

*The*

# *Call Letter*

June 2017

Vol 43, #6



**Felix The Cat Crystal Set**

# 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.

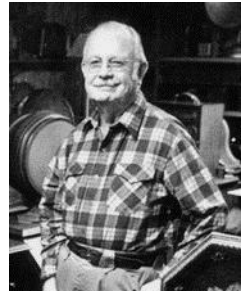
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 9:30 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 2016:

President	Pat Kagi (360) 694-6149	<a href="mailto:kagi.pat@con-way.com">kagi.pat@con-way.com</a>
Vice President	Brian Wegener (nnn) nnn-nnnn	<a href="mailto:spudweg@gmail.com">spudweg@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	<a href="mailto:edtomp@Q.com">edtomp@Q.com</a>
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	<a href="mailto:landn2@frontier.com">landn2@frontier.com</a>
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	<a href="mailto:mark@pdxhistory.com">mark@pdxhistory.com</a>
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639	<a href="mailto:tranny53@frontier.com">tranny53@frontier.com</a>
Librarian	Damon Vandehey (503) 459-1777	
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson	<a href="mailto:vanguard4@lycos.com">vanguard4@lycos.com</a>

## On the Cover

George Kirkwood's Felix The Cat Crystal Set

Photography by Dan Howard

---

## June Table of Contents

Announcements.....	1
NWVRS Meeting Minutes by Liles Garcia .....	2
Calendar of Events .....	3
Monthly Feature: Your Favorite Plastic Radios.....	4
Halowat in 1925: The TR-5 year (ad only) by Art Redman .....	6
Mystery Solved by Sid Saul.....	7
Editorial by Dick Karman .....	9
NWVRS Auction Policy .....	11
1925 Homebrew Radio Article from the Oregonian – Art Redman ....	12

---

## Announcements

NWVRS has an opportunity to participate in the Maker Faire at OMSI on September 16-17. If you would like to volunteer to share your knowledge with the public and get more people interested in NWVRS, contact Brian Wegener at [spudweg@gmail.com](mailto:spudweg@gmail.com) or 503-936-7612.

## June Meeting

Our June meeting will be on June 10 and starts at 9:30 AM. The Program Topic for our June meeting will be "Foreign Radios". Charlie Kent will be having an auction at the Eagles Lodge on Saturday as well.

## Editor's Note

Please have next month's Call Letter Contributions in by **June 24**

**>>> We need a volunteer to photograph monthly feature items <<<**

---

Visit our web site at:

[www.nwvrs.com](http://www.nwvrs.com)

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/nwvrs](http://www.facebook.com/nwvrs)

---

## **NWVRS Meeting Minutes -- May 13, 2017**

President Pat Kagi called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Everybody present pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. Carl Schultz attended today as a guest. Liles Garcia gave an update on the Vintage Tek Museum. Members voted to donate \$200.00 to the Museum. Jeff LaDoe volunteered to be our new librarian.

Brian Wegener told the group about the OMSI Maker's Faire. Our Society can participate in this event if we would like to. Brian will need some members to help him with this. Charlie Kent told the group that Radio Station KKSX 97.1 will be our new radio broadcast partner. He also mentioned that our April Electronic Sale was very successful. Having the Unipiper at our Sale brought in more people. Many thanks to Charlie for managing our Sale!!

Leads and Needs - Damon needs a meter for a Triplett 3444 Tube Tester. Sonny needs a speaker for a Spartan 652 radio. It needs to be an electrodynamic speaker.

Charlie will have a radio auction at the Eagles Lodge on June 10. Members voted to have our June monthly meeting at the Grange Hall as usual. Don Hanson would like to have some additional items from members for the Call Letter. Our Program Topic for June will be "Foreign Radios". Topics for future consideration are: "Recording Devices", "Home-Made Crystal Sets", and "Post-War Hallicrafters Radios". The Program Topic for today is "Your Favorite Plastic Radio". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought.

