

*The*  
**Call  
Letter**

February, 2013  
Vol. 39 – No. 2



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**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 9TH @ 9:30!!!**

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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.

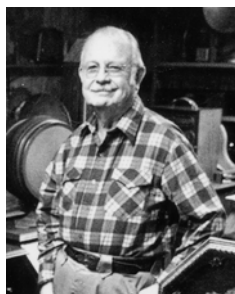
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 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 2013:

President	Sid Saul (503)869-5280	<a href="mailto:saulsidney@gmail.com">saulsidney@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	<a href="mailto:tranny53@frontier.com">tranny53@frontier.com</a>
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins	<a href="mailto:edtmp@Q.com">edtmp@Q.com</a>
Recording Secy	Charlie Kent (503)281-9335	<a href="mailto:radiogallerykent@qwestoffice.net">radiogallerykent@qwestoffice.net</a>
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# February 2013

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**On the cover:** George Kirkwood’s recently acquired Long Brothers model B-5 radio from the January meeting display.

**Monthly Feature:** Transistor Radios.

**Tech Talk:** First Commercial Transistor Radio: Regency TR-1 by Sid Saul.

Visit our web site at <http://nwvrs.com>  
 and on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/northwest-vintage-radio-society](http://www.facebook.com/northwest-vintage-radio-society)

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**Next Call Letter deadline: February 22, 2013**

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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.

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## **From The President**

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by President Sid Saul

Just a short note as I understand the Call Letter is jam-packed once again this month. As we head into 2013, let me just say that I look forward to working with each and every one of you. The club is here for you, not only to provide a venue for exchange of ideas and in helping our community, but more so a place where we can all have fun! Again, if there is anything I can for you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy 2013.

Sid

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## **Also From The President**

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by President Sid Saul

Dear Club Members,

I have just received word that grange chairman Judy Huey, wishes us to have the grange hall until 1:30 pm for our meetings. She will not rent the hall to other groups before that time unless she informs us otherwise. She values us highly as regular renters, and wants to help us in any way she can.

Due to increased business, and as our club continues to grow and expand, the board has voted to hold a special election at 9:30 am Feb 9th, 2013. All club membership in attendance will be asked to vote, that we commence the start of our regular meetings at 9:30 am and to end at noon. If the vote carries in the affirmative, the regular meeting will start, and future meetings will start at 9:30 am.

The extra time we have from adjournment at noon until 1:30 pm will be a much welcome addition to our club, as this will give us more social time in the comfort of our club house instead of the parking lot.

A special thank you to Mark Moore for getting in contact with Judy, and expressing our club's concerns to her.

Sid

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# January Meeting Minutes

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by Recording Secretary Charlie Kent

The January 19, 2013 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society was called to order by Outgoing President Mark Moore at 10:00 am. Guests attending the meeting were Harold Bussler, Curtis Beebe and Mark Dinsmore.

## Minutes

The minutes of the December 8, 2012 meeting as published in *The Call Letter* were approved with the correction of Dale Mathews of Memory Lane Motors **not** being deceased as reported by a member at the Christmas party.

## Treasurer's Report

Ed Tompkins gave an update on our accounts.

## Corresponding Secretary

Corresponding Secretary James Harper reported NWVRS is linked with American Radio Classified.

## OLD BUSINESS

Swap/Sale Coordinator Brian Toon indicated seven tables on the lower level of the Aurora American Legion Hall are available for purchase for the April 13, 2013 event.

All the radios on display at the Pittock Mansion event will be from George Kirkwood's collection. Dick Karman will provide all the sound loops.

The March 9, 2013 Don Iverson Award: A list of revisions of allowed items will be printed in February's *Call Letter* and will include (1) Must be tube radio or TV; and (2) Must be your own project.

## Merchandise

Shirts and caps are available; nametags can be ordered with a larger quantity receiving a better cost discount.

## Tech Talk

Rudy Zvarich gave a presentation on car radios. Meeting topics through the first half of 2013 are:

- February – Sid Saul: First commercial transistor radio, Regency TR1
- March – Mike McCrow: Restorations shown for Don Iverson Award
- April – Brian Toon: Swap/Sale at American Legion Hall in Aurora, OR
- May – Charlie Kent: The history of Catalin and Catalin repair
- June – Blake Dietze: Arvin Radio

### **Monthly Feature**

The monthly feature for January was Member's Choice. The monthly feature for February is '**Transistor Radios**'.

