

The

Call Letter

August 2018

Vol 44, #8



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.

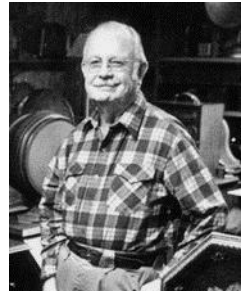
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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	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

Mike and Janet McCrow

Photo by Franklin Ouchida

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Announcements

The August Meeting will start at 9:30 AM on Saturday, August 11. There will be a large equipment auction next month from the Estate of Dan Wills. The Society would like to thank Tamara V. Green and Angela Ronnfeldt for their generous donation to the Society and for an obituary and picture of Dan for the Call Letter.

Editor’s Note – Please have August’s Call Letter Contributions in by August 26. I would like to especially thank new member Franklin Ouchida on behalf of the Society for the excellent photos he has contributed to the Society and Call Letter over the last several months!!

Visit our web site at:

www.nwvrs.com

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nwvrs



Dan Wills was born on July 22, 1944 to George and Edrie Wills. Dan was one of 5 children. He graduated from Gresham High School in 1962 and remained a longtime resident of the Gresham area. Dan had many passions and talents. He loved his classic cars, was a member of the Goat Herd, and very proud of having his GTO featured in a calendar. He was extremely talented at fixing old radios & TV's and once a member or the NW Vintage Radio Society, and working with and building computers & computer programs. He also had a love of race cars. He was a statistician at the PIR race track for many years alongside his longtime friend, Joe Allen, the commentator. Dan had quite the sense of humor, always sharing his 'blonde jokes'.

Dan is survived by: his sister, Georgene Honke, and her husband Joe. His nephews and niece Jim, Chuck, Sandy, Cheryl, Mike, Karen, Gary, Kathy, Kim....and their families. He leaves 2 stepdaughters, Tamara Green and Angela Ronnfeldt and 4 grandchildren: Jonathan, Alyssa, Dylan and Olivia.

NWVRS Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2018

Since we had a picnic and a swap meet and no business meeting, I did not take any minutes for July. **A good time was had by all.** I just thought that I would add that comment in.

-- Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

Note from President Pat Kagi

Special thanks to Mike and Janet as this was the best picnic ever!

There will be a large equipment auction scheduled for the August meeting from the estate of Dan Wills. No buyers' fee and no reserves. Please review the spreadsheet and the pictures. If you want any higher resolution pictures, please let me know which one you want. The file is too large to send all the pictures via email. I will have to send out the pictures on multiple emails because even the icons are too large. (Ed. note – the pictures and spreadsheet are also too large for the C.L.)

The Millennial Project is in place. NWVRS is looking to purchase two vintage radios and have them restored cosmetically / electronically with Bluetooth capabilities. We are looking to find a couple of resources who can restore a radio so that it can play via Bluetooth device. The club will pay the going rate for all parts and labor. Does anyone have time to do this? We need this completed by mid-August so that we can get it ready for the OMSI display. I'm leaning toward a console and a table top wood radio. Anyone with available time? If you wish to sell or donate your radios and/or services, please contact the club.

Starting in June 2018, all NWVRS members will receive a free electronic copy of the PSARA's monthly newsletter "The Horn of Plenty". If you did not receive this issue and would like to start receiving copies, please send us your current email address.

Starting in July 2018, all NWVRS members will receive an electronic copy of "The Flash" from the Colorado Radio Collectors Antique Radio Club. If you didn't receive your copy, please contact us with your email addy.

Calendar of Events

August 11. Arctic ARC Hamfest, Fairbanks, AK. <http://k17kc.com/>

August 11. **NWVRS August Meeting** 9:30 AM, Saturday, August 11.

