The Call Letter

September 2018
Vol 44, #9

Society Members at August Auction

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

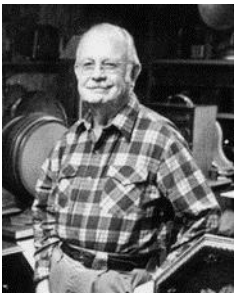
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

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	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Brian Wegener (nnn) nnn-nnnn	spudweg@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	mark@pdxhistory.com
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	tranny53@frontier.com
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Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson	vanguard4@lycos.com

On the Cover

Society Members at August Auction
Photo by Franklin Ouchida

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Announcements

The September Meeting will start at 9:30 AM on Saturday, Sept. 8. The program topic for September will be "Radios Sold By Catalog Companies." Also, the annual Trash Bash is this month, so bring those cheezy '70s speakers, that pile of picked-clean chassis, or that 486 that's been in the closet since forever and never worked anyway…

Editor's Note – Please have October's Call Letter Contributions in by September 30. I would like to thank member Franklin Ouchida (again) on behalf of the Society for the excellent photos he has contributed to the Call Letter over the last several months!!

Visit our web site at: www.nwvrs.com
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

NWVRS Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2018

President Pat Kagi called the August, 2018 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:15 AM. All present pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. Mike McCrow said that Janet had an accident that injured her leg and also recently had appendicitis. She is getting better. Best wishes, Janet, and get well quick!!!

Joe Millward is selling some of his console radios. If anyone is interested, contact him at 503-209-8414. Robbie Robinson is working on planning a Swap Meet. Members present voted to wait until April to have our Swap Meet. One reason is that we have been having auctions at the last few regular meetings.

Members will be receiving publications from the PSARA; and members voted to also get publications from the Colorado antique radio club.

Our annual Trash Bash will be at our September meeting. Also, the Program Topic for September will be "Radios Sold By Catalog Companies". Members gave Mike and Janet McCrow a round of applause for all of their work for our picnic and swap meet last month. Many thanks to Mike and Janet!!! We need a Webmaster for our Society—if anyone is interested, please let us know.

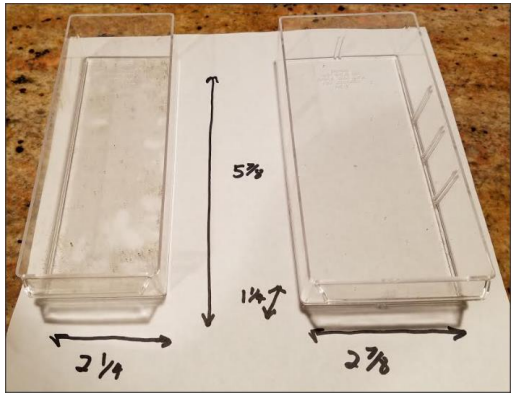
Sid Saul is making an AM transmitter available to members at a cost of $50.00. He will have some for sale at our next meeting. Our meeting was adjourned; and we had an auction of approximately 150 items of test equipment.

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

Note from President Pat Kagi

Anyone who purchased a piece of equipment from last month's auction, there is a box of manuals that you can look through in case you don't have a matching manual.

When sending out emails to NWVRS@googlegroups.com, please don't forget to include PSARA_Seattle@googlegroups.com to include members of the Seattle radio club. You never know if the part you need or bit of advice may come from up north.



NWVRS has a supply of plastic replacement trays for cabinets, like the ones auctioned off in August. They are approximately 5 7/8 inches long, 1 1/4 inches tall and either 2 1/4 or 2 7/8 inches wide. If yours are missing or broken, come in and get some replacements.

Midway productions is looking for a Zenith Clipper radio for their remake of the movie "Midway". If you have one that you wish to sell or rent, let us know. Your name could be in the credits for the movie.

Auction this month! 7 consoles and 3 phonographs.
Please, someone bid on these else they go into the Trash Bash trailer.

Calendar of Events

September 7-9. 20th Annual Northwest APRS/Digital Summer Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend, WA. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. Agenda. https://tinyletter.com/nwaprssg http://valleycamp.org/ .