### **Leads and Needs**

Please submit a written list of your Leads and Needs to recording secretary Charlie Kent so accurate inclusion can be seen in *The Call Letter*.

Pat Hickman needs a 6LF6 tube. He is also selling radios.

Damon Vandehey has tubes for trade or sale.

Joe Fielding needs a 1N5 Wards tube.

Blake Dietze needs a Philco AM/FM coil. Contact Blake for type.

### **Good and Welfare**

The WRNO group sent a sympathy card to Glen McArthur.

### **Passing of the Gavel**

Past President Mark Moore passed the gavel to Incoming President Sid Saul.

Tony Hauser was given kudos for the great job he is doing on *The Call Letter*.

Kudos were also given to Robbie Robinson for his work with the Library, and Pat Kagi for his work as the Website Master and on the Membership Roster.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was voted on and passed that the Bylaws Committee will consist of:

George Kirkwood, Chair

Mark Moore

Blake Dietze

Tom Hoskins  
Charlie Kent

A report from that Committee will be presented at the February meeting. There were 57 members and guests in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

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## NWVRS Calendar of Events

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Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at [www.n7cfo.com/amJradio/hf/hf.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/amJradio/hf/hf.htm)

**February 9** NWVRS monthly meeting **9:30am**; tailgate swap 8:30.

**February 16** **Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet.** Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds.  
<http://www.w7sra.com>

**February 1 – July 8** **Pittock Mansion display. From Stereoscopes to Televisions: The Evolution of Home Entertainment.**  
<http://pittockmansion.org/events/from-stereoscopes-to-televisions-the-evolution-of-home-entertainment/>

**March 9** **Mike & Key Swap Meet** Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA.  
<http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

**March 9** NWVRS monthly meeting **TBD**; tailgate swap 8:30

**April 13** NWVRS **Spring Swap & Sale (new month!)** Times TBD

**May 11** NWVRS monthly meeting **TBD**; tailgate swap 8:30

**May 31 – June 2** **Sea-Pac Hamfest** Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, OR. <http://www.seapac.org/>

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# A Message From The V-P

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by Vice-President Mike McCrow

Here are the rules for the Iverson Craftmanship award for March 9th as were updated at the January meeting:

1. Restoration to have been done at any time.
2. Restoration to be performed by contestant only. Reproduction items such as dial lenses, dial faces, knob, radio backs, etc. are allowed.
3. Contestants may have a written, or give an oral explanation what was done to the radio to restore it. Pictures are allowed but not required.
4. A tech committee of five judges and one alternate shall preside over the competition.
5. Entries shall be judged on:
  - a. Cosmetic restoration and authenticity.
  - b. Electronic restoration and how it plays.
6. Each judge shall rate each entry on a 1 - 10 scale with 10 being the best possible for each category. The entry that receives the highest total will be declared the winner,
7. Tube radios only.
8. If a judge is entered in the contest he or she cannot vote on their own entry. The alternate will vote in their place.
9. The alternate judges score will determine the winner in the event of a tie.

The judges are:

George Kirkwood, Blake Dietze, Esteban Mendoza, Dave Wise, and Sonny Clutter, with Mike McCrow as alternate.





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# A Lasting Impression

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by Art Redman

The first time a regular parishioner heard a church service over the radio in 1922 he later telephoned the minister Dr. Ernest M. Stires. The gentleman along with his wife, who had to stay home because she was sick, “both thought it really more uplifting than if we had been in church. This was because the music, your sermon, and the prayers seem to come from the clouds.”

The service was picked up by nine microphones placed in different parts of the church from St. Thomas Episcopal Church in New York City and was carried by wire to Newark, New Jersey to be broadcast by radio station WJZ. The housebound couple also heard the organ playing, the singing of the choir and congregation and all the sounds of the church were faithfully preserved and transmitted even to the rustling of the dresses according to local newspaper accounts. Every faint telltale note that distinguished a congregation in church was heard; the occasional decorous whispers, the coughing and tuning up of voices as the congregation prepared to sing and the clink of silver during the offertory.

Also “cowboys and lumberjacks, the populations of poor houses and old people’s homes, farm hands and fishermen joined for the first time the ultra-fashionable congregation” in this nationwide broadcast.

The first time I saw a television broadcast it was not as awe inspiring to me as the two listeners who telephoned their minister about his sermon. I knew the television pictures were transmitted by KPTV on UHF channel 27 as my father told me in 1952 and not from the clouds. My mother and I took the St. Johns bus on the old Rose City Bus Company to the center of downtown Portland.

