

The
**Call
Letter**

November, 2002
Vol. 28 — No. 11



Going once, Going twice, **Sold!**

Over **25** years in print!

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 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).

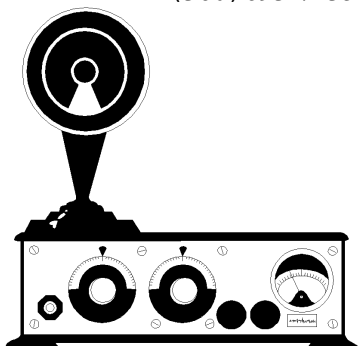
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2002:

President	Wendy Johnson-Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Charlie Kent	(503) 281-9335
<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
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On the cover: Dick Bixler, ably assisted by Cliff Tuttle, auctions off a handful of books at the Fall Swap Meet. Be sure to read Cliff’s report on the Swap Meet in this issue.

The next meeting is on November 9, 2002.

Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

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

December Call Letter Deadline: December 3, 2002.

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.

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

It was a good Swap Meet, as evidenced by Cliff Tuttle’s report in this issue; not as large as in the Spring, but fun for all who participated. I had a good time, even if I came home with just one box of tubes, and nothing from the auction.

Once again election time is upon us, and I don’t mean all the ballyhoo taking place in the public arena. President Wendy Johnson-Kent is not running for a second term behind the gavel, so we need to be thinking of who we will nominate to the position. By our constitution, nomination of candidates takes place at the November meeting with the election of officers in December. Take note of the officers’ responsibilities that are printed on the inside back cover.

It took until the last minute, but I finally got a full page for Voilá. I hope that more of you will participate over the coming months by letting Sonny know what treasure (or trash) you’ve acquired recently. It’s your chance to brag a bit — don’t miss it.

I’ve compiled a bit of a report on the Lundsten Estate Auction for this issue. I didn’t try to list prices because my own list was woefully incomplete and I haven’t received any other lists to fill in the gaps. I wish that I had received word about the auction in time to publish the announcement in the last issue of the *Call Letter*. I didn’t know Mr. Lundsten, but he had been a member of the club for several years until this year, when he did not renew his membership.

Again this month we have Remembering Radio from Dick Karman, and I’ve included another of the historical pieces submitted by Art Redman, this time a history of the radio stations in Clark County, Washington. There are also new items and requests in the Swap Shop.

Finally, way back on page 12, is a reprint of a reprint! From the April 1998 issue: a reprint of the August 1982 “Atmospherica” by the club’s own poet, the late Tom James.

NWVRS 2002 Calendar of Events

November 9 Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
 Nomination of officers for 2003.

December 14 Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

Status of Oct 12, 2002 Swap Meet

by Cliff Tuttle

The October 2002 Swap meet seemed to be a reasonable success, though the foot traffic was lower than what was seen last May. I suspect some sellers were a little disappointed in the turnout. I look forward to a bit of discussion at the November meeting to help improve the format for next year.

We sold 25 tables, compared to 33 last May, and this included a few tables for the Phonograph and Audio folks. They seemed to fit right into our gathering, and I would hope they come back for next May's swap. If so, we should include a reference to them in the advertising, especially if we can get a few more of them to come.

Here is how the finances came out (approximately)

Costs:

\$300.00 Rent for Building
\$190.89 Advertising (a great deal, way to go Mr. Bixler)
\$52.88 Raffle Prize (\$18.94 for Video, \$33.94 for book)
\$543.77 Total Costs

Revenue:

\$375.00 Table Space (25 tables @ \$15 each)
\$136.00 Auction Proceeds (Thanks again, Mr. Bixler)
\$109.00 Raffle Ticket Sales.
\$610.00 Total Revenue

There may be some small adjustments coming, so the final number may be closer to a break even, but it does not look bad. Dick Bixler got a very good deal on advertising, and I believe we covered insurance for this October meet when we bought it for the meet last May, keeping both areas under budget.

