



The Oscillator



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

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

SPRING 2026

In Loving memory of Fred

It is with deepest sadness that DVHRC has learned of the sudden passing of long time member Fred Saul on April 24th. A kind, knowledgeable, humble man, with a great sense of humor, he spent his life serving others around him both in his circle of friends and within our hobby. His presence will be greatly missed as a board member, friend and constant at Kutztown events where he teamed up with Tom at their shared location over many years. Fred first took over his father's business, Electronic Sales and Service, and later, when his brother, Ted, joined the business, it was renamed Saul's TV and Appliance, Gilbertsville. He also worked for Air Products as a technician for many years.



Fred provided his expertise helping other club members in repair and restoration of vintage electronics over the years. His kindred spirit was shared with those of his church, many friends, fellow employees and members of DVHRC for which we are eternally grateful. A Memorial Service for Fred will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Trinity EC Church, 250 Swinehart Road, Boyertown, PA. Fred was a man of many talents and accomplishments as shown in his obituary below. This service may also be livestreamed via link provided.

<https://www.walbertfuneralhome.com/obituaries/a-saul>

Moving into Spring

Kutztown LIII is right around the corner at this writing. We heard the entire 1st pavilion has been sold out but there are available spots still to be had in the second pavilion. After a long cold winter and balky spring, we look forward to meeting again! We will be grateful for any additional help at the club table as always! We'll convene at the club trailers on Friday May 9th around 7:30 to 8 AM for setup. Thanks in advance for club members' assistance!

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.**

Kutztown FAQ listing

https://www.dvhrc.com/Kutztown_101.pdf

Below: Raffle radio at Kutztown 53 is a 1942 Philco 42-350 featuring well preserved cabinet with BC SW and early FM bands.





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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As always, this editor is grateful for personal stories and content you provide by contacting

gdottor@yahoo.com.

In this edition we have a story from our own Dean Reonieri. Future meeting themes are announced via the Reflector before meetings and may be subject to change.

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

Meeting of February 10, 2026

The theme was *Most Colorful Radios*. These radios are rare and collectible versus more common bakelite, plaskon and ivory sets, especially when color is paired with distinctive styling.



Above and Below: Mark Hilliard's father, owner of Penn-Allen Radio TV of Allentown, had a friend with an extensive collection and large radio shack (also a ham) in an outbuilding filled with radios of all types. He hired Mark to help him organize his collection of many radio types while in high school. This guy always had his Motorola set tuned to KYW all day with its teletype background. Programming aside, Mark did appreciate the awesome style of this set, eventually purchasing one like this from this man's widow. He collected quite a few of them and then while in college, told his dad to sell them. Since then Mark re-collected several of these, the black with green grilles 5J1U and green with blue grille 5J2U. "Jewell

Box sets". Notice the distinctive dragon on the center grills! These 1950 portables ran on battery or mains with a selenium rectifier and antenna in lid. You need to take care when polishing the plastic prone to cracking.



Valves / Tubes	1R5 1U4 1U5 354
Main principle	Superheterodyne (common), ZF/IF 455 kHz; 2 AF stage(s)
Tuned circuit(s)	6 AM circuit(s)
Wave bands	Broadcast only (MW).
Power type and voltage	Line / Batteries (any type) / AC/DC 110-120/ 90 & 3 Volt



Above and Below: Dave Dean showed a 1948 RCA well preserved model 75X17 showing an "oriental" scene on all sides and top. An RCA sales brochure says "The timeless enchantment of hand painted Chinese art weaves a magic spell of exotic beauty into your home. On appropriate backgrounds of black, red, and white, the Far East beauty of pagodas and graceful willows is captured in genuine hand paintings. The bezel around the dial and speaker is brass, and the dial pointer is illuminated by fiber optics! Each scene is hand painted on each radio so even though the scenes look the same, there may be some differences due to the painter's style" Some of the painting is thicker, raised above the other surface painting; this puffy paint is prone to drying up. In the end it is a Golden Throat RCA AA5 but with style!



Below: Jarett Brown remained in the 1948 timeframe projecting pictures of his colorful Bendix AA5 trio, including a model 114 in swirled maroon polystyrene, another 114 with brownish red and tan combo; and the model 526 green catalin. The latter is prone to crack down the top mid-section if you do not handle with care. Also, many of these survivors have puckering of the thin plastic over the dial sometimes with flaking of the reverse-printed tuning legend.



