

The

Call Letter

January, 2002
Vol. 28 — No. 1



Over 25 years in print!

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 \$20.00 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 society members, the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports 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 Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. 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 for 2001:

President	Wendy Johnson-Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Charlie Kent	(541) 929-4498
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

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: Ingraham cabinets were used by several different makers including Emerson, Firestone, and Zenith, whose radios grace this month’s cover. The pictures come from various Internet sites. The upper five sets are Emersons, the lower left set is a Firestone, and the lower right and bottom sets are Zeniths.

The next meeting is on January 12, 2002.

Monthly feature: Small consoles and chairsides
Program: Ed Cook discusses Ingraham cabinets
Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

Visit our web site at <http://nwvrs.org>.

February Call Letter Deadline: January 29, 2002.

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.

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

It was a good Christmas for me. I had both of my daughters home on leave from the Army, I didn't have to work while they visited, and I got a very nice radio (see Voilá) as a Christmas gift and a couple of radio-related gifts. One is a picture frame made like a deco-styled wood table radio that my wife found in a shop somewhere in the Midwest and knew it would be a perfect gift for an obsessed radio collector. The other gift was a fish that I named Crosley at the suggestion of my oldest daughter.

In this issue is a new feature from Dick Karman, long-time club member and my predecessor as *Call Letter* editor. Each month in "Remembering Radio (from both sides of the mic)" Dick will be covering significant historical events related to radio in both the technical and the performance realms.

Pay particular attention to the last page in this issue. It is a member information form that President Wendy Johnson-Kent would like all members to fill out and return so that we can have the most current information for the next club roster that we plan to publish this March. Even if you think nothing has changed, please take the time to fill out the form and return it to me or to Wendy. If you are coming to the January meeting, bring it then. Otherwise, return it by mail or send the information by e-mail.

January is dues month! If you have not yet paid your dues for 2002, please do so right away so that you can continue receiving the *Call Letter* and be included in the membership roster when it is published. February's Call Letter will be your last issue if the treasurer doesn't receive your payment by the time we mail out that issue.

NWVRS at "Sounds Of Nostalgia"

We missed presenting our annual display last February which was a tradition started many years ago by past member, Joey Tompkins. It is held at a flea market in one of the State fairgrounds buildings. The people running the flea market donate one or more tables, if needed, just for us to set up a club display of our radios for that special sale. The antique phonograph collectors are invited also but most are vendors. If you want a table to sell your radios, or whatever since it is a flea market, I think they sell for \$18. I will have to check with Speed on these details, as he knows the people running it. If you would like to participate in the display or buy a table contact me, Jerry Talbott at (503-649-6717) or e-mail (jerryt@easystreet.com).

NWVRS 2002 Calendar of Events

- January 12** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 9** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 16** Salem Hamfair, Salem Repeater Association, Rickreall, OR
- March 9** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 9** Hamfest, Mike and Key ARC, Puyallup, WA.
<http://www.mikeandkey.com>
- April 6-7** Washington State ARRL Convention, Yakima ARC, Yakima, WA.
<http://eagle.ykm.com/~W7aq/hamfest.html>
- April 13** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- May 11** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- May 11** Hamfest, Stanwood-Camano ARC, Stanwood, WA.
- June 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 19-21** Montana State ARRL Convention, Glacier/Waterton Hamfest Committee, East Glacier, MT.
<http://www.gwhamfest.org>
- August 2-4** Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Portland, OR. Willamette Valley DX Club
<http://www.wvdx.org>
- September 14** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 14** Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Graham, WA
<http://w7dk.org>
- October 12** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- November 9** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- December 14** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

By Liles Garcia, Secretary, NWVRS

President Charles Kent called the December 8, 2001 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in the Call Letter. There were 49 members and guests at our meeting today. Two special guests attended today: Gordon Phillips' aunt, Revella Stalker from the Phoenix, Arizona area; and Linda Weagant, former owner of radio station KKEY. Charlie thanked Cliff Tuttle for his help with our Christmas party today. He also complimented Rick Walton on the great-looking cover on the Call Letter this month. Members gave Rick a round of applause.

New Business

Election of Club Officers—The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President: Wendy Johnson-Kent

Vice President: Cliff Tuttle

Secretary: Liles Garcia

Treasurer: Ed Charman

Cliff Tuttle and Charlie called out door prize numbers and passed out the door prizes. Members gave President Charlie Kent and Vice-President George Kirkwood a round of applause for their contributions to our club during the past three years. The business meeting part of our meeting was adjourned and members and guests had a Christmas lunch and social time. The food was great, the desserts were exquisite; and everyone seemed to have a great time!!

