



The Oscillator



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

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

SUMMER 2018

Kutztown XXXVIII Review



Above: Eye candy is always evident at K-town. This is one of many recorded by John Hagman. See his May 2018 slide show on our website.

Lewie Newhard has a passion for the DVHRC Kutztown shows which finds its way into the hearts and souls of club members, volunteers and the helpful people of the Renninger's organization. But it could not exist without the many passionate antique radio hobbyists and vendors who arrive from all over the country to set up table displays, buy and sell vintage radios and trade goodwill and stories.



We thank Dave Snellman for administering our Friday auction

as there are a lot of moving parts with this event. Along with auctioneer extraordinaire Pete Grave, the many runners kept the lots flowing and the auction exciting. It is the essence of free market economics and the shipping is free. The KTZ-38 auction improvements included a new sound system and a rolling cart to rest the weary arms of boat-anchor handlers.



Above: Friday night's auction is a well-oiled machine.

Below: DVHRC's Dave Abramson explains the hobby of collecting vintage electronics along with its history for his WFMZ-TV 69 interviewer.



Above: DVHRC's Mike Koste found his niche many years ago with "Gobs of Knobs". Many rely on his expertise to find that missing knob.

On Friday, the best display award was based on aesthetics of the display, quality and variety of items, and clear labels and pricing.



Above: Rick Howard (left) of Berea, KY receives cash award from DVHRC president Jarret Brown. This was the first time Pavilion 2 had the winner.

Delaware Valley Historic Radio
Club
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New Britain, PA 18901
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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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It paid to be there Saturday as cash awards were presented for those still set up. *Just Grillin'* provided the grub you needed and even made meals late into Friday night which the auction clerks appreciated after completing their duties. Even a few raindrops could not dampen the spirits of the many who assembled on May 11 and 12, 2018. Remember to reload for Kutztown 39, its closer than you think!



Above: Raffle Radio winners Chris and Gloria Bower are of Montrossville, PA make it a family affair with vintage radio interests and are now proud owners of this refreshed Airline with a cool and colorful dial. The noon drawing has been a highlight on Kutztown Saturdays.

Tubes Needed for DVHRC Kutztown Inventory



After Kutztown XXXVIII, we can say the sales of tubes was a big

success. With any success comes the challenge of replenishment of the most sought after tubes always in short supply. During your summer appraisals, please be generous by donating to DVHRC's tube program. Following are a list of the tubes the club is looking for. Dave and the DVHRC will be grateful for your efforts.

Any and all Globe tubes,

Any high end audio tubes ,

Any "unusual" transmitting tubes.

5751	10
5842	12A7
6AQ8	2A3
6AZ8	45
6BD8	6Q7G
6DC8	6U7G
6BK8	85
396A	12AX7
417A	83
6072A	6SN7GT
EL37	1L6
6A3	50A1
6F5	6L6GC
6F6	6L6GAY
6L6GA	6L6GB

2018 Upcoming Monthly Themes

Jun 12- Crystal Sets 7:30 PM

Jul 10- Tailgate Auction- on the parking lot of Telford Community Center, some shade but **remember the earlier starting time. 7:00 PM**

Aug 14- Audio, hi fi, mics, amps, 7:30

Sep 11- Kutztown XXXIX Planning, Speakers- all kinds. 7:30

Oct 9- Wonderful World of Catalin. Not just radio but other items made of the decorative plastic such as letter openers, hand mirrors, tiles, etc. 7:30