George Kirkwood gave our group a very interesting presentation and discussion on "Crystal Radios". Many thanks to George for his very interesting tech talk!! The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

## Calendar of Events

June 9-11. 49th Annual Apple City ARC Hamfest. Apple City ARC. Dryden Gun Club. Dryden, WA. (Five miles east of [Leavenworth](#) on Hiway 2). *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.qsl.net/w7td/> . [Flyer in PDF](#). (54K)

June 10. KARS Hamfest. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. Post Falls, ID. Always the 2nd Sat in June. For information contact Bonnie, KG6QQM, 208-683-2939 or [KG6QQM@ARRL.net](mailto:KG6QQM@ARRL.net) or John, [n7ju@arrl.net](mailto:n7ju@arrl.net)

June 10. Port Ludlow ARC Annual TailGate'r. Port Ludlow, WA. <http://www.n7pl.org/>

**June 10. NWVRS Monthly Meeting 9:30 AM Abernethy Grange in Oregon City. Also Charlie Kent radio auction at Eagles Lodge in NW Portland.**

June 10. KARS Hamfest. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. Post Falls, ID. Always the 2nd Sat in June. For information contact Bonnie, KG6QQM, 208-683-2939 or [KG6QQM@ARRL.net](mailto:KG6QQM@ARRL.net) or John, [n7ju@arrl.net](mailto:n7ju@arrl.net)

June 10. Port Ludlow ARC Annual TailGate'r. Port Ludlow, WA. <http://www.n7pl.org/>

June 17. Digital Mobile Workshop and Swapmeet. Blaine Police Department's Blaine Auxiliary Communications Service. Blaine, WA. Blaine City Hall - 435 Martin Street, (Suite 4000) 4th Floor Council Chambers  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blaine-acs-digital-mobile-radio-dmr-clinic-swap-meet-tickets-34897491336> A FREE bring your own table or tailgate swap meet will commence in the City Hall parking lot from 2:30pm - 4:30pm. [Announcement email in PDF](#). (35K)

July. 8th Annual KUH Pigroast. Springdale, WA. Contact Ray, (509)258-7078 [cdknray@wildblue.net](mailto:cdknray@wildblue.net)

July 8-9, 2017. Salmoncon. Pacific Northwest QRP Group annual weekend outing. North Bend, WA at Valley Camp. <http://valleycamp.org/> Contact Wayne McFee [nb6m@att.net](mailto:nb6m@att.net) . <https://sites.google.com/site/pnwqrpgrp/>

July 14, 15, & 16. 8th Annual Kuh Pig Roast. Springdale, WA. [Flyer in PDF](#). (226K)

July 14, 15, & 16. Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest. (Always the third weekend in July) Glacier Meadows Campground, 13 miles west of East Glacier on MT Hwy 2. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://www.gwhamfest.org/> [2015 Photo Gallery](#) .

# Monthly Feature: Your Favorite Plastic Radios

Photography by Dan Howard



**Alan Shaddock – 1937 Sears Model 4500 “Colonial” (Silvertone) 5-tube TRF – 1<sup>st</sup> mass produced plastic radio \$9.89 new 66 – 66 – 66 – 43 – 1v**



**Robbie Robinson – Hallicrafters 5-tube 2 band 1955 with docs**



**Dan Olson – Twelve assorted plastic AC-DC radios**



**Dick Howard – Kitzcraft display crystal and one tube sets**



**Mike McCrow – NIB '60s Philip Morris 5-tube mini**



**Sonny Clutter – International Kadette models A and B 4-tube TRF**



**Art Redman – Philmore maroon crystal set (photo by Don Hanson)**

**Halowat in 1925 ad: The TR-5 year**  
**By Art Redman**

THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN, PORTLAND, FEBRUARY 15, 1925

H&W

**The**  
**HALOWAT**  
**TR-5**  
**—RADIO—**

\*Hallock & Watson, Radio Corporation, announces the advent of the Halowat TR-5 Receiver.

