

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



# OSCILLATOR

The Official Newsletter of the DVHRC

Vol. 11, No. 11, December, 2003

## Christmas Cheer At The DVHRC

**Meeting Notes and Minutes – reported by Dave Snellman**

The November meeting of the DVHRC was called to order by Mike Koste, club president. We had two visitors in attendance: Charlie Adams came in with Dan Schwartzman and Tom Gerber joined us from Lancaster. Thanks for attending.

The first announcement was a reminder that dues for 2004 are now due. They may be paid at any upcoming meeting or via mail to: DVHRC, Box 5053, New Britain, PA 18901. Cash or checks accepted at meetings, checks (only) via mail.

The second announcement was that of our annual holiday party. December 9th at the Telford Community Center at 7:30 PM. (Contrary to what was posted in ARC – we'll be at the Community



was posted in ARC – we'll be at the Community Center.) There will be food, beverages, and fun for all.

Members are encouraged to bring along a dessert for the party.

We will have a grab bag present exchange at the party. Bring along a wrapped present to join in the exchange.

### *Inside the Oscillator*

Meeting notes.....	1
More notes.....	2
Notes can't.....	4
Samoff News.....	5
Vox Populi.....	6
Election Notice.....	7
Advertisers.....	8





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

The Oscillator is published annually by members of the non-profit DVHRC. Its purpose is to provide for us an avenue, information and communication with collectors and providers 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 jpg format.

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Personal views, opinions and editorial advice offered in this publication 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 transactions involved.

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.

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Mike Koste  
Lewie Newhard  
Bill Overbeck  
Dave Snellman

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Dave Abramson

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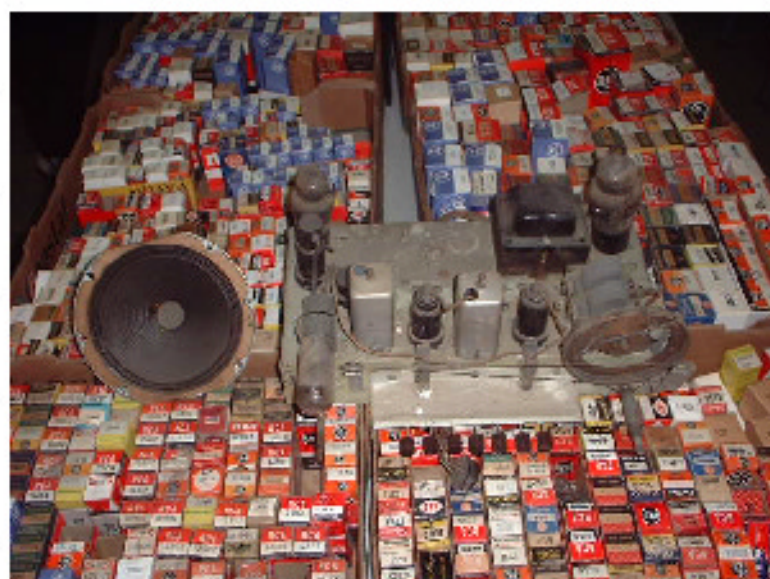
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### **Meeting Notes continued from Page 1**

exchange frenzy.

As listed elsewhere in the Oscillator, December is the annual meeting of the DVHRC. The prime focus is to elect officers for 2004. Nominations were accepted and the following will be on the ballot: Dan Collins, Dave Abramson, Mike Koste, Dave Snellman, Al Klase, Lewie Newhard, Pete Grave, and Bill Overbeck. Members will vote for five board members. The board will then elect officers.

A raffle radio was obtained at the NJARC swapmeet at Hazlet recently. It will be restored and used as the "raffle radio" for the next Kutztown



swapmeet. Dan Schwartzman will do the electronics and Lowell Schultz will do the cabinet. A hearty thanks to these guys for volunteering on this project.

As the DVHRC is reaching a milestone – 10 years as a club – look for a "best of" Oscillator issue to commemorate this event. More details to follow.

Speaking of publications, the next issue of the membership directory is slated for Spring 2004. If you only had your name and address listed in the first directory and want to add to it, or if you need to update information, you can do so as you pay your dues.

