

# The *Call Letter*

September, 2010  
Vol. 36 — No.9



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Celebrating **35** years in print!

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# 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 (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 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.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the *Call Letter*.



## Society Officers for 2010:

President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 <a href="mailto:rf2af@comcast.net">rf2af@comcast.net</a>
Vice-President	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074 <a href="mailto:abhauser@aol.com">abhauser@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <a href="mailto:kiptuttle@comcast.net">kiptuttle@comcast.net</a>
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 <a href="mailto:landn2@verizon.net">landn2@verizon.net</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Mike McCrow	(503) 730-4639 <a href="mailto:tranny53@comcast.net">tranny53@comcast.net</a>
Board member at large	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 <a href="mailto:radiogeo@hevanet.com">radiogeo@hevanet.com</a>
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 <a href="mailto:rwalton@easystreet.net">rwalton@easystreet.net</a>
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 <a href="mailto:Bucholtz3049@comcast.net">Bucholtz3049@comcast.net</a>



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# September 2010

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**On the cover:** Just one of the many indoor antennas displayed at the August meeting. This “antenna-in-a-can” was displayed by George Kirkwood.

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**The next meeting is September 11, 2010.**

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**Monthly Feature: Transistor radios.**

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

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**Next Call Letter Deadline: September 30, 2010.**

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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

Prior to August 21st, I had never been farther into Atkinson Park than the Buena Vista clubhouse, where we met for many years. That changed when I and five others attended the Society Picnic. Bill Meloy and his wife were first to arrive, then myself, and then Joe Beseda. We waited around for a while, and Bill and Joe finally decided that the picnic wouldn't be happening so they left. I was about to do the same when Liles and Naomi Garcia arrived. They invited me to share the food they had, and the three of us enjoyed a nice lunch before going on with the rest of our Saturday activities.

In this issue you will find most of the usual fare: meeting minutes, photos, etc. A couple of things worthy of note, though, are the notes from the Pres, and the pictures of the new NWVRS cap and shirt. Tony had the caps at the August meeting, and I quickly purchased one for myself. The shirts aren't ready yet, but will be soon.

For the few who don't know, Mike Parker is one of our members who lives over on the coast these days, occasionally turning in a new *In the Shack* article. This month though, I've reprinted Mike's article from the September, 1996 *Call Letter*.

**Always sunny & warm.**

*For a refreshing change,  
check it out!*



**Sunny 1550 KKAD**

	Herb Alpert - Tony Bennett - Michael Buble - Carpenters
	Nat King Cole - Perry Como - Neil Diamond - Diana Krall
	Barry Manilow - Johnny Mathis - Platters - Carly Simon
	Elvis - Frank Sinatra - Babara Streisand - Andy Williams

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# NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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submitted by Liles Garcia, Recording Secretary

Vice-President Tony Hauser called the August 14, 2010 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the July meeting; the minutes were approved as printed in the August Call Letter. Liles read the Treasurer's Report that Cliff e-mailed to the group; the report was approved as provided by Cliff. John Bucholtz said that the library is doing well. R. J. Rhodes recently joined our Society; members gave him a round of applause. There were 51 people at our meeting today. Glen Bricker and Ed Westfall would appreciate hearing from fellow Society members; please give them a call sometime.

## Old Business

NWVRS Clothing--Tony brought hats for sale; they are \$10.00 each. He also brought samples of shirts for members to look at and check for size.

Swap Meet Radio Raffle--The group discussed the raffle at our October Swap Meet. Members voted to raffle the radio to the general public at the Swap Meet. Members also voted to charge \$1.00 per ticket; and \$5.00 for six tickets.

## New Business

Society Picnic--Our Society Picnic will be on August 21 in Atkinson Park in Oregon City. The time will be from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Everybody please bring a pot-luck dish.

## Tech Talk

George Kirkwood acquired a cesium beam tube at our meeting today. He told the group what these tubes can be used for. George also mentioned that these tubes were used by the Navy for signalling between ships (*see photo on p. 11*).

## Leads and Needs

Ray Vanderzanden told the group about Tap Plastics; he also brought some business cards from Tap Plastics. Mark Moore needs a chassis for an Atwater Kent Model 84 cathedral. Alan Shadduck needs some tube shields for glass ST tubes. Susie Key would like to buy some old radio magazines; her phone number is (503)650-1246.