An Oregon-Made 5-tube radio set, designed and built as a peer among its competitors and at a price within the reach of all. Embodies the best in selectivity, range, volume and quality, as well as appearance, and at Half the Cost. Before you buy visit our display. Dealers, let us quote you.

**Hallock & Watson Radio Corporation**

190-192 Park St., Portland, Or.



**Mystery Solved**  
*Through the unlocked door*

**By Sid Saul, Your Aspiring Radiotrician**

**KOPB-FM** PORTLAND, OR

Frequency **91.5** | Channel **218** | Facility ID **50607**



After a long hiatus from these pages, yours truly once again comes to you with another mystery. I had a fresh lead on a 1949 radio-phono console. You know, enough room in the cabinet for a 25 inch picture tube with space left over for 'who knows what'. Hard to convey the surprised looks on Belen's face when such horizontal behemoths follows me home. The last such surprise taught me that delayed unveilings are sometimes best, and a good reason to keep the back door to my radio room unlocked for late night maneuverings. This particular set was offered from the original owners who had purchased it new. I had never heard of the Capehart Company before then. What was odd, the FM dial markings of 200 to 300. Was this some experimental UHF FM band? Certainly not the pre-war 42- 50 MHz, nor today's post-war 88-108. Although one would think that in 1949 all manufacturers by then would be using today's FM standards. The owners couldn't be any less help. Plugging it in for my usual and all-important smoke testing was not to be. Coming away without the set was troubling enough, but those sleepless nights keeping the wife awake thinking of that dial. To make matters worse, the owners refused to move the set from the wall for any clues. 'Way too much stuff piled on top to move' or so they said. Or were they just trying to hide something back there. My arguing to do the heavy lifting was met with decline. Just one little peek. Days later at our May meeting I would present my clandestine dial photo to our well respected club member Blake Dietze for his thoughts. Blake thought that it may be related to FM channel assignments. Sure enough he was spot-on. On further investigation, all FM stations are assigned not only frequency, but also a channel number between 200 and 300. Each channel being 200 kHz wide. Nobody much cares about these numbers except for the F.C.C. FM stations must keep their maximum frequency deviation restricted to 75 kHz on either side of the carrier. This leaves 25 KHz protected between adjacent channels. Next time I tune in 'Car Talk' on NPR I will tune to channel 218 or perhaps 210 for that old 'All Classical Portland' feeling. As a teen in the late 60's I often listened to rock from my upstairs bedroom on KINK 101.9 channel 270. The woofer cranked and often met with mysterious poundings from the parent's room below. Until next time from your Aspiring Radiotrician  
Sid

## **Editorial by Dick Karman**

I'm one of the few members who can look back over 40 years with some clarity. Here's a look at some history. Many might be persuaded by rhetoric at a meeting without knowing an accurate history.

First, as a non-profit organization we cannot promote for-profit ventures unless they are enumerated in our organizational documents as a benefit to our organization's existence or are paid for quid-pro-quo. For instance, I have an ad in the Call Letter in return for me providing entertainment at the summer get-together and the Christmas gathering. K KOV used to have an ad and in return they promoted our events. That's quid pro quo.

Our organizational documents specify that a swap meet (and sale) benefits the Vintage Radio collecting community and is beneficial to our organization's existence by preserving sets and equipment that would otherwise be discarded. Our documents actually dictate that the society promote or sponsor "at least one" such event annually for the benefit of the community. (Our history shows that we often do two or more each year.) Thus our swap meets (where the society underwrites some of the expenses) are delineated as a benefit to the cause of historic preservation.

In the last four decades we have taken this further by postponing and sometimes cancelling our monthly meetings when it conflicts with events that our membership is interested in, like the Salem sale, PSARA sales, the Jim Mason auction, and occasionally an estate liquidation of one of our members. Rickreall, the Expo center, or a private auction, it makes no difference because they are promoting the preservation of vintage radios. We have promoted and helped out non-NVRS auctions (like the Parker auction) in part because it benefited the society and the community that we support. We pass on sales announcements of personal property as well as auction houses on our social media (E-mail) lists.

