

The

# Call Letter

October 2018

Vol 44, #10



**Steve and Dan Berglund at the August PSARA sale**

# 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.

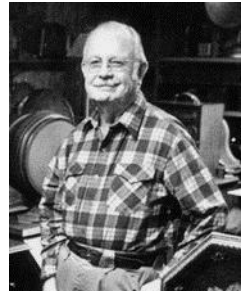
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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

### Steve and Dan Berglund at the August PSARA sale

Photo by Sonny Clutter

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## Announcements

**The October Meeting** will start at 9:30 AM on Saturday, Oct. 13. The program topic for September will be “Tuning Eye Radios.”

**Editor’s Note** – Please have November’s Call Letter Contributions in by October 27. 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!!

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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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## NWVRS Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2018

Before the meeting we held a trash bash. Much material was exchanged. Expenses for the trash bash were \$42.95 for the UHaul trailer and \$43.00 for disposal fees at Metro.

New Members: Gary Lokken and David Charvet joined the society today.

Health and Welfare: Rick Ryan is cancer-free!

Leads & Needs: Marcie Zweig has a collection of radios and tubes to sell that belonged to her brother. Contact her at [marciearosenzweig@gmail.com](mailto:marciearosenzweig@gmail.com).

David Charvey announced that the Vern Howell collection will be sold at an estate sale in Hillsboro October 26 – 27, 2018. Info at [www.HowellGarageSale.com](http://www.HowellGarageSale.com) or call David at 503-309-7729.

Radio Sale Coordinator: Robbie Robinson is looking at the Canby Fairgrounds, the Grove, and Portland Meadows for the April Sale.

Transmitter Kits: Sid Saul brought the transmitter kits for members that ordered them. We will get a performance review from those building the kits at a future meeting.

Tech Talks: Sarah from [Free Geek](#) gave a tech talk about their program. Free Geek is located at 1731 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Free Geek recycles electronic waste and refurbishes computers for sale and to give to volunteers and nonprofits. They offer classes in coding, LINUX, maker classes, and digital privacy and security. They take data security very seriously and wipe any donated hard drive three times before testing. Computers start at \$100 and there are senior discount days. The building is wheelchair accessible.

At the November meeting Blake Dietz and Sid Saul will give a tech talk on how to add Blue Tooth to your vintage radio.

Monthly Feature: The monthly feature for September was Department Store and Mail Order Radios. Alan, Dan, Dick, and George showed some interesting items. For November the feature will be Tuning Eye Radios (2<sup>nd</sup> place Horn Speakers).

Website and Facebook: Webmaster Mark Moore is moving to Idaho for a while. He needs help from web editors, content providers and Facebook editors.

Treasurers Report: Ed Tompkins reported that we have about \$38,900 in the J. Mason Fund. The education fund has about

\$2000. The checking account has approximately \$6,000. We netted \$849 from the last auction. So far in 2018 we have netted \$5462 from auctions (not including September).

OMSI Maker Fair is Sept 15 & 16: Mike McCrow, Pat Kagi, Ed Tompkins, Blake and Bryan Dietz, Liles Garcia, and Franklin Terry Ouchida will be volunteering for NWVRS at the Maker Faire this year.

After the meeting we had a small auction of donated items. Respectfully submitted, Brian Wegener VP.

### **Note from President Pat Kagi**

There will be a meeting in October at the Abernethy Grange as usual. There will be a monthly feature for Tuning Eye Radios. There will be a tech talk featuring Clackamas Repair Clinic. There will be an auction after the meeting since October is usually a radio sale, feel free to bring items for sale or trade.

How about we allow each member to vote for three other NWVRS members that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. If we mention this at the October's meeting, we can allow a vote in November and then present a gift card in December. We can purchase enough cards to cover the top X people with the most votes. The cut off can be at a level where there is a big difference in the number of votes. I think that this will recognize those who have done a lot of work for the club and have gone too long without any appreciation. Also, those who see this might want to contribute and be recognized. Please let me know what you think. NWVRS is looking to purchase, borrow, rent or build a tube theremin for the next OMSI Maker Faire. If you have one for sale or lease or can build one for the club, please let us know.

Instructors are needed to teach radio theory to school students. This is an elective and the students want to learn. Class size is very limited to 5 to 10 students. Repair technicians are needed for repairing tube radios for one of the many repair clinics in the Portland and Vancouver area.

Since October is usually a radio sale month, I would like to encourage people to bring in radios for sale so that we can have a mini sale.

