

The **Call
Letter**

March, 2011
Vol. 37 — No.3



Celebrating over **35** years in print!

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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.

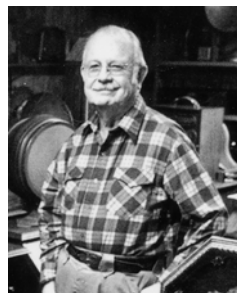
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 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).

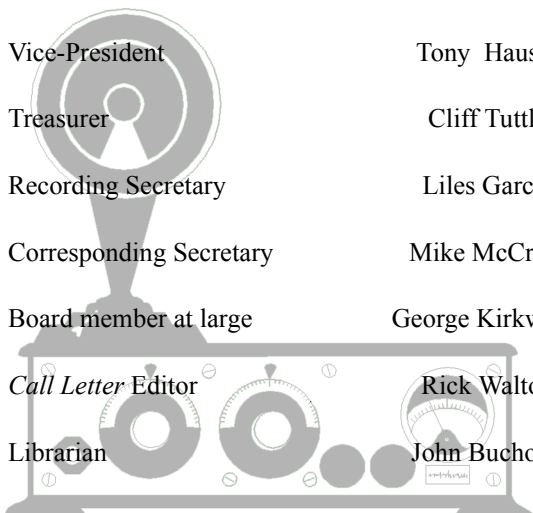
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the *Call Letter*.



Society Officers for 2011:

President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 rf2af@comcast.net
Vice-President	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074 abhauser@aol.com
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Secretary	Mike McCrow	(503) 730-4639 tranny53@frontier.com
Board member at large	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 701-3260 rewalton46@gmail.com
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 Bucholtz3049@comcast.net



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On the cover: Clearly a flier for KXL radio, this is one of several pieces originally collected by Dan Howard, then given to the NWVRS archives by Art Redman.

The next meeting is March 12, 2011.

Monthly Feature: Unknown (to the owner) radios

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: March 31, 2011.

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

My move is done, and I am now a resident of Wilsonville, Oregon. See all the changes in the Roster Updates.

Just before I finished putting this issue together, Liles informed the e-mail lists of the death of club member Frank Olberding. Frank passed away on the morning of March 5. Plans for a memorial service are unknown.

This month, I am conducting a trial run of a method of electronic distribution for the *Call Letter*. This is the result of the discussion at last month's meeting. I will send the *Call Letter* out in PDF format to all the e-mail addresses I have on file. I expect some will bounce.


That brings up another point. The form for sending in your updated roster information is on the inside back cover. If you've changed your address, e-mail address, phone number, or collecting interests, please fill out the form or e-mail me the information requested on the form. Having correct information in the current roster is another method to foster communication among members.

Always sunny & warm.

*For a refreshing change,
check it out!*



Sunny 1550 KKAD

	Herb Alpert - Tony Bennett - Michael Buble - Carpenters
	Nat King Cole - Perry Como - Neil Diamond - Diana Krall
	Barry Manilow - Johnny Mathis - Platters - Carly Simon
	Elvis - Frank Sinatra - Babara Streisand - Andy Williams

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, NWVRS Recording Secretary

President Dick Bixler brought the February 12th meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:32 AM. There were 50 people at our meeting today. The club welcomed new member Mike Massey. The minutes of the January meeting were read by Dick, and were approved. Recording Secretary Liles Garcia, Treasurer Cliff Tuttle, and Vice President Tony Hauser were not in attendance. Mike McCrow took over recording the minutes, and Dick Bixler conducted the program topic for the meeting. No Treasurer's report was given. John Bucholtz said that the library was doing well. Brian Toon reported that all upstairs tables were sold and that there were still three downstairs tables available.

