

The
**Call
Letter**

*December, 2013
Vol. 39 – No. 12*



NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 14TH @9:30AM

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	saulsidney@gmail.com
Vice-President	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	tranny53@frontier.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins	edtmp@Q.com
Recording Secy	Charlie Kent (503)281-9335	radiogallerykent@qwestoffice.net
Corresponding Sec'y	Jim Harper (503)538-8738	JLHarperclan@aol.com
Board member at large	Mark Moore (503)286-5224	mark@pdxhistory.com
Call Letter Editor	Tony Hauser (503)438-0297	abhauser@aol.com
Librarian	Robert Robinson (503) 255-3585	srrobins@comcast.net

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On the cover: The NWVRS’s very first President, Harley Perkins, and his wife pay us a visit at the November meeting.

Monthly Feature: Election of Officers for 2014. Holiday Party. No monthly feature.

Visit our web site at www.nwvrs.com
and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NWVRS

Next Call Letter deadline: January 2, 2014

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.

Sunny 1550 Ad

**...it's always
a Sunny Day at...**



NWVRS Calendar of Events

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

The PSARA monthly meeting information comes from The Horn of Plenty.

- December 8** PSARA monthly meeting (**SECOND SUNDAY!**)
Award ribbons.
- December 14** NWVRS Holiday Party 10am; Election of 2014
Officers.
- January 11** NWVRS Annual Meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- January 19** PSARA monthly meeting 11:30am; Best Radio.
- February 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 15** Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet
Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds.
www.w7sra.com
- February 16** PSARA monthly meeting 11:30am; Boat Anchors.
- March 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 8** Mike and Key Swapmeet Puyallup, WA fairgrounds
exhibition hall. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>
<http://www.mikeandkey.org/FLYER2014.pdf>
- March 16** PSARA monthly meeting 11:30am; Best Portable
Radio. Membership Directory released.

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

by Charlie Kent, Recording Secretary

President Sid Saul called the November 9, 2013 annual nomination meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 am. The pledge of allegiance was performed.

Guest

Past and the First President on NWVRS, Harley Perkins, was introduced and rejoined the club. Bill Malloy's granddaughter attended with Bill.

Good and Welfare

Brian Gibson is doing better and will be back soon. Ray Nelson successfully completed back surgery. Gordon Phillips has moved to Henderson, NV and will be back to visit us when it's warm.

Education Committee

Vice President Mike McCrow displayed the movie screen that was purchased, and noted we are looking for a cart for our projectors. Mike noted we have lots of new equipment, including a transparency projector. Blake Dietze offered to supply the expensive and hard-to-find transparencies to the club.

Recording Secretary

Charlie Kent asked for a motion to approve the September 14, 2013 meeting minutes as they appeared in *The Call Letter*. A motion was made to accept, seconded and approved.

Website

Pat Kagi reported no new website news, but is trying to gather up photos from previous swap sales. He gave an update on the Zenith radio donated by William Barnett, which Dick and Dan Howard are trying to locate the family who owned it.

Corresponding Secretary

James Harper reported the New Jersey Antique Radio Club is having their annual sale on November 23rd and he forwarded the information to the Google group.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Tompkins gave the Treasurer's Report. We are entering dues season, and Ed is collecting funds.

Leads and Needs

Leads and Needs are to be written or submitted by email to the Recording Secretary for publication.

Merchandise

NWVRS shirts are available for \$22-23 – see Charlie for sizes available. We have NWVRS hats for sale at \$10 each; and magnetic-backed nametags can be ordered upon payment. Orders of 6 or more receive a discount from the \$13.50 each price.

Roster

Thanks goes to Dick Karman for making the roster happen. Pat Kagi and Tony Hauser also played a role in their becoming existent. Tony Hauser distributed rosters to those present at the meeting, and will mail the remaining copies. Club photographer Chris Butler needs to take photos for next year's roster, so see him to have your picture taken.

Call Letter

Next year will be Tony's last year as *The Call Letter* editor. Someone has shown an interest in taking on the role, with more to come on this. Tony thanked those who submitted articles, and noted California Historical Radio Society will share articles.

