

The

Call Letter

February, 2002
Vol. 28 — No. 2

ST. VALENTINE'S GREETING *Through the Radio*



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).

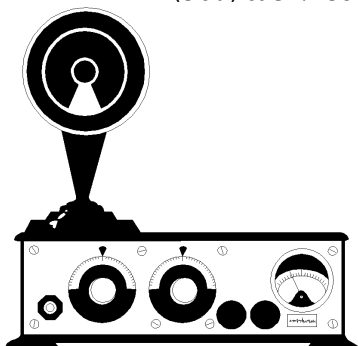
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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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Membership Information Rear Cover

On the cover: An antique St. Valentine’s greeting that your editor found on the internet almost a year ago.

The next meeting is on February 9, 2002.

**Monthly feature: Novelty radios, tube or transistor
Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

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

March Call Letter Deadline: February 26, 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

For those of you who thought that your January *Call Letter* was a bit askew, you were correct. There were some printing problems that caused the inside of the cover and some of the pages to mis-register and print on a slant. As bad as some of them looked, I decided to go ahead and mail as many as possible to avoid a late arrival, which was already a danger due to my day-late pick up from the printer. It sure pointed out the need for closer scrutiny of the printed pages when they are picked up.

This month's issue is as full as we've had in a while. All of the regular features are back: Voilá, Play it Again Sam, and our newest regular feature, Remembering Radio. On the last two pages is a chart of miniature lamps that was provided by Blake Dietze. The information in this table is most useful if you don't have it tucked away in some other reference book.

The member information request is on the inside back cover. If you missed it last month, be sure to take note and return the information to Wendy or myself so that we can bring the roster completely up to date with an eye toward printing a new stand-alone roster in mid-March.

Speaking of the roster, if you plan to be included you must have your club dues paid up by the end of February. This will be your last *Call Letter* as well if Treasurer Ed Charman has not received your dues.

Tube Lore Supplement Available

From Ludwell Sibley

"Supplement 3" to the book *Tube Lore* is now available. At 24 pages, it replaces the old 8-page supplement. It adds new info on Rogers tubes, and Western Electric tubes and sockets. It brings in the date code for RCA tubes of the '50s-'70s, adds some odd and little known receiving types, and introduces the present-day "DOD" series of military tubes. The 200 "most-often-needed" basing diagrams, covering 1300+ tubes in everything from Trans-Oceanics to R-390As, are added, as are pinouts for Western Electric post-1948 tubes that've never been published before. And there's an expanded index. This item is available for the rest of 2002 for six 34-cent stamps from Ludwell Sibley, 102 McDonough Rd., Gold Hill, OR 97525-9626. Please print your name and address clearly!

Editor's note: Ludwell sent me a batch of the supplements to hand out at the February meeting. See me if you want one of these supplements.

NWVRS 2002 Calendar of Events

- February 9** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 16** Salem Hamfair, Salem Repeater Association, Rickreall, OR
- March 9** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 9** Hamfest, Mike and Key ARC, Puyallup, WA.
<http://www.mikeandkey.com>
- April 6-7** Washington State ARRL Convention, Yakima ARC, Yakima, WA.
<http://eagle.ykm.com/~W7aq/hamfest.html>
- April 13** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- May 11** Spring Swap Meet in lieu of regular meeting.
- May 11** Hamfest, Stanwood-Camano ARC, Stanwood, WA.
- June 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 19-21** Montana State ARRL Convention, Glacier/Waterton Hamfest Committee, East Glacier, MT.
<http://www.gwhamfest.org>
- August 2-4** Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Portland, OR. Willamette Valley DX Club
<http://www.wvdx.org>
- September 14** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 14** Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Graham, WA
<http://w7dk.org>
- October 12** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- November 9** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- December 14** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

By Liles Garcia, Secretary, NWVRS

President Wendy Johnson-Kent called the January 12, 2002 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Wendy outlined three action items that she would like to accomplish during the next year:

Our club needs more members to volunteer for various club activities and tasks. Wendy will be asking more members to help with activities.

Members need to pay their dues on time this year. Please pay your dues by the February meeting so that you will continue to receive the Call Letter and be listed in the membership roster which will be published in March. Also please complete the member information requested in the January Call Letter so that our roster is as complete and up-to-date as possible.

Thanks to two of our diligent members that keep good records, we have copies of our club's Articles of Incorporation, its amendments, and our club's Bylaws. The amended Articles of Incorporation specify that if our club is disbanded, any extra money goes to OMSI. There are extra copies of these documents if anyone would like to have one.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as printed in the Call Letter. Paul Feess and Bob Myers attended the meeting as guests today. Welcome Bob and Paul! Damon Vandehey is expecting his first baby in about a week.