## Calendar of Events

**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://k17aa.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](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.pnvwvhfs.org/>

**October 13.** Kitsap County ARC Hamfest. Bremerton, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* [hamfest@kcarc.org](mailto: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](http://www.swaptoberfest.net)

**October 12th & 13.** Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference. Seaside, OR. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.pnvwvhfs.org/>

**October 13.** Kitsap County ARC Hamfest. Bremerton, WA. This is an ARRL sanctioned event.

[hamfest@kcarc.org](mailto:hamfest@kcarc.org) <http://www.kcarc.org/> [Flyer in PDF](#).

**October 14.** Walla Walla Valley Amateur Radio Club Tailgate Swap Meet, College Place, WA. [Flyer in PDF](#). (168K) Contact Jeff Stidham, AL1Q (AL1Q@ARRL.NET, or (509)629-2060

**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](http://www.swaptoberfest.net)

**November 4.** Maple Ridge Swap Meet. Pitt Meadows, BC. [https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1951](https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=1951)

## **A Time to Say Thank You by Dick Karman**

I've been asked to give eulogies and tributes at funerals and memorial services, more often than I'd like to lately. Each time, I regret that I didn't say something while the deceased was among us. So this is a time to say thank you.

### **The Youngest Member**

One of our very enthusiastic and selfless members joined in 1975. He was youngest members at the time and he contributed to activities, the newsletter, and meetings. He has a predilection for history much like I do, and I always enjoyed his contributions in person or in writing when we heard about Radios, Trolley Cars, and Portland's past.

He was tied up with a print shop in 1975-76 and I can imagine that seeing what Bob Bilbie mashed together with his typewriter might have been a little painful. Our young historian took the first year of the Society's newsletter cleaned it, reduced the original images, bordered it and comb bound it into a respectable 27 page (offset) booklet. It was a limited edition and was available in 1976.

During this time and after this time Bob Bilbie was typist and editor and Marylyn Stebens did the printing and collating (and mailing, I think). In 1975 the name "CALL LETTER" appeared.

In March of 1976 we saw a professional newsletter under the name CALL LETTER (dated April 1976). As a one-off edition it was type-set, printed on colored bond, and bore the headline "CALL LETTER." Who made it possible? I'm reminiscing about member Mark Moore. He is credited with establishing the name CALL LETTER. It was also to his credit that the NWVRS chose the 'half-page booklet' format that we have used for the last 40 years. Mark wrote Mark's Memos for the CALL LETTER, as well as kept us abreast of new members. He served as several positions on the board. He stayed active into the early 1980s when changing jobs and other historical pursuits pulled him away.

## His return to NWVRS

I didn't ask him what he was doing in the 10 years that intervened, but Mark returned to the Northwest Vintage Radio Society in the mid-1990. He is talented in internet website managing and has managed the NWVRS site for years. He also helps out with social media. He still is interested in history, and is a trustee of The Oregon Electric Railway Museum as well as membership and leadership in other historical associations.

His site at [PDXhistory.com](http://PDXhistory.com) contains wonderful historical accounts and are illustrated with period postcards and advertising. Subheadings like "Portland Neighborhoods," "Portland Amusements Parks" and "Postcard History" make fascinating travels through time.

## A Time of Change

Mark let us know at the September Society meeting that this is a time of change. His lodging has been tied to his employment for 20+ years. Without trying to explain it, I can relate that Mark has lost his position (business bought out) and therefore has lost his residence. He will be moving to Idaho (the family home) effective immediately. He tells us that he will keep up his association with the NWVRS as well as he can long-distance and keep working on the webpage. He says he is only an e-mail away.

Every time I think about how much he contributed to the society in those first 10 years and how much he has done in the last 2 decades, I want to thank him. Each time I look back at our society publication I think of Mark. And with each year I get older, I want to say "Thank You" before it's too late.

This is a time to say Thank You! Thanks Mark



## YORS Update by Sid Saul

Another very happy kit builder just checked in. He will be bringing his completed kit to our next meeting:

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Hi Sid,

Mine went together just fine. I have tried it with the jumpers set for both low and high AM band and both seem to play well.

I used the old double sided tape on a piece of cardstock in a cookie tray to separate, label and sort the parts first. Tiny component markings, for my eyes, but with about 5x magnification in my work light, easy to sort out. Meter checked ones I had concerns with.

