

# Call Letter

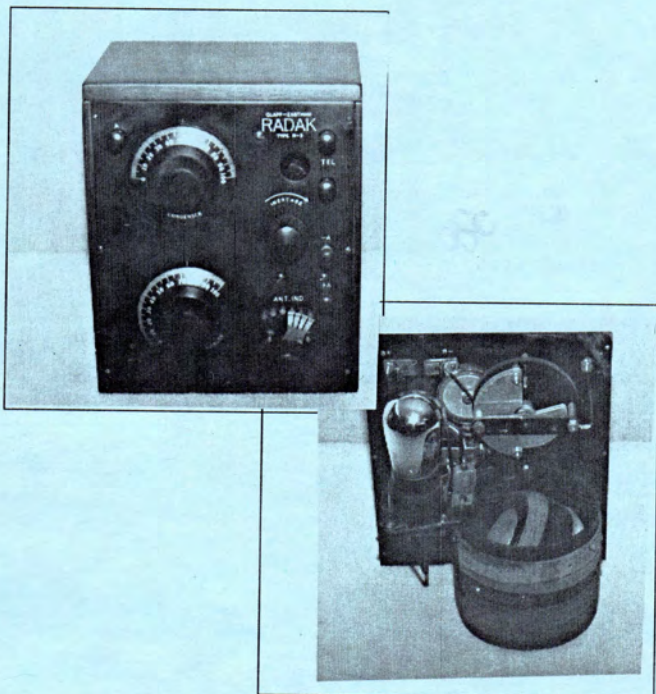
of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, Portland, Oregon

Volume 21

January 1995

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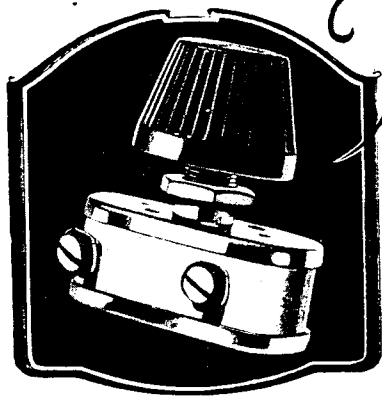


**Meet new officers at the January meeting**

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More than two decades in print !

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# The New Bradleystat

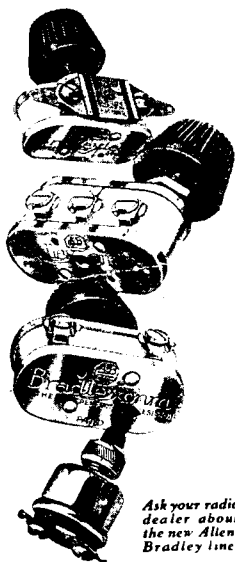
## A Remarkable Achievement

Many refinements are embodied in the new Bradleystat. The graphite disc columns are enclosed in a smaller container, two terminals suffice for ALL tubes; a new mounting simplifies installation; the knob is of a daintier pattern. And the noiseless, stepless, control of the old Bradleystat remains, unchanged. Such a combination of advantages can be found in no other filament rheostat.



Every radio set can be proved by substituting the new Allen-Bradley radio devices.

Only One Hole required in Panel



Ask your radio dealer about the new Allen-Bradley Inc.

A DISTINCTLY new and valuable contribution to radio! That is the verdict of all radio engineers and designers who have seen the new Allen-Bradley radio devices and have witnessed their amazing performance. The new "one-hole mounting," which replaces the older clip mounting, makes for marvelous compactness and simplicity of installation. The new Bradleystat, Bradleyleak and Bradleyohm require only a 11/16-inch space behind panel, and the Bradleyometer only 7/8-inch. Thus, the new models can replace inferior wire rheostats and potentiometers without disturbing the arrangement of the set. Our new literature is ready. Send for it, today!