In the windows of the Meier and Frank Department store at Fifth and Alder there was a demonstration of television during the first weeks of October, 1952 on several television sets. (cont. on page 10)

# Photos: January Display & WRNO

Some of the items from the January “Members Choice” display and the final WRNO courtesy of our new staff photographer Chris Butler.



Extremely rare Superior Five made in Portland, OR. Dick Howard.

Dan Howard’s home-made “Bungalow” radio.



Brian Toon’s GE portables.

Alan Shadduck’s 1937 Rogers Majestic.



Myron White’s Swedish Portable.

Rudy Zvarich delivers Tech Talk on early automobile radio.



Tom and Rick look on in astonishment as Pat tests his final WRNO project and transports himself, and Esteban, into another dimension.



Blake accidentally brews a double-strength batch of coffee for WRNO's final night causing things to spiral out of control.

(cont. from page 7)

The show being broadcast was the Garry Moore Show. I recall Moore's crew cut and bow tie and someone named Durwood Kirby and not much else. I did not think much about it at the time until my uncle bought a television set the next year.

The first television show I enjoyed was the old Flash Gordon serials of the late 1930s. My aunt Katherine and Uncle Merritt who lived on NE 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Portland bought a new Capehart television receiver during the 1953 Christmas season and the first serial in the saga starring Larry "Buster" Crab was being broadcast.

The first one in my parents' neighborhood in North Portland to buy a television was Philip and Sarah Hanson. Their set was a Philco brand with a seventeen inch screen. The shows I enjoyed along with their six year old son were Sky King, and the local programming was Mr. Moon and Heck Harper. I never saw Uncle Milton who was the biggest television star at that time because at eight pm I was at home.

I wonder what technological marvel NWVRS members will remember seeing for the first time. My father A.W. Redman remembered seeing or rather hearing for the first time a "talkie motion picture" in the early 1930s. It was wonderful he told me hearing for the first time the crackling of a campfire while watching a western movie.

The first time I saw color television was Bonanza and Lorne Greene's face was half green. It did impress me at the time. Also I first saw high definition television at the Smithsonian Institute in 2001 and 3-D television at Costco several years later but their impact was not as great as seeing Garry Moore on television at the young age of five which probably explains why it made such a lasting impression after sixty years.

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# Play it Again Sam

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by David Wise

## General Dynamics R-1051/URR Part II (continued from January issue)

Other problems:

1. Intermittent – bad connector on one SMB cable from the Spectrum Generator.
2. IMC knob wasn't coupled correctly to the rotary switch.
3. Different AGC behavior between the two IF modules – just needed threshold/gain adjustment.
4. Hard of hearing on 2MHz band – align. Actually, about 1/3 of the coil slugs needed to be run in some. Sometimes I ran out of range, but was able to tack on extra capacitance.
5. Deaf on 12MHz band – bad solder joint.
6. Weak – shorted transistor in the 500Hz synthesizer. Replaced with 2N3906.
7. No symptom, 27.857MHz wavetrap impossible to align. Assembly error, wrong-value cap.
8. Weak 100kHz injection – Assembly error, forgot to solder a joint!
9. Intermittent – bad solder joint in 100kHz module.
10. No symptom – Assembly error, wrong transistor installed – NPN instead of PNP. No symptom because this transistor is responsible for turning off the AGC – a feature that was introduced in the R-1051D and therefore not present in my radio.
11. Intermittent – bad solder joint in the RF Translator.
12. Intermittent – bad inductor in the 500Hz synthesizer.

I could not find a part that equals the original's performance: a 150mh RF choke with a self-resonant frequency of 140kHz. Whoever made these found a really low-capacitance fabricating technique. Best I

could do was 100mh and 130kHz. Fortunately, this did fine.

Quite a laundry list, including several factory defects. Either my radio was a lemon, or the previous owner used it as a dumping ground for all his flaky modules. But the worst ones were all General Dynamics and the part numbers and date codes matched, so I think it really was a lemon. Not any more!

To do this work, I had to make up extension cables to allow me to operate a module away from its socket, but it proved impossible to make certain adjustments with the cable in place. Maybe it impaired the standing-wave ratio due to impedance mismatch, I don't know. I'd do most of the alignment on the cable, then put the module back in and manage the last bit with a very short screwdriver and other stuff removed.



500Hz synthesizer on extender cable    New inductor on 500Hz synthesizer

A couple of procedures turned out to be superfluous – peaking adjustments that wouldn't peak because the circuit was not resonant. I think the design was changed and the documentation didn't keep up.

