

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

Kutztown XLV Review

Kutztown 45 was once again a successful endeavor thanks to all of you who continue to participate in many ways. We give thanks to the many merchandisers and the fraternity of vintage radio and electronics enthusiasts who call Kutztown the "best vintage show" year after year. Also, thanks to MAARC for their recent review of the event! DVHRC is humbled by this adulation and will continue to work to maintain your best interests in years to come.



Above: At KTZ45, Treasured lifetime and newly made friends keep the event vital. As life returns to a "new normal", the DVHRC Kutztown shows have somewhat maintained the "old normal". Where else can you still purchase vintage radios, parts and ephemera for reasonable prices from vendors or at the Friday night auction? Where else can you trade stories and tips while having a beer from the Stratosphere?



More photos may be viewed at: https://john-h.smugmug.com/Kutztown-Spring-2022-storage/



The Friday night auction was well attended with many great values. The proceedings ran efficiently as auctioneers Pete, John & Darren used their expert knowledge to describe each item in detail. Another secret to making it all work is the skill of the runners. luggers and others who maintain the flow. They are invaluable to identify model and condition of the items which can be quite heavy! Auction action was captured by RadioWild aka Bob Bennett at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVt_NpV OUfE&t=778s

LATE-SUMMER 2022



Above: It pays to vote early and often to win the raffle radio such as this beautiful Philco 16B, expertly restored by DVHRC member Tom Lager. Wilbur Gilroy is the proud new owner of this one. **Below:** Although gasoline was expensive last spring, Kutztown drew well from this side of the Mississippi. Thanks for your commitment!



The best thing about summer is that the gap between Kutztown shows is but a short four months and at this published date, even less. So let's get ready for another great event, Kutztown 46, when we meet this September! <u>http://www.dvhrc.com/docs/Upcomingshowinf</u> o.pdf Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club PO Box 5053



New Britain, PA 18901 www.dvhc.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.

DVHRC Board of Directors

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Tubes Needed for DVHRC Kutztown Inventory



The club would like to streamline and eliminate obsolete tube types. This inventory review process has commenced with a "tube tray audit" in advance of Kutztown 46 in September. The most sought after tubes are 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.

Any and all Globe tubes,

Any high end audio tubes,

Any "unusual" transmitting tubes.

| | 4.0 |
|-------|--------|
| 5751 | 10 |
| 5842 | 12A7 |
| 6AQ8 | 2A3 |
| 6AZ8 | 45 |
| 6BD8 | 6Q7G |
| 6DC8 | 6U7G |
| 6BK8 | 85 |
| 396A | 12AX7 |
| 417A | 83 |
| 6072A | 6SN7GT |
| EL37 | 1L.6 |
| 6A3 | 50A1 |
| 6F5 | 6L6GC |
| 6F6 | 6L6GAY |
| 6L6GA | 6L6GB |
| | |

2022 Meeting Themes

Sep 13- Kutztown XLVI Planning, Theme: Antennas.

Oct 11- Portable Audio.

Nov 8- Turkey Radios. (Election Day)

Dec 13- X-mas Party- Venue and time TBA.

Meeting of March 8, 2022

Jarret Brown showed us some his personal practices in restoring grill cloth that evening. He was quick to explain these are his personal preferences that work for him but as there are many methods used by others. Some of Jarret's methods utilize coffee, spray starch, clothing iron, adhesives, tapes, shears, and a hot soldering tip. Jarret feels at times a newly woven grill fabric may look too new and not match the overall "age" presentation and found that soaking with coffee in a tray for a day will add a little "aged realism" hiding the unrealistic shine.



Next, his wife expertly irons and spray starches the fabric. Once the cloth is set and dry, Jarret, using a table top or piece of wood for smaller pieces, stretches and tapes this conditioned, starched cloth on all four sides of the fabric, paying attention to tautness of the fabric and noting which side needs to be down (or up) depending on the subsequent installation on the speaker board. The trials and errors on this taping step have been experience by many club members as you learn technique.



