited the Kutztown FAQ list where any questions, marketing tips, and historic information are addressed.

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

Renningers and DVHRC take our collective responsibility to organize and host this event very seriously so you may have the best experience. It will be good to see lifetime friends from all over our land once again.



**Above:** Raffle Radio for Kutztown 47 is an attractive Aircastle complete with tuning eye, thanks to restoration efforts of Tom Lager.

It may be hard to believe but on Saturday afternoon, May 13th, DVHRC volunteers and Renningers will be "breaking down the stage" after another successful event. This made me think of the

song by Jackson Browne, *The Load-Out*, here in the future tense, as an appreciation for those DVHRC members who worked on the planning and delivery of Kutztown. OK, we'll alter a few lyrics but the feeling is really one of gratitude to you, the fans!

*Now the seats (tables) are all empty*

*Let the roadies take the stage*

*Pack it up and tear it down*

*They're the first to come and the last to leave*

*Working for that ~~minimum wage~~ (feeling when they serve others)*

*They'll set it up again in ~~another town~~ (only in Kutztown)*

*Tonight (Thursday at noon) the people were so fine*

*They waited there in line*

*And when they got up on their feet they made the show*

*And that was sweet*

*But I can hear the sound of slamming doors and folding chairs*

*And that's a sound they'll never know (That's OK as we'll then wish all a safe journey home, hoping you sold or picked up some cool items and rekindled friendships)*

## LATE SPRING 2023

### 2023 Monthly Themes

Here are the remaining themes for our Telford meetings. Access to these can also be found on our web page [Events tab](#).

*Images or associated documents from your flash drives can be projected on our big screen in lieu of dragging your items to meetings and physical pictures can be projected and audio played.*

Meetings begin at 7:30 PM except August's Tailgate at Renningers.

[May](#) – No Monthly Meeting.

[May 12 & 13](#)– Kutztown XLVII Antique Radio & Vintage Audio Show.

[Jun 13](#)- Adding a Bluetooth.

[Jul 11](#)- All Transoceanics.

[Aug Sat. Date TBD](#)- Tailgate Swap Meet under the pavilion at Renningers, Kutztown **10AM**.

[Sep](#)- No Monthly Meeting.

[Sep 15 & 16](#)– Kutztown XLVIII Antique Radio & Vintage Audio Show.

[Oct 10](#)- The 1930's.

[Nov 14](#)- My Favorite Console(s). Due to size and our aching backs, please bring flash drive with image(s), picture(s), or email them to JB. May also bring paper media and technical data. These may be displayed via projector at meeting.

[Dec 12](#)- X-mas Party at Red Cedar Grille, Colmar.



Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club  
 PO Box 5053  
 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.

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## Meeting of February 14, 2023

The theme was *Red Radios*. On this Valentine's Day we were again seeing red with yet another original collection of sets.



**Above and Below:** Dave Snellman steps up to show several solid state examples including the 1956 Westinghouse H619P7 seven transistor model along with others. The 1963 rare red Realtone TR 970 is a 3-bander with a real tone control! Note on second photo that LW "Marine" band 13-40 KC is really a shortwave band! Red was a bold color statement in the 50's and 60's mid-century modern era. Some other models below include a Realtone TR-1088 and Regency XR-2A complete with earphone.



YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT IT! NOW HERE IT IS!  
 YOU'VE READ ABOUT IT! **NOW HERE IT IS!**

**FAMOUS Regency AMERICAN MADE ALL-TRANSISTOR RADIO**

*The Smallest Radio Yet! Smaller Than a Pack of Cigarettes!*

- Completely Self-Contained
- Completely Portable
- Requires No Ground or Antenna Wires

**AT AN AMAZING LOW PRICE only**

**NO MONEY DOWN \$100 WEEKLY \$14<sup>95</sup>**

Your Regency Model XR-2A transistor radio is a complete, self-powered receiver, providing excellent tone quality and speech clarity from its high quality earphone. Tiny, lightweight, it is more than conveniently self-contained, with no dangling ground or antenna wires—our dials need to be connected to radiators, switch plates or other metalwork, antennas in order to operate. As a result, your Regency Transistor XR-2A goes with you in pocket or purse almost unnoticed, yet plays instantly at the flick of a switch. Power for operating your Regency Model XR-2A is supplied by two small penlight cells available everywhere. Batteries last for months.

From Listening Picture at Home... at the Office... Outdoors

**Below:** Jiri Placek showed a more modern treatment of a clock radio, a 1974 Graetz Form 99 with a cool flip clock and quirky, design. This German set utilizes 9 transistors and 10 diodes, using 220 VAC to power up. Later in 1976, the clock was digitized, with 4 more transistors and one IC added to the circuit.



**Below:** Among several AA5s in red shown was this handsome 1950 Raytheon model CR-43 clock radio. With its understated, clean, modern, enduring design this is a radio we'd all like to wake up to!



