

The
**Call
Letter**

October, 2004
Vol. 30 — No. 10

VINTAGE RADIO SALE

AND



SWAP MEET

9 AM - 1 PM

Saturday, October 9

Salvation Army Rose Center
N.E. 18th Ave. and Sandy Blvd.
Portland, Oregon

For information contact:
Tony Hauser, (503)397-0074

www.nwvrs.org



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).

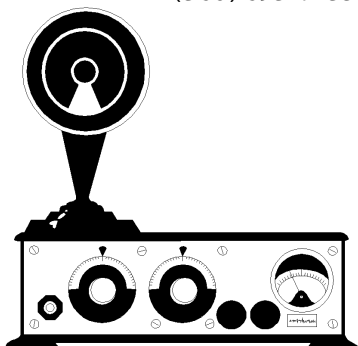
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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



October 2004

Table of Contents

From the Editor2

Roster Update2

NWVRS 2004 Calendar of Events2

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes3

Photo Display.....4

Looking Back: Displays In the Early Years.....6

Nomination of Officers9

Play It Again, Sam!.....9

Swap Shop 11

On the cover: Here’s the swap meet poster, reminding us that the Fall Swap/Sale is upon us.

The Fall Swap/Sale is on October 9, 2004.

No Meeting in October:

See you at the Fall Swap/Sale.

Next meeting is on Nov. 8: Officer Nominations!

November Feature: RCA Tube Radios.

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

November Call Letter Deadline: November 3, 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

Here I am on deadline night with a computer that is crippled by an attempt to upgrade my OS with the latest service pack. You notice I say crippled, not dead. If it were completely dead, I couldn't be writing this. It is amazing how dependant we've become upon these machines that turn out to be so deucedly fragile.

I hope everyone is ready for the Fall Swap/Sale. Even with Jeff Martin in Hawaii, we still are privileged to be able to use the Rose Center. I plan to be there as usual to take a few pictures for the *Call Letter* and to bring home a few more items that I probably don't need (or so my wife says!).

We've got a full issue once again. Dick Karman has put together a history of the shows in which the club has participated since the beginning. I was fortunate to have the club scrapbook to scan photos from and the *Call Letter* archive to help verify the dates and places. This has been a busy group over the last 30 years. I've almost caught up with all the "Play it Again, Sam!" articles from Dave Wise. This month Dave is working on a Magnavox AM-12.

Roster Update

Tony Ranft has a new e-mail address:

Ranft, Tony
 1715 S.E. Solomon Loop
 Vancouver, WA 98683
 360-944-8489
ranft@saw.net

NWVRS 2004 Calendar of Events

- 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, Holiday lunch, and 30th anniversary celebration, 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Election of officers for 2005. Annual Holiday Party!

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

Tony Hauser, Secretary

President Cliff Tuttle called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

There were 40 members, and guest Jim Harper, in attendance. The June meeting minutes, as written in the July, 2004, Call Letter were accepted as written.

Reports

Treasury: Ed Charman reported our current balance was \$483.32.

Editor: Rick Walton reported that the color cover he produced himself was well received.

Library: John Bucholtz reported that a few books were checked out.

Swap meet: Tony Hauser reminded members that tables were still available for next month's swap meet and asked again for volunteers for Friday evening setup and Saturday afternoon teardown. Cliff read a letter from Jeff Martin about his new Salvation Army assignment in Manoa, Hawaii. Our new contact at the Salvation Army Rose Center is Captain Chris Mitchell.

Summer Acquisitions: George Kirkwood asked the members in attendance to discuss their summer radio acquisitions. Quite a few members participated in the discussion.

Good & Welfare

Don Copeland attended the meeting and reported that he is feeling better.

Old Business

Cliff, once again, reminded members that any dues increase can only be approved at the annual meeting next January. He asked for further discussion of the matter at our November meeting.

Cliff also mentioned that our annual December holiday party/elections/competition will also be our 30th anniversary! George described the PSARA's method for holding their competitions. Members discussed options and voted on the popularity of different categories.

New Business

Cliff will not be seeking another term as President. Damon Vandehey mentioned that he would like to produce a show on cable access TV to help popularize the NWVRS.

Leads & Needs

Speed Feldschau needs a front bezel for a Zenith 12U158.