Nov 13- Decade- 1970's Radios 7:30

Dec 11- X-mas Party at Stove N' Tap

Telechron

Keith Seiwel gave a nice presentation on acquiring and reconditioning Telechron clocks. Founded by Henry Ellis Warren, Telechron introduced the synchronous electric clock, which keeps time by the oscillations of the alternating current electricity that powers it from the electric power grid. A synchronous motor spins at the same rate as the cycle of the alternating current driving it. Synchronous electric clocks had been available previously, but had to be started manually. In later years, Telechron would advertise its clocks as "bringing true time," because power plants had begun to maintain frequency of the alternating current very close to an average of 60 Hz (but which wasn't always the case). Telechron had its heyday between 1925 and 1955. The company sought to produce clocks whose designs reflected one of the fundamental principles of the Art Deco movement: to combine modern engineering (including mass-production) with the beauty of simple geometric shapes. Thus, Telechron clocks are often considered genuine pieces of art—but art affordable by all, as thousands of them were made. General Electric acquired an interest in Telechron and gradually absorbed Telechron into its operations. The clocks labeled "Telechron" on the dial, as well as those labeled "General Electric"

were both made in the Ashland, MA factory. From a commercial point of view, it was the increased durability of batteries as well as the invention of the quartz movement that proved fatal to Telechron. From the point of view of the history of technology, however, another problem is more crucial: if the electric power grid is used as a system for the "distribution of time," as Warren himself wrote, then, in the case of a power failure, the clocks stop, and the individual consumers' Telechrons lose their connection with the "master clock".



Above: Keith discusses his finding and reconditioning methods which include drilling holes, syringing old oils and replacing with a light oil such as sewing machine grade & re-soldering.

There is a growing community of hobbyists who collect Telechron clocks. Replacement parts can be expensive! An antique Telechron clock will usually come to life immediately (though sometimes noisily) when it is plugged in. Telechron motors are easily quieted and revived by carefully drilling 2 small holes that *just* puncture the surface, one on the large section, and one on the

small section. A very light oil is injected, and then the small holes are carefully soldered shut. If a heavy oil is used, the clock may fail to keep accurate time until the motor becomes warm. Telechron *alarm clocks* are particularly popular with collectors.



Above: Keith showed his reconditioned clocks, art deco design in evidence, which keep very accurate time with today's stable power sources. Until about 1940, the majority of Telechron alarm clocks had bell alarms. The entire mechanism was enclosed in a bell housing of steel. Atop the clock's coil was a metal strip that vibrated at 60 cycles per second when the alarm was tripped. This strip had a V-shaped arm attached to it, ending in a striker, which vibrated in turn against the bell housing. With the approach of war, restrictions on various metals required reduction in their use, and the bell housing was eliminated, with only the metal strip above the coil remaining. This provided a loud buzz when the alarm was tripped (and was the basis of the alarm in all brands of alarm clocks for many years after the war). Post-war, very few Telechrons had bell alarms, and the bell disappeared completely by 1960. Telechron was one of the first companies to introduce the "snooze" alarm in the early 1950s.

Meeting of April 10, 2018, continued

Our main April meeting theme was *battery portable radios*. First off was Dave Snellman with a pristine early transistorized Westinghouse model 602-P7, previously owned and restored by the late Charles Blanding, long-time and legendary member of NJARC. Dave offered a tribute to Charles for his wide knowledge and collection of transistor radios, and especially broadcasting as he served as an engineer for many years. His collection of BC memorabilia of northern Jersey such as signage, equipment and air checks along with his knowledge will be sorely missed... and which makes Dave's radio all the more special.



Above: Dave's Westinghouse 602-P7 from 1956 was their first transistorized model. Even with its 4 x 6" speaker, the radio allowed for two parallel 9V (old square format) batteries to power the set for up to 1,500 hours. The thick leather case is in original condition.

See the following links for remembrances of Charles Blanding including his presentation "History of FM in NY":

<http://musicradio77.com/wwwboard/messages/442726.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsEMO0QkD6g>

Jarret Brown brought in two radios with something in common. The first seems innocent enough as it was the classic GE SuperRadio 3 in a long line of high quality, sensitive units and great for DX'ing.



Advertised on Craigslist curiously for only \$5, Jarret asked why he was selling it. His reply was "I'm sick of looking at it". Upon getting the set home, Jarret found the following inscription on the back of the set.



