

The Call Letter

August, 2010
Vol. 36 — No.8



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.

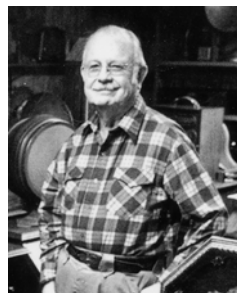
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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).

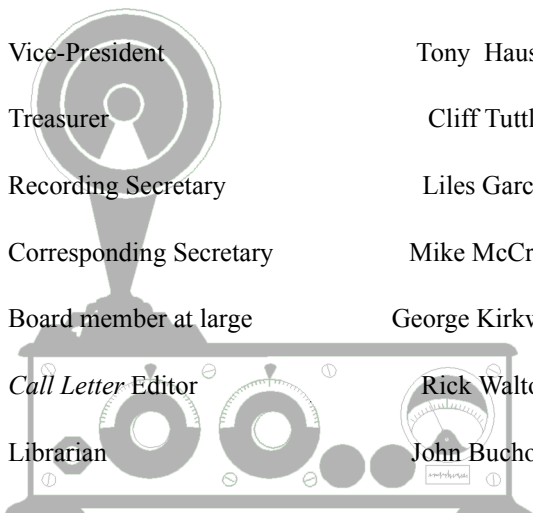
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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@comcast.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: It’s a sultry summer evening as young couples dance in the romantic glow of Japanese lanterns to the music of a radio. This is the scene set on the cover, titled “The Radio Dance,” of the August, 1922 *The Wireless Age*.

The next meeting is August 14, 2010.

Monthly Feature: Indoor Antennas.

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: September 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

Somehow, even during the summer doldrums, there is enough activity to fill up an issue of the *Call Letter*. Finding words to fill this space turns out to be much harder.

As you look through the photos from last month’s meeting, be sure to take note of the AK table set that President Dick Bixler showed for Cliff Tuttle, who was unable to attend the July meeting. That set is the subject of Cliff’s article about his missing AK model 555. As I told Cliff when he submitted the story, it’s always nice when a mystery has a happy solution.

Be sure to take note of the message from Vice-President Tony Hauser. It has important information about:

- the picnic planned for August 21, the week after the monthly meeting,
- the status of the new NWVRS caps
- plans for the November monthly feature

Mark Moore gives us an update on the continuing growth of the archives.

Finally, take a look at the back page where I briefly acknowledge the passing of veteran broadcast journalist, Daniel Schorr.

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 July 10, 2010 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:45 AM. He welcomed everyone to our meeting. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the June meeting and they were approved as printed in the July Call Letter. Jerry Hertel gave two CD's from Ron Kramer's talk to our library. John Bucholtz said that the library is doing well. Robert Stevens is a new Society member; members gave him a round of applause. Stu Oliver attended today as a guest; members gave him a round of applause. Liles told the group that Frank Olberding is doing well. There were 45 people at our meeting today.

Old Business

Swap Meet—Brian Toon said that approximately 25 tables are already sold.

New Business

Honorary Members—Jerry Hertel suggested that we make Craig Adams and Ron Kramer Honorary Members of our Society. It was moved and seconded that we do this. Members voted to approve the motion.

Society Picnic—Our Society Picnic will be on August 21 in the park in Oregon City.

ACVA Meeting—Dick and Liles attended the Aurora Colony Visitors' Association Spring marketing meeting on July 7. The ACVA asked if we could end our Swap Meet later in the day. Members discussed this idea, and then voted to end our Swap Meet at 3:00 PM. The group also voted to have a raffle of a radio at our Swap Meet.

Leads and Needs

Sonny Clutter has KGW Hoot Owl decals for sale. Dave Wise needs an audio output transformer for a Philco radio that has a push-pull output. Dan Howard told the group that Rian (Ed Charman's son-in-law) still has some radios for sale. Rian's phone number is (503)867-7621.

Program Topic

The Program Topic for today is "Your Spouse's Favorite Radio". Members showed and discussed the nine radios that they brought. The Program Topic for August will be "Indoor Antennas".

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

- 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)
- August 21** NWVRS Summer Picnic, 11 am to 3 pm, Atkinson Park, 1601 Jackson Street in Oregon City. Potluck — bring your own food and/or bring some to share.
- 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 Vice-President's Desk

by Tony Hauser

I wanted to take this opportunity to bring our members up to date on a few items I have been pursuing for The Society.