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Los Angeles  
New York

Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh  
Saint Louis

Saint Paul  
San Francisco  
Seattle

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## Miscellaneous

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### Swap Shop

**FOR SALE:** Two RCA Radiola 106 Tapestry console speakers, self powered. One excellent, one with ripped tapestry. It has factory installed Radiola 33 radio chassis. Both for \$150.00. A tektronix scope-mobile, rolling scope cart. Fits tek 560 series and most other scopes. It has one drawer and two module compartments. Nice, \$40.00. Mike Parker (503) 235-7187.

**WANTED:** Halicrafter SX-96 or SX-100. Jerry Talbot (503) 649-6717.

### ACQUISITIONS

Mike Parker

1925 Magnus 3 dial battery set.

1928 Graybar Radiola 18,

Saleman's demonstrator radio. 1937

Mission Bell wood midget radio.

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# Meeting Minutes

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By: Ken Seymour

The December 17th, 1994 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society was called to order by President Ed Pittaway at 3:08 PM with 26 people and 20 members in attendance. The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as published in the Call Letter. Many members brought their spouses and friends to the meeting which preceded the annual Christmas dinner. Ed welcomed them and all guests who were in attendance.

## Good Wishes

President Ed Pittaway reported that Don Iverson was still not doing too well and encouraged members to give Don a call. Flowers were sent to him last month from the club and Don wanted to thank those members who did call him last month.

## Old Business

Gordon Phillips has one Club T-shirt left and one medium lined jacket to anyone who wants one. Contact him at 503-234-3517 for details.

## New Business

December is the month to elect Club officers for the following year. Ed Pittaway got things off to a start by electing not to run for President next year. So, he withdrew his name. The names of the remaining candidates were President: Greg Bonn; V.P.: Speed Feldschau; Secretary: Ken Seymour; Treasure: Ed Charman.

Ed Pittaway then called for the vote by a show of hands. The above mentioned candidates were unanimously elected to office. No vote was recorded in opposition. Ed congratulated the newly elected officers and informed them that they would take over their duties at the next meeting in January.

After the election, Speed Feldschau announced that he was planning his annual swap meet at his place near Keiser, Oregon on Saturday July 8. Further details will be forthcoming.

## Leads & Needs

It was mentioned that a Sparton Bluebird was seen at Mike's Gold Anvil Antiques out on S.E. Foster Road. The price was around \$2,400.

## Next Month

The next meeting will be held on January 14th at 10:00 AM.

The December 1994 meeting was adjourned at 3:45 at which time members socialized and consumed refreshments before the Annual Christmas dinner, which was served around 5:00. The club would like to thank Frank and Mary Rasada for hosting the dinner and we appreciated their hospitality. In addition, the club would like to thank those members and spouses who prepared and brought all of the delicious food. The food and evening was splendid !!!

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# The Christmas Party

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By Gordon Phillips

If you didn't attend, you should have. At our November meeting of the society Frank Rasada said that the remodeling of the kitchen and the meeting room would be done for the Christmas party. IT WAS. Every thing in the kitchen was completely installed. The food preparation table was immaculate. There was a neatly decorated Christmas tree by the corner of the guest room. In the opposite corner of the kitchen was where a cupboard was installed for the society to keep their coffee, napkins, creamers, stir sticks, cups and whatever else that needs to be stored. On top of the cupboard was a three jar container rack with lids to store the different kinds of sweeteners and creamers.

Along the side wall Rasadas radio display case was complete with many of their radios. The case was completely glass enclosed with glass shelves for the radio displays. The display case was all lighted. The tables that we use for different occasions were neatly stacked on top of each other by the support post until they were later needed. Mary Rasada was busy in the kitchen cooking the turkey and preparing the rest of the food, with the help of Mrs. Dielschneider. Dick was doing whatever else he was told to do. Frank was hurrying around trying to hang up last minute ornaments. As a person was going out the front, if they looked up above and to each side of the door, there were lighted alcoves with a radio in each of them. Many thanks to the Rasadas and Dielschneiders for organizing and preparing this Christmas Party.

