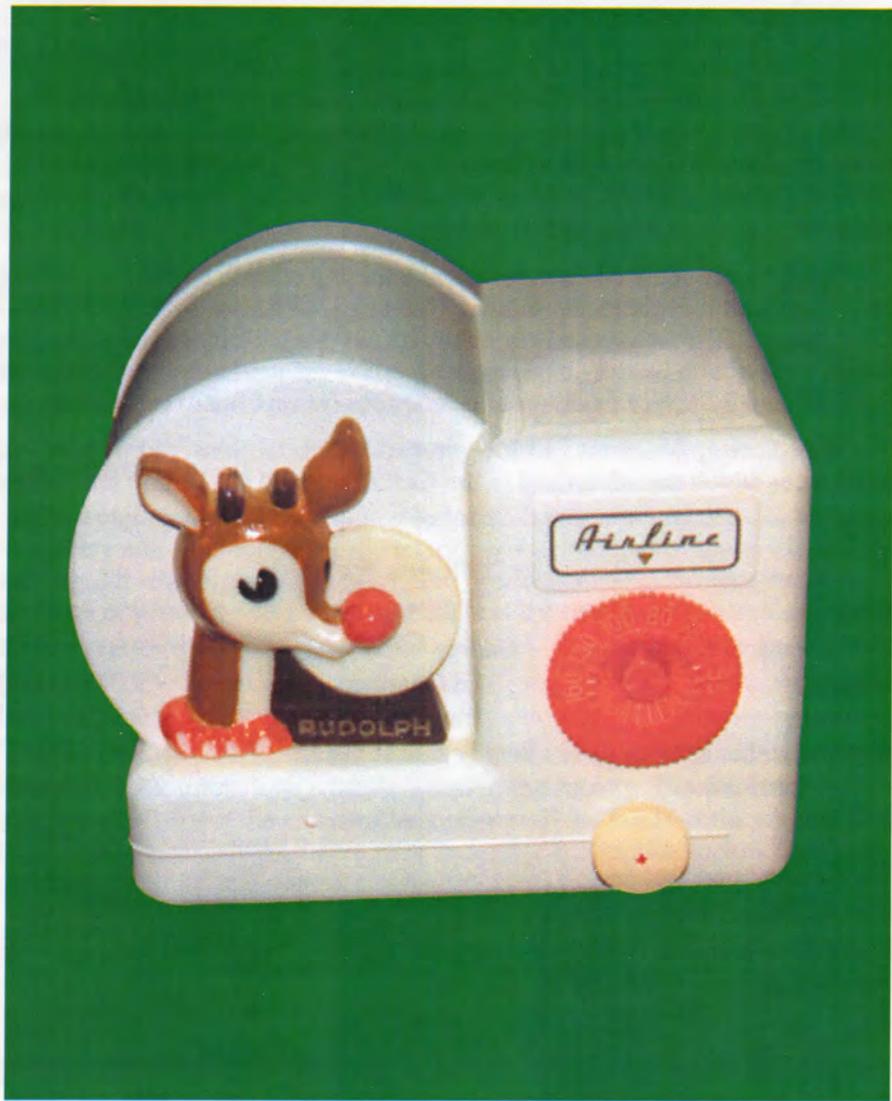


The

# Call Letter

December, 2004

Vol. 30 — No. 12



30 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 2004:

|                           |                    |                |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| President                 | Cliff Tuttle       | (503) 666-7005 |
| Vice-President            | George Kirkwood    | (503) 648-4809 |
| Treasurer                 | Ed Charman         | (503) 654-7387 |
| Secretary                 | Tony Hauser        | (503) 397-0074 |
| Board member at large     | Wendy Johnson-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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**On the cover:** This beautiful little Airline “Rudolph” was displayed by its owner, Wendy Johnson-Kent, at the December, 1999 NWVRS meeting. Its picture appeared on the December, 2000 *Call Letter* cover, but not in color. Money was tight that year!

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### The next meeting is on December 11, 2004.

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**It's the annual Northwest Vintage Radio Society  
Holiday Party at the Salvation Army Rose Center!  
December Feature: The Best of Your Collection**

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

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### January Call Letter Deadline: December 29, 2004.

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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 or services 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

In addition to the usual fun we have at our annual Christmas party, this one should prove to be interesting because we are electing officers, and if you've already read the minutes, you've seen that we currently have no nominee for Secretary. On top of that, we nominated Blake Dietz to be President despite his absence at the meeting. I spoke with Blake about this and he told me that while honored, he must decline the nomination due to family and work commitments that would prevent him from giving the office his best effort. So we will have some nominations to make before we can wrap up the election of officers and get on with the festivities.