## Program Topic

The Program Topic for today is "Indoor Antennas". Members showed and discussed the approximately 25 items that they brought. The Program Topic for September will be "Transistor Radios".

The meeting was adjourned.

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## NWVRS Calendar of Events

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Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at [www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm)

**September 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

**September 11** The 4th Annual Clark County ARC Tail-Gate Swapmeet. Salmon Creek American Legion, Vancouver, WA. [www.w7aia.org/](http://www.w7aia.org/) Rob, K7JAO at [k7jao@arrl.net](mailto:k7jao@arrl.net)

**September 25** Spokane Hamfest. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216. For information contact Betsy, N7WRQ [n7wrq@aol.com](mailto:n7wrq@aol.com).

**October 9** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.

**October 23** Swaptoberfest. Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. Contact: Vince, K7VV at [k7vv@swaptoberfest.net](mailto:k7vv@swaptoberfest.net)

**November 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2011.

**December 11** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2011.

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## New Caps & Shirts!

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As reported in the minutes, new caps are available for \$10, and new shirts will be available soon. See Tony Hauser for more information.



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## ...notes from the Pres.

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It's good to start thinking about the up-coming Show/Sale for next month. I'm sure we've all been busy getting our "merchandise" soldered, polished and readily available to those who will be coming to the October event. Our Recording secretary and our Corresponding secretary have been getting our promotional materials posted in the areas we want and will be telling us how we can get and print off flyers and posters as we may need them for our own distributions.

Yours truly was busy all month of August and out of town. I must commend and thank our worthy VP Tony Hauser for ably filling in for me in my absence. I'm back now and ready to buckle down again!

Our September meeting will feature a presentation by past pres, George Kirkwood on a rare and seldom heard of type of signal reception called Tropadyne. George built one, I've seen it and it works like gang busters!

Don't forget to bring your "Show and Tell" items for that part of our regular schedule. And if you haven't yet got your table reserved for the Oct 9 Show/Sale, check with Brian Toon who might have a cancellation open up.

You can also "Talk and Tell" about any radio adventures or discoveries that may have come your way this summer. See you at the September meeting.

73 Dick

# 10% DISCOUNT

To all members in good standing of the  
**Northwest Vintage Radio Society**  
for any purchase from



BEAVERTON (503) 644-1025  
7940 SW Nimbus Ave.

SALEM (503) 583-9810  
1545 Commercial St. NE

EUGENE (541) 345-2904  
960 Conger St.

Please show your current  
NWVRS membership card  
to receive discount.

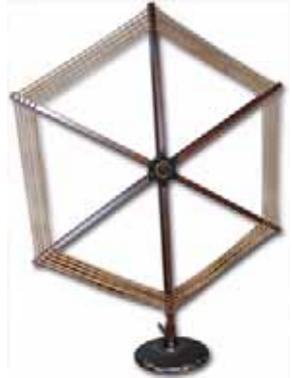
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# Photo Display

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Photos by Rick Walton

Members displayed these indoor antennas at the August meeting. Apologies to Mark Richardson whose antenna booster isn't pictured.







by Mark Moore, NWVRS Archivist

This month I have some great news to report on new items donated to our Archives. Thanks to Ray Vanderzanden who donated a great hat from Portland Radio Supply as well as an article from the Hillsboro Argus from 1981 about Jim Mason and his collection.

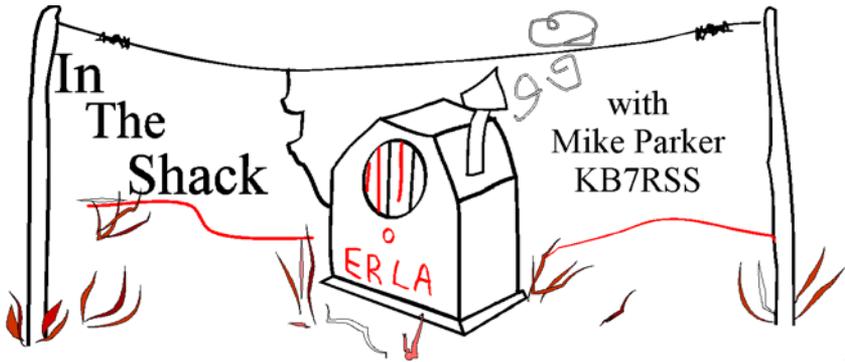


Thanks also to Sid Saul who submitted some really great digital photos of Frank Kinkaid as the ringmaster at Mr. Duffy's Cartoon Circus at KOIN TV. Sid's nephew, Sean Kinkaid, also submitted a written history of his father. To help make this information available to more people, I posted the photos and information on my web site.

