

The

# Call Letter

January 2001  
Vol. 27 — No. 1



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Over **25** years in print!

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# The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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 \$20.00 (beginning January 2001) 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 (except July and August) 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 show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

## Society Officers for 2001:

President	Charles Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Dave Rutland	(541) 929-4498
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society  
Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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**On the cover:** The radio pictured on the cover is a bakelite radio of German make, a 1938 Nora Sonnenblum (Sunflower). This photo comes from a beautiful book called *Bakelite Style* edited by Tessa Clark, and published in 1997 by Quintet Publishing Limited, London.

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**Call Letter Deadline: 10 days prior  
to meeting day.**

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**The next meeting is on January 13.  
The monthly feature is:  
A foreign tube radio.  
Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

**Visit our web site at <http://nwvrs.org>.**

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 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.

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# From the Editor

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by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

Happy New Year! as we enter the first year of the third millennium. The election is over, the holidays are behind us, and we can settle back into the business of collecting and restoring radios.

The December meeting and Christmas party were a lot of fun. I had to miss the meeting, but I was able to attend the festivities that followed. Many thanks to George Kirkwood for organizing a great party.

In addition to our regular features of Voila and photos, in this issue we hear from Bud Larson about a collection in Medford that is available to collectors, and about the need to give some thought to the disposition of our collections when we pass on. There is also more of Art Redman's historical material that deals with local radio history.

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# With Sympathy

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We extend deepest sympathy to Frank Olberding on the recent loss of his son.

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# NWVRS 2001 Calendar of Events

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- January 13** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 10** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 10** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 14** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- May 12** Spring 2001 Swap Meet at the Salvation Army Rose Center.
- June 9** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- October 13** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- November 10** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- December 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

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# Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

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President Charles Kent called the December 9, 2000 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written in the Call Letter. There were 46 members and family members present. Members introduced their wives, and all present gave the wives that were present a round of applause. An update on Don Iverson's wife who recently had surgery, is that she is progressing very well. Charlie thanked Sonny Clutter for teaching the wood refinishing class at the last meeting. Everyone present gave Sonny a round of applause.

## Upcoming Classes

George Kirkwood will give a class on basic radio fundamentals after the January club meeting. Sonny volunteered to give a class on soldering techniques at our February meeting.

## Old Business

Library--John Bucholtz reported that our library continues to be busy.

## New Business

Club Officer Elections—The existing club officers were re-elected for next year.

“Sounds of Nostalgia” Show in Salem—Speed Feldschau will call the show contact so that our club will have some space at this show. Members that want to sell items should contact Speed.

Furniture refinishing pens—Our club will order some of the furniture refinishing pens for members to buy.

## Leads and Needs

Sonny Clutter needs a knob for a Norco radio.

Damon Vandehey needs a circuit breaker and other parts for an early TV.

Dan Howard brought some back editions of the Call Letter to give away.

Bill Meloy needs a schematic for a Philco 20.

Robby Robinson needs a schematic for a Zenith J615.

Gordon Phillips needs a speaker for a Philco 20 and Philco 70.

## Program

Today's program item was "radios and related items that you know nothing about". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. No ribbons were awarded for this meeting.

The program topic for the January meeting will be "foreign-made radios". There was an auction of miscellaneous radios and parts after the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned and we had our Christmas Party. George Kirkwood introduced Matt Neil who provided the organ music for our Christmas Party. Many thanks to Matt for his great music!!!

Liles Garcia

Secretary

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## When I Am Gone Where Will My Stuff Go?

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by Bud Larson, W7LNG, December 2000

That's the question that wives and other relatives face when a collector dies. "Let the heirs worry about it; I won't be here."