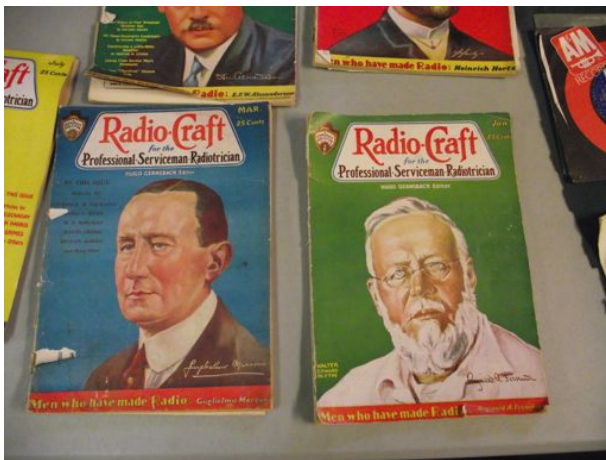
Unlike every other radio I've done, I made heavy use of my spectrum analyzer, together with its matching "tracking generator". Most synthesizer problems show up as a signal at some frequency that's either missing or at the wrong frequency. Many signals are just a few millivolts. It was necessary to sweep-align the various bandpass filters. Sometimes one setting on a particular decade knob was weak, and frequently this was because a filter was attenuating one of the end teeth on a comb.

In some cases, I found that the manual's procedure didn't work,

and I had to roll my own. The spectrum analyzer helped a lot.

Since it came to me as a naked chassis, I wanted some kind of cabinet. However, the radio had been dropped at some time, and the chassis was bent. It couldn't go in an original cabinet, plus they're over a hundred dollars. Forget that. I made my own, out of MDF. Just top, bottom, sides, and back, all held together with deck screws. I had to make several brackets, which gave my hacksaw, vise, hammer, drill press, and grinder a workout. Not my usual radio-repair tools! But it worked out okay. To install, you stand the chassis face-down on its handles, then lower the box onto it. The rear of the chassis has two holes, into which go pins protruding from the rear brackets. This supports the weight in back. The front panel fits inside the box opening, and you tighten the captive screws into spring nuts in the front brackets. I don't tighten them much, just snug. They don't support any weight, they just keep the chassis from sliding around. Attach connectors to the back of the chassis and it's done.

It's a great radio for SSB, and for AM broadcasts with a lot of fade. I run it in ISB mode, with the two sidebands going to left and right channels in my stereo headphones. The sound kind of swirls from side to side. I'll probably leave it parked on a single monitor frequency.



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# Radio Reception in the Oregon Caves

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by Art Redman

Experiments in the early 1920s radio reception took place in mines, caves, tunnels, and other underground caverns which are not considered favorable for reception and for what reason I cannot fathom. Maybe it was for the challenge or for their ten minutes of fame. After all, I am writing about the experiment eighty-eight years after it took place which took place in the Oregon Caves during the early evening of May 4, 1924.

In the innermost recesses of the Oregon Caves lies the Ghost Chamber which measures 40 feet high, 50 feet wide, and 520 feet long at an elevation of 4055 feet above sea level. The room was dripping with water and is located some 3300 feet back from the entrance and 1600 below the top of Grayback Mountain.

The radio set used was at the time was the most sensitive eight tube super-heterodyne. However, the make and model of the radio was never mentioned which is a shame. I would have like to know what manufacturer made this most sensitive superhetrodyne radio receiver in early 1924. Also it would have been a good marketing ploy for a Portland superhet radio manufacturer like Hallock and Watson or Thomas J. Langhorne to advertize that their sets were able to receive Portland radio stations inside Oregon's Halls of Marble.

The first experiments were tried with an aerial but no results were obtained because the floor of the room is a solid foundation of limestone saturated with water and an adequate ground rod could not be driven in the rock. Instead a Mu-rad loop antenna was connected.

