

*The*

# *Call Letter*

January 2020

Vol 46, #1



**DJ Dick Karman at the Christmas Party**

# 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.

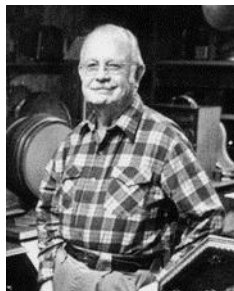
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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

President	Pat Kagi 360 909-7009	<a href="mailto:patkagi@yahoo.com">patkagi@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Franklin Ouchida	<a href="mailto:crazykeychains@gmail.com">crazykeychains@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:soundmikey14@gmail.com">soundmikey14@gmail.com</a>
Librarian	Jeff LaDoe (503) 408-4446	<a href="mailto:flat4pdx@gmail.com">flat4pdx@gmail.com</a>
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson 503 630 2720	<a href="mailto:vanguard4@lycos.com">vanguard4@lycos.com</a>

## On the Cover

Dick Karman at the Christmas Party - Photograph by Sonny Clutter

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## Announcements

**January 2020 meeting** will start at 9:30 AM on Saturday, Jan. 11

**January Monthly Feature** Bring what you want to show!

**January Tech Talk** none this month

**January Tube of the Month** Show us something!

**Leads and Needs** - The Swap Shop has returned to the Call Letter.

Member ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.

**Editor's Note** - Please have February Call Letter contributions in by Sun. Jan 26. Articles & Ads welcome (Tube labels too).

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Visit our web site at: [www.nwvrs.com](http://www.nwvrs.com)

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nwvrs](https://www.facebook.com/nwvrs)

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## **President's Message January 2020:**

Here it is a new year already, so let's make 2020 the best one yet.  
Thanks, Pat

Please remember to pay your NWVRS dues for 2020 and to fill out the NWVRS 2020 survey as this is your club and we need your help in directing the club for the coming year. Dues are \$25 per year, or \$20 if you just want the electronic copy. Pay at the meeting or mail it with your check or money order made out to NWVRS for \$25 to Northwest Vintage Radio Society, PO Box 82379, Portland OR 97282-0379

### **NWVRS Accomplishments for 2019:**

Monthly Meetings with an Agenda, low cost donuts with coffee  
Tech Talks  
No reserve auctions  
Monthly Features  
Tube of the month  
Publish and distribute the Call Letter  
Library facility and Archives  
Club Website, Facebook and YouTube presence, Google and Yahoo email groups  
Maintaining a financially responsible non-profit organization with yearly audits  
Radio sale in April and October  
Summer picnic  
Electronic recycling  
Christmas Party  
50+ Senior center in Salem  
NWVRS presence at the OMSI Maker Faire, Tesla Radio Show and Fake Radio Show  
Columbia Springs Repair Clinics in Battle Ground and Camas  
Live streaming and videos of meetings  
Door prizes  
NWVRS Flyers  
Name Badges

Business Cards

NWVRS Goals for 2020:

Keep everything the same from 2019 and

Set up NWVRS Archives

Save the BS project (Battery Sets)

Reciprocal agreement with the Dallas and Houston radio clubs

Start converting all NWVRS Call Letters to a searchable Data Base

Member Open House

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## **Vice President's Message January 2020:**

**Features of the Month:** "Open House Month!" Bring what you want to show!

**Tube of the month:** "Open House Month!" Show us something!

**Tech Talk:** none

**Members Auction:** "Bring an item to auction "

No buyer fee, no seller fees. We will auction an item of a NWVRS members! Members can set a reserve or no reserve and let a new owner enjoy a loved radio. Items may be limited to available time.

**Please submit any Nominations for feature of the month with a Tech Talk for 2020.**

**Members Needed for 2020 Committees:** Contact Franklin

It's just some thoughts.

Franklin Terry Ouchida

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## **NWVRS Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2019**

None this month due to Christmas Party

## Calendar of Events

February 15, 2020. Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.w7sra.com> .

March 7, 2020. Mike & Key 39th Electronics Show & Fleamarket. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/index.php>

March, 21 2020. (Tentative Date) MicroHams Digital Conference. Redmond, WA. <https://www.microhams.com>.

