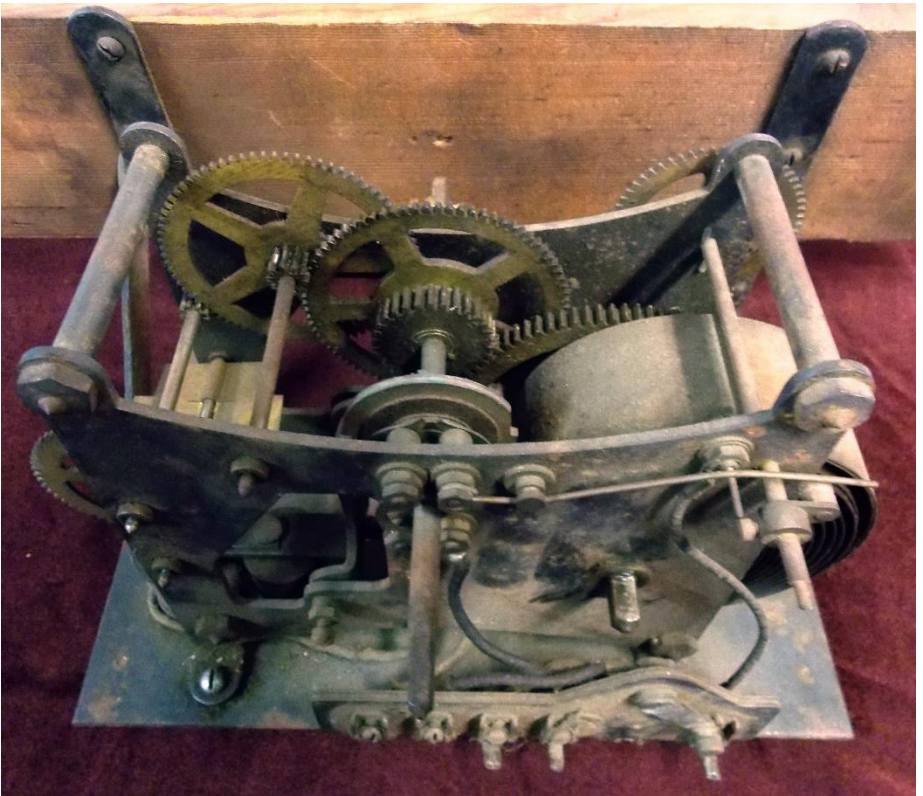


The

Call Letter

October 2017

Vol 43, #10



Clockwork Electrical Switch

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.

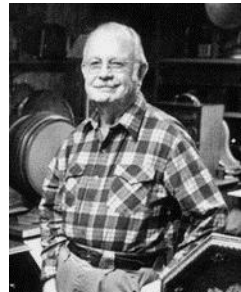
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Brian Wegener (nnn) nnn-nnnn	spudweg@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	mark@pdxhistory.com
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639	tranny53@frontier.com
Librarian	Damon Vandehey (503) 459-1777	
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson	vanguard4@lycos.com

On the Cover

Clockwork Electrical Switch – displayed by Dick Howard
Photography by Dan Howard

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October Meeting

Our **Fall Radio Sale** will be Sat. Oct. 14 from 9:30 AM to 1 PM.

Announcements

Monthly Feature: None this month.

Editor's Note

Please have next month's Call Letter Contributions in by **Oct. 29.**

Visit our web site at:

www.nwvrs.com

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nwvrs

NWVRS Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2017

President Pat Kagi called the September meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:30 AM. Members pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. Howard Bergh (Warren's brother) attended today as a guest. Honorary Member Ron Kramer also attended our meeting today. Ron wrote the book "Pioneer Mikes", a book about early Portland radio and television. Welcome to both of our guests!! Sonny said that George Kirkwood is recovering well from his recent heart surgery. Today is Rick Ryan's birthday; members sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

Members discussed updating our swap meet banners. Members voted to purchase banners for future swap meets and for radio station KISN. Members also voted to not record meetings any longer; the demand for this has been very limited. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as printed in the September Call Letter. The Program Topic for today is "Mystery Radio Objects". Members showed and discussed the items that they brought.

Blake Dietz gave a Tech Talk on "Philco Radio Manufacturing". Many thanks to Blake for his excellent Tech Talk!!

Leads and Needs

Rick Ryan needs some 2.5 volt transformers. Ed Pittaway's family needs some help with some Scott consoles—they need to be put together. Liles has some small plastic boxes available for free.

The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Liles Garcia, Secretary

Calendar of Events

October 14. Our **NWVRS Fall Radio Sale** will be on Sat. Oct. 14 from 9:30 AM to 1 PM – see flyer on page 12.