Old Business

Library—John said that more library books are being returned on time.

“Sounds of Nostalgia” Swap Meet—This general antique swap meet will be on February 10 in Salem at the State Fairgrounds. We need people to help with the club's table.

Swap Meet—Our Spring Swap Meet will be on May 11, 2002. We will need people to watch the parking lot.

Donut Volunteer—We will need a volunteer each month to bring donuts to the meetings.

Today's Program

Ed Cook talked to the group about Emerson radios. He briefly described the history of Emerson, and told about some of the Ingraham cabinets that Emerson used. Other radio manufacturers also used Ingraham cabinets. Ed brought some of the radios from his collection to

illustrate his discussion and to show us the Ingraham cabinets. Members gave Ed a round of applause for his very interesting talk.

Leads And Needs

Dave Wise needs an extender card for an HP 8640B. He also saw a Hoffman AM/FM radio at a local Goodwill store.

Dick Bixler needs three 500 pF variable capacitors, all identical if possible. He has a Collins R-388 general-coverage communications receiver for sale.

Glen Bricker needs a chassis for a Jackson Bell Model 68 cathedral radio. His cabinet has tulip cutouts in the grill. The chassis has 3 knobs and 8 tubes.

Damon Vandehey needs color TV parts and tubes.

Dave Brown needs a cover for a Century buzzer. The cover needs to be 1 13/16 inches in diameter, and 1 inch deep.

Jeff Martin needs knobs for a Philco 48-460 Hippo radio.

James Ellsworth needs a power transformer for a late Crosley Model 48 radio.

Robby Robinson needs an output transformer for a Philco 42-345 radio.

Bill Meloy has a roll of wood grain vinyl if anyone would like to have some.

Rick Walton needs a spring lamp holder for a Sonora radio.

Program Topic

The program topic today was mini-console radios and chairside radios. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First place — Sonny Clutter — Kennedy mini-console

Second place — George Kirkwood — Long mini-console

Third place — Blake Dietze — Zenith 9-S-244 chairside

Dave Brown—Gloritone 27S

The program topic for the February meeting will be novelty radios—either tube or transistor.

Library Notes

from John Bucholtz, Librarian

Missing In Action

During the last year a few books were taken home without an entry in the signout book. I am asking everyone to look around and help locate the following:

- Atwater Kent Radios by Ralph Williams
- Radios by Hallicrafters 1st ed. by Chuck Dachis
- Saga of the Vacuum Tube by Gerald Tyne
- Acquisition of Antique Radios by Puett

Mason's Radios

Jim was a record keeper. He filled out a file card for just about everything that he had be it a radio, book, etc.

I have these cards in our library and need to do some house cleaning. If you have a radio or whatever that was Jim's and wish to have a little history give me the name, model, etc. and I will try and locate it.

Get the info to me IN HARD COPY at a meeting, by letter or e-mail.

Thanks.

John Bucholtz
4409 NE 54th Ave.
Vancouver, Wa. 98661
BonJonBuck@webtv.net
1-360-693-7135

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

These are the small consoles and chairsides that were on display for the monthly feature at the January meeting.



Blake Dietze - Zenith



Gary Marvin - Zenith



Jeff Martin - Grundig Majestic



Jerry Talbott - Philco



Sonny Clutter - Kennedy of Canada



Jerry Talbott - Musicaire



George Kirkwood - Long



Bill Meloy -
Child's Zenith



Tony Ranft -
Stewart-Warner



Bill Meloy - Airline



Charlie Kent - Cointrola



Rick Walton - Arvin

Remembering Radio (from both sides of the mic.)

By Dick Karman

February An important birthday happened in February over 150 years ago. On February 22, 1857 Heinrich R Hertz was born. He was the first to broadcast waves and receive them. The great physicist didn't call them radio waves at first, but that's what we know them as. The term Hertz is still used to designate frequency of wave oscillation.

Remembering Radio looks at radio's past from the performances and the performers to the inventors, advances, promoters and failures of the Golden Years of radio. Your reporter would welcome any feedback or corrections. Please address them to the Call Letter Editor so he can print them and everyone can enjoy them.

In the twenties radios were in the news. On February 8, 1922 - the first radio was installed in the White House. That same year, actually five days later, Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover convened the first National Radio Conference. Two years later on February 22, 1924, Calvin Coolidge addressed the nation by radio for the first time. Three years later (02/23/1927) it was Coolidge who created the Federal Radio Commission which later was changed to the FCC.

Speaking of the Federal Communications Commission: many of you might remember February of 1971 when the National Emergency Notification Center erroneously ordered all United States radio and TV stations to go off the air. This mistake wasn't resolved for 30 minutes, which thoroughly diminished the confidence in the government's ability to control the air waves.