The next step is to lightly spray a multi-material adhesive spray such 3M "77" lightly on the taped grill cloth. Also, on the speaker board, spray the adhesive somewhat thicker to prepare for the joining of the backing to the taped-down grill cloth. Now carefully review the fabric pattern may require centering, checking again for the proper side out before you affix the backing board to the grill cloth. You only get one shot at this as pulling away will likely ruin the grill cloth. Jarret places a heavier flat piece on top to aid in the bonding process leaving it dry overnight. Now edges can be cut off the form via shears which may leave some jagged edges.



Jarret uses a small lighter to carefully melt the edges- be careful not to get too close! Super

glue or nail polish may also work in this respect but again, take care with application to the expensive grill cloth! Some may even spray a little lacquer to further stiffen the cloth. There may be holes to make in the newly glued grill cloth board but it is important to never use a drill or awl for this as it can tear things up on the fabric. Instead, carefully use a hot solder tip to melt-in the holes in those spots. Club members exchanged ideas such as the use of the product "Goof-Off" to remove excess adhesive that might have bled through the fabric if too much was applied. Also, allowing the adhesive to set up for a short period such as 30 seconds may help avoid the run-through potential for or this as well. Some use different adhesives such as Elmer's and 3M products have various adherence strength products. It is also important to make sure the nozzle of the spray can is unclogged free and at least room temperature. Most products are low VOC and safe to use. There is an art to getting the right amount of glue applied. Some of the forms, made cheaply out of cardboard or similar fiber board have disintegrated over the years and may need to be replaced by fashioning cardboard forms such from cereal or other boxes- keep some in your shop as you will likely use them. Some have tried a hot glue gun instead of adhesive sprays. Some have also saved old arill cloth sections from other sets. An audio file of this discussion is available upon request to Oscillator editor.

Meeting of April 12, 2022

Darren Hoffman performed an actual recording session demonstration this night on his Rek-O-Kut Record system. The system shown is a Challenger model, a medium quality unit used by schools, radio stations, and the like but not meant for high fidelity applications such as commercial recording. This model is from 1955, produced in Long Island City. Rek-O-Kut manufactured these units from 1948 until 1967 that were made obsolete by magnetic tape in the 1960's. Recording was done via amplified vibration conversion similar to a loudspeaker but driving a lathing stylus milling lacquer disk blanks. You do not want to miss viewing this one with a cameo recording of one DVHRC member!



Above and Below: Darren explains the Rek-O-Kut system operation and his presentation has been recorded to the DVHRC YouTube channel at the following: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-XFigC7PnU&t=351s



Special Note: DVHRC member Terry Skelton has secured permission to re-publish the following story about the iconic Simpson 260 in Radio Guide Magazine. Many interesting links including the future of terrestrial radio can at the Radio Guide site: https://www.engineeringradio.us/blog/2022/01/radioguide-the-magazine/

Old Ain't Bad..Notes From The Workbench! (Part 1) Rebuilding a Simpson 260 Meter

Radio Guide Nov-Dec 2016 * Tommy Gray CPBE CBNE

For those of us who have been around the block a few times, what I am about to mention is something that is no doubt very familiar. These days everyone relies on some kind of nice digital multi-meter that is auto-ranging, etc., for electronics measurements. The common multi-meter usually known as a VOM (Volt-Ohm-Milliamp meter) has capabilities to measure AC and DC voltage, Current, and Resistance. Others usually called a LCR (Standing for inductance (L), Capacitance (C), and Resistance (R)) meter measure things like the inductance of a coil, choke, etc., as well as capacitance, etc.

I personally do a lot of RF work, usually on AM and FM transmitters. Working with a lot of older and even vintage transmitters sometimes is better done with vintage test equipment. The one piece of equipment I am going to talk about for the next few issues, is a very common VOM called the Simpson 260. This meter has been for years the mainstay of many an engineer's tool kit. They can measure just about anything in an older transmitter from rectifier stacks (Checking for shorted or open rectifiers, or stacks) to even measuring audio levels with the DB scale found in the old Simpsons. I keep one or more of these little jewels around the shop and usually in the car for use in transmitters. They are not seen very much these days, but you can easily find units that range in guality to those that are only good for spare parts, to some really great ones that require very little but a fresh set of batteries.

