

The

Call Letter

March, 2004
Vol. 30 — No. 3



*"We're headed for the Spring Trash Bash
over at the NWVRS monthly meeting!"*

Almost 30 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).

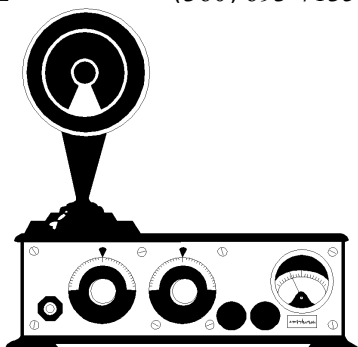
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2004:

President	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074
Board member at large	Wendy Johnson-Kent	(503) 281-9335
<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: It won't be a garbage truck hauling off the Trash Bash remains, but you get the idea. Blame your editor for the lame caption. The original caption has the trash hauler saying, "Of course, there are some days when none of those radios turn up, Mr. Claypool."

The next meeting is on March 13, 2004.

Annual dues are past due! If your dues aren't current, this is your final issue of the *Call Letter* until they are!

**March Feature:
Parts and Accessories.**

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

March Call Letter Deadline: March 2, 2004.

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 or services 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

To start off, the big news for the March meeting is the Spring Trash Bash. This is an event that promises to be a lot of fun, possibly generate a few bucks for members, and offer every member an opportunity to clean out the basement or storage shed.

In this issue we have a huge photo section that covers the radios displayed at the February meeting. It was a great feature because it really brought out a wide variety of ages, sizes, and styles. Dick Karman provides another "Looking Back" article in preparation for the club's anniversary, this time an article by Art Redman reminiscing about the naming of the club. Jay Johnston, one of our newer members, paid a visit to the Shoreline Historical Museum operated by our neighbors, the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association in Seattle. Jay brings back a description and photos of the museum and its highlights. Cliff Tuttle, our president, lays out the budget for the year, and some ideas for discussion about how we can avoid a budget shortfall. There's also an update on Cliff's announcement of the Trash Bash.

Now, about the budget woes. The easiest way out of this problem, of course, is to raise the dues. This solution has received favorable comment from quite a few members, and is the solution that I favor. I don't want to decrease the frequency of the *Call Letter*, nor do I want to take a summer hiatus. I like the idea of publishing to the Web. It would have a significant effect on printing and postage costs, depending on the number of members who opted to receive it that way. But it, too, has potential problems as we all can see from the problems in getting an e-mail list to everyone.

Last Call for Dues!

Dues for the year 2004 were due January 1. Of course, not everyone meets that deadline, and as a club we're not particularly hard-nosed about it. Nevertheless, there must be a cut-off date, and March is it. Those not paying their dues to the treasurer by the end of March will cease to be members and be removed from the club roster and *Call Letter* mailing list. We'd like to keep you on the rolls, so please, if you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so right away. Renew your membership at the March meeting, or send your payment to the attention of the Treasurer at the society's mailing address.

NWVRS 2004 Calendar of Events

- March 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; **Special Event:** Spring Trash Bash 8:30.
- March 6** 23rd Annual Electronics Show & Fleamarket, Mike and Key ARC, Puyallup, WA.
<http://www.mikeandkey.com>
- April 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 17** Yakima Amateur Radio Club W7AQ Hamfest 2004 Selah Civic Center, Selah, WA.
<http://eagle.ykm.com/~W7aq/hamfest.html>
- April 24** Hamfest, Snake River ARC, Caldwell, ID
Contact: Ralston "Scotty" Scott, W5RWS
208-466-3155
- May 8** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- May 10** Hamfest, Stanwood-Camano ARC, Stanwood, WA.
- June 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 18-20** SEA*PAC, Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, OR Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC <http://www.seapac.org>
- July 16-18** Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest July 18-20, 2003, East Glacier, MT.
<http://www.gwhamfest.org>
- TBA** Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Portland, OR. Willamette Valley DX Club <http://www.wvdx.org>
- August 14** Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Spanaway, WA
<http://www.w7dk.org>
- September 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- October 9** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- November 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Nomination of officers for 2005.
- December 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Election of officers for 2005. Annual Holiday Party!

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

Tony Hauser, NWVRS Secretary

President Cliff Tuttle called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

A guest, Eric Arterbury, was welcomed. The January meeting minutes, as written in the February, 2004, Call Letter were accepted as written.