Along with the photos of the radios displayed at last month's meeting, we have another timely "Looking Back" article from Dick Karman. This month we list and tell a little about each of the members who have served as society president over the past 30 years. I pored through my photo archives and was able to come up with pictures, some good and some not so good, of seventeen of the nineteen individuals who have served as president.

Voilà is back this month with the recent acquisitions of members who are willing to make that information known.

This month's Swap Shop is about as lean as I think I've ever seen it. The only contacts I had were a couple of members canceling the ads they had running. The good news in one case is that all the radios listed were sold.

Finally, as I was trying to figure out a way to fill two empty pages, my thoughts harkened back to my rummaging through the *Call Letter* archives over the years, and I remembered a story from the very early years written by Bob Bilbie, club president at the time and the original *Call Letter* editor. After more rummaging I found the story and I've included it for your enjoyment.

If you don't make it to the Christmas Party on the 11th, let me wish you the happiest of Christmases, and a most prosperous New Year.

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## NWVRS 2004 Calendar of Events

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**December 11** NWVRS monthly meeting, annual Holiday Party, and 30th anniversary celebration, 10 am at the Salvation Army Rose Center. Election of officers for 2005!

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# NWVRS Meeting Minutes

## November 13th, 2004

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By Tony Hauser, NWVRS Secretary

President Cliff Tuttle called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

There were 47 members, and guests Vern Shangle and Sherry & Bailey Vandehey, in attendance. We also welcomed new members James Harper and Joe Corsi. The September meeting minutes, as written in the October, 2004, Call Letter were accepted as written.

### Reports

Treasury: Ed Charman reported our current balance was \$755.07.

Editor: Rick Walton reported that the article on the history of the Call Letter was widely enjoyed. Dick Karman, the author of the "Looking Back" articles, was given a round of applause.

Library: John Bucholtz reported the library is still being widely used.

Swap meet: Tony Hauser gave a brief summary of the October swap meet. He also announced he will resign as Swap Meet Coordinator after the upcoming spring 2005 meet. He offered to train the next Coordinator for the spring meet. A replacement will be appointed by the 2005 Vice-President.

### Good & Welfare

Bob Campbell reported that Don Hunker was in the Hospital and is scheduled to have surgery next spring.

Rudy Zvarich reported that Bill Hays died at the age of 91. Bill owned Hay's Radio Service in Portland and was a member of Marconi's Cronies.

### Old Business

Cliff, once again, reminded members that the vote on increasing dues will occur at the annual meeting in January.

George Kirkwood announced that the competition scheduled for the December meeting & party has been indefinitely postponed. Instead all members are invited to bring their best radio for a "Best in Collection" display. George also announced that a door prize will be given away at the party. Dick Karman will bring a video picture display to celebrate the Society's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and asked all members with pictures they would like included in the display to contact him as soon as possible.

## **New Business**

Dick Karman and Rick Walton would like to compile a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet featuring stories of the Society's past. The members discussed financing options and a final decision will be made at a later date. The members did approve a motion to begin production.

Tony Hauser announced that he will not seek another term as Secretary. Cliff opened the floor for nomination of officers for 2005. The current nominees are: Blake Dietz for President, Dave Brown for Vice-President, Ed Charman for Treasurer, and no nominees for Secretary.

## **Leads & Needs**

David Wise needs service info on a USN32 (Dumont 301A) oscilloscope.

James Harper would like to buy an early 30's highboy console.

Bob Campbell is giving away a free book on radio servicing.

## **Tech Talk**

George gave a quick talk on using diamond frit impregnated vinyl cutting discs on Dremel tools to safely cut glass on tubes to expose the lead-in wires that have been broken off.

## **Monthly Feature**

The Monthly Feature was RCA tube radios. The radios brought for display were:

- ACR-136 (Ron Hershey)
- An oriental design table model and a 1933 model with tambour doors (Jerry Talbott)
- Radiola Senior (Dave Brown)
- Radiola II (Sonny Clutter)

Next month's feature at the December holiday party will be the best of your collection. Please include a description of your radio for the display.

Cliff adjourned the meeting at 10:51 am.

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## Photo Display

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### Photos by Rick Walton

These are the RCA sets that members displayed at the November meeting.



Oriental design  
table model 75X17  
Jerry Talbott



CR-36 Communications  
receiver  
Ron Hershey



R-28D Tambour  
table model  
Jerry Talbott



Radiola II  
Sonny Clutter



Radiola Senior  
Dave Brown

# Looking Back: At our Presidents

The NW Vintage Radio Society began as a collector's club with things like family memberships, associate members, and out-of-state status for some. Some of this changed in 1978 when it became a corporation and when the bylaws were scrutinized by the government. One thing that hasn't changed is the office of the president.

