

The **Call**  **Letter**

December, 2002
Vol. 28 — No. 12

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STATION

Edited by HUGO GERNSBACK

HOW TO MAKE THE
LOUD-SPEAKING
X-MAS TREE
See Page 632



In this Issue— "THE NEW HAMMARLUND-ROBERTS CIRCUIT"

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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 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).

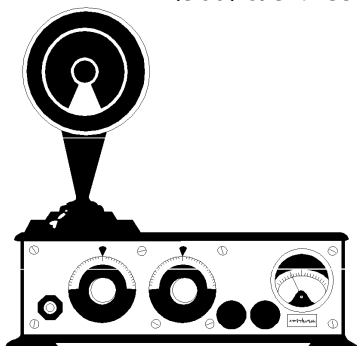
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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
Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



December 2002

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On the cover: A Christmas cover from a December issue of *Radio News*. This cover was submitted by Ron Hershey, who found it on the Internet.

The next meeting is on December 14, 2002.

Annual dues are due!
Election of officers for 2003
followed by the annual
Holiday Party!
Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

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

January Call Letter Deadline: December 29, 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

Another year is almost at an end! When we meet on December 14, our annual Holiday Party will follow the election of officers for 2003. Like last year, we actually have to vote for a vice-president, and also like last year, we've nominated two most worthy candidates. I encourage everyone to attend who can, to participate both in the election and in the usual great time and good food that we always have at these events.

Don't forget: it's time to pay your annual dues if you haven't yet.

Items of particular interest in this issue are Ron Hershey's photos from the Rickreall ham swap meet, and George Kirkwood's instructions for making and mounting crystals for use as detectors in crystal sets. The last installment of Dick Karman's "Remembering Radio" appears this month.

For each of you I wish a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous and joyful new year.

NWVRS 2002 Calendar of Events

December 14 Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap
8:30. Don't miss this one! Election of officers for 2003,
then annual Holiday Party.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Sonny Clutter: 1949 12" Sparton console TV model 5037 in a beautiful "Blonde" cabinet.

Rick Walton: Guild Model 484 "Spice Chest" radio. A gift from my wife who found it at an antique mall in Minneapolis. This version has the plain grill cloth and louvered doors.

Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, Secretary

President Wendy Johnson-Kent called the November 9, 2002 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. There were 40 members at our meeting today. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved. Club member Don Hunker will have surgery in Tuality Hospital on November 12.

Old Business

Swap Meet Cliff Tuttle discussed the swap meet, and most members felt that the swap meet was small, but that it was a good swap meet. Members gave Dick Bixler a round of applause for getting the swap meet advertising, and for managing the auction at the end of our swap meet.

A comment for improvement was that the sign was not placed very well. Another comment was that we need to arrange swap tables over more of the available space.

To get more interest in our web page, Dave Brown will add some links to it. He needs us to let him know about any good links.

Wendy said that we need someone to co-ordinate future swap meets. She said that it is also possible for two people to volunteer to co-ordinate the swap meets as a team.

New Business

Nomination of Club Officers The following people were nominated for club offices for Year 2003:

President—Cliff Tuttle

Vice-President—Dave Brown, George Kirkwood

Secretary—Liles Garcia

Treasurer—Ed Charman

Library John Bucholtz said that he will inventory our library after the December meeting, and he would like for everyone to return library books.

Club Christmas Party We discussed the arrangements for our Christmas party that we will have at our December meeting.

Club Display at Portland Airport Cliff described an opportunity for the club to have a radio display at the Portland Airport. The display cases are still being constructed right now, but we may be able to use them after the first of the year. Cliff would like for members to give him some ideas and topics for a display case.

Radio Information Jerry Talbott received a sheet of information from Rock-Sea Enterprises that would be helpful to some one that shares our hobby. He was interested in finding a method to distribute this information to other people that need it.

Technical Discussion

George Kirkwood described how to make your own crystal detectors for crystal sets. George uses items and materials that are normally found around the house for making crystals. George's homemade crystals work better than almost any other crystal material. There was a lot of interest in George's presentation and the group had many questions. Members gave George a round of applause for his presentation.

Leads and Needs

A few members mentioned that there is a real need for people that will fix old radios. Gene Castenetta said that he would paint radios. Blake Deitz will repair radios.

Robbie Robinson needs a FM1000 tube.

Damon Vandehey has a lot of tubes for sale.

Ed Cook needs an on/off switch/volume control for a Setchell-Carlson 427 Frogeye radio.

Program Topic

The program topic today was "crystal radios". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First place—George Kirkwood—TMC Wireless crystal set

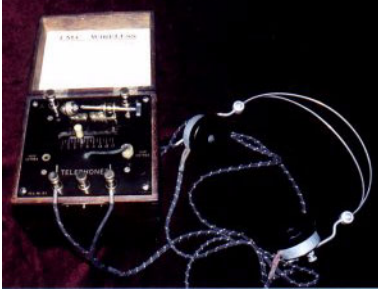
Second place—Dave Brown—Trego 2 tube with crystal detector set

Third place— George Kirkwood —crystal radio test board

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

On display at the November meeting were four crystal sets.



