

The

Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Vol. 24

April 1998

No. 4

Radio Swap Meet

Washington County
Fairgrounds

Hillsboro, Oregon

Admission \$2.00



May 9, 1998

9 AM until 2 PM

- * Amateur Radio Equipment * Vintage Audio *
- * Antique Radios * Vacuum Tubes *

Sponsored by
Northwest Vintage Radio Society
and
Portland Amateur Radio Club

For more information call Myron White at (503) 629-5513

In print since 1974

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$15.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The *Call Letter* has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous members of the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that both informs members of the society's business and that has supported the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Buena Vista Club House at 16th & Jackson Streets in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

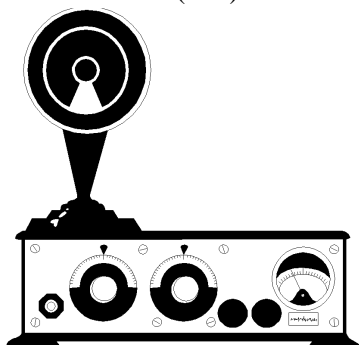
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers:

President	David Rutland	(541) 929-4498
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Jerry Talbott	(503) 649-6717
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	Tony Hauser	(503) 629-4836

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society
Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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On the cover: This month’s cover reproduces the flier for our May 9 Swap Meet. The flier was distributed by Myron White at the March 14 meeting.

**Call Letter Deadline
25th of the month
prior to publication.**

The next NWVRS meeting will be April 11 at the Buena Vista Clubhouse in Oregon City. Cathedral, Only! are the monthly feature. Also, check your junk box for knobs and buttons — we’re having a knob swap.

**Visit the *new* NWVRS web site at:
<http://www.peak.org/~wren/nvrs.html>.**

The Call Letter is the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Circulation is limited to the membership and guests of the Society. The Society is not responsible for the material contributed for publication, nor the quality, timeliness, or accuracy of the items offered for sale in the SWAP SHOP. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, Secretary

Minutes March 14, 1998

The March 14, 1998 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society was called to order by President Dave Rutland at approximately 10:05 AM. There were approximately 30 members present and we had 3 guests.

Old Business

Sonny Clutter found a scanner for Rick Walton to help him publish our Call Letter. Rick agreed to publish the Membership Roster this year. Dick Bixler will advertise our swap meet in the Hillsboro Argus. Myron White announced that tables for our swap meet are selling well. If you would like a table at our swap meet, see Myron. Our librarian, Tony Hauser, reminded us to let him know when we would like him to bring a book from our library for loan.

Club Activities

Those club members that attended the "Sounds of Nostalgia" show in Salem reported that there were not very many radios other than those brought by our club members.

New Business

Members voted to spend \$50.00 for printing name cards with our club logo on them. Members could have these to pass out for co-ordination and contact purposes. These cards will also be useful for promoting our club. Members voted to add additional money to the amount already approved to purchase our scanner. Dave Rutland will be working with our club web page. Dave expressed thanks to Adam Schoolsky for working with our web page for the past year.

Leads and Needs

See "Leads and Needs" in the Swap Shop.

Program

The program item for March is plastic and bakelite radios. Members and guests showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The program for April is cathedral radios and knobs and estucheon plates.

1998 NWVRS Calendar of Events

- April 4** Fort Vancouver ARRL Ham Fair, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
American Legion Post 176 Salmon Creek (in the
Vancouver area) Admission \$4.00
- April 11** Regular meeting. Monthly feature: Cathedrals Only!
Also, knob swap.
- May 9** Spring Swap Meet with Portland Amateur Radio Club
— South Hall at Washington Co. Fairgrounds
- June 13** Regular meeting.
- September 12** Regular meeting.
- October 10** Regular meeting.



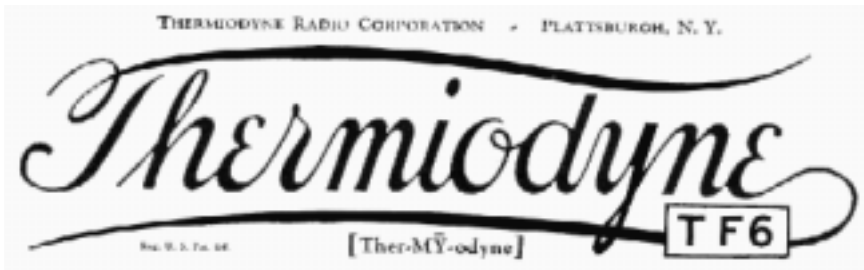
Happy Birthday KBPS

by Dan Howard

Over the weekend of March 19-23, the 75th anniversary of KBPS was celebrated in a series of special events. Originally licensed in 1923 as KFIF, the station's call letters were later changed to KBPS in honor of the station's home, Benson Polytechnic High School in Northeast Portland. On March 19th, a special reception was held at the White House, now a bed and breakfast, on NE 22nd.

