



The Oscillator

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



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DVHRC

SUMMER 2026

Remembering Bill O'Radio

Again, we are reminded of the hourglass of time and dear friends with the sudden passing of Bill Overbeck in May. We witnessed his expertise and humor over many years as a constant at Kutztown shows and he will be sorely missed. Oscillator archives from the mid 1990's through mid-2000's show him as a leader and promoter of DVHRC along with early members including Jay, Tony, Mike K., Dave A., Pete and Charlie, among others. Bill served as president from 1996 thru 2002 in those formative years when new members were joining at almost every meeting. Many club members spent quality time with Bill at the May 2026 Kutztown 53 and he stayed for the bonfire.

Below: Bill loved all those he met and all who met him became a fast friend including the four-legged variety. See his touching obituary announcement via link below.



<https://www.stretchfuneralhome.com/obituaries/William-P-Overbeck?obId=48450164>

Club News Kutztown 53 was discussed in detail at the June 2026 meeting. Cool temperatures did not chill the spirit of sellers and buyers and Friday night auction and bonfire proceedings. The club greatly benefits from the knowledge and auctioning skills of club members John and Darren serving many willing buyers!

Below: Winner of Philco 42-350 raffle radio was Peter Zdunowski of Reading, PA.



Please see John Hagman's photo essay of KTZ53 at:

<https://john-h.smugmug.com/Spring-2026-Kutztown-Vintage-Electronics-Expo>

Also, see Blueglow and RadioWild's YT Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmUP8PhiZC8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vk2fQEmBzs>

DVHRC is looking for a raffle radio for the September 2026 Kutztown 54 detailed below. The span between Kutztown events is short so it's important we discuss the fall plans during the July 14 meeting as another formal membership meeting will not occur before the event. Patriotic radios will be our theme for July 14. August's Tailgate is on a Saturday TBA.

Kutztown Antique Radio and Vintage Electronics Show LIV (54) Friday, Sept. 18 through Saturday afternoon, Sept. 19, 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

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.

DVHRC Board of Directors

President:

Jarret Brown / 610-704-0803
jpb205@lehigh.edu

Vice President:

Tom Spiegel
Adxymox62@netzero.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Dave Snellman / 267-328-8857
dsnellman@comcast.com

At Large members:

Greg Dottor / 610-844-6326
gdottor@yahoo.com

Links for Upcoming Events

It is our hope that you are able to load links (in blue) on your device directly from this format; also, much richness is provided by links within the stories that follow!

JD Auctions Summer Radio, Hi Fi and more! *We understand there are plans for Sat. July 11, 2026 9AM auction in Jackson, NJ. See following website and watch notifications on DVHRC Reflector*

<https://www.auctionzip.com/NJ-Auctioneers/970176.html>

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>

Regional Hamfests during 2026 local to DVHRC: Valley Forge, 8/09/26, Reading Radio Club, 8/29/26, RF Hill, 10/18/26.

Insert zip code on website to filter for your local event details:

https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/page:/Location.division_id:AT/model:Event

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/>

Remaining Club Meetings

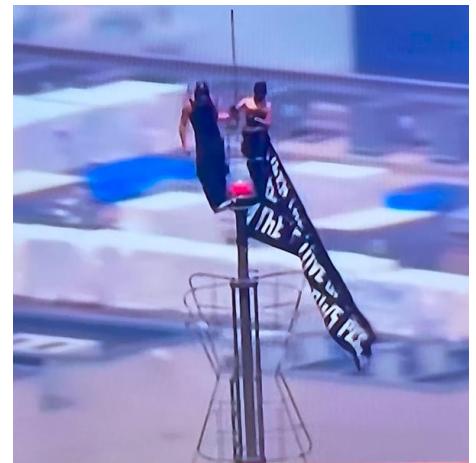
Access to remaining themes for our Telford meetings can be found on our web page- **Events tab**.

If you would like to make a presentation, please let us know as images or associated documents from your flash drives

can be projected on our big screen!

AWA Shares

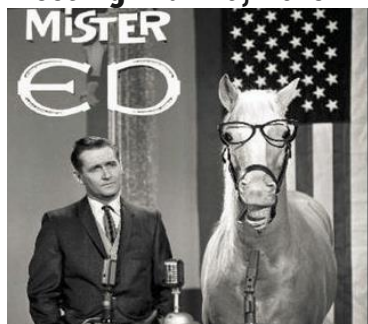
Each month there will be a well-researched presentation via Zoom including a question and answer session. It is free and you don't have to be an AWA member! AWA Webinar Wednesdays are held the third Wednesday of each month and the next one on [Mike Murphy will discuss Richard Byrd's polar expeditions. When: July 15, 2026, 08:00 PM Eastern. Register in advance for this & future shares!](#)
<https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/awa-shares/>



Above: When a daredevil couple recently scaled the Empire State Building's antenna, the broadcast towers were emitting a combined total of 14 to 17 million watts (14 to 17 megawatts) of radio and TV energy. Because the climbers illegally accessed the live spire, the extreme radio-frequency (RF) fields and electrical energy created a massive health and safety hazard. To prevent these electromagnetic fields from injuring the climbers or emergency personnel, NYC TV and FM stations immediately shifted broadcasts to backup and auxiliary antennas.