Below: This 1938 Emerson AU190 catalin began its life in alabaster white but changed! White catalin changes color primarily due to oxidation. This process occurs when the material is exposed to light and air over time, leading to a yellowing effect. The original white color of Catalin can degrade, resulting in a patina that collectors often find appealing, although it signifies deterioration. Prolonged exposure to sunlight accelerates oxidation, along with temperature and humidity variations and air pollutants such as

smoke. Care must be taken as to not remove too much patina or white spots of the original plastic may occur!



Below: Dan Schwartzman showed some more colorful sets in green and red including a 1950 Zenith 7K01 AM FM sporting an 8 inch speaker and original color knobs. Also shown close up are two 1947 Emerson model 51's with plastic swirled like your favorite ice cream flavor. The Emerson model 511 "Moderne" was designed by famous industrial designer Raymond Loewy in the rare Pistachio Green with marbled Bronze/Gold swirl and brilliant red Beetle Plaskon is also shown. Oxidation of the dial window is a recurring issue but can be polished out on these highly collectible sets.



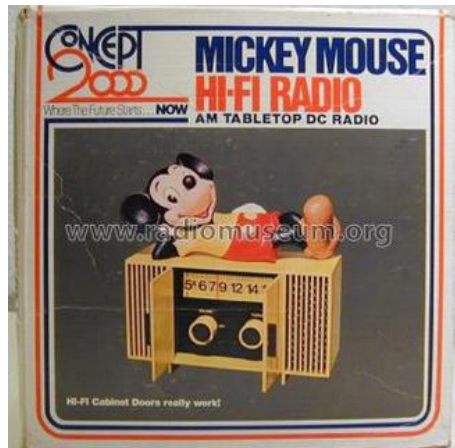
Below: Bob Seiwel showed an adorable pink Shower Mate, a 1980's set made in China as picked up at Buy It Now. The radio had to be cleaned up and is missing a knob. Bob wisely passed this on to his wife who displays it in her doll collection room to give it some Barbie bling with its pink color. The radio was capable of going in the shower but probably not under the shower. Modern shower radios still exist for those who like to sing in the rain:

<https://bathroomer.org/best-shower-radio/>



Below: Donna Acerra showed off a few colorful Mickey Mouse models including a 1970's GE youth electronics model C2419A which has transistors without a line voltage transformer and thus line dangerously directly to the semiconductors illustrating GE "cost engineering" during the period. Branded as GE "Youth Radio," this set was authorized by The Disney Corporation. It has all of Mickey's friends pictured on the clock's face: Pluto, Donald Duck, Goofy and of course Minnie Mouse and many other Disney characters. Mickey's 3-D face is the dial pointer. Also seen below is a 1974 Concept 2000 transistor model 407 from Hong Kong. The Concept 2000 features hinged doors that can be closed and runs off a single 9 volt battery. Concept 2000 (they had some concepts)

offered more novelty sets featuring Mickey and others such as Sesame Street characters and even a "bike" radio, still available online. Donna's husband purchased these for her as they have been to numerous Disney parks and cruises so who but Mickey should be in Donna's collection!



Below: Mark Thierbach brought his working GE bicentennial TV model XB2576AM Chassis 12 XB especially manufactured to commemorate the Bicentennial in 1976. The set is a painted rendition of their most common B&W model featuring only 4 Compactrons, 2 more tubes in the tuner and an IC audio section. These sets, although cost engineered, are known to be reliable and Mark's set still operates after 50 years. The red, white, and blue 12" portable set is emblazoned with a small shield symbol of the Bicentennial.



Below: Mark also showed us a keen pink Sharp Model 3LS36 3 1/2 "Miniature Color Television (1986) with actual picture tube setup explaining the deep case. When Mark saw this one come up in pink, he just had to have it! The set can run on a car battery or house current. An interesting link below by Phil's old radio describes this same set in same color and its restoration.

<https://antiqueradio.org/Sharp3LS36.htm>



Below: Monty Purviance displays a Trancel 8 with nice metal grill. He also brought in a red 2 transistor Boy's radio, Standard set with larger speaker, and a Symphonic thought to be made by Raytheon.

https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/trancel_tr_81_tr8.html

Below: Jiri Placek showed a Tesla Rekreant 3103 AB from 1957 manufactured by Tesla in Czechoslovakia. The slide rule tuning covers 5 bands for ranges of Long Wave, Broadcast and Short Wave and is very colorful. Rekreant translates to Vacationer as this radio can run on batteries 90 + 1.5 V or on house current. Instead of a telescoping antenna, it uses 4 dedicated loop antennas for various bands. Color codes on the pushbuttons translate to the band color below. Tesla was basically a cartel formed to nationalize manufacturers such as Telefunken, Siemens and 14 more manufacturers and the name Tesla was a nod to but not started by Tesla himself. Tesla instituted price controls, protections, but after the Soviet dissolution could not compete with Asian products.



