



OSCILLATOR

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORIC RADIO

*The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC
1999*

Vol. 7. No. 12, December

Christmas Party

The annual DVHRC Christmas party will be held at the December meeting at 7:30 PM on December 14th at the Telford Community Center. Once again a buffet dinner will be provided. Significant others are invited to attend.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, there will be a gift exchange. If you care to participate, bring a wrapped radio-related gift with a fair flea-market value of approximately \$10.

A brief but important business meeting will be held to elect the year 2000 board of directors.

The club book sale will provide a timely Christmas shopping opportunity. Our wide selection of discounted radio books now includes all three volumes of the Mark Stein *Radiomania* series.

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 8	NJARC Meeting, Freehold, NJ
Jan. 11	DVHRC Meeting, Telford, Pa.
Feb. 8	DVHRC Meeting, Telford, Pa.
Feb. 11	NJARC Meeting, Freehold, NJ
Feb. 18-27	NJARC BCB DX Contest
Mar. 4	Super Winter Meet IV

Mark your calendars, the date is March 4th, 2000 for the DVHRC SuperWintermeet! (Everyone should have overcome the "Y2K" bug by then!)

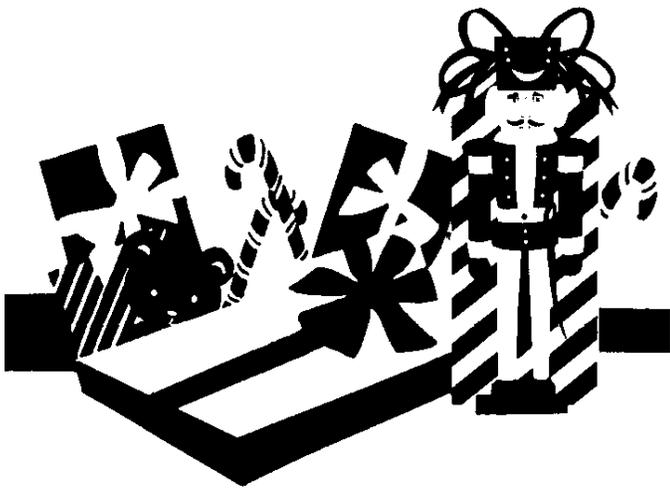
Well, November is the time for the annual nomination for the club's Board of Directors. Nominations were accepted from the floor. The nominees include: Bill Overbeck, Pete Grave, Al Klase, Dave Abramson, Dave Snellman and Brian Irwin. Elections will be by ballot at the December meeting. The newly elected board will meet a future date to select a slate of officers for the upcoming year. So come early and vote often. (Just kidding.)

Al Klase, was honored as the recipient of this year's "Sylvia" award. Al serves as the editor of the "Oscillator" – our club's newsletter. In addition, Al is a regular presenter for our monthly technical presentations. Congratulations to Al for being this year's Sylvia award recipient.

The club ranks have increased by two this month. Big DVHRC welcomes go out to Pete Lambert from Paoli, PA and to Richard Lee of Piermont, NY. Welcome aboard guys.

It's time for the 1999 dues. The membership voted to increase the annual dues to \$15.00. Dues can be paid at any regular monthly meeting or send your check to DVHRC, P.O. Box 847, Havertown, PA 19083.

Ted Sowirka presented the evening's technical talk. The topic was reforming capacitors. Ted pointed out the need to reform caps, even new caps, as you go about restoring your



November Meeting

Reported by: Dave Snellman

Bill Overbeck brought the meeting to order as usual. We're not certain but this month's meeting was either the 99th or 100th regular meeting of the DVHRC! December 14th is the date for our annual holiday party. Expect a lot of good food, drink and all the usual accoutrements, as well as the usual DVHRC camaraderie.

THE OSCILLATOR

Newsletter of the
Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club
P.O. Box 847
Havertown, Pa. 19083

The *Oscillator* is published monthly by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide a forum to educate, inform, entertain, 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-disc (3-1/2" DOS/Win95) is particularly welcome.

Unless copyrighted by the author, material in this publication is available for attributed reproduction for nonprofit purposes. (For convenience, the editor can supply copy on-disc.)