Look for a "vox populi" again – what do you want for Christmas?

Another "tube rescue" is slated for February 2004. Last years "rescue" led to the club taking in about \$400 at the Kutztown swapmeet. The tube rescue consists of members bringing in a bag or box of tubes they

Material submitted is subject to acceptance and editing by the editor. A full page needs to approximately 400 words. Personal photos may be submitted for scanning. JPG files should be under 1 MB.



tube rescue consists of members bringing in a bag or box of tubes they have no use for – but they may be of use to other members of collectors. Members sort, test, and box the tubes. The club makes them available to members at meetings and also sells them at our swapmeets.

A special mention must be made on behalf of one of our members. Ralph Brown has been thinning his collection. Items were posted in the Oscillator for sale and Ralph generously gave the club a check for \$100.00 as a result of his sale. Thanks to Ralph for this generous offering. It's always a pleasure to see him at our meetings.



We had an excellent technical presentation at our November meeting. Jiri Placek presented the “Volksempfänger Radios.”

Beginning with a historical background starting in the 19th century, Jiri traced the rise of National Socialism in Germany and the rise of the Nazi party. As part of the strategy used by the Nazis, radio broadcasting was strictly controlled. The “Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda” was responsible for state controlled broadcasting, making available cheap receivers (the Volksempfänger radios) and for good signal coverage.

The “Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda” created a panel of 28 manufacturers to create inexpensive receivers utilizing fixed wiring, fixed components, fixed design, and fixed cost. This enables large number of set to be manufactured using a simple regenerative design. The Volksempfänger designated VE301 cost

between one and three weeks' salary. In the early 1930's over a millions sets per year were made. The VE 301 used a low triode and a step up transformer. The VE 301B was a battery set, the VE 301CW was an



AC-DC set. The DKE38 was added later, its cost was about \$14.00.



Germany had strict laws limiting what individuals could listen to, especially foreign broadcasts. Severe punishment was handed out to those who violated these laws. There was a mandatory tag placed on all radios. Shortwave functionality was disabled on all sets. The tag read: "Beware. Listening to foreign broadcasts is a crime against the national security of our people. By order of the Führer it is punished by severe imprisonment."

Jiri pointed out in the warning was different in occupied countries. The last line read,

"...punished by death."

Jiri demonstrated a number of Volksempfänger.

PLEASE NOTE: Volksempfänger's are collected by many of those interested in radio history. It is in no way to be construed as an endorsement of the horrors associated with the regime that created and produced them. It should be noted that European governments outlaw the display of Nazi symbols and that eBay will not permit their display.

Thanks to Jiri for a very informative and well-researched presentation. The meeting concluded with the normal auction.

Our next meeting the holiday party/annual meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2003 at 7:30 PM at the Telford Community Center, Hamlin and Hamilton Streets, Telford, PA. Information at PO Box 5113, New Britain, PA or at 215-345-4248.



