

*The*

# *Call Letter*

December 2017

Vol 43, #12

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# 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.

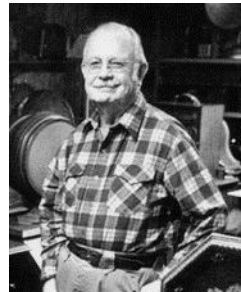
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 360 909-7009	<a href="mailto:patkagi@yahoo.com">patkagi@yahoo.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

## Long Bros Radio Ad from 1922 Oregonian

Contributed by Art Redman

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### Announcements:

#### December Meeting

Our December meeting will be the Annual Christmas Party on Saturday Nov. 9. Everyone is welcome to show up any time after 8:00. Members should be there with food no later than 9:30. We should have a short meeting to ratify board members from 9:30 to 10:00. The party starts at 10:00 or whenever the food is ready to serve. Our Board of Directors is very interested in having a balanced menu of food at our December Christmas Luncheon. Here is what our idea is for our Potluck dishes:

Last names A - I, please bring a salad

Last names J - R, please bring a side dish

Last names S - Z, please bring a dessert

Our Society will bring a turkey and a ham. Last year, the group of ladies that work to serve our luncheon asked to have some level of coordination of our menu so that we would not have a lot of one type of dish and not enough of another dish.

#### Editor's Note

Please have next month's Call Letter Contributions in by Dec. 29.

Correction: The tube on page 12 of Nov. Call Letter is from Bob Barrett

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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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## **Message from President Pat Kagi**

The NWVRS is a great place for radio enthusiasts and like-minded individuals to gather in a safe and fun environment. Members are encouraged to buy, sell and trade radios and related articles for preservation and restoration, while continuing to learn more about this fascinating hobby.

### **NWVRS Accomplishments for 2017:**

- Monthly Meetings with an Agenda and:
- Low cost donuts and coffee
- Tech Talks except November (Planned but got canceled)
- No reserve auctions
- Monthly Features
- Publish and distribute the Call Letter
- Library facility and Archives
- Club Website, Facebook presence, Google and Yahoo email groups
- Maintaining a financially responsible non-profit organization with yearly audits
- Radio sale in April and October
- Summer picnic
- Trash Bash
- Christmas Party
- NWVRS presence at the OMSI Maker Faire
- Securing a classroom at Tektronix for future training and learning
- Tribute to members who have passed on (Bill Meloy's Tribute)
- Created NWVRS inventory

### **NWVRS Goals for 2018:**

- Keep everything the same from 2017 and
- Create budgets and responsible person(s) for
- Radio Sales, Summer Picnic, Christmas Party
- Find new location for future radio sales
- NWVRS display at Tigard Library
- Inventory for NWVRS Archives
- Increase membership and NWVRS awareness at public venues

## NWVRS Meeting Minutes - November 11, 2017

President Pat Kagi called the November 2017 meeting to order at 9:30 AM. After the pledge of allegiance Pat asked all of our veteran members to remain standing in Salute to Veterans Day. Thanks to all veterans! Dan Howard had a military display. His display had several very nice military items such as receivers and transmitters that were used in both WWI, and WWII.

We had 64 members present at the meeting. One new member Dean Terry, and three guests, John Plummer, Warren Wright, and Wink Gross. Jerry Hertel asked everyone to welcome our first President and founder of our society Harley Perkins. Harley and his wife Harriet were in attendance. Jerry gave a short biography of Harley, including his founding of NWVRS. President Pat Kagi presented Harley Perkins the Founders award. Along with the award Harley has a lifetime membership to the society.

George Kirkwood was in attendance, and is recovering from his heart surgery.

Mark Dinsmore needs an escutcheon for a model 4789 Silvertone console. Blake Dietze has several .003 uf @ 1600V caps, price is one handshake. Dean Terry has an Atwater Kent model 3 radio for sale.

We need a Coordinator for the Christmas Party. Someone to coordinate the food brought by the members, assign tasks to volunteers, and send postcards.

Nominations: All of our present officers agreed to continue for next year except Brian Wegener. Brian and his wife are planning to do some traveling next year. Anyone interested in becoming the Vice President can contact Pat Kagi.

Jerry Hertel agreed to work on our P.A. system.

Our monthly feature is "your completed project"

Ideas were given by Vice President Brian Wegener for future tech talks. Elementary radio theory, cabinet finishing by Gary Marvin, making molds for plastic knobs by Blake Deitze. The Spark Museum by Brian Wegener, Introduction to radio diagnostics.

We need volunteers for our radio sale committee. We had a discussion on future radio sale venue and format.

January tech talk will be Mike McCrow "What I have learned about radio restoration"

Our January monthly feature will be: "Favorite book on radio repair"

The meeting was adjourned with auction to follow.