New Business

Blake Dietze spoke about the Dell Dixon sale. He brought some of the test equipment to the meeting to sell. Radios are all still there, including three walls of Zenith Trans-Oceanics. Blake brought a manifest of the sale on his laptop for all to see. There will be a sale at the Dell Dixon home, next Saturday Feb. 19th at 9:00 AM. Sonny Clutter has the new posters and counter flyers for the May show, printed and available in PDF form. E-mail Sonny at "sonny@radiolaguy.com" to download them. Pat Kagi's computer crashed and needs "Dreamweaver" software. The club discussed getting new software for Pat. Pat said he would research the best way to get the software. The club discussed having a "Spring Trash-Bash". The club approved and seconded a motion to have it sometime this Spring. Cliff Tuttle would determine when we would have it. There was discussion on changing the way we get an electronic copy of the Call Letter from "Yahoo.com" to an e-mail format. Rick Walton said that he could do that if the club approved. Blake Dietze talked about his Old Time Radio presentation and display for the "Lake Oswego Reads". The 2011 city-wide reading program selected the book "Cutting for Stone". Blake had the audio portion of the program broadcast, and then played through several antique radios displayed in the room. One of those a Grundig that is in the book. Blake's display included several pre-war Zeniths. Blake put about two month's research into the presentation, that ended in a discussion about NWVRS and vintage radio collecting. Thanks Blake for your effort to expand antique radio in the community.

Tech Discussion

Lee Jensen talked about an article in Monitoring Times, about the transmission of newspaper articles over the radio using a device that

connected to the speaker, and then would print out the article. Discussion included similar products of the time such as the Crosley Read-O. George Kirkwood mentioned that devices like that were used in World War II. Dick Bixler said that he was approached by the Oregonian editor while he was working for KPTV not to allow any “newspaper of the air”.

Leads and Needs

Bob Duel needs a 3KP4, and a 10BT4 picture tubes. Dick Karman needs chrome finger knobs for a Nordon Hauk. Dave Wise needs a power transformer for a Fluke 801.

Program Topic

The program topic for today is “Tube Radio Test Equipment”. There were approximately 25 items displayed. The program topic for March will be: “Unknown To You Radios”.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

NWVRS Calendar of Events

Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm

- March 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 12** Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. For information, contact dmdink@yahoo.com or n7wa@arll.net. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>.
- April 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 22-24** Idaho State Convention. Garden City, ID, Voice of Idaho ARC. ARRL sanctioned. Info, Lynn Rasmussen, W7RAZ, (208)550-7710, w7raz24@gmail.com. <http://www.idahostateconvention.com/>
- May 14** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- May 14** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Always the second Saturday in May. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7705) nwecop@tgi.net <http://www.scarcwa.org/>

June 3-5 Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. ARRL sanctioned. ai9q@arrl.net
www.seapac.org/

June 10, 11, 12 Wenatchee Hamfest 2011. Apple City ARC. Dryden Gun Club. Dryden, WA. Contact Jim, W7JBP at shultzjims@aol.com or Judy, at ka7zna@msn.com for information. <http://www.qsl.net/w7td/>

Roster Updates

New Members

Mike Massey R
1380 10th St
West Linn, OR 97068
503-722-9977
503-756-8218 cell
mikemasemail@comcast.net

Updates



Walton, Rick R
8662 SW Holly Ln., Unit 5005
Wilsonville, OR 97070
Home: (503) 454-0966 Cell: (503) 701-3260
General - Radios of the 30's to 60's, radio magazines and publications.
rewalton46@gmail.com

New Caps & Shirts!

New caps and new shirts are available. Caps are \$10, and shirts are \$22 for M & L sizes, \$24 for XL. Contact Tony Hauser for more information.



Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Members displayed a wide variety of tube test equipment at the February meeting as evidenced by these photos.