Photos of Mr. Duffy include some really historic moments in Portland broadcast history when he had several actors visit his show including Roy Rogers and Dale Evans on July 10, 1959 when they performed for Oregon's Centennial Celebration; as well as visits with Danny Thomas and Jackie Gleason.

I would suggest that the club invest in a flash drive to store our digital images and information. Also, to be diligent in preserving our growing collection for future generations, we need to store paper items of historical value in acid free sleeves. So far, I have donated enough sleeves to protect most of our items.





*Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the September, 1996 Call Letter, and was reprinted in the June 2006 issue. Keep that in mind as you read Mike's request for transmitter crystals. And if you plan to call Mike, check the latest roster for his current phone number.*



During the summer break last month, I acquired a new "antique" up In The Shack. Thanks to your editor and Gordon Phillips of the CALL LETTER, I now have a vintage computer. Now, instead of labor intensive typewritten copies, I can just send these articles to your editor on a disk.

As computers go, this one has definitely earned itself vintage status. A venerable old workhorse from way before the days of the Pentium chip, it is a genuine IBM PC, made sometime in the early 80's. I believe it is an IBM 8088 type computer. If I painted the monitor brown, it would blend in very well with all the old radios up here, since the monitor is shaped very much like an old 1950's table TV!

It is certainly going to be good enough for me for a while. Although I have built and connected cable links to hundreds of computers at work, I have never owned one. But, there may be some hope for me, after a few intimidations and with very little operating experience, I got this article on disk and off to your editor. Why someday, I may be browsing the WEB on a new computer! But certainly not on this one, the only web this one connects with is a spider web in the back of the drive unit!

And I think that I don't have enough time for hobbies now! I might even have to curtail HAM RADIO!.....On second thought. Never!

While we are on the subject of ham radio, I am looking for a couple of Novice frequency, (3700 to 3730 Khz.) transmitter crystals. They are the standard flat, rectangular type, with two prongs. I will pay real money for

them Or trade others that I have in the General class frequencies in the 80 and 40 meter bands. Or an interesting trade could be arranged.

If any of you out there can help me in this regard, I would appreciate it. Just give me a call (503-235-7187). I would really like to fire up my old Heathkit DX-20 transmitter using these crystals and send some code. If any of you hams out there have the patience to QSO with an old 5 WPM slowpoke, just for fun, please call me. I truly believe in using this vintage ham radio equipment as it was intended. I think it is an exciting aspect of our vintage radio hobby to actually have your nice old equipment functioning to have it be a hands on experience and not just look neat.

I certainly hope this does not offend anyone, but you folks just keep on having fun with your newfangled ham transceivers and repeaters and packet radio links. I have no quarrel with any of them. They do fantastic things. I do resent the fact that I can't take a rig like that apart and change a tube but that's OK, it was meant to be that way. It's just that apparently, none of that new stuff was meant for me! My respect goes to those few brave hams that I hear on 80 meters at night, cutting through a sea of single-sideband slop with a 1000 watt + AM signal from a lovingly restored big transmitter. There is so much fidelity, that you can hear it oozing out of your speaker!

And, there is no thrill quite like tuning up an old transmitter on a long wire antenna, late at night and pounding out a CQ on an old J-38 telegraph key. Then, tuning in an old regenerative short wave receiver to your frequency and getting a faint reply....all the way from Dallas, Texas.-or Dallas, Oregon! 'Nuff said.

73, See you next time... "IN THE SHACK"

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## George "On the lamp"

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Photo by Rick Walton

In this photo from the August meeting, George is describing the cesium lamp used for infrared communication.



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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:* Freed-Eisenman FE-15 battery set. Excellent original condition inside and out. Complete with period tube complement. \$140. Nick Tonkin. 360-750-0286. [nick9818@gmail.com](mailto:nick9818@gmail.com).

*FOR SALE:* RCA Radiola 20 battery set. Excellent original condition inside and out. Complete with original plug-in voltmeter. Also a set of new replacement tubes. \$160. Nick Tonkin. 360-750-0286. [nick9818@gmail.com](mailto:nick9818@gmail.com)

*FOR SALE:* \*\*RCA Victor U42 radio/phono, large console. Not working - probably needs power transformer, definitely needs phono work. \$20 o.b.o. Rick Walton 503-701-3260, [rwalton@easystreet.net](mailto:rwalton@easystreet.net).

