

# Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

# ATWATER KENT R A D I O



Model 12—\$105



Model 10—\$85



Model 9—\$65



Model 19—\$85



Model 20—\$100



De Luxe Model—\$120

Model R  
\$15

Model M  
\$20

Model L  
\$20



THE true worth of a loud speaker is judged by its faithful reproduction of broadcasts. In ATWATER KENT Loud Speakers each kind of material used, each detail in design is there for a purpose—to bring about a tone that is pure, clear and natural.

ATWATER KENT Loud Speakers bring out the best from any set.

Skilled engineers and master workmen have set a new standard in their production.

# 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 \$15.00 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 members of the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that both informs members of the society's business and that has supported 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 Buena Vista Club House at 16th & Jackson Streets 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:

President	David Rutland	(541) 929-4498
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Jerry Talbott	(503) 649-6717
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	Tony Hauser	(503) 629-4836

The Society's address is:  
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society  
Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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# November 1998

## Table of Contents

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From the Editor .....	2
A note to the membership . . . . .	2
1998 NWVRS Calendar of Events .....	2
Meeting Minutes .....	3
Auction Announcement .....	4
Garage Clean-out .....	4
Remembering James Mason .....	5
In the Shack .....	7
Wandering the Web .....	10
October Meeting Photos .....	11
Swap Shop .....	13
Roster Corrections .....	13
Officer's Roles .....	15

**On the cover:** Atwater Kent receivers and speakers as depicted in magazine ads of the 1920's.

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**Call Letter Deadline**  
**25th of the month**  
**prior to publication.**

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**Be sure to attend the meeting on November 14 in the Buena Vista Club House. Important: we'll be nominating officers for the coming year. Also, bring an Atwater Kent receiver or speaker to display and tell about.**

**Visit the NWVRS web site at:**  
**<http://www.peak.org/~wren/nvrs.html>.**

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.

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## From the Editor

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by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

As you can see from the cover, Atwater Kent sets and speakers are the display items at the November meeting. This is also the meeting where we nominate candidates for next year's slate of officers. Look on page 15 for the list of elected offices and the function of each office.

Mike Parker continues his listing of '20's crystal set brand names "In the Shack" with an even longer list of brands, and Dick Karman continues to wander the web, this time leading us to old-time radio, sales, and other goodies.

This month we remember Jim Mason, whose death we learned of at the October meeting. And in conjunction with that is the announcement of the auction of Jim's extensive collection. This auction is important to us because 25% of the proceeds is designated for the club.

If you'll notice on the calendar, the afternoon of November 13 is listed as the cleanout of Jim Mason's garage. This is a bunch of stuff that isn't going into the auction, but should have a home with a collector rather than in the landfill. Here's an opportunity to beef up your junk box.

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## A note to the membership . . .

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Thank you all for the beautiful flower spray I received while recovering from my recent open heart surgery. The encouragement and good wishes from many of you is making the return to good health much easier. May God bless your life as he has mine.

Rudy Zvarich

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## 1998 NWVRS Calendar of Events

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- November 14** 10:00 am Regular meeting, nomination of officers for 1999.  
1 - 3 pm Garage cleanout at Jim Mason's
- November 15** PSARA Swap Meet, 9 am to 1 pm, Seattle, WA
- December 5** Auction preview
- December 6, 7** Auction of Jim Mason's collection.
- December 12** 10:00 am Regular meeting. Election of 1999 officers.

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# Meeting Minutes

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by Liles Garcia, Secretary

President Dave Rutland called the October 10, 1998 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at approximately 10:05 AM. There were 36 members present, and Scott Robinson was introduced as a guest. He was visiting the area and learned about our club meeting from Boatanchors Email List members. Members approved the September, 1998 meeting minutes.

We all learned that Charter Member Jim Mason passed away on October 9, 1998.

Also, Rudy Zvarich recently had a triple bypass operation and he is doing well.

