

*The*

# *Call Letter*

March 2018

Vol 44, #3



**Smoking Stand with  
Remote Tuner**

**Made For GM  
“Little General”  
Radios (1931 – ’32)**

# 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.

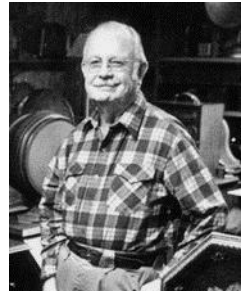
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 360 909-7009	<a href="mailto:patkagi@yahoo.com">patkagi@yahoo.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**

### **Sonny's Smoking Stand with Remote Tuner**

Photo by Sonny Clutter

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## **Announcements**

### **March Meeting**

The March meeting will start at 9:30 AM on Saturday, March. 10  
Our monthly feature will be “novelty radios that do not look like  
radios.” Our March tech talk: Sid Saul - “Carrier Current  
Broadcasting”

### **Editor's Note**

Please have April's Call Letter Contributions in by March 31.

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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)

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## **NWVRS Meeting Minutes - February 10, 2018**

President Pat Kagi called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Members present pledged allegiance to our nation's flag.

We are still looking for a location for our upcoming Swap Meets. Members have been checking for places. Brian Wegener is working with the Tigard Library to have a radio display. He would like to have some examples of early radios and also some examples of Oregon radios for the display.

Harley Perkins needs a ride to our monthly meetings. Our Board will meet at the Vintage Tek Museum on February 15 at 6:00 PM. Treasurer Ed Tompkins reported that an audit of our finances showed that all is well. Call Letter Editor Don Hanson thanked members for their contributions and encouraged everyone to continue to send in items for publication. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as published in the February Call Letter.

### **Leads & Needs**

Rick Wahrmarkt is looking for a music source for playing through AM radios. George Kirkwood is looking for a Tek scope to buy. Damon is looking for a table top Magnavox AM-FM radio. See him for more details. Antique Alley in Portland has an Amperex tube for sale in Booth B6. Dan Howard is looking for a radio rack.

The Program Topic for today is "radios made by manufacturers not known for making radios". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The Program Topic for March will be "novelty radios that do not look like radios". Liles Garcia gave a Tech Talk about designing and building power supplies for battery-operated radios. The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

## Calendar of Events

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)

April 7, 2018. Yakima Hamfest. Yakima, Washington.  
<http://yakimaamateurradioclub.com/yakima-hamfest/>

April 7. Comfest Swapmeet. Richmond, BC. [https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1904](https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=1904)

**Saturday April 14th 8 AM – 1 PM - Radio Sale and Auction - North Portland Eagles Lodge - 7611 N Exeter, Portland - Free parking, free admission, cash and credit cards accepted - For More Information – Contact Charlie Kent @ (503) 891-4615 - Auction starts at 12 Noon**

April 14 & 15 2018. Communications Academy. South Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <http://commacademy.org/>

May 5. Electronics, Ham Radio and Experimenters Swap Meet, Kennewick, WA. Contact: Dan Durflinger KD7KJJ, [DANCAR68@AOL.COM](mailto:DANCAR68@AOL.COM) OR [KD7KJJ@ARRL.NET](mailto:KD7KJJ@ARRL.NET) [Flyer in PDF \(132K\)](#)

May 6. Maple Ridge Swapmeet. Pitt Meadows, BC. [https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event\\_ID=1906](https://secure.eton.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=1906)

May 12. Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Contact: Fred Laun, [w7pig@arrl.net](mailto:w7pig@arrl.net) <http://www.scarcwa.org/>

May 19 & 20. River Radio Campout 2018. Pateros WA. Sponsored by the Okanogan County Amateur Radio Club. Free "dry" camping along the Methow River at Pateros. Always the weekend prior to Memorial Day Weekend. [w7orc1@gmail.com](mailto:w7orc1@gmail.com) . <http://www.w7orc.com/> . Contact Mike W7MCM, [skippermike53@gmail.com](mailto:skippermike53@gmail.com) 509-689-3164.

# Monthly Feature: Radios made by manufacturers not known for making radios

Photography by Sonny Clutter



Alan Shadduck's '47 Delco R1231A AA5



Ray Holland's '39 GM (looking for '42)



**George Kirkwood's Long Bros. Model 5 Radio**



**Blake's '36 - '38 9-tube 32V Delco**



**Brian Wegener's Firestone 4A-20**



**Larry Tobkin's 1931? Brunswick 6-tube**





**Dan Howard’s 1939 Arvin 502a sold by E. C. Simmons HW Co. under the “Keentone” brand name, a tire ashtray, and a Firestone S-7426-5 Ivory Plaskon 4-tube, plus ads**



**Dick Howard – two Lionel bugs and train display, Lionel model 6-32991 “WLLC” (transistor) radio**

## Remembering Hugh and Virginia Rankin By Dick Karman



Members of the NWVRS Power Supply or the Ladies Auxiliary from left: Bobbi Kibler, Cathie Hay, Virginia Rankin and Dorothy James at the Buena Vista Club House, circa 1978

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Recently the Society was contacted to help liquidate the radios in the collection of Virginia Rankin. These radios will be auctioned at the March 2018 meeting. For long-time members, this is a great chance to help a great lady. To younger members they might be asking Virginia Who?