Old Business

Mark Moore previously gave a report on the Club House break-in last December. The trial of the two identified individuals responsible has been postponed, with no word on our trophy. Discussion ensued on compensating Mark for his time away from work to represent NWVRS on the break-in.

Lee Jensen stated he had a good time in Aurora at the swap sale, and thanked Brian Took and others for putting on the event. Earlier in the meeting Sid thanked Brian, and thanked Ed Tompkins for also staying to help clean up.

Discussion of the October Aurora Swap Sale was tabled until January 2014.

Monthly Feature

Swap Meet Acquisitions of 2013 were displayed and described.

A vote established the January monthly feature will be **Clock Radios**.

Other suggestions for vote were Tube Receivers and Amplifiers (carried over); Unusual Radio Design; Farm Radios; and Metal Radios.

Library

Joe Beseda suggested our library of 250-300 books and periodicals moved to the Club House. The Grange Board approved our bringing a 7'3" tall, 7' wide, 7-shelf metal cabinet that will be adhered to the wall to the rear of our meeting room. Discussion ensued resulting in a membership vote approving the action, with no descending votes.

Christmas Party

Mike McCrow announced our Christmas Party on December 14th begins at 10:00 AM. The Club House doors will be open at 8:00 AM. The Club will supply ham and drinks, and members are encouraged to bring their favorite dish to the event. We'll be sure to clean up and be cleared out by 1:30 PM when the next group is scheduled.

Nominations

A membership approval vote was made for the following slate of 2014 officers:

President – Sid Saul

Vice President – Mike McCrow

Recording Secretary – Charlie Kent

Treasurer – Ed Tompkins

Corresponding Secretary – Wendy Johnson-Kent

There were 46 members and guests in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

Tech Talk

Sid asked members to volunteer with 2014 Tech Talk presentations. He will be presenting in January.

George Kirkwood gave a well-received presentation on the First Thermionic Diode and Early DeForest Audion.

Auction

An auction of radio-related items donated to the club by Suzie Moore of Vancouver followed the meeting. Proceeds from the sale went to the Education Fund.



November Display Photos

by Staff Photographer Chris Butler

November's display of swap meet finds and auction items.



November Display Photos



Sid Saul



Restoring Magic Eye Tubes: Sadder But Wiser

By Ludwell Sibley

Reprinted with permission. From the June 2008 edition of Tube Collector. Continued from Part I in the November Call Letter.

Part II

I suggest a different, less hopeful, theory for tube dimness: contamination of the glowing target. The target coating in eye tubes is willemite (zinc orthosilicate, Zn_2SiO_4) activated with a bit of manganese [4]. This is the classic "P1" phosphor of oscilloscope tubes. The material is subject to eventual poisoning from electron bombardment or metal molecules (probably barium from the cathode) in the vacuum. RCA's internal life-testing instructions for eye tubes referred to the "falling off of illumination from the burnt (emphasis added) portion of the crater" [5]. Used 6E5s and other crater-type tubes routinely show a permanent shadow in the crater when viewed in strong light.

By contrast, if lack of emission were the culprit, that would show up easily on the tube tester: just run the heater up to, say, 9 volts and look for more brightness. Cooking at 12 volts for 30 seconds or so would probably then help the tube "permanently." I've never seen such an encouraging sign.

Evidence of contaminated targets comes from examining any used 6AL7GT eye tube. In these, the target is a mica disc coated with the phosphor. The disc is bombarded from the rear and the light passes forward. Old 6AL7s universally have a rectangular dark patch burned into the center of the target, representing the area of glow in day-to-day operation. The rest of the target can be made to glow brightly, but the dark patch remains dim. It's not a case of the phosphor becoming opaque - viewing the tube in operation from the rear, the dark area is not glowing at all.

I tried a couple of ways to reactivate the target. Heating the targets of 6E5s or 6U5s with a photo "sun gun" got the tube quite hot but didn't bake out any impurities from the target. Running a 6AL7 for 100 hours

at 400 volts, with grid biased positive to give a beam current of 20 mA, didn't help the dark patch.

