

The Call Letter

July, 2010
Vol. 36 — No. 7

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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.

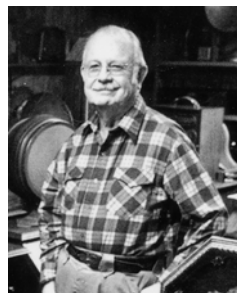
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 10 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 1998. 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 2010:

President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 rf2af@comcast.net
Vice-President	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074 abhauser@aol.com
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Corresponding Secretary	Mike McCrow	(503) 730-4639 tranny53@verizon.net
Board member at large	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 rwalton@easystreet.net
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 Bucholtz3049@comcast.net



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On the cover: *Radio News* for January, 1927. This young man is learning that his spouse does not appreciate his radio hobby intruding on her domain. As collectors, we frequently encounter the same attitude. Nevertheless, we usually manage to collect at least one radio that becomes “our spouse’s favorite radio,” which, by merest coincidence, happens to be our monthly feature.

The next meeting is July 10, 2010.

Monthly Feature: Your spouse’s favorite radio.

Visit our web site at <http://nwvrs.org>.

Next Call Letter Deadline: August 2, 2010.

The *Call Letter* is the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Circulation is limited to the membership and guests of the Society. The Society is not responsible for the material contributed for publication, nor the quality, timeliness, or accuracy of the items or services offered for sale in the SWAP SHOP. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

It is supposed to be Summer now, and perhaps by the time you receive this issue it will actually *be* Summer. As I write this on July 1, though, we have all the windows closed and my wife has spent the day in a wool sweater and wool socks trying to stay warm.

In this issue we have a little of everything for you -- all of the usual items: Voilà, Play it Again, Sam, photos of the last meeting. In addition, we have a trip report (with photos) from member Bob Walters describing his visit to the Western Historic Radio Museum in Virginia City, Nevada. These reports are always interesting. If you visit a radio related site, I encourage you to write up a report and share it with us.

I owe Bob an apology for my failure to identify him when I took his photo for the roster. And I owe him thanks for graciously identifying himself to me after I ran his photo in last month's *Call Letter* ad "unidentified."

Along those lines, I'll have my camera at the meeting as usual. If I haven't taken your picture for the roster, please see me after the meeting. I've heard from numerous members how glad they are to have the photos in the roster.

Always sunny & warm.

*For a refreshing change,
check it out!*



Sunny 1550 KKAD

	Herb Alpert - Tony Bennett - Michael Buble - Carpenters
	Nat King Cole - Perry Como - Neil Diamond - Diana Krall
	Barry Manilow - Johnny Mathis - Platters - Carly Simon
	Elvis - Frank Sinatra - Babara Streisand - Andy Williams

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

submitted by Liles Garcia, Recording Secretary

President Dick Bixler called the June 12, 2010 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:50 AM. He welcomed everyone to our meeting. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the April meeting and they were approved as printed in the May *Call Letter*. Cliff Tuttle gave the Treasurer's Report; his report was approved as provided by Cliff. We now have 133 members. John Bucholtz said that the library is doing well. There were 51 people at our meeting today.

Old Business

Swap Meet--Brian Toon said that our Swap Meet was generally a success. The group discussed having a raffle during our Swap Meets. Members gave Brian a round of applause for his great work on our Swap Meet.

Sounds of Nostalgia--Pat Kagi said that there was a lot of interest in radio repair at this show.

Club Clothing--Vice-President Tony Hauser will coordinate the purchase of NWVRS name tags, jackets, caps, shirts, and coffee cups.

New Business

New Printer--The group discussed printing our Call Letter. Rick Walton mentioned that if we could distribute the Call Letter by e-mail, then we may not need a new printer. Members agreed to discuss this idea further in a future meeting.

Leads and Needs

Tony Seely has an Eveready 54 for sale--e-mail address is dscitroen2323@yahoo.com

Paul Epler has a Philco 40-180, console 05BR-2753A, and Zenith console N-93-952 for sale. Contact him at (503)429-6501.

Shauna has a Kolster K-21 for sale; contact her at (360)977-4300.

Program Topic

Mark Moore introduced Ron Kramer to the group. Ron talked to the group about the early days of radio in Oregon. His discussion was very interesting; and there were many questions from the group. Ron brought a few copies of his book "Pioneer Mikes" for sale. His book can also be purchased from his website. Here is Ron's website:

<http://www.pioneermikes.org/>

Members gave Ron a round of applause for his great talk!!