The story goes back to almost the founding days of the society. To make it shorter, Charter Member Pete Young, invited an “old-timer” to come to one of the first meetings. That old radio engineer was Tom James. Tom took on a lot of the responsibilities of the Society once he joined. He picked up many of the pieces when the

Bilbies suddenly left. He contributed humor to the newsletter with poetry and wit. And he brought along friends that helped him.

I don't know the back-story on how Hugh and Virginia Rankin came to membership. I believe their membership started in 1976. I know that they were always there to help and most definitely there to help Tom and the other leaders of the group. As early as 1978 Hugh had taken on the authorship of a piece in the Call Letter known as OUR PEOPLE. Unlike other historical pieces, or the meeting minutes, Our People told about members in the club and what they did and what they said between meetings. Hugh wove into the piece his interest in radio history and prefaced it with the phrase "remember when. . ." Hugh wrote this for more than five years.

But that wasn't the only by-line Hugh had. For two years he accumulated and prepared the "SWAP-SHOP" page, taking information from members and making sure it got into the newsletter. His wonderful wife Virginia took an active role (more than many other wives) in the organization and in the publication. The short story on that subject begins with many fraternal organizations had things like the women's auxiliary. The NW Vintage Radio Society, knowing radios don't run by themselves, named our auxiliary the "POWER SUPPLY." Virginia wrote the Power Supply pages (once a month) in the Call Letter from 1978 to 1981, as well as helped organize social gatherings, refreshments, picnics, contests, and Christmas gift exchanges.

This wasn't the only involvement that the Power Supply had. In a shrewd tactical maneuver (so that we could have cheap access to the Club House in Oregon City) our power supply ladies ran for office in the women's civic club of Oregon City, known as the Buena Vista Club (owners of the Club House). In 1979 NWVRS women held the office of the Vice President (Bobbi Kibler); Treasurer (Lorena Leetes); Secretary (Virginia Rankin) and Dorothy James was on their telephone committee. The only positions not held by an NWVRS woman were the President, and the social chair. The ladies not only held the position, they excelled in their labors and were often recognized as outstanding civic leaders in Oregon City.

Now put this into perspective, Hugh for a few years held the office of NWVRS Recording Secretary (which required pages in the Call Letter every month). Between the two of them they sometimes filled five pages of the Call Letter. And Virginia and Hugh were often called upon to be host and hostess at club house events and public gatherings. They were on-sight greeters for many of the NWVRS special displays. Together with Tom and Dorothy James and Chuck and Bobbi Kibler, they were often the local maintenance and hospitality team for the Buena Vista Club House.

I could write pages on the contributions of Hugh and Virginia. By 1980 Virginia had passed most of the Call Letter Power Supply pages to Bobbi Kibler. Hugh had handed off some of the writing responsibilities to the new president in 1982, but while he was NWVRS secretary he wrote very “newsy” meeting minutes and placed his other writing under the heading Bits and Pieces. By 1986 Hugh was not in office and they were stepping back from their involvements.

Hugh and Virginia weren’t seen in the newsletter but they were at meetings from late 1986 to mid-1988. I remember that on September 11, 1988, Hugh was struck down with a heart attack. Our sadness and loss were expressed in the Call Letter, the publication they so richly supported.

A member of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society since 1976, Hugh Rankin had been both a loyal member and a good friend. He and Virginia endeared themselves to many of us in those days by writing for the Call Letter as memory serves in 1978 and in 79 he wrote the column **Our People** and Virginia was a contributor to a column entitled the **Power Supply**. Hugh however never left a job go undone. When there was a broom to push or furniture to move around the clubhouse Hugh was faithful to get the job done. When nominated to serve as a board member, Hugh was willing, able and always did a flawless job.

Virginia, who will be 99 years young in May, has graciously donated her collection of vintage and antique radios for the club to auction in March. The auction will be around noon time after the next NWVRS meeting. Below is a list and pictures of the radios to be sold with no reserves.



Manufacturer	Model	Description	Retail Value
Stenite Speaker (UTAH)		Speaker for Battery Set	20
Arvin	518	Chairside	135
Radiola	20	Battery set	150
Atwater Kent	545	Tombstone	175
RCA	4T	Cathedral	130
GE	100	Bakelite	30
RCA	9-X-561	Bakelite	45
Mission Bell	40	Mantle	100
Traveler	5060	Bakelite	65
Budweiser		Transistor	15
American Bosch	505	Wood table top	50
RCA	1-R-31	AM/FM Bakelite	30
RCA	5-Q-31	Bakelite	40
Crosley	5-50	Battery set	125

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# *Radio Sale and Auction*

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Saturday April 14th 8 AM – 1 PM

**Auction starts at 12 Noon**

North Portland Eagles Lodge

7611 N Exeter, Portland



*Free parking, free admission, cash and credit cards accepted*

For More Information – Contact Charlie Kent @ (503) 891-4615



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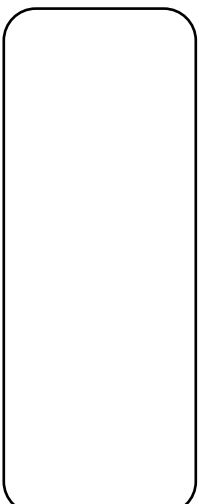
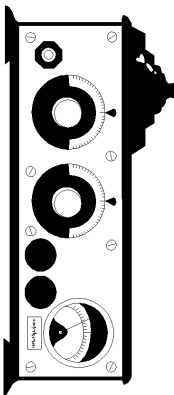
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