Program Topic

The program topic for the January meeting will be mini-consoles and chairside radios.

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

The annual holiday celebration was the source of a lot of food and fun as these pictures show.





Remembering Radio (from both sides of the mic.)

By Dick Karman

Remembering Radio will take a look at radio's past from the performances and the performers to the inventors, advances, promoters and failures of the Golden Years of radio. Your reporter would welcome any feedback or corrections. Please address them to the Call Letter Editor so he can print them and everyone can enjoy them.

January:

Some reports tell us that on New Years day in 1901 Nathan Stubblefield made 1st public demonstration of radio in a small burg in Pennsylvania. Roughly two year later on January 19th, 1903 the first regular transatlantic radio broadcast began between the United States and Great Britain. Probably not coincidentally, barely another year passed (1/7/1904) before The Marconi Company establishes "CQD" as 1st international radio distress signal, used primarily for ships at sea. And a few years later on January 13, 1906 consumers saw the first radio set advertised for sale (Telimco for \$7.50 in "Scientific American"), claiming to receive signals up to one full mile.

On January 15, 1907 Lee DeForrest was awarded a patent for the three-element, grid vacuum tube, the Triode. It improved the audio, allowed amplification, and when oscillated became a transmitter. He later sold the patent to American Telephone and Telegraph. Harold D. Arnold of AT&T labs improved on the triode and made it possible (in 1915) to amplify and relay a telephone signal coast-to-coast.

On the other side of the mic:

January of 1928 witnessed NBC produce a 47-station coast-to-coast program, The Dodge Victory Hour, with Al Jolson in New Orleans, Fred Stone in Chicago, Paul Whiteman in New York, and Will Rogers from his home in Beverly Hills. This was the largest national audience since radio covered the return of Charles Lindberg to the United States in 1927. The audience was estimated to be over 30 million.

Just a year later (1/3/1929) a 27-year-old William S. Paley is made the president of CBS. Some of you will remember Lanny Ross — he was a performer on stage and on radio. He was born in Seattle, Washington on January 19, 1906. On the subject of birthdays, Charles Osgood, a CBS anchorman and broadcast journalist was born on January 8, 1933.

The Ed Sullivan Show, showed up on radio for the first time on January 12, 1932 (CBS). Green Hornet, Gang Busters, and Guiding Light all premiered on Radio in the month of January (1936, 1936, 1937 respectively). I Love a Mystery came along in January of 1939. Beulah made her 1st radio appearance, on the "Fibber McGee & Molly" show in January of 1944. Beulah was not the black maid that the voice may have impersonated, but that of Marlin Hurt, who later spun the character off to a show of its own.

That's all we have time for this month. Tune in next month when we'll look at radio history in February.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRs members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Liles Garcia

A military surplus BC-348-P receiver built by Stromberg-Carlson.

Dave Brown

A nice Majestic Model 1S49 Melody Cruiser. He needs some help to re-create the rigging properly.

Sonny Clutter

A scarce Radiola Super VIII console from 1924. This is a large self contained battery set with built in antenna, speaker and battery compartments. I believe it is also the first superhet in a console cabinet. It is nearly restored and I will have pictures of it posted on my web site soon.

Rick Walton

A Benrus 10B clock radio. Large green clock face in a solid brass cabinet. The clock is made by Telechron!

An Automatic Radio CL-175 clock radio with a wooden cabinet.

A Philco 42-350 wooden table radio. A Christmas gift from my youngest daughter. It is one I'd been eyeing in a nearby antique shop.

Sonny, the Radiola Guy visit my web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

KFJR, KALE, KOIN, and Later KPOJ

Submitted by Art Redman.

The Portland newspaper the Oregon Journal got into the radio business back in 1931 when the depression was heavy, as one evidence that faith in the future was undisturbed. The Journal bought an interest in KOIN and conducted "The Newspaper of the Air." After a while interest in another radio station began which climaxed in complete ownership by the Journal.

On a ranch in the Bitterfoot Valley in Montana back in 1922, the Forest Service installed a small radio, which was operated by Ashley C. Dixon. Its call letters were KFJR. Power came from a water pump engine in the basement. KFJR moved to Portland in 1925 and opened as the Eastmoreland Broadcasting Station in a space over Ashley Dixon's garage. In 1927 there were financial troubles and after consultation with the late S.R. Winch, Dixon made an arrangement which resulted in removal of KFJR to the Lumberman's building and its official opening as the Journal station.