The meeting was adjourned.

NWVRS Calendar of Events

Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from:
PNW Hamfair web page at www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm

- July 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 10** Chehalis Valley ARS 12th Annual Hamfair. Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, Chehalis, WA. Contact John Ellingson, K7OSK. johnk7osk@boatanchor.com.
www.cvars.org/
- July 17** Coos County Radio Club Hamfest and Swapmeet. North Bend Middle School, North Bend, OR. Contact Marilyn Mansker, ke7oam@yahoo.com or Dave Granicy
k7nbo@charter.net. www.coosradioclub.net/.
- August 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 14** Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest. www.w7dk.org/
- August 15** Antique Radio Swap Meet. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. One block west of Aurora Avenue - one mile west of I-5, exit 176. Free admission. www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html (Always the 3rd Sunday in August)
- September 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 11** The 4th Annual Clark County ARC Tail-Gate Swapmeet. Salmon Creek American Legion, Vancouver, WA.
www.w7aia.org/ Rob, K7JAO at k7jao@arrl.net
- September 25** Spokane Hamfest. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216. For information contact Betsy, N7WRQ n7wrq@aol.com.
- October 9** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 23** Swaptoberfest. Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. Contact: Vince, K7VV at k7vv@swaptoberfest.net

November 13 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Nomination of officers for 2011.

December 11 NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10
am. Election of officers for 2011.

A Message from the President

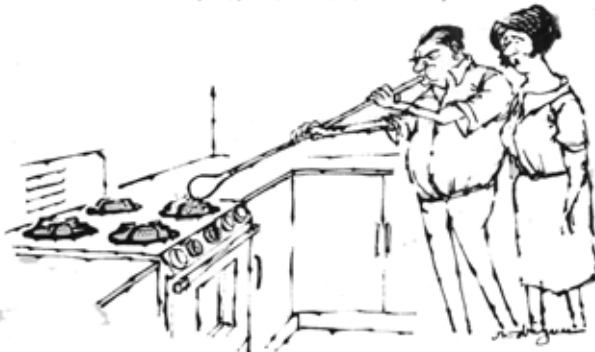
I just got a phone call from a lady who represents an organization called Elder Audience. Her group, Elder Audience, links Seniors and senior facilities in Oregon with entertainment, activities and outings. This includes performers and speakers who travel to where seniors reside (or gather), as well as events and destinations that seniors enjoy attending. Those listed on the Elder Audience site(www.elderaudience.com) include many kinds of volunteers. Staff at senior facilities browse Elder Audience and directly contact the listed persons for more information or to make arrangements. There are 180 offerings in a variety of categories. Elder Audience started with a focus on Portland/Vancouver area but is slowly growing to include the Mid-Willamette Valley and the rest of the state

Those of us who might be interested in making an entertaining presentation on “old time” radio with a display of some of our “jewels” please contact me either at the meeting or by phone or email and we can set up a contact.

A couple of our members have already shown interest in helping these folks out.

Thanks, in advance,

Dick



“... Oh, stop it, Joe—you’ll never
be able to make a 201-A.”

When in Reno

Bob Walters

The wife and I had an occasion to be in Reno a couple weeks back and we took a tour of Virginia City, Nevada.

While waiting for a train ride to Gold Hill, Nevada and back, I noticed a sign that mentioned the Western Historic Radio Museum.

Most of you are probably aware of this museum, but I wasn't. The wife had other things to do other than looking at a bunch of old radios, so she allowed (!!) me to go by myself.

Needless to say, I was very impressed. The museum is run by Henry and Sharon Rogers.

The displays are magnificent. Henry is very knowledgeable regarding radios and radio history and he is willing to discuss most anything regarding his collection.

There was one couple in the museum that had a question about how a vacuum tube worked and Henry gave a good, yet non technical explanation. I interrupted and mentioned there would be a test in the morning!!

The museum starts out with crystal sets, early ship board radios, and works its way into the radios of the twenties and thirties, then on to the forties. I didn't have too much time to spend since the tour bus left at two fifteen and it would leave with or without me. The museum also has an early transmitter set up that I don't remember much about, but there is a very good write up on the museum's website.

Henry also mentioned to the couple that Zenith radios were good electronically, but excellent in cabinetry, whereas Philco radios were great electronically but the cabinets left a bit to be desired. I mentioned that my folks had a Philco 39-55 with the 'mystery control' and I thought the workmanship on the cabinet was very good. It withstood a lot of abuse from me when I was small. A LOT!