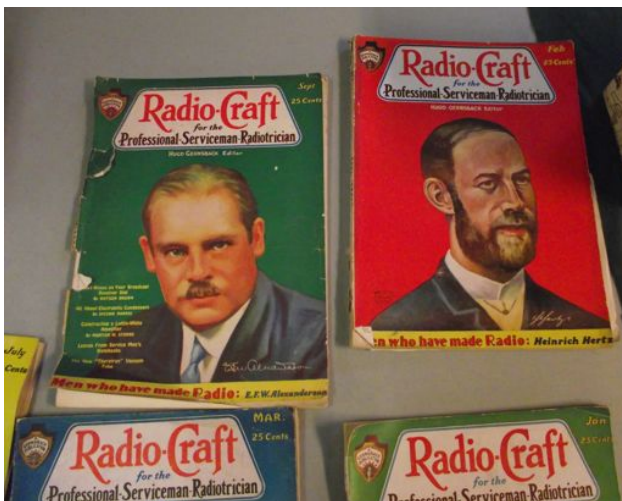
A loop antenna with directional sensitivity most likely contributed to their success in picking up ground waves. Although receiving ground waves over several hundreds in the relative higher frequencies of the standard broadcast band when compared to VLF and ELF bands is remarkable.



KGW was the first station picked up at 7:28 pm with a ball score heard and music by the live orchestra. Signals were weak on the speaker with good volume on the headphones. Other stations heard included CFCN of Calgary, Alberta.

On the loudspeaker there was better volume from Calgary than from Portland. Later in the evening KPO from San Francisco was heard. The best reception picked up was from the Hallock and Watson station KGG in Portland playing RCA Victor records. They also heard a woman speaker from KLX in Oakland, California and decided after ten minutes of listening to her it was time to disconnect the set which was done at 9:35 pm. No static was detected in the caves but fading was quite noticeable.

The experiment was witnessed by twenty-eight people including the senior class and their high school principal from Yreka, California whom were exploring the Oregon Caves at the time. The three radio experts running the show were Brice Rohrer, Edison Foulke Jr. and the man at the dial W.J. Virgin of Medford, Oregon who “succeeded in tuning in for the first time under these apparently impossible conditions” as reported by the magazine Popular Radio in their November 1924 issue.



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## Swap Shop

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*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:* Many Tubes New and Used – 30-day money back Warranty. For list visit [www.antiquetubesupply.webs.com](http://www.antiquetubesupply.webs.com). I can ship OR bring to club meetings. Damon Vandehey, (503) 459-1777.

## 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>

## 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](mailto:brucebaur@comcast.net)

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, [wb6jhi@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6jhi@ix.netcom.com) - Full Service Shop

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Pat Hickman – (503) 887-9015 Web: [www.classictubeaudio.com](http://www.classictubeaudio.com)

Email: [phickman@comcast.net](mailto:phickman@comcast.net)

Jim Myers – (509) 525-6264

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

Email: [burltv@msn.com](mailto:burltv@msn.com)

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

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, [david\\_wise@phoenix.com](mailto: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.

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## Tuned Into: Charlie Kent

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In 1993 while watching singer/actor Chris Isaak's 'Baja Sessions', I zeroed in on a small leather covered portable radio. For some reason it struck me as the coolest looking little radio. After I attended my first swap meet and became hooked on antique radio, it took me a couple of years to find that 'coolest looking little radio', a Nordmende Clipper. Actually I found two of the same model, one each in maize and green. I ended up giving one to Chris, and he autographed the other one for me.



Charlie, wife Wendy, and Chris Isaak when they first met 12 years ago and Charlie presented Chris with the green Nordmende Clipper featured in Chris's Baja sessions.

This photo is part of my website: [AntiqueRadioCollectors.com](http://AntiqueRadioCollectors.com). It's like a club member (Jim Mason) once told me, "I never met a radio I didn't like". I do prefer the 30's and 40's Catalin, plaskon and wood, but most types of radios can be found in my collection.

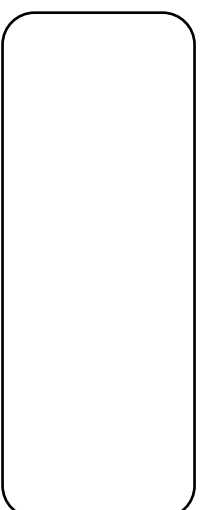
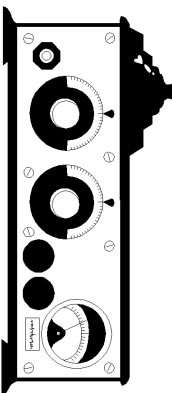
I've been a self-employed painting contractor for 26 years, and I'm an amateur musician with my own garage band. NWVRS positions I've held include three years as President, a number of years as the Swap Meet/Sale organizer, and currently as Recording Secretary.

The maize Nordmende Clipper signed by Chris Isaak for Charlie.





**NW Vintage Radio Society  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**