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# Oregon's Radio Pioneer

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By Tech Sloat

Melville Eastham (not Eastman) was born at Oregon City, Oregon in June 1885. Although his most notable work was done in the East, he kept the old farm near Tigard and visited it nearly every summer until his death in 1964. The following information is from the late Robert Palmer, a friend of Eastham and a one time manager of the Marconi Co. in Portland.

I believe the very first wireless signal in the Northwest was an experiment by Esstham near Oregon City. He soon moved to the east in 1906 and founded the Clapp Eastham Co. It was one of the pioneer makers of wireless equipment in the U.S.A. Later, in 1915, he founded The General Radio Co. in Cambridge, Mass. primarily to fill the great need for precision measuring instruments in the radio and allied fields. Soon after, there was not hardly any government, university or commercial laboratory in the world that did not have some General Radio instruments, the peak of perfection!

The Melville Eastham receivers, amplifiers, loose couplers and receivers are now largely sought after by collectors. The beautiful model "D" receiver, if you can find one, would probably have a market value of \$2000.00. The model HR and the amplifiers HZ grace the shelves of many collectors.

For additional information on the Clapp Eastham Co. with pictures, see the story by Alan Douglas in the Old Timers Bulletin, Sept. 1979, page 6.

The late Gordon Sloat, Textronix pioneer, remembered the time when Melville Eastham would come to Portland from Tigard and visit the Wedel Co. store, where Gordon was manager of the ham department. They would discuss radio most of the day.

Melville Eastham remembered Oregon and we should remember him!

*(The photos on this months cover are of a Clapp Eastham Radak Type R-3 Collection of Gordon Phillips.)*

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# NEW Year Calendar

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Compiled by Dan Howard

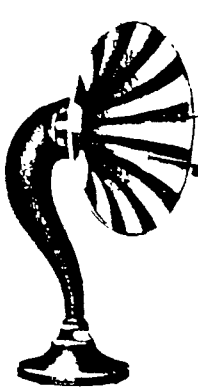
- January      7 NW Vintage Radio Meeting  
              15 PSARA Meeting, Seattle
- February     11 NW Vintage Radio Meeting  
              12 NW Vintage Radio Display at Salem  
                  Sounds of Nostalgia Show  
              18 Salem Ham Fair - Rickreall  
              19 PSARA Meeting, Seattle
- March        4-5 Antique Show - Portland Expo Center  
              11 NW Vintage Radio Meeting  
              12 Puyallup Ham Fair - Puyallup, WA  
              19 PSARA Meeting, Seattle
- April        6-9 April Car Swap Meet - Expo Center  
              8 NW Vintage Radio Meeting  
              16 PSARA Meeting & Auction, Seattle
- May         13 NW Vintage Radio Swap Meet 9AM  
              14 PSARA Meeting, Seattle
- June        3-4 SEAPAC Ham Convention - Seaside, OR  
              10 NW Vintage Radio Meeting  
              18 PSARA Meeting, Seattle
- July         8 Speed's Swap Meet, Keizer, Oregon  
              15-16 Antique Show - Portland Expo Center  
              16 PSARA Meeting, Seattle  
              23 NW Vintage Radio Show, Forest Grove  
                  Concours D'Elegance
- August      20 PSARA Annual Swap Meet, Seattle
- September   9 NW Vintage Radio Meeting  
              16-17 Antique Show - Tacoma Dome  
              17 PSARA Meeting, Seattle
- October     8 NW Vintage Radio Meeting  
              15 PSARA Meeting, Seattle  
              21-22 NW Vintage Radio Display, Expo Center  
                  NW Car Collector's show  
              28-29 Antique Show - Expo Center

- November 11 NW Vintage Radio Meeting  
 19 PSARA Meeting, Seattle
- December NW Vintage Radio Christmas Party  
 10 PSARA Meeting, Seattle  
 16-17 Antique Show - Oregon Convention Center

## GOOD AND WELFARE

When talking to Don Iverson's wife on December 20th, she said Don was over the hump and feeling fine and well on his way to recovery.

