

*The*

# *Call Letter*

March 2015  
Volume 41 No. 3



**Ray Vanderzanden  
Silent Key**

## **SPECIAL NOTICE**

**the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will begin at 9:30**

This will leave time for the auction following the business meeting and enable us to be out of the facility by 11:45 for another rental.

# 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.

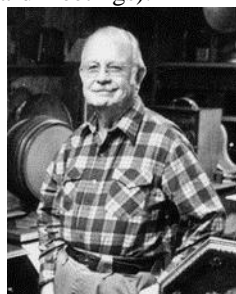
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 2015:

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| President             | Mike McCrow (503)730-4639    |
| Vice-president        | Bryon Toon (503) 266-5527    |
| Treasurer             | Ed Tompkins (503) 573-3895   |
| Recording Secy        | Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288  |
| Corresponding Sec'y   | Pat Kagi (503) 694-6149      |
| Board member at large | Mark Moore (503)286-5224     |
| Librarian             | Damon Vandehey (503)459-1777 |

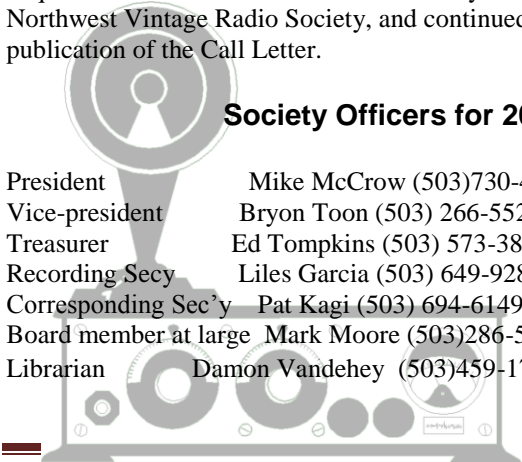
[tranny53@frontier.com](mailto:tranny53@frontier.com)

[edtomp@Q.com](mailto:edtomp@Q.com)

[landn2@frontier.com](mailto:landn2@frontier.com)

[kagi.pat@con-way.com](mailto:kagi.pat@con-way.com)

[mark@pdxhistory.com](mailto:mark@pdxhistory.com)



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# March

## Table of Contents

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| From the Call Letter guy ..... | 2  |
| Remembering Radio Ray .....    | 2  |
| From the President .....       | 3  |
| Calendar of Events .....       | 3  |
| In Memory.....                 | 4  |
| Meeting Notes .....            | 5  |
| Meeting Minutes .....          | 6  |
| February Feature Photos .....  | 9  |
| Technical Tip .....            | 12 |
| Auction news.....              | 14 |

## On the Cover-

Member Ray VanderZanden  
became a silent key on Friday, February 6, 2015

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The NW Vintage Radio Society conducts monthly meetings to promote and preserve the hobby of radio and radio equipment collection. The Public is invited to all meetings, shows, auctions and sales.

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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)

### **The March Feature:**

For the March meeting, the feature is the “Worst Radio Transaction” you’ve ever made. Bring the Radio or a picture, or at least the story. Share your mistake for the entertainment of us all.

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# From the Call Letter guy-

By Dick Karman

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|---|
| <p><b>SPECIAL ATTENTION- MARCH MEETING<br/>BEGINS AT 9:30 (Auction to follow)</b></p> |
|---|

I want to thank Sonny Clutter, Wendy Johnson-Kent and Charlie Kent for rounding up some material for this month. Together we are keeping alive the 4 decade tradition of our organization. It will not be smooth until we get an editor.

For example: Last month I ran a picture of a great radio *what-do-you-call-it* as though it was displayed by Chris Butler. While the picture was taken by Chris, but the device was brought by Mel Sutton. Sorry about that. Thanks Mel for participating in the February Feature.



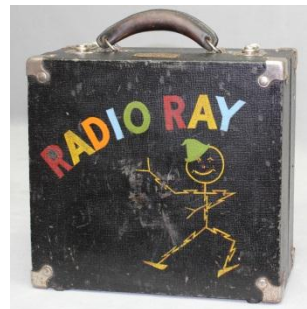
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## REMEMBERING

### Remembering Ray Vanderzanden

By Sonny Clutter

Ray must have been a colorful man when he was younger and worked as radio repairman. I say this because of a piece of test equipment in my possession that he used to own. The case is decorated with a bit of his artwork.