After I left the museum and returned to Reno, I brought up the museum's website. They have items FOR SALE. I could not talk my wife into allowing me to return to Virginia City and make a purchase or two. Maybe next time.

The Western Historic radio Museum's website is:
www.radioblvd.com



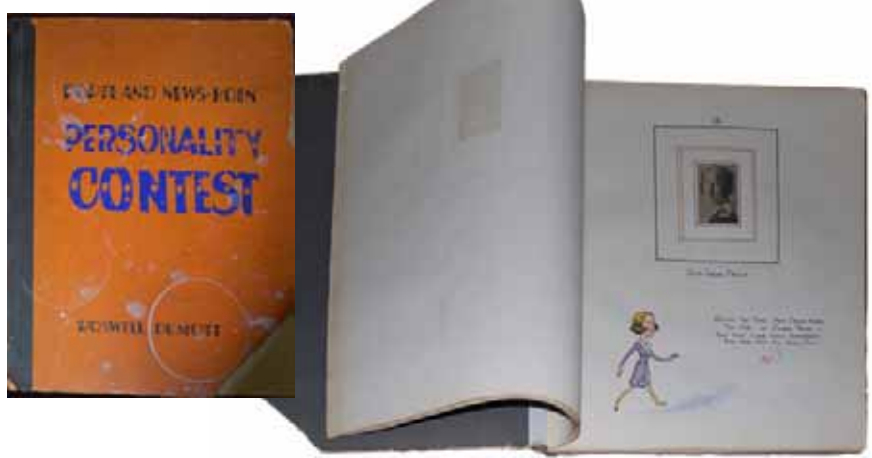
Photos by Bob Walters

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton & Sonny Clutter

Photos of our guest speaker at the June meeting, Ron Kramer, and historical items displayed by Mark Moore.





Roster Correction & Additions

Just a few updates to the roster this month. Thanks to Bob Walters for identifying his photo in last month's *Call Letter*.

Updates

- New call sign:
John Minehan: KE7JNT
- E-mail updates:
Dick Bixler: rf2af@comcast.net
Mike McCrow: tranny53@verizon.net
- Member Identified and Photo Added



Bob Walters

Play It Again, Sam!

contributed by Dave Wise

TS-810U Time Mark Generator

Generates crystal-controlled pips at a selectable repetition rate of 1mc, 100kc, 10kc, 1kc, or 100c.

It's about 4" wide and high, and about 8" deep. It uses three 5670's - an odd dual triode I'd never heard of before - as a crystal oscillator followed by a chain of four divide-by-10 "blocking oscillators".

Two of the four pulse transformers were open, but I was able to use some junkbox toroids in their place. One mica cap was leaking, but it was sneaky - it only showed up at working voltage. Finally, the Amperite 10-4C ballast tube that regulates the 5670 heater current had evaporated so much of its filament that it was passing about 0.8A instead of 1.05, which dimmed the 5670's to where they didn't have enough emission for stable operation.

For now I put in a bridge rectifier and LM317 operating in unfiltered mode, but that only regulates to about 6%. If you add a transistor to tweak the '317's operating point at the peak of the rectified-AC wave you can get about 2%. I am working on a microprocessor-controlled circuit that should do better than 1%.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Jay Johnston

Ed Cook — 1938 Philco 604 table set. This model’s unusual design made it a low seller, and its innovative circuitry makes it a bearcat to work on- so says local restorer extraordinaire Blake Dietz.

1938 or '39 Emerson 262 table model in birds eye maple

Pat Kagi — Crosley D-25CE AM clock radio in a bakelite cabinet (perhaps a dashboard unit). This radio is from Larry Farnsworth, the nephew of Philo Farnsworth.

Airline movie dial radio. This tabletop set has been refinished and electronically restored by Robbie Robertson. Pat picked up this gem at our last show.

Dave Wise — R-1051 HF Communications Receiver Bought from Dick Bixler. Solid-state except for two RF amp tubes, and fairly small, but still solidly in the boatanchor class.

This receiver replaced the R-390 and R-390A in many installations. Designed by General Dynamics. Early synthesized tuning includes a motor-driven turret to tune the RF. Chain drive! Tunes using decade switches, no dial per se. Can receive two SSB signals simultaneously, one on upper one on lower; this is known as ISB - Independent SideBand. The military frequently sent voice on one sideband, data on the other. Not a band cruiser, but I couldn't resist the technological sophistication.