Reports

Library: John Bucholtz commented on the inclusion of the club library listings in the February Call Letter. Jerry Talbott also mentioned the second Zenith collectors book has been purchased. Ken Seymour volunteered to be on the Library committee.

Editor: Rick Walton reported that he has received many submissions of articles for future editions of The Call Letter.

Treasury: Ed Charman reported our current balance was \$357.93.

Good & Welfare

Liles Garcia reported that Dick Bixler would be having one of his kidneys removed. He will update us on his recovery.

Old Business

Rick brought up the new Topica e-group for discussion. It appears that Topica has been blacklisted by some domains which may explain why some members are not receiving e-mails from the group. He is researching other options since too many members cannot participate in the Topica e-group.

Cliff mentioned that he will be sponsoring a flat bed truck for the spring trash bash at the March meeting. Members are welcome to bring any electronic items that they would like to either sell or send to the recycling center. Tables will be set up inside and the bash will begin at 8:30 am.

Cliff also mentioned that he has received no volunteers as of yet to teach the electronics class even though some people are still considering taking on the challenge.

Ed presented the budget proposal for 2004 and beyond and copies were given to all attendees. Members discussed many budgeting options.

Cliff will write an article on the budget for a future edition of The Call Letter.

Jerry Talbott gave a report on the display for the Sounds of Nostalgia show in Salem on February 15th.

Tech Talk

George Kirkwood described a method for cleaning and re-plating metal dials using a Wexler solution. George will write an article describing the process for a future edition of The Call Letter.

New Business

There was no New Business discussed.

Leads & Needs

Glenn Bricker needs 1-1/16" x 3/4" push buttons for a 1936 Crosley model #OC2P.

Gordon Phillips has chassis punches for sale.

Joe Beseda reported that Bob Lee has NOS VT37's for sale for \$3/each.

Jerry Talbott reminded members of the upcoming ham radio swap in Puyallup on March 6th.

Cliff Tuttle needs to look at a copy of Ed Romney's Fixing up Nice Old Radios. He also wants help identifying the radio shown in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life."

Monthly Feature

Thirteen members displayed 26 radios for the tube-type battery portable radios display. Next month's feature will be Parts & Accessories.

An auction was held raising \$27 for the Society.

Cliff adjourned the meeting at 11:31.

NWVRS Budget for 2004

By Cliff Tuttle, NWVRS President

Our club treasurer, Ed Charman, presented a 2004 operating budget at our February meeting. As you will see in my summary below, our current dues fall short of funding all the things we want to do. This short fall is something we need to discuss. Please review the budget at your leisure, and come to the March meeting with your thoughts.

To run the club, we estimate our needs as follows:

- \$1,600 for printing and mailing the Call Letters and Roster
- \$ 400 for operating expenses (Rent, State fees, Po Box, etc.)
- \$ 500 for liability insurance (up from \$280 last year)
- \$ 240 to maintain our Internet presence
- \$ 96 for bank costs.
- \$ 200 for our Christmas Party
- \$ 0 for Swap meets (they normally break even)

\$3,036 per year to maintain the club

To pay for this, we have dues, and coffee bar proceeds:

- \$2,500 from dues (\$20 x 125 paying members)
- \$ 50 from the coffee bar

----- That leaves us just about \$500 short.

One thought that has been bantered around would be to raise the dues from \$20 to \$25. This would generate an additional \$600/year, enough to keep us in the black.

Another would be to publish the Call Letter quarterly instead of monthly. This would save about \$1000/year, more than enough to keep us in the black.

We could work on developing fund raisers. (e.g., a club auction, where quality radios are auctioned off, and the club gets 10% of the proceeds – perhaps tied to a swap meet).

Bring your thoughts to the March meeting and we will discuss it further.

A Special Event: The Spring Trash Bash

By Cliff Tuttle

At our regular March Meeting (March 13, 2004), I am sponsoring a new event we have dubbed the SPRING TRASH BASH.

Instead of a Dumpster, I am bringing a flat trailer (2 foot sides). It will be easier than traditional “dumpster dipping”, and the recyclers are close, so multiple trips (if needed) are easy. Everybody who wants to participate brings their true junk and a couple of bucks to throw in a pot (to help defray any expenses — any extra goes to the club). Then everybody gets to dig through the pile, taking home what they can use (or at least pack). People are welcome to try and sell items, and then if it does not sell, toss it into the “dig through” pile at the end. What does not get “recycled” to members goes to the Metro recyclers.