This turned out to be a prisoner ID#! So the former owner probably spent a lot of time looking at this unit... time for a fresh start!

On a similar note, Jarret brought in another radio model that served the incarcerated public- the Sony model SRF-39FP. This lightweight model was designed specifically for prison security since the case and the earphones came in transparent cases. Contraband could not be hidden in these radios. Sony designed this AM-FM unit well enough to dominate the prison market usually sold out of prison commissaries. The single

AA cell could last up to 40 hours and because of their domination became known as the "Ipod of prisons". Great design and sensitivity may have allowed for other than local stations opening listeners to nighttime skip reception. This unit is also highly regarded for the ultra-light category of DX contesting.



Above: There is nothing you can hide in this Sony SRF-39FP (FP= Federal Prison model). Prison culture holds that it is good luck to give your Sony SRF-39FP to another inmate before leaving.

Some Housekeeping Notes

Web references herein may need to be copied or manually entered into your browser. Please offer any suggestions to improve this newsletter as well!

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:

gdotto@yahoo.com

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. Some of what follows and even more hamfest events can be viewed via this website: [n2lvi delaware valley area hamfests](http://n2lvi.delawarevalleyarea.com)

RadioActivity 2018 Thursday, 06.14.18 4PM through Saturday, 06.16.18.

RadioActivity will be held at the Sheraton College Park North Hotel in College Park, in Beltsville, MD. The theme will be **WESTINGHOUSE**. Subcategories include Westinghouse pre- 1930, post- 1929, Westinghouse ephemera and many more! 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. **Hotel reservations must be received by May 23 for the discount rate. Book early—last year discounted rooms filled up even before the cut-off date!** Contact: Bruce Pellicot,

KA3EIE, 10348 Route 99 Woodstock, MD 21163, 410-461-7441. See their website to download a flyer and for more details at site below: <http://www.maarc.org/>.

Valley Forge (Kimberton) Hamfest-Mid-Atlantic ARC Saturday, 07.14.18: 8 AM, Vendors 8 AM;

Mid-Atlantic ARC, PO Box 557, Eagleville, PA 19408 Contact: Brian Kelly, AA3BK, 240-498-1964. Cost: \$6 (ULS, kids free); Tailgate: \$6 (plus admission); indoor table w/electric: \$10 1-4 tables, \$8 for 5 or more (plus admission). Auction at 12 Noon (for unsold items buyers wish to auction off). Cost: \$2, spouse & under 18 free; sellers \$5. VE Testing*: Arrive at 9:45 AM, starts 10 AM; Testing Info or contact Dick Stewart, K3ITH, at k3ith@arrl.net Where: Kimberton PA, Fire Co. Fair Grounds, Route 113, south of the intersection with Route 23. <http://www.marc-radio.org>

NJARC Summer Tailgate Summer Swap meet Saturday, 07.21.18, 8AM to 12PM, vendor setup 7:00.

Outdoor event in the shade of the trees at historic Camp Evans, InfoAge. Cost: \$5; Vendors \$20 per table (non-members \$25). Vendor setup 7:00 AM, Walk-around auction starts at 11:30. Free appraisals. Expert antique radio repair available. Refreshments available. Contact: Richard Lee, 914-589-3751. Where: InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum, 2201 Marconi Road, Wall Township NJ 07719; Garden State Parkway SOUTH to Exit 100, or North to Exit 98. <http://www.njarc.org/#calendar>

Reading Radio Club Mini-(Ham)Fest Saturday, 08.04.18, Opens: 8 AM, Vendors 7 AM; Auction at 12 Noon (for unsold items buyers wish to auction off). Cost: \$2, spouse & under 18 free; sellers \$5. VE Testing*: 8:30 AM (free admission for VE Exam only; test fee applies). Where: Heritage Park, 992 Clematis St, Sinking Spring, PA. See website for details and nice newsletter: <http://www.readingradioclub.org>

