

The

Call Letter

January, 2014
Vol. 40 – No. 1



President
Sid Saul



Vice-President
Mike McCrow



Treasurer
Ed Tompkins



Recording Secretary
Charlie Kent



Corresponding Secretary
Wendy Johnson-Kent



Member-at-Large
Mark Moore

YOUR

2014

NWVRS

BOARD

OF

DIRECTORS

Now Celebrating our 40th year in print!

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 11TH @10AM

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
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Board member at large	Mark Moore (503)286-5224	mark@pdxhistory.com
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January 2014

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On the cover: Your 2014 Board of Directors.

Monthly Features: Display of clock radios. Tech Talk on speaker repair/reconing. Auction of donated items most of which are great condition clock radios.

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

Next Call Letter deadline: January 30, 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...**



From The Editor

By *Call Letter* editor Tony Hauser

I wonder how many of you realize that January marks the beginning of The Northwest Vintage Radio Society's 40th year! It all started, officially, in Oregon City back in January of 1975 when our charter members met to determine the Constitution of the new "society" (others wanted to refer to us as a "club" initially).

This issue of The Call Letter marks the beginning of a year-long celebration with what I hope will be monthly articles focusing on our history and members. Ten years ago, Dick Karman published "The Northwest Vintage Radio Society: Looking Back 30 Years" with the help of Art Redman, Rick Walton, and Alan Shadduck. It included articles on the history of most of our traditions dating back to the Society's beginnings. We will be reprinting many of these articles in The Call Letter, with recent updates, over the next twelve months. We hope our members find these articles informative and interesting.

The January issue also marks the first installment of a Letters to The Editor section. If you have any question, concerns, kudos, etc. or just want to let our membership know what you've been doing or to share information then it will be included in Letters to The Editor.

I have not received any new articles for the Tuned Into... section in the last few months. Please start sending these in again so I do not have to leave the back page of upcoming issues blank.

One last reminder; your 2014 membership renewals are now due. This means if you do not pay your dues soon you run the risk of your subscription running out. Don't let that happen!

Remember, the dial stops here.

Tony

Letters to The Editor

It has recently come to my attention that malicious untrue rumors started to be spread about me many years ago and continue. Those rumors were that I accepted free radios, at least once, while I was NWVRS President that were meant for the Club. Never at any time have I accepted radios under these conditions. Radios were given to me on rare occasion as an individual with, as a clear condition, the radios were not going to NWVRS.

In May of 1999 the *Oregonian* printed an article telling and showing my radio collection. The article did not come about through connection with NWVRS. I did receive phone calls following the article, most of which were asking values on the caller's radios. There were radios that I bought always with the clear understanding that I as an individual was buying the radio without it being connected to NWVRS.

Charlie Kent, Recording Secretary



THIS IS WHAT
LIFE IS LIKE IN
VEGAS.

This photo was in a casino showing the Rat Pack imitators with Dean Martin, Sammy Davis JR, Frank Sinatra, and Marilyn Monroe.

The other lady is my friend Hilda who came to visit for a week. The establishment took pictures. Of course they charged for the pictures. They pick out someone in the audience to have fun with. It was me. Merry Christmas to all.

Gordon Phillips

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.

- January 11** **NWVRS Annual Meeting** 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Display: clock radios. Tech Talk: speaker
repair/reconing. Auction: donated items.
- 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.
- April 10** **NWVRS Spring Swap Meet and Sale.** Aurora, OR
American Legion Hall.

December Party

Photos by Recording Secretary Charlie Kent



V-P Mike McCrow and wife Janet



Board members Charlie Kent and James Harper

December Party



President Sid Saul and wife Belen



Jeff LaDoe, Rudy Zvarich, and Dick Karman

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

by Charlie Kent, Recording Secretary

President Sid Saul called the December 14, 2013 meeting and holiday party of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:45 am and welcomed approximately 75 in attendance.

With the winding down of another year and all of us getting just a little bit older, I want to take a moment to reflect on being thankful for NWVRS friendships. It was wonderful to have so many members in attendance and this year could be a record number in spouse attendance. We've had many long-time friends pass in recent years who we'll always remember.

Election of 2014 Board

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nominated Board by acclamation and was approved. 2014 NWVRS Officers are: President – Sid Saul; Vice President – Mike McCrow; Recording Secretary – Charlie Kent; Treasurer – Ed Tompkins; and Corresponding Secretary – Wendy Johnson-Kent.

The newly elected Board members stood and received applause. Outgoing Corresponding Secretary James Harper was thanked for his two years of service on the Board and was given a round of applause.