<https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/headlines/empire-state-building-climbers-force-nyc-fm-and-tv-stations-to-backup-sites>

Meeting Mar.10, 2026



Ed says please DO NOT print out the following pages as there will be many pictures and I do not want you to drain your ink cartridges!

The March theme was Radios from TV/Film. Many images were shared at this meeting. Here are some of those.



Above: This one from Mark Hilliard: Vincent Price stars in the pandemic-themed movie "The Last Man on Earth", a 1964 post-apocalyptic science fiction horror film. The main character (well played by Vincent Price) uses an HF transceiver in a fruitless effort to find other survivors of a global plague. It was shot in Italy, and the transceiver doesn't look like any American radio we've seen. See link below or view film for free!

<https://swling.com/blog/2020/06/the-allochio-bacchini-rf4d-that-mystery-radio-from-the-last-man-on-earth/>

<https://archive.org/details/lastmanonearth-1964>



Below: Another one from Mark shows the 1960 Perry Mason episode "The Case of the Slandered Submarine". Mark's wife, a fan of the series was keen to pause a show when a vintage radio showed up. Decent images can be saved using a smartphone cam. In this episode, Perry defends a sailor accused of murdering his captain while also dealing with a wealthy electronics manufacturer who wants to sue the U.S. Navy. The plot unfolds as Perry navigates complexities of military court and the implications of the case on national security. What is seen below is a prop used to represent a sunken submarine detector but is really an Eico Sweep generator! Most viewers of the time found this somewhat believable seeing this image but a TV serviceman of the era might had some laughs!



Below: In another Perry Mason episode we see Perry's clientele waiting for the proprietor of what looks to be an upscale radio and hi fi shop. It goes to show that if you watch the MeTV channel for a few hours, you are likely to come upon some vintage electronics!



Above: Here's an "I Love Lucy" episode from 1951- 52 called "Lucy Gets Ricky on the Radio" when a planned evening of intellectual conversation falls flat, the Ricardos and Mertzes opt for a night in front of the TV set. When the set breaks down, radio prevails and the four friends listen to the "Mr. And Mrs. Quiz" show, hosted by Freddie Fillmore.

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

Below: Here we see a scene from a train ride where a Zenith TO (looks like a Royal 1000) is shown in the 1959 horror film "Alligator People". A woman in a hypnotic state recounts to two doctors the details of a horrific experience from her past life that began with the mysterious and sudden disappearance of her husband. The doctors used the latest reel to reel tape recorder for the initial psychoanalysis. You can view this flick on the link below.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnBncltw6Rk>

Below: From Perry and before and beyond, Zenith's iconic sets were promoted on the large and small screen.





Above: Here's a 1939 Zenith 6-D-317 "glass rod" model, sadly, with non-matched knobs and frequency changes between scenes of "Woman of the Year". Some posts on Antique radio forums are beginning to be truncated so it is our duty as a club and community to pass this knowledge along.

<https://antiqueradios.com/forums/viewtopic.php?p=572103>



Above and Below: This Packard Bell AR-851 was Gilligan's favorite on the Sherwood Schwartz produced comedy. The radio was retrofitted with telescopic antenna and handle for visual appeal although the 8 transistor set already had a ferrite bar. Kits of this hardware are available online to convert the case to this look at a high price. Gilligan's white model is the most collectible.



1964 Packard Bell AR-851
"Gilligan's Island" 8-transistor Radio

Below: Emmitt Clark, played by Paul Hartman on the Andy Griffith show was a fixit guy of all kinds of devices- even radios and TV's in his fictionalized role. Here we see a few sets in the middle of his work table without any test gear nearby! Such was the business of TV props for visual interest. In real life, Emmitt Forrest, Andy's childhood friend inspired the character's name and was instrumental in forming the Andy Griffith museum in Mt. Airy, NC which unfortunately does not include a fixit shop display.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WG5yaQFvUhw>

<https://christianheritagefellowship.com/andy-griffith-emmett-and-the-moravians/>



Above: Jarret Brown displayed his highly collectible art deco tombstone Walton Zenith 9-S-232 with correct knobs. This radio was produced at various levels with the 7-S-232 (7 tubes, no motorized dial), 9-S-232 (9 tubes with motorized shutter dial) and 12-S-232 (12 tubes and similar cabinet to 9).

Below: One of the Walton's on-set props is a 7-S-232 with blacked-out name and incorrect knobs displayed at the Smithsonian; they should be wooden with the Z logo. Close-ups used the more ornate 12-S-232 which served as transitions for scenes. Many such time inconsistencies occurred with the Walton's. John boy graduated from Walton's Mountain School in 1934 and they had a 1938 radio in the living room! If you are a daydream believer, you may believe the Monkees listened to this radio on their show pre-dating the Walton's.