Kutztown Radio Show XXXIX

Friday, 09.21.18 through Saturday, 09.22.18 opens 7am. Vendor setup starts 12 noon Thursday 9.20.18. Auction starts @ 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. 10 x 10 space includes table, electric for \$45, extra table \$5. 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)

Military Radio Collectors Association (MRCA) Military Radio Friday, 09.21.18 through Saturday, 09.22.18.

opens 8am. Cost: \$5 (under 12 free) plus \$5 fairgrounds fee; Vendors \$5 plus admissions (\$15 total). Formal presentations will be given at 11 AM Saturday, and will be followed by a "show-and-tell" session. Where: West End Fairgrounds, Fairground Road off US Rt 209, between Lehighton & Stroudsburg; 13.4 miles east of Exit

74 on I476, or 8.5 miles west of PA Rt 33. <http://www.mrca.ar88.net>

Hamfest- RF Hill Amateur Radio Club Sunday, 10.21.18, 7AM to 1PM for general public, 6AM for vendors.

Indoor tables \$12 for vendors, outdoor spaces available \$8. VE testing begins at 10AM sharp. Where: Sellersville Firehouse, 50 N Main St., Bethlehem Pike, Sellersville, PA. Contact Jim Soete, WA3YLQ at 215.723.7294. See website for details including flyer: <http://rfhillarc.org/events>

MAARC Radio Fall Fest Sunday, 10.21.18 11AM to 5PM. Tailgating at 8 AM and auction at 12:30 (earlier if raining). Where: Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Address: 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road, Davidsonville, MD. See the MAARC website for details: <http://www.maarc.org/>.

Black Friday, Aug. 14, 1967, the Day the Pirates Died

Here is an excerpt from the book "The Who Sell Out", ISBN 0-8264-1743-4, really about the rock album of the same name but with a few chapters on pirate radio of the 60's around the UK and the associated melee that ended it. These 50 kW floating broadcast outlets achieved incredible popularity in the mid-sixties and then.. were gone. Nice piece from author John Dougan recalling chapter 8, "Running the Pirates Aground".

The Free Radio Association is fighting for free speech, free enterprise, and free choice. The government is trying to crush all

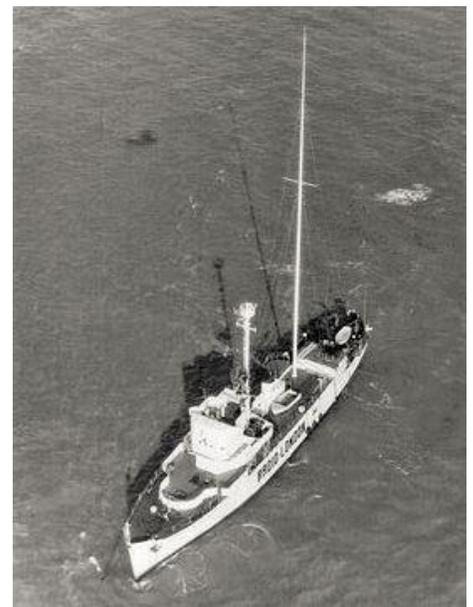
competition over the air by silencing the commercial stations- thereby preserving the monopoly of the BBC and depriving us of the freedom to listen to the stations of our choice. This is a step towards dictatorship. If the Marine Broadcasting Bill becomes law in its present form, free speech will be suppressed, and the Free Radio Association will be partially silenced. We have pledged that we will fight until we win.

-Free Radio Association petition (1967)

In the winter of 1966, Britain's Labour government, led by Prime Minister Harold Wilson, published a "white paper" outlining an aggressive future for BBC Radio. Along with the development of nine local BBC-affiliated stations were plans for a "national pop station" (Radio 1) that would (finally) broadcast a full schedule of pop music 24/7. The realization of Radio 1, however, remained contingent upon the pirates being silenced, and the most effective and obvious way of doing this was to rewrite maritime broadcasting law in a manner that unambiguously closed the ship-sized loophole that had allowed the pirates to flourish in the first place. To that end the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act was introduced in the House of Commons on July 27, 1966.