-- Recorded by Mike McCrow, Board Member at Large

# Calendar of Events

February 17, 2018. Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com>

March 10, 2018. Mike & Key 36th Electronics Show & Fleamarket. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

March 24, 2018. Microhams Digital Conference, Redmond, WA. <http://www.microhams.com/mhdc/> (Tentative Date)

April 7, 2018. Yakima Hamfest. Yakima, Washington. <http://yakimaamateurradioclub.com/yakima-hamfest/>

April 7. Comfest Swapmeet. Richmond, BC. [https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1904](https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=1904)

April 14 & 15 2018. Communications Academy. South Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://commacademy.org/>

April 20-22, 2018. Idaho State Convention. Boise, ID. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.idahostateconvention.com/>

May 12. 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 & 20. River Radio Campout 2018. Pateros WA. Sponsored by the Okanogan County Amateur Radio Club. Free "dry" camping along the Methow River at Pateros. Always the weekend prior to Memorial Day Weekend. [w7orc1@gmail.com](mailto:w7orc1@gmail.com) . <http://www.w7orc.com/> . Contact Mike W7MCM, [skippermike53@gmail.com](mailto:skippermike53@gmail.com) . 509-689-3164.

May 6. Maple Ridge Swapmeet. Pitt Meadows, BC. [https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1906](https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=1906)

June 1-3. SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org) . [www.seapac.org/](http://www.seapac.org/)

## **Harley Perkins – Founder, Northwest Vintage Radio Society**

### **By Jerry Hertel**

Harley Perkins developed an early interest in radios, as his father owned several during his childhood years. Harley would turn on any radio that was on hand, sometimes getting into trouble for doing so. Around age 11 he rode his bicycle to the public library, where there was a book on radios - which Harley read over and over, learning about the parts that went into radios.

He attended HS in the Pittsburgh area (1942-1946). During those years Harley built audio amplifiers from radio parts, had fun with telephone magnetos and helped a teacher equip a science lab. In both his Junior and Senior years (1945-1946), Harley built science fair display-projects. His projects didn't win any awards, but Harley was recognized for his ability to explain the functionality of electronic circuits.

Harley and a classmate went to summer classes prior to college, at the Univ. of Pittsburgh. He became a member of the civil air patrol, and passed the test for a 1st Class Commercial Radio/Telephone operator's license. Harley might have become a Ham Radio operator too, but learning Morse Code was not his thing.

Harley graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Engineering-Physics (1950). Then he fulfilled a 21-month ROTC obligation in the Air Force. Afterward, he found employment with IBM, Westinghouse, obtained his MS in Science and Engineering-Physics again from the University of Pittsburgh. Subsequently, he was employed by Philco, moved west for a job with Fairchild Semiconductor and then taught Electrical Engineering at Oregon State University (1965-1973).

That led to a job with Tektronix where he managed Component Engineering. (1973-1981). It was at Tektronix where Harley met his wife, Harriet who was employed there, also. (The Radio Society was started while Harley was at Tektronix (1975)). He and his wife (Harriet) moved east, to the Boston area where he took jobs with LTX, and Northrop, (1982 - on). Then came retirement and a move to Vermont. In 2013 they returned to the Portland area to be closer to family members and currently live in downtown Portland.

# Monthly Feature: Your Completed Project

Photography and Commentary by  
Dan Howard, Sonny Clutter, Jeff LaDoe, and Brian Wegener



Harley Perkins, Pat Kagi, George Kirkwood Brian Wegener



**P-38 Lightning Ash Tray**  
Dan Howard

This model of a Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighter/bomber is built entirely out of bullets and shells of various calibers. A family friend brought it back after serving in the Pacific and it bears his name and says “New Guinea 1945.”





### Mike McCrow's Restoration

The November Monthly Feature was the opportunity to bring back the project sets shown at the February meeting. Mike McCrow returned with his now fully-restored and working Philco Model 60 cathedral (see the “before” picture on page 5 of the March Call letter). Mike described the techniques used to restore the cabinet to beautiful condition. In addition to other electrical issues, the set had an open oscillator coil, a problem common to Philcos of this vintage. Mike explained how he and Blake rewound the coil and performed other repairs. Nice Job!



# Thank You Veterans



## VT-1 and 2N43-A

### Dan Howard

A Western Electric VT 1, an early general purpose receiving triode from World War I, towers over a General Electric 2N43-A transistor from 1955. The 2N34-A was the first transistor approved by the Air Force for general application. Coincidentally, both devices feature evacuation tips on top that were later eliminated as technology advanced.