April 18, 2020. Yakima Hamfest. Yakima, Washington. <http://yakimaamateurradioclub.com/yakima-hamfest/>

April 25 & 26, 2020. Communications Academy. South Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA. <http://commacademy.org/>

May 2020. Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Flea Market and Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Contact: Fred Laun, [w7pig@arrl.net](mailto:w7pig@arrl.net)

May 9. Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Flea Market and Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. [http://www.scarcwa.org/ham\\_fest.shtm](http://www.scarcwa.org/ham_fest.shtm) Contact: Fred Laun, [w7pig@arrl.net](mailto:w7pig@arrl.net)

May 16 & 17. River Radio Campout. 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.

June. 52nd Annual Apple City ARC Hamfest. Apple City ARC. Dryden, WA. (Five miles east of Leavenworth on Hiway 2) <https://leavenworth.org/organizer/leavenworth-chamber-of-commerce/> ). <https://www.applecityarc.com/>

# Pictures from the Christmas Party

Photography by Sonny Clutter & Franklin Ouchida









# Always Use the Right Crimpers

By Don Hanson

1965 was a turning point in the space race. NORAD was tracking about 1000 orbiting objects at the beginning of the year; by the end of the year the number was well over 2000. By March of 1965 the Mercury crewed flight missions had been successfully completed and the first crewed Gemini mission would be launched by the end of the month.

And Apollo was shifting into high gear. The Surveyor Program, whose primary goal was to demonstrate the feasibility of soft landings on the Moon, was to launch its first mission - Atlas-Centaur AC-5 - on March 2. This was to be a test launch of a mockup spacecraft. It was intended to validate the launch vehicle, which included a number of new and upgraded systems that, together with the one-ton-plus Surveyor payload, would introduce increased loads and stresses compared to previous Atlas launches.

Unfortunately things did not go as planned. About two seconds into the launch the two outer booster engines lost power and the rocket fell back onto the launch pad and went kaboom. The cause of the failure was quickly determined to be a fuel valve that didn't lock in the open position completely and was forced to reclose by the pressurized fuel. This information was released to the press shortly afterward.

What was not released, however, was the NASA engineering report on the launch failure, which remained classified until 2018. It was made available along with about 300,000 other documents identified only by numbered filenames. In February of 2019 the name of the AC-5 report was posted in the discussion section of [NASASpaceflight.com](http://NASASpaceflight.com) [1]. Historians had been wanting to see this report for decades.

One possibility is that it had just been lost and forgotten in the seemingly infinite archives of the U.S. government. Another may be related to a second, unreported failure - the complete loss of the guidance computer just before the fuel system failure. This could have led to embarrassing (or worse) consequences - for example, landing in Khrushchev's back yard ("Whoops - clumsy me!!").

Earlier, in 1962, a similar situation occurred with the launch of the Venus flyby probe Mariner 1, which responded unpredictably to commands

from the ground shortly after liftoff. According to NASA, a destruct command was sent about five minutes into the flight, just "6 seconds before separation, after which the launch vehicle could not have been destroyed [2]"

So what happened? Much of the report deals with the guidance computer issue, and it is fascinating to see how thoroughly and expertly the investigation was pursued, and the ability of the investigators to accomplish so much with the tools and resources that were available at the time. From the 100-page investigation report, page 57: "Since one possible failure mode is the loss of 28 volts of power to the computer, the wiring harness history was investigated. On F - 1 day, an open connection was discovered in the harnessing to the platform electronics unit. Two additional wires in this harness failed during subsequent pull testing. The PE harness connectors were "Poke-Home" type, and the same type connectors are used in the computer harnessing. Visual tests were performed on computer connectors; however, pull tests were not run. Microscopic inspection of the failed pins indicated that faulty crimping tools were probably used." And on page 58, in the corrective action section: "Airborne harnessing fabrication techniques have been reviewed. Use of approved wire stripping tools and properly calibrated crimping tools will be ensured [3]."

So, always use the correct crimping tool so you don't accidentally snuff the planet. It's the socially responsible thing to do. (And you might want to stay away from "Poke-Home" type connectors.)