Above: The 1949 movie "A Women's Secret" shows a period correct Hallicrafters SX-42. Character Jim Fowler as Police Inspector (Jay Flippen) is topnotch as the detective, lifting his scenes, as does his wife Mary (Mary Phillips) as his amateur private-eye wife. She solves the case in part by listening to police radio transmissions on this set. More Hallicrafters sets on cinema can be viewed here:

<https://www.w9wze.net/df.php?dn=Features/HalliMovies.wp/>

Below: Al Simmons showed a few clips from the RKO 1952 movie "Macao", an adventure film Noir starring Robert Mitchum, Jane Russel and William Bendix featuring directorial artistic license concerning the 1950 Zenith model G503 played in cabin scene on a ferry boat traveling from Hong Kong to Macao. The G503 features a cool flip up dial to turn on and off perhaps to ensure you power off and safeguard batteries.



Below: While enroute, this scene "Would you mind giving me a hand" has a progression showing an inebriated gambler who is initially dancing to the radio's music to entice Jane Russel's character & second frame with them dancing to the music. The third frame shows Jane turning off the radio with a distinctive click using the left control and leaving the flip up dial raised (not how this model works but cinematic license). After an unwanted advance and scuffle, Jane's character is ready to throw a shoe at this guy but the dial has mysteriously been closed! You may review the scene on link provided.



https://www.imdb.com/video/vi834192409/?ref=tt_vids_vi_2

Below: Dave Snellman showed us a few as well. First is one of many Zeniths spotted in the 1944 film "Laura". Next we have a radio used by the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge- it was an American Hallicrafters SX-28! Produced between 1940 and 1946, it saw wide use by amateur radio, government and military services. Next was a T.O. 600 from Exodus. Fourth is a Hallicrafters _____ from TV's Sky King. Under that, a Jewell portable used in "Whatever Happened to Sweet Baby Jane".



Below: Here is a Transoceanic seen in Kubrick's 1959 apocalyptic drama "On the Beach" with a nearly identical set also appearing in 1966's "The Shape of Water". Next is two of the Fab Four admiring a Pepsi promotional transistor set. Rounding things out are a young Christopher Lloyd and Danny DeVito from TV's Taxi show looking cool beside a high-end Sony CRF-320 which somehow became part of the taxi station's dispatch desk. Finally, see link showing ham radio gear from movies.



Ham Radios in Movies Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=beFm_62YyUK

Mark at MAARC: Mark Hilliard was an attendee at MAARC's recent June 2026 Radio Activity in Annapolis. He also sold some excess tube stock there making some money for the club. Here are some of those pictures.





From Donna Acerra- If you like to listen to podcasts while you replace capacitors on your current project, here is gem that I stumbled on last year. It tells the true story of Sergei Krikalev, (known as the “Last Soviet Citizen”), who in 1991 was serving a planned five-month shift on Mir, the world’s only space station at the time. Sergei became stranded in space when it became too expensive to fund a rescue to get him back to earth as the country he knew and loved was collapsing beneath him. During his 313 days floating around in space alone, with no contact from his command center, he used a ham radio on board to connect with an Australian operator, VK3CFI. Their daily communications became key to his maintaining his mental health and kept him informed about the dissolution of his homeland. This is a fascinating story with an interesting twist: The podcast host is Lance Bass from the boy band NSYNC, who is also a trained Russian cosmonaut.

Below: BBC Radio 4 broadcasts on Long Wave 198kHz AM ended on June, 27 2026, ahead of the Long Wave platform closing on 30 June 2026. Listen to the final transmission (including thunder crashes) and understand the history of BBC LW on links below.



Last Long Wave BBC Broadcast:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FpGqqr4KsY>

<https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/articles/2026/radio-4-broadcasts-on-long-wave-to-end>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXQ7qXQxHqU>

<https://keeplongwave.co.uk/history>

Lightning Detection Devices

Speaking about lightning crashes, and recent stormy activity in our Mid-Atlantic region, here are some interesting notes on how LW detection is used in personal detectors well within your budget. Lightning detectors work by sensing the electromagnetic pulses (EMP) and radio waves (sferics) emitted by lightning strikes. Ground-based networks triangulate these signals to pinpoint exact locations, while personal handheld devices measure the signal's strength to estimate distance. Handheld devices used by hikers, golfers and sports officials work on a smaller scale. Instead of communicating with a network, these detectors contain an internal antenna tuned to listen for specific lightning radio frequencies (usually around 500 kHz). By measuring the signal strength and amplitude of the detected EMP, the device estimates how far away the storm is and displays in miles. Here are some products to consider.



Portable Lightning Detector
\$54.99
AcuRite



StrikeAlert Personal Lightning Detecto...
\$81.99
Balkowitsch...

Below: View from the top- Mark and Greg got together in May to renew one leaky area and renew patches of main Renningers club trailer roof. Should last quite a few years!



Below: This well preserved appliance van was seen in the Mertztown, PA area back in June. The editor could not resist stopping to click a few pix. Original faded paint revealed it was used by Richards Radio & TV of Bethlehem, PA. I did not want to intrude to find out who owned the vehicle but wonder if this dude would want to show up at nearby Kutztown 54 in September?



This is Gary Owens , hanging out in my Chevy van saying- stay cool all the time!!!