

The

# Call Letter

September 2017

Vol 43, #9



## George Kirkwood Presentation

# 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.

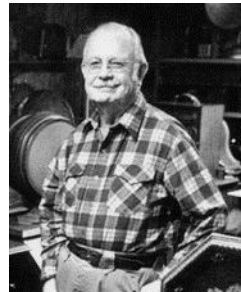
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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) 694-6149	<a href="mailto:patkagi@yahoo.com">patkagi@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Brian Wegener (nnn) nnn-nnnn	<a href="mailto:spudweg@gmail.com">spudweg@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	<a href="mailto:edtomp@Q.com">edtomp@Q.com</a>
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Librarian	Damon Vandehey (503) 459-1777	
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson	<a href="mailto:vanguard4@lycos.com">vanguard4@lycos.com</a>

## On the Cover

**George Kirkwood Crystal Sets** - Photography by Sonny Clutter

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## September Meeting

Our September meeting will be on Sat. Sept. 9 and starts at 9:30 AM.

### Announcements

**Monthly Feature:** Mystery Radio Objects.

**NWVRS has an opportunity to participate in the Maker Faire at OMSI** on September 16-17. If you would like to volunteer to share your knowledge with the public and get more people interested in NWVRS, contact Brian Wegener at [spudweg@gmail.com](mailto:spudweg@gmail.com) or 503-936-7612.

### Editor's Note

Please have next month's Call Letter Contributions in by **September 30**.

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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)

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## **NWVRS Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2017**

President Pat Kagi called the August 2017 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:30 AM. Jeff Quay joined our Society today - welcome Jeff!! George Kirkwood is recuperating from heart surgery and is still in the hospital. Dave Wise's wife has recovered from a recent stroke.

Pat said that we need more people to help with the October Swap Meet. Brian needs more people to help with the OMSI Maker Faire. Charlie Kent has NWVRS coats, shirts, and hats for sale. He needs someone to help sell these items. Charlie also thanked those people who helped with our picnic and swap meet last month. Jeff LaDoe agreed to be our new Librarian. Sonny has a lead on a nice 10 tube Grunow console radio.

The group discussed the auctions at the end of our Swap Meets. We always have some auction items that are marginal in quality and often result in a disposal problem. Members voted to discuss this topic further via email and possibly work on some new rules for auction items.

There were no minutes from the July Picnic; the minutes from our June meeting were approved as published in the July Call Letter. The Program Topic for today is "Antennas". Members showed and discussed the antennas that they brought. The Program Topic for our September meeting is "Mystery Radio Objects". The "carry-over" topic is "FM Radios".

Gary Sanders gave the group a very interesting presentation on antennas. He will be manufacturing the Zenith WaveMagnet antenna for old Zenith radios. Members gave Gary a round of applause for his presentation. Bob Haas gave the group a brief talk about the Vintage Tek Museum. He described some of the items in the Museum's collection. Members gave Bob a round of applause.

The meeting was adjourned and three radios were auctioned at the end of our meeting.

Recorded by Liles Garcia, Secretary

## Calendar of Events

September 8-10. 20th Annual Northwest APRS/Digital Summer Gathering. Valley Camp, North Bend, WA. <http://valleycamp.org/> . [2015 Photo Gallery](#)

September 9. Hamfest 2017. Gallatin Ham Radio Club. Gallatin County Fair Grounds, Bozeman MT. [http://gallatinhamradio.com/?page\\_id=494](http://gallatinhamradio.com/?page_id=494)

September 23. Washington State Convention (Spokane Hamfest) Spokane Valley, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* [Flyer in PDF](#). (287K) [2016 Photo Gallery](#). Contact, Mike Grounds, KE7PG, (509)924-6377 [ke7pg@comcast.net](mailto:ke7pg@comcast.net) .

September 23. Northwest Citizen Corps EXPO. Renton, WA. [Flyer in PDF](#). (922K)

September 23. Magic Valley ARC Tailgate Swap Meet. Twin Falls, ID. [www.k7mva.org](http://www.k7mva.org) . Contact [kc7qr@k7mva.org](mailto:kc7qr@k7mva.org) [Flyer in PDF](#). (1MB)

Sept. 23. Kenai Peninsula Hamfest. American Legion Hall, 902 Cook Ave., Kenai, Alaska. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Moosehorn Amateur Radio Club. <http://www.kl7uw.com/Hamfest2017.htm> 10:00am - 4:00pm. No early setup. \$5 admittance includes \$1 door prize ticket. Tables \$10 include \$5 admittance for one.