Using the supplied antenna with a 3 foot clip lead attached kind of just laying out on the bench reception on my shop radios seems fine. Although I will say that getting C11 & C12 set is a bit touchy, C12 particularly. I did not wire up a mains ground yet but I did place a lug in the cabinet for it.

By the way, the kit supplied C11 & C12 were also 100pf when I measured them, not 50's. I should have measured them before spending a bunch of time digging around for a 5/64 drill bit.

I wonder if it would be possible/stable to move to a front panel mounted variable cap for the oscillator with a couple of mini switches connected to the jumper pins. The length of the leads would probably mess stuff up but it might be fun to try.

On my Yaesu FT-950 connected to an outdoor 102' dipole up at about 40 feet, the S-meter on the Yaesu, the signal strength is S40+ with no preamps on.

Anyway, fun little kit. I will fool around with it some more.

Mark Dinsmore

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There has been only one build issue reported in the 10 kits bought by our members. An older cell phone could not match the audio input impedance of the kit. Switching to a modern phone fixed the issue.

For all who want to convert from the original 2N3904 transistor to the 2N2222 with a mounting socket I will have this one time offer available at our Oct meeting for \$2. I will also have my #59 drill

ready to slightly enlarge holes for your socket. You may want to bring in your boards. Due to my limited supply of sockets, I can only provide this one time.

The new transistor will require a slight tweaking of the ceramic frequency and tuner caps C11, C12. I will gladly buy back the set of 100 pF ceramics that were purchased for \$5 if you didn't need them to tune to 530 kHz. Speaking of frequency, 600 has been successful in preventing interference both in the Vancouver and Gladstone areas. Of course 530 is the CLEAR choice at my QTH! Just a reminder, since the inductors and resistors all look the same, it was helpful using a meter to identify parts, caps included. L1 should be about 1000 uH. Identify every component before soldering!

The 2N3904 has an hfe or gain from your kit from the 20 to 50. This may or may not agree with your numbers found in the books, but this is from my bench, and so am using this as my reference. My 2N2222 has a gain over 250.

I visited this situation long ago without a range difference. This time I also adjusted the low pass filter cap C-11. I get considerable increase in range now. Although the 2N3904 is more than adequate for whole house coverage. Also tweaked the oscillator C-12. Not much was needed there, and probably unrelated to the new transistor, but while at it why not.

I have both the ceramic transistor sockets and the 2N2222, and will provide these at my cost at our next Nov meeting \$2 total for those wishing to upgrade. Of course you don't need a fancy socket, but sure makes future changes easy. I used a #59 drill to slightly open the mounting holes.

For the kits I have promised to build for others, they will have this mod included in their kits. I will provide the original transistor that came with your kit.

Disclaimer: You are responsible for all modifications as per part 15. I will not guarantee power output is staying under 100mW!  
See you Oct 13th, Sid

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For two bucks, count me in Sid! Mark Dinsmore

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## Makers Faire - Pics by Franklin Ouchida and Pat Kagi

We had a great time at the 2018 Mini Makers Faire Special Thanks to Blake and Bryan Dietz, Ed Tompkins, Mike McCrow. Blake demonstrated radio repair and his All American Five Trainer. Ed displayed his beautiful Zenith Trans-Oceanic Royal 7000. Mike shared his 1929 FADA, 1935 PHILCO Tombstone, 1942 ZENITH and a 1954 RCA

Franklin







**John Pearce, the winner of the radio**  
Pic by Pat Kagi





NWVRS Picnic Features:

Sweet Music from the 1930s

Big Band Music from the 1940s

'Happy Days' Music from the 1950s

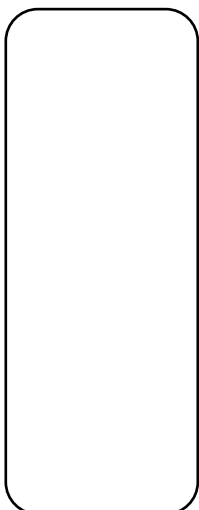
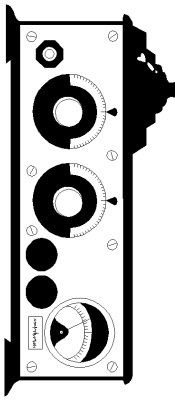
**Reliving Radio** provides history, music, magic and memories of the **Way Radio Was** at car shows, picnics, wedding receptions, "Senior" Proms and any event where people enjoy the swing music of the 1930s, the big bands of the 1940s, or the *Happy Days* sounds of the 1950s. The mix is just right, 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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