# From the President

From Mike McCrow

Hi everyone.

I just wanted to thank everyone for all the cards, e-mails, calls, and taking the time to visit me. As many of you know I suffered a bleeding blood vessel in my brain. It was operated on at Kaiser Sunnyside in Clackamas Sunday 2/22/2015. Everything is going just fine with the recovery. Other than a couple extra holes in my head I'm just fine. I'm planning on making it to the March meeting. I really appreciate everyone getting the word out about this.



Thanks for all the support.

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## CALENDAR

**March 14** NWVRS Monthly Meeting **9:30am**;  
9:30 AM business Meeting, 11:00 Radio Auction

**April 11** Yakima Hamfest  
Selah Civic Center, 216 S 1 ST, Selah, WA.  
[www.yakimaamateurradioclub.com/yakima-hamfest/](http://www.yakimaamateurradioclub.com/yakima-hamfest/)

**April 18** NWVRS Spring Show and Sale North Lombard  
Eagles Lodge, North Portland, OR. For table rentals  
contact Charlie Kent as soon as possible.

**August 16** PUGET SOUND ANTIQUE RADIO ASSOCIATION  
Swapmeet 9am-1pm;  
Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, WA.  
[www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/](http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/)

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## In Memory

### Radio Ray: Silent Key

William Ray

VanderZanden long time member of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society became a silent key on Friday, February 6, 2015 at the age of eight-six and ten months. Radio Ray as many radio collectors remember him always had



a table at the Society's swap meets next to his good friend Robert "Bob" Campbell. Ray sold mainly battery radio parts and along with a few restored battery sets. His other passions besides radios were socializing with family

Radio Ray had long ties to Oregon. He was born in Oregon, grew up on the family farm near Banks, and attended Forest Grove High School. Ray graduating from Pacific University and the University of Portland. He worked as a chemist for GAF and retired from the Bonneville Power Administration as a quality assurance engineer. The IEEE Proceedings of the eighth Reliability Engineering Conference in Portland was published in his name during April 1981. His second wife of 22 years Sharon and numerous children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive him. He will be missed at our meetings and swap meets.

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# MEETINGS NOTES

Board member at large Mark Moore filled in for ailing President Mike McCrow. He chaired the February 14, 2015 meeting of NWVRS. Vice President Brian Toon and Recording Secretary Liles Garcia were attending the Ham Fest in Rickreall. Charlie Kent and Wendy Johnson-Kent covered their roles respectively. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Forty members and guests were in attendance.

Great-granddaughter Rebecca and her boyfriend Mike brought Bill Malloy to the meeting and were his guests.

## Member's Passing

Bob Campbell announced the sad news of Ray Vanderzanden's passing at 86 years on February 6. Bob brought his obituary published the day before in the *Hillsboro Argus*, which was read. Sonny Clutter shared his memories of Ray, including he was also known as Radio Ray. Sonny had learned that he was quite ill. Sharon requested help handling his radio collection. The club will contact her.

I'm sure that our thoughts and best wishes are with Sharon during this difficult time.

## March Monthly Feature

For March's monthly feature, **Worst Radio Transaction** was chosen; with the carry-over being Unusual (large) Vacuum Tube.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| If you can't pay your dues in person please mail them. | NW Vintage Radio Society<br>P.O. Box 82379<br>Portland, OR 97282-0379<br>Annual dues are \$25.00 |
|--|--|



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# MEETING MINUTES

Wendy Johnson-Kent for Liles Garcia, Recording Secretary

Charlie Kent asked for a motion to approve the January meeting minutes as they appeared in *The Call Letter*. A motion was made to accept, seconded and approved.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Ed Tompkins gave his Treasurer's Report on club finances. The Mason monies have been set up and deposited. Ed noted he is able to access the funds online. Ed had copies of the Mason investment policy for anyone who wanted a copy. A little over 50% of the membership have paid 2015 dues. More were paid at the meeting. The deadline is March 2015 to continue receiving *The Call Letter*. Dave Eaton and Chris Butler were thanked for helping Ed with the annual audit.