First, our summer picnic will take place Saturday, August 21st, the Saturday FOLLOWING our regular monthly meeting on the 14th, from 11am to 3pm at Atkinson Park in Oregon City. That name might sound familiar to some of our old-timers; it's the park where our former meeting place, The Buena Vista Club House, is located. For you newer members, it is located at 1601 Jackson Street in Oregon City. We have reserved the picnic shelter there and are planning on making the event a potluck where you can bring your own food and/or bring some to share. Bring a portable BBQ if you're so inclined. There is a restroom located in the park; however, it is normally locked. The Parks Department will loan the key to our group, with a \$25 refundable deposit, if one of us would be willing to pick up the key at the Parks Dept. office on Friday and return it on Monday. This is too far a journey for me, so if there is anyone that would not find this chore burdensome, please contact me.

Second, the "proofs" of our new NWVRS caps are finished. By the time you read this I will have already made any final adjustments to the design and submitted an order for our first batch. These will hopefully be available for sale at the August meeting. Also, I am currently waiting for the proofs of our knit shirts bearing our club logo. These will hopefully be ready for approval the first week of August and a batch hopefully ordered before the meeting. T-shirts are lagging behind because I need to finish a design for the screen-printing. The design needs to be in digital form in the exact desired color(s). Since the knit shirts and ball caps have embroidered logos we were able to get moving on these sooner.

Finally, I would still like to have a "Before and After" restoration display for our November meeting. Rather than make it a contest, I'd like to stick with a display. So remember to take a few "before" pictures of your favorite basket case prior to starting your restoration work! I know I have always enjoyed listening to members describe their stories of radio restorations, but we rarely get to see what they actually looked like before they tackled the project.

Thanks for your time and we'll see you at the August meeting!

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Members displayed these radios that are favorites of their spouses at the July meeting.



GE Century - Dan Howard



AK table set - Dick Bixler for Cliff Tuttle



Holiday - Rick Walton



Majestic Charlie McCarthy -
Dick Howard



Motorola Clock Radio - Bob Walters



Punchy - Brian Toon



Zenith Table Set - Larry Tobkin



Gilfillan - Sonny Clutter



Firestone - Mike McCrow



by Mark Moore, NWVRS Archivist

Since our last Archive Report, a few more items have been rounded up. Thanks again to Dick Bixler and Bob Campbell for continuing to find and contribute items for our Archives. We received several early newsletters and an 8x10 photo of United Radio Supply in Portland with 32 employees in front of the store from May 27, 1970. We also received an article from the Hillsboro Argus showing Jim Mason and his collection from November 3, 1981.

Also, we received a copy of a receipt from the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of Canada and a copy of a membership certificate from the Old Time Telegraphers and Historical Association for Willet E. Nash dated 1876.

Thanks for all the submissions of photos and articles to the Archives.

10% DISCOUNT

To all members in good standing of the
Northwest Vintage Radio Society
for any purchase from



BEAVERTON (503) 644-1025
7940 SW Nimbus Ave.

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

EUGENE (541) 345-2904
960 Conger St.

Please show your current
NWVRS membership card
to receive discount.

Roster Additions

- New member

John Gainsborough KM7LJ
8900 NE 13th St.
Vancouver, WA 98664
Tel: (360) 944-3693
E-mail: jgindc1@gmail.com
Communication receivers

- New honorary members:

Craig Adams
POP Box25296
Portland OR 97298-0196

Ronald Kramer
JPR Foundation
1250 Siskiyou Blvd.
Ashland OR 97520-5001

Mystery Solved!

by Cliff Tuttle

The mystery is solved! The lost is found! It is a brighter day!

My Atwater Kent 555 “treasure chest” has shown up after a 3 year separation.

So where did this start? Well, some of you might remember this article I posted in the April 2007 Call Letter:

March 2007

I have looked about everywhere...

It seems I am missing my Atwater Kent 555 (the treasure chest). What is really embarrassing about it is that the last time I remember seeing it, was at our October meeting (you can see a picture of it in our November Call Letter). I had brought a lot of stuff to that meeting, and got home with most items. Perhaps I left the car unlocked while making trips out to load it up? Perhaps I left the garage door open at home too long? Perhaps it is still out there in that garage of mine, though I have torn it up looking.

Anyway, this is a pretty important radio to me. This is the one that had been tole painted. I had put lots of hours into stripping it down and uncovering that wonderful inlay, and while not a great restoration, was one I was pretty proud of. This was one my kids might have kept around after I am gone...

If you run across it, please let me know. There is always the chance it has changed hands a time or two, and I am willing to buy it if someone locates it.