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, nor is the organization responsible for any buying or selling transaction incurred.

To join: DVHRC dues are \$15 per year. The membership year runs January-through-December. Please mail to the club PO box above.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM

DVHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Abramson Jim Amici Pete Grave
Al Klase Bill Overbeck

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

Jay Daveler

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Lewis Newhard Ted Sowirka

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COPY DEADLINE: The 20th of each month.

latest radio treasure. Capacitor trouble in older radios can lead to serious trouble, such as destroying a power transformer. Capacitors, especially paper caps can go bad in a couple of ways. Usually they either "short" out (big trouble) or become "leaky." Your best bet in most old radios loaded with paper caps is to replace them. Electrolytic capacitors are the ones that sometimes can be brought back to life by reforming. Bringing an old radio up slowly with a VARIAC is sometimes enough to reform some old filter caps. One thing to be aware of when replacing caps in old radios is not just the value of capacitance, but also the working voltage of the cap. The working voltage should always be the same or greater than the one you are replacing. Most of our technical presentations bring a lot of lively input from the club members. This subject was no exception. Questions can up about capacitor testers, how to retain the aesthetic value of the set, and which cap is the best. One of the members, Jiri Placek, suggested checking out the following website for information on capacitors - www.faradnet.com. There were also a number of suggestions on the best way to go about replacing capacitors. All in all an interesting session.

In addition to the technical talk, Ted also did refreshment duty this month. He was filling in for Alice and Jan who were unable to attend. Thanks again, Ted.

After refreshments, we moved on to the regular auction. The usual round of test equipment, radios, some hi-fi gear, magazines and books changed hands. A nice unusual home-made set also was part of the auction.

Next month, December, is the holiday party. It will be a pretty busy meeting. There will be a gift exchange as we did last year. Bring a radio related item (up to \$10) for the exchange. There will also be a DVHRC book sale. Don't forget the election! See you all there!

Y2K Membership Dues

Let's all make an effort to pay our club dues promptly. The club's living something of a hand to mouth existence, so your cooperation is appreciated. Take a moment to check the address label on your *Oscillator*. If it bears the number "99", your membership expires December 31, 1999. Some of you already have credit for "00" and beyond. Dues can be paid at any regular monthly meeting, or you can send your check to DVHRC, P.O. Box 847, Havertown, PA 19083.

007 + RA.17

An interesting part of the culture that has developed on one of the internet e-mail reflectors is the "Boatanchor Sighting Report." When someone sees one of our radios in a movie or TV show he'll often post something like this message from Bob Ross:

Hello Folks. Today I attended the new James Bond movie with my Wife. About three quarters of the way through, while they were shootin' and blowin' everything up, Bond and

one of his girlfriends ran into a control/monitoring room of some kind. There in one of the desk mounted racks, stuck right there in the middle of all the hi-tech nuclear monitoring devices, looking me straight in the eye, was a beautiful Racal RA-17!!!! They scanned by it a couple of times just so I could be sure of what I saw!!

Now the best part of all this is my wife nudging me in the arm and saying: "Hey! Haven't you got one of those things????!!" I wasn't sure whether she meant the Racal, the hi-tech nuclear monitoring device, or the good looking woman in the tank top. So I just answered: "Yes Dear".

Guess I must be doing something right!

73...ROB.

Robert S. Ross VA3SW
London, Ontario CANADA

November Trivia Answer

The picture of a very early Marconi coherer receiver on the back page of last month's Oscillator brought the following urgent e-mail from noted collector Mike Feher:

To: "Al Klase" <skywaves@bw.webex.net>

OK, why do you do this? Get my blood flowing here. Anyway just got the November copy of the Oscillator and on the bottom of page 5 there is an item with the caption "Can you identify this device?". While the picture is not all that great it sure looks like a coherer receiver to me. It may well be even a Marconi. Boy, I would love to have just a couple of the batteries, HI. Does someone own this or is the photo out of a publication? 73 - Mike

The picture came off the Internet, I was tempted to tell mike I found it in a dumpster, but went easy on him. - Ed.

Perhaps the reason the Oscillator grows shorter and shorter is that nobody submits anything! - Ed.