## **Website**

Webmaster Pat Kagi announced the club library listing is now online. Our website's software levels were not compatible. After discussion, a vote passed to purchase 2015 software called Net Objects Fusion for \$129.

## **The Call Letter**

The Call Letter editor position is still open for a volunteer. Mark urged members to volunteer. In the January edition, Dick Karman wrote an article on the role of the editor. The work Dick and Blake Dietze did to get the February edition in print is most appreciated. The email editions of *The Call Letter* should be straightened out by next month.

## **Mike Parker Auction**

Mike Parker's articles "In The Shack" were published in many Call Letters. There are approximately 140 items of Mike's that will be auctioned on February 28 at 10:00 am in Brooks, Oregon.

## **April Swap Sale**

About half of the tables are sold for the Saturday, April 18 swap sale on Lombard. Pay now to reserve your same table or sign up for the remaining tables. Set up is from 4-7 pm Friday night. Volunteers are needed for set up & take down.

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We have a KKOB advertising agreement swapping Call Letter advertising for swap meet radio promotion. Charlie Kent is taking over the advertising duties from Dick Bixler and meeting with Jean Winters, KKOB's advertising manager. We may be expanding to KPAM also.

## **Lake Oswego "READS" Program**

Blake Dietze described the event and his part of the presentation last Saturday at Graham's Book and Stationery in Lake Oswego. Chris Butler assisted with the presentation, and Jerry Hertel made a video that Charlie Kent will make into a DVD of for our library. Blake was given a round of applause for his coordination of the very successful event.

## **Archivist Report**

Wendy Johnson-Kent drew from the February 1988 Call Letter on "Contest Results" from the January meeting. This part of our meeting is now called the Monthly Feature. In 1988 Gordon Phillips orchestrated the feature selected and by the applause given at the end of the presentations, determined those to be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons. Longtime members, some no longer with us, won on this occasion for two topics: Battery Sets with Four or More Tubes; and Plastic Sets Post WWII. Scott Shanks, Jim Mason, Jerry Talbot, Art Redman, Don Iverson, Sonny Clutter and Ray Nelson received awards.

## **Board Approved Purchase**

To aid in our club presentations, the Board approved and a membership vote ratified the purchase of a lapel microphone and transmitter receiver box system from Guitar Center. Mark Moore had a \$100 coupon so the purchase was \$449.

## **Health and Welfare**

Mark Dinsmore had surgery, is just out of the hospital, and in recovery.

## **Today's Auction**

Auctioneer Charlie Kent auctioned a nice looking radio record player and items from Frank Richards at the meeting's end.

## **February Monthly Feature**

The topic for the February monthly feature was Your First Radio. Eight members participated (see page 8).

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am

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## The February Feature

was “the first radio” or the acquisition that got you started: (We regrettably missed getting a photograph of Jeff LaDoe’s GE Polystyrene set)

Mark Moore displayed a 1931 RCA Radiola Console (ad)

El Don Hoven showed his Red Metal Arvin model 243T



El Don Hoven - Arvin

Bill Malloy with the help of his great granddaughter brought his Whitestone 5-tube Battery Set



Bill Malloy - Whitestone

Charlie Kent showed his Nordmende Clipper in maze portable



Charlie Kent - Chris Isaak Radio

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Alan Shadduck told us about his  
Airline Model 04BR907A  
Console



Alan Shadduck - Airline

Sonny Clutter began his  
collecting days with a 1940  
Kolster D20 AC set



Sonny Clutter - Kolster

Jerry Veelee told us  
about his Hallicrafter  
S108 Receiver



Jeremy Veelee



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# TECH TIPS

## Tips and Tangled Cords No. 1

By Blake Dietze

A recent project involving a 1948 Buick auto radio lead to this month's column.

