

**All the Electrons that are fit to flow.**



# OSCILLATOR

RCA VICTOR ELECTRON TUBE

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 12, No. 2, March, 2004

## Tested tubes and Ray Chase at the DVHRC

Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club

February meeting 2004

Reported by Dave Snellman

As the theme of the February meeting was our annual "tube rescue" event, there were no official meeting minutes or notes. No auction was held either.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow members to bring in their un-needed tubes for testing, cleaning and re-boxing by club members. These tubes will be added to the club's inventory and made available for sale at meetings and at upcoming swap meets.

The club has purchased a quantity of plain white tube boxes for use in the tube rescue. Excess boxes will be made available for sale to members. Box sizes range from miniature tubes to "ST" size. Prices will range



range from miniature tubes to "ST" size. Prices will range from \$0.20 to \$0.35 each – depending on size. Quantity discounts are available. See Dave Snellman at an upcoming meeting.

Those assisting in the tube rescue were treated to pizza as a reward for their assistance

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**Meeting Notes continued from Page 1**

The next meeting of the DVHRC will be on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 at the Telford Community Center. Ray Chase will be making a presentation on a unique World War II aircraft homing system.



2003 still appears after your name on the mailing label, you need to pay up your annual dues. Dues are \$20.00 per year.

Membership directory update...

We will be updating our annual membership directory. We hope to have it available in time for the Kutztown swap meet – May 7 and 8, 2004. The deadline for updates to be included is April 5, 2004. Please send any updated information to Dave Snellman at DVHRC, Box 5053, New Britain, PA 18901 or e-mail to [dsnellman@comcast.net](mailto:dsnellman@comcast.net).

**Next meeting: Tuesday, March 9th. Ray Chase will be giving a presentation on a unique WWII era aircraft homing system.**

*New sletter of the  
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club  
P.O. Box 5053  
New Britain, PA 18901  
[www.dvhrc.org](http://www.dvhrc.org)*

The Oscillator is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide a forum to educate, inform members and communicate with collectors and preservationists 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 discs should be in Word and PDF formats.

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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 organizations responsible for anything or selling a commercial product.

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.

**DVHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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(deadline is the 20th of each month)

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2004, 10am

# RADIO AUCTION

**Emmaus Fire Co. #1****South Sixth St.****Emmaus, PA.**

**This is the second of three events selling off the collection of  
DVHRC Member Bob Parvin**

**SKINNER'S AUCTION CO. (AU-3554-L)****(610) 330-6933**

Cash, Approved PA checks, Pre-Approved out-of-state checks, credit cards. Dealers must have copy of 2004 Tax ID. Concessions available, 13% clerking fee with 3% cash discount. Bank letter of credit addressed to Skinner's auction for purchases above \$5000.

Information at auction takes precedence over all written and verbal information

*DIRECTIONS:* From I-78E, take exit 57 onto Lehigh St. toward Emmaus, left onto South Sixth St. From I-78W, take exit 58 Emmaus Ave. onto Main St., left onto South Sixth.

## PARTIAL LISTING:

**EMERSON**

512  
543  
60384W  
FL-414 (Very rare "Big 6,  
" cardboard case)

**SILVERTONE**

2015 wood cabinet  
7031A

**MECK**

Trailblazer

**PHILCO**

49-901  
46-420  
51-530  
D53124  
51-532  
37-630  
5820 Transitone  
48-250  
49-500  
41-220  
B574  
7710

**PHILCO**

PT49  
51-532  
54 (Rare-blue)  
46-420  
37-620  
46-250  
90 (Rare case)

**RCA**

8X1486  
9X572  
K80  
11222

**RCA**

46X3  
281 (12 tubes!)  
Radiola 80  
Radiola 61-8  
Radiola 1003B  
7K1

**WESTINGHOUSE**

H3383T5U  
H557P4 (In original box!)  
H1821 (rare)  
WR12X5  
16648I

**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

125  
C600  
220  
J63  
107  
555 (38 2 band, 6 tube)  
202  
423  
A87

**TRAVELER**

65-38  
50-15

**ZENITH**

8D615 ?  
3001  
H725  
K725  
L622W

**CROSLEY**

18  
819M  
J11  
9-104W "Musical Chef"  
E158E "Dashbaord"

**CROSLEY**

E158E "Dashbaord"  
E156E

**ATWATER KENT**

70  
"E" Speaker  
20 "Big Box"

**MOTOROLA**

A8  
J25  
56R  
56H  
7XM  
63X1A

**MINIATURES (Various)**

Airline  
Viscount  
(2) Emerson  
Teletone  
Meck 4B7

**OTHER RADIOS & RELATED ITEMS**

Freed Eisemann 532D Receiver  
Sparton 103  
Air King 4602B  
Regal 747  
Knight Kit 730  
3 Tube Homebrew  
Mantola 1486  
Cameo 28-03  
Harmon Kardon 800+  
Early AC Dayton w/wood horn  
Magnavox M1 horn speaker  
Dewald c800  
1930 Graybar console  
Baker Smith ship speaker  
Assorted tubes and parts

**AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!**

## A book review...

Submitted by Dave Snellman

Signor Marconi's Magic Box is the latest book on the life and accomplishments of Guglielmo Marconi. (I can hear some already saying, "Oh no, not another Marconi book. We already know he invented radio.") Well this is not your typical book outlining the technical achievements he made, nor is it a technical treatise on how he did it. (It's also refreshing to read a book about "wireless" and not having it refer to computers or to Bill Gates!) The underlying theme throughout the book is Marconi's quest for communications over ever increasing distances. From his start in communications measured in feet around the Villa Giffone to a world-wide wireless empire, the book traces his endeavors.