The last time I was looking for a "new" Simpson, I found tons of them available on Ebay (TM) for just a few bucks. The great thing about them is that they are easily maintained and calibrated. Full schematics for them are available several places on the Internet totally free. Having rebuilt and Recalibrated numerous Simpsons, I want to share a few tips that will help you to come up with a good Working unit without a lot of cash outlay and work. Once you have your unit refurbished, you can use it the next time you want to check a rectifier stack, or just about anything else. I would NOT recommend using it to make on-board measurements on circuit boards for the most part as these usually require good high-impedance meter to prevent loading the circuit.

The unit pictured here is the latest one I am in the process of rebuilding to complement another technical vehicle's tool array. I got this one for \$30 off EBay in "Sort-of" working fashion. Now I usually try to avoid units that have circuit board damage as they might be a lot more trouble to resurrect. Here is the latest Simpson 260 project meter:



This particular meter is a "Series 5". I personally prefer a series 5 or later. There are a few differences I don't care to elaborate on but just get a 5 or higher and you should be good.

Where to Start

When you get your new meter the first thing to do is to open it up and remove any old batteries. The biggest point of failure with these and many other pieces of older gear is that someone stores them with batteries still in them and after a while they leak and wreak havoc on the insides of the meter, many times to the point of trashing them beyond repair.

The Simpson meters carry several different complements of batteries. Some may have AA and D cells in combination. Others may have 9V and AA as their power. After removing any remains of the old batteries, check all the contacts for corrosion. You might find a very hard bluish residue on the silver plated contacts or it might be white depending on the type of battery it had inside. I find that the blue corrosion seems to me the hardest to remove. Several of the contacts can be carefully extracted for easy cleaning. Others have wires soldered to them that may have to be removed first.

The clips below were removed from the top corners and are in the middle of a 4 battery chain of AA cells. They had no wires to remove and simply slipped out of the case with a little nudge. You will notice that the one on the right which had the white residue on it came a lot cleaner with a simple brushing than did the one on the left that had the blue stuff. I will continue to clean these up with a



combination of baking soda and water, and later silver cleaner. I will polish them up as best I can.

Then using a great product called *"Cool-Amp"* silver plating powder, I will finally re-plate them and they will look almost like new. There are several more battery terminals in these Simpson units that you need to inspect and if necessary, clean and/or repair. Many of the units such as the one I am rebuilding, use a combination of batteries as I mentioned. This one has 4 AA and one D cell. You can see in the schematic below just where they are used in the circuit. (I apologize for the poor quality image!)

Enlarge image or DVHRC editor can supply a full size pdf image file upon request.



Once you have cleaned up all your internals, being careful not to tamper with any adjustable resistors, etc., you are ready to pop in a new set of batteries and see it the unit you have will work. Please note here that I highly recommend that you use alkaline cells for better life. I would also recommend that you try to get good quality cells and change them on a regular basis, to prevent your meter from sustaining damage again. This is true for ALL your meters not just the trusty Simpson. How long has it been since you changed out the batteries in your meters? Well that is probably too long!!

The Simpson has many really neat features that make it a great little meter for things like transmitter work. Say for example you want to test a rectifier stack. With most smaller or digital meters it may or may not work well enough to tell if you are looking

at a bad one or not. With the Simpson, the available power it has will allow you to tell most times if you are looking at a defective stack without having to test each individual diode in the stack. One thing I especially like are the -D.C. / + D.C. switches. You can connect the leads to the rectifier, then just switch the knob between + and - to see a front to back ratio. Now I realize that you can do this with most modern meters, but where is the fun with that!! The Simpson is good for a lot of other things as well. You should also note that there is a DB scale at the bottom of the meter face. You can check audio levels with the meter by simply setting the switch to A.C., and choosing an appropriate voltage setting. Now keep in mind that the meter movements heavily damped, so it is probably better for reading tones, etc., but will allow you to see if there is audio on a line without having to drag out other equipment.