### **Air Corps Trench Art Radio Dan Howard**

Keith Perry had this striking radio cabinet for sale at the NVRS Spring Sale in April. The cabinet is made from highly-figured solid walnut. Two bands of inlay wrap over the top and front. The round speaker cover was carved to replicate the shoulder badge of the US Army Air Corps. The world map dial scale is a great fit for what is believed to be a hand-made souvenir of the World War, commonly called “trench art.” Several club members helped put the radio back together; at the July picnic, we got knobs from the Dielschneiders and a Crosley chassis from Rick Ryan. And Esteban Mendoza counseled us on restoring the cabinet.

### **Veteran’s Day Display** (following pages)

**Dan Howard**





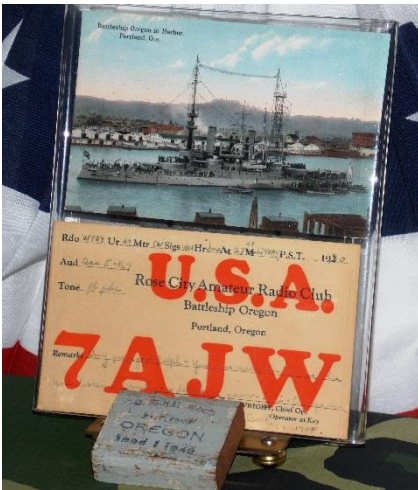
## Veterans Day display 1 (clockwise from top left)

- 1929 Coast Guard CGR-25A. Mfd by Charles R Speaker of Washington DC. Among other uses, these receivers were used during prohibition for intercepting signals from smugglers.
- TBY-4 Backpack Radio. Mfd by Colonial Radio for the Marines. Navajo Code Talkers used TBY's during the Pacific Campaign. Our TBY was a gift from Mark Richardson.
- Wireless Improvement Company BC-9A transceiver ca. 1919. World War I era portable used by the Army.
- PRC-6 handy-talkie used during the Korean War and in Vietnam. Battery-operated 13-tube FM transceiver.
- Navy SE-1420C receiver ca. 1920. Mfd by American Radio and Research Corp, Medford Hillside, MA.

## Veterans Day display 2

Small items in the showcase include:

- Western Electric VT-1 – ca. 1919 early military triode
- General Electric 2N43A transistor ca. 1955 - the first transistor approved by the Air Force for general use. This example is marked “USAF”
- MX-9064/A lightning arrester s/n 1 ca. 1975. Used on the receiving antenna of Boeing E-3 Sentry (AWACS) aircraft.
- Stromberg Carlson Model 1914 Service Buzzer (two-way telephone and telegraph) ca. 1918. This example was owned by Oregon radio pioneer Charlie Austin and bears his name.



Amateur Radio Club who operated from the ship’s radio room in 1930. In the foreground is a wooden souvenir from the ship. Such pieces were salvaged during the scrapping process during World War II and were given as incentives for buying war bonds.

## Battleship Oregon

The Battleship Oregon was launched in 1893 and served during the Spanish-American War, the Boxer Rebellion, and World War I. She was decommissioned in October 1919 and loaned to the State of Oregon in June 1925. During the 1930’s the Oregon was moored in the basin south of the Hawthorne Bridge where she served as a museum / event center. This is a QSL card from the Rose City



### **Veterans Day display 3** (clockwise from top left)

- Hallicrafters RE-1 Sky Courier morale radio ca. 1942. One of several styles of receivers manufactured early during World War 2 for purposes of entertaining and encouraging troops. Like this example, many featured semi-ruggedized metal cabinets, luggage handles, self-contained long wire antennas, and could operate on batteries, AC, or DC power. Special thanks to RJ Rhodes.
- Radio Marine Corp Model ET8003 Radio Telegraph Aug 1944. Transmitters of this type were used on freighters operated by the Merchant Marines and others during the war.
- BC-348P aircraft receiver. Mfd. by Stromberg Carlson, Rochester, NY. These were produced by several companies in huge numbers (est. 100,000 units). After the war, these rugged and easy-to-use sets were surplused and were popular with amateurs.



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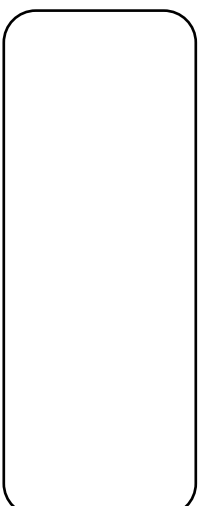
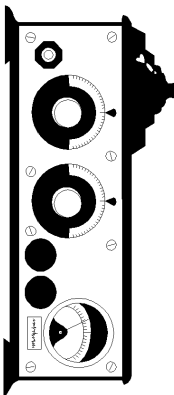
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