*WANTED:* \*Ray Vanderzanden needs 1-2 Meissner ant. Coil 7413  
[radiator1@verizon.net](mailto:radiator1@verizon.net)

*WANTED:* \*I'm looking for a chassis for an Atwater Kent cathedral model 84.  
Mark Moore

## Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Bruce Baur - (503)-708-4537, [brucebaur@comcast.net](mailto:brucebaur@comcast.net)

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

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Pat Hickman – (503) 887-9015 Web: [www.classictubeaudio.com](http://www.classictubeaudio.com)  
Email: [phickman@comcast.net](mailto:phickman@comcast.net)

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141 Web: [www.burlingame-radio.com](http://www.burlingame-radio.com)  
Email: [burltv@msn.com](mailto:burltv@msn.com)

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or [walterranft@hotmail.com](mailto:walterranft@hotmail.com) – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, [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.

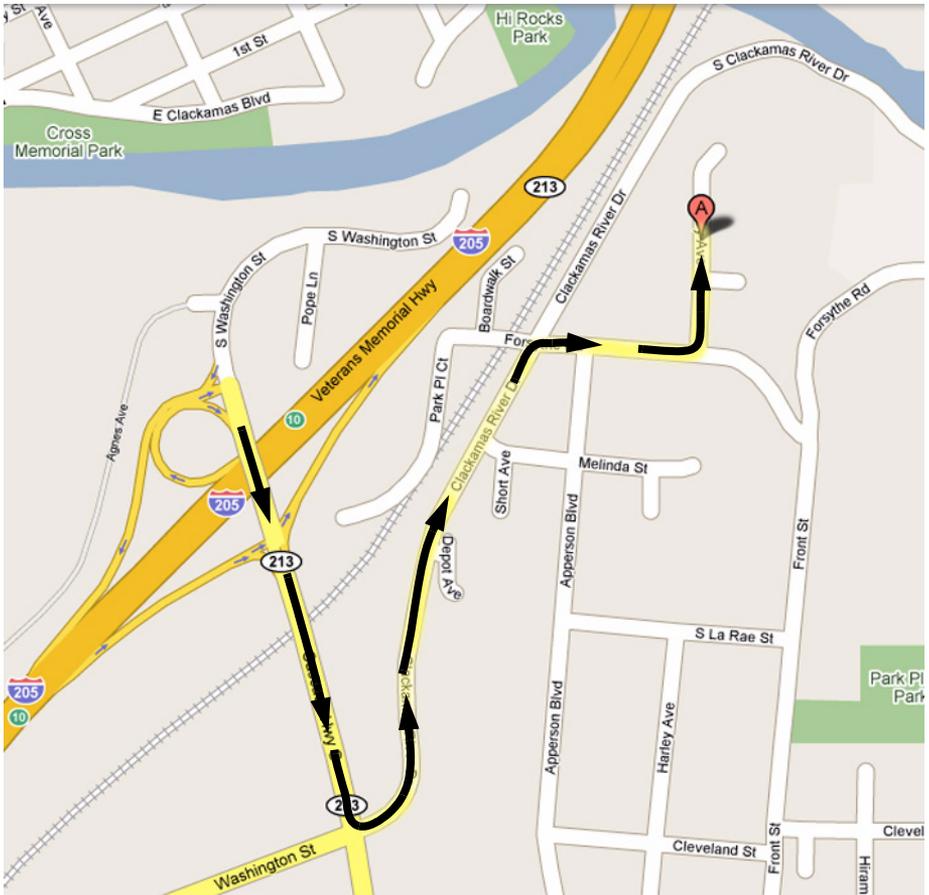
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

## Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit Radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photos, 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>

# Meeting Location

Here is a map (thanks to Google Maps) to the Abernethy Grange Hall (the pointer marked “A”), where the Northwest Vintage Society meets the second Saturday of each month. Just follow the arrows on the map.



To get to the Abernethy Grange Hall:

1. Exit I-205 at SR-213 (Exit 10 to Molalla) and head south on 213.
2. At the first intersection (the traffic light), turn left onto Clackamas River Dr.
3. Turn right at Forsythe Rd.
4. Turn left onto Harley Ave. The Grange Hall is on the left about a block and a half.