August 18. Ham Radio / Electronics / Computer Swap Meet. Boise, ID. [Flyer in PDF](#). (277K)

August 19. **Antique Radio Swap Meet. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association.** Shoreline Community College, 16101 Greenwood Avenue North Shoreline, WA 98155 (Always the 3rd Sunday in August)

<http://www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index>

September. Hamfest 2018. Gallatin Ham Radio Club. Bozeman MT. http://gallatinhamradio.com/?page_id=494

September 7-9. 20th Annual Northwest APRS/Digital Summer Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* <https://tinyletter.com/nwaprsg> <http://valleycamp.org/> . [2015 Photo Gallery](#)

September 22. Washington State Convention (Spokane Hamfest) Spokane Valley, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* [Flyer in PDF](#). (400K) <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/washington-state-convention-spokane-hamfest-4>



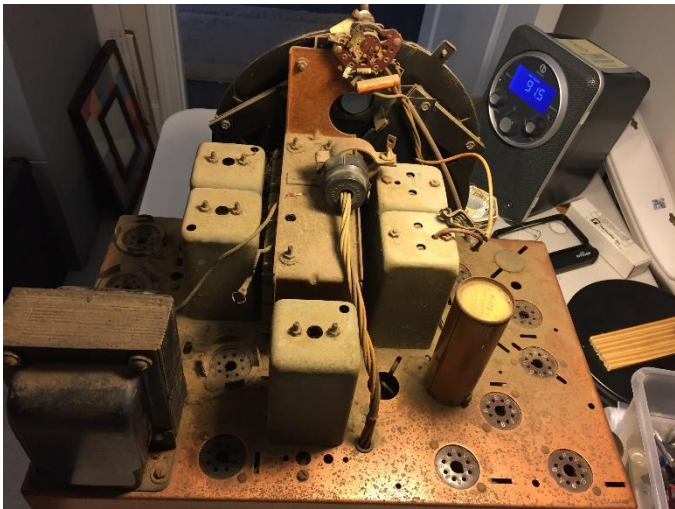
PUGET SOUND ANTIQUE RADIO ASSOCIATION
ANTIQUE & VINTAGE TECHNOLOGY MARKET
SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 2018
Huge **ONE DAY ONLY** event.
Radio, phono, audio, ham, electronics, tubes, books & more.
Sellers fee \$20. Open 6AM for seller setup.
Buyers no charge, 9 AM - 1 PM. Public welcome.
at Shoreline Community College parking lot
16101 Greenwood Avenue North, Shoreline, WA 98133
for information: <http://www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com>

The flyer features a yellow background with black text. On the left side, there is a vintage vacuum tube. On the right side, there is a vintage rotary telephone. At the bottom center, there is a vintage radio dial with a needle and two knobs.

Walton's Walton

By Rick Walton

At some point in the dim past, I was given a Zenith 12S232 “Walton” radio. That was probably around 2005, because I had the radio before we moved in 2006 from our home in NE Portland to a new place in Oregon City. Here are two photos of the chassis before I began work on it:



When I received the radio it was in pretty sad condition. The grill cloth was soiled and torn, one or more knobs were missing, the speaker cone was torn beyond simple repair, and the finish on the cabinet was in bad shape.

The restoration work began not too long before the 2006 move with the reconing of the original speaker by a fellow down in Medford, and the refinishing of the cabinet by our esteemed colleague, Dick Bixler. While that was going on, I was busy on the internet finding Zenith branded tubes to use in the radio (including the 6T5 eye tube), reproduction grill cloth, and replacement knobs for the missing ones.

Following the move to Oregon City, the radio went on display in our home but no other restoration work took place. When I retired in 2012 and we moved to North Carolina, the radio went into a large box, carefully packed for the cross country trip in a moving van. There it stayed through three more moves here in North Carolina until I unboxed it in March of this year and began the electronic restoration of the set.

