

The **Call Letter**

February 2015

Volume 41 no. 2



The officers of the NW Vintage Radio Society encourage you be active in your organization.

Attend meetings, be at Radio Shows, and volunteer your time. The Society is only as active as you make it.

Next meeting: February 14, 2015

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.

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 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).

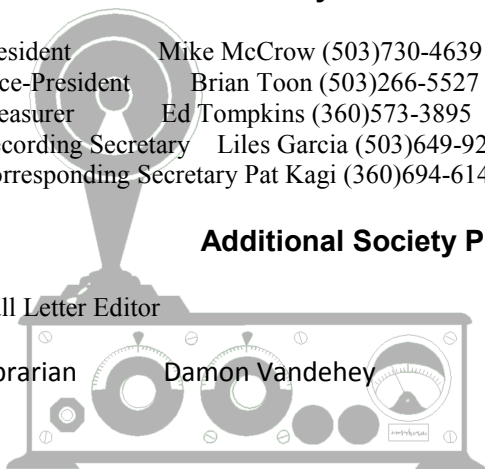
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2015:

President	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	tranny53@frontier.com
Vice-President	Brian Toon (503)266-5527	
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360)573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia (503)649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Kagi (360)694-6149	kagi.pat@con-way.com

Additional Society Positions:

Call Letter Editor		(position vacant)
Librarian	Damon Vandehey	(503)459-1777



February

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On the Cover-

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, and sales.

Visit our web site at www.nwvrs.com

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

The FEBRUARY FEATURE: For the February meeting, the feature is the first radio that inspired you to collect more radios. Bring it if you still have or if it's long gone, tell us about it.

HELP WANTED: See Page 12

A Letter from the President

Hello everyone, and welcome to a new year of fun with radio.

There are many scheduled events again this year. Get your best restoration ready for the Don Iverson Craftsmanship contest, coming in May. For more information, contact Brian Toon. Our two big Radio Show and Sales, are in April, and in October. Also the Speed Feldshau memorial picnic and swap-sale is scheduled for July. Both Charlie Kent and Rick Ryan always put in long hours getting ready for these events. Don't forget the Trash-Bash in June. Brian Toon will be making sure the trailer is there for all your treasures, or junk, whichever you prefer. Last but not least our Christmas Party.

There are also some behind the scenes events. Blake Dietze and Chris Butler will be giving the presentation for Lake Oswego Reads. This year's book is titled "*All the Light We Cannot See*" by Anthony Doerr. Chris and Blake will be sharing some radios from the 30's and 40's made in Europe. Sonny Clutter, Rich Bender, Liles Garcia, and Brian Snawder are helping by providing radios and apparatus that are period correct. Charlie Kent, and Jerry Hertel will video record it.

Our Corresponding Secretary Pat Kagi has been working hard to add some new features to the society website. He is adding a list of our library books, as well as the Jim Mason article. This is the same article with a picture of Jim that has been in past issues of the Call Letter. This is a great idea to have this available to the public and possible new members.

Speaking of the Call Letter. No one has come forward to volunteer to be our Call Letter editor. Special thanks go out to Dick Karman for stepping up to make the February issue. Dick said he would continue to format future issues if someone would agree to be our next editor. Blake Dietze will print and take the pages to the folding party. This will split up the work load for anyone willing to take it on. Tony Hauser said he would be available to help a new editor get started.

Damon Vandehey has volunteered to be our new Librarian. Damon is working on organizing the list of books, so he can keep track of the ins and outs of the library.

Our Treasurer Ed Tompkins and Chris Butler have invested many hours of their own time to give us the help we needed to complete the investment of the Jim Mason fund.

Besides all of our scheduled events, I should mention some things from the back seat. After all isn't the back seat where all the fun is? Brian Snawders Wednesday night loose coupled function is always a blast. If you'd like to join in give Brian a call to make sure that the meeting is on this week. You can work on something if you want, or just have fun solving the problems of the world. If you're not careful you might learn something.