Unable to make radio broadcasting from international waters illegal, the Act's authors did the next best thing by criminalizing every activity related to offshore broadcast. If passed no British

citizen could be employed by, supply ships for, advertise on, or assist in any manner any pirate radio station. But 12 million Radio London listeners can't be wrong, and this legislation, seen as yet another Reithian-inspired attempt by the BBC to force popular culture to bend to its will, was regarded by fans of Caroline, London, and the other smaller pirate operations, as nothing more than posturing and bloviating by a bunch of ponderous old farts.



Above: Radio London's large antenna mast required specialized engineering to balance its load and broadcast initially at 50 kW. The positioning of the antenna was at the ship's center of gravity. This was critical, as no cement ballast was used in the ship's base to counteract the sway caused by such a tall and heavy mast (estimated at 170 feet) on a floating vessel.

Despite most of the pirates being intensely capitalistic operations built on quintessentially American-style programming and advertising templates, legislating against "freedom" regardless of who defines it or how it's perceived, is not the regardless of who defines

it or how it's perceived, is not the best way to engender support. A smear campaign is far more effective and more salable to a fearful middle-class alienated by any manifestation of youth culture. If only something more tawdry or violent were to happen (the more egregious the better) then the pirates could be exposed, not as freedom loving bohemian entrepreneurs, but as ruthless gangsters. "They needed something heavy like drugs or murder" Radio London DJ Dave Cash ruefully noted, "we gave them murder."

Reg Calvert had purchased Radio City (formerly known as Radio Sutch) from singer/DJ/fulltime monster raving loony David "Screaming Lord" Sutch in 1965. Unlike the majority of pirate stations, Radio City did not broadcast from a ship anchored in international waters but rather from an abandoned sea fort on the Thames estuary. Using sea forts as radio stations was less costly than refitting a ship and Calvert, who fancied himself as quite the entrepreneur, made it clear to those with deeper pockets that he wanted to expand his operation. He'd been negotiating with Radio London executive Philip Birch about establishing a station called UKGM (United Kingdom Good Music) that would let Calvert own Radio City while Radio London skimmed 55 percent of the advertising revenue off the top.

Birch, however, was not the only person with whom Calvert was taking meetings; a former Vice

Chairman of the Liberal Party with the Monty Pythonesque name of Major Oliver Smedley was also discussing a potentially lucrative partnership with Calvert. But Smedley was becoming increasingly suspicious of Calvert, who was more interested in his deal with Birch and at times seemed paranoid and irrational as well as prone to sudden violent outbursts. Frustrated by Calvert's behavior and convinced he was being played for a fool, Smedley, in true pirate fashion, put together a raiding party and seized Radio City. An incensed Calvert burst into Scotland Yard, demanded Smedley's immediate arrest, only to be greeted by impassive, uninterested constables. Taking matters into his own hands, Calvert appeared at Smedley's front door and, after scuffling with the Major's housekeeper, hurled a large stone ornament at him. Smedley responded by emptying his pistol into Calvert. Initially charged with murder, the indictment was changed to manslaughter. Smedley was acquitted, having acted, according to the magistrate, in self-defense.

Reg Calvert's death was just what the government needed; the day after the shooting, members of Parliament, now resolute in their "outrage" over these "thugs," moved quickly to shut down all offshore broadcasting. Opposition groups determined to defeat the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act gathered under two acronyms: CRLA (Commercial Radio Listeners Association), and the FRSA (Free Radio Supporters

Association), the two organizations ultimately merged under the latter name, which dropped "supporters" after Ronan O'Rahilly (who demanded its removal) curiously refused to run FRSA promotional ads on Radio Caroline.