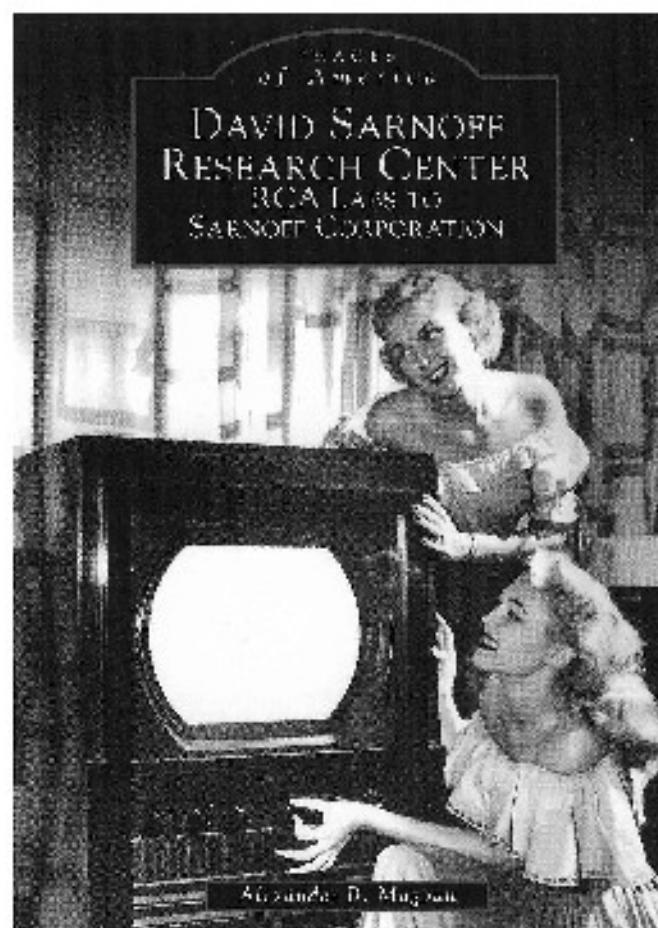
### Dues Notice

It is 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.



## New book chronicles Sarnoff Research Center



At first glance, the pictures that grace the 128 pages of this new book by Dr. Alex Magoun catch your attention. You might overlook the captions – but don't. They help tell the story of the David Sarnoff Research Center from its beginnings to the present day. The pictures add personalities to the accomplishments of the center, which are too numerous to mention.

With RCA out of the picture, the David Sarnoff Research Center is now part of SRI, a non-profit research organization.

Magoun writes, "The history of accomplishments of Thomas Edison is well known; the history of innovative creativity at the low-slung building looking over Route 1 is less so." This book does its part to remedy this.

Those interested in obtaining a copy can contact the David Sarnoff Library at 609-734-2636. The cost is \$20.00.

Members of the David Sarnoff Library receive a 10% discount. To join, contact Alex at the number listed above.

Friends of the David Sarnoff Library and the general public were treated to a unique event on November 1, 2003. For the 65th anniversary of Orson Well's famous "War of the Worlds" broadcast, the radio play was re-created with the help of NJARC members and their radios along with work by Al Klase, Dave Snellman, Dave Sica, and others. The cat was supplied by the Institute for Arts and Humanities Education.

Dr. Alex Magoun, Library director, was pleased with the turnout and has hopes of possibly making this an annual event.

If anyone is interested in obtaining a limited edition, authorized poster from the event, some are still available for \$15.00 from the David Sarnoff Library. You can contact him at 609-734-2636 or at [amagoun@davidsarnoff.org](mailto:amagoun@davidsarnoff.org).



## VOX POPULI

The season upon us, at our November meeting, we posed the somewhat obvious question: (Ten items or less, please)

**“What would you like for Christmas/Hanukkah?”**

FRANK KRIDER: “A Philco Grandfather Clock Radio”

FRANK JOHNSON: “A Meissner Tropicana to add to my mirrored radio collection”.

MIKE KOSTE: “A CD recorder” (While I wasn’t looking, cassettes became obsolete!)

JIRI PLACEK: “A Scott Philharmonic in the Laureate Grande Cabinet,  
a Telefunken 7001, and a case of B443 tubes.”

JIM AMICI: “One complete state-of-the-art test bench and all the goodies to go with it.”

RALPH PARKER: “An official Red Ryder carbine-action Range Model air rifle with a compass in the stock and this thing which tells time.”

TOM LEDOUX: “A CIA “spy” radio.”

LOWELL SHULTZ: “A Zenith 12-S series shutter dial and an AK breadboard.”

STEPHANIE KOLES: “A twelve tube Zenith Walton’s set.”

DAVE ABRAMSON: “A 15GP22 color picture tube for my RCA CT-100.”





## ELECTION NOTICE

The club secretary places this notice in the Oscillator for the general membership.

At the December meeting of the Delaware Valley Historic Radio Club elections will be held for the officers and board members who will serve for 2004.

Ballots will be distributed to all members in good standing. All those in good standing will be eligible to vote in the election.

David Snellman  
Secretary/Treasurer

## The DVHRC Mailing List by 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](mailto: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!  
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