Regarding the Raffle, David Wise was the winner, and he chose the video and book. We effectively netted out \$56.12 (\$109.00-\$52.88). The video was "Empire of the Air" and the book was Stein's on Pre War Consoles. The other choices for prizes were the Superman Radio or the "Project." I would like to discuss this raffle format with the group in November and see how we might want to modify it for future meets.

Please come to the November meeting with your questions or comments, and of course, feel free to give me a call anytime to discuss.

And as a final note: We will be having elections for new officers in November. Pending the outcome, it might be wise for me cut back on some of my other duties, and chairing the swap meets would be a good duty to turn over to new blood (then again, pending the outcome, I may have lots of time on my hands). Please give some thought to taking on the Swap meets for a year or two. And give some thought to running for an Office. We can use some new faces, and I can tell you from experience, it can be a lot of fun.

Swap Meet Photos

Photography by Rick Walton



Remembering Radio for November

by Dick Karman

November is a month of beginnings in radio's past. November 2nd, 1920 KDKA in Pittsburgh went on the air. It has been dubbed the 1st commercial radio station. Other November stations around the country include KYW in Philadelphia, WGH in Newport News, VA, KXO in El Centro, CA, WGL in Ft. Wayne, IN, WMT in Cedar Rapids, IA, and WOL in Washington, DC.

The two that have been part of my life are KVI in Seattle (11/24/1926), and KXL in Portland (11/27/1926). They began broadcasting only days apart and although I can't confirm it, I believe that they were owned by the same family. Since then KVI has gone through more than a dozen owners and KXL is currently owned by Rose City Radio.

Long before radio was invented two events occurred that would change our lives: Jim Jordan was born (11/06/1896) in Peoria IL, and Mary Margaret McBride was born in Paris, Mo (11/16/1899). Both would play starring roles in the radio entertainment industry.

In the 1930s Buck Rogers of the 25th Century came on the air (11/07/1932), as did the Edger Bergen and Charlie McCarthy show (11/17/1936). The latter became an overnight success while the former was only a small star in a huge galaxy. But while Buck was making fun of the future and Charlie was making fun of Edger, NBC formed the 1st full-sized symphony orchestra exclusively for radio (November, 1937). No one made fun of it. Other new shows that came to radio in November included The Goldbergs (11/20/1929) and Groucho Marx (11/28/32).

In 1960 the New York Giants signed a broadcasting contract with WNEW which they renewed for the next 32 years. On November 4th, 1992 they moved their live broadcasts to WOR.

November of 1960 also seemed to be the end of radio as we wish we could remember it. CBS cancelled the last sponsored dramatic radio shows, Ma Perkins, Right to Happiness, Young Dr. Malone, the Second Mrs. Burton, Amos and Andy, and Have Gun Will Travel, all on Thanksgiving weekend 1960.

Some of you would be disappointed if I left out the favorite station for young shortwave operators in the 1960s. Yes, that famous time broadcast WWV, that we all grew up with in Greenbelt, Maryland. In 1966 it moved its transmitter to a sight near Fort Collins, Colorado. It's still as clear today as it was over 40 years ago. It's about time to say "goodnight."

Thanks for tuning in. We've been looking at radio's past for about 12 months now. The December issue will be the last one for Remembering Radio. Maybe some new direction will come up. So long for now!

Clark County Radio History

Compiled by Craig W. Pattillo 8/91

From the Photo File Clark County Historical Society

Submitted by Art Redman

CL8: Licensed to the Vancouver Barracks. Began operation early 1922. Frequency 750 kHz. Power 5 watts. Changed frequency to 1290 kHz. in 1923. Changed call letters to KFVL in late April 1925. Clark County, Washington's first radio station. Station burnt down June 28, 1925.