Joe Corsi - Knight VTVM, Solar capacitor checker, Triplet multi-tester, Precision 1939 VOM, Precision 1951 VOM, Simpson capacity bridge, ReadRite VOM

Dick Bixler -

TV-7D/U tube tester

Bob Duell - RCA oscilloscope, home-built oscilloscope

Jerry Hertel - HP signal generator

Bruce Baur - Leeds & Northrup Wheatstone bridge



Lee Jensen - McIntosh HF milliammeter, Holtzer-Cabot insulation tester, Superior large VOM

George Kirkwood - ReadRite tube tester

John Cushing - Supreme oscilloscope, Simpson "Mirroscope"



Alan Shadduck - Supreme tube tester, Tektronix signal generator, Sencore harmonic



generator



Jeff Ladoe - two Cornell-Dubilier capacitor bridges, B&K VOM



Sonny Clutter - Hickok tube tester



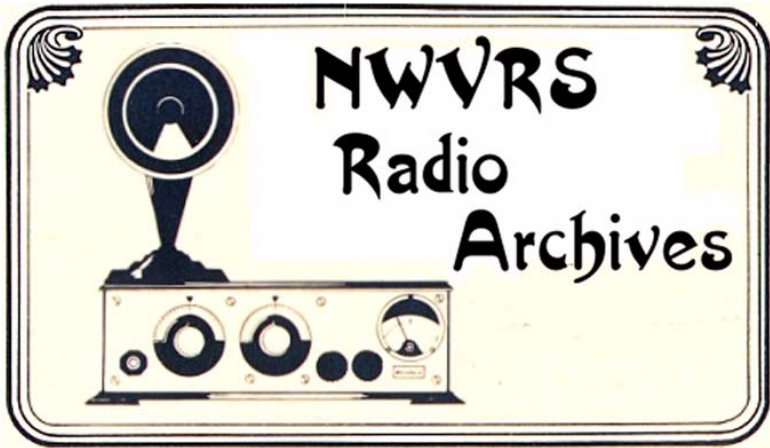


Brian Toon - Heathkit VTVM, O'scope, signal tracer, DMM, capacitor checker, tube tester

Rick Walton - Heath power supply, Precision signal generator

Dave Wise - Heathkit power supply, Fluke differential voltmeter

Bob Walters - Heath VTVM, Hickok signal generator



by Mark Moore, NWVRS Archivist

At our February 12, 2011 meeting, Art Redman donated several items to the NWVRS Archives including copies of six articles he wrote for *Antique Radio Classified* and a folder containing the Dan Howard collection of local radio station programs, publications and advertising from the 1990s.



Articles written by Art include: Portland radio manufacturer The Myers-Blackwell Company which was known for making crystal sets; Portland based Hallock and Watson, early radio manufacturers; early radio manufacturer Long Radio Works which was based near Cornelius, Oregon; Portland's Reid brothers' Shorty Manufacturing Company which made low-cost, plug-in shortwave tuner boxes; Charles Austin's Portland-based Northwestern Radio Manufacturing Company; and Northwest radio manufacturer the Cockaday Company.

The NWVRS would like to thank Art for all the time, effort and research that he put into writing these articles. Without this tremendous effort, the history of Northwest radio pioneers would have been lost. And thanks also to Art for donating these articles to our Archives.



Art was also in the possession of a folder of radio advertising, radio and TV program guides, magazines and newsletters as well as football and sports programs from the 1990s that was given to him by Dan Howard. Art donated the entire collection to our Archives.

Play it Again, Sam!

by Dave Wise

Editor's note: This month Dave tells us of two radios he's had for ten years but just now got around to restoring.

GE 202

I got this bakelite octal AA6 from the "time capsule" radio shop estate sale about ten years ago and just now got around to it. The label says model 202 but it shows up on Rider's page 18-19 as model 200. The same chassis also went into a wood cabinet for models 203 and 205. The chassis has an angled deck along the back that puts most tubes at a tilt. I can't figure out why they did it; the cabinet would work fine with a plain rectangle chassis.



Tube layout is 12SG7 - 12SA7 - 12SK7 - 12SQ7 - 35L6 - 35Z5. This set puts the speaker at an angle inside the cabinet and bounces the sound off a reflector to get out the front. Even though it uses a 35Z5, this set employs a 120V C-7 bulb for dial illumination instead of the usual #47. It has an RF amp, but the tuning cap is still only two sections - the amp is RC coupled to the converter. It started working straight away after I replaced the usual caps.

