

All the Electrons that are fit to flow.



OSCILLATOR



The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 12, No. 1, February, 2004

DVHRC to the rescue...of tubes!

January 2004 Meeting Notes and Minutes

Submitted by Dave Snellman

President Mike Koste called our first meeting for 2004 to order. One of the first items of business was the announcement of the club officers for 2004. Basically, the officers remain the same. Mike Koste, President, Dave Abramson, Vice-President and Oscillator editor-in-chief, Dave Snellman, Secretary-treasurer, Lewie Newhard, member-at-large, and Dan Collins, member-at-large. Dan Collins was welcomed as a new board member this year.

Old Business

One item left over from old business was a logo for the club. The logo would be used on T-shirts and possibly other items like hats, golf shirts, and the like. This has



the club. The logo would be used on T-shirts and possibly other items like hats, golf shirts, and the like. This has sparked a flurry of e-mails as a few members took up the challenge of designing the logo. Look for some ideas at future meetings.

We had a plea for Oscillator articles from our editor-in-chief. We have the talent in this club to

Inside the Oscillator

Meeting notes.....	1
More notes.....	2
Notes can't.....	4
Dues notice.....	5
What the prez sez.....	6
DVHRC Reflector.....	7
Advertisers.....	8



Meeting Notes continued from Page 1

*New letter of the
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
P.O. Box 5053
New Britain, PA 18901
www.dvhrc.org*

editor-in-chief. We have the talent in this club to produce many interesting and informative articles for our monthly newsletter. So here is your chance to see your name in print as a **contributor** to the Oscillator, instead of just being a reader.

The club has purchased a digital camera for use by members. We plan to have a number of individuals take photos at our meets in order to get a varied photographic



perspective of the events. Club members can also borrow the camera to prepare photos for articles they produce for the Oscillator, or to prepare slide for presentations. Dave Abramson will go over the simple instructions for using the camera a future meeting.

DVHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dave Abramson
- Mike Koste
- Leslie Newhard
- Bill Overbeck
- Dave Snellman

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Jay Daveler

OFFICERS

- President: Mike Koste
- Vice-president: Dave Abramson
- Secretary/Treasurer: Dave Snellman

OSCILLATOR EDITOR

Dave Abramson

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ADS

DVHRC Editor
1649 Yellow Springs Rd
Chester Springs, PA 19425
610-827-9757 phone/fax
dabr@worldnet.att.net
(deadline is the 20th of each month)



Now that we have your "little gray cells" working up ideas for Oscillator articles, perhaps you might want to think of doing a presentation

at a club meeting. Or perhaps you say, I can't write an article. If you do a presentation, someone else (usually me) will write up the article for you. Please share your ideas with a board member, either by e-mail or at an upcoming meeting.

The Oscillator is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide a forum to educate, inform, discuss and communicate with collectors and preservers of vintage radio technology. We welcome and solicit information relating to radio history or collecting. Submissions should be carefully researched, typed and accompanied with clear photographs or diagrams. Material on disk should be in Word and PDF formats. Unless copyrighted by the author, material in this publication is available for non-commercial reproduction for non-profit use. Personal views, opinions and technical advice offered in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or Board of Directors of the DVHRC, and its directors are not responsible for any buying or selling transactions mentioned.

To join DVHRC dues are \$15 per year. The membership year runs January - December. Please mail to the club P.O. box above. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Telford Community Building, Telford, PA.

Material submitted is subject to acceptance and editing by the editor. A full page article is approximately 400 words. Printed photos may be submitted for scanning. JPG files should be under 100K.

There is a plan to produce a "Best of" edition of the Oscillator. The club is 10 years old and the newsletter is not far behind. If you are interested in going through the past issues for articles to include in the "Best of" edition, contact Mike Koste. We also have a photo collection that could be included in the same edition.

There is a call for updates for the 2004 Membership Directory. We plan to have the new edition available at the May Kutztown Radio Meet. The deadline for updating this directory is March 9, 2004. Please submit any additions, changes, or corrections to Dave Snellman. (You can send them to PO Box 5053, New Britain, PA 18901 or e-mail me at snellman@bucks.edu.)



The February meeting (February 10th) will be the second annual "tube rescue." The purpose of the tube rescue is to help the club replenish its tube inventory. The club's tube program sells tubes to members who are restoring equipment at reasonable prices. The club also sells tubes at the club table at Kutztown. Last September we made almost \$400 on tube sales. Bring along a bag or box of tubes you no longer need and they will be tested and re-boxed. You might also want to bring along a tube tester and an extension cord to

the meeting. As we're "putting you all to work," the club will pick up the tab for some pizza and soft drinks.