KVAN: Licensed to Vancouver. Began operation October 1, 1939. Frequency 880 kHz. Power: 500 watts. Changed frequency to 910 kHz March 29, 1941. Changed call letters to KISN May 1, 1959. Station signed off the air summer, 1976. Began operation again April 1, 1980 as KKSX.

KHFS: Licensed to Vancouver. Began operation July 4, 1954. Frequency 1150 kHz. Power 1000 watts. Changed call letters to KKEY summer 1957. Changed city license to Portland, Oregon October 1968.

KRIV: Licensed to Camas. Began operation December 1955. Frequency 1480 kHz. Power: 1000 watts. Changed call letters to KPVA in 1958. Changed call letters to KVAN in 1960. Changed city of license to Vancouver in 1963. Changed call letters to KARO in 1980. Changed call letters to KAAR in 1981. Station signed off the air summer 1987. Began operation again April 25, 1988 as KBMS.

KGAR: Licensed to Vancouver. Began operation August 10, 1963. Frequency 1550 kHz. Power: 1000 watts. Changed call letters to KVAN in 1981. Changed call letters to KMJK-AM in 1989. Changed call letters back to KVAN in 1991.

KMUZ: Licensed to Camas. Scheduled to begin operation late 1991. Frequency 94.7 MHz. Power: 3000 watts. This will become Clark County's first FM station.

Lundsten Estate Auction

by Rick Walton

On October 4th and 5th, the estate of Wayne Lundsten was auctioned at the Team Van Gordon auction house in Barlow, Oregon. The auction catalog contained just over 2600 lots for auction, of which about 600 were radios. The radios were displayed in the large auction room for preview beginning at noon on Friday, the 4th, and the auction began at 6:30 pm.

Steve Van Gordon, owner of the auction house and one of the night's auctioneers, started things with a quick rundown of the rules and a brief explanation of where the items had come from. Then Mickey Meredyth took the first shift as auctioneer and set the pace selling an item every thirty seconds. Consequently the prices remained fairly low. By the time bidding stopped for the evening at 10:30, 400 items had been sold or passed due to no bid. A team with a video camera moved about the room, and as each item came up for bidding, the item was shown on video monitors at the front of the room. This technique seemed to allow the transition from one item to the next to go more smoothly and quickly.

The condition of the radios ranged from just fair to very good. The quality of the sets ranged from mundane to very collectable, although there were few of the latter. Because the prices stayed low, most of the radios were sold a bargain prices, in some cases as low as \$2.50.

Bidding resumed at 10:00 am Saturday morning and continued well past the time I had to leave. I learned that a number of the radios that had been passed the previous evening were sold as grouped lots, with a "tableful" of radios selling for as little as \$10.

Another auction was held for items that had not made it into the catalog for the first week. The radios in that auction were reported to be of lesser quality and in generally poorer condition.

Here are a few photos from the auction.



Steve Van Gordon



Mickey Meredyth



Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRs members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Sonny Clutter: Zenith console model 10-S-153

Paragon 2-tube battery set from 1924

Gilfillan Mirror Glass radio from the mid '30's

Ed Cook: Emerson Bullseye AX 212 in beautiful tiger maple at the recent auction in Canby.

Gordon Ormsby: I bought a 1938 12-tube motorized Zenith Shutterdial chassis at the Rickreall Ham Swapfest. Now all I need is the Walton or console cabinet (a basket case is OK with me) and a speaker to go with it. Also, same day, I bought a AK-55 breadbox with a matching speaker, and a AK model e speaker in great shape from a long-retired radio repairman north of Corvallis.

Cliff Tuttle: At the Expo last Saturday, I acquired an Atwater Kent Model 32 (a bit of a project, but one I did not have, and the Globe 01A's were all great). Also got an Atwater Kent 427 console (a real project, this one has been antiqued with the olive green stuff, but the chassis is complete and very clean). Thanks for the lead Dick.