The White House was originally the residence of Willard Hawley, Jr., a wealthy Portland lumberman. Mr. Hawley owned the station license under the call sign KYG, operating the station from the basement of his home. In 1923, a group of Benson students saw a "radio station for sale" sign in the window of Stubbs Electric in downtown. They subsequently convinced the school administration to approve the expenditure of \$1800 to acquire the license from Hawley believing the learning of radio was a natural complement to Benson's other fields of technical training. Now operating at AM 1450 and FM 89.9, the station has a long list of illustrious graduates who have gone on to successful careers in radio and television.

NWVRS members Dick and Dan Howard were invited to set up a display of vintage radios for the March 19th reception at the White House. Although the fate of the original equipment from KBPS is not known, Dick and Dan displayed a 1920's vintage AM transmitter that had been built by Portland radio builders Hallock & Watson for KGPP, the Portland Police radio station. They also displayed early microphones and speakers. Vintage receivers from Hallock & Watson, Superior, and Norco (all Portland makes) were displayed for the enjoyment of the guests. Appropriately, the radio display was set up in the basement room of the White House from which the station's earliest broadcasts are said to have originated.





In the Shack

Marwol

A Marwol Jewel for an April Fool! Well this is not entirely true because the Marwol radio works very well, although it sounds kind of trashy...true to form for a cheap radio. It does not even have the condenser, other than the grid leak and the tuners, that was used in the audio circuit of many 3-dial sets of the mid 1920's to improve clarity. But in light of what I am about to document in this article, it is no wonder there is no extra capacitor, the company had trouble paying for the capacitors they had! I don't want to solder one in and spoil the originality of this radio. (See my article in the 3-98 CALL LETTER), for the circumstances I went through when acquiring this Jewel!

I took the Marwol up in the shack and took out the chassis. An inspection underneath found a visual lesson in basics, not one of the usual artistry in square busbars, but directly wired with black cloth covered wire. The audio transformers have bare wire poked through holes in the Bakelite chassis panel and soldered to lugs. The pancake low loss RF coils are hung under the panel and things are crowded under there because this is a small radio using only a 7 by 14 inch front panel instead of the usual 18 inch or larger panel. This was only a \$39.95 factory set, and a cut in price from the \$60 Freshman Masterpiece it imitated.

The 201-A tubes tested very good and some had interesting test stickers, dated 1931, from Baker, Oregon. I hooked it up to my battery eliminators, plugged in a W.E. 540AW cone speaker that is noted for it's good tone and started twisting dials. I then logged all the dial settings and received all the local radio stations an old Tuned Radio Frequency set such as this can pickup, all the while noting what poor tone quality the Marwol had.

What's in a name?, with one like "Marwol", I began to wonder. I sent a card to Alan Douglas, Pocasset, Ma., author of the books, "Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's". Alan had been a big help in the past with my Kardon endeavor, (see ARC, Apr. 1994).


Alan has quite an extensive home library and happens to contain copies of popular radio trade periodicals of the 1920's including "Radio Retailing & Jobber" which kept a regular gossip column going about the New York City radio business in the 1920's. They never missed a chance to poke fun at RCA and their pomposities and wrote all they could on the small companies that were doomed to bankruptcy. Alan copied a page of such articles on the Marwol Radio Corp. and also a full page ad from RR&J, Sept. 1925. He sent them to me right away. The ad showed 6 different models and listed a portable, a phonograph panel, a console table, a home builder kit and a loud speaker. It showed my "Jewel" model in a much larger cabinet and two desirable looking models with five exposed tubes. Highest price was a console grand 3-dial with a built in speaker for \$130. The advertisement bragged heavily and emphasized that their "great new factory" would back up the un-changing demand for this outstanding radio success. It listed the upcoming radio shows where Marwol would display it's wares and it listed distributors nationwide, including a C.E. Gay, Portland, Ore.