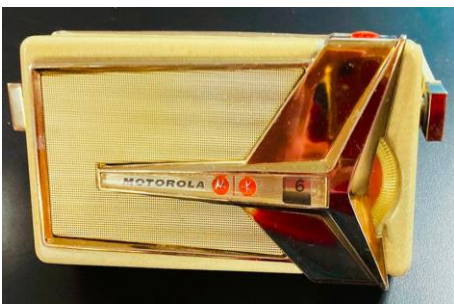
Above: Symphonic set looks a lot like its Western Auto relative- see link for more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PR7t8pcsyFQ>

Below: Dave Snellman showed us a 1956 Zenith Royal 500 in rare salmon color with 7 transistors purchased from Bob Bennett at a NJARC tailgate. This 2nd generation Royal 500 uses a printed circuit board and are still affectionately known as "owl eyes". Back in the day the previous 1955 first generation Royal 500 retailed for \$75 equivalent to over \$600 today!



Next Page: Dave found a pristine white Royal 200. This set also featured 7 transistors as a lower priced Royal alternative. Both are powered by 4 AA cells. Next is a 1958 Motorola Gold Jet Wing model 7X24W where front shows Jet Age and the back, the coming Space Age. The antenna in handle can limit reception when walking with the radio in hand.



Many thanks to our fellow DVHRC member who provides this story!

LOS TRES OMEGAS

The Story of a Childhood Radio

by Dean C. Reonieri, Sr



In 1963 out of the blue, Dad surprised me with a new turquoise Omega DeLuxe Transistor 8; my first radio. He never mentioned where he purchased it or why he bought it for me. Given the price of \$16.99 (Haupt, Joe: Vintage Advertising), it was a lot of money in the early 1960s, equivalent to \$184.55 in today's money (CPI Inflation Calculator)! However, the Omega 8 transistor radio was priced significantly less than the leading Japanese brands of its era, such as the Sony 8 transistor radio priced at \$49.95 (Collectornet). Given the lower price of the Omegas 8, my hunch is that Dad could have purchased it at the nearby *Liggett's Drugstore*, *Great Eastern Mills* in West Paterson, NJ, or *Two Guys* in Totowa, NJ. with distinctive styling.

The Omegas 8 opened the undiscovered world of various

radio personalities and music. Growing up in Northern NJ, about 12 miles from the Empire State Building, I listened to "Cousin Brucie" on WABC and as a teenager listened to Jean Shepherd on WOR.

While my childhood 1962 Omegas 8 was lost over the decades, that radio provided me with many great memories, as well as it was a gift from Dad... the search was on... In the last few years, I acquired three Omegas 8 radios "*Los Tres Omegas*," including my favorite, a turquoise model.

The Manufacturer: The Omegas-branded transistor radios were manufactured by the Tokyo Transistor Industry Co., Ltd., based in Tokyo Japan (Radiomuseum: Omegas). In addition to the Omegas brand, this manufacturer marketed similar radios under the brands of: Candle, Kryslar, O.M.G.S., and Universal (Radiomuseum: Candle, Kryslar, O.M.G.S. & Universal). All of these brands of "coat pocket" radios share a common case design and appearance, with subtle differences in the front case, including badges, emblems with the number of transistors, and trim.

The Radios: I found the three Omegas 8 radios quite rugged in terms of their cases (no cracks or chips), and still strong enough to receive a few stations -- even with 65 year old electrolytic capacitors.

The main board was easy to remove, as it was secured by two 5mm nuts. The main board had sufficient space to accommodate replacement of the 4 electrolytic capacitors, as well as fairly wide, well adhered copper traces. The beige and coral Omegas 8 were furnished with 8 Matsushita PNP germanium transistors; the turquoise Omegas 8 used Hitachi PNP germanium transistors. Although the battery holder was in the upper area of the case, between the ferrite rod and the audio output transformer, a cardboard surround appeared sufficient to contain the battery in the event the radio was mishandled.

My final thought is this series of Omegas radios would make a nice addition to a collection of early 1960's transistor radios in terms of appearance and performance.

A special thanks: Thank you to Collectornet on YouTube for insights into the pricing and market dynamics of U.S. and Japanese transistor radios in this era.

Details: Coral Omegas 8 Radio

Inside Views of components and more!.