Recently a radio collector died in Medford, Oregon leaving a house full, shed full, yard full, and an old ham shack full of various electronic goods collected over the last fifty plus years. Radios, working and not working, TVs, hi-fis, tubes, books, radio magazines, (30s to present), boxes and drawers of capacitors, resistors, transistors, diodes, transformers, antennas, rolls of wire, heat-shrink tubing, hardware, test equipment, ham radios, and who knows what else littered the place. Some of this went to the junk yard, some to the dump, some given away and the more usable items went into storage. There was just too much.

This retired TV repairman was said to know where everything was. He would sell many surplus items for a reasonable price but kept some things for possible future use. He claimed it was just a hobby--not for profit. I'm sure that was right. He had a vast knowledge of electronics and freely shared it. We miss you, Dave.

It took months to sort out the valuable, questionable, and worthless stuff. The house is empty now. Van Sias, K7VS, bought the estate and has a double garage full of older test equipment, and some nice ham radios for sale. His phone is (541)779-0723 in Medford, Oregon.

# Photo Display

Photography by Dave Brown

Here are the radios displayed at the December meeting. They are radios whose origins or makers are unknown. Sonny Clutter's entry is not a radio at all, but is an early condenser microphone.



**Charlie Kent**



**Dave Brown**



**Sonny Clutter**



**Dan Howard**



**Mike Parker**



**Pat Kagi**

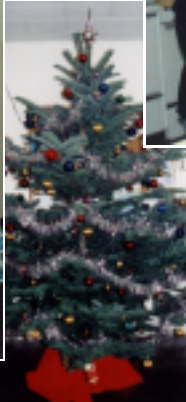
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# December Meeting Photos

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Photography by Rick Walton

As you can see, there was a lot of food and fun for those who attended.





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# *Voilà*

*...new and recent finds by NVRs members*

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by Sonny Clutter

Visit my Vintage Radio site @ <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

**Tony Hauser:** 1956 Philco E-670 tube portable radio 1950 Philco 51-930 bakelite table radio 1950 GE 226 bakelite table radio 1937 (first edition) Mallory Yaxley Radio Service Encyclopedia

**Sonny Clutter:** Marconi Phone VI, early 1 tube and Marconi Phone V2A, early 2 tube.

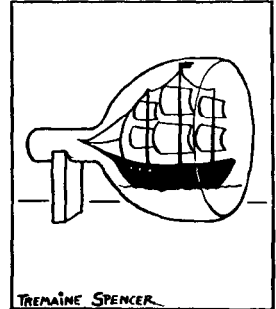
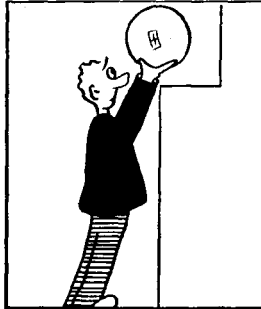
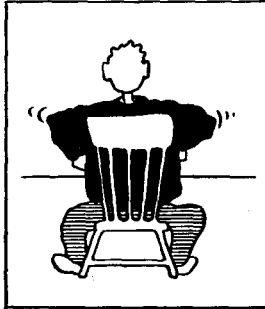
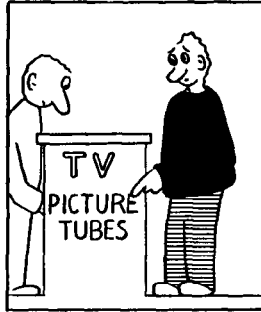
**Ray Vanderzanden:** TRY\_CITY Model W5 3 tube battery serial # 1215 sold by Montgomery ward 1923 and CROSLEY model V1, 2 tube battery 1923.