The articles included told the real story of Marwol. This was a combined name of two owners; Ralph Martin and Irving Wollins, much like our Portland Halowat company by Joe Hallock and Cliff Watson. The company started in 1924 at 85 Mercer St., New York, NY and was quite successful during the 1924-25 radio season. Marwol had by Sept. 1925, moved to a "large factory" at 546-548 Broadway, NYC. RR&J, in it's usual style of reporting, described the Marwol executives, after moving into their new factory as becoming very "silk hattie". They also described the troubles various creditors were having with Marwol listing them by name and how much they were owed. Marwol continued and perhaps had overproduced during the sales season but by Feb. 1926, had filed for bankruptcy, with a total liability of \$195,722.

The company had tried a new product line for 1925-26, apparently at least in part, based on a redesign of the Jewel series cabinet radio, which is the set that I have. By this time, the list of creditors was a mile long and included two condenser companies. Not surprisingly, a second foreclosure was served on this company in Oct. 1926. By Nov. 1926, the two owners were facing criminal prosecution by the District Attorney's office of New York County! This is certainly why my set, with a 15000 series serial number, is shy of a few condensers!

In March, 1927, a meeting of creditors was held to consider an application for bankruptcy discharge by Ralph Martin, former treasurer and general manager of the defunct Marwol Radio Corp. RR&J stated that at that time, a large number of judgements had already been awarded to creditors by various county courts in and around New York City. The flash in the pan success of Marwol is a story of an industry in the making and the less than serious endeavors of “also ran” companies against the real competition such as RCA, Atwater Kent, Crosley and Philco.

We all have lots of radios made by those companies, but it is kind of exciting to own an orphan such as a Marwol. It is real amusement to tell someone you have a Marwol and to hear them reply, “A What?” I plan on researching and listing more of these cute combined radio trade names at a future date. My thanks to Alan Douglas for making this research possible. QSO you next time.....IN THE SHACK.



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Wandering the Web

by Dick Karman

This month I spent most of my time looking up new technology on the web, so when I went to look into old radio I started at the NW Vintage Radio Society's new Web Site.

www.peak.org/~wren/nvrs.html

Our new web master has placed some very nice photos on the site and has an impressive start on a list of active links to other groups and other sites. One of the text screens tells the story of our logo radio and how it came about. I will be contributing some more old articles from previous editions of the CALL LETTER to the site and maybe some of them will be posted. (You may also see some of them in the current CALL LETTER as a reminder of years gone by.)

If you're active on the web, drop in to the NVRS site. It's enjoyable. I've yet to see it indexed in Alta Vista (the search engine that I use) but I hope to see it there soon. If you have photos that are more than 80% radio (good clear large images) maybe David can get those scanned and onto the page too.

I trust that as a group we have thanked WREN publishing for their generosity.

I'll see you in months to come - Wandering on the Web !



By Tom James, from the August, 1982 Call Letter

Inside Stuff —

*The constitution of the club
Of the Northwest V.R.. cats,
Calls for swap-meets twice a year,
But doesn't specify "where-ats".
Where will the swap-meet be set up
To please everyone just right?
Thus long and stormy arguments
At the Buena Vista site!*

*The Homey folk all say "Right here",
Amid the trees and greenery—
We can sit down and eat and chat
And trade and sell with scenery.
The far out guys would rent a park
Or fairground from the county;
They'd charge hefty table fees
To pay the whoppin' bounty.*

*The median bunch are wishy-wash,
With not much to trade or sell.
They don't want it too far afield,
Because gas is higher than (the dickens)
The Cathedral group is adamant—
(They won't be left in the lurch)
They say it's so symbolic,
They opt for St. Whoozit's Church.*

*If you're looking for a punchline
To this silly tale of woe;
When swap-shop's up for space again,
You tell us where to go!*

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 6111 Se 82nd Ave., Portland, OR, (503) 774-6560.

BUY, SELL, TRADE and RESTORE: Contact me for quality restoration service on most pre-1960 electronics. I also buy and sell early radios, TV's, tubes, parts and related items. I'll buy one item or a whole collection.

VISIT MY WEB SITE: <<http://www.radiolaguy.com>> or e-mail: <sonny@radiolaguy.com>

Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

WANTED: The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

WANTED: **Antenna insulators and lightning arresters. 761-7799, Dan Howard.

WANTED: **A good flyback for RCA 8-inch portable TV, model 8-PT-7030. RCA Victor part number 102045. in Sams 336-14. Glen Bricker (541) 942-3717.

WANTED: *10" dynamic speaker for Zenith model 7S558, chassis 7A02. Call Tony Ranft, (360) 418-2065.

