

*The*

# *Call Letter*

January 2017

Vol 43, #1



**Bill Meloy  
Silent Key**

# 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.

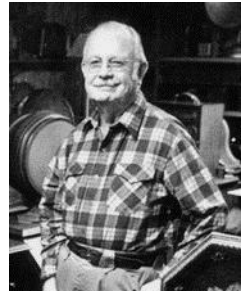
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 9:30 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 1999. 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 2016:

President	Pat Kagi (503) 694-6149	<a href="mailto:kagi.pat@con-way.com">kagi.pat@con-way.com</a>
Vice President	Brian Wegener (nnn) nnn-nnnn	<a href="mailto:spudweg@gmail.com">spudweg@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	<a href="mailto:edtomp@Q.com">edtomp@Q.com</a>
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	<a href="mailto:landn2@frontier.com">landn2@frontier.com</a>
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	<a href="mailto:mark@pdxhistory.com">mark@pdxhistory.com</a>
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639	<a href="mailto:tranny53@frontier.com">tranny53@frontier.com</a>
Librarian	Damon Vandehey (503) 459-1777	
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson	<a href="mailto:vanguard4@lycos.com">vanguard4@lycos.com</a>

# On the Cover

Bill Meloy 12-24-2016 - 11-15-1916

Photography by Ed Tompkins

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## Announcements

Our January meeting will be on Jan. 14 and starts at 9:30 AM

## January Meeting

The Program Topic for our January meeting will be “Future Restoration Projects “

## Editor’s Note

Please have Call Letter Contributions in by **Jan. 28**

**We need a volunteer to take notes on monthly feature items**

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Visit our web site at:

[www.nwvrs.com](http://www.nwvrs.com)

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/nwvrs](http://www.facebook.com/nwvrs)

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## **A Letter from the President**

**By Mike McCrow**

Hi everyone,

I hope you all had great holidays. I'm looking forward to 2017 and our new board of directors taking office. I'm sure we will have a great year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting the past board members, and myself included for the past two years. It was a fun and rewarding time. I was very honored to have served as your president.

I hope everyone had a good time at our Christmas party last month. Brian and Kathleen Toon really did a superb job organizing the event and were responsible for picking up and returning the fine dinnerware and tablecloths etc. which Brian Snawder helped provide from his business. They were there first thing in the morning ready to make the place look festive, bringing door prizes, and helping to clean up at the end. We owe them both a huge thank you.

I would like to thank Dick Karmen for his beautiful music, and entertaining commentary. Dick is always willing to share his wonderful Reliving Radio, and gives his time and effort so that everyone can enjoy. Thank you Dick. We certainly could not have had the food ready, without the kitchen helpers. This year Yvonne McNeil, Naomi Garcia, Kathleen Toon, and Janet McCrow all worked hard to make sure the food was ready to serve.

Don't let me forget, Charlie Kent brought the drinks and the famous Rudolph the Reindeer, and Liles and Naomi Garcia brought the ham. What a great way to end the party, with a group picture of everyone gathered around Bill Meloy.

-- Mike

## **Meeting Minutes -- December 10, 2016**

**By Liles Garcia**

NorthWest Vintage Radio Society—Meeting Minutes—December 10, 2016  
President Mike McCrow called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. All present pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. New Society Rosters are available. The officers' positions had only one nominee for each office; so members unanimously elected the following officers for next year: President-Pat Kagi, Vice-President-Brian Wegener, Secretary-Liles Garcia, and Treasurer-Ed Tompkins. Tony Hauser volunteered to be our Archivist. We still need someone to be our Librarian. Pat passed out a survey for members to fill out today at our meeting.

The Program Topic for our January meeting will be "Future Restoration Projects". Bring your project radio before you start working on it. The meeting was adjourned and all present had a festive lunch and social time. There were approximately 50 people at our Christmas Party today.

Our Society thanks the following ladies for helping to serve lunch today: Rosanne Ranft, Yvonne McNeil, Kathleen Toon, Janet McCrow, and Naomi Garcia. If anybody helped out and I missed their name, please let me know. We definitely want to express our thanks to you!!

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

## Calendar of Events

February 18. Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.w7sra.com> .

March 11. Mike & Key 35th Electronics Show & Fleamarket. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm> [Flyer in PDF](#). (1MB)

March 18. Microhams Digital Conference, Redmond, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.microhams.com/mhdc/>

April 8. Richmond Amateur Radio Club Swap Meet. Vancouver, BC. [http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1822](http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event_ID=1822)

April 8. Yakima Hamfest. Yakima, Washington. Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street, Selah, WA. <http://yakimaamateurradioclub.com/yakima-hamfest/>

April 21. Idaho State Convention. Boise, ID. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://voiceofidaho.org/> Contact: Larry Bickham, WA7ZZS. (208)453-1666, [wa7zszs@arrl.net](mailto:wa7zszs@arrl.net)

