



# The Oscillator



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

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

February 2011

## Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell calls the DVHRC a "bunch of wusses"



Former Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell continued to rail against organizations that have canceled or postponed important state events due to the many snow and ice storms this winter.

The Philadelphia Eagles NFL home game against the Minnesota Vikings, scheduled for Sunday December 26th, was postponed to Tuesday, December 29th to allow snow to be

cleared from the roads and the stadium.

Gov. Rendell, an avid Eagles fan, commented on the postponement saying "We've become a nation of wusses. The Chinese are kicking our butt in everything. If this was in China do you think the Chinese would have called off the game?"

In an exclusive interview, *The Oscillator* learned that Rendell had similar feelings about the cancellation of the January 2011 meeting of the DVHRC due to another of this winter's storms.

Due to Rendell's busy schedule, *The Oscillator* was able to obtain a short interview during his lunch at the capitol in Harrisburg, which consisted of two Philly cheese steaks, extra large fries, and a Diet Coke. "I'm trying to watch my weight", the Governor said.

"Postponing an NFL football

game is one thing, but a DVHRC meeting is too much to take.

"While the NFL fiasco cost an incalculable amount of money to the NFL, City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania, the DVHRC move cost much more.

"What were DVHRC members going to do that Tuesday evening - pace the floor, not knowing what to do with themselves?

"Revenues lost to the local donut shop will never be recovered, not to mention the state gasoline taxes that will not be realized due to the reduced travel.

"I can only hope that in the future the DVHRC board will have more backbone and realize their responsibility to the Delaware Valley, the State of Pennsylvania, the great United States, and yes, the World."



**Delaware Valley Historic  
Radio Club**

**PO Box 5053  
New Britain, PA 18901**

**[www.dvhrc.info](http://www.dvhrc.info)**

*The Oscillator* is the monthly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club.

Articles on radio and television history and collecting can be submitted by the 25th of the prior month to [saegers@ptd.net](mailto:saegers@ptd.net).

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.

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**THE 2011 DVHRC: New Year, New Direction, New Format**

A belated Happy New Year to one and all. Despite our unpredictable winter weather forcing cancellation of our January meeting, the new DVHRC Board of Directors met on January 9th to map strategies and practices for the next twelve months.

Prior to our meeting, each Board member brought to the table what they felt were the three or four primary issues facing the organization, stimulating conversation on how we, as a club, should address them. Surprisingly, all our suggested topics of discussion were remarkably similar.

First off, we felt motivated to honor past president Stan Saeger for his energy, dedication and expertise of running the club the past few years. As editor of the monthly newsletter and architect/operator of the club's website, it was imperative we keep him "in the loop" regarding DVHRC business. At our meeting in February, we will offer an amendment to the DVHRC by-laws to honor past presidents as a "Trustee", a non-voting member of the Board, to help advise and direct the officers. It's the least we can do for a man who's done far more than his share on behalf of the organization.

Another major topic we mulled

over at the Board meeting was three-fold: Dwindling membership, limited volunteerism by our members, and how it would appear that monthly meetings have become little more than a platform for buying and selling. All related problems, requiring a three-fold solution.

Somehow, over the past five plus years, we've lost far more members than we've gained. Granted, many of the MIA's were only occasional Telford visitors. To try and rejuvenate their interest in the club, and to simplify membership renewal process, we'll refer to old mailing lists and reach out to these former members and invite them back, providing a current newsletter and a self-addressed envelope so they can pay their dues by mail.

Next, we have established a schedule and premise for the next twelve months.

Allowing the May and September dates aside for Kutztown prep, July for the annual tailgate auction, and the Holiday Party in December, we're left with eight months, two of which will be member-only auctions and the remaining six as "theme" meetings.

A similar format is now being practiced by MAARC and other clubs around the country. We've decided, at least for this year, to keep the themes as simple and mass-appeal as possible, to encourage widespread participation. So bring 'em in, show

'em off, and tell us what you know. And if any of these themes fall into one of your collection specialties, by all means, feel free to step up and expound!

With the elimination of monthly auctions, the Board has also decided to establish an area every month where members can buy and sell items before and after the meetings: A mini-swapmeet, if you will. Sellers can set their own prices, with no commissions to pay.

So, here's your Club Calendar for 2011:

Feb 8: Theme: Transistor Radios

Mar 8: Auction

Apr 12: Theme: Ingraham Cabinets

May 10: Kutztown Prep

**May 13-14: Kutztown XXIV**

Jun 14: Theme: Tombstone Radios

Jul 12: Tailgate Auction

Aug 9: Theme: Radio Collectables

Sep 13: Kutztown Prep

**Sep 16-17 Kutztown XXV**

Oct 11: Auction

Nov 8: Theme: "Turkey" Radios, 2012 Board Nominations

Dec 13: Holiday Dinner  
2012 Board Elections

Jan 10: Theme: "Christmas" Radios

Details will be outlined in future editions of *The Oscillator*, and on the DVHRC's email Reflector.