When I asked a member what he thought of the idea, he suggested, “Folks could bring radio stuff no holes barred because they would know they wouldn't need to bring anything home. This would really up the variety and volume of things folks would bring.”

This is our chance to clean out our garages, our storage buildings, even our spare bedrooms, and bring out all those odds and ends we know we will never use and pawn them off on some unsuspecting soul. Pretty much everything electronics or electronics related (no kitchen sinks) is OK. (Metro says even old picture tubes can go to the landfill, though I will be trying to see if one of the many recyclers might have a better home.) But to be honest, I am hoping most of this stuff finds a new home with other members.

The current plan says we start at 8:30. A starter “Dig Through” pile will be located centrally, but people can set up tables to try and sell some of their stuff. If we do not have enough tables (or if you just do not want to carry it all the way in), plan on tailgating. At any time stuff can be added to the pile. By 10:00, we all go inside for the meeting. At the end of the meeting, there will be one last shot at the pile before it is hauled off to the recycler.

Looking Back

On The Naming Of The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

By Art Redman.

[a memory saved for 29 years]

Harley Perkins wrote *To Those Devoted To The Preservation and Restoration of Old Radios* on January 11, 1975 on the selection of the club's name that "No doubt there will be as many names as the club has members. Agreement may require our best spirit of compromise. Some important points in my opinion include simplicity, brevity, and a clear identification of the hobby. The name should attract potential new members with interests like ours. It should say to the public at large that the club exists for the preservation and restoration of old radios That someone really cares about that old relic they want to get rid of. Yes that's a tall order for a brief simple name."

These were challenging words by our first president Harley Perkins. Bob Bilbie originally wanted the name Radio Club of America. The problem was that Bob later found that an existing club located in Kentucky took that name. Tom James always wanted or liked the term "Vintage Radio" to refer to the Golden Age of radio before television. Remember, in 1975 few people collected transistor radios, televisions, catalan radios or other plastic sets. The name "Vintage" needed to be included in the name.

One other concern was how big an area should the club include. Definitely it should be bigger than Oregon and there was a need to welcome collectors north of the Columbia River. Why not the whole state of Washington and include Idaho for good measure? Why not the entire Northwest? Some people thought it might conflict with the original Northwest Territories in the early 1800s known as the five states including Ohio but that view was dropped. To include Pacific Northwest seemed too long to me and was eliminated. Our goals were big since we were one of the first unlike the Association limiting itself to Puget Sound.

Bob Bilbie never liked the term "Society" when I mentioned it to him. He wanted to belong to a "club not a society." I got society from the Oregon Historical Society. It had the right "highbrow" ring. Two other names were also submitted which I do not remember, at the first meeting, which I missed on February 8, 1975 when the name was picked. One of the other choices had the term "Historical". I was happy to see the name Northwest Vintage Radio Society for the first time on our second monthly newsletter.

Later Mark Moore came up with the name Call Letter for the newsletter. (But that's another story for another month.)

If you have memories about the last 30 years like Art's – please send them to Dick Karman at dick@karmans.net or mail them to Dick Karman, 2515 NE 37th Ave. Portland, OR 97212.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Dave Brown:

- Zenith H-500 Super Transoceanic in almost perfect condition
- Zenith Model B509C - Exactly like the one I had as a kid!

Ron Hershey:

- Radiola 20 battery set (1925)
- Magnavox tabletop dynamic speaker (about 1927-1928)
- Crosley Trirdyn Super Special battery set (1925)
- Crosley Super Musicone cone speaker (1925)
- Grunow 450 tombstone with deco chrome grill (1934)
- RME 45 communications receiver (1945-1947)
- RME VHF152A vhf converter for RME45 (1947)
- RME DB22A preselector for RME45 (1945-1947)
- Hallicrafters SX16 Super Skyrider communications receiver (1937-1938)
- Hallicrafters R12T speaker (1937-1939)
- Hallicrafters SX17 Super Skyrider communications receiver (1938-1939)
- Webster Electric 6089R1 public address amplifier (about 1936-1937)

Tony Hauser:

- The Hallicrafters S20R Sky Buddy (1939-45 according to Chuck Dachis's book).

George Kirkwood:

- A three tube Adler-Royal, circuitry resembles that of a Radiola III, layout is like the sets made by "The Radio Shop" of Sunnyvale, CA.

