

The Call Letter

December, 2009
Vol. 35 — No. 12



Celebrating **35** years in print!

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.

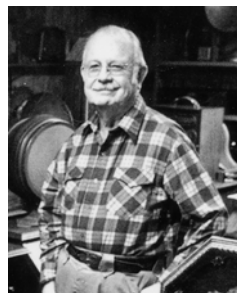
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 show, 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 2008:

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



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On the cover: “This happy Christmas domestic scene is from the December, 1926 issue of *Citizen’s Radio Call Book*. The artwork is signed by “P. Anthony,” but there is no other attribution or explanation of the cover art in the magazine.

The next meeting is on December 12, 2009.

**Annual Holiday Potluck and
Election of Officers for 2010**

**No Monthly Feature for December;
January Feature is Early (pre-1934) Superhet Radios.**

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: December 31, 2008.

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

We haven't said much about it, but this month marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of our society. To acknowledge this occasion, I've included newsletter #1 on "The Back Page." It wasn't called *The Call Letter* then; that wouldn't happen for another year. But it was the first of thirty-five years' worth of our Society's publication.

I've explained in an article in this issue how you join the NWVRS Yahoo! Group. I hope it will generate some interest in the group because it is a great method of communication, and provides an ideal way to make *The Call Letter* available online. Writing this article is something I've meant to do for a long time, and the discussion at last months meeting of putting *The Call Letter* online spurred me into action.

"Voilà" is back in this issue with the acquisitions that members have made over the last couple of months. Thanks to Jay Johnston for his persistence in compiling this column.

Congratulations to our officer nominees for the next year (see the minutes). And a huge vote of thanks to George Kirkwood who has served as our president for the last five years.

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

NorthWest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

submitted by Liles Garcia, Recording Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the November 14, 2009 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. George welcomed everyone to the meeting. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the September meeting and they were approved as published in the October/November Call Letter. Cliff Tuttle gave the Treasurer's Report, and his report was approved as provided by Cliff. He also said that our Society now has 136 members. John Bucholtz said that the library is doing well. Jim Manzella and Howard Bergh attended today as guests. Members gave our guests a round of applause. In honor of Veterans' Day George asked all veterans to stand up. Members gave all veterans present a round of applause. There were 58 people at our meeting today.

New Business

Swap Meet--Brian Toon said that he has already sold some swap meet tables. If anyone is interested in getting a table for the Swap Meet, please contact Brian. Members discussed allowing non-members of our Society to have swap meet tables. The group agreed to discuss this further at future meetings.

Nomination of Officers--The following members were nominated for Society officers for Year 2010:

President-Dick Bixler
Vice President-Tony Hauser
Recording Secretary-Liles Garcia
Corresponding Secretary-Mike McCrow
Treasurer-Cliff Tuttle

After the nominations were closed, members gave George a round of applause for being our President.

Christmas Party--Our Society's Annual Christmas Party will be at our December meeting at our regular meeting location.

Leads and Needs

Dick Bixler brought a list of people that have radios for sale. Liles volunteered to post this list on the Society's e-mail list. John Cushing mentioned that Powell's Book Store currently has a larger than normal stock of old radio books. He also needs a second 465 KHZ IF transformer for a Stromberg-Carlson Model 130.

Program Topic

The program topic today is “Catalin Radios”. Members showed and discussed the seven radios that they brought. The program topic for January will be “Pre-1934 Superhets”.

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

December 12 NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2010.

2010

January 9 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

February 13 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

February 20 Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, Oregon at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com>.

March 7 Burnaby ARC Flea Market. New Westminster, BC http://rac.eton.ca/events/detail.php?event_ID=1333

March 13 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

March Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. Contact mwdink@eskimo.com. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>.

April 10 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

May 8 NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.

June 4-6 Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. ai9q@arrl.net www.seapac.org/

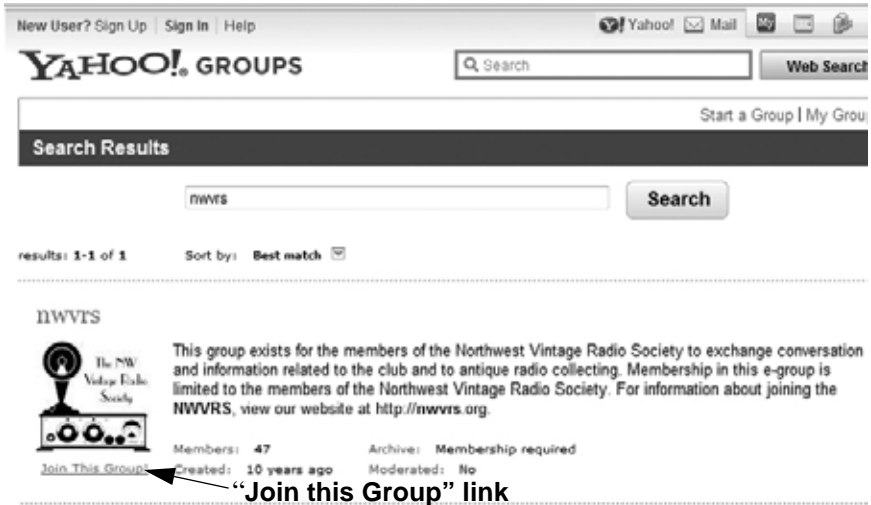
Joining the E-mail Group

by Rick Walton

Most of you are aware that we have a couple of e-mail groups operating for the Society. The one I want to discuss here is the YahooGroup, nwvrs@yahoogroups.com.

This started out as an “e-group” ten years ago, then became a “YahooGroup” when Yahoo bought out e-groups. At any rate, we’ve had a presence there for a long time, its advantage being that we can restrict the participants to the Society’s members.

To become part of the Yahoo group, you simply need to request membership. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/>, then in the “Find a Yahoo! Group” box, enter “nwvrs” and click the “search” button. You’ll get the screen shown here.



Click on the link to join the group. It is pretty much self-explanatory after that. You will, of course, be asked to sign up with Yahoo. That isn’t absolutely necessary if all you want is to take part in the e-mail traffic. However, there is a file storage area where I post printable versions of the *Call Letter*, and where members can post pictures, etc. It is extremely under-utilized, but offers great opportunities to share our latest finds, successful restorations, and other hobby-related material.

We currently have 47 members in the group. I know that there are more than 47 society members with e-mail. The traffic is low, and stays strictly on-topic. It’s a great way to keep up with what’s going on in the Society. Give it a try!

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

At the November meeting, members displayed the catalin radios shown in these photos.



Bendix 526C - Tony Hauser



FADA 652 "Temple" - Tony Hauser



Garod 6AU1 Commander -
Sonny Clutter



Musicaire MD-16 (by Sentinel) - Ray Ybarra



Metronoma MP-100-PA - Ray Vanderzanden



FADA 1000 "Bullet" - Rick Walton



Sentinel 284NI - James Harper

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRs members

Compiled by Jay Johnston

Tony Hauser — 1948 **Farnsworth GT-051** painted bakelite AM table radio.

1948 **GE 115W** ivory plaskon AM table radio.

Jay Johnston — **Kitcraft xtal radio**. This shiny red set from the 50s came new in the box and unassembled.

Philco 38-7. This set features a beautiful curved cabinet... and the name of a local furniture store on its large round dial. The sole Philco marking is on a tag at the rear of the chassis; the only other branding is the name Powers Furniture Company on the dial. It does not appear to be an aftermarket add-on; Philco must have offered customized dials to its retailers. By its appearance, I would estimate this set's manufacture in the late 30s or early 40s. Assuming that the set hasn't moved around a lot, this receiver is quite a performer: the dial is labeled with the call letters of many Portland stations (including Portland Police) as well as those far flung as KVI Seattle, KHQ Spokane, KFI Los Angeles, KOA Denver, KSL Salt Lake City, and the mighty KGO of San Francisco. A quick note about Powers: it opened its doors in 1866 downtown on SW 1st Ave, moving a few blocks to 3rd & Yamhill in 1911. Thanks to noted radio historian and esteemed Society member Art Redman for parting with this treasure!

Mike Parker — **1923 ACE Type V**, a 1-tube regen. made by Crosley.

1928 SILVERTONE Model F metal box battery set. 5 tube TRF made by King Radio for Sears.

Liles Garcia — Acquired at Fall Swap Meet: **Hallicrafters SX-24** Communications Receiver with matching PM-23 Speaker--working great!!

Rick Walton — **Bendix 526E**, circa 1946, wooden cabinet. 5-tube superhet. Found at a garage sale. In excellent cosmetic condition, needs electronic work.

Roster Correction & Additions

by Rick Walton

Frank Olberding has a new mailing address; his phone number is unchanged:

Forest Grove Beehive
2122 Hawthorne St
Forest Grove, OR 97116

Christmas Radio Ad Art 1922

Here is some Christmas-themed art from *Radio Broadcast* magazine, the December, 1922, issue. This magazine is part of your editor's collection of radio-related publications.



Magnavox Co., Magnavox Reproducer

Kellogg Switchboard and Supply Co.



Herbert H. Frost
"Frost Fones"

F.A.D. Andrea
FADA Receiver-Amplifier



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: *1 Stewart-Warner Model B-134-A; a 2 band (AM/2.3 to 6.8 MHz) with no cabinet, no speaker, but with all good tubes

2 Stromberg-Carlson Model 1121; a 4 band (FM1/FM2/AM/8.3 to 10.5 MHz) that includes all its hardware, speaker, phonograph, and tubes, but no cabinet.

3 Spartan Model unknown; 3 band (550KHZ to 18MHz) that includes all hardware, phonograph, and console cabinet (cabinet needs restoring)

4 Philco Model 60--complete and working
Contact Ed Guenther at (541)382-0173.

FOR SALE: *Rider's Perpetual Troubleshooter manuals, Vols. 1-22 (1-5 are single volumes, not abridged), \$300 o.b.o., pick-up only in Aloha. Contact Damon Vandehey, 503-459-1777.

WANTED: **Power transformer for a Sparton Equasonne Model 301 Radio.
Contact James Harper, 503-538-8738, jharperclan@aol.com

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, wb6jhh@ix.netcom.com

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

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

Email: phickman@comcast.net

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141

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

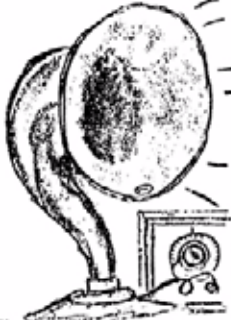
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

The Back Page

by Rick Walton

This is the one that started it all! This is the newsletter that went out to our fledgling club 35 years ago, December of 1974.

TO THOSE DEVOTED TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF OLD RADIOS



Two important agenda items for the next club meeting
Jan. 11, 1975, Buena Vista Clubhouse, Oregon City, 10AM:

1. Selection of the club's name
2. Final draft for the club constitution

No doubt there will probably be as many names as the club has members. Agreement may require our best spirit of compromise. Some important points in my opinion include simplicity, brevity and a clear identification of the hobby. The name should attract potential new members with interests like ours. It should say to the public at large that the club exists for the preservation and restoration of old radios--- that somebody really cares about that old relic they want to get rid of. Yes, that's a tall order for a brief simple name.

The constitution should make clear our purpose, who we are and how we will be conducting the club's business. Certainly it can't cover everything. Bylaws add to and clarify the intention of the constitution as the club matures.

Art Redman is Chairman for development of the constitution. He will be sending each of us a draft of a possible constitution which can serve as a starting point.

Bob Bilbie suggested to me that I bring over a radio set, magazine etc. to the club meeting. I believe this would be a good policy for the future meetings. It would let us do a little "knob twisting" and reminiscing so that we can all get better acquainted. If most of you are like me, there are dozens of old radios I've never heard of, much less seen, even though it is a hobby I have followed for 35 years.

We owe our thanks to Sandy Bilbie for finding such an excellent meeting room. Also, I am sure the club wouldn't have happened without her enthusiasm and the hours of phoning to get us all together.

In the first small get together we had to plan the first meeting of the club, at Sandy's house, we discussed the desirability of including spouse and family in the club membership. I personally would like to encourage couples in the club. Recognizing that mailing costs, etc. would not be greater for a husband and wife than a single member, a lesser dues for spouse will encourage an active interest in the hobby and provide an opportunity to "do things together". I wonder how the members feel about this.

Ron Waldron is Membership Chairman. He is developing an application form and coordinating publicity efforts to attract other members active in the hobby. We can help Ron by inviting hobbyists we know to the next meeting.

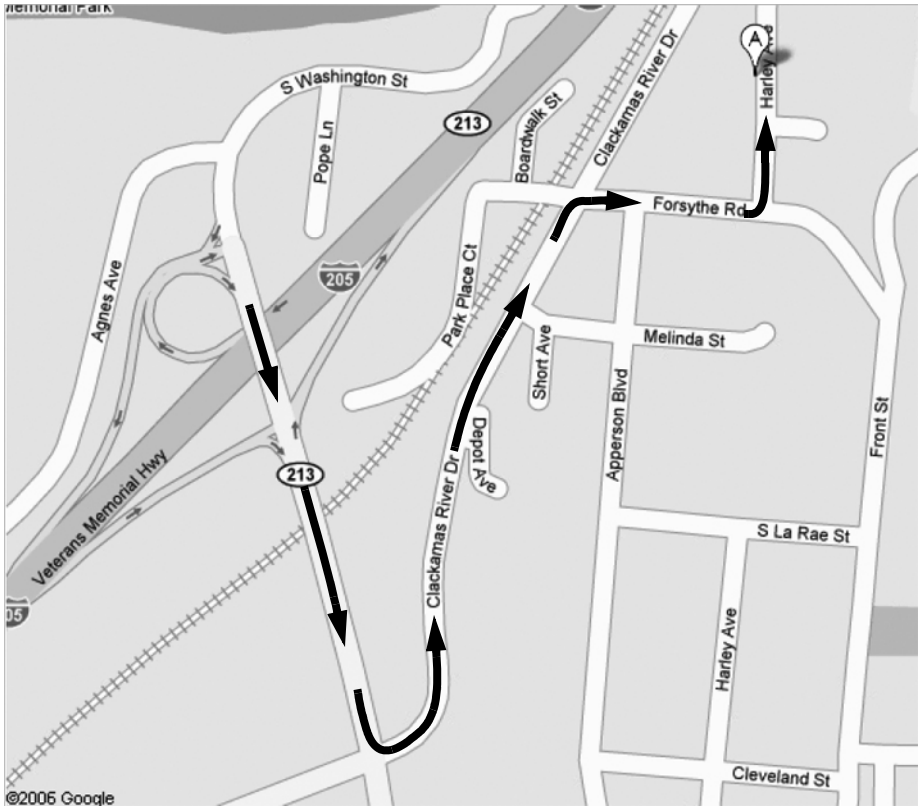
My editorializing in a sort of news letter form like this is intended to draw attention to important issues facing the club. It is your club to do with as the majority decide and not as any one individual would try to impose. I hope my comments are taken in that spirit and pledge to give everyone an opportunity to speak and be involved in helping together to make this unique club become pretty much what we all hope it could be. See you there!

Harley Perkins *HPT* 12/23/74

P.S. Joe Tompkins, Salem, will be editing a swap sheet. If you have stuff you would like to sell, buy or trade or have leads to non members having a desire to get rid of same, please bring the information to the next meeting.

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.