Tech Talk

Mike McCrow announced in January Ron Jackson of J. Mack Company will give a demonstration on speaker repair, which includes reconing. Sid Saul will be giving the Tech Talk in February.

Christmas Party

The holiday brunch followed, with door prize drawings orchestrated by James Harper. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all with new and old friends. As always, there was a wide variety of nutritious fare, accom-

panied by goodies of every description. Sid Saul thanked and applause was given to Brian Snawder for providing the linens, plates and silverware; to Pat Kagi for the poinsettia centerpieces; to Liles Garcia for the hams; to Charlie and Wendy Kent for the drinks and donating the vintage clock radio door prize; and to Mike and Janet McCrow for picking up and bringing the linens, plates, and silverware, and for purchasing and creating the party favors that included a NWVRS pen and letter opener. Special thanks and applause was given to the kitchen staff ladies for their work.

Mike McCrow thanked Rudy Zvarich for his early morning coffee, and Jeff LaDoe who helped with table set up and take down of the event. Both were given a hardy round of applause.

Recording Secretary

Charlie Kent asked for a motion to approve the November 9, 2013 meeting minutes as they appeared in *The Call Letter*. A motion was made to accept, seconded and approved.

Library

Robbie Robinson noted 250 books are now housed in a 7-shelf cabinet along the Club House's East wall with an alphabetical sheet of the content order. The list will be published on our website. Treasurer Ed Tompkins was thanked with applause for taking a day off from work to put up the cabinet and bolt it to the wall.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Tompkins reported all accounts are solvent. The Grange reimbursed the club for the loss of the Iverson trophy. 2014 dues should be given to Ed.

Good and Welfare

Steve Berglund has been suffering from vertigo. Glen Bricker is in a nursing home. Gordon Phillips, as his picture in *The Call Letter* reflects, is doing well in Nevada.

Roster

Chris Butler could not attend the meeting, but several photos were taken and sent to Tony Hauser for the next roster update. If you still need your photo taken, or would like a different photo included, see Chris Butler.

Monthly Feature

January's monthly feature will be **Clock Radios**.

More Thanks

Dick Karman should receive special kudos for his Christmas radio program that started at 11:05 am and continued throughout the meal. His program made the Christmas Party come together lending a wonderful holiday spirit to the event. **Thank you Dick!**

The party wrapped up and we were out the door at 12:10 pm.

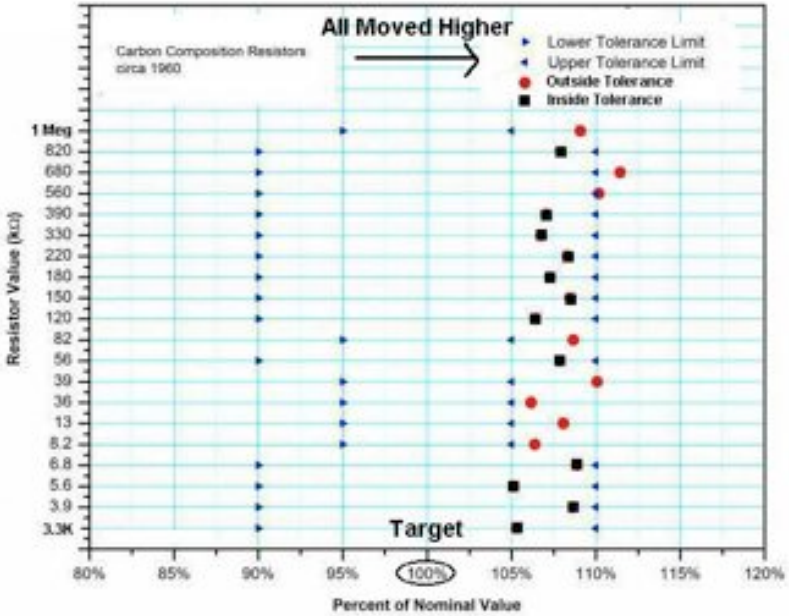


The Aspiring Radiotrician

by President Sid Saul

Resistors “Movin’ On Up”