Sonny Clutter:

- A beautiful Stromberg-Carlson model 1-A Radio, battery, with speaker.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Portable tube radios, the February feature, brought out a wide assortment of radios.



Garod 4B-43 "Starlet"



Hoffman BP-402



Majestic 130



Trav-Ler 5-tube



Sonora E4 "Candid"



Philco PT-89

All these radios are from Jerry Talbott's collection.



Jeff Martin - Air King



Jeff Martin - Admiral



Ed Pittaway - Westinghouse



George Kirkwood - Radiola 24



Brian Toon - Kemper



Art Redman - Hexadyne



Larry Tobkin - Zenith Flip-front



Pat Kagi - Zenith



Ray Vanderzanden - Westinghouse



Rick Walton -
Philco Zenith
Trav-Ler Argus C-3 RCA



Roger Brown - Bendix



Roger Brown - Zenith

Sonny Clutter
Koyo "Parrot" - Japanese





Rudy Zvarich - Three GE Portables



Sonny Clutter - Kemper



Mystery Owner - Zenith Transoceanic



Mystery Owner - Tom Thumb

Shoreline Historical Museum

by Jay Johnston



The Puget Sound Antique Radio Association sponsors and maintains a permanent exhibit at the Shoreline Historical Museum near Seattle. The one-room exhibit features a well thought-out sampling of vintage radios, televisions, test equipment, and advertising memorabilia.



Pieces displayed in the collection were either donated to the club or are on loan from club members. The collection spans receivers from crystals to transistors. Early wood sets are predominantly featured, while early plastic models are not as greatly represented. There are a few Bakelite sets, but no Catalins. Brands range from Atwater Kent to Zenith. Featured test equipment include an old drugstore-type tube tester and a Tektronix 545 oscilloscope (probably the newest piece in the exhibit).

One piece that caught my fancy was a portable Sylvania unit. Its model number was U235, and is named after uranium 235. This unique package was marketed to the flurry of prospectors who struck out to find uranium after the first nuclear bombs were developed. Sylvania included in this package an AM radio, compass, sundial, and Geiger counter. A prospector could wander around the hills with an eye on the Geiger reading while listening to the sounds of his favorite broadcasts. An amusing design flaw was the placement of the compass directly over the permanent magnet speaker.



The center of the exhibit is a curtained-off room containing PSARA's historical archives. These archives are open during club meetings on the third Sunday of each month (meetings take place at the museum). I was told by Bob Phelps (PSARA Vice President who maintains the exhibit) that non-members that request to peruse the archives would be permitted to do so. Meetings usually last from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., giving plenty of time for individuals to research the history of their sets.

Everyone I've met and contacted at the museum and in the club have been very outgoing and helpful. If you're in the Seattle area, the exhibit is

definitely worth the time. For those not finding themselves in the Puget Sound area on occasion, I would recommend putting together a carpool for a meeting or swap meet sponsored by the club. It gives you the opportunity to view the exhibit and maybe bring home a few more toys.

Puget Sound Antique Radio Association

<http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara>

Shoreline Historical Museum (206) 542-7111

749 North 175th St.

Shoreline, WA 98133

<http://www.shorelinehistoricalmuseum.org>



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

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

FOR SALE: **I am clearing my entire inventory of radio test equipment, parts, related materials that would be useful to those restoring antique radio gear. Some items available are: Heathkit oscilloscope in working cond; Eico signal generator, R.F. with switchable modulation; numerous power transformers; coupling transformers; resistors; some tubes; miscellaneous amplifiers and chassis; an ARC-r receiver in very good cond; etc. I will let the whole bag go for \$150.00. I am always negotiable. I need to clear everything since it appears we will be moving and there is no place for all of this collection. At least I will be able to take my five most liked collectables with me, that helps. John Otterstedt, johott38@aol.com, 503-244-6571 (home), 503-318-4203 (cell).

WANTED: *SAMS auto radio manuals AR7, AR8, AR10 - AR14. Also, Riders Perpetual Manuals 15 - 22. Ken.Seymour@comcast.net or 503-642-9115.

WANTED: An audio output transformer for RCA 54B1 personal portable. It matches the 3V4 to the 10 ohm speaker voice coil. Rudy Z. 503-255-2227

Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or ranft@saw.net – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 293-7835, david_wise@phoenix.com

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photo's, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Member Information

Just in case we don't have your most current member information, please take the time to send the information requested on this form.

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 (or something like it) to Rick Walton 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@easystreet.com.