Our regular monthly meetings are also a good time. The monthly feature and tech talks are great. Wendy Johnson-Kent will be bringing in archive articles and items from time to time. Those are always a treat. I really enjoy the time before the meeting. Blake's "Buck-Board" always has good deals on capacitors, lamps, and other goodies. What is that stuff on the free table? Tubes, books, and some radios for sale, what could be better. It's good fun just talking and sharing stories with everyone.

Thanks to all of our members that volunteer their time and effort to make this Society a success.

Mike McCrow

The February Feature is a Story Stopper

YOUR FIRST RADIO and ITS STORY

Each meeting features one variety of radio. Those who bring a set have an opportunity to display it and introduce it. The February Feature is **your first radio** (or a picture of it) and tell us how you got started in radio collecting and accumulating.

A Word From the Editor PRO TEM

By Dick Karman

For more than 40 years the NW Vintage Radio Society has had a printed newsletter. When other organizations gave up on print and fell to periodic e-mails (and later fell apart altogether), NWVRS kept the tradition of the monthly CALL LETTER. You can see the history of this publication in last month's CAL LETTER. Now the CALL LETTER needs your help. If you think that you could volunteer a couple years as editor see the article on page 12.

A special thanks to Art Redman. Art not only takes time to submit articles to the CALL LETTER, but he also meticulously researches the information and quotes reliable sources. This month he talks about one of Oregon's earliest operators on page 10.

February 28th Auction

Charlie Kent reminded us that Mike Parker was a member in good standing for many years. In addition he was an ongoing contributor to the CALL LETTER. Mike passed away some time back and his widow has arranged to auction Mike's radio collection and related gear.

The date is Saturday, February 28, 2015, at 10:00 am. The location is Antique Powerland, 3995 Brooklake Rd NE, Brooks, OR. Charlie Kent will be the auctioneer. Although this is not an NWVRS event, photos of the radios and parts were made available by the auctioneer to Society members through our e-group.

Thanks to Chris Butler for being our photographer. We have been thinking of featuring one or two of Chris' shots in the CALL LETTER and then placing a link to the rest of them on a special page on the web. Ponder this and let VP Brian know your thoughts. It's a way to circulate more pictures and to draw members to the web site.

Calendar of Events

February 14 NWVRS Monthly Meeting

10am; Tailgate swap 8:30am;
Monthly feature: Your First Radio

February 14 Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics
Swapmeet. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR.

March 7 Mike & Key Swap Meet Puyallup fairgrounds
exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA.

www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm www.w7sra.com

March 14 NWVRS Monthly Meeting 10am;

Tailgate swap 8:30am; 10 AM business Meeting, 11:15
special presentation on the History of NW radio by
historian, hobbyist Dick Karman

April 11 Yakima Hamfest

Selah Civic Center, 216 S 1 ST, Selah, WA.

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 PSARA Swapmeet 9am-1pm;

Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, WA.

www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 10, 2015 meeting of
the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Past President Sid Saul called the January 2015 meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the December 2014 meeting were approved as published in the January Call Letter.

Rick Raguse attended our meeting today as a visitor.

Treasurer Ed Tompkins reported that the Christmas Party expenses were \$350.00.

There were 57 people at our meeting today.

Sid thanked the out-going officers for their terms of service. Members gave the out-going officers a round of applause.

New President Mike McCrow presided over the rest of the meeting.

Mark Moore has agreed to be our Board Member At Large.

Pat Kagi will be our Corresponding Secretary along with his function as our Society's Webmaster. Members discussed putting our " Tech Talks " on our website so that they can provide education to everyone. However, we need to get the presenter's permission for this to happen.

Damon Vandehey is our new Librarian; he asked for members to return books as soon as they are finished with them. Members gave our former librarian, Robby Robinson, a round of applause. Blake Deitz will donate a new book on early Zenith radios to our library. Members gave a round of applause to those members that installed our library cabinet into the Grange Hall.

Ed Tompkins updated the group on the history of our Jim Mason fund. He outlined how our Society will spend money from the fund. Chris Butler described our investment strategy for the fund. Members gave the Board of Directors a round of applause for getting the Mason fund invested according to members' intentions.

Members asked for a summary of how Mason funds will be spent if needed.

Tony Hauser described to the group what is needed to publish our Call Letter. The organization needs a new editor.