**Dave Wise:** I got quite a few (for me) radios within the last 3 months, after nothing for years. It's almost the first transistor stuff I've ever gotten. I got a about half of this for cheap at the tail end of the Henry's estate sale (where I re-met Rick, he mentioned it in a previous Call Letter), the rest off eBay. Here's the list: RCA 1MBT6 T-O wannabe, Zenith Royal 275, Royal 400, Royal 500H, Royal 500E, 2 Royal 500Ds, Royal 500(B) coatpockets (I guess I like these :-), Westinghouse H713P7 mini table radio, GE P715D coatpocket, Raytheon 8TP1 lunchbox, Bulova travel alarm watch-radio, Philco T61-124 pocket, NEC NT-640 micro, Sony 2F-23W micro am/fm, Computron micro (pillow-shaped British appearance design), Nobility micro (familiar square box), 2 Standard SR-G430 Micronic Rubys, Standard SR-H437 Micronic Ruby

**Rick Walton:** From the Christmas party auction I won a Silvertone 9002 5-tube bakelite and a novelty "Jazz Age" transistor cathedral reproduction. From eBay I won a Rider's Volume XVII (this one has the original covers - my first one is in a big 3-ring binder) and a Philco 46-350 1946 tube portable.

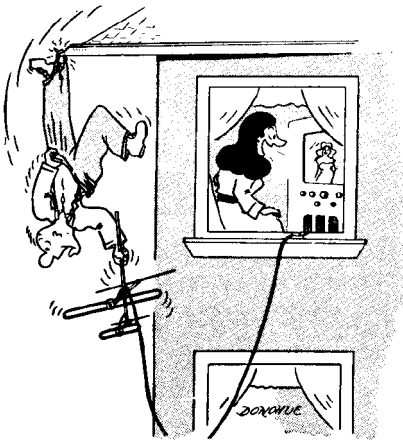
# Radio Humor

Here are some cartoons from a few 1951 issues of *Radio-Electronics* that reflect the emphasis on television at that time.



TREMAINE SPENCER

JUNE, 1951



"Hold it right there, the picture is fine now."



"Poor response, no hold, but very good power pack."

MARCH, 1951

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# Looking Back

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Submitted by Art Redman

## **Television Is Shown At Store Here**

From The Oregon Journal July 13, 1931. Page 3.

Portland's first television demonstration was made this morning (July 13, 1931) before the newspaper in Lipmann Wolfe and Company radio department.

Operated by E.J. Rapp radio department manager of the department store, a television and receiver were hooked up for the broadcast and the delegation saw two tiny figures roller-skating across a five inch lenses on the receiver.

Insuline Corporation of America equipment was used, the apparatus being shipped from the radio manufacturers shown in Chicago. It arrived Sunday.

Rapp placed film in a projector a beam of light played on a scanning disc which broke it up into fine lines which in turn were projected on a photo electric cell.

In broadcast television this impulse as transformed by the photoelectric cell would be amplified and broadcast, but since there is no television broadcast license here Rapp connected the transmitter directly by wire to the receiver and the demonstration took the status of wired television. The demonstration was in progress against a red background. The dark picture flickered. There was no mistaking what was going on. A figure skated past lampposts for a minute or so, then joined another in doing stunts.

The words "Fannie Farmer falls fast and furious" were clear.

Rapp emphasizes that television in no way replaces the present radio receiver and that when it does arrive on a broadcast basis the pictures will be transmitted on short waves.

J.J. Becker of the Insuline Corporation accompanied the equipment here. Final adjustments have not been made and it is expected that as operators become familiar with the equipment demonstrations will improve. As far as it is known, the Lipton Wolf demonstration will be the first in the West.

According to the Radio Collectors Guide Insuline Corporation of America offered five television models for sale in 1931. Model 1254 sold for \$200.00 was one of two complete television receivers offered. Their model 1256 was a scanner and amplifier and sold for \$99.50. Model 1257

was television receiver only and sold assembled for \$69.50 or as a kit for \$59.50.

## **Atwater Kent Announces New Screen Grid Tubes**

From The Oregonian May 5, 1929, Section 4, Page 6.

The Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia made an announcement yesterday (May 4, 1929) of its' new screen grid tube, the latest advance in receiving sets. This makes the first opportunity that radio lovers have to listen to the magic of screen grid as embodied in an Atwater Kent.