References:

- (1) "Vintage Advertising For The Omegas 8 Transistor Radio In A Read's Drug Store Ad In The Baltimore Maryland Evening Sun Newspaper, August 18, 1961" by Joe Haupt, CC BY 2.0
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/51764518@N02/51337769834/>
- (2) CPI Inflation Calculator:
https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm
- (3) Collectornet: "Lies and Corporate Excuses"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLSB0EU-XVY>
- (4) Omegas Deluxe 8:
https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/omegas_de_luxe_eight_transistor.html
- (5) Candle:
<https://www.radiomuseum.org/>

- (6) Krysler:
https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/unknown_krysler_eight_deluxe_eight_transistor_8.html
- (7) O.M.G.S.:
https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/omgs_deluxe_eight_transistor.html
- (8) Universal:
https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/tokyo_universal_8_transistor_ptr_81b.html

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.arrl.org/hamfests/search/page:1/location.division_id:AT/model:Event

NJARC Summer Swap Meet and Ham Fest Sat., July 25, 2026 InfoAge

NJARC Summer Repair Clinic Sat., Aug 22, 2026 InfoAge

<https://www.njarc.org/calendar.html>

AWA Shares

Each month there will be a well-researched presentation via Zoom including a question and answer session. It is free and you don't have to be an AWA member! AWA Webinar Wednesdays will be held the third Wednesday of each month and the next one on [Mike Molnar introduces us to Alan B Dumont Presented by Mike Molnar. When: May 20, 2026, 08:00 PM Eastern.](#) See link to register in advance for this & future shares!
<https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/awa-shares/>

MAARC RadioActivity 2026

**Thursday, 06.04.26 6 PM through
Saturday, 06.06.26 5PM** Crowne
Plaza Hotel, Annapolis, MD 173 Jennifer
Road, Annapolis, MD This year's theme
is Vacuum Tube Technology

<https://maarc.org/events/>



**JD'S Summer Record Show Sat., June
20, 2026** Renninger's, 740 Noble St,
Kutztown, PA 19530 - White Room
Begins 9 AM. Tables available for \$25.
To register contact John at 609-947-9071
or email Kutztownradio@gmail.com

<https://jdauctionsny.com/>

2026 AWA Annual Conference

**Tuesday, Sept. 29 to Saturday
October 3, 2026.** The theme will be
Collins Radio & Crystal Sets. It will be
held at the RIT Inn and Conference
Center, 5257 W Henrietta Rd,
Henrietta, NY 14467.

<https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/conf-main-page/>

Other Clubs:

Consider **NEVEC** when you are in
New England area: Their next
swap meet is Sat., May 16, 2026
at the Brookline Event Center in
Brookline, New Hampshire!

<https://nevec.org/2023/08/29/hello-world/>

<https://nevec.org/join/>

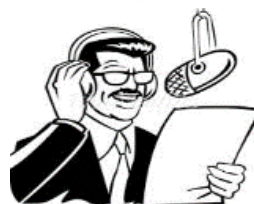
PJM Voltage Reduction Test

I woke up early this past Feb 11th
to monitor a voltage reduction test
by PJM after receiving customer
notification associated with my
church's PPL account:

PJM to conduct voltage reduction test on
February 11. PJM Interconnection, the regional
electric grid operator for 65 million people in 13
states and the District of Columbia, including
PPL Electric Utilities service territory, is
conducting a temporary voltage reduction test
on Wednesday, February 11, from 6 to 6:30
a.m. This test is part of PJM's proactive efforts
to ensure the electric grid is ready to meet the
increasing demand for electricity. What will
happen? During the test, the voltage on the
electric grid will be reduced by 5%. Most PPL
Electric customers will not experience a change
in their service. Why does PJM need this test?
A voltage reduction is a step PJM can take to
help meet extremely high demand for electricity,
should it be necessary. Reducing voltage
lowers the demand for electricity by conserving
generation or transmission line capacity. How
can my business prepare? We wanted to
provide awareness so businesses can prepare
operations accordingly to minimize impact.
Please monitor equipment during the time of the
voltage reduction and activate contingency
plans, if applicable. During the test, it is
important to detect and isolate individual pieces
of equipment that may be more sensitive to
decreases in voltage and deploy voltage
correction devices as needed, power supply
and manuals.

In progressive readings beginning
minutes before the scheduled test
they increased voltage at 6:00
maybe to lessen the blow for all
the warehouses and industry in my
western Lehigh County area. Test
readings which follow are 5:55
baseline, 6:00 increase and 6:03
low point as voltage decreased
about 4% from thigh point. Power
came right back up to 122 volts

shortly thereafter. Was it worth
waking up for early for this? It is
true that demand for electricity will
increase with data centers and
more charging of batteries as we
move forward when such
adjustments could be normalized.
The good news is that our older
radios will work just fine at
reduced voltage!



**Are you Ready for Kutztown?
I sure am!!**