April 22 & 23. Communications Academy. South Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA. <http://commacademy.org/>

May 7. Maple Ridge Swap meet. Pitt Meadows, BC. [http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1843](http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event_ID=1843)

May 13. Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Contact: Fred Laun, [w7pig@arrl.net](mailto:w7pig@arrl.net) <http://www.scarcwa.org/>

May 19-21. River Radio Campout 2017. Pateros WA. Free "dry" camping along the Methow River at Pateros. Always the weekend prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Contact Roger W7CH [w7ch@arrl.net](mailto:w7ch@arrl.net) (509)687-3919. <http://lakechelanradioclub.webs.com/>

May 19-21. River Radio Campout 2017. Pateros WA. Free "dry" camping along the Methow River at Pateros. Always the weekend prior to Memorial Day Weekend. Contact Roger W7CH [w7ch@arrl.net](mailto:w7ch@arrl.net) (509)687-3919. <http://lakechelanradioclub.webs.com/>

## **Remembering Bill Meloy**

**By Dick Karman**

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society has had very few members who have passed the century mark. By now you all know that “Bill” Meloy was one. When “Bill” passed from us on Christmas Eve he was 100 years 39 days old.

His earliest reference to an interest in radio was the receiver that was on the Musselshell school in Musselshell, Montana where Bill spent his early years. (Musselshell is a small town about 50 miles north of Billings.) When Bill was born in November of 1916, his parents were making a living farming in Montana. The one-roomed schoolhouse is where “Bill” began his education.

When “Bill” was 13 the stock market crash of 1929 had kicked the props out from under most farming families. The Meloy family moved from Montana to Southern Oregon. First to Roseburg, not too much later to Wilbur, and eventually, (in 1936) to Glide. Although “Bill” his brother Bert, their father and their uncle Bob worked the farm, by 1939 “Bill” found himself working for an hourly wage in the Benton Gold Mine in Josephine County.

In an interview with KGW “Bill” said “I’ve been into radios since day one.” That radio on the Musselshell schoolhouse might have been a bust (“Bill” said it never really picked up any signals), but more than 90 years later he still loved radios and could talk radio collecting with the best of us. His grand-daughter talked to family members and reported that when his mother-in-law passed away in 1984 she left “Bill” and his wife several radios. “That was when the collecting began.”

“Bill’s” love of woodworking started early and dovetailed into all of his interests. “Bill” was a cabinet maker. When he couldn’t repair a radio cabinet, he built one to match. He spent time as a boat builder and in the construction industry. He claimed that woodworking was something he picked up from the hired hands and field helpers who drifted from farm to farm in his childhood. “Bill” said that the gift of a drawknife or a folding rule was just a way to get an inquisitive boy out from underfoot. But it was more than that. He had a love for working with wood. He learned his art and craft so well that at the peak of his career he was director of facilities planning at Portland State University, where he

managed carpenters and contractors. He retired from there in 1983. More than construction, “Bill” worked the wood – heating it; soaking it bending it; and forming it. The veneers probably found their way onto several vintage radios. And at the age of 92 “Bill” taught himself to be a luthier. “Bill” had quite a following and even his own ukulele fan club though “Bill” himself never played the instrument.

A MELOY Ukulele is a cherished possession. Members of the Hollywood Ukulele Group often played extemporaneous concerts in “Bill’s” Gresham backyard. His garage, though sometimes focusing on a radio cabinet was a ukulele factory. Like any other guy, the more machinery you have the more fun it is. “Bill’s” woodworking shop was thoroughly equipped.

I would be remiss if I left out his love for his wife Helen, his memories of their time in Hawaii, his gardening hobby, his landscape paintings, his 2 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party that many of our members attended. As the newspaper reported said only a few weeks ago, “there’s so much more to tell” – but for now we offer sincere condolences to his family and have fond memories of “Bill” at the 2016 NWVRS Christmas party.

Lisle 'Bill' Meloy became a silent key on December 24, 2016.



# 2016 Annual Christmas Party

Photography by Brian Wegener







## Hallock and Watson, the RF Year - 1923

By Art Redman

Hallock and Watson became distributors of *Federal* Radio from binding posts to receivers during January 1923. Advertising for long distance reception receivers and directions for the reflex circuit began during February and for the DX fan, the firms' radio frequency amplifier, developed the year before.

The company's first complete radio set used their RF amplifier in the four tube Model RF standing for Radio Frequency sold for \$100.00 incorporating their RF amplifier and triode detector which were already developed and each stage was sold separately in 1922. The second stage of the Long Distance RF receiver is a triode detector followed by two stages of audio amplification. Their Oregonian advertising does not mention any Model RF-12 as mentioned in the Radio Collectors Guide. The Oregonian ads only mention *radio frequency* and a "Long Distance Receiver" on April 29, 1923 "Just the set for your camping trip". In addition, *Hallock and Watson* sold *Marshall-Gerken* sets from New York as another long distance receiver option for the consumer along with long distance sets for the automobile. In November, their second set, the five-tube Model RF-22, sold for \$125.00 with the first ad in the Oregonian on Dec. 9.