Cliff Tuttle needs a manual for a Simpson 479 signal generator.

Bill Parks is still looking for an RCA RE45 turntable.

Liles Garcia wants to get rid of a non-operating 1990's vintage RCA TV and a working 1940's vintage freezer.

Monthly Feature

Eight members displayed 12 pre-1950's US-made oddball brand radios. The feature at the November meeting will be tube RCA radios.

Cliff adjourned the meeting at 11:18am.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

These are the "oddball" pre-50s sets displayed by members at the September meeting.



Long B-5 - Mike Parker



Long-Thompson assembled from parts - Mike Parker



Fairmont? - Dave Brown



Nightingale -
Sonny Clutter



Olympic - Blake Dietze



Kristal-lite -
Sonny Clutter



Gloritone -
George Kirkwood



Freedson -
Blake Dietze



Westone Mod. 34 - Ron Hershey



Thermiodyne - Art Redman



Plymold-Mectron - Jerry Talbott



Matheson-Bell - Jerry Talbott

Looking Back: Displays In the Early Years

By Dick Karman

The NWVRS began partially because early members wanted to display and show off their vintage sets. In it's first real year of operation (1975) someone had a great idea. Mall-205 at 99th and SE Stark street was having some difficulty filling all of it's new store fronts. The idea was to put a radio display in the store windows and let people come in and see more radios during the hours that members could be available to host the display. In this writer's superficial research it was unclear how long this arrangement lasted, but it is sufficient to say, that the display got some attention. Mark Moore who was corresponding Secretary in 1976 mentioned that the Society had picked up several new members as a result. In fact, by January 1978 the membership was up to 150.

In 1976 the still-new NWVRS made its first appearance at the Concours d'Elegance vintage car get-together in Forest Grove. To all who can remember, we've been there every year since. The Concourse of vintage cars is complimented quite nicely by vintage radios.





Two views of the 1976 radio display at Concours d'Elegance in Forest Grove.

It was in 1977 that Joey Tompkins, a member who lived in Salem, suggested that the society display radios at Frank Haley's Flea Market which was held at the state fair grounds. The flea market evidently rotated themes and Joey suggested doing one called the "Sounds of Nostalgia." As a result vintage radio buffs and vintage phonograph collectors started a long standing tradition. NWVRS members still enjoy that tradition by displaying and selling radios once a year in Salem.

It was also in November of 1977 that the ill-fated KOAP "Golden Hours" telethon wanted to have some nostalgia on display on the television.

The "display" was ill-fated because after several hours of cooperating with the producer and shooting film of dozens of radios, virtually none of it showed up on the 12 hour broadcast. When we voiced our sentiments to KOAP management, they scheduled a special show for one Sunday afternoon where members Tom James and Craig Hoaglin also took viewer's telephone calls and answered questions about vintage radios, tubes and broadcast nostalgia.

In those early years the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry had a director who actually was interested in history. The vintage radio folks persuaded OMSI to host a display of radios, tubes, transmitters, and microphones. Members hosted the display both weekends and handed out membership information about NWVRS. The display ran from October 6 through October 14 of 1979.

Through the years a strict chronology has been lost, but this author remembers doing a vintage display at the large hotels on Jantzen Beach (used to called Red Lion Hotels) in 1980 or 1981. We set out some of our best and oldest sets for display to the emergency dispatch convention. It only lasted 1 night, but it was noteworthy in that the convention came to us and paid for our booth and all.

By 1983, The society had set its sights on a longer and grander display. It took three weeks to build the display and place it in the basement museum of what was then the Georgia Pacific Building (now know as the Standard Insurance Tower) in Downtown Portland. Ed Charman, Jim Mason, and your author spent quite a few hours setting it up. The show not only had radios, but had a slide show of pieces not on display, and an endless loop of radio programs playing for background. This show was scheduled to last for 60 days. It got a very favorable mention from Ray Summers on KOIN TV. Summers did a great travelogue of things to do and places to go Oregon. Little did we know he also had a soft spot for old radio. The show was so popular that it was held over and lasted almost three months. This was due in part to the fact that the Museum curator, Dick Thompson, was also a vintage radio collector and enjoyed seeing the sets on display. Over 2,000 people toured the display.