This month finds yours truly working on a very simple and useful constant current regulator consisting of just a few Radio Shack (RS) parts. A project I will bring to light in a future article and tech-talk. I truly hope that you will find this interesting and useful for your bench. The problem was that it required a resistor of exactly 12.5 ohms, with the smallest error not acceptable. The closest value at RS was a half watt -10 ohm carbon film. So how was I to increase the resistance value precisely? I used an old radio trick often seen with carbon composites, but I had never attempted this with the modern film type before. One must start with a resistor that is below the desired value. Then using a small file remove an area near the center, all the while monitoring the resistance with a very accurate meter. With every stroke of the file, resistance climbs as if by magic. I started with a RS resistor five-pack throwing out the first four due to my overzealous filing. A cursed trait I carry with me to this day! Things happen fast when dealing in thousandths of an ohm, the often not seen milliohm. Like yourselves, I have tested many new modern metal and carbon film resistors, most reading just under their rated value(s). After some investigation it turns out the manufacturing process puts out blanks just slightly below target followed by (you guessed it) a filing process using diamonds or lasers. When seeing the tolerance band rising within limits the filing stops. This method is much more cost effective than producing a zero error resistor, and so helps explain why we seldom see a carbon film or metal film above the nominal value. As you are aware, the old carbon composite resistors climb in value over time. The theory is that moisture expands the composite material separating the carbon particles, hence higher resistances. Baking in the oven may temporarily bring the value back to rated, but not lasting.



Testing several hundreds of 1960 NOS composites reveals to this investigator that errors show no correlation to nominal values as they all climbed together. I strongly suspect that in another 54 years they will all be out of tolerance! So stay tuned for my follow-up report due in the January 2064 Call Letter.

From your ever faithful Aspiring Radiotrician.
Sid

Looking Back

by charter member Art Redman

Naming the Society as Remembered in 2003

Harley Perkins wrote To Those Devoted To The Preservation and Restoration of Old Radios on January 11, 1975 on the selection of the club's name that *"No doubt there will 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 someone really cares about that old relic they want to get rid of. Yes that's a tall order for a brief simple name."*

These were challenging words by our first president Harley Perkins. Bob Bilbie originally wanted the name Radio Club of America. The problem was that Bob later found that an existing club located in Kentucky took that name. Tom James always wanted or liked the term "Vintage Radio" to refer to the Golden Age of radio before television. Remember, in 1975 few people collected transistor radios, televisions, catalin radios or other plastic sets. The name "Vintage" needed to be included in the name.

One other concern was how big an area should the club include. Definitely it should be bigger than Oregon and there was a need to welcome collectors north of the Columbia River. Why not the whole state of Washington and include Idaho for good measure? Why not the entire Northwest? Some people thought it might conflict with the original Northwest Territories in the early 1800s known as the five states including Ohio but that view was dropped. To include Pacific Northwest seemed too long to me and was eliminated. Our goals were big since we were one of the first unlike the Association limiting itself to Puget Sound.

Bob Bilbie never liked the term “Society” when I mentioned it to him. He wanted to belong to a “club not a society.” I got society from the Oregon Historical Society. It had the right “highbrow” ring. Two other names were also submitted which I do not remember, at the first meeting, which I missed on February 8, 1975 when the name was picked. One of the other choices had the term “Historical”. I was happy to see the name Northwest Vintage Radio Society for the first time on our second monthly newsletter.

Later Mark Moore came up with the name Call Letter for the newsletter. But that’s another story.

A Letter from The Vice-President

By Vice-President Mike McCrow

Don't forget our annual Don Iverson craftsmanship award competition is coming again in March. Get your favorite restoration ready to enter. The rules are the same as last year, any tube radio that you have restored yourself, either recently or from the past can be entered. Before pictures are allowed, but not required. A description of what you did to restore the set might help, but again is not required. Judging will be the same, one through ten scale on cosmetic restoration, as well as electronic. Lets get those beauties out so we can all enjoy them March is just around the corner.

This years judges are:

- Bruce Baur
- Dick Bixler
- Liles Garcia
- Tom Hoskins
- Brian Toon
- with the alternate judge Sid Saul

Mike

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.

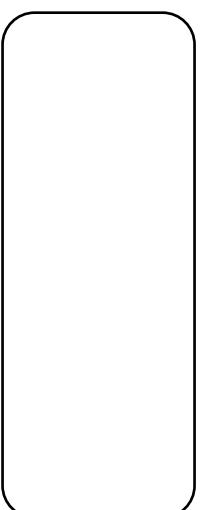
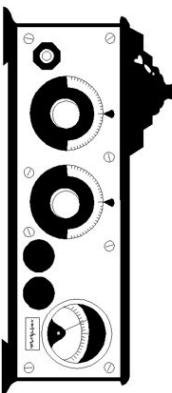
FOR SALE: Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit Radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photos, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get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

on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

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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