## Meeting of March 14, 2023

The theme was *Have You Ever Seen This Before?* These would include unusual radio items or mysteries, possibly which may be explained by others. *If you have additional information, please provide to the editor!*

**Below:** Mark Hilliard, an avid collector of the Atwater Kent models manufactured in Philadelphia through the 30's accidentally came upon some much more recently produced radios sporting the AK nameplate on Ebay and Mercado Libre from Uruguay. Who manufactured them and why did they choose the Atwater Kent name?



**Next Column Below:** This MW / SW 2-bander set has English markings and the silver label that original AK's had. Prices were listed in Uruguayan Pesos which had a 2 ½ cent US\$ equivalency. Most of these sets were in rough condition. All had a wire connection with no loop antenna included running on the 220 VAC supply. Although

there was some manufacturing of radios in Montevideo, foreign and SA-Uruguay compilations are lacking inclusion of these later "AK" models. Such a mystery!  
[https://www.radiomuseum.org/l/m\\_uruguay.html](https://www.radiomuseum.org/l/m_uruguay.html)

<https://classicradiogallery.com/foreign.html>

It is interesting to note that Uruguay, better known for grass fed beef, has an interesting history of foreign influences including the British who built their original rail system.



**Below:** Offered on Mercado Libre is this handsome 2-band AK Windsor (English influenced?), including miniature tubes and wire antenna connection only. Offered at 1,000 (UYU) pesos, equivalent to \$25+ (USD); not bad but... shipping and bank conversion fees could become costly!



**Above and Below:** Jarret asks Terry, can you guess what's in this little box? It turns out to be an un-badged portable mechanical phonograph kit, with little cut out compartments cleverly designed to store the winding crank, platter assembly, needles, collapsible horn, tone arm and reproducer—all needed to take your music away from the house, requiring only the lacquered record media which certainly could outweigh the unit depending on number of selections you brought to the picnic.



**Below, Next Page:** Jarret winds it up and plays a song for us. There are two controls—one to engage the turntable and one to control the speed via a rubber resistance brake. Originally covered with black leatherette until worn off from use, similar units exist with slight variations. This was thought to be a product of the 1920's into

the early 30's. No single component was branded on this unit so the mystery continues!



**Below:** Al Simmons has a topic to research on why his Setchel Carlson 416 aka "Frog Eye" AA5 (1946) contains loctal tubes instead of the octals shown on the supplied schematic. Possibilities include the fact the radio chassis is mounted upside down and loctals would be more secure from vibrating out of sockets. Most thought it was more a matter of using available tube stock. In the chaotic postwar period, during tube and parts shortages, some companies used alternate mixes of octal, miniature, and loctal tubes. Sometimes, these changes were not documented in service literature, causing confusion today.



Some interesting comments on loctal vs. octal including design, removal, cleaning sockets, etc. are contained in the following forum discussions. Forum spelling varies. Loctal or loktal- which is correct?

<https://antiqueradios.com/forums/viewtopic.php?p=3555633>

<https://www.antiqueradios.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=170841&sid=6d5c0776da4a1402d1f2befcb28286d6>

**DVHRC can provide loctal replacements at any Kutztown event!**



**Above:** Al Simmons shows a blackout bulb used during WWII. Their purpose was to create a minimal light source to be used in times known as "blackouts", in which there was reason to believe there was danger of an airstrike. The idea behind this was to make it difficult for enemy airplanes to accurately locate cities to attack. These bulbs were made by Wabash Appliance Corp. from Brooklyn, N.Y.; however, other manufacturers like General Electric also made their own versions. Wabash chose radio tube glass envelopes for their bulbs, while G.E. chose the regular appliance bulb shape (A-17 shape). Yellow and Blue Blackout bulbs were also made by Wabash, the blue ones being the hardest to find. These bulbs are coated on the inside with a mirror-like silvery coating, which helps concentrate the light on the colored tip. An interesting detail about Wabash blackout bulbs is that their yellow bulbs are always labeled "Blackout Unit", while the Blue and Red ones are labeled "Blackout Bulb".



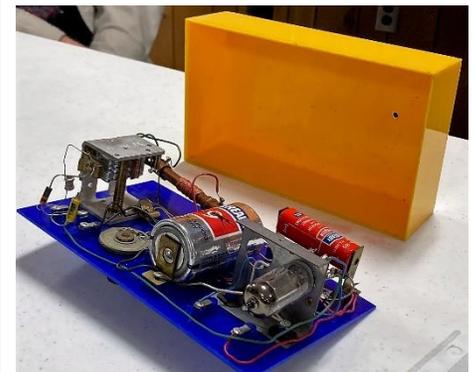
**Below:** Fred Saul asked if we knew what these TV tools of repair were. On the left is a picture tube pin crimper to reconnect to the soldered wire within the glass envelope which could disconnect on earlier color picture tubes. It could save owner money by quickly reconnecting the filament element(s) pins #1 and 7) to inner wires. The ubiquitous spring loaded antenna connector was paired to various antennas was common saving user from fraying wires and using screw driver since antennas might be installed and periodically. Finally we see the degaussing coil. It was used to remove the magnetic memory resident on older CRT before automatic startup coils were designed into later tubes. There are other degaussers used to erase magnetic fields on audio tape and other magnetic imprint media.