The screen principle is introduced as one of the greatest steps forward in radio after tests that have resulted in thousands of hours in the perfection of this new radio voice. Besides the exhaustive steps of the Atwater Kent Laboratories engineers this set has proven tests all over the United States and has proven the contention of A. Atwater Kent that such a principle practically revolutionizes radio reception in the individual home.

The models now offered are distributed through Oregon and Washington and some portions of adjoining states by the Sunset Electric Company of Portland, Seattle, and Spokane.

## **Stewart Warner Installs Television Hookup Prediction Made That Radio Will Carry Sight Soon**

From The Oregonian May 5, 1929, Section 4, Page 6.

Stewart Warner is ready for television according to O.M. Hill manager of Stewart Warner Sales Company. The latest Stewart Warner set has a television hookup incorporated in it. All one has to do in a year or five years from now is to sit by his fireside and see and hear events that are taking place many miles away.

Stewart Warner is the first manufacturer to install television connections and in fact this new set is declared to be the most advanced radio assembly yet seen. It was not the first they were the one of the first to use the new 245 type tubes in the output amplifier stage. All radios now in production are equipped in that manner.

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## Swap Shop

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**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) 774-6560

**BUY, SELL, & TRADE:** Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: < <http://www.radiolaguy.com> > or e-mail me at: < [sonny@radiolaguy.com](mailto:sonny@radiolaguy.com) >

Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

**WANTED:** The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

**WANTED:** The INGRAHAM man wants radios with wood Ingraham cabinets. If you're not sure if it's an Ingraham, call Ed Cook in Vancouver, (360) 573-1439, or e-mail "hopopco1@home.com".

**FOR SALE:** \*\*1925 Chelsea Super 5 console battery set. Complete but untested and has some water rings on lid. Best offer. Phone 245-1341

**FOR SALE:** \*\*Freed-Eisemann FE-15 Battery radio, good condition - \$90.00.

Kellogg Wavemaster model unknown, fair condition - \$65.00.

Brandes composite horn speaker and driver, fair condition - \$65.00.

Sonora wood box speaker, good condition - \$65.00.

Zenith console 12-S-370, very nice original finish, plays good, you won't find a nicer one around here - \$1395.00.

Contact David Vaughn, 503-574-2825

**FOR SALE:** \*\*Radios, portables, clock radios, test equipment, AK-60, Radiola 33, 100A speaker. Lots more. Send SASE for list. Bud Larson, 1325 Ridgeway, Medford, OR 97504, (541)773-5214, [budedna@medford.net](mailto:budedna@medford.net).

## Leads and Needs

Radiolaguy's web page is full of lots of information on early radio, TV and also provides lots of links to other valuable info resources relating to the radio collecting hobby; it's not just a "for sale" site. Be sure and visit the site often. One of the services offered is pictures and information on the entire RCA "Radiola" line from 1921 to 1931 and my "show and tell" page.

If you have empty boxes, please bring them to the January meeting for me. I'd also take your bubble wrap if you have any! Also, see my web site at <http://radiogalerykent.com>. Charlie Kent

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## The Back Page

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This unusual television range was shown in the June, 1951 issue of *Radio-Electronics* magazine. Wouldn't this be a wild addition to a collection?

# Meeting Location!

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Our monthly meetings are held in the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

1. Take the OR-213 exit, exit number 10, towards PARK PLACE/MOLALLA.
2. From the South, turn **RIGHT** onto SR-213, or from the North, keep **RIGHT** at the fork in the ramp and merge onto SR-213.
3. Turn **LEFT** at the first traffic light onto **CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.**
4. Turn **RIGHT** onto **S FORSYTHE RD.**
5. Turn **LEFT** onto **S HARLEY AVE.** The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S. Taylor Lane.

The written instructions came from “Map Quest” on the Internet; the map is scanned from a AAA map with much detail removed for the sake of clarity.