The book starts with Marconi in England showing off his invention via William Preece. Sending and receiving code via a set of "magic boxes" was just the start. We then lapse into a brief history of the Marconi family, its ties to the Jameson whiskey clan, and the early days of young Guglielmo's experiments. We learn of his early triumphs in sending messages from Queen Victoria to Prince Edward.

In the early days of "wireless," there were two distinct methods of transmitting information. One involved Marconi's method of electromagnetic waves generated by a spark, the one most accepted today as the basis for "radio." The other was the induction method. Preece in England and Edison in the US had developed systems that allowed for wireless communications between parallel wires. Though it was technically "wireless," the principle used was induction. The induction method gained popularity as a business communications tool used by railroad travelers. The wires along the metal railroad tracks made this form of wireless communications via induction possible and practical. Marconi was concentrating on communicating between ships and shore points and between ships at sea. There were no parallel metal paths for ships to use to communicate with either the shore or other ships.

While he experienced some success in England and in other parts of Europe, he had some tuff going in America. No one was convinced that "code" sent through the "ether" was of any value when the induction method could be used instead. There was also some strong opposition to this "wireless" system by the wired telegraphy world. Marconi's travels are also chronicled. He did travel quite a bit to experiment and to promote his invention. Along the way we learn of his many romantic encounters.

You'll see names like Edison, DeForest, Fleming, and Fessenden pop-up in the book. Some worked for while others were against Marconi. Truly the timeline of the book traces some of the last "individual" inventors.

No book on Marconi and his contribution to our world of communications would be complete without a retelling of the fateful night of April 14, 1912. The "CQD" sent by Jack Phillips, a Marconi operator aboard

No book on Marconi and his contribution to our world of communications would be complete without a retelling of the fateful night of April 14, 1912. The “CQD” sent by Jack Phillips, a Marconi operator aboard the *Titanic* has got to be one of the more interesting parts of the book. The ensuing disaster brought the need for better communications on the seas to the forefront – and Marconi was there to take advantage of it.

There is a “soap opera” side to the book. It delves into Marconi’s love life as well as his personal life. Shipboard romances are included as is the family life. We’re also treated to the political side of Marconi. He was Italian by birth, educated in England. Even though England was the source of many of his triumphs – technically and financially – he remained loyal to his Italian heritage. He joined the Italian army and was supportive of Mussolini.

Marconi died at the age of 63. In England the General Post Office ordered two minutes of radio silence to honor Marconi. Radio silence was also observed in the United States. In Italy Mussolini ordered 5 minutes of radio silence as well as the closing of all businesses.

The 292 pages of the book give you picture of Marconi, his life, and his quest for global communications. We live in a world that is constantly striving to provide access to information instantaneously, anywhere, anytime, and without wires (wireless.) Some today may think this is a new thing. It’s easy to see it’s just a “re-wrapping” of what Guglielmo Marconi set out to do a little over 100 years ago.

Enjoy...

# **Kutztown** **Antique Radio Meet**

**May 7th (early setup and dinner) & 8th**

**Radio, Television, Audio & Ham show**

**Kutztown is located between Allentown & Reading, PA on Rt. 222.**

**From Main St. take Noble St. S. for 1 mile to Remingers**

**2nd Pavilion (Rain or Shine)**

**For more information call**

**570-385-0104**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### *Regular meetings:*

**DVHRC monthly meeting.** March 9, 2004. Telford Community Center, Telford, PA . Meeting starts at 7:30 PM and includes a mini-auction.

**NJARC monthly meeting.** March 12, 2004. Location – David Samoff Research Center, Princeton, NJ. Check their website at [www.njarc.org](http://www.njarc.org) for more details and directions.

**Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club (MAARC) monthly meeting.** 2:00 PM, Sunday, March 21, 2004. (Tailgating at 1PM.) 7th Day Adventist Church, Burtonsville, MD. Check their website at <http://www.maarc.org>

### *Swap meets and auctions:*

**New Jersey Antique Radio Club Swap Meet,** April 18, 2004. 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM (vendor setup at 7:00 AM) Hazlet, New Jersey. Check [www.njarc.org](http://www.njarc.org) for details.

**Kutztown Radio Meet at Renningers.** May 7 and 8, 2004. Renningers Antique and Farmers Market, 740 Noble St., Kutztown, PA. For info, call 570-385-0104 or talk to any DVHRC club officer. There will be a large auction sponsored by the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club. Activities begin Friday evening, May 9, and continue through till the auction ends on Saturday afternoon.

### *Local Hamfests:*

**Cherryville Repeater Association.** March 13, 2003 – for information, check web at <http://www.qsl.net/w2cra>

**Contact:** Barry Campbell, W2CGX

91 Old Croton Road

Flemington, NJ 08822

Phone: 908-788-9153

Email: [w2cra@qsl.net](mailto:w2cra@qsl.net)

**Maryland State Convention,** March 27 and 28, 2003 – Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD, sponsored by: Baltimore ARC

<http://www.gbhc.org>

**Contact:** Doug Wittich, N3VEJ

PO Box 95

Timonium, MD 21094-0095

Phone: 410-526-4263 or 410-256-0257

Email: [hamfest@gbhc.org](mailto:hamfest@gbhc.org)

<http://www.radioswapmeet.com>



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