October 14. Pacific Northwest VHF Society Conference. Moses Lake, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Registration at <http://www.pnwvhfs.org/conference/2017/announcement.html> . [Flyer in PDF](#).

October 14. Kitsap County Hamfest. Bremerton, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Contact: Jim Nicolet, N7SYD, (360)874-0180. [hamfest@kcarc.org](mailto:hamfest@kcarc.org) <http://www.kcarc.org/>

## Monthly Feature: Antennas

Photography by Dan Howard



**Left: Antenna Lamp and Antenna Balls – display by Dan Howard**  
(left to right)

- The Morris Collapsible Ball Antenna incorporates a large glass insulator in its base. The antenna was sold as part of a kit with matching insulators so that the guy wires could serve as part of the antenna system.
- The Aerial Insulator Co manufactured combination lamps and antennas in various styles in the mid to late 1920's. It was a sister company to the Super Ball Antenna Co, also of Green Bay WI.
- Super Ball antennas incorporated a patented insulator base that allowed the antenna mast to be capacitively-coupled to the antenna and serve as part of the antenna system.

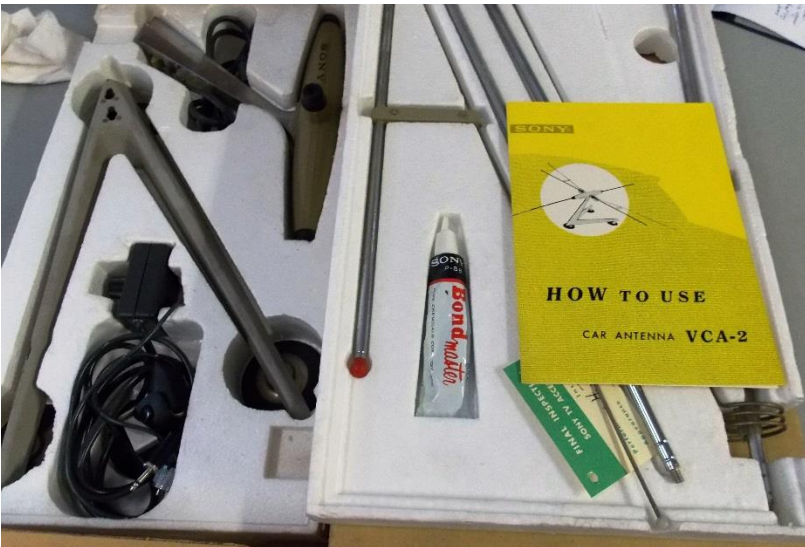
**Right: Antenna Lamp – display by Dan Howard**

Combination radio antenna and lamp made by Aerial Insulator Company, Green Bay WI ca. 1928. The frame of the lamp was the antenna. Additionally, the antenna was capacitively-coupled to the line cord so that the house wiring also functioned as an antenna. These lamps were produced in several styles through the mid to late 1920's.

## Sony Antennas – display by Ray Holland



Around 1960, Sony made televisions small enough that they could be operated in a car. A special bracket was provided so that the TV could hang from the back of the front seat. These are two styles of car antennas used with the TVs. Rubber suction cups are used to hold the antenna to the car roof without marring the paint.



Interior view of the Sony VCA-2 car TV antenna box. Ray Holland purchased this antenna new in 1960 so that his children could watch their Sony TV in the car during the family’s move from Florida to Seattle. TV reception was pretty good all the way across the county, except for the most-rural sections. Note the tube of Sony “Bond Master” compound used to help the suction cups adhere.



**Left: Jackson Bell Loop – display by Alan Shaddock**

An interesting and beautiful rotatable loop that plugs into a socket in the top of a Jackson Bell Model 5 AC radio made in Los Angeles ca 1929.

**Right: Tuned Loop Antenna - display by Brian Wegener.**

A tunable loop antenna recently constructed by Brian Wegener.