It has inputs to read DC Current <u>up to 10 amps</u>, and AC and DC voltage scale up to 5000V. Now I personally prefer to use a high voltage probe for such measurements, but though I never tried, you could feasibly use the meter direct, though I would suggest clipping the leads on with power off and not touching them while taking a reading.

In the next installment, I will get into calibrating your meter to assure good accuracy. I will also go through a few actual measurements with the meter giving you examples of how you might use yours for field work. So now, you need to go online, or into your storeroom if applicable, and dig out an old Simpson meter and get ready for a little fun with an "Old Timer".

Tommy Gray has been President/CEO of "Broadcast Engineering & Technology LLC", a Consulting and Contract Engineering Firm with offices in the Houston, TX area, and North LA area. www.BEandT.com

DVHRC will aim to procure and publish Part 2 of this series for our next newsletter and also address the 1,000 ohms/volt conversion for the Simpson 260, useful when analyzing older sets of the 20's.

Did a West Virginian Invent Radio?

Real Radio Inventor Always Ignored

This article appeared in the (Beckley, W. Va.) Raleigh Register, on Sept. 7, 1976.

TERRA ALTA, W. Va. (UPI) - When the radio is turned on, Mahlon Loomis isn't the household name that pops to mind. It's the Italian, Guglielmo Marconi.

Loomis, a dentist, transmitted signals in October 1866 between two Virginia mountaintops, using kites as antennae. The messages traveled 18 miles.

In 1870, Loomis successfully transmitted telegraphic signals between two ships which were two miles apart on the Chesapeake Bay. The U. S. Navy sponsored those experiments.

In January 1873, Congress chartered the Loomis Aerial Telegraph Co. One congressman, pleading Loomis' case in the House, said, "He entertains a dream, and it may be only a dream, a wild dream that when his proposition comes to be fully applied, it may light and warm your houses...."

Eight months before he died in 1886, Loomis installed two "radio" stations in Terra Alta and transmitted messages two miles between them.

The spearhead of the current campaign to have Congress recognize Loomis as the inventor of the radio is John Whitehair of Terra Alta. Of the stations, he said, "Of course this setup was very elementary. "From what we found out, he would notify his assistant and then transmit the message. The signal was probably very faint but it was there. He did do it.

"His family is tired of trying to get anything done," Whitehair said. "We've contacted (Rep.) Harley Staggers (D-W. Va.) But we haven't heard anything. We also wrote letters to the Bicentennial Commission, but we couldn't get anything done there, either."

Yet, even if he isn't sanctioned as the man who invented radio, the failure won't be anything new to the ex-New Yorker. For even when he died, he couldn't get people to do what he wanted them to. When he died, Loomis made one simple wish - that a rose bush be planted on his grave. That request was ignored.

More essays concerning this subject from sources such as QST Amateur Radio Magazine and other radio historians familiar with the technical merits of this proposition can be found at the following link:

https://jeff560.tripod.com/loomis.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. The following includes many of the antique club and hamfest events which may be viewed via: https://www.qsl.net/w2vtm/hamfes t.html

Kutztown Radio Show XLVI (46)

Friday, 09.16.22 through Saturday, 09.17.22 opens 7AM on those days; Vendor setup starts 12 noon Thursday. <u>Early buyers</u> will not be permitted on Thursday without a dealer tag. Free parking and free admission for shoppers. Auction is Friday 9.16 at 5:30 in White Room, Preview

at 4:30. 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 \$48, extra tables \$10. Exhibitor reservation advised: Phone M-Th 570.385.0104; F-S 610.683.6848. See links at: www.dvhrc.org to download or facebook.com/renningerskutztown

2022 AWA Annual Conference

Tuesday, October 4 to Saturday October 8, 2022. AWA will be held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 W Henrietta Rd, Henrietta, NY 14467. The dual themes will be "100 Years of Car Radios" and the "Evolution of Audio" See event site below for details. https://www.antiquewireless.org/h omepage/annual-conference/

<u>RF Hill ARC Hamfest 2.0</u> Sunday,

Oct. 16, 2022 7 am to 1 pm. <u>Check contacts below</u>. Vendor setup at 6:00 AM. Entrance fee \$6. Vendor fees are \$12 indoor w/ table and \$8 outdoor (additional to entrance fee). Where: Upper County Campus of Bucks Community College, Blooming Glen Road, Perkasie, PA 18944. Contact: john@morrelfamily.net or 215-399-7685 Info Flyer: http://www.rfhillarc.club/hamfest/

Also that same day.....

