

*The*

# *Call Letter*

*June, 2013  
Vol. 39 – No. 6*



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**NEXT MEETING: JUNE 8TH @10AM**

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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 1999. 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 2013:

President	Sid Saul (503)869-5280	<a href="mailto:saulsidney@gmail.com">saulsidney@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	<a href="mailto:tranny53@frontier.com">tranny53@frontier.com</a>
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins	<a href="mailto:edtmp@Q.com">edtmp@Q.com</a>
Recording Secy	Charlie Kent (503)281-9335	<a href="mailto:radiogallerykent@qwestoffice.net">radiogallerykent@qwestoffice.net</a>
Corresponding Sec'y	Jim Harper (503)538-8738	<a href="mailto:JLHarperclan@aol.com">JLHarperclan@aol.com</a>
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# June 2013

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**On the cover:** Motorola Catalin radio from the May meeting display.

**Monthly Feature:** Arvin Radios.

**Tech Talk:** Brian Gibson: Soldering techniques.

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

**and on Facebook:**

**[www.facebook.com/northwest-vintage-radio-society](http://www.facebook.com/northwest-vintage-radio-society)**

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**Next Call Letter deadline: June 29, 2013**

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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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# May Meeting Minutes

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by Recording Secretary Charlie Kent

The May 11, 2013 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society was called to order at 10:00 am by President Sid Saul who conducted the Pledge of Allegiance. New members Brian Wegener and Al Don Hosen were in attendance as well as guests Dave Burns, Peter Desburchie, Ron Knapp and James Lynch.

Sid Saul announced the NWVRS Board of Directors had a meeting April 10 with all directors present. Improvements to *The Call Letter* were decided. The second annual Iverson award will be next March. The Board approved to have any donations made to the club handled by Sid Saul and Pat Kagi.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Ed Tompkins gave a report on the club's financial condition. The Treasurer's report was filed with the Recording Secretary.

## **Corresponding Secretary**

James Harper is continuing to correspond with other clubs, and received two responses back this month.

## **Domain Name**

NWVRS.com was purchased last year for \$15.00 by Mark Moore. A motion was approved to repay Mark.

## **Library**

Robbie Robinson is working on a master list of the library. Our website has a list that is continually being updated. Once the list is complete, Robbie can bring requested items, and not bring so many books each meeting.

## **Swap/Sale**

Brian Toon gave a summary of last month's event, and read the names of who had paid or reserved tables for the October swap/sale. It was felt the internet, our website, Craig's list, and the A-boards brought the public to our meet. A motion was made to announce at 11:30 am the

auction would start at 12:00 noon. Discussion followed culminating in a vote to approve. The President thanked those who donated items to the auction, giving a special thank you to David Wise.

The March 8, 2013 minutes were approved as presented in *The Call Letter*.

### **The Speed Feldshau Memorial Swap/Sale and Picnic**

Charlie Kent explained how the July 13 swap and picnic will be set up and run. Brian Snawder will supply the gas BBQ, and Pat Kagi will be bringing a theater-style popcorn maker and snow cone machine. Set up will begin at 9:00 am with the meet ending at 1:30 pm allowing time for clean up until 2:30 pm. Any non-club members who wish to participate must receive approval from Charlie Kent coordinating the event.

### **Merchandising**

Nametags, shirts and caps are available for purchase.

Vice President Mike McCrow announced the trash bash held today was a success. The Education Fund Committee will meet on May 29, with a report at the June meeting.

The June monthly feature is Arvin radios. The June tech talk will find Brian Gibson giving finer points and practical application of soldering.

### **Leads and Needs**

Joe Burchyski submits a friend is liquidating the estate of a silent key. Radios available include: Yaesu FT101, FT401B, FT901D and a FL02100 linear amp. Microphones include: Turner SSB+2 and Yaesu YD844. There are other items, but a complete inventory is not available at this time. For more information, contact [J.Burchyski@yahoo.com](mailto:J.Burchyski@yahoo.com).

Wanted: Someone who has an unmolested or properly restored Crosley Model 122 Super Buddy Boy radio or chassis I can study to help in restoring my badly molested set. Contact John Cushing by email ([phaeton@bendbroadband.com](mailto:phaeton@bendbroadband.com)) or phone (360-701-6125). Thanks!

**Good and Welfare**

Well wishes are extended to Shelly Butler, and Debbie Hillman who was unable to attend today due to a broken ankle.

**Call Letter**

Tony Hauser requested bios of members be sent to him.

**Auction**

Auctioneer Charlie Kent auctioned items donated to the club and brought in for sale.

A 15-minute recess took place at 10:50 am.

**Tech Talk**

The history of Catalin was presented by Charlie Kent. Catalin pieces were displayed, and repair made on a Catalin case was described.

**Monthly Feature – Catalin Radios**

There were 51 people in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.