October 14. Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference. Moses Lake, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Registration at <http://www.pnvwvhfs.org/conference/2017/announcement.html> . [Flyer in PDF.](#)

October 14. Kitsap County Hamfest. Bremerton, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Contact: Jim Nicolet, N7SYD, (360)874-0180. hamfest@kcarc.org <http://www.kcarc.org/>

October 15. W7DP tailgate party, College Place (Near Walla Walla), WA. [Flyer in PDF.](#) (176K)

October 21. Swap-Tober-Fest. Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* www.swaptoberfest.net [Flyer in PDF.](#)

November 5. Maple Ridge Swapmeet. Pitt Meadows, BC. https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=1878

February 17, 2018. Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, OR at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com> .

March 10, 2018. Mike & Key 36th Electronics Show & Fleamarket. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

March 24, 2018. Microhams Digital Conference, Redmond, WA. <http://www.microhams.com/mhdc/> (Tentative Date)

Monthly Feature: What is it?

Photography and Commentary by Dan Howard

Members were treated to a small but extremely-varied display this month. This wide-open category – attendees were invited to bring any item that they had questions about – could have led to a very large display. However, three exhibitors brought four mysterious items that did not disappoint.



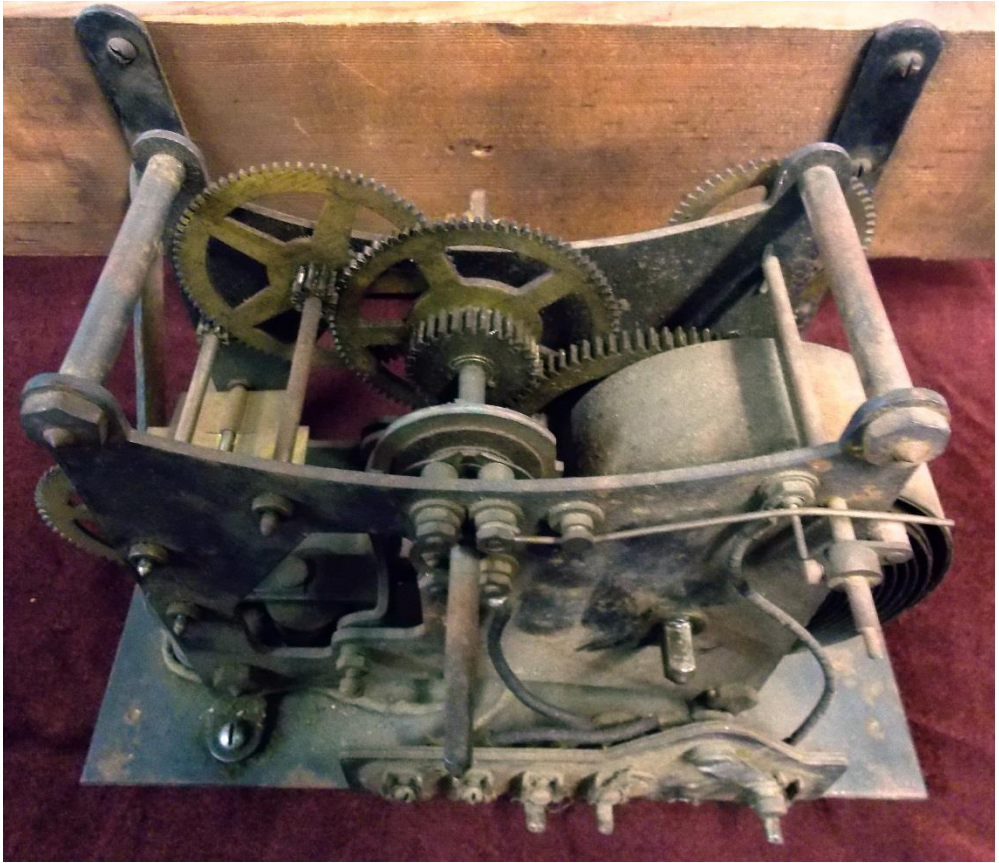
Early Commercial Radio Mystery – displayed by Dan Howard
While researching how the Forest Service used radio in its early history, Dan discovered a pair of pictures of a ca. 1919 commercial wireless station. Most of the items have been identified, Western Electric, DeForest, and NESCO commercial or military grade wireless sets. However, there are three “mystery” items that he’d like help identifying. One appears to be a 50-watt two-tube transmitter, one is a receiver using movable honeycomb coils, and the third may be an amplifier.

A Very Unusual Little Tube – displayed by Sonny Clutter



Sonny has owned this peanut-sized tube for a number of years and has lost track of its purpose. At first glance you may notice that it was never “finished;” the blowing tube is still attached at the top. And the envelope is open to the atmosphere; it was never evacuated or sealed. Then your eyes may wander a little lower to where the spiral grid is visible through a large gap that runs up the side of the plate. The tube was never mounted in a base and its *three* wire leads are certainly eye-catching – shouldn’t there be a fourth? Sonny would very much appreciate hearing from someone who can shed some light on this unusual little tube

Clockwork Electrical Switch – displayed by Dick Howard



A true what's it? Item this large switch has puzzled Dick since he was given it many years ago. A removable crank winds a large iron spring. When a telegraph-style relay is energized for three seconds, the escapement is released, turning a power take-off shaft and rotating a cam that actuates a double set of electrical contacts allowing for normally-closed or normally-open operation. The cycle lasts twenty seconds. It has been suggested that this was a component of a fire telegraph or a burglar alarm signaling system. But, to date, no one has been able to positively identify it.