Swap Meet-Our Swap Meet will be on Saturday, October 31. Myron said that Swap Meet tables are selling well, but he still has a few tables available.

## New Business

Our club will participate again this year in the Northwest Car Collectors Show and Swap Meet on October 17 and 18. Dan Howard will have an old-time radio repair shop display at the swap meet.

Our club will donate \$100.00 to the hospice that cared for Jim Mason.

Liles Garcia gave information on up-coming swap meets in the area.

## Leads And Needs

Glen Bricker has a set of Riders from 1 through 22 that he will sell for \$300.00. He also has some Sams CB schematics for sale or trade.

Dick Bixler needs a wood turned knob for an Airline Radio.

Dick Dielschneider has two 1942 Zeniths for sale.

Dave Rutland received an emailed lead for a Zenith console.

Chuck Forsburg has a Hammarlund SP 600 JX, Scott SLR-12B, and a Grunow console for sale. He will give the Grunow to a good home for free.

## November Meeting Program

The program for our November meeting will be Atwater-Kent Radios and Atwater-Kent speakers.

Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The meeting was then adjourned at approximately 10:50 AM.

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## Auction Announcement

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# Public Auction

## Dec. 5th & 6th

The vintage radio collection from the estate of the late James Mason (charter member of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society) will be auctioned to the public on Saturday and Sunday (December 5th and 6th) pick items up on the 7th & 8th 9-5.

**Address: 90 NW 150th Ave. Beaverton, OR 97006**

Auction starts at 9:00 am both days with open ending time.

**Preview: Friday December 4th, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

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## Garage Clean-out

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Following the club meeting on November 14 club members are invited, even *encouraged* to attend a clean-out of Jim Mason's garage. The garage will be open from 1-3 pm. The radio items in the garage are not of sufficient quality or interest to be included in the auction, but there might be something there that you need. The only cost is your time to come and take a look if nothing else. The left-over material will become landfill!

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# Remembering James Mason

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by Rick Walton

It was with great at last month's meeting sadness that we learned of the death of Jim Mason. Jim passed away on October 9, just a couple of days before the meeting.

Jim was one of our charter members, having joined the club shortly after its formation in late 1974. He is listed as a new member in the March, 1975, issue of the club newsletter, which had not yet been given a name, was elected treasurer for 1976, and elected president for 1979. In 1981, Jim began editing the *Call Letter*, holding that post through 1982.

Jim was born in Pendleton on June 19, 1914, and was raised in Ellensburg, Washington. He attended grade school and high school there, and attended University of Washington, from which he received a bachelor's degree in zoology. He later attended Washington State University, where he received his Master's degree in entomology.

Following school, Jim worked for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, first in Spokane, then Honolulu, Hawaii, and finally in Portland, where he retired in 1965.

Jim took up collecting radios in 1974. In a 1981 newspaper interview, Jim described his entry into collecting this way:

"Christmas of 1974," said Mason, "I was visiting some good friends in Seattle. I was wondering around their garage and noticed an old battery radio that belonged to my friend's uncle. I was really interested in getting the thing to work, and my friend said "take it home and see what you can do.""

Mason's friend made him promise one thing after he took the radio home and fixed it.

"He told me to put the radio in my will for him if I kicked-off," laughed the gray-haired, gentle-mannered Mason.

One day Mason's neighbor, a worker at Tektronix, checked out the radio and told Mason of a speaker at Tek who's primary topic was vintage radios. The speaker, Harley Perkins, had taught electronics at OSU for several years.

It was that evening that Mason know this was his life, and decided he wanted to know everything there was to know about radios. He joined the Northwest Vintage Radio Club (sic), becoming a charter member in February, 1975.

He has been treasurer, president, and currently holds the editor's position for its newsletter.

Poring through the *Call Letter* archives, you discover that Jim was always an enthusiastic club member and collector. Jim's name appears frequently in the printed meeting minutes. He was making or seconding some motion, generally taking an active interest in the club's affairs. As was pointed out in the 1981 article about Jim, his house was overflowing with radios then. Those who have been charged with preparing his collection for auction can attest to its vast extent. One club member told me "Jim never met a radio he didn't like."