10% DISCOUNT

To all members in good standing of the
Northwest Vintage Radio Society
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Please show your current
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7940 SW Nimbus Ave.

SALEM (503) 583-9810
1545 Commercial St. NE

EUGENE (541) 345-2904
960 Conger St.

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

FOR SALE: RCA Victor U42 radio/phono, large console. Not working - probably needs power transformer, definitely needs phono work. \$20 o.b.o. Rick Walton 503-701-3260, rwalton@easystreet.net.

FOR SALE: *Immaculate and pristine Philco 39-116 complete with Mystery Box and 12 tubes. \$150 Dick Bixler 503-690-2557

FOR SALE: **I have a Philco Model 144 for sale. Sounds great. Contact Tony at ranft61@msn.com or 360-944-8489.

Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Bruce Baur - (503)-708-4537, brucebaur@comcast.net

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Pat Hickman – (503) 887-9015 Web: www.classictubeaudio.com

Email: phickman@comcast.net

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141 Web: www.burlingame-radio.com

Email: burltv@msn.com

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or walterranft@hotmail.com – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, david_wise@phoenix.com

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

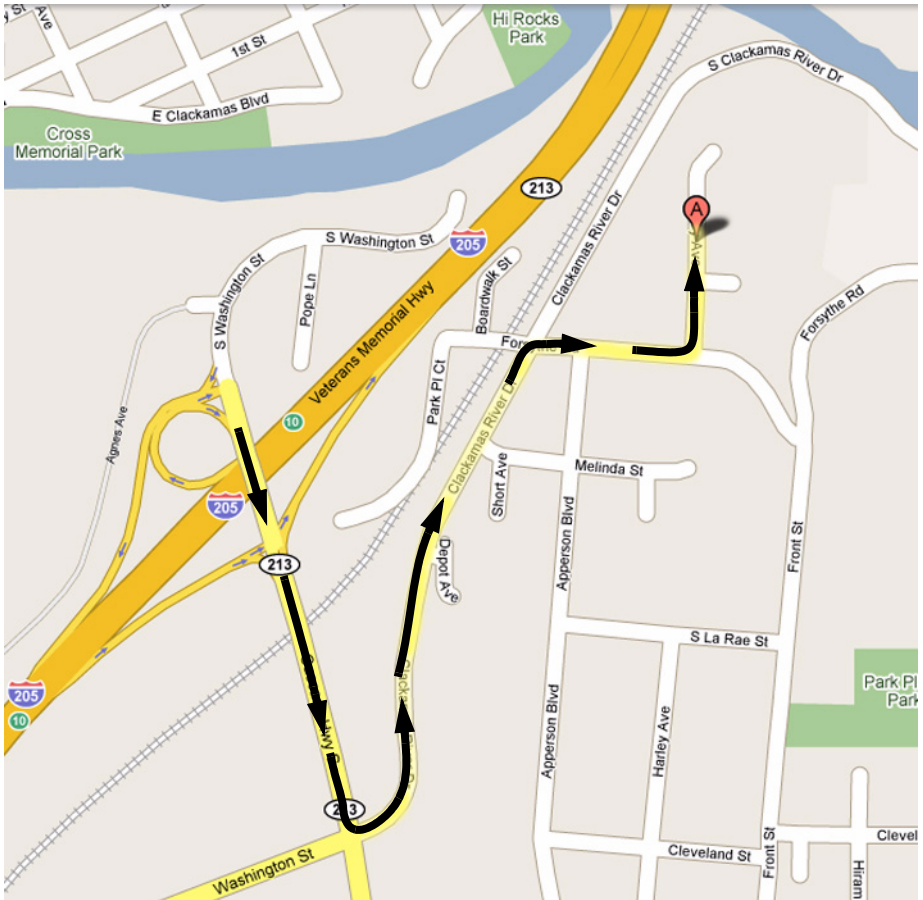
Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit Radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photos, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy

Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Meeting Location

Here is a map (thanks to Google Maps) to the Abernethy Grange Hall (the pointer marked “A”), where the Northwest Vintage Society meets the second Saturday of each month. Just follow the arrows on the map.



To get to the Abernethy Grange Hall:

1. Exit I-205 at SR-213 (Exit 10 to Molalla) and head south on 213.
2. At the first intersection (the traffic light), turn left onto Clackamas River Dr.
3. Turn right at Forsythe Rd.
4. Turn left onto Harley Ave. The Grange Hall is on the left about a block and a half.