Blake Deitz will be giving a presentation on WWII radios to a reading group at the Lake Oswego Library.

Charlie and Rick said that members need to reserve their Swap Meet tables and pay for them.

Charlie and Mark Moore will be selling Mike Parker's radio collection at an auction on February 28 at Antique Powerland in Brooks. The auction will be at 10:00 AM.

The Program Topic for today is Mystery Radio items. Members showed and discussed the items that they brought.

The Program Topic for February will be " Your First Radio ".

LEADS AND NEEDS

Ray Holland needs a 1942 GM portable radio.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Liles Garcia, Secretary

The Eagle has Landed

Or

The **Show and Sale**

has landed at the Eagles

The North Portland Eagle's Lodge

Reserve your table before it's too late!

Peculiar Apparatus

Jerry Veelle



Charlie Kent



George Kirkwood

The Peculiar Apparatus on the facing page were featured at the January meeting. Each owner introduced the gear to the membership. I'm not sure that Chris Butler ever answered the question "What is it?"

Restoration and Technical Tips

This is one of Sonny Clutter's Tech Tips.

Tip #6 Cleaning old wood radio cabinets

If it's really, really dirty, first remove the insides (chassis). Then vacuum and clean it with care. The procedure to use will depend on what it's contaminated with. If it's just household dust, a powerful vacuum cleaner (with crevice tool attachment) and small, stiff paint brush is all that's needed. If it's caked with rust, crud and or rodent debris, that's a more serious matter.

For normal cleaning, the cabinet should first be wiped down with a cloth quite damp with household ammonia diluted with water (about 50/50) being careful not allow the liquid to soak into the wood. This will get rid of the water soluble contaminates. Then wipe dry and clean again with paint thinner or cigarette lighter fluid (NOT LACQUER THINNER!).

When dry, wipe it real good with Scots "Liquid Gold", Lemon Oil or some other high quality product that will soak into the wood. Allow to soak in for 15 - 20 minutes then wipe down and use a good furniture polish such as "Oz". Sometimes this is all that's needed.

If the finish is not satisfactory, looks dull or maybe has been sun bleached, Treat the finish with "Mar-A-Way" (a product I use). After using according to the directions, finish the job with a good furniture polish.



Oregon Radio Manufacturing History

Dr. Orrin Heacock

By Art Redman

Doctor Orland (Orrin) M. Heacock got his start in radio in June 1915 in LaGrande where he became the second licensed radio amateur there with station 7OH having 250 watts output to the final stage. He moved to the next year Enterprise having station 7ZH. After the USA entered World War I during April 1917, all amateurs were ordered off the air.

Heacock later made five tube 01A battery radios in the mid 1920s identified by his famous scrawling “*John Hancock*” type signature on the front panel. [The Doctor was an optometrist and had experience in excellent engravings]

He had a close relationship to the Remler Radio Company of San Francisco, often corresponding, incorporating many of their parts in his signature radios, and even assembling several kit radios for unskilled radio set owners. Remler sent their representative L.C. Rayment to Portland to visit the Langhorne Company and may have visited the doctor in September 1927. Langhorne, like Remler, also sold its Intermediate RF coils at 48 kHz separately.

In late 1927 or 1928, Heacock moved to Portland and worked as an optometrist and radio shop owner at 6013 SE 92nd Avenue, which is located on the southeast corner of SE 92nd Avenue and SE Woodstock Blvd. The business was listed as the Lents Radio and Optical Shop while he lived with his wife Maude at 10019 SE Foster Road. In 1931 Heacock moved both business's to 5240 SE Foster Road.

A year later, the radio side of the shop is listed as Heacock Radio Agency in the Portland City Directory. It is not known whether he made any AC sets, short wave radios, or superhets from the years 1927 to 1934 because none are known to be restored by a Pacific Northwest vintage radio collectors.

Several NWVRS members including Dick Howard and the late Mike Parker own a Heacock battery set. [Dick Howard tell syour

editor that Dr. Heacock identified the “home brew” sets as prototypes, well before commercial production.] Mike restored his set and it looks like a homebrew set having no model number. When Heacock assembled the set they were engraved on the front panel.