New Business

Dan Collins brought up the idea of a club field trip. We polled the members in attendance and about 25 showed interest. We will try to decide some possible field trip locations and dates. One suggestion was the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. Others included the Historic Electronic Museum in Baltimore, MD and the Radio History Museum in Bowie, MD. Stay tuned for more info.

The club is also looking at doing an exhibition at Anne's Choice, a retirement facility in Warminster, PA. Dan Collins has a contact there. Ted Sowirka volunteered to help him. More information will be available at future meetings regarding what we need to display, the times, etc.

Kutztown dates are set for May 7-8 and September 17-18 this year. Justin Schetler of the Jukebox Collectors Assn. Expressed interest in having this organization join Kutztown. The club will encourage participation by

Kutztown dates are set for May 7-8 and September 17-18 this year. Justin Schetler of the Jukebox Collectors Assn. Expressed interest in having this organization join Kutztown. The club will encourage participation by the Jukebox organization and its members.



We had a long discussion on how to “beef up” activities at the upcoming Kutztown meets. One idea, proposed by Lewie Newhard, is to have a Friday night “console conflagration.” Basically, we’d have an auction of consoles that are not contenders for “best of show.” Winners could strip the console. And finally, the carcass would be thrown onto a large bonfire. It may sound corny, but you can get rid of some unwanted sets, make a buck, and everyone can have some fun.

There were a lot of ideas on how to improve the auction. Donations, a catalog sale, selling tags, and a few more were discussed. One idea that we may follow up on is selling buyer/seller cards for \$1.00. Please remember that the club benefits from the auction at Kutztown. We collect a 10 percent sellers commission and accept donation items and auction them off. We usually make several hundred dollars on the auction. We’re looking for ideas that will not involve too much additional work on the part of the already hard working volunteers.

Show and Tell

Lewie Newhard brought along an “automatic” tube tester, made by RCA. The model number was WT-110A. The tester uses “punched cards” to set up the tester for the particular tube under test. The tester holds a limited number of cards. There were sockets on the tester for more modern tubes; however, there were cards for many older tubes. Probably an adapter was available for testing the early tubes. Alan Douglas lists this unit in his book on tube testers as RCA’s final model. It sold for \$200 in 1957. Unlike the Hickok automatic tester, RCA’s cards had holes where connections were wanted.

This made for fewer holes on the cards. Douglas states it was designed for TV service, not radio. He claims no sockets were available for older tubes

Dues Notice

It not too early to start to think about paying your 2004 dues. Dues for the year are set at \$20.00 – a real bargain considering what your membership gives you. You can pay via mail to our PO Box 5053, New Britain, PA 18901, or you can pay at any upcoming meeting.

Our next meeting will be on November 11, 2003 at the Telford Community Center. Hope to see you there.

model. It sold for \$200 in 1957. Unlike the Hickok automatic tester, RCA's cards had holes where connections were wanted.

This made for fewer holes on the cards. Douglas states it was designed for TV service, not radio. He claims no sockets were available for older tubes.

Technical Presentation

Dr. Dan Schwartzmann did an excellent presentation on aligning radio sets. After a quick review of some radio theory, Dan took us to the task of aligning various radio sets. He listed the equipment needed and outlined some safety precautions (especially when working with AC/DC sets, like the All-American Fiver.) In the days TRF sets, you simply applied a test signal and adjusted the trimmers. With the advent of superheterodyne sets, additional steps were needed. In a superhet, you have at least one IF



(intermediate frequency) amplifier that requires alignment. After the IF amplifier(s) are aligned to produce the maximum output, you have to align the local oscillator circuit in order for dial reading to be accurate.

You'll need a radio frequency generator, one that can be modulated with an audio signal to do set alignment. Also, a VTVM (vacuum tube voltmeter) is helpful. You be able to see subtle changes on a meter rather than relying on your ears and the sets speaker. Non-conductive alignment tools are necessary as metal screwdrivers or tools would affect the circuitry. Another helpful item for servicing or aligning sets are tube adapters. You place the adapter in the tube socket and then the tube in the adapter. This allows you to access the pins of the tube without having to poke through all the wiring. Last, but not least, the service instructions for your set should be on hand. SAM's PhotoFacts are useful as they provide alignment instructions for the set.

On simple single band sets, the alignment procedure is easy. Multi-band sets (AM-FM-SW) require alignment for each band on the radio. FM alignment involves alignment of the discriminator circuit

For those interested in more details on set alignment, check out the book Fixing Up Nice Old Radios by Ed Romey (ISBN 1-886996-56-3)

For those interested in more details on set alignment, check out the book [Fixing Up Nice Old Radios](#) by Ed Roney (ISBN 1-886996-56-3.)