One of our members felt slighted because his reproduction radio part "sales pitch" was short-changed at a meeting. Indeed, I believe, rightfully so. It was an investment into the production and sale of a new radio

replacement part for only one brand of radio, and only, apparently, of interest to a few. It was not promoted as part of our organizational goals, and there was no quid-pro-quo. I feel that we could encourage him to submit a story in the Call Letter, or rent ad space in the Call Letter if he felt so inclined. Morgan McMahan did that when he promoted one of the first collector's guide books in the 1970s. It helped the organization and it helped Mr. McMahan. So, I conclude that Charlie's auction in June is not in the same category as a sales pitch for a specialized part or a book.

Many members today don't remember the Rasada confusion in 1989-1992. We moved our meetings to a building that was to benefit only one member. Volunteers toiled endlessly to make the building what was promised to be a world-class Radio Museum and the board voted to move our meetings there. It turned out to be short-lived and somewhat of a sore point with many of us. But to move the June 2017 meeting for one time to a "public" location for the benefit of the members is not the same and is in quite a bit better taste.

I think Charlie and Wendy have contributed substantially to our society. The role of auctioneer is not always easy and is quite often thankless. (From 1989- 1994 I played the part of the auctioneer for NVRS.) And if Charlie has chosen to save the Society a substantial amount of rent (Eagle's Hall) by associating with the Eagles, he is in good company. The first clubhouse in Buena Vista Park was only available for our use because two or three of the NVRS wives joined the Buena Vista Women's club and let us use it. (Its use was only available to members.)

In my opinion, we have taken the request of a past president, an event coordinator who saves the society money, a member in good standing, and our volunteer auctioneer and pushed it aside, because someone felt that their pet project was slighted - an auction or sale is in our documents as being beneficial to our cause of preservation. I hope Charlie and Wendy do well with this endeavor. I hope that members who want to patronize Charlie's business venture will clearly see that an auction of one-of-a-kind radios and parts is in keeping with historic preservation.

Sincerely, Dick Karman

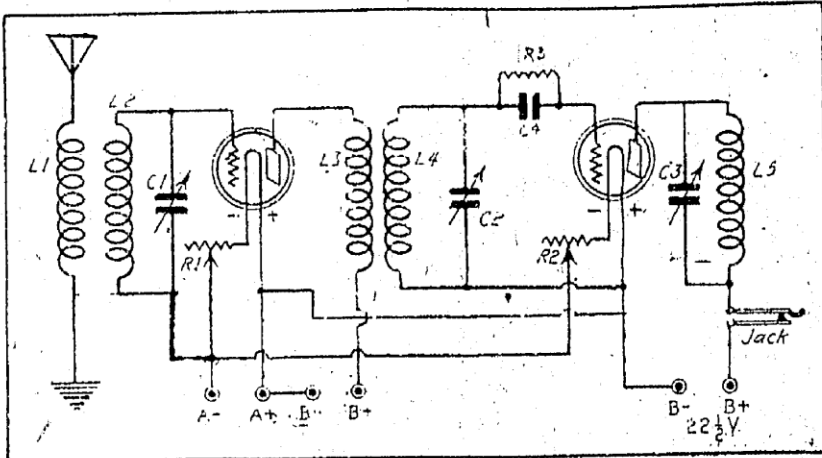
**NWVRS Auction Policy**  
9/13/2014 Updated 6/11/2016