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**ATMOSPHERICA**  
 By J

## Call of the Wild

*The Golden Fleece,  
 being fetched home by Jason,  
 Brought odds he constantly facin',  
 So too with our hero,  
 His perils weren't zero,  
 Our venturesome member, Jim Mason.*

*Up into the wilds of Wenatchee,  
 Through realms of the tricky Sasquatchee,  
 Over hill and down dale,  
 On track nearly stale,  
 Surpassing a prowling Apachee.*

*He climaxed his mission with joy  
 At the garage of a Peachy Street boy -  
 Buying old sets galore --  
 (A truckload of more)  
 And boxes of "je ne sais quoi!" \**

\*French for Boxes of I don't know what.

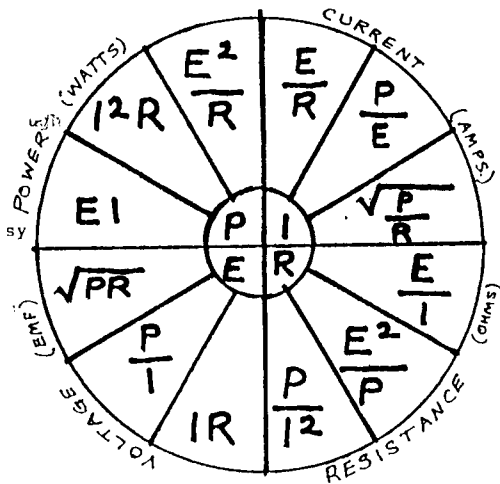


By Bud Larson, U.S. Navy Retired

## Ohm's Law

Don't let this wheel confuse you. It has many formulas for DC circuit computation that are not common enough to worry about now.

For now, let's learn how to use the most common formulas in an easy way. The small circle has just three letters. The E stands for EMF (electromotive force - voltage to us). The I signifies current (amperes or amps). The R means resistance (in ohms).



Say you know the resistance in your circuit and you measure the current. With these values in mind, look at the small circle and cover the E (the unknown), showing the I and R. Thus, multiply the current times the resistance. Use the whole numbers of the basic units - ohms, volts, or amps. Example:  $I = 1$  amp, and the resistance is 10 ohms. multiply 1 times 10 and get 10. It takes 10 volts to force one amp through 10 ohms.



To use miliamps (1/1000 amps) divide by 1000 or move the decimal three places to the left. If your resistor is in the megohm range, move the decimal six places to the right. One megohm = 1,000,000 ohms. One kilo-ohms = 1,000 ohms so move the decimal three places to the right for ohms.

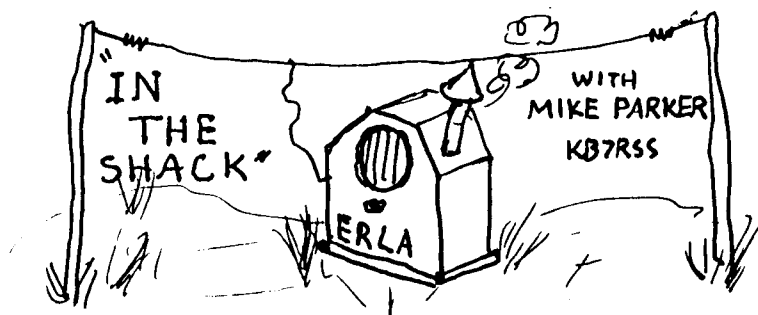
Say that you know that voltage and current and want to know the resistance. On the small circle, cover the R. Now you see the E over the I. Voltage divided by current = resistance. Example: there is an unknown resistor in series with the circuit. Measure the cur-

rent. Put the milliammeter in series with the resistor and note the reading. You read 10 mils. (.010 amp). Now measure the voltage across the resistor. You get 100 volts. Now divide 100 volts by .010 amps and you should get 10,000 ohms. This type of calculation will help in repairs. Maybe the resistor was discolored and you couldn't read its code. Many times a circuit overload due to a leaky part causes the resistor to overheat and change value. Some resistors even acts as fuses and may burn out protecting the components.