WANTED: *Plastic escutcheon for an RCA 86T or 86E. Dave Vaughn, 292-5024 or message, 286-4750.

WANTED: *Zenith chassis for a 6-S-27. Dave Vaughn, 292-5024 or message, 286-4750.

FOR SALE: *Fair supply of good used tubes from '20's and '30's such as 01A;s, and 2-number tubes such as 24A, 26, 27, 41, 42, 45, 47, 75, 78, 80, and more! Also have new and used 211's and a pair of new 7591's. Glen Bricker, (541) 942-3717.

FOR SALE: *① Grunow console model. \$225, great cabinet.

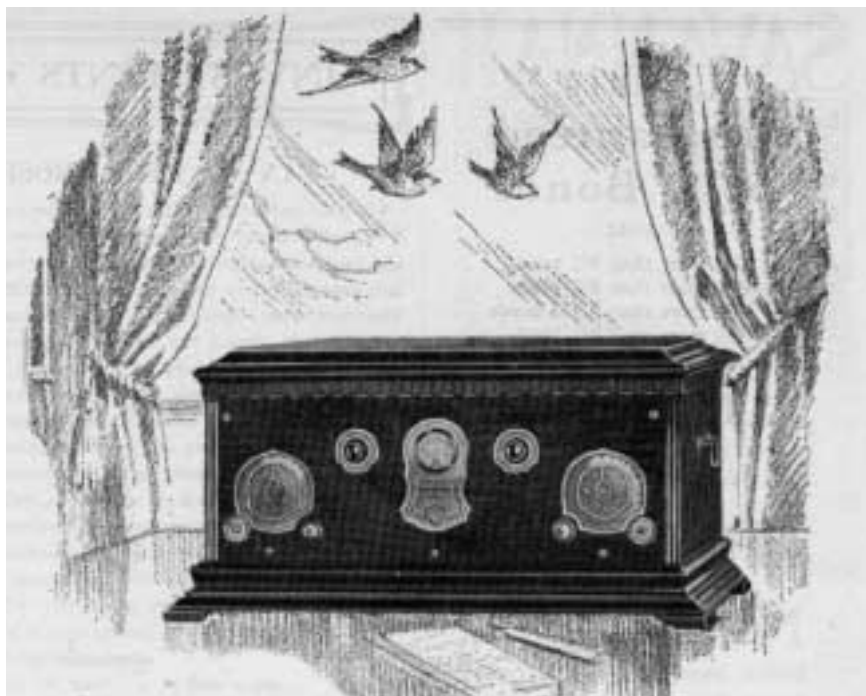
② Zenith chairside 6-S-147, \$435.00.

③ Zenith chairside 9-S-244, \$535.00

④ 25 table radios, plastic, Bakelite, wood, \$15.00 to \$60.00
Dave Vaughn, 292-5024 or message, 286-4750.

Leads And Needs

- Jerry Talbot has a 1950 Capehart Phono-Radio for sale.
- Dick Bixler wants a National SW-3. He also mentioned that there was a plastic radio sale in SE Portland today.
- Allan Shadduck is looking for a speaker for a Philco 89.
- Liles Garcia has a lead on a Philco Model 46-1209 radio-record player console.
- Gerhart Watzig is looking for a pair of Knight-Kit C100 Walkie Talkies.



Member Information Update

We'd like to have accurate information about you to publish in the NWVRS Membership Roster. If you'd like to change any of the information that we currently have, please send this form (or a reasonable facsimile) with the blanks filled in to:

Rick Walton
3024 NE 49th Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97213

Or send e-mail with this information to rwalton@teleport.com.

Name

Address

City

State Zip Code.....

Phone

HAM Call Sign.....

e-Mail.....

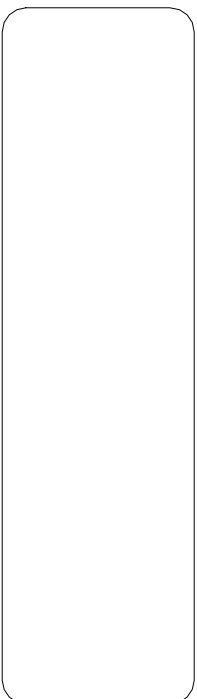
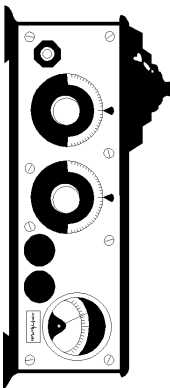
Hobby and Collecting interests.....

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**NW Vintage Radio Society
P.O. Box 82379
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