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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/amJradio/hf/hf.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/amJradio/hf/hf.htm)

- February 1 – July 8** **Pittock Mansion display. From Stereoscopes to Televisions: The Evolution of Home Entertainment.**  
<http://pittockmansion.org/events/from-stereoscopes-to-televisions-the-evolution-of-home-entertainment/>
- June 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30. Tech Talk: Soldering techniques. Display: Arvin radios.
- July 13** NWVRS Speed Feldschau Memorial Swap Meet 9am-2:30pm at our regular meeting location. No regular meeting that month.
- July 20** **Coos County Radio Club Hamfest & Swapmeet** North Bend, OR. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. Contact: [zane.albertson@gmail.com](mailto:zane.albertson@gmail.com) 541-404-6908.
- July 20-21** **Glacier Waterton Int'l Peace Park Hamfest** Montana state convention. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. Glacier Meadows Campground, 13 miles west of East Glacier on MT Hwy 2. [www.gwhamfest.org](http://www.gwhamfest.org).
- August 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 18** **PSARA Antique Radio Swap Meet** 9am-1pm. Shoreline Community College, Shoreline, WA 98155. Free admission. <http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/> (Always the third Sunday in August)

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# May Meeting Display

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by Staff Photographer Chris Butler

Pictures from the Catalin radio display, trash bash, and auction.



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# May Meeting Display

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## BWH or Simply Baffling

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by President Sid Saul

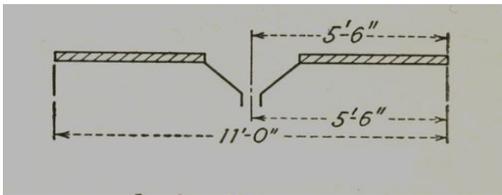
By definition: A speaker baffle is a board with a hole (BWH). A surface which inhibits direct motion from one part to another. I promise this gets better. With this out of the way, let me make a few general observations *off* topic that come to mind. Radios using dynamic speakers always sound better to me than the PM or permanent magnet type. I believe this is due to greater cone movement from the stronger magnetism of the field coil. The cone is acting more like a plunger, producing the lower notes with more fidelity. The center of the cone vibrating faster, producing the higher notes. As a way of separating these various rates of vibration, we sometimes see cones that are ribbed. That's what I love about this hobby. Always something to discover!

Some of you are hoping this tirade will end here, but I feel much more awake now and so I shall continue. Speaker *motors* were often referred to in early radio literature as all types of speakers; be it armature, dynamic, or even permanent magnet in later years. I often wondered why they didn't just call speakers "speakers." I guess armatures, motors and speakers weren't that far removed from one another. Not until someone noticed the separation, and speaker motors became just speakers. I may just continue using speaker motor in my future articles just for the "*cool factor*."

Getting back *on* topic, have you ever noticed that speakers *not* mounted inside of our restoration projects lose their low frequencies? In fact all of my restorations have their speakers dangling, (if only to kill my nemesis the dreadful 60 cycle hum). This has been much easier for me than replacing filter caps. If hum is still heard I scrap the whole project. Now you know why I have so few radios in my collection. Getting back to topic, please allow my feeble attempt at explanation. A speaker cone makes one *cycle* when it moves forward of its resting point compressing the air in front, *and* then backwards beyond center. The forward movement or its half cycle causes the air in back of the cone to rarify or create an area of lower pressure. The higher pressure in front

tries to spill over the rim of the cone to replace the low pressure from behind. Since low frequency waves take longer to form, there is more time in which to spill, never to be heard from again. How do we prevent this? You guessed it, we must use a baffle, or as I call it a BWH.

So you thought I would spare you an equation? Suppose the lowest frequency we want to reproduce (ignoring such things as cone diameter and power requirements) is 100 cps. Interestingly enough, this is near the lowest range of a Cello. Anyway, sound travels at 1090 fps, and this divided by 100cps is about 11 feet. The distance from the center of the cone in front to the center of the cone in back must be 11 feet, *see diagram*. If we use a flat panel alone in which to mount our speaker, it must be 11 feet square. Now that's one big BWH!



A solution to this is seen in a console radio cabinet. We use the entire distance that makes up the radio's front, outer and inner sides, just as if we were using a flat baffle. It is just as important for the cabinet walls not to vibrate and that a sound-tight fit from cone to baffle be made, just as if it were a flat surface. If you are like me, the bigger the BWH the better!

Until next time!

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## Pot Metal

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by Sonny Clutter (reprinted with permission from RadiolaGuy.com)

**Pot metal** (AKA *pig metal*) is an alloy of metals with a fairly low melting point. This metal was widely used in the casting of some parts for many radios of the 1920's & 30's such as tuning condensers, frames, dial drums and other parts. Pot metal was also widely used in the automobile industry during that period.

Pot metal has become a negative word for many of us who restore old radios as it is known for its tendency to *self destruct*. We refer to this problem as; "Pot Metal Cancer".

Zinc, lead, aluminum, tin & copper are the ingredients often used in the recipe. Some of the formulas used would vary and if a known stable formula was not strictly adhered to, deterioration was soon start.

Another reason for the "cancer" is the formula was corrupted before the piece was cast. This was caused by the workers who would often shovel up the dross and toss it back in the molten metal. Sometimes they would toss in other materials as well. This unbalanced recipe was the most certain (if not the main) cause for the self destruction of the cast piece.

Because of the instability of some of the metals within the alloy, repairs are not always satisfactory due to the continuing instability. I have repaired pot metal using the steel filled (gray) epoxy (such as *JB Weld*) with some degree of success. It does a good job but don't be surprised if the piece continues to deteriorate or your repaired piece no longer fits where it should. Pot metal when formulated correctly is very stable and (in my opinion) will likely last indefinitely. I have (in my radio collection) some parts that are over 80 years old that are 100% perfect. However when *Pot Metal* has become, distorted, swollen, cracked or is in the self destructing process, this will likely continue. There is no way I know of to prevent further deterioration.

In rare situations large, deteriorating pot metal housings can be dangerous. I relate *below* a story as told to me by a friend of mine:

*One night while working in his garage workshop he heard a loud pop and then the sound of something zinging past his ear. At first he thought someone had fired a gun outside and the bullet had penetrated his garage. He immediately looked outside only to find all was quiet with no one around. Surely if it were a gunshot, the neighbors would have also been aroused. The next morning with that event of the past*

*evening still fresh in his mind, he went out to his workshop. As he entered his now well lighted garage he noticed something wedged in the wall about 6 feet from where he was standing the night before when he heard the pop and zinging sound. It was chip of metal about the size of a small arrowhead. As he analyzed it's position and trajectory, he found a Radiola 100A speaker sitting on a shelf on the far side of his shop with a chunk missing. You guessed it, the piece that was wedged in the wall matched perfectly the size and shape of the missing piece of pot metal. A testament to the serious stress of this (sometimes) unstable metallic compound.*



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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:* Many Tubes New and Used – 30-day money back Warranty. For list visit [www.antiquetubesupply.webs.com](http://www.antiquetubesupply.webs.com). I can ship OR bring to club meetings. Damon Vandehey, (503) 459-1777.

*FOR SALE:* Amplitrex professional tube testing at reasonable rates. Curve tracing, plate current matching, noise testing and highly accurate Gm readings. Adds value to high-value tubes!  
[robertwstephens@frontier.com](mailto:robertwstephens@frontier.com).

*FOR SALE:* 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>

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.



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## Tuned Into: Sonny Clutter

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A recent group email session about Meck radios initiated a response from me about our (my family's) first TV, which was a Meck. I was then asked "where did I receive TV in the forties?" This prompts me to tell more about my early experiences and our 1949 "Meck" TV.

First a little background for those too young to remember. Back in the '50s dealers made a healthy profit selling TVs, radios and appliances. Only authorized dealers could sell name brand products. These dealers would take trade-ins of your old TV, radio or other appliances often advertising a trade-in allowance of up to \$100.00 (even if your trade-in was not working). This all changed with the new FTC regulations handed down by government in the '70s. These new rules took away most of the profit margin and allowed most anyone to sell these products.

My step-father was a junk dealer. At the young age of about 12 I would accompany him on his rounds to load and help lift the heavy stuff (my stepfather had an artificial leg). We would make the rounds in the nearby communities looking for anything that could be sold as scrap metal or with a little effort turned into something good enough to sell at the weekly local auction houses.

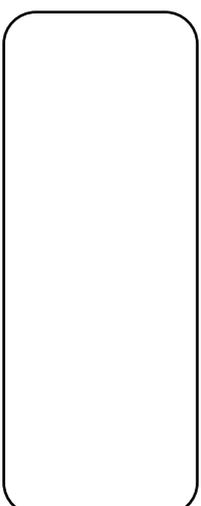
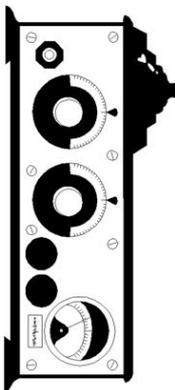
Often he would buy a truckload of these trade-in appliances and TVs. The price was usually \$5.00 per item. I remember seeing stacks of early TV sets in the back rooms or warehouses of the major dealers back then. Cash was usually limited and most of the time only a few pieces were *picked*. On one of those "picks", he bought 7 or 8 TV sets from one dealer. These were all small screen table sets from the late 40s some of which worked good enough to re-sell at auction house. The others were to be torn down for scrap.

My fascination with radio started around age 10 or 11. The radios in our home were those that had been hauled away as junk and I managed to put in working order.

As for where we received TV in 1947, well we did not have a TV in 1947; we had a salvaged 1949 *Meck* TV which I made functional around 1953-54. My home town was Ashland, KY and we received TV signals (via roof antenna) from Huntington, WV (about 20 miles away). This little 10