It is interesting that Bob Bilbie did not become the first president. Harley Perkins took that office in the December of 1974. At the January meeting in 1976, Bob Campbell was elected president. In November 1976 Bob Bilbie and Bob Campbell were nominated for the position of President and Bilbie was elected. Bilbie served as president from January through May 1977, then he resigned from the society and from his office as president. Vice President Tom James stepped up to the office.



Harley Perkins '75



Bob Campbell '76



Bob Bilbie '77 (5 months)



Tom James '77 & '78



Jim Mason '79



Craig Hoaglin '80



Don Iverson '81



Bill DeVey '82



Jerry Talbott '83 & '84

Tom James held the high office for 1977 and 1978. Without knowing it he set an interesting precedent: now a president could serve multiple

terms. Jim Mason took the office for 1979, but it is interesting to note that John Wood, elected his vice president, had to resign because of work and family issues in May. For the balance of the year Craig Hoaglin filled the VP shoes.



Dick Karman '85 & '86



Ray Nelson '87



Dan Howard '88 & '89



Dick Karman '90 & '91



Speed Feldschau '92 & '93



Ed Pittaway '94



Greg Bonn '95 & '96



Jerry Talbott '97



David Rutland '98



Charlie Kent '99, '00 & '01



Wendy Johnson-Kent '02



Cliff Tuttle '03 & '04

Don Iverson was elected for the 1981 term, and Bill Devey took it for 1982. In 1983 Jerry Talbott was elected and started a pattern. Jerry took president for '83 and '84, Dick Karman followed him in '85 and '86. Dan Howard took '88 and '89. Dick Karman came back in '90 and '91. Speed Feldschau was in office for '92 and '93. For nearly a decade the "two year

term” was only broken by Ray Nelson (president in 1987) and by Ed Pittaway (elected in 1994).

Those weren't the last of the two year terms. A brand new member, Greg Bonn, who was willing to help the Society “get organized and grow” took the office in '95 and '96. We got some publicity during those years and we did managed to pick up some new members, but it was no silver bullet for growth. In 1997 Jerry Talbott picked up the gavel again for his third term in the office.

As the 1990s were drawing to a close Dave Rutland took the office (1998), and Charlie Kent finished out the century with a record breaking three consecutive terms. Charlie took office in 1999, and held it until January of 2002, when he turned the presidential duties over to his wife Wendy Johnson-Kent. The Society had its first woman president.

Our thirty years of presidents wraps up with Cliff Tuttle handling the duties for 2003 and 2004.

The membership of the Society owes a great deal to these folks who have spent their time organizing and agonizing over details of the “club.” They've been the primary movers behind getting the meetings going on time, and all of them have helped the organization as a whole grow to maturity of three decades.

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# *Voilà*

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## *...new and recent finds by NVRS members*

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Compiled by Sonny Clutter

**Liles Garcia:**

- Kaar Engineering Co. Model KE-23A Communications Receiver

**Jay Johnson:**

- Sylvania U235 Prospector, a combination AC/DC radio, Geiger counter, compass, and sun dial. It was marketed to weekend prospectors searching for radioactive ore to sell to Uncle Sam.
- Heathkit TT-1.

**Sonny Clutter:**

- Unusual & Rare Radio/TV/Phono combination with a 7" screen (the tiny screen it what makes this thing rare & unusual). The brand is “Philharmonic” made in the late 1940's. No model number but the TV portion is a “Raytheon” chassis.

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# A Christmas Miracle

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A Short Story by Bob Bilbie from the December 26, 1976 Call Letter.

It was eleven days before Christmas and Harry was pondering his fate as he walked disconsolately in the driving snow in search of a present for his lovely wife. Shucks, he thought, here it is nearly Christmas, out of work, low on money, no prospects for the future and a tough year ahead. All about him were people going about their task of providing a good Christmas for *their* loved ones. Harry could not help but feel that fate had dealt him a losing hand. Confusion raced through his mind as the biting cold and raging wind tore at his very being. Love, thought Harry, comes in many forms and surely his lovely wife would understand if he was unable to provide a Christmas as good as the ones they had together in the past. Maybe we will celebrate Christmas the way it was intended to be celebrated, by paying tribute to the baby, born Christmas Day, that was to change the course of mankind, thought Harry. "Surely I can find something I can afford," he mullied.

While strolling through the poor section of town, past the dimly lit windows of a second hand store, Harry happened to notice a rather ragged little radio setting in the corner of the window. "Say, if I could afford that little radio, I could fix it up all pretty like and give that to my wife as a present!" Harry reasoned. He entered the store and walked over to look at this soon to be (he hoped) Christmas present. Not bad; all the knobs are in place, fair little cabinet, good wood and with a little work could be restored to its original beauty and make a decent gift at that, he thought. As Harry was looking at the radio the man from the store walked over and said, "May I help you?"