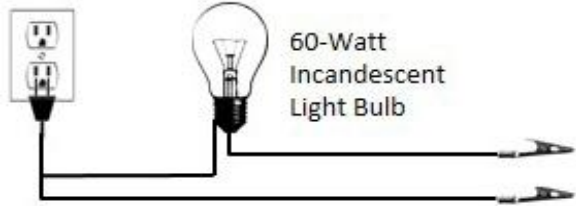
While the restoration was unremarkable, testing became an issue, due in part to the vibrator. The original mechanical vibrator had ceased to function, and I was not ready to risk installing a new solid state one. The solid state vibrators are great in a circuit that is working properly, but very sensitive to over-voltage, over-current, and polarity issues. The radio uses a 6 pin synchronous type vibrator and not having working example became problematic. My work around was to restore the original to a functioning state in order to test and insure that the radio was ready for a solid state replacement. There are several types of vibrators (Shunt fed, Series fed, non-synchronous, synchronous) and most of them used a foam rubber insulation inside. This rubber material was vulcanized to the can and relay base and in the process, used a significant amount of sulfur. The off-gassing of this process contaminates the contacts with time, leaving them non-functional, even when they are NOS.

Conversations in the past with Bob Campbell and Rudy Zvarich gave me some direction and a couple of ideas for restoring the original mechanical unit. First, I removed the outer case by carefully folding back the crimp at the base of the vibrator with a small pair of diagonal cutters (wire cutters). It takes a couple of passes around bottom to enable the removal of the phenolic base from the metal can. Once the actual relay has been removed, burnish the contacts and adjust the pads so that you can just see a sliver of light through them.

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Second, you can use the simple dim-bulb circuit shown in Figure 1 to burn off any residual contaminates. Be sure to practice “Safety First” as the circuit below can cause injury if you’re not careful, I use an isolation transformer when performing these operations.

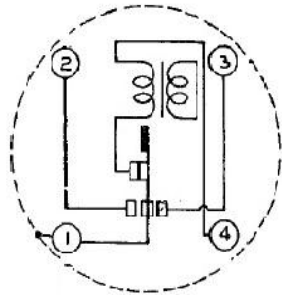
Connect the leads from the dim-bulb tester to the vibrator across the coil section of the unit.



Looking at the figure below, the leads would connect to pins 1 and 4. The Vibrator should hum and the light should glow dimly. If it doesn’t hum and the light does not light, unplug the dim-bulb tester and check for continuity across the coil (if it’s open, you’re done, toss the vibrator). If your vibrator doesn’t hum and the bulb is bright, you have a short somewhere. Again disconnect the dim-bulb tester and try to locate short, then repeat the test.

If all goes well, the vibrator will hum smoothly and this process will burn off any sulfur, carbon, and any other contaminates. Run the vibrator for 30 seconds to 1 minute, then unplug the dim-bulb tester, disconnect the vibrator under test, and see if you’ve been successful.

While we are on the subject of auto radio vibrators, *ALWAYS* make sure you replace the buffer capacitor. This will ensure that your vibrator contacts will last a while. Buffer Capacitors can be hidden inside metal covers, or even inside the power transformer cans and will typically have a 1 KV rating or more.



That’s it for this column, happy hunting and “keep ‘em playing”.

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# Mike Parker Auction News

Public auction prices show us the true market value for our radios. For reference- these are some of the winning bids at the Mike Parker auction:

#3 1931 Stentor Cathedral \$120



#24 1930 Echophone Cathedral \$80

Ozarka speaker \$135



Little spitfire tower horn  
with driver \$120

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#55 1930 Powel Cathedral \$80



#57 1927 Steinite #992  
\$150



1924 Radiola #3A  
\$220

#71 Silvertone #833 \$200

Other winning bids were:  
1926 Halowat #TR-5 \$270  
1925 Halowat TR-5 \$300  
1926 Long Bros. B-5 \$200  
1925 Trego \$185



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## **E-Mail Extras**

These notes won't appear in the snail mail edition of the Call Letter

Dick Karman won't be presenting the "history of Northwest Radio" at this meeting as planned because a wedding party has the hall rented after us and the auction will take up the spare time. We'll try to do it another time.

## **Free Old Time Radio**

Do you like Old Time Radio shows? Some members play them behind their vintage sets. Some enjoy having them to play at swap meets, on road trips, and at home. Through a shrewd business deal Dick Karman has acquired ownership of what looks to be one of the largest Radio Broadcast download sites on the internet (that's as yet unconfirmed). It is free on open to the public. Visit the site and browse the titles. Most of them have years connected with the shows and they can be matched to the years of your radio sets. Select, download and enjoy any of more than 20,000 old broadcasts. VISIT **OTRSIGNAL.COM**

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