A demonstration in Trafalgar Square was organized on May 28, 1967, and a crowd of over 2,000 supporters listened to speakers and marched to Fleet Street to protest the Marine Act. Thousands of letters poured into 10 Downing Street and received the same standardized reply from Postmaster General Edward Short:

The Government's plans for the future of sound broadcasting, which have recently been announced, are designed to match our broadcasting services more closely to our needs without interfering with other people's rights. But the most pressing need is to silence the pirate radio stations, which are flouting international regulations, earning us a bad name abroad, endangering shipping and threatening to make broadcasting end in chaos, not only in Britain but over most of Europe.

It was a noble effort but no amount of public support would have made any difference. Pirate radio's supporters and historians would refer to August 14, 1967 as *Black Friday*, the day that the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act became law. Many of the stations, most notably Radio London, signed off forever on that day (the final song played was "A Day in

the Life," followed by DJ Paul Kaye's succinct, somber, quintessentially British farewell, "Big L time is three o'clock. Radio London is now closing down").



Above: The MV Mi Amigo, c. 1974, which had been used as the home of Radio Caroline South from 1964–1967. Radio Caroline was begun by Irish musician manager and businessman Ronan O'Rahilly. O'Rahilly failed to obtain airplay on Radio Luxembourg for Georgie Fame's records because it was committed to sponsored programs promoting major record labels; EMI, Decca, Pye and Philips.

Ronan O'Rahilly refused to go quietly. Unable to staunch the hemorrhaging of cash, he'd abandoned the role of entrepreneurial genius for that of cultural revolutionary, pure obstinacy would keep Caroline on the air until early 1968, when British tugboats cut its moorings and impounded the ship.

Early Radio Piracy Law

Radio "piracy" began with the advent of regulations of the public airwaves in the United States at the dawn of the age of radio. Initially, radio, or wireless as it was more commonly called, was an

open field of hobbyists and early inventors and experimenters. The United States Navy began using radio for time signals and weather reports on the east coast of the United States in the 1890s. Before the advent of valve (vacuum tube) technology, early radio enthusiasts used noisy spark-gap transmitters, such as the first spark-gap modulation technology pioneered by the first real audio (rather than telegraph code) radio broadcaster, Charles D. Herrold, in San Jose, California, or the Ruhmkorff coil used by almost all early experimenters. The navy soon began complaining to a sympathetic press that amateurs were disrupting naval transmissions. The May 25, 1907, edition of *Electrical World* in an article called "Wireless and Lawless" reported authorities were unable to prevent an amateur from interfering with the operation of a government station at the Washington, D.C. Navy Yard using legal means.

In the run-up to the London Radiotelegraph Convention in 1912 (essentially an international gentlemen's agreement on use of the radio band, non-binding and, on the high seas, completely null), and amid concerns about the safety of marine radio following the sinking of the RMS Titanic on April 15 of that year (although there were never allegations of radio interference in that event), the *New York Herald* of April 17, 1912, headlined President William Howard Taft's initiative to regulate the public airwaves in an article

titled "President Moves to Stop Mob Rule of Wireless."

When the "Act to Regulate Radio Communication" was passed on August 13, 1912, amateurs and experimenters were not banned from broadcasting; rather, amateurs were assigned their own frequency spectrum, and licensing and call-signs were introduced. By regulating the public airwaves, President Taft thus created the legal space for illicit broadcasts to take place. An entire federal agency, the Federal Radio Commission, was formed in 1927 and succeeded in 1934 by the Federal Communications Commission. These agencies would enforce rules on call-signs, assigned frequencies, licensing and acceptable content for broadcast.



Above: Classic signage well preserved near Baltimore's Inner Harbor, corner of O'Donnell and Streeper Sts. Send us your picture of sign sitings!



This is Gary Owens signing off from K-O-R-N, Mitchell, South Dakota. Hey, how did I get sent back here? Gotta stop messin' with that time machine!