MAARC Radio Fall Fest Sunday,

Oct. 16, 2022 8AM to 4PM. Tailgating at 8 AM and auction at 12:00. Where: Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Address: 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road, Davidsonville, MD. See the MAARC website for details:

http://www.maarc.org/.

https://maarc.org/event/maarcradio-fallfest/

NJARC Fall Swap Meet and

Hamfest Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 8 am to 12 pm. <u>Check contacts</u> <u>below</u>. Vendor setup at 7:15AM. \$7 entrance fee. \$35 vendor fee (\$30 for members). Additional table \$25 reserved. \$30 day of event subject to availability. Walkaround Auction starts 11:30 am. Expert antique radio repair available. **Where:** Parsippany PAL, 33 Baldwin Rd, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Email: <u>radiorich@prodigy.net</u> (Rich) or <u>vp@njarc.org</u> (Sal)

www.njarc.org/directions.html#sw apmeets.

Meeting of June 14, 2022

The theme was what I found at Kutztown XLV in May. Below are some of the "finds".



Above: Mike Koste was surprised when this rare Scott escutcheon was found buried within a box lot of knobs the Gobs of Knobs dealer had procured.



Above and Below: Dave Snellman shows off his Zenith R520A/URR. Notice the USA labeling on the cabinet and chassis as well. This is the military version of a modified Zenith Transoceanic A600L series. It was covered with Army Green oil cloth and had no dial light or retractable power cord. Production was only 2,973! The Zenith 220V Adapter was installed. This model was a special build radio for the Army Signal Corp in 1956 and not sold to the public. According to Bryant and Cones, this is the rarest of all Trans-Oceanics.



Meeting of July 12, 2022

The theme of Atomic Age refers to furnishings that are designed to capture the iconography of the atom and the atomic bomb.



Throughout the late-1940s to 1960s, millions of Americans moved to the suburbs, became homeowners, and indulged in mass consumerism as they furnished their new homes with an abundance of goods and objects. While they sought privacy and security in their homes, they were also deeply aware of the threat of nuclear attack and radiation due to the Cold War. What emerged was a light and playful design trend that captured civilization's fears in a way that was highly aesthetic, unique, and memorable as a way of dealing with the anxiety and fear of an atomic attack.



Above and Below: Dave Snellman shows off early transistor atomic age sets- a 1957 Motorola 66T1 and a Westinghouse H619P. https://youtu.be/oVqLv0hGmxQ



Above: We agreed that the CONELRAD markings were essential to the classification of the following radios as truly atomic age. CONELRAD (Control of Electromagnetic Radiation) was a method of emergency broadcasting to the public of the United States in the event of enemy attack during the Cold War. It was intended to allow continuous broadcast of civil defense information to the public using radio stations, while rapidly switching the transmitter stations to make the broadcasts unsuitable for Soviet bombers that might attempt to home in on the signals (as was done during World War II). On the radios above, encircled triangle markings are presented for quick tuning with dual views marked on both top and bottom of the dial. CONELRAD markings were required on all radios produced between 1953 and 1963 likely with exceptions. Below: Al Simmons showed a 1954 GE model 440 with an atomic logo on the front tuning dial but without CONELRAD markers.





Above: The GE model 862 "Leave it to Beaver Radio" of 1957 is often seen but never heard on the classic show still broadcast daily. **Below:** Due to the rare color combo, this 1956 Motorola 56H combining atomic and modernism styles with its torpedo dial fetched \$640 May 2022 on Ebay after 67 bids.



As "the more things change the more they stay the same" in today's crazy world, you may want to recreate the optimism and hope shown during this era. Check out the music of those times within this fine series and chill!

https://will.illinois.edu/atomicag ecocktailparty





This is Gary Owens wishing you a warm Summer breeze and hoping to see you at Kutztown in September!