- New stations on the air in February
- 02/04/1922 - WGY-AM in Schenectady NY
- 02/04/1927 - KGA-AM in Spokane WA
- 02/08/1929 - KOY-AM in Phoenix Arizona
- 02/18/1922 - WOC-AM in Davenport IA
- 02/16/1929 - KID-AM in Idaho Falls ID
- 02/21/1922 - WHK-AM in Cleveland OH
- 02/28/1922 - KHQ-AM in Spokane WA
- 02/20/1922 - WOR-AM in New York City

On the other side of the mic.

On February 9, 1902 Chester Lauck was born in Arkansas. Lauck played Lum Edwards in the team of Lum & Abner. On February 19, 1922 actor Ed Wynn is noted as being the first "talent" to actually sign a contract as a radio entertainer. I don't think the union even existed then.

In later years (February 1943) singer Frank Sinatra debuts on radio's "Your Hit Parade"; (February 4, 1930) The American School of the Air premieres on CBS radio and continues into 1948. (February 29, 1936) Fanny Brice, one the Ziegfeld girls, brought the character of Baby Snooks' to the air waves. Hanley Stafford played her bewildered father.

That's all we have time for this month. Tune in next month when we'll look at radio history in March.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Tony Ranft:

Found a rare 1936 Arvin "Rhythm Queen" console at an estate sale in Vancouver.

Jeff Martin:

A Crosley Model 61 Tombstone basket case at the last meeting and a Crosley model 555.

George Kirkwood:

A nice 3 tube Echophone of Sunnyvale, CA. with exposed tubes on a slant panel.

Sonny Clutter:

Just added a nice 1931 Silvertone "Grandmother" clock radio to my collection, it can be seen on the "showcase" page of my web site.

Del Dixon:

Also added the same model "Grandmother" clock radio to his collection. He got it from me... yes, I had two of them and he had been bugging me for several years about getting one of them, so I restored one and passed the other along to him.

Sonny, the Radiola Guy

Visit my web-site:

<http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Play It Again, Sam!

Compiled by Dave Brown

The column where club members can publish their restoration accomplishments!

Dave Wise — In progress, not a “triumph” yet...

Standard SR-G430 “Micronic Ruby” micro transistor radio. This little gem lives up to its name. It’s less than 2" square and less than 1" thick. The metal-mesh front is nothing but speaker grill, and is convex to accommodate a reverse-cone speaker. Seven transistors in a pretty conventional circuit except for the output, which eliminates the transformer in favor of a center-tapped high-impedance speaker to save space.

This set has multiple problems.

0. I got a schematic and circuit board picture from one of the Sams “TSM” series of book at the Multnomah County Library.

1. Tuning capacitor. Standard and some other micros use one that in each dimension is about half the size of the one you’ve seen in a hundred pocket radios. That’s 1/8 the volume. Some are tiny versions of the usual pocket radio TC, but Standard, Lloyd’s, and a couple of others went to a ceramic dielectric, similar to a ceramic trimmer. They have a variety of failure modes and will break at the drop of a hat. Out of perhaps five tries I have successfully repaired only one, and this one’s not it. After much eyestrain reestablishing contact with a stator electrode, the other section failed. It reads fine on the TelOhMike but exhibits high loss at RF. I have replaced it with one mined from a Lloyd’s. These have a different mounting but can be transplanted. Remove the Lloyd’s knob and bracket, rotate the cap 180 degrees so the terminals face the speaker, glue the Standard bracket to it with contact cement, solder magnet-wire pigtailed to the *edge* of each terminal, file down the solder blobs, cover with a piece of Kapton tape, and fabricate a knob spacer by Dremel-ing the hole in a small washer into an oblong. I told you it could be done, not that it was easy!

2. Instability. Since it’s impossible to align the IF with the radio assembled, I decided to do it now, before I even connected the tuning cap. I set my signal generator to 455 and connected it (via a blocking cap) to the converter’s base, and put an oscilloscope on an output transistor base.

I saw all kinds of garbage and determined that the IF amp was oscillating. I tried several things including neutralization (which Standard doesn’t bother with), to no avail. Eventually, the radio became intermittent, then failed completely. Reading circuit voltages, I tracked it down to a bad IF transistor. It had started out with Collector-to-Base leakage (which turned it on harder and increased its gain) which eventually became a dead short. I mined another 2SA338 from an SR-G430 parts set. These look like the old TO-1 outline but are about 1/4 the size.

While I was doing this, I discovered that a resistor in the AGC circuit was way off value (contributing to the problem), and replaced it. By the way, you

need tiny resistors. I found some 1/16 watt units at Norvac that just fit. If you need to replace any electrolytic caps, there's a line of subminiature tantalums that work. Contact me if you want to know more.

