



# 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  
Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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# July 2002

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**On the cover:** From the *Call Letter* graphics archive comes this pictorial diagram of an early short wave receiver hook-up.

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**The next meeting is on September 14, 2002.**

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**Monthly feature: Your best “project” radio and its story.**  
**Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

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

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**August Call Letter Deadline: July 30, 2002.**

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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

It is officially Summer with weather to prove it, and I'm preparing this edition of the *Call Letter* on the eve of the beginning of our family vacation.

The past month has been a hectic one for your editor. A remodeling project has consumed most of my thinking for at least the last month. Consequently the pictures that I took at the June meeting are still in the camera, and I've misplaced a change of address notice from Robbie Robinson. Dave Brown's photos from the club website appear in the Photo Display. Thanks, Dave.

I now have a scout for European radios! My youngest daughter is currently deployed in Kosovo where the opportunities are rather limited, but when she returns to her regular duty station in Germany, there might be a chance she'll find a nice radio for me.

Thanks to Ludwell Sibley for the Ralph Williams obituary notice.

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## NWVRS 2002 Calendar of Events

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July 18-20	John Bucholtz equipment sale for club members.
July 21	Concours d'Elegance antique auto show, Forest Grove.
July 19-21	Montana State ARRL Convention, Glacier/Waterton Hamfest Committee, East Glacier, MT. <a href="http://www.gwhamfest.org">http://www.gwhamfest.org</a>
August 2-4	Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Portland, OR. Wil- lamette Valley DX Club <a href="http://www.wvdx.org">http://www.wvdx.org</a>
September 14	Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
September 14	Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Graham, WA <a href="http://w7dk.org">http://w7dk.org</a>
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.

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# NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

Vice President Cliff Tuttle called the June 8, 2002 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Liles Garcia read the Treasurer's Report to the group for Ed Charman. The minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's Report were approved. There were 38 people at the meeting today.

## Old Business

Swap Meet—The general consensus of the members was that the swap meet was a success. There were no car break-ins and no car damage. We had approximately 150 non-members attend. Most learned about the swap meet from the newspaper ads. Others heard about the swap meet from the radio ads and word of mouth. Cliff discussed the swap meet finances; the club made approximately \$100.00 from the swap meet. Members gave Dick Bixler a round of applause for being the auctioneer at the end of the swap meet. We briefly discussed the problem of people leaving before the swap meet is over.

Wood stain—If you need more walnut dye, see Gordon Phillips.

## Technical Discussion

Sonny Clutter talked to us today about the development of TV. The concept of TV started as early as 1879. However, back then, the technology was not developed enough to implement most of the concepts. At first, there were two kinds of TV's, electronic and mechanical. As TV development progressed, the electronic TV became the more popular. The first TV image that was broadcast was an image of Felix the Cat. Members gave Sonny a round of applause for his very interesting discussion. Sonny demonstrated his early mechanical TV for members at the end of the meeting.

## New Business

Fall Swap Meet—Members discussed how to promote our Fall 2002 Swap Meet. One new idea was to collect addresses at swap meets, and build a mailing list. Another idea was to refer to our website in our newspaper ads. Dick Bixler moved that a club committee recommend how to spend approximately \$1000.00 to promote the club. The motion passed.

Antique Phonograph Club—Gordon Phillips mentioned that the Antique Phonograph Club would like to come to our fall swap meet. We will invite them.

California Historical Radio Society Swap Meet—Jerry Talbott told the group about his recent trip to the CHRS swap meet in San Jose.

## Leads and Needs

Dave Wise needs the right angle drive assembly for a Kennedy Model 26 chairside radio.

George Kirkwood needs a schematic for a DeForest D7A radio.

John Bucholtz would like for this to be a last call for any of the history cards for items from Jim Mason's estate. If you bought anything from Jim's estate auction, see John if you would like the history card for your item.

Today's program was early televisions and early television items. Members showed and discussed the TV's that they brought. Here are the winning TV's:

1st place—Rudy Zvarich—Sony portable TV

2<sup>nd</sup> place—Sonny Clutter—1939 RCA 80T radio with  
1939 RCA TT-5 Television Attachment

3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Sonny Clutter—early mechanical television

The program item for September will be: "Your best project radio along with the accompanying story"

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## Equipment and Parts Sale

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from John Bucholtz

As I dig into the Bellville electronic stuff I am finding more meters and test equipment of all types, more old military gear and hundreds of parts of all kinds. So I am having a sale for just club members and their friends. The Sale will be Thursday July 18th, Friday the 19th, and Saturday the 20th. Hours are: Thursday and Friday 4 to 7 pm, and Saturday 8 am to 4 pm. IT ALL WILL BE CHEAP!

The sale is at 4409 NE 54th Ave. in Vancouver. If you need directions or just have a question call me John Bucholtz at 1-360-693-7135 or e-mail at [BonJonBuck@webtv.net](mailto:BonJonBuck@webtv.net)

P.S. It all filled a 10x30 storage unit 6 ft. high so there is a lot of stuff.

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# Ralph O. Williams - An Obituary

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by Ludwell Sibley

Ralph Williams, the country's leading expert on the Atwater Kent company and its radios, was born in 1920. After serving in WW II as a radar officer, he graduated from Northeastern University in engineering in 1947 and later attained a masters degree. He had a career in electronics with General Electric, first in the broadcast-equipment area and then in missile-guidance systems. He began collecting radios in 1958. While living in the Philadelphia area, he developed an strong interest in former radio manufacturers in the vicinity like RCA Victor and especially AK.

Williams developed a superb collection of Atwater Kent documentation and receivers, particularly breadboards. From this, he wrote profusely on AK corporate history, radios, and speakers: 14 articles in "Antique Radio Classified"; four articles in, and one complete issue of, the "AWA Review"; and a 37-part series in "Radio Age." In 1985, he opened his "Voice of the Twenties" private museum on Long Island with about 220 Atwater Kent receivers (including the country's finest collection of breadboards) and another 250 sets of other makes. He participated in the ceremony in Philadelphia opening the 1927 time capsule at the former AK factory at its 50th anniversary.

He was a founder, president, and board member of the Antique Radio Club of America. Ralph and his wife Elinor for many years organized the equipment contests at the annual AWA conference. He and the late Bruce Kelley were the only holders of AWA Houck Awards for both preservation and documentation. He had been a member of the IEEE and was a Fellow of the Radio Club of America, a recipient of its Ralph Batcher Memorial Award.

Williams was an radio amateur with Extra Class license N3VT. He remained active in the areas of VHF repeaters and license coordination until recently.

# Photo Display

Photography by Dave Brown

These are photos of the vintage television receivers displayed by members at the June meeting. First place in the voting went to Rudy Zvarich. Second and third places went to Sonny Clutter.





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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, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

*FOR SALE:* 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 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 "[hopopcol@attbi.com](mailto:hopopcol@attbi.com)".

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

## 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.