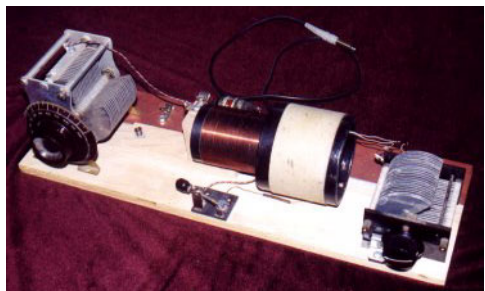
English-made TMC -- George Kirkwood

A collection of four
Portland-made crystal sets
-- Sonny Clutter



Trego Crystal-Tube receiver -- Dave Brown

Homemade Loose-Coupler
-- George Kirkwood



Photos from Rickreall

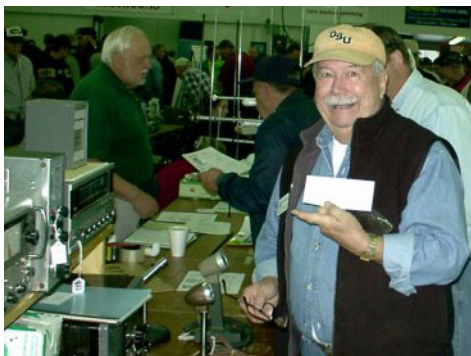
Photography by Ron Hershey



Rickreall_1 Dick Bixler swapping tales at his swap table



Brian Toon and Mark Richardson discussing the ones that got away



Dick Bixler celebrating the sale of one of his radios



Mark Richardson, Ed Guenther and Liles Garcia having an intense discussion

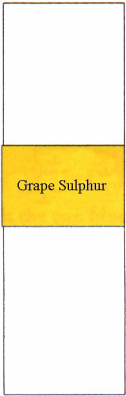


Ed Guenther, Mark Richardson, and Liles Garcia nervously plugging in radio to see if it works

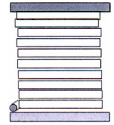
Make Your Own Crystals!

by George Kirkwood

Materials needed:

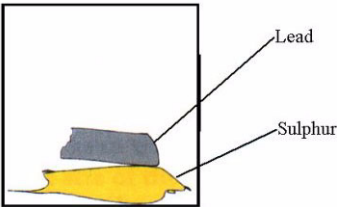
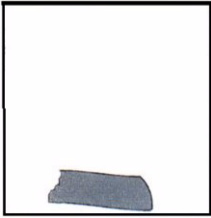


- Grape Sulphur - from the garden store
- Roll of plumbing lead - from a hardware store
- Two small cans (not aluminum — tuna cans will work)
- Brass tubing - from a hobby shop
- Two blocks of wood about 1/2" thick
- 1.25" Bolt with nut and washers



To make the crystal:

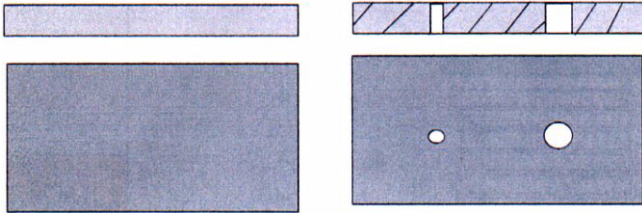
1. Melt some of the lead in one of the cans using a torch for a heat source.
2. Put one tablespoon of sulphur in the second can and pour a small amount of molten lead on the sulphur and heat with the torch.



3. The final result will be a black chunk. This is the crystal material — works good!

To mount the crystal:

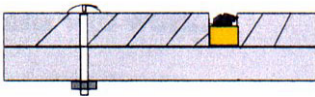
1. Use two blocks 1/2" thick as shown. Drill a hole in one block the size of the crystal base (diameter of the brass tubing).



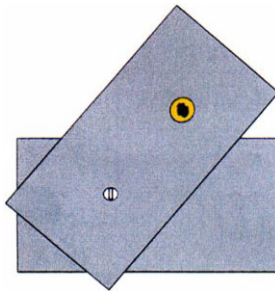
2. Drill a hole through both blocks and bolt them together as shown.



3. Cut 1/4" rings from the brass tubing. Push a ring into the hole on the top block. It must be seated on the bottom block.
4. With a soldering iron, melt the lead into the ring.
5. Place a small piece of the diode material in the hot lead.



6. After the lead in the cup cools, twist the blocks to the side. Use a dowel the size of the hole to push out the mounted crystal from the back side.



Remembering December Radio

by Dick Karman

Beginnings:

12/18/1890 - Edwin H. Armstrong was born in New York City. Armstrong invented Frequency Modulation, and spent many of his years fighting to defend his invention from patent infringements.

In December of 1907 Eugene Farrar went down in history as the first person to sing live on the radio. He did it from the only broadcasting station that was functional at the time: the Brooklyn Navy Yard station in Brooklyn, New York.