"Yes," said Harry, "you see, I'm kinda down on my luck and don't have much money to spend for gifts this year and I thought that if I could afford to buy this little radio, I could take it home and restore it as a gift for my wife for Christmas."

The man said, "Yeah, we got that radio and a bunch of other stuff from old Silas Wilson up on the hill. He's an eccentric old coot, unpredictable, never know what he's gonna do. He used to own the bank over in Freeport. We don't have much in it so if you think you can do something with it you can have it for six bucks." Well, Harry dug deep for six bucks, paid the man and reached down to pick up this little treasure, and it was then he noticed that it was a Mission Bell. Ironic, he thought, to have a name like that in this set of circumstances.

Arriving home late, with the little radio under his arm, he headed for his very meager workshop, not wanting to awaken his wife. Harry had not much time to get the radio finished, for Christmas was not far off, so he started immediately to remove the screws that held the chassis to the cabinet. He pulled off the knobs, and started to pull the chassis out and as he did so, a small Bull Durham sack, lodged up in the chassis, fell out on the floor with a metallic clank. "Shucks," Harry thought, "a sack of parts to re-install. I'll never get this little fella done by Christmas." As Harry bent over to pick up the sack, he wished he had just bought his wife a box of candy instead, although the work he was about to do on the radio would mean more to his lovely wife than a box of candy.

Harry quickly opened the sack and poured the contents out on the bench. He could not believe what he saw laying there before him — his heart literally leaped to his throat. Could it be? Yes, laying there on the bench were *five* twenty-dollar gold pieces! Harry thought, "I can't keep them, they are not mine. I must

return them tomorrow." He put everything aside and went to bed beside his lovely wife, still not wanting to awaken her to tell her of this latest dilemma. Tomorrow would be another day.

The next morning over coffee, Harry explained the happenings to his wife and she said, "Harry, as bad as we have it, with you out of work and all, it would not be in keeping with the Christmas spirit if we decided to keep those gold coins. So we must return them to their rightful owner." Harry agreed.

Under the circumstances it was not easy to do, but Harry set about to find the Wilson residence. He finally located the house and he passed through the large, open iron gate and walked up the long driveway to a very palatial house. He rang the bell and shortly a nice old lady answered, wanting to know what he wanted.

Harry said, "Mrs. Wilson you don't know me but I understand that your husband had your cellar cleaned out and gave the contents to the second hand store downtown. Is that true?"

"In part it's true, young man," said Mrs. Wilson, but you see it was me that had the cellar cleaned out, for my husband. Silas Wilson passed away about three months ago. But what has this to do with you, young man?" she asked.

Harry explained, "Well you see, Mrs. Wilson, I bought a little radio, a Mission Bell, that was among the things you gave to the store. I bought it with the intention of restoring it as a gift for my wife for Christmas, and as I took it apart a small sack concealed in the chassis fell out. The sack contained five twenty dollar gold pieces and I am here to return them to you."

"Well, land sakes, young man, my Silas *was* an eccentric fellow and this doesn't surprise me a bit. What does surprise me is that you were honest enough to want to return these coins to me. Believe me, in this day and age that's really something!"

"This has been a tough winter for me, Mrs. Wilson, being out of work and Christmas coming on, but my wife and I both felt that in order to keep in the spirit of the Lord and Christmas, that this was the right thing to do. After all, *you* are the rightful owner of the coins," explained Harry.

"Well, young man, when Silas passed away, he left me with more than I will ever need for the few remaining years I have left, so you just keep those silly old coins and you and your wife have yourselves a very merry Christmas," Mrs. Wilson told Harry.

Harry let necessity be the better part of valor, thanked Mrs. Wilson sincerely for her generosity and Christmas spirit, and left knowing that *this* year, he and his wife would surely have a great holiday.

The next day Harry sold the gold coins to a local dealer and took 2/3 of of the money and gave it to a local charity that would do some good for other people who might be as unfortunate as he. Harry felt that his reward was far greater. After all, didn't he still have the lucky little Mission Bell radio, an understanding wife, and a truly Merry Christmas?

That was a long time ago — and if you should ever meet Harry and his wife, they will proudly show you a completely restored little beauty of a Mission Bell radio, for in a way it restored them, too. It restored their faith in a world both harsh and compassionate!

Merry Christmas to all,

Your President, Bob Bilbie

## 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

**WANTED:** \*Older tube oscilloscope for learning how to use one. Preferably free or trade. Working if possible. Damon Vandehey

## Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, [wb6jhh@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6jhh@ix.netcom.com)

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or [ranft@saw.net](mailto:ranft@saw.net) – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 293-7835, [david\\_wise@phoenix.com](mailto:david_wise@phoenix.com)

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

## Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photo's, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy  
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>



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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.