September 15. Hamfest 2018. Gallatin Ham Radio Club. Bozeman MT. http://gallatinhamradio.com/?page_id=494

September 7-9. 20th Annual Northwest APRS/Digital Summer Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* https://tinyletter.com/nwaprssg http://valleycamp.org/ . 2015 Photo Gallery

September 22. Washington State Convention (Spokane Hamfest) Spokane Valley, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Flyer in PDF. (400K) http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/washington-state-convention-spokane-hamfest-4

September 22. Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Hamfest. https://kl7aa.net/
September 29. American Legion Disaster Preparedness Response Program. Meridian, ID. Flyer in PDF (738K) Cost is free. Contact: Richard Dees, W7BOI, rjdees@aol.com - (208) 888-1343. Agenda in PDF. (175K)

September 30. Delta Amateur Radio Society ComFest. Tsawwassen, Delta, BC. https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=1956
October 12th & 13. Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference. Seaside, OR. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* http://www.pnwvhfs.org/

October 13. Kitsap County ARC Hamfest. Bremerton, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* hamfest@kcarc.org http://www.kcarc.org/ Flyer in PDF. (167K)

October 20. Swap-Tober-Fest. Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Flyer in PDF (64K) www.swaptoberfest.net

Police Radio in Portland *by Art Redman*

The Sparton Model 16 aw 10 tube console radio covered the short wave bands 11.5 to 200 meters (1.5MHz to 26.1MHz) becoming the top choice of the Portland Police Department and many other police headquarters in large American cities. KSW on the air at Berkeley, California became the first police radio station broadcasting during 1928 on 1712 KHz and one year later KGPL in Los Angeles.

Clifton Watson of the Hallock and Watson Company constructed with his own funds a 7.5-watt experimental transmitter during late July 1931. Hallock and Watson portable receivers the Porta-Pak-8 located back of the front seat and speaker and inside roof of three police vehicles tuned in Watson's broadcasts originating from Precinct 1 at SE Seventh Avenue and SE Alder.

The turn of the Sparton band selector switch and main tuning dial allows the reception of long and short wave reception. Listeners like the Chief of Police, Leon Jenkins, and precinct captains including Captain Harvey A. Thatcher could easily tune in Watson's experimental broadcasts because there are no coils to plug in or take out or any other connections to make. Frequencies are identified by reading the scale whose color coincides with the dot the four position band selector is set. In addition, the Sparton Model 60 4-tube short-wave converter transformed standard am set into a short wave superhet by just plugging into an AC socket and connecting the aerial and ground wires. It was certainly easier to use than the Portland made Shorty converter made on East Burnside Street.

Beginning in March 1932 Western Auto, short wave receivers installed in ten police cars allowed reception of the new 500-watt police station KGPP broadcasts on 2.442 MHz. The writers' father, Arthur W. Redman, used an Apex radio and converter to tune in police calls in St. Johns in the 1930s.

Herb Cook K7OVF (Oregon's Very Finest) also tuned in Police broadcasts from his residence on North Smith Street like many other Portland citizens using a short wave radio like the General Electric All Wave and the Portland made Apollo superhet both sold by Meier and Frank. In fact, the police broadcasts were so popular several police officers proposed to the City Council a ban on the insulation of short wave receivers in civilian automobiles but nothing became of the idea because the Porta-Pak 8 and other portables were already available for purchase by the public.

Bibliography:

"Sparton Ad 'Tuning Simplicity" QST, May 1932.

"Police Radio Swift," The Oregonian, March 20, 1932, Section 4, pages 1, 2.

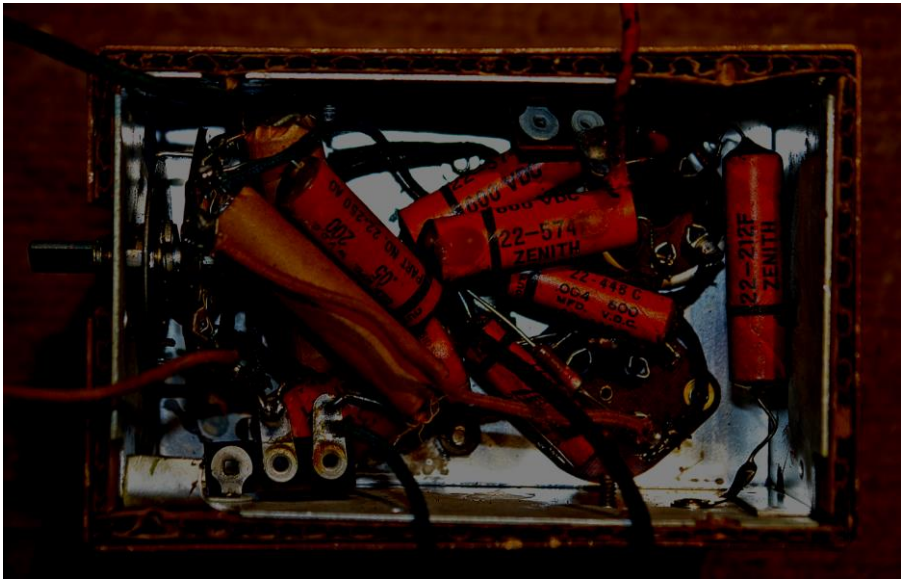
"Portland Police Find Radio Big Help Combating Crime", Oregonian October 18, 1931, Section 4, page 18.