Rick Walton: From the Lusted Estate auction in Canby:

Westone model 34

Howard chairside

Firestone 4-A-92 Clock Radio

Sentinel 1U346 Clock Radio

Philco 42-321

Silvertone bakelite Ch. 132.884.1

RCA 45 rpm phono

From a flea market in Aurora:

Zenith 3000-1 transistor Transoceanic with FM

From a Wilsonville garage sale:

Zenith K731 AM/FM tube receiver

Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy

Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Swap Shop

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) 513-0410

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 "hopopcol@attbi.com".

FOR SALE: A wide variety of radios at <http://radiogallerykent.com>. Charlie Kent

FOR SALE: *Basic tube tester (Heath?) - \$20 or offer

Sherwood S-4400 tube stereo amp - \$25

Miscellaneous radios - tube and transistor collection - \$5 and up, or \$40 for all. Contact Damon Vandehey, (503)259-9129.

FOR SALE: **250 Watt AM Broadcast transmitter made by GE. Two sets of tubes. Working when replaced y newer transmitter. \$250. L.G. Hegsted, W7QW@AOL.com, 360-491-6642.

FOR SALE: 28 bakelite and plastic radios, 26 of which are Zeniths dating from 1939-1959. Two of the Zeniths have busted cases. Of the other two, one is a Motorola 5X1 and the other is a Stewart-Warner 9161-C. Best offer for any or all. Contact David Ferriday at 503-223-9634.



FOR SALE: Complete issues (almost) of Sam's Photofacts #500 through #1000. +++ \$65.00 +++ Rudy Z. 503-255-2227

FREE: **Free RCA early color set — I have a 1964 RCA color console (ch. CTC- 12), I bought new, which needs a new home. The cabinet is good, and chassis plays well. A nonworking table model with the same chassis (for parts) goes with the deal. The CTC 12 chassis was one of the best for the 21FJP22 crt series.



Thanks----Rudy Z. 503-255-2227

WANTED: Chassis for a Majestic Grandfather clock radio or Majestic model 15. Also need a chassis and speaker for a Philco cathedral, preferably model 81. Pat Kagi, 360-694-6149

Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Want to know what a particular “Radiola” model looks like? Want to know how to clean & polish Bakelite or Catalin? Visit radiolaguy’s web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photo’s, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items.

Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy

Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>





By Tom James, from the August, 1982 Call Letter

Inside Stuff —

*The constitution of the club
Of the Northwest V.R. cats,
Calls for swap-meets twice a year,
But doesn't specify "where-ats".
Where will the swap-meet be set up
To please everyone just right?
Thus long and stormy arguments
At the Buena Vista site!*

*The Homey folk all say "Right here",
Amid the trees and greenery—
We can sit down and eat and chat
And trade and sell with scenery.
The far out guys would rent a park
Or fairground from the county;
They'd charge hefty table fees
To pay the whoppin' bounty.*

*The median bunch are wishy-wash,
With not much to trade or sell.
They don't want it too far afield,
Because gas is higher than (the dickens)
The Cathedral group is adamant—
(They won't be left in the lurch)
They say it's so symbolic,
They opt for St. Whoozit's Church.*

*If you're looking for a punchline
To this silly tale of woe;
When swap-shop's up for space again,
You tell us where to go!*

Officer's Roles

The President

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall set the time and the place of Board of Directors' Meetings. The President has the power to appoint members of committees as appropriate to enhance the activities of the society.

The Vice President

The Vice President shall be responsible for planning and arranging technical and entertaining activities associated with the society's meetings. He serves as chairman of the program committee if such a committee is appointed. He acts as presiding officer at meetings if the President is unavailable.

The Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting and for receiving and preparing all of the society's correspondence.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds received and disbursed by the society and shall report all monetary transactions and treasury balance at each regular meeting of the society. The Treasurer shall prepare a list of members in good standing for distribution at the next regular meeting following the annual meeting of the society.

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of the society plus the immediate past president of the society. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the society. The Board shall determine a suitable time and place for regular society business meetings.