Miscellany

No DVHRC meeting would be complete without an auction. We were fortunate to have a number of donations provided by Bill Hargens. Bill is moving and is “thinning” his collection. A nice Zenith AM-FM set (just like the one Dan used to demonstrate set alignment,) some assorted QST magazines, some other radios, and some parts netted the club \$80.00. Thanks, Bill.

The 50/50 netted the club and the winner \$44.00 each – almost a record, at least in my memory,

We have a new member. We want to welcome Paul Sheib from Macungie. Also, I think I forgot to mention Stan Saeger from Coopersburg joined our ranks in December.

We were collecting dues at the January meeting and will do so at the next meeting. Remember your dues are due in January of every year. If your mailing label still shows “2003” – you haven’t paid for this year. Those paid will see “2004” on their label. March 2004 will be the “cut-off” for those who haven’t paid. You can also mail your dues to DVHRC, Box 5053, New Britain, PA 18901.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday evening, February 10, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the Telford Community Center. The activity for February is the annual “tube rescue.” See you there.



WHAT THE PREZ SEZby **Mike Koste**

Since Dave Snellman has given you a thorough play-by-play of our first meeting of 2004, there is little for me to dwell on, other than to offer some personal invitations.

First off, February 10th is our Second Annual Tube Rescue. In lieu of our customary monthly meeting, this is a totally voluntary function designed to bolster inventory of the DVHRC Tube Program. By offering a wide variety at a very affordable price, we experienced a marked gain in sales in 2003, particularly at the Kutztown meets. Most members have surplus tube stock which they will never use or at least get around to organizing. We ask you to donate them to the DVHRC and spend a cold winter evening with your fellow members as we sort, test, clean and rebox your contributions to supplement the Tube Program. Along with your tubes, bring along a tube tester, extension cord and any small containers you may have which would be suitable for storing. Pizza and soda will be served to all participants. Additionally, we have made a bulk purchase of empty tube boxes and will be offering them for sale at a special members price.

My second and third invitation is for everyone associated with the DVHRC to take a more active roll in club activities. Specifically as contributors to *The Oscillator*, and sharing some of your knowledge, experience and expertise by way of a presentation or Tech Talk. As far as our newsletter is concerned, bear in mind that Dave Abramson is The Editor. An editor edits. He's also responsible for the layout, getting the draft to the printer and the monthly mailing. Please note that this job description does not include "Primary Correspondent"...that's the responsibility of each and every one of us. With a membership of over one hundred, there are probably forty or so who attend meetings regularly. If just that active group submitted an *Oscillator* article or two in 2004 and Dave published two or three a month, we'd actually have a two-year backlog to choose from! The mathematics of extra Tech Talks waiting in the wings would be even more impressive.

Invitation number four may prove to be an inspiration: At our March 9th meeting, long-standing DVHRC member Ray Chase will be offering an interesting presentation on a unique World War II era aircraft homing system. I'd judge Ray to be doing more than his share, since he drives all the way to Telford from Plainfield, New Jersey.

It's your club and it is what you make of it.

The DVHRC Mailing Listby **Mike Koste**

Besides monthly meetings, the club has another way to instantly communicate with everyone in the club simultaneously.

Some call it a Reflector or Electronic Mail Box, and it's easy to use. If you're presently email accessible, all you need to do is register at:

mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/dvhrc

Once you're registered, save the link in your address book, and give it a name (like "DVHRC"). Then, if you have a question or comment to share with the rest of the DVHRC, all you need to do is send one email.

Having trouble with a project? Looking for a part? Got something for sale? News of an upcoming sale or auction, or anything else related to the hobby? Get on The List!
Fast, fun, and a lead-pipe cinch!

<http://www.radioswapmeet.com>



**Antique and Vintage
Electronics Exchange**

Your #1 Radio Resource
Everything in one place
Free Membership!!

Come Join the Fun!

(215) 540-8055 FAX 540-8327
www.agtannenbaum.com

A.G. TANNENBAUM
ELECTRONIC SERVICE DATA & PARTS

Alice - WA2BTB
Mike - K2BN

P.O. BOX 386
AMBLER, PA 19002



OSCILLATOR

1649 Yellow Springs Rd.

Chester Springs, PA 19425

The Kutztown Radio Store

AT RENNINGER'S ANTIQUE MART KUTZTOWN, PA

Open Saturdays, 8:30-4

Sales and Repair
of antique radios



Buying old radios
and related parts

Bob- (610) 253-3261

bparvin@aol.com

Lewie- (610) 262-3255

lewallee@aol.com

Dale- (610) 262-1807

tubenet@webtv.net