Restoring an Interesting 1939 Zenith Farm Radio
By John Cushing, Bend Oregon

I'm a sucker for farm radios. My most recent project was a Zenith 6J322, one of the "Stars & Stripes" series sold in 1939 as the US inched towards WWII. All the "J" series Zeniths are dual power radios, capable of operating on either 6 volts DC or 110 volts AC. These radios were mostly sold to rural buyers who either didn't yet have utility electricity or whose AC power was unreliable.

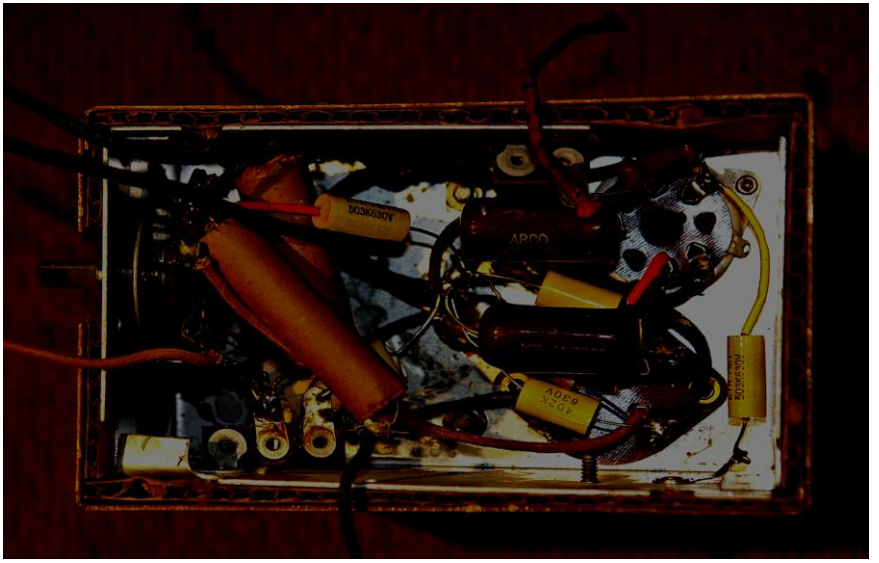
The 6J322 has a number of interesting features. To begin with, the power supply uses the same transformer and 6ZY5 rectifier for both 6VDC and 110VAC operation. A switch on the back of the power pack selects the input voltage and configures the transformer circuit to operate as either a vibrator power transformer or as a conventional AC power transformer (see photo of schematic).

My restoration began with this power supply. As with most farm radios, getting inside the power pack to replace the buffer capacitors inside required removing it from the chassis. This is enough of a chore that I always replace all the capacitors inside such power packs and check all the resistors too. In this radio the power supply is tightly crammed with caps (see the "before" photo), so removing and replacing them is a bit tricky.



My usual approach when I have to replace multiple capacitors in a tight space is to unsolder just one end of each capacitor, move it out of the way to open things up, and then connect the corresponding end of the new cap. This makes it easier to remember which capacitor connects where, because the other ends of the original caps are all still in place. In this power supply almost all the caps have one end tied to a single ground point, so after connecting the other end of a new cap I could completely remove the old cap to make space. After all the new caps were in place I could solder all the ground leads at once.