If you know the resistor and the voltage across it you can cover the  $I$  and divide the resistor by the voltage ( $E/R$ ) and find the current.

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## In the Shack



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By Mike Parker

I have volunteered to help make the Call Letter "fatter." Allow me to say a bit about myself, since you will be hearing from me "in the shack" for a while. I am 53 years old and have been an electrical hobbyist since childhood. I was a boy with a red **Philmore** crystal set, and outdoor antenna and a two- band cathedral in the bedroom. The family **Philco** 42-380 console was our home entertainment, along with the piano. Television didn't exist for us until I was 12. I first saw KPTV-127 through the window at McNaughton's in nearby Milwaukie.

Across the street from our house was the house of an old ham operator. His name was Mr. McKay (W7HJI). He was deceased and the house sat empty for years . . . (haunted, we thought). All of us

kids knew the way in and out of the house and what was inside would make a pretty good swap meet, today. I remember seeing the names **Atwater Kent** and **DeForest** in there. I also remember all of the radios that each relative and neighbor had. They were part of my lives, like television is today.

Some of us had an informal *radio club* and we would create fun by hanging around the local radio repair shop, pestering the owner and sniffing the hot tube and transformer smells.

In high school I joined the Radio Amateur Club and had a ham license until I let it go later, when cars and girls became more important. In the Air Force I went to electronics school and served in Radio Relay Maintenance. After the military I spent many years in the telephone installation and wire maintenance business. I was also a vintage auto hobbyist and rail car enthusiast spending more than 10 years making the old electric trolleys in this area run again.

Although I had a couple of sets, I didn't become an avid radio collector until I joined the NW Vintage Radio Society in January 1990. My main interest lies in the 20's and 30's radios and in the pre-1960 short wave gear. I have since acquired another amateur license, KB7RSS, but my favorite pastime is collecting and repairing those 1925-style, three dial receivers. I am also fond of cathedrals and other AC sets until they have push buttons - (there I lose interest).

Presently, I have about 105 complete sets and my shop is in the attic. We call it the *Shack* hence the title of my page. Some radios are displayed downstairs, but only the ones my wife will tolerate. She has a few pretty ones of her own in the living room.

I like the Vintage Radio Society and never have met a member that I didn't like, but there are many that I still do not know. I am a strong supporter of our link with the radio museum and believe that we should not lose sight of this identity. Our objective is to preserve radio history, which the museum accomplishes.

I don't claim to be an expert, but I am learning all the time and am willing to pass on to others what I know. "Knowledge is of no value until shared with others."

73's Mike Parker

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# The Alaska Military Telegraph Service

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By Pete Petersen WY7Z

Russia sold Alaska to the United States in 1867 for \$7.2 million, an amount so vast (in 1867 dollars) that the purchase was derisively called Seward's Folly after the Secretary of State who made the deal. Five years later, however, the value of furs, fish, and minerals taken from Alaska totalled more than the purchase price. Twenty years later these products, plus timber and production from the great gold strikes added up to over \$400 million.

What does this have to do with antique radios? Imagine the great need for communications to support those early endeavors. Unfortunately communications were abysmal and often depended on dog sleds or horse-drawn wagons. Many waterways and seaports were ice-free only from May to October. In 1907 little over 300 miles of railroads and about 600 miles of primitive roads existed in Alaska. Most cities and settlements were happy to receive monthly mail services; Point Barrow received two deliveries per winter. Contact with the outside world was almost entirely through Seattle by sailing ship or steamer.