Jim was a gentle, unassuming, and genuinely nice man. As a collector, club member, and friend, we miss him.

## The Atwater Kent Radio

Without doubt the greatest value in radio today

*Set Alone* **\$85**

*Easy Terms—Class A Service*

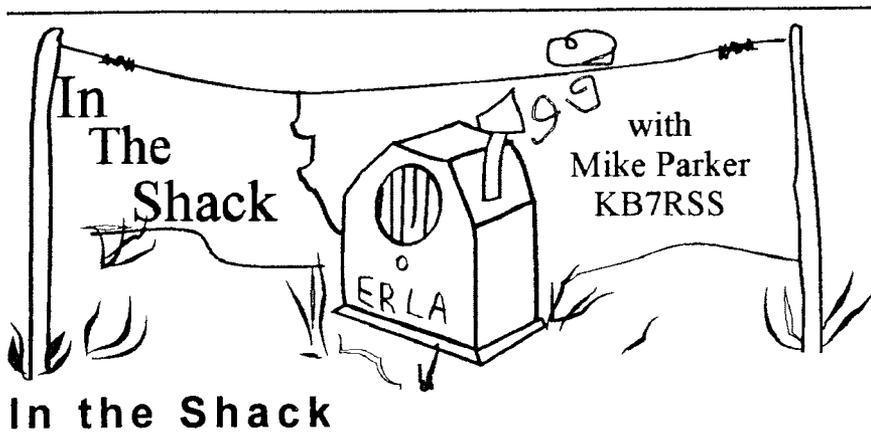
**HYATT MUSIC CO.**

386 MORRISON

## Reception Is Improving

But reception is always good with a Stromberg-Carlson receiving set. We are authorized Stromberg-Carlson dealers and we will be pleased to demonstrate this wonderful set to you and grant you terms.

**The J. K. Gill Co.**  
*Booksellers—Stationers—Office Outfitters*  
Fifth and Stark Streets



## Crystal Mystery

Well, apparently I was not satisfied with the short list of 1920's crystal set trade names that I accounted for in last month's CALL LETTER, so I found about 87 more to report. I have tried to list them by the actual name given to each crystal set, but in many cases the manufacturer would not give their set a name, in fact some sets were made without any name or manufacturer identification visible at all. In those cases I have listed the manufacturer's name.



It's amazing to discover that some of these manufacturers, having made a mere crystal set went on to bigger and better things to produce! I see that Killark is listed. This company went on to be a large producer of electrical panels and switchgear but never made a tube radio that I know of. Briggs & Stratton — of course we have all seen their motors and perhaps mowed the lawn with one! Many major radio manufacturers appear to have made at least one crystal set, mostly during the peak sales years of 1923 and '24. Names are here such as AC Dayton, Amrad, A-K, Audiola, de Forest, Gilfillan, Kilbourne & Clark (Seattle), Kodel, Magnus and RCA. Of course, a few years later, none of them made a crystal set, as radios became bigger and better, with AC plugs on them.

The crystal set became more and more regarded as a toy or a novelty for home radio builders and boy experimenters, a status in which a few specialty manufacturers such as Philmore, enjoyed success. Some are listed by a set name and manufactured by famous companies such as the Leroy by Radio Shop, and the Harko by Crosley. And notice the other Harco, made by a company capitalizing on the name with a different spelling of the famous Harko! The Pasco is worth noting having been

made by the Pacific Screw Co. here in Portland, who also made an Acme. RCA, as near as I could ascertain, first made an RCA Concert crystal set and then marketed it as a Radiola Concert when that name became standard for their products. I cannot determine whether they are two different sets or the same renamed. Another item of interest is the fact that back then, you could walk into a local radio shop and chances are, they had their own version of a crystal set for sale, made in their shop to be purchased over the counter or put in the mail. Some of these qualify for this list and one that I noted, cost a whole 60 cents! So here goes.