There were desperate attempts to move a similar long standing show into OMSI, but by then they were looking for a new site and their view of history had darkened. In 1984 this author with the help of folks like Jim Mason, and Chuck Kibler put a small display in a dark corner of their building for 3 weeks and then it folded up quietly and went away.

When the Georgia Pacific Historical Museum closed, it donated many of it's display pieces to The Western Forestry Center (currently known as the World Forestry Center). Mark Reed was the curator and handy man for the WFC and also shared an interest in vintage radio. He told us if we got a sponsor he would host a vintage display of radios (allegedly tied to forest products because the sets were made out of wood). Victor Ives was trying a grand experiment in those days. He had opened an AM radio station KVIX which used Victor's extensive collection of old radio shows to fill the unpaid for hours. KVIX became our corporate sponsor and the Western Forestry Center was the site for a very fun radio display.

In the last decade there have been other displays. I know that Sonny Clutter, Speed Feldschau, or Jerry Talbott could describe a number of times when a vintage display was set to publicize the Society in recent years. Most of us look back at the good old days and wonder when another Mall 205 or Georgia Pacific Museum will come along. Who knows? It could happen.

[If you have memories from the last 30 years of the NW Vintage Radio Society send them to Dick@karmans.net.]

Nomination of Officers

by Cliff Tuttle

As many of you may know by now, I will not be able to accept the nomination for the office of president for 2005. We are taking on a new but very big project at work, and that means more travel time and focus for most of next year. I have no choice but to clear my slate a bit. I will very much miss being an officer with NWVRS, and will try to make meetings when I am home. I will be around at least thru the December meeting, but want to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your support and encouragement these last few years.

More to the point: November is the month for nomination of officers, and I encourage each of you to consider running for an office. The duties for the various positions are posted on the back page of this Call Letter, and if you have any questions, please give any of us board members a call and we can fill you in. Taking on an office is not hard stuff, its always interesting, always entertaining, and almost always fun. I highly recommend it.

See you at the Swap Meet on the 9th.

Cliff Tuttle - Lame Duck President of NWVRS

Play It Again, Sam!

by Dave Wise

Magnavox AM-12

This is an AC wood table model using miniature tubes, so it's late 50's at the earliest. AM only, with a TRF stage, push-pull 6V6s, and twin speakers. Layout: 6BA6 6BE6 6BA6 6AL5 12AX7 2x6V6 5Y3. After the usual filter and coupling cap replacements, the set worked, putting out a clear, rich tone and lots of it. The interesting aspects of working on it were in the mechanical and alignment areas.

This set is somewhat odd mechanically. It is based on a box chassis like most, but it is, and isn't, upside-down. What do I mean by that? Well, the open side is down as usual, but the tubes are on the bottom (accessible through a hole under the cabinet), while the wiring and most components are on top. Most upside-down sets are assembled by lowering the cabinet onto the chassis. This chassis, along with its attached speaker baffle, pulls out from the front. At this point, you see no tubes, just a plain box with a "rat's nest" on top. It's disorienting.

It was a delicate exercise getting the dial stringing to work. The knob shaft is wound with cord which turns the tuning cap and also a step-up pulley which in turn moves the pointer. The set came to me with too much secondary slack and no evidence that there ever was a spring. I added one and immediately discovered that the primary loop is short on traction. I had to use a very light spring with almost no preload, plus a bit of wax on the primary cord which also made it work smoother as it climbed the sides of the shaft cutout.

There is a radio/phono switch, but it has two radio positions, labeled 1 and 2. Since the contacts involved go to one of the IF transformers, I assume this is supposed to be a narrow-wide setup, but it doesn't appear to work. I investigated this by doing a "sweep alignment", which is normally reserved for FM. This is like doing a dynamic wheel balance job on a bicycle. I fed in signal from an FM generator centered at 455kHz and modulated at 20Hz, and observed the detector output on an oscilloscope in X-Y mode, with X coming from the generator's modulation. (Note: ground the AVC line so it doesn't interact.) This displayed a curve, and all you have to do is adjust the IF's until it's tall and centered. What I expected to see on switching to "Radio 2" was a broadened curve signifying wide bandwidth, but it wasn't, it was just much smaller and a little off frequency. No matter what I did, I couldn't get either curve to be broader than the other. Anybody have a comment? I haven't looked up the service data yet; no doubt that will make it clear.