The most critical capacitors in a vibrator power supply are the "buffer" caps, (which protect the vibrator contacts from being eaten away by arcing) and the "timing" caps (which shape the waveform of the chopped DC fed to the transformer and rectifier). Both these types of capacitors should always be replaced by new ones of the same capacitance, but I always try to install buffer caps with higher voltage ratings than the originals. In this case I replaced the Zenith 22-574 buffer caps rated at 600 volts with Arco buffer caps rated at 1600 volts. It's so hard to get at these parts that it's worth using the best available caps. The finished power supply work is shown in the "after" photo.



Replacing the rest of the capacitors in this radio was routine, because as with most Zenith radios there's plenty of room to work underneath the chassis. I also had to replace a mouse-eaten compensating coil that's part of the pushbutton tuning circuit, but fortunately Zenith used this coil in many radios and I was able to find a good one through the Antique Radio Forum (ARF) website. Restringing the broken dial cord was easier than on most radios, and was the last step before turning on the power.

When I hooked up the radio to 6 VDC and turned it on the vibrator began to buzz pleasantly and the rectifier tube's filament lit up, but even after a minute or so there was no sound from the speaker. Maybe a bad vibrator? So I tried running the radio on 110 VAC. Same result. Hmm...

Then I noticed that the dial lights were not coming on. If there was 6 volts to heat up the rectifier filament why were those lights off? I checked the bulbs: Both good. Examining the schematic revealed that one side of filament power for the dial lights and all the tubes except the rectifier comes out of the power pack and ties to pin 2 on one of the 6G6 output tubes and then goes on to the other tubes. Pin 2 is indeed one of the 6G6's heater pins, but when I looked at the socket I saw that I'd accidentally reconnected that wire to pin 1 instead of pin 2! When I moved the wire to pin 2, the radio played beautifully on both 6 VDC and 110 VAC. Thank goodness for those dial lights!

I said that Zenith's 6J322 has several interesting features. One of these is the audio output circuit. There are two 6G6 audio output tubes wired not as push-pull, but rather in parallel. There's a slide switch on the back of the chassis (see photo) that can be used to turn off the filament voltage to one of these tubes rendering it inoperative. This results in a small loss of volume, but also in a significant reduction in battery drain – a clever way to increase battery life when listening at low volume.

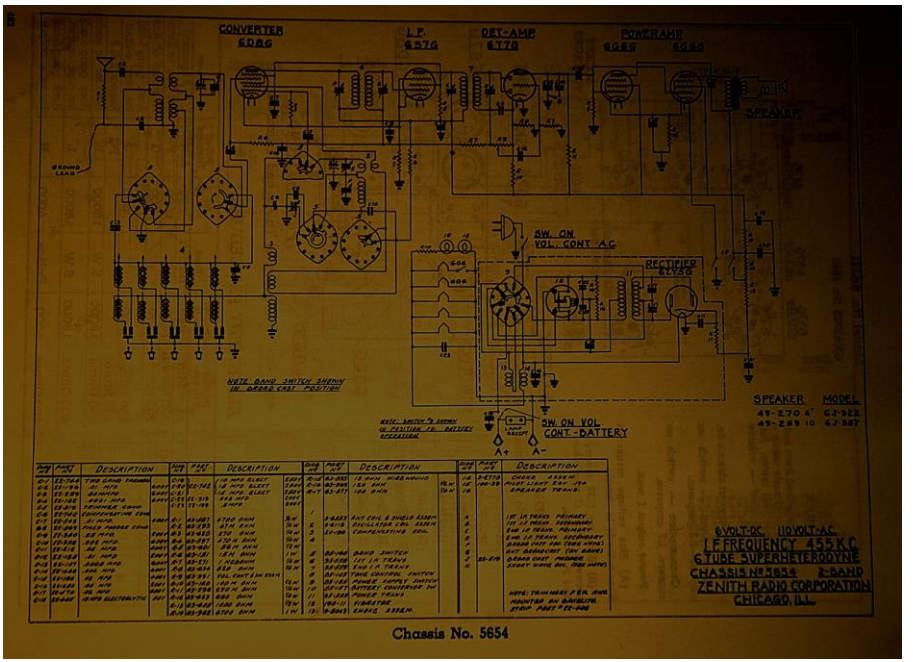
Another interesting feature is a 2-prong socket on the back of the chassis (see photo). Looking at the schematic we see that this is wired across the 6-volt power input just before the radio's power switch and labeled "lamp recept." I've never seen any Zenith literature that discusses this, but it seems to be intended for a lamp equipped with a 6-volt bulb. The farmer could connect the radio to his 6-volt battery and plug in a small lamp that could be used independently of the radio. Several other Zenith 1930's 6-volt radios have this feature.