**TV Antennas – Sonny Clutter**

left-to-right:

- Telescoping monopole antenna with maroon and gold base.
- Green “tape measure” rabbit ears. Twisting the dial extends and retracts the antenna elements which are constructed like a steel tape measure.
- White and brown RCA rabbit ears antenna with UHF loop antenna.





**Trash Bash** – Both “donors” and “receivers” look forward to the annual trash bash. Through the generosity of several members, there were plenty of radios, speakers, cabinets, parts boxes, etc. to dig through. There were even a few walk-in donations from non-members. Vice President Brian Wegener took care of the trailer for us.



## Clif Watson, 1937

By Art Redman

Clifton H. Watson, the cofounder of the Portland radio firm of Hallock and Watson, made the newspapers twice in 1937. Watson's duties included running down any interference with the reception of police radio station KGPP (Government Portland Police) from all electrical devices that cause static.

During January, Clif Watson cited the operator of a diathermy machine that interfered with police radio reception. The warrant was for the arrest of Alfred Rudden, director of Western State College, at 538 SE Alder. No word appeared in the Oregonian whether the arrest occurred or the offending electrical device was seized or destroyed. In addition, the Hallock and Watson Company renewed its' corporate status after its lapse in 1936 for the last time.

In a bureaucratic struggle, between the Portland Police Department and the Portland Building Bureau Watson was in the middle. In the Oregonian newspaper the head of the Portland Building Bureau H.E. Plummer on October 8, openly criticized radio engineer Watson for disobedience to city Commissioner Orland Bean in a letter made public.

"Watson should either be suspended or transferred to the Police Department, Plummer wrote. "The police should be told to layoff since Watson is in the building bureau and takes his orders from there".

"Mr. Watson has not filed a daily report since June 9, (four months) despite repeated orders to do so", wrote Plummer. "Watson seems willing to obey orders but just doesn't. No discipline can be maintained in the bureau of buildings if an employee ignores the instructions of his superiors".

However, the Oregonian also wrote to noted that C.H. Watson has done a good job for both the Police Department and general radio listener. No further word on any transfer or status of Watson appeared in the Oregonian newspaper in 1937 or 1938.

Sources:

"Chief Criticizes Radio Engineer", The Oregonian October 8, 1937, page 12.

"Device Operator Cited", The Oregonian, January 31, 1937, page 18.

## 2017 PSARA Antique Radio Swap Meet

By Dan Howard

Would the PSARA Swap Meet be “eclipsed” this year? Well, some thought so. With the solar eclipse looming and traffic between Seattle and Portland expected to be miserable, the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association had already heard that several regulars from the NVRS were choosing to stay home this year.

We consider the PSARA’s annual August swap meet to always be one of the best events on the Northwest radio calendar and hate to miss it. So, we packed up and set out for Seattle on Saturday morning.

The Clark County Ham Fair in Salmon Creek, WA was a bonus and logical stopping-off point on the first leg of our drive north. Although the focus was entirely ham radio, the American Legion hall was sold out and there were lots of tools, books, tubes, parts, etc. to choose from. One or two NVRS members had tables and there were some nice radios to see, especially if your interests include ham or military radios.

After making a couple of purchases, we headed on north. We were stunned to see that virtually all of the antique shops in Kalama, WA have closed. The large malls were always worth looking forward to. On Saturday we found one or two small shops open on the main street but everything else was vacant – truly sad.

Shoreline Community College continues to be an excellent venue for PSARA’s outdoor swap. This year we were blessed with clear and sunny weather with a high in the low 70’s. Yet the shade of the mature firs lining the parking lot was very welcome. The campus closes overnight. So, sellers are allowed to start lining up to get in at 5:30 am. A number of PSARA members were in and set up when we were allowed in at 6:00 and, with twenty-or-so additional cars waiting to get in, the action started quickly. As used to happen with the legendary shows back east, sellers continued arriving and setting up throughout the morning. So, there were new offerings every time you made the rounds. Close to 80 sellers offered everything from broadcast studio gear, wireless equipment, old telephones and very collectable radios and speakers to parts, records, magazines, guitars, mics and amps, and tubes. With folks coming from throughout the Northwest and a few from British Columbia, this PSARA Swap Meet is always a great place to buy and sell. Sure, traffic was as terrible, and we missed seeing several friends. But, the 2017 show was definitely not eclipsed.