RF alignment was a breeze, with tweaks for both L and C in all three circuits. Where's the antenna L tweak you might ask? This set uses a ferrite loopstick, and one part of the winding is clearly intended to be adjustable. You melt the wax with a hair dryer, and just slide it back and forth for maximum signal. I didn't do this, I just did the others to coincide, but keep it in mind any time you do a set with a loopstick.

At one point I was scoping the speaker, and I noticed some hum. After some effort first to track it down, then to cancel it, I discovered that the negative feedback circuit resulted in an ungrounded speaker. My scope was the source of the hum! Moral: Isolation transformers aren't perfect. With that one out of the way, I did see another hum, only at high volume control settings. This one I was able to cancel out, using a very large resistor from the appropriate side of the center-tapped filament winding. This set has two 6V windings, one for the front end, the other for the audio. The latter is maintained at a positive DC bias to minimize hum. It works - the hum I canceled out wasn't from the tubes, it was stray wiring pickup.

Unless I dig into the IF bandwidth again, the only thing left is to replace the velvet-faced paper used as background for the dial.

Oh oh, an intermittent signal dropout during warm-up just cropped up. I'll report back what it was if it's interesting.

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: 1. American Bosch hi-boy console

2. RCA Radiola 62 hi-boy console.

3. Silver Marshall lo-boy console.

All are from my collection and have been previously restored although are not presently working. Some slight veneer lifting due to moisture. These sets are loaded with good 26, 27, 45, and 80 tubes and all should be good. Cost \$50 each or \$130 for all. The tubes are worth more than this.

Ray Nelson 503 845-2897

FOR SALE: *Two Zenith consoles: 10-tube model 10-H-5, and 11-tube model, number uncertain. \$200 each. Contact Galen Feight, 503-231-9708, gfeight@aol.com.

FOR SALE: **Radio collection in Chehalis, WA. Includes several homemade battery sets, tube testers, speakers, literature (manuals and lots of early radio magazines), a few factory battery and early AC sets and a Radiola 30. List available. For more information or to make arrangements to take a look, contact Larry Senters, 360-740-9598, or e-mail: lsenters@toledotel.com.

FOR SALE: **Antique Radio Restoration Video Series! Vol. 1: beginning electronics and cabinet repair. Vol. 2: Intermediate electronics. Each video over two hours long! VHS: \$34.99 + \$3 S&H. DVD: \$39.99 + \$3 S&H. Two-volume SET: \$59.99 VHS or \$69.99 DVD including free U.S. shipping. Check or M.O. payable to Bret Menassa PO Box 51671 Denton, TX 76206. View a streaming preview at www.bretsoldradios.com. More info: bretsoldradios@att.net

WANTED: *A “deluxe or higher end” wood table radio with two or more shortwave bands, a tuning eye and a quality tuning mechanism (coarse and fine tuning or gear reduction tuning). It can be working or not but please, no basket case. Thanks. Vance Daberko, Corvallis, OR (vdaberko@fastmail.fm) 541-753-3356

Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, wb6jbj@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

Dave Brown is looking for an operating or restorable Macintosh MC-240 power amp.

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit radiology'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.radiology.com>

TABLED, OCTOBER 12, 1924

Table-Talker

\$10⁵⁰

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THE big race is on! Follow the candidates round the country. Hear every speech. Hear the greetings of the vast crowds. Know the candidates. Know the temper and opinions of the people.

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Brandes

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Officer's Roles

The President

The President shall preside at all regular and special meeting of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall set the time and the place of Board of Directors' meetings. The President has the power to appoint members of committees as appropriate to enhance the activities of the society.

The Vice President

The Vice President shall be responsible for planning and arranging technical and entertaining activities associated with the society's meetings. He serves as chairman of the program committee if such a committee is appointed. He acts as presiding officer as meetings if the President is unavailable.

The Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting and for receiving and preparing all of the society's correspondence.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds received and disbursed by the society and shall report all monetary transactions and treasury balance at each regular meeting of the society. The Treasurer shall prepare a list of members in good standing for distribution at the next regular meeting following the annual meeting of the society.

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of the society plus the immediate past president of the society. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the society. The Board shall determine a suitable time and place for regular society business meetings.