#### 5-IN 1 Superset

A.C. Dayton, Aerex, Aerovox, Airmuse, Air Scout, Amrad Audiola, Atwater Kent (promotional only)

Bird, Black Diamond, Boldo, Branston, Briggs & Stratton, Brownie Airphone  
Champion C, Cherington, Craincraft Jr., Crystal Artay, Crystal King, Crystal Mystery

Diamond, De Forest Everyman

Electrad, Excellophone

Gem, Gem C, Gilfillan R-475, Globe

Harco, Harko, Harkness, Henry Hyman, Home-o-Fone

Inman Specialty

Jaynxon, Journal

Kilbourne & Clark K&C, Killark, King Tut, Kodol, Korona

Leroy, Little Gem, Little Giant

M-V, Magnus, Master, Melodian, Mel-o-Tone, Mignon, Monarch, Monrona, Multiphone, Mysto C

National Airphone G, Novelty Set

Orator Midget

Paige Crystal, Pal, Pall Mall, Pasco, Pentzlyne, Perfect, Power, Progressive Specialty

Racon, Radio Argentite, Radioclear, Radiogem Radiola Concert, Radiolean Jr, RCA Concert Ritter Grand, Roycroft, RPM

Schenectady, Simplex, Soundrite, Superior, Steinmetz

Tesco A, Travellers, True Tone

Van

#### X-I Three Way Radio

As I stated last month, this is by no means all of them, so I would appreciate hearing from you if you know of one not listed so far. This applies especially if you have one of the above listed crystal sets. It is sadly, a fact that the crystal set was so lowly regarded at one time that many were simply tossed out and regarded as cheap enough to be dispensible. Start digging folks! It may be in the back yard! Just recently, a Martian Big 4 crystal set was found stashed for many years under the

porch of a home here in Portland! I still have a no name crystal set that I found in a dump.

QSO you next time....IN THE SHACK

Reference: *Radio Collectors Guide, 1921-1932* by Morgan E. McMahon.  
Published by Antique Electronic Supply, Tempe, AZ.



**T**HE Improved MARV-O-DYNE is the kind of a set you have always hoped to own some day, the ideal set of your dreams. Beauty of tone and of appearance, ability to get distance, well known units—all those features this MARV-O-DYNE has.

The Improved MARV-O-DYNE, model 612-C, has more really useful improvements than any other set on the market. Take the Fil-a-meter, for instance, and the Antenna Tuning Compensator, and the push switch for reading B battery voltage. Those are only a few.

The Improved MARV-O-DYNE will endear itself to you if you only give it half a chance. We would like to have you go to your dealer today for a demonstration. The price, by the way, is only \$110. *West of the Rockies and Canada, \$120.*

Amber Mfg. Corp., 115 W. Broadway, New York City

*The Improved Amber*  
**MARV-O-DYNE**  
*The set with the*  *Fil-a-meter!*



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## Wandering the Web

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by Dick Karman

Here is some winter wandering on the Web:

In the winter when I get a few minutes to work around the house, there is nothing I like more than to be listening to an old radio, and maybe even an old radio show. When I look on the web for information about radio I look for old show information at:

*<http://www.otrsite.com/>*

There are occasionally sales that appear on the web. Take a look at:

*<http://www.ndirect.co.uk/~e.tedeschi/sale/index.htm>*

To get specifically to a list of Transistor Portables go to:

*<http://www.ndirect.co.uk/~e.tedeschi/sale/trans.port.htm>*

In Australia there are lots of parts for sale and some at fairly reasonable prices (if you can't find them in your own basement or backyard:

*<http://pauledgr.hypermart.net/Parts.htm>*

To get a little closer to home (Fort Worth, Texas) here is a sale with low prices to look at:

*<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/4704/radsale.html>*

If you want to sell radio gear on the web, try this:

*[http://standard91.infoboard.net/antiquer/add\\_wanted\\_ads.shtml](http://standard91.infoboard.net/antiquer/add_wanted_ads.shtml)*

That's all for this week. See you next time I wander on the web.