Deco Detrola – A very stylish and collectable late 1930's Detrola deco set for only \$15! A little veneer work and knobs would make this bargain into a real knockout

Philco Clock Radio – These early Philco colonial-style clock radios always appeal to me. The late Jim Mason had at least one similar set with a pastoral farm scene painted on the clock face.





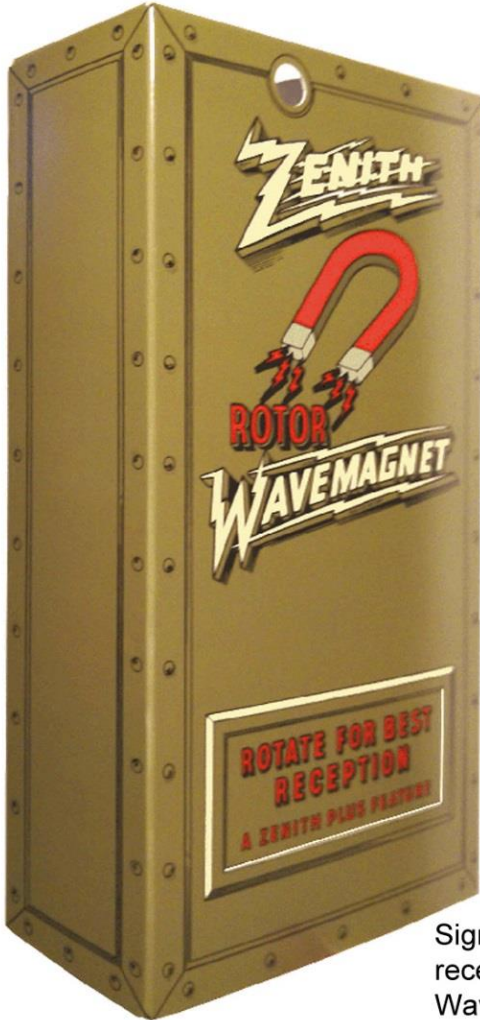
Zenith Cathedral – This gorgeous, and tiny, Zenith model 805 cathedral dates from 1935. Seldom seen and beautiful, this model came out right at the end of the cathedral craze of the early 1930's, being replaced by the Zenith "cubes," "tombstones," and "Waltons."

Service Equipment – On the left a Simpson Mirrorscope saves bench space by mounting the CRT vertically and projecting the image on a mirror. It's just plain cool. On the right, the Self-Service Tube Testers were "everywhere" at least into the 1980's. They still show up occasionally, both floor models and bench models like this one.



# New Zenith Wavemagnet Boxes

We are using indiegogo.com to crowd-fund the boxes.



This is a way to raise the \$5,000 in advance by pre-selling boxes at a substantial discount. For those who don't want a box, we are pre-selling high-quality silk-screened T-Shirts the Wavemagnet Logo, as seen on the front of the box.

The discount is 25%, at \$30 per box. If you don't want a box, we will offer a Zenith Wavemagnet high-quality T-Shirt for every \$20 donation. The shirt will be the highest quality the screen printer sells. You don't have to pay shipping if you can pick up the items at a club meeting. We will waive the normal fulfillment fee of \$5.00 for NWVRS club members.

We are only making 500 boxes, when they are gone, they are gone.

For details about the manufacturing of the box, please check out : [zenithwavemagnet.com](http://zenithwavemagnet.com).

Sign up for updates on the site, and you will receive my free 50 min. video on the Zenith Wavemagnet.



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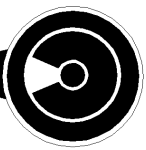
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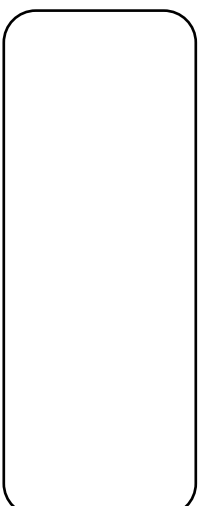
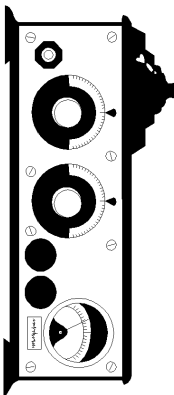
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