Epilogue: Atlas AC-6 / Surveyor 1 launched on May 30, 1966 and landed on the Moon June 2, 1966.

1. <https://forum.nasaspaceflight.com/index.php?topic=45825.20>

NASASpaceflight.com - Topic: List of selected NTRS documents from 1980 or before

2.

<https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=MARIN1>

NASA Goddard - Mariner 1 page

3 <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/archive/nasa/casi.ntrs.nasa.gov/19750077283.pdf>

NASA: POSTFLIGHT EVALUATION OF ATLAS-CENTAUR AC-5 (Launched March 2, 1965)

4.

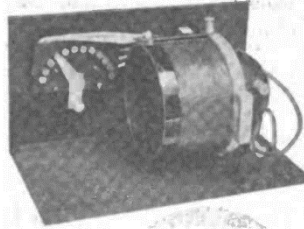
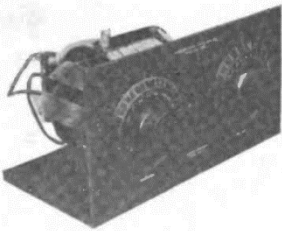
<https://vimeo.com/326171524>

Project Centaur Progress Report Jan-Jun 1965 Convair-NASA; AT-CR-379; AC-5 Pad Explosion (screenshot 1:30)

**Atlas-Centaur AC-5 lifts off on March 2 1965 [4]**



**HERE SHE IS!  
THE NEW NORTHWESTERN VARIOCOUPLER**



Panel  $9\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{1}{4}$ .

XX Bakelite Throughout.

"No Dielectric" Rotor.

Twelve point back connected Switch.

Silver Plated.

Aluminum Brackets.

Wire—No. 20 Double Silk, Green.

**Mounted Unit  
as shown  
\$15.00**

**We're  
Trebbling  
the Factory.**

**Unmounted  
Coupler Only  
\$6.50**

**HALLOCK AND WATSON RADIO SERVICE**

122 PARK STREET

"KGG"

PORTLAND, ORE.

Northwestern Variocoupler ad - Radio Magazine, June 1922, p. 80  
- Art Redman

Radiolaguy's Monthly Showcase for December 2019



**Jan-2020**

**Unusual  
G & F sales**

**Search Light**

**or**

**Spy-Glass radio**

<http://radiolaguy.com/Showcase/RadiolaguyMonthlyFeature-1-20.htm>

## Swap Shop

**Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.**

**Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair**

Bruce Baur	503 708-4537	Milwaukee
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Sid Saul	503 869-5280	Hebo
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

Wanted:

I'd like to borrow a "Magic Lantern" slide projector for a few days. I have some old glass slides to project and copy.

Dan Howard Strains@msn.com



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I wish to purchase a 1942 Model 985866 Portable radio as pictured. Please contact me at 360 695-6349 or (C) 360 989-5981. The radio is ID'd by the Model # and the GM under the dial. - Ray Holland \*\*\*

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For Sale - B.F. Goodrich Model R459 AM + SW (big console) \$20  
Call Robbie Robinson at 503 810 0565





## The Way Radio Was

is a unique combination of  
entertainment & radio history.

Your Host, Dick Karman will provide

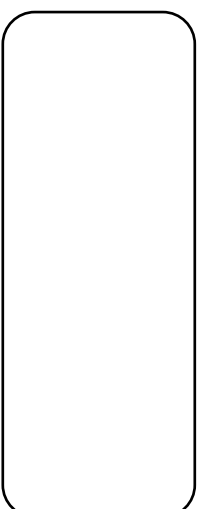
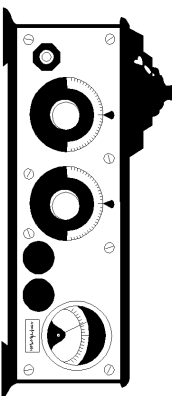
- Music & memories of Radio's best loved moments
- Displays of original vintage radio hardware
- DJ playback the *Way Radio Was* in the 1930-1960s
- MC & voice services with games, trivia, & history
- Event planning with timely coordination
- Everything to make your gathering a success

Contact Dick at 503-784-4398





NW Vintage Radio Society  
P.O. Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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