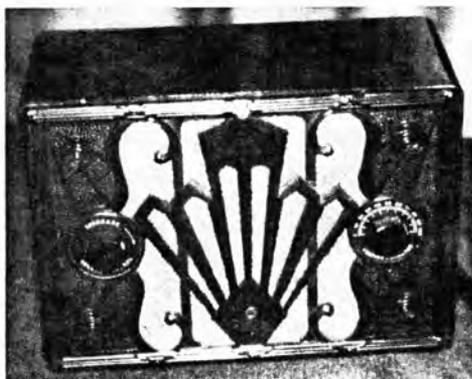
Dick

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# October Meeting Photos

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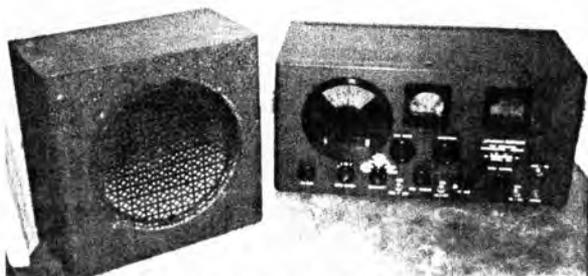
Photography by Rick Walton



(L) 1933 Emerson 420-V4 and (R) 1923 Universal - Jerry Talbott



(L) Westinghouse Aeriola Sr. - George Kirkwood; (R) Westburr Model 6 - Dan Howard



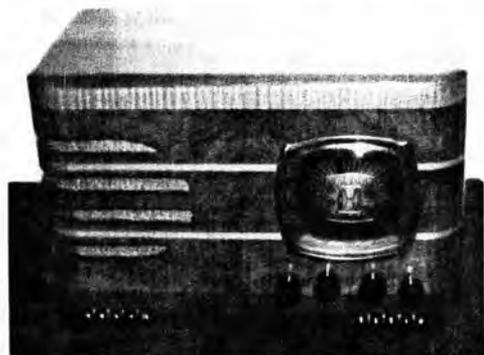
(R Top) Hallicrafters SX-24 Skyrider Defiant - Liles Garcia



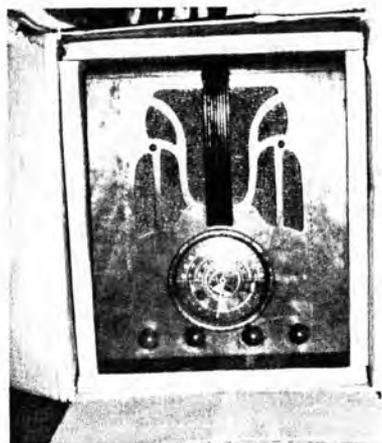
1929 Jackson Bell  
 TITANIC RELIC?  
 Complete with plug & key  
 and original Bell NEWSPHERE



(L) Jackson/Bell - Dick Bixler; (R) Grebe Synchrophase - Dave Rutland



(L) FADA - Pete Young; (R) Zenith 230 Zenette - Myron White



(L) RPC (new in box) Speed Feldschau; (R) RCA T7-5 - Larry Tobkin

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## Swap Shop

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*FOR SALE:* Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 6111 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, OR, (503) 774-6560.

*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](mailto:sonny@radiolaguy.com) >

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

*WANTED:* The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

*WANTED:* \*\*Philco 46-1201 radio/phono, the one with the slot to put the record in to play it. Ray Vanderzanden, 648-2287.

*FOR SALE:* \*\*Silvertone console, R/P Model #9108. Good condition, \$60. Silvertone console, Model #6335, \$75. 1942 Zenith console Model #7S682, cabinet needs to be refinished, \$50. Knight console, sliding doors, 1930?, \$50. Howard Burgoyne, 650-3828, West Linn.