3. Battery drain. I've run across this so many times I look for it by habit. The SR-G430 has a primitive output stage. The Emitters go straight to ground without a stabilizing resistor. The Bases are biased through a plain resistive divider, without even a thermistor. Later models added a thermistor, then a trim-pot (a tiny one!), then graduated to a diode, which compensates not only for temperature but also battery voltage to some extent. This is important today, because these radios were designed to use mercury batteries, which have a flat discharge curve. Mercury batteries are long-extinct. Today you can get an alkaline replacement, the PC640 (available at Batteries Plus in Beaverton), but as its voltage drops off the radio's performance suffers. I found that a 1N60 germanium diode just barely fits in place of the resistor; I did not need to mine one from a parts set. By changing the other resistor from 1K to 4700 I get about the right idle current.

4. Low gain. Now that the IF doesn't regenerate any more, its gain seems pretty low. For 50mV at the output Base, about 300uV is needed at the converter base. I am experimenting with the IF bias. And that's where I am today.

Although the Standards are in my opinion the prettiest of the micro radios, I must say that Lloyd's has them beat in the technical department. Their tuning caps are more durable and their circuit designs are better.

Micros are not for everyone. They're rarely found in working condition, due to near-universal damage from leaking batteries. Repairing them causes considerable eyestrain. At age 42 I have to take frequent breaks, and can't work on them more than an hour or so per day. But like miniature versions of many other things, they're so incredibly cute I find them hard to resist.

Walker Radio Sale

Photos provided by Glen Bricker

Here are some photos of the radio sale held late November in Merlin, Oregon. The radios came from the collection of long-time collector and former NWVRS member Mark Walker, who passed away last July (see the October issue of the *Call Letter*).





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

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

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

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 "hopocol@home.com".

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

FOR SALE: **1950's Packard Bell console AM radio/phonograph model 601. Radio & phono work. Has unusual dual "stationized" radio dials; one dial has California stations, the other has Northwest stations. Cabinet in good condition and needs no refinishing. \$50 o.b.o. Call Tony Hauser 503-629-4836 or e-mail abhauser@aol.com.

FOR SALE: 1930's "Heritage" brand 9 tube cathedral -\$150
1932 RCA R-4 cathedral, rare-\$250
1941 RCA Q44 large table model 11 tube / 8 band set-\$150
Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717) E-mail: (jerryt@easystreet.com)

WANTED: Dial glass for a Zenith console like the one in this picture. Contact Glen Bricker in Cottage Grove, OR (541-942-3717).



Leads and Needs

See the "Leads and Needs" section of the Meeting Minutes.

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.

Miniature Lamp Table

Typical lamps used in Antique Radios and Phonographs as well as those unusual types you may have in your junk box. Here is a handy table to help find the right lamp for the job or identify that odd ball lamp.

Type	Volts	Amps	Base	Fig
13	3.8	0.30	Screw	A
14	2.5	0.30	Screw	A
39	6.8	0.36	Bay	B
40	6.3	0.15	Screw	C
41	2.5	0.50	Screw	C
42	3.2	0.35	Screw	C
43	2.5	0.50	Bay	B
44	6.3	0.25	Bay	B
45	3.2	0.35	Bay	B
46	6.3	0.25	Screw	C
47	6.3	0.15	Bay	B
48	2.0	0.06	Screw	C
49	2.0	0.06	Bay	B
50	6.3	0.20	Screw	A
51	6.3	0.20	Bay	D
53	14.4	0.12	Bay	D
55	6.3	0.40	Bay	-
57	14.0	0.24	Bay	-
123	1.25	0.30	Screw	A

Type	Volts	Amps	Base	Fig
201	1.2	0.22	Screw	A
233	2.3	0.27	Screw	A
239	6.3	0.36	Bay	B
291	2.9	0.17	Screw	C
292	2.9	0.17	Screw	C
757	28.0	0.08	Bay	B
1490	3.2	0.16	Bay	B
1810	6.3	0.40	Bay	B
1813	14.0	0.10	Bay	B
1819	28.0	0.04	Bay	B
1822	36.0	0.10	Bay	B
1828	50.0	0.05	Bay	B
1829	70.0	1.00	Bay	B
1847	6.3	0.15	Bay	B
1891	14.0	0.23	Bay	B
1892	14.0	0.12	Screw	C
1893	14.4	0.33	Bay	B

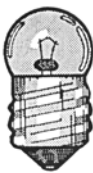


Fig. A



Fig. B

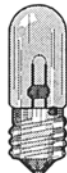


Fig. C

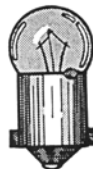


Fig. D

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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