I'll point out just one other "feature" of the 6J322, this one not so cool. Looking at the schematic we see that one side of the AC line cord is tied directly to the radio chassis. That means there's a 50% chance that the chassis will be "hot," creating a serious shock hazard. Worse, because the negative battery lead is also soldered to the chassis it will also be hot half the time. Touching the chassis probably wouldn't happen too often,

but handling the battery connectors to disconnect the battery for recharging and reconnect it after charging surely will. If this radio were left plugged into AC all the time after power finally reached the farm, this would be a significant danger. I looked at the schematics for Zenith's other "J" series dual power radios, and only one other chassis is like this. I wonder why they didn't catch this potential problem?

I reduced the shock risk by replacing Zenith's original AC cord and straight-blade plug with a cord having a contemporary polarized plug (one blade wider than the other). Such a plug only fits in an AC outlet one way, so soldering the identified "neutral" wire in the cord to the chassis makes it impossible for the chassis to become "hot" during normal operation unless the AC outlet has been wired backwards (which sometimes happens…)

Zenith and other 1930's radio companies made a lot of oddball radios. I'm constantly being happily surprised by discovering a new one I've never seen before. Right now I'm on the hunt for an even less common Zenith farm radio: The 32-volt DC model 5X230/248/274, chassis 5523.



Chassis No. 5654

NIST FY 2019 Budget Would Eliminate WWV and WWVH
From ARRL News, Aug. 11, 2018 via Jerry Hertel

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http://www.arrl.org/news/nist-fy-2019-budget-would-eliminate-wwv-and-wwvh
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (**NIST**) FY 2019 budget request includes shutting down "NIST radio stations in Colorado and Hawaii" — in other words, WWV and WWVH. Radio amateurs, HF listeners, and others around the world routinely make use of the time and frequency standard signals, which also include propagation information. NIST said eliminating funding currently "supporting fundamental measurement dissemination" would include putting WWV and WWVH off the air for a saving of $6.3 million. The NIST FY 2019 budget request for efforts related to Fundamental Measurement, Quantum Science and Measurement Dissemination is $127 million, which, the agency said, is a net decrease of $49 million from FY 2018 levels. The Administration's **overall NIST budget** request is more than $629 million.
…

Petition Drive to Save WWV/WWVH – Sept. 15 Deadline
From CQ, Aug. 29, 2018 via Don Hanson

…
https://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2018/08/petition-drive-to-save-wwvwwvh-sept-15.html
Two petitions have been started on the White House's "We the People" petition site calling for restoration of funding for these two essential radio stations. Each needs at least 100,000 electronic signatures by mid-September to generate a response from the White House. The petitions can be found at:
<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/maintain-funding-nist-stations-wwv-wwvh> (As of now, needs just over 90,000 more signatures by September 15)
<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/proposed-shutdown-nists-wwv-and-wwvh-radio-stations> (As of now, needs over 98,000 more signatures by September 17)
CQ urges its readers and friends – and anyone else who finds value in the continued operation of WWV and WWVH – to sign one or both petitions *and* to contact your representatives in Congress to explain the need for these stations to continue to operate. Congress has the last word on the federal budget and can modify department proposals as it sees fit.

[Update: The Case Western Reserve University Amateur Radio Club recommends calling the members of the House and Senate subcommittees directly responsible for NIST oversight and its budget, especially if you are a constituent of one of those members. For details, see <https://w8edu.wordpress.com/save-wwv/>.]
…

NWVRS Picnic Features:

Sweet Music from the 1930s

Big Band Music from the 1940s

'Happy Days' Music from the 1950s

Reliving Radio provides history, music, magic and memories of the **Way Radio Was** at car shows, picnics, wedding receptions, "Senior" Proms and any event where people enjoy the swing music of the 1930s, the big bands of the 1940s, or the *Happy Days* sounds of the 1950s. The mix is just right, no matter what the decade.

Dick Karman has been an NWVRS member since 1979

If you would like period entertainment or just music at a special event, indoors or out, call **Reliving Radio** for availability. He brings everything *except the audience*.

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