*FOR SALE or TRADE:* \*\*Over 400 78 records - Big Bands, Frankie Lane, Doris Day, etc. 50¢ each or trade for radios. Howard Burgoyne, 650-3828, West Linn.

*FOR SALE:* \*\*Old records. Contact Tom Johnson, 681-2320, Hillsboro.

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## Roster Corrections

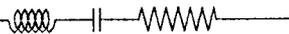
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\*Berg, Alen

1449 NE 14th Avenue

Hillsboro, OR 97124

(503) 640-1839



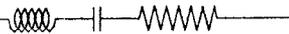
R

†Douglas, Gary M., CET K7AOH

5039 NE 30th Ave.

Portland, OR 97211-6929

(503) 284-0671

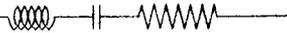


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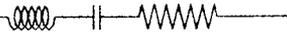
\* New address

† New member



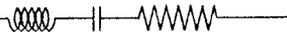
†Guenther, Ed  
62902 Eagle Rd.  
Bend, OR 97701  
edg@bronco.cna.tek.com

R



†McKie, Neil WA6KLA  
Box 6267  
Bend, OR 97708  
(541) 318-7112 N.McKie@genie.com  
Mobile Radio Tech Manuals

R



†Pope, Tim KD7CZH  
15937 SW Hampshire Terrace  
Tigard, OR 97224  
(503) 590-7673  
General

R



†Schalk, Dick  
2929 SE 74th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97206  
(503)774-1085 (h) (503)681-0557 (w)  
Philco Table Radios

R

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# Officer's Roles

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## **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**

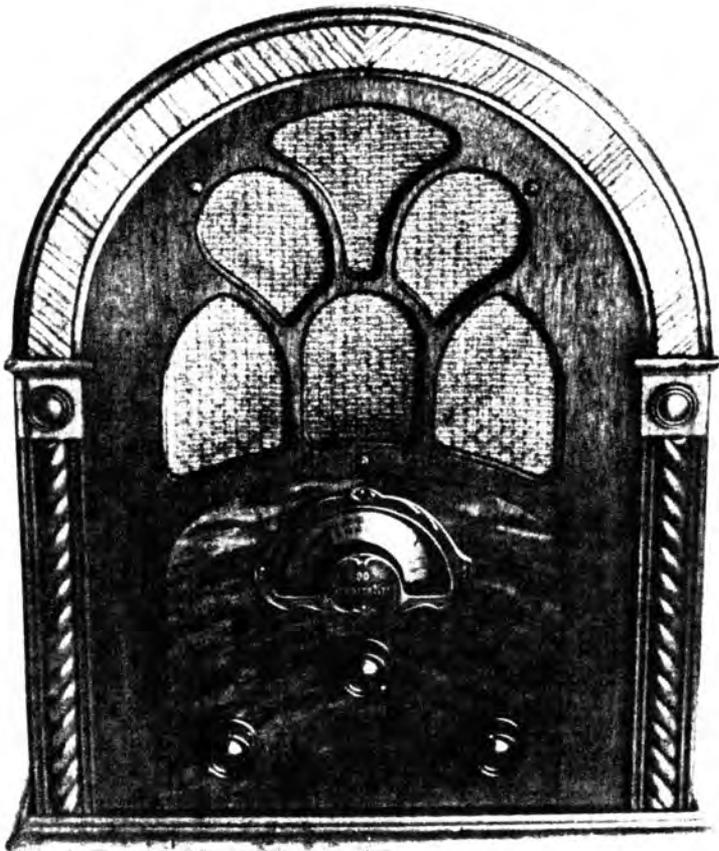
The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting and for receiving and preparing all of the society's correspondence.

## **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.



## ATWATER KENT 90

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# Time to Renew Your Membership

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## All Memberships Expire in December

Send the information requested below with a check for \$15 to the  
Treasurer  
Ed Charman, P.O. Box 82379, Portland, OR 97282.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ways you'd like to help. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_