## The mystery of the strange Arvin

It was the day after Thanksgiving and I was puttering around the shop, when I heard the doorbell ring. The dogs went wild with barking, and I said to myself, "who could this be". I thought everyone was out fighting the Christmas gift-buying mobs.

As I approached the front door, I could see my young neighbor Sammy peering through the glass. I opened the door and Sammy, bursting with pride, exclaimed, "look what I found at the flea market today". It was a metal Arvin 440T in a bright yellow case.



Now Sammy knew that I was a radio collector, and he and his father always kept their eyes on the lookout for me. "Sammy", I said, "this is a great find, but I hope you didn't plug it in to try it out".

"Well," said Sammy, "I remember you said never to plug an old radio in, and to

bring it to you first". "Good boy Sam, let's take it down to the shop and take a look at it, but first we will phone your Dad and let him know where you are." A quick phone call, and it's down to the shop.

After a safety briefing to young Sammy about the dangers of metal cased AC radios, we plugged the line cord into the variac and the variac into the isolation transformer. We turned on the Arvin and slowly brought up the variac to 120 volts. No smoke and just a background hum. Great!

The next step was to unwind and stretch out the antenna wire. After checking that there were no voltages on the metal case or the antenna wire, I allowed Sammy to tune in a station. He was all excited to hear the local news radio station come in loud and clear, but when he turned to me with a big grin on his face the station died.

"Try again" I said, and he was able to tune it in again. But low and behold when he took his hand away from the radio, the station died again. Well what a mystery!!

"Sammy" I said "I've been working on radios for over 50 years, and this is a new one on me. Pull up a stool, and let's open this baby up".

Off came the knobs, and out came the chassis screws. I slid the chassis out of the case and turned it over. "Well look at this" I exclaimed "This thing has been worked on in the very near past. It had all new caps installed, including the electrolytics".

"I have worked on many of these metal case Arvins, and something is not looking right", I tell Sammy." I think we had better pull the Photo-fact on this radio and check out this recap job".

Well Sammy and I went over the new caps, and even though they were installed in a sloppy fashion, they appeared to be connected correctly. But still in the back of my mind something wasn't looking right.

Then it hit me!! The reason that it would only tune with Sammy's hand on the tuning knob was because the tuning cap was floating on rubber grommets and I bet that the frame of the cap wasn't grounded to the return B-ground.

Another look and I saw the problem. The frame of the tuning cap should be connected to the floating B-ground through a .05 cap. The .05 cap in this set was connected directly to the chassis. Moving the end of the .05 cap from

the chassis to the lug on the mounting screws of the tuning cap solved the problem! Mystery solved and the radio was working fine.

I learned a lesson from this radio. Pay close attention to the chassis and floating ground symbols on schematics, and don't assume that tuning cap frames are always at chassis ground.

I sent Sammy home with a nice reward for his find, and after a good cleaning, the 440T is now on my Arvin shelf with the rest of his brothers.

*-Dave Dean*

## **Sick Bay**

**Dave Snellman** has been hospitalized at Grand View Hospital with high blood pressure. Latest reports from Dave indicate he is doing well and should be back in action soon.

Keep Dave in your prayers and we hope to see him at the March Meeting.

## **Meeting Cancellations**

This winter's bad weather prompts a review of how meeting cancellations are announced to members. If a meeting is canceled it will be posted on the Reflector after 12 noon on Tuesday.

When a cancellation does oc-

cur, please pass the information along to any member you know without Internet access or isn't signed up to the Reflector. (See below for instructions to sign up).

## **The Reflector**

The Reflector is a tool to facilitate communication among members of the DVHRC. Members can sign up by going to [www.dvhrc.info](http://www.dvhrc.info), and going to the Contact Us page. Near the bottom of the page is a link to the Reflector page where you can sign up.

Once signed up, you can send an email to [dvhrc@mailman.qth.net](mailto:dvhrc@mailman.qth.net), which will be forwarded to all subscribers, and you will receive all emails sent by other subscribers.

Al Klase administers the Reflector, and any issues should be forwarded to him at [al@ar88.net](mailto:al@ar88.net).

## **2011 Club dues**

2011 membership dues of \$20.00 can be given to Dave Snellman at a meeting or mailed to DVHRC, PO Box 5053, New Britain, PA 18901