In 1904 the Army Signal Corps, with a mandate and funding from Congress, began constructing a telegraph service for the military and also to army, civilian and commercial telegrams. An underwater cable was laid 3,000 miles from Seattle to Sitka, Ketchikan and Skagway. (The cable was extended a few years later to Valdez, Seward and Cordova.) 2,300 miles of landlines connected to cable to the interior, including Eagle (near what is now anchorage), Fairbanks, Tanana, and St Michael. Railroad telegraph lines and several local, private telephone systems were connected to the Army system.

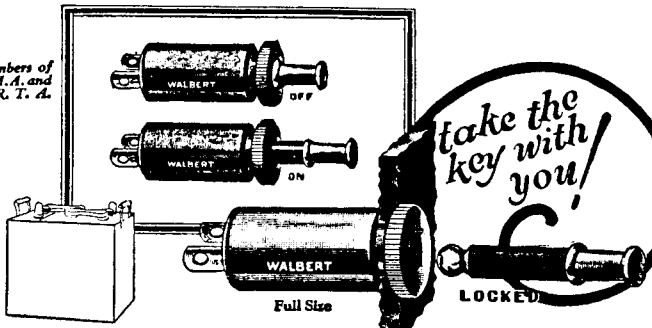
A 1909 map shows that the system included eight wireless stations servicing areas too remote for landlines. The wireless link between St. Michael and Nome is credited to Captain L. Wildman who, as described by a writer of that time, "equipped, installed and operated a wireless system largely of his own invention."

The system was completed on time in 1908 and within its budget of \$2.5 million. It was so extensive that about 75% of the white population (as statistics were kept and labeled) were within one hours travel of a telegraph office or telephone. Another 10% of the population were within fifty miles of such services. Even before completion of the system, annual tariffs from civilians and commercial telegrams amounted to \$250,000 and service to government agencies and the military were valued at \$100,000. These amounts increased rapidly and by the time the system was complete were values at over \$50,000 per year.

It would be interesting at this point to add something about the volume of telegrams handled or the cost per telegram, but that information is not included in my sources. I do, however, have a pamphlet entitled *Rates of Pay for Communications By Telegraph* published by the Postmaster General and dated August 5, 1893. Here are some selected examples: a day message cost 20 cents per 20 words if sent up to 1,000 miles; 40 cents per twenty words if sent over 3,000 miles. Comparable night messages were priced at 15 cents and 25 cents. Allowing for inflation from 1893 to 1908 and a large percentage of lengthier messages the system still had to handle an enormous amount of traffic to generate \$900,000 in revenue.

The entire system was operated by one Signal Corps company of under 200 men and a few officers. We can only guess the long hours they must have worked and the primitive conditions they endured in what Robert Service described as "the land that God forgot." It must be said to their credit that they often handled huge sums of cash, the most common means of payment then, with complete honesty. The Alaska Military Telegraph Service may have been the only project in the history of government to have been completed on time, under budget, operated free of fraud and abuse, and provided a profit for the taxpayers.

Members of  
R. M. A. and  
N. R. T. A.



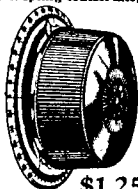
Take the  
key with  
you!

# PROTECTION

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The Walbert Safety Rim Socket is guaranteed *not* to break at the slot. Special heavy bakelite design decreases interelement capacity thereby utilizing all available grid voltage for producing signals. (New tubes have bakelite bases for same reason.) Soldering lug and double-spring contact integral.



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# **Northwest Vintage Radio Society**

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 \$15.00 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 members the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that both informs members of the society's business and that has supported the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held monthly (except July and August) at the Northwest Vintage Radio Museum, 7675 SW Capitol Highway (at 32nd street) in Portland Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and information exchange. 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 SW Portland.

## **Society Officers:**

President	Greg Bonn (503)
Vice President	Speed Feldschau (503) 390-3928
Treasurer	Ed Charman (503) 654-7387
Secretary	Ken Seymour (503) 642-9115
Board member at large	Ed Pittaway (503) 645-2883
Call Letter Editor	Dick Karman (503) 281-6585
Museum Curator	Frank Rasada (503) 246-3400

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society  
Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379