It became necessary under Federal edict for the stations to be separated. KOIN was purchased by Marshall Field, and KALE (KPOJ) passed to the exclusive ownership of the Journal.

Under the present management of Richard M. Brown, station KPOJ has been named one of the three outstanding radio stations in the nation "for outstanding contributions during the past year (1950) to mutual understanding and respect among racial and religious groups".

The last three letters of KPOJ stand for Portland Oregon Journal.

From the book *The First 50 Years of the Oregon Journal A Newspaper Story 1902-1952* by Marshall N. Dana. Published Binforts and Mort, 1951, Portland Oregon Pages 186 and 187.

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

BUY, SELL, & TRADE: Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: <http://www.radiolaguy.com> or e-mail me at: sonny@radiolaguy.com

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

WANTED: The INGRAHAM man wants radios with wood Ingraham cabinets. If you're not sure if it's an Ingraham, call Ed Cook in Vancouver, (360) 573-1439, or e-mail "hoppocol@home.com".

FOR SALE: A wide variety of radios at <http://radiogallerykent.com>. Charlie Kent

FOR SALE: *1950's Packard Bell console AM radio/phonograph model 601.

Radio & phono work. Has unusual dual "stationized" radio dials; one dial has California stations, the other has Northwest stations. Cabinet in good condition and needs no refinishing. \$50 o.b.o. Call Tony Hauser 503-629-4836 or e-mail abhauser@aol.com.

FOR SALE: *Vintage TV's (1940's - 1970's)

1948 GE 810, excellent original wood 10" round table set, plays - \$100

1949 Philco 49-1040, unusual mahogany console, good 10" round CRT, as-is - \$35.

1955 Stromberg-Carlson 21" solid oak console, plays but needs filter caps replaced - \$35.

1956 Philco 17" portable with rare UHF tuner, plays - \$35.

1973 Philco 12" S.S. white plastic "pod" portable b/w TV, plays - \$35.

1973 Panasonic "pop-up" portable TV & AM-FM radio, plays - \$35.

Will deliver consoles free to buyer in Portland area. Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717) or e-mail (jerryt@easystreet.com)

FOR SALE: *Portable radio tubes 1920's - 1950's. I will bring them to the January meeting. Call or e-mail me for a particular tube you need and I will set it aside. Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717) or e-mail (jerryt@easystreet.com)

Leads and Needs

Ray Vanderzanden needs the following parts:

- DeForest Crosley 52 - two rheostats (or wipers if available)
- Freed-Eisenman 350 - Audio transformer and tube socket
- Philco 41-231 - Output transformer, Philco part # 32-8144, Merit A2928, Stancor A3876

Robbie Robinson needs an audio output transformer for a Philco 42-345.

Radiolaguy's web page is full of lots of information on early radio, TV and also provides lots of links to other valuable info resources relating to the radio collecting hobby; it's not just a "for sale" site. Be sure and visit the site often. One of the services offered is pictures and information on the entire RCA "Radiola" line from 1921 to 1931 and my "show and tell" page.

Member Information

Name*:

Mailing Address*:

City, State, ZIP*:

Ham Call Sign:

E-mail:

Phone:

Collecting Interest (e.g. Battery sets, consoles, clock radios, etc.):

*Information we must have to be able to send you your Call Letter. The rest is optional, but we hope you'll share it with other club members.

Mail this sheet to Rick Walton or Wendy Johnson-Kent at the society's mailing address:

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

or e-mail the information to rwalton@ftconnect.com.



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* * *

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A Philco ad from LIFE magazine in 1942.

Meeting Location!

Our monthly meetings are held in the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

1. Take the OR-213 exit, exit number 10, towards PARK PLACE/MOLALLA.
2. From the South, turn **RIGHT** onto SR-213, or from the North, keep **RIGHT** at the fork in the ramp and merge onto SR-213.
3. Turn **LEFT** at the first traffic light onto **CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.**
4. Turn **RIGHT** onto **S FORSYTHE RD.**
5. Turn **LEFT** onto **S HARLEY AVE.** The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S. Taylor Lane.

The written instructions came from “Map Quest” on the Internet; the map is scanned from a AAA map with much detail removed for the sake of clarity.