There is a certain amount of conventional wisdom on the topic of dim eyes. Standard advice is to check the 1-meg resistor in the tube socket - it has usually increased in value and may even have gone open. Rewiring the plate of the eye tube from the usual B+ line (250 volts or so) to the cathode of the rectifier (300 volts or thereabouts) helps the glow, at the cost of ultimate weakening of the tube. But I fear that rejuvenating eye tubes is a vain hope. If someone knows better, this would be a good forum to share the knowledge!

REFERENCES

1. P. J. Bourbin, "Rejuvenating Tuning Eye Tubes," *Antique Radio Classified*, Aug. 1990, p. 9.
2. J. Farago, "More on Rejuvenating Tuning eye Tubes," *A. R. C.*, Feb. 1991, pp. 16-17.
3. S. Wrenn and J. Farago, letters, *A. R. C.*, May 1991, p. 20.
4. H. W. Kaufmann, "Luminescent Materials," in *Vacuum Tube Design* (Harrison, NJ: RCA Mfg. Co., 1940), pp. 51-52.
5. Standardizing Notice 23-4-12, 6-7-38, in Dowd-RCA archive, a holding of the AWA Museum).

Note on Dimming of Magic Eyes

by Peter Keller

Reprinted with permission. From the June 2012 edition of *Tube Collector*.

Your article on restoring magic eye tubes was interesting and fits my observations. I ran some experiments with CRT aging in the 1960s. It rapidly became apparent that phosphor aging was primarily a function of current density (Coulomb aging). Even though a constant power density was maintained, aging occurred much faster at high current and low voltage than low current and high voltage. I would expect the same for magic eyes. *(continued on page 16)*

The Aspiring Radiotrician

by President Sid Saul

Some Just Too Hot to Handle

Another enjoyable evening spent listening to some wonderfully restored radios owned by club treasurer, Ed Tompkins. One radio in particular, a tightly cramped Crosley Super Six wood tabletop. Ed made a comment that maybe the power transformer “runs a little warm.”

We had previously found an underwriters-engineering requirement dating back to the 1940’s limiting the maximum temperature rise for power transformers to about 73 degrees F (above ambient). His radio room is unheated at 60 degrees. Armed with the above numbers, the top of the transformer shouldn’t be higher than 133 degrees F once the temperature stabilizes. This can easily be checked with an infrared and/or digital thermometer, we having neither. We did have a digital ohmmeter. Like most metal conductors, ohmic resistance increases with a rise in temperature. As a side note, most insulators drop resistance with increasing temperature. An old radio trick to determine temperature rise is to take the resistance of the cold transformer primary, usually about five to fifteen ohms. A convenient place to measure is at the power plug. Ed recommended I unplug the radio from the wall first. I decided to heed his advice, just for once!

Upon turning the power switch on, we measured the cold primary at 8.7 ohms. We played the radio for about an hour at normal listening levels to ensure a more accurate test. After unplugging the set, we measured the warm primary at the plug now at 10.5 ohms. Old radio literature gave us the formula for transformer temperature rise:

(Hot divided by cold resistance. Subtract the numeral 1 from the result, then multiply by 235). We determined the primary winding had risen almost 50 degrees F, still beneath the maximum of 73 degrees, yet higher than all the other larger table radios we measured. A handy little test wouldn’t you say?

So until next time, from your Aspiring Radiotrician. Sid.

Our People

by Dick Karman

Years ago there was a column in the CALL LETTER entitled "Our People" and it told of happy things like marriages, babies coming into the world, and new houses. It also told members about grief and folks passing away.

Here's a recent edition of OUR PEOPLE:

We haven't seen or heard much from our honorary member and radio historian Craig Adams lately. Here's why.

Craig has been caring for his aging mother since she suffered a fall back in June. With the loss of use of her arm (broken bones) Craig and his sister alternated giving her 24 hour a day, 7 day a week care. This kept on until an August doctor's appointment that revealed her bone had degenerated instead of healed.

Craig and his sister began another bout of 24/7 care to recover from the surgery that replaced the broken bone. I communicated with Craig several times and each time, I could tell his strength was failing him, but his resolution to care for his mother was not going to fail. The level of care she needed persuaded Craig and his sister to place mother in a care facility for a month of rehabilitation.