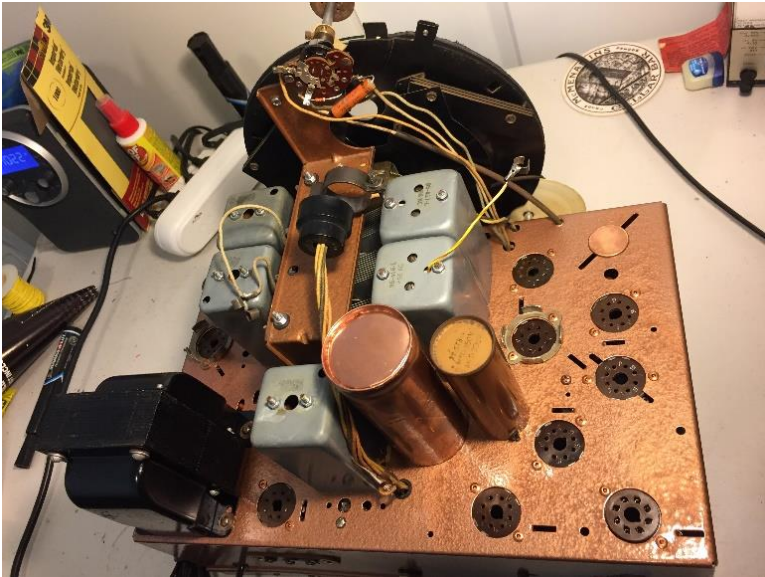
I made the decision to strip the chassis completely to be able to clean up all the parts. I did careful photo documentation as I removed all the shutter dial parts and the motor drive for the tuning. As I removed the bracket on top of the chassis, I realized that I would need new grommets that suspend and isolate the tuning condenser from the bracket. I managed to find those at Lowe's.

Then came the bandswitch assembly. It needed to come out in any case, but especially needed to come out so that I could get at the tuning condenser grounding straps soldered to the chassis.

The tuning condenser was a filthy mess and I was unsure just how to go about cleaning it. Thanks to NWVRS members, especially Ed Tompkins, who pointed me toward an ultrasonic cleaner and gave me tips on how to use it to clean a tuner.

From there I went on to remove all the components: capacitors, resistors, trimmers, etc. The paper caps I rebuilt with new mylar caps. The electrolytics I rebuilt with modern ones. The one can on the chassis was easy because the original simply slipped into it. There was no cutting, drilling, or the like. Just a matter of putting two modern electrolytics inside it and bolting it back on the chassis.

There was supposed to be another can with electrolytics, but it had been removed at some point in the past and the caps replace under the chassis. I decided to try to recreate the missing can as best I could, which I did with a skinny drink can (one of those high-powered caffeine drinks). I painted it with copper paint and when finished, it looks pretty good, if a bit large.



I repainted the chassis with a hammertone copper paint by Rust-O-Leum that I found at Home Depot. It turned out really nice; better, actually, than I expected.

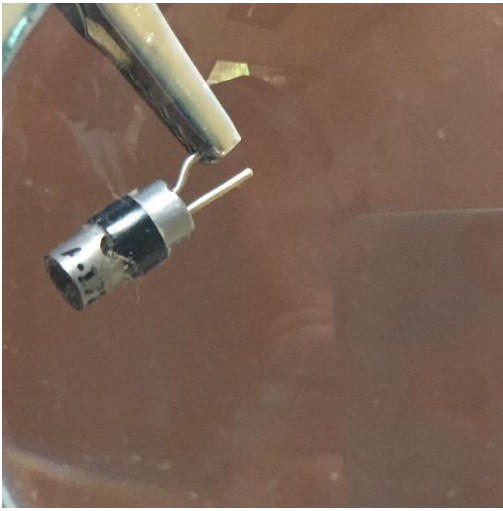
Once all the parts were cleaned and polished, I started reinstalling components and wiring. It took a while because despite all my careful photos, there were times when it wasn't totally clear just where things had come from. Another problem I ran into was the fabrication of a resistor voltage divider to take the place of the CandOhm unit that was open in a couple of places and had been rather crudely repaired in the past. I used terminal strips and high wattage resistors that closely matched the segments of the original CandOhm. You can see them along the chassis wall in the photo.