The number 22 does not stand for the year 1922 because the set is a late 1923 model. Morgan McMahan lists the RF-12 as a 1924 model. *Halowat* finished the year by adding an electrical department in October and placing ads for New Year's Eve sales of 10% off during late December as it did at the end of 1922.

Hallock and Watson introduced the Northwestern 9 dial SR-25 nationally in the December 1923 issue of Radio magazine forgetting to mention the *Northwestern Company* headed by Charlie Austin. The Radio Museum web site lists the SR-25 model incorrectly as a Hallock and Watson receiver because of the Radio Magazine ad placed by Hallock and Watson Radio Service at 192 Park Avenue in Portland, Oregon.

Sources:

"Long Distance Receiver", Ad, the Oregonian April 29, 1923, page 10.

Radio Collectors Guide 1921-1932 by Morgan McMahan: Vintage Radio, 1974, page 88.

Radio Magazine for December 1923. Introducing the Model SR-25 ad, page 79.

"RF 22 Halowat Ad", The Oregonian December 9, 1923, page 8.

You Can Now Obtain the  
Latest Developed Type  
**LONG DISTANCE RECEIVER**  
embodying

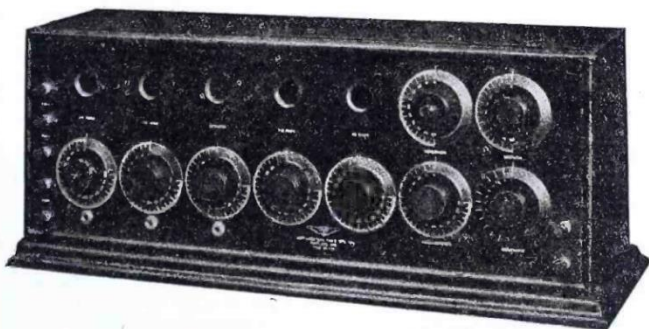
Radio Frequency Amplification  
at lower cost than the regen-  
erative receiver, and get results.

Just the set for  
your camping trip

**Hallock & Watson  
Radio Service**

192 Park Street      Portland, Or.

**Introducing the "SR 25"**



**WE INVITE YOUR ENQUIRIES**

**Hallock and Watson Radio Service**

192 Park Street

"KGG"

Portland, Ore.

## More on Hallock and Watson and the SR-25

By Dick Howard

Thanks to Art Redman for his many interesting items about Portland radio. Here's some helpful info (I hope) on the subject.

Here is a picture of a Norco SR-25 from by Austin's daughter after his death. It was the only complete receiver that remained in his home (beside some small accessory items). Needless to say, it is quite a plum to see something First Hand.



(Note from Art Redman – Ed) Dick Howard's picture of the Northwestern is great. Notice the Northwestern Model number and label. Also the all the knobs are the original Northwestern brand.

# Emerson Tombstones -- Catalin, Plaskon, Wood

By Phil Bausch

From my website:

<http://radiospast.com/2017/01/emerson-tombstone-catalin-plaskon-wood/>

Five Emerson Tombstones from 1936 to 1938:

Emerson Tombstones are among the coolest table radios ever designed. Sometimes they're called "mini-Tombstones", because they're only about 10-inches high and 7-inches wide. That's definitely "mini" compared with the large wooden Tombstones of the 1930's. The oldest of these radios are the Wooden 110 and the ivory Plaskon U5A, both from 1936.



This version features some beautifully grained & inlaid wood, along with acorn knobs. It's slightly larger than the Plaskon version, even though they use the same chassis.

The 1936 ivory Plaskon Emerson is the most Deco version, with a lot of great design touches that are simply too intricate for Catalin or wood.



It was a year later, 1937, for the first Catalin version (below, right):



This alabaster Catalin case has turned yellow, on its way to butterscotch. The 1937 Model AU-190 has a sculptured front, features a distinctive grille cloth, a sunburst dial, and chunky Catalin knobs. Another year later, there were some major style changes.

*The music you love to listen to...*

Sunny1550AM33016



*America's best music*

33 rpm

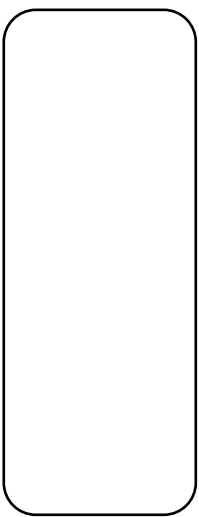
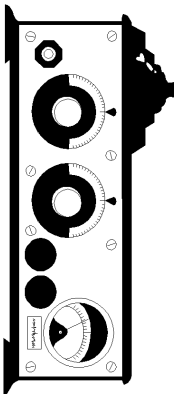
45 rpm

QUARTZ





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