On September 11, mother was again moved back home. But she was still unable to care for herself. Consequently Craig was again one of two primary caregivers with no rest in sight. Falls and injuries plagued Craig's mother and doctors recognized failures in her cardio-vascular system. Late in September they celebrated mother's 89th birthday. A hospital stay at St. Vincent's and a move to another nursing home, convinced her that she was not going to be able to go home again. She had decided that she was ready to pass from this world and gave up taking nourishment.

Craig's mother passed away of congestive heart failure on November 18 with her children holding her hands and praying with her.

Craig knew it was the right time and that it was God's plan for his mother and for his own health.

I appreciate Craig's commitment to his faith and his commitment to his family. I offer our condolences and hope that Craig is able to recover his own health and strength in the wake of the last 5 months. We'll look forward to seeing him again when he is able to attend a Society meeting.



George Kirkwood giving his final Tech Talk to attendees at the November meeting

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: *Still in the process of selling off my collection. Items include Rola mini-console, 1929 Bosch lowboy with Bosch brochure from Hallock&Watson store in Portland, Bendix catalin, A-K 67 battery set with matching F-7 speaker, Philco record-eater, tube and transistor portables, US and foreign table sets, 5 boxes of tubes, wood cathedral speakers, etc. Pics and descriptions emailed on request. Can bring items for interested parties to meetings. Tony Hauser, abhauser@aol.com, 503-438-0297.

FOR SALE: *I need to finally sell my radio collection. I am using a walker now and have some difficulty getting around and I cannot lift anything of very much weight. I have about 100 radios from the 20's through plastics in the 50's. I have one Catalin in perfect condition, several cathedrals, battery sets, consoles, and chassis of different years including several containing globe tubes. I have a supply of radio knobs including some for Catalin and Zenith radios, some very nice speakers, and other miscellaneous items such as Abbotwares radios and tube checkers. Be sure to call before you come down to see me. Glen Bricker, 1425 Daugherty Ave, Apt. #4, Cottage Grove, OR. 541-942-3717.

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. I can ship OR bring to club meetings. Damon Vandehey, (503) 459-1777.

FOR SALE: Amplitrex professional tube testing at reasonable rates. Curve tracing, plate current matching, noise testing and highly accurate Gm readings. Adds value to high-value tubes!
robertwstephens@frontier.com.

FOR SALE: 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>

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(Note on Dimming of Magic Eyes continued from p. 11)

Operating the tube at the highest anode voltage and reducing the cathode current would reduce aging, and since brightness usually increases rapidly with small increases in anode voltage, it permits even greater reduction in current for longer life. This would probably work best with a tube having completely separate amplifier and indicator sections or something like a 6AF6. I believe the reason for Coulomb aging is that as the voltage is increased there is greater penetration into the phosphor and the heating of the phosphor and light emission occur over a greater volume of the phosphor crystals rather than just the surface. Also any surface contamination such as from barium becomes less of a factor since the electrons more easily penetrate the contamination layer.

You and your family are invited to
the NWVRS Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 14th

at The Abernathy Grange Hall

15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City.

Brief Meeting: 9:30am Party: immediately after

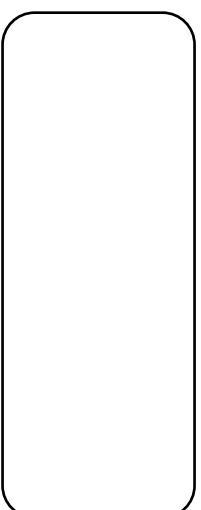
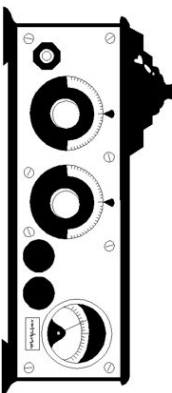
There will be no radio display.

Next regular radio display at the Jan. meeting.

Please bring **one** of the following:

your favorite **salad, casserole, or vegetable dish,**
or your favorite dessert.

NW Vintage Radio Society
P.O. Box 82379
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