1. All consigned items will be for 50% of the purchase price going to NWVRS.
2. If the consignor wants to donate at a higher rate (i.e. 70%) the society will accept the higher rate.
3. All outright donations to NWVRS after evaluation can be accepted.
4. All anonymous donations to NWVRS after evaluation can be accepted.
5. If there is a reserve on a consigned item, and the reserve is not met, the item goes back to the consignor.
6. All collection leads shall be evaluated by the Board appointed Auctioneer and one Board member, or two Board members.
7. The NWVRS members listed above who evaluate a collection are not allowed to purchase any item before the auction begins.
8. There is no credit at NWVRS auctions. Cash or check only.
9. There will be no consigned auctions at NWVRS swap meets.
10. Swap meet tables may be purchased by members, or non-members.
11. NWVRS donation auction may be held at a designated time near or at the end of our swap meets.
12. All NWVRS auctions will be open for participation to the general public.
13. The Vice President shall schedule all NWVRS auctions.
14. All items either consigned or donated shall be removed by the consignor, or donor if they do not sell by the end of the auction.
15. Any item abandoned becomes the property of NWVRS, and may be donated to a non-profit (i.e. Good Will) or disposed of at the discretion of NWVRS.

This policy created by the NWVRS Board of Directors is fluid and open to input from its members for consideration.

# HONEYCOMB COILS FEATURE OF TWO-TUBE RADIO SET

Coupler and Radio Frequency Transformers Made of Honeycomb Coil Combinations; Receiver Is Selective and Efficient.



Two-tube circuit with radio frequency amplification and a regenerative detector. Honeycomb coils are used entirely.

**H**ONEYCOMB coils feature the selective and efficient circuit shown in the above diagram. It comprises a stage of tuned radio frequency amplification and a tuned-plate regenerative detector. One or two stages of audio amplification can be added in the standard manner if loud-speaker volume is desired.

The set is easily made and can be built for a low cost. The parts required are as follows:

L-1 and L-3 . . . 25-turn honeycombs.

L-2, L-4 and L-5 . . . 50-turn honeycombs.

R-1 and R-2 . . . 25-ohm filament rheostats.

C-1, C-2 and C-3 . . . 17-plate, .00035 mfd. variable condensers, preferably of the low-loss type.

A-3 . . . 1 to 5 variable grid leak.

C-4 . . . .00025 mfd. grid condenser.

Two UV-199 tubes and sockets.  
Single circuit jack.

In assembling the set, L-1 and L-2 are closely coupled. This means that they should be placed right alongside of each other. The other three honeycombs, L-3, L-4 and L-5, are tied together with a piece of string and mounted on a hard-rubber strip which may be affixed to the condensers C-2 and C-3.

Coil combination L-1, L-2 should be mounted so that it is at right angles to the other combination, L-3, L-4, L-5. This is necessary, as otherwise an interaction between the lines of force in each combination will be set up and cause oscillating effects.

The dotted line shown at the bottom of L-1 and L-2 may be omitted. A little experimenting should be done here to see which method is best.

From 45 to 60 volts may be used on the amplifier B-battery.



[Home](#) [Kisn](#) [News](#) [Updates](#) [About](#) [Classes](#) [News & Events](#) [Contact](#)

**Please Visit Our Sponsors!**

*Your Real Oldies Radio*  
**We're On The Air 85.1 FM**



What's New With Us? [Click Here for Updates!](#)

# The Good Guys Are Back!

## FM 95.1

**Cool Stuff**



**Surveys**



**Photo Galleries**



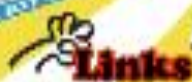
**Request A Song!**



**Updates**



**Programming Schedule**



**Links**

**Good Guy Club**



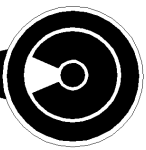
# Kisn

**Home of the Good Guys**

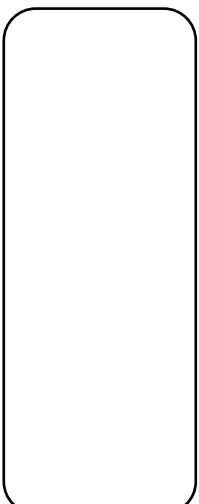
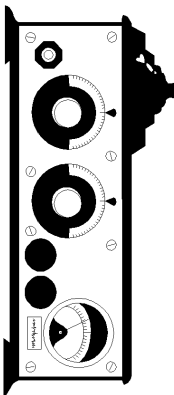
**FM 95.1**

**Donate**





NW Vintage Radio Society  
P.O. Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**