12/03/1923 - 1st Congressional open session broadcast via radio 12/06/1923 - President Calvin Coolidge was 1st to make presidential address on radio. 12/23/1928 - NBC sets up a permanent, coast-to-coast radio network 12/03/1950 - well-known and beloved Paul Harvey begins his radio broadcasting career

12/13/1924 - KOA-AM in Denver CO begins radio transmissions 12/16/1926 - WOW-AM in Omaha NE begins radio transmissions 12/17/1926 - KYA-AM in San Francisco CA begins radio transmissions 12/07/1921 - KWG-AM in Stockton CA begins radio transmissions 12/10/1926 - WCBS in Springfield, MA begins radio transmissions

On December 23, 1926 KEX radio in Portland began transmitting. I can write volumes (and have) on the history of KEX. When Golden West Broadcasters owned the station, I spend many happy hours researching its past. For now we'll just say, "happy 76th birthday."

12/02/1932 - "Adventures of Charlie Chan" 1st heard on NBC-Blue radio network 12/10/1927 - Grand Ole Opry makes its 1st radio broadcast, in Nashville, TN 12/04/1923 - WEAJ radio begins broadcasting Eveready Hour (variety show) 12/26/1954 - "The Shadow," airs for last time on radio

Endings:

Radio Actress Mae West performed her final show on NBC on December 27, 1937. This was the date of the fateful Adam & Eve skit performed by Mae and her partner Jim Ameche on the Edger Bergen Show. It wasn't the script that was deemed inappropriate for radio (I know, I've read it) it was the meaning that Miss West gave to it with her performance. Two days after Christmas it was too much for the NBC censors and it got her permanently banned from NBC radio.

In December 1982, Freeman Gosden, who played Amos on the Amos 'n' Andy show, passed away at the age of 83.

12/11/1992 - WNEW AM1130 in New York City stops transmitting after 58 years.

On December 16, 1978 an amazing lady on radio passed from us. All too often we hear that Cab Calloway, jazz musician and orchestra leader, had a sister, but few people remember her by name: Blanche Calloway. Blanche was as well-known as her brother. Her records, originally on 78s are now being released on CDs. She recorded under names like Blanche Calloway and the Jazz Boys, or Blanche Calloway and her Joy Boys. She is remembered for her music, her dancing, and the fact that she hosted two different radio shows for many years. Blanche died at 76.

Thanks to you all for sharing a year of radio history with me. I always enjoy seeing where we've been so that we can enjoy how much progress we've made. Thanks too to your editor for his faithfulness to the club.

I encourage any of you who write or enjoy researching things about our hobby to give some copy to Rick. He can always use the material and the rest of us get to share in your work too.

Lastly, as we remember history, let us not forget the meaning of Christmas. Our country is one nation under God. Our leaders used to follow His teachings. Our calendars reflect His birth. And wise men still follow His star.

Merry Christmas to all.

Dick

A Vintage Radio Gift Idea

submitted by Gordon Ormsby

Make tree ornaments out of old bad tubes. I'm sure this an old idea. I made four in no time and I plan to give them away as stocking stuffer Christmas gifts to family: To solder a small loop of wire into the top of grid cap tubes you need to widen the hole. I think I used 22 or 24 gage bare copper. I put a standard ornament hook into the loop.

To add a hanger to other tubes I tried various methods with wire, but the easiest method uses plastic hangers made for ornaments that I got at a craft store. The top is a big clip/loop that clips to a limb. The base is a small circle that can be bent 90 deg. and superglued to the glass.

Editor's note: Many of you will remember a few years back when we were still meeting at the Buena Vista Clubhouse, that George Kirkwood decorated the tree for our Holiday Party with miniature tubes that had a bow of ribbon tied around the pins.

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 "[hopopocol@attbi.com](mailto:hpopocol@attbi.com)".

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

FOR SALE: 1938 Stromberg Carlson console. \$110. Call Tony at 360-944-8489 or ranft@saw.net

FOR SALE: 1954 Pilot FM-607 tuner-\$75

1976 Sherwood S-7100A stereo receiver with wood case-\$65

Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717) email (jerryt@easystreet.com)

FOR SALE: Tubes, tested except the 807s.

2	1L6	\$20 ea.	4	6V6	\$5 ea.
2	6L6 metal	\$20 ea.	1	NOS 45	\$70
1	NOS 6L6	\$45	2	45	\$35 ea.
1	6MJ6	\$35	1	NOS 83	\$20
1	6JE6	\$15	6	807	\$3

And more in tube caddy — or whole lot for \$225. Contact Damon Vandehey, (503)259-9129.

FOR SALE: Grunow console model 1080 "Super Teledial" chassis 10G, very nice working radio with a beautiful cabinet,\$150. Call or write for more details, Vance 541-753-3356 or vdaberko@fastmail.fm

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

WANTED: ALLIED RADIO & LAFAYETTE CATALOGS from 1959-1968. Jerry Talbott Phone (503-649-6717) or email (jerryt@easystreet.com)

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

FREE: SAMS photofacts number 1000 and above to complete your collection. Please let me know if anyone wants these, else they will be recycled. Pat Kagi (360)694-6149 or (503)450-6078.

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>

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.