Unknown Superhet – displayed by Dick Howard



Dick’s 8-tube superhet was the only radio on display this month. He believes that it was commercially-made in the early 1920’s, perhaps by a local manufacturer; but he hasn’t been able to attach a name to this set, or its seven-tube twin brother that’s been in his collection for sixty years. Both sets have nicely engraved front panels, buss-bar wiring, good quality construction, and other features that are normally seen from commercial production. Maybe these were unlicensed no-name kits that were quietly sold anonymously to avoid litigation?

Hallock and Watson, 1927

By Art Redman

Hallock and Watson announced a new Bakelite service beginning on January 16, 1927 in the Oregonian newspaper. Halowat advertising as ‘Portland’s Radio Pioneers’ offered Bakelite and Formica services of engraving, sales, drilling, and machined to the order of all radio kit builders.

The firm began retail operations and repair work at their location in Portland managed by Roy C. Yonge. The refurbished retail outlet at 192 Park Street sold the old Halowat line, the All Wave 5 developed in late 1925, and Fada.

The big news came during June when Halowat announced their new 8-tube Portable superhet radio the Porta-Pak selling for \$147.50. Due to threatened lawsuits over patents from RCA lawyers, no more Superhet Portables ads appeared in the Oregonian.

Later during September, Crosley and November Atwater-Kent radios were added to Halowat’s retail line. These two manufacturers placed ads for their own products. No exclusive Hallock and Watson ads appeared in the Oregonian.

In addition, the AW-5 and Porta Pak was not advertised after the June announcement. These two models are the last radio models made by Halowat and the firm then became retail and service shop except for the manufacture of commercial broadcast transmitters.

Sources:

“Announces Bakelite Services”, The Oregonian January 16, 1927 Section 5, page 6.

“Fada Dealers ad”, The Oregonian, April 10, 1927 page 67.

“It’s Here! Halowat 8-Tube Portable” The Oregonian June 20 1927, Sect. 5 page 9.

It's Here!

... THE ...

HALOWAT

PORTABLE 8

The Smallest and Most
Efficient

8-Tube Portable

Ever Built

NOTE: We logged **17**
out-of-town stations
on loop Friday night.

ALL self-contained!

Complete \$147.50

Come in and see it!

Hallock & Watson
Radio Service

102 Park St.

AT 2515

Maker Faire Report

By Brian Wegener

Big thanks to Ed Tompkins, Mike McCrow, Liles Garcia, and Blake and Bryan Dietz for volunteering at the OMSI Maker Faire. Over two days we spoke with several hundred people about vintage radios. We handed out almost 150 of our tri-fold brochures and even more swap meet flyers. I expect to see many of the people we contacted at our October event.

38 people entered the raffle for a crystal radio kit. Bert Jacob was the winner of the crystal radio.

Two artists, Simran Gleason and Kizzy Anel stopped by our booth to paint pictures of some of our radios.





Kizzy Anel



Simran Gleason

Vintage Radio, Audio & Electronic Sale **Saturday, October 14th - 9:am - 1:pm**



Presented by the Northwest Vintage Radio Society
at the North Portland Eagles Lodge
7611 No. Exeter St. Portland, OR 97203

You can see and purchase vintage radios from the 1920s - '70s. Short wave, plastic, consoles, wood, radio tubes & audio equipment will be available.

Low cost tables available for vendors as well as outside spaces. For more info call Charlie: (503) 891-4615

AUCTION (near end of sale)

**FREE PARKING
FREE POPCORN
FREE ADMISSION
FREE SNOWCONES**

more info, see our web-site
WWW.NWVRS.ORG

KISN Good Guy Radio

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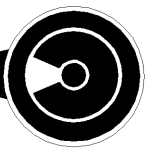
KISN

**Home
of the
Good Guys**

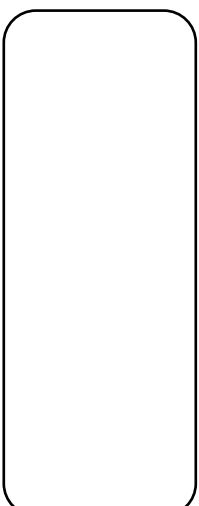
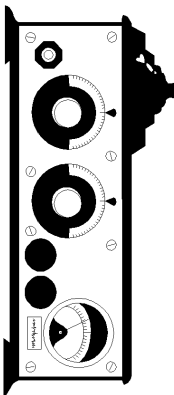
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