The pancake loop antenna uses an odd "wire" with a chevron-shaped cross section that I guess was supposed to grip the grooves stamped into the pressboard. Unsuccessfully; some of it had come loose. In fact, all of it had come loose, someone had tacked a second loop assembly onto the naked remnant of the first, but it was the same stuff, and it had started to fall off too. This time I secured the whole thing with a thin coat of coil dope.

I also had to fiddle with the number of turns to get proper tracking at the bottom end. The previous tech had done this too but not enough. Better than too much; I just tacked the lead wire onto the next turn in.

This set employs negative feedback, from the unbypassed output cathode to the cold end of the volume control. It's very effective; using my HP 339A Distortion Measuring Set along with the good modulation of my 8640B Signal Generator, I found that the 202 is flat down to around 50Hz, at which point the distortion is still only 5%. The set is not a bass

monster however - the speaker runs out of stuff in the low hundreds same as most table models. I don't know why GE tried so hard in the amp.

Fada 361J



I got this late-1930's AC-DC table model at an estate sale about ten years ago and just now got around to repairing it. Tube layout is a mix of pre-octal and octal: 6A7, 6D6, 6Q7, 25L6, 25Z5, K49D. The schematic is on Rider's page 14-4. It has a beautiful embossed-foil dial with two dial lamps concealed behind an ornate brass emblem. It's officially a dual-band set

but having no adjustments whatsoever, the high band is nothing to write home about. Don't throw out your T-O :)

I replaced the usual capacitors and the death-trap power cord. The resistors were okay except for the K49D line dropper (ballast), which had been substituted with an L55B which was bad in addition to being wrong. I decided to make a substitute using the original shell. I used the half-wave rectifier technique to reduce the heat output. I don't like the way turn-on surge overloads the dial lamps, so I protected them with 1N5344 zener diodes, which are 8.2V, 5W, and in stock at Mouser for \$0.36 each. 8.2V sounds like more than 6.3V but remember it's a sine wave. I found a handy dropping resistor calculator on the web at http://www.vintage-radio.com/repair-restore-information/valve_dropper-calcs.html. My heater string is $(6.3 \times 3) + (25 \times 2)$ or 69V, with the dial lamps adding another 12.6, totaling 82V. The spreadsheet suggested a 10-ohm 1W resistor. I used a 3W part to get some safety margin. It worked out fine. The ballast shell is just warm to the touch.



This set had an unusually high level of hum in spite of the new filter capacitors. I tracked it down to improper assembly. The ground side of the volume control shared a length of wire with the incoming mains AC. I ran a separate ground wire from the volume control to the bottom of the detector cathode resistor (which is also ground). This got it down to the vanishing point.

By the way, this is a hot-chassis set. Watch out when you have one on the bench.

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: Del Dixon's son, also named Del, will consider offers on the remaining radios in his dad's collection. Among these items are several very nice Zenith Royal and "R" 7000 transoceanics and a variety of other radios. Keep in mind that Del is not very knowledgeable about radios; he won't be able to respond to technical details or know if they work or not. It would be best to make an appointment to visit with him. Contact Del by phone: (503) 839-9020.

WANTED: *Vintage test equipment in need of repair. I am bargain hunting and learning repair/calibration. Let me know what you are looking to unload. Robert robertwstephens@frontier.com or 503-626-3036

Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Bruce Baur - (503)-708-4537, brucebaur@comcast.net

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

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Pat Hickman – (503) 887-9015 Web: www.classictubeaudio.com
Email: phickman@comcast.net

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141 Web: www.burlingame-radio.com
Email: burltv@msn.com

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or walterranft@hotmail.com – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, 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, photos, 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

We will update the membership roster and publish it in April. Just in case we don't have your most current member information, please take the time to send the information requested on this form by April 15.

The roster includes members' photos. If we don't have your photo, we can take it at the March or April meeting, or you can include a head-and-shoulders photo of yourself. A digital photo attached to an e-mail is just fine.

Name*:

Mailing Address*:

City, State, ZIP*:

Ham Call Sign:

E-mail:

Check here if you'd like to be added to the Yahoo and/or Google e-mail list.

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 rewalton46@gmail.com.