After I got it all together and installed the tubes, I brought it up slowly on my Variac and was pleased to note that the filaments lit as expected, and when I put the rectifier tube in place, the B+ came up as it should.

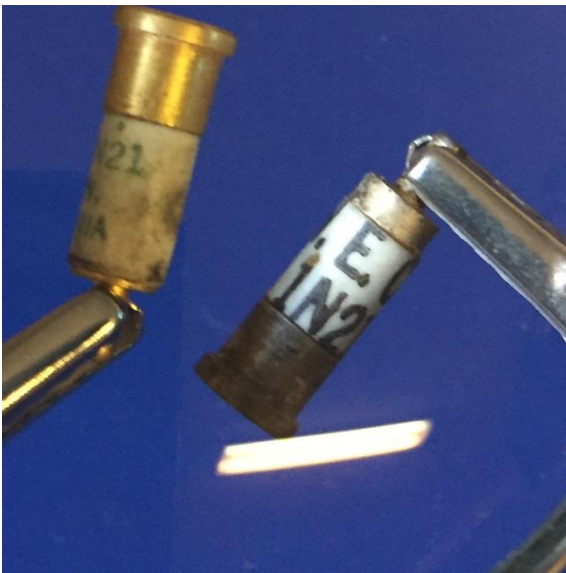
I went through an alignment procedure on all the bands, but I am not convinced that I've done a great job. I don't have a longwire antenna that seems to be required, but I'm not too worried about it right now. I'll revisit the alignment at a later date when I feel more confident about doing alignments. Right now I'm just happy to have the restoration completed and the radio occupying a place of pride in my home.





Western Electric Type A
point contact transistor

This transistor is typical of the first volume-produced transistor. In the late 1940's and early 1950's, thousands of units were distributed to universities and manufacturers for experimental purposes with the intention that they would develop and share ideas for transistor applications. The black band partially covers one of two adjustment holes that were used to adjust the contact wires during production, the same way that a cat whisker is adjusted to find a sensitive spot on a crystal set.



Sylvania and Western
Electric crystal diodes



Sylvania and Western Electric crystal diodes used for radar work during World War II

Wireless Specialty Apparatus IP-200 silicon detector, ca. 1919, Dick Howard

This crystal set from World War I uses a silicon ingot for a detector, making it functionally identical to the crystal diodes developed by Western Electric for World War II, over 20 years later.





Your Outdoor

DJ

Call Dick 503-784-4398

NWVRS Picnic Features:

Sweet Music from the 1930s

Big Band Music from the 1940s

'Happy Days' Music from the 1950s

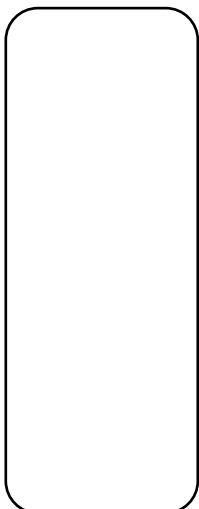
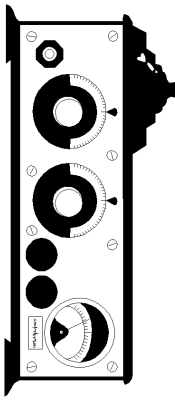
Reliving Radio provides history, music, magic and memories of the **Way Radio Was** at car shows, picnics, wedding receptions, "Senior" Proms and any event where people enjoy the swing music of the 1930s, the big bands of the 1940s, or the *Happy Days* sounds of the 1950s. The mix is just right, no matter what the decade.

Dick Karman has been an NWVRS member since 1979

If you would like period entertainment or just music at a special event, indoors or out, call **Reliving Radio** for availability. He brings everything *except the audience*.



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