From 1934 to 1960, Doc Heacock worked solely as an optometrist at 6526 SE Foster Road apparently giving up all commercial interest in radio.

I hope another NWVRS member can provide information on Heacock after 1926. He worked as an optometrist from his residence at 6918 SE 35th in 1961 and retired one year later.



In this Polaroid snapshot given by to your editor by Dick Howard, Dr. Heacock, and Dick Howard examine one of Dr. Heacock’s prototype radios. This was taken on or about Dr. Heacock’s 100th birthday.

The Position of Editor

By Dick Karman

Our CALL LETTER need an editor. The big job is divided into smaller jobs. There is a group who folds and labels the mailing. There is a member who does the printing and another that does formatting. **So what we need is an editor.**

What's an editor do? It isn't hard or time consuming-

You need to communicate- You will need to talk to the board, and the committees. Nail down the meeting minutes, and maybe something from the treasurer. Ask the photographer how many pictures will be available. Check with the layout and printing people for deadlines and dates. Fill in the blanks.

You will need to be organized- You compile and forward events or meetings for the calendar. Count the pictures and guess at how many picture pages will be needed. Count 16 pages (just like 16 boxes) and fill each one with something (even an old ad if necessary). You can yell "hey Rube" if you are short and you can tell me what can be cut if you're too full. You will need to be conscientious and on time.

You will need to have e-mail and a good knowledge of a word processor- You take a look at the articles, minutes, treasurer's report, special stories and calendar entries and be sure that they belong in the CALL LETTER. For years the women's auxiliary (known as the **POWER SUPPLY** 25 years ago) contributed recipes and book reviews. Those were often bumped for a good technical article or story (much to the ladies' dismay). The editor makes that decision.

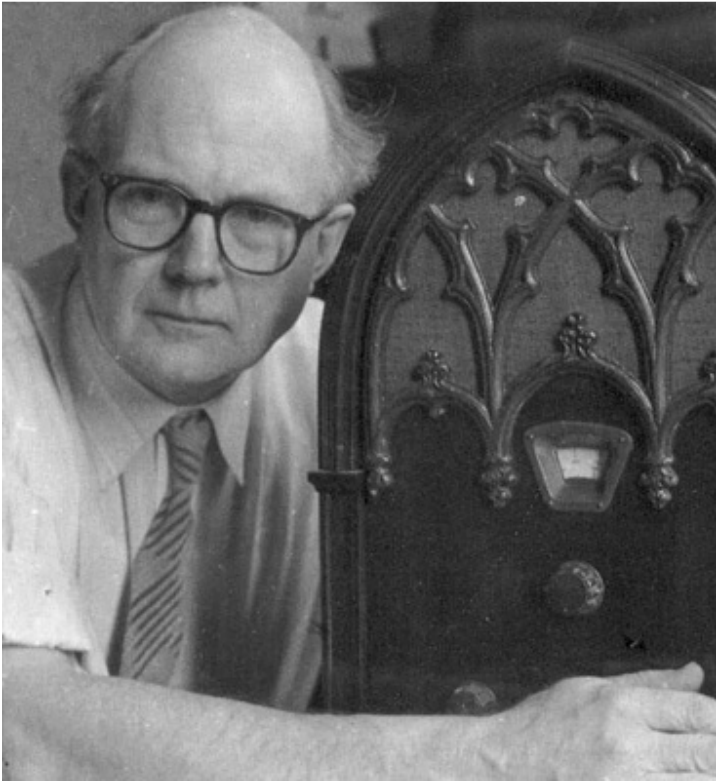
That's what the editor does. When all of the parts are e-mailed to the layout person- your job is done!

Speak up at the meeting or call President Mike McCrow and let him know you are willing.

Passing:

Many of the NWVRS members communicate by E-mail between meetings and the normal “I need this” and “I’m looking for that” chatter was interrupted recently by a note of passing.

I borrowed this from the memorial site on the internet. Some of our members had met Gerry, and many of them had enjoyed his radio and “wireless” collection. The accumulation filled 5 buildings.



Gerry Wells

1929-December 22, 2014

<http://www.bvwtm.org.uk/>.