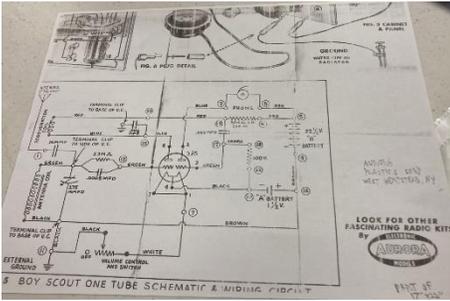
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Degaussing>



**Below:** Monty Purviance shows us Aurora Boy Scout I-Tube Boy Scout kit he won as second prize for selling candy, this one is in Cub Scout colors but missing original knobs. Aurora was noted for injection molded plastic models and supplies.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurora\\_Plastics\\_Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurora_Plastics_Corporation). This radio is rare and features one dual pentode 3A5 tube used in the basic regenerative receiving circuit that still works!





**Above:** Here is the basic schematic (please magnify). A long antenna will help! The original batteries for A & B are not controlled by a typical DPDT switch but only one rheostat for A power with the off position being when the wiper dial goes off the resistive element! B current then does not flow when A "off" so no switch needed! Wonder how many scouts left on back in the day? **Below:** Here Monty shows an unusual chassis made of molded plastic material with bare wire connections. At least the chassis was not hot. Perhaps a re-engineering or cost reduction attempt for tube radios on this Westinghouse H-381-T5 built between 1949-53 at Sunbury, PA plant. Similar sets #'s ranged from 378-381.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWAIS4TwKks>



**Below:** Jiri Placek delivered an excellent presentation on the Moskovich V (1948-1963) Soviet post-war radio. The breadth of his presentation is deserving of full coverage and will be seen in the Summer Oscillator.



## Upcoming Regional Events

*The following is an abbreviated list at this date; lead club websites to keep current. Following are some excellent programs and a reason to have club memberships in our region's clubs too! Some of the previously listings such as N2LVI hamfest have been discontinued so we'll look for other connections.*

**Kutztown Radio and Audio Show XLVII (47)** Friday, 05.12.23 through Saturday, 05.13.23 opens 7AM on those days; Vendor setup starts 12 noon Thursday. **Early buyers will not be permitted on Thursday without a dealer tag.** Free parking and free admission for shoppers. **Auction is Friday 5.12 at 5:30 in white room, Preview at 4:30. 100 lots this time around- see DVHRC Facebook.**

Where: Renningers 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 \$50, extra tables \$10. **Exhibitor reservation advised: Phone M-Th 570.385.0104; F-S 610.683.6848.** See links at: <https://www.dvhrc.org> and see updated **FAQ listing below.** [https://www.dvhrc.com/Kutztown\\_10\\_1.pdf](https://www.dvhrc.com/Kutztown_10_1.pdf)

**NJARC Events** Event information available on [www.njarc.org](http://www.njarc.org) or contact [president@njarc.com](mailto:president@njarc.com)

**JD's Antique & Vintage Radio Electronics Auction** Watch for future Auction events at <https://jdauctionsllc.com>

Normal Preview at 8 am, Auctions start at 9.

**RadioActivity 2023** Thursday, 06.15.23 5PM through Saturday, 06.17.23 4:30PM. **New location this time!** To be held at The Byzantium, 2747 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. The theme is: "Vintage Electronics Manufactured in the DelMarVa/DC Area". More detail and application form can be found at: <https://maarc.org/radioactivity-2023/org/events/>

**2023 AWA Annual Conference** Tuesday, September 26 to Saturday September 30, 2023. AWA will be held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 W Henrietta Rd, Henrietta, NY 14467. The theme will be "The Broadcast Boom Years of The 1920s". Sub themes associated with design, marketing, early broadcasting, Roaring 1920s, big changes in culture, licensing issues, US Manufacturers in the 1920s, personalities, inventors. Registration via AWA website: <https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/annual-conference/>



**Above:** An old radio from Bob's grandma with special historical significance shows up on a recent episode of Bob's Burgers. [https://bobs-burgers.fandom.com/wiki/Radio\\_No\\_You\\_Didn%27t](https://bobs-burgers.fandom.com/wiki/Radio_No_You_Didn%27t)



Are you Ready for Kutztown?