It can be recognized in a couple of ways. When it left me, the finish was OK but not exact. The family thought it looked great, but to those of you who really know how to refinish radios, it was not as even as I would have liked, and while I had dulled it down a bit, it still had a bit more glossy finish than appropriate. Also, the top metal plate (where the knobs stick thru) is a reproduction. The fake wood grain finish had a couple of very small bubbles, and was too dark to really match the finish I put on the box. Also, I had not gotten the decals on it, so you will not see the normal Atwater Kent printed on the top. If you get to the inside, you will see the replacement transformer is mounted on a couple of strips of aluminum (so I could avoid new hole in the chassis, incase I got around to having the original transformer rewound). I did put a fuse holder under the chassis, and the serial number on the chassis is 5061033.

So back to today:

While I was unable to attend our last meeting (July 2010), that Saturday morning, I did get a call from our President, who needed the number to call Judy, our contact with the Grange. When she arrived at the Grange, she brought out the Treasure chest radio, and asked if it might belong to one of us. As she later wrote to me...

... We knew it was of value to someone -- it sat on the counter for a while and on top of the clothes rack and finally we decided to put it away in the furnace room -- I thought of it on my drive out to the grange this morning -- so it was meant to be! Enjoy! ...

As I type this, the radio is in our president's possession. It sounds like the 555 and I will be reunited after all these years at our August meeting.

It is a pretty good bet I will not miss that meeting.

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

WANTED: Ray Vanderzanden needs 1-2 Meissner ant. Coil 7413
radiator1@verizon.net

WANTED: I'm looking for a chassis for an Atwater Kent cathedral model 84. Mark Moore

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>

The Back Page

by Rick Walton

Daniel Schorr 1916-2010

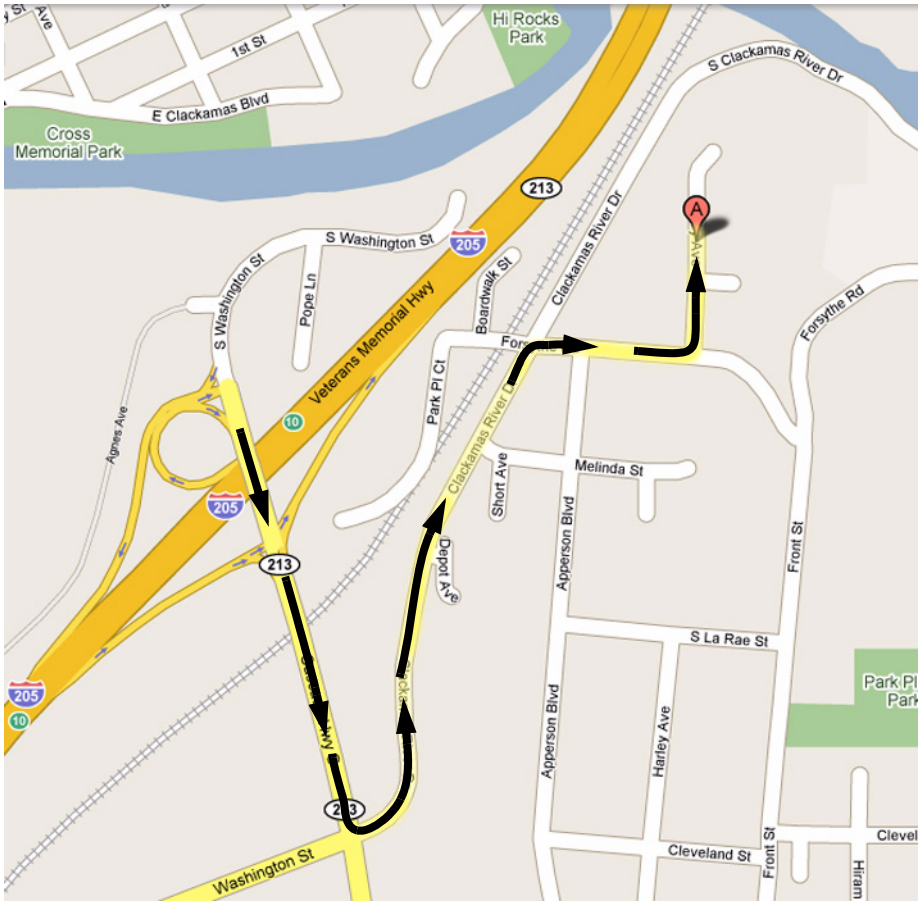
On July 23, veteran newsman Daniel Schorr passed away at age 93. He was still working for National Public Radio as their senior news analyst. NPR's website points out that Schorr was "the last of Edward R. Murrow's legendary CBS team still fully active in journalism."

I won't try to recount his biography here, nor his journalistic achievements and awards. Others have already done so more eloquently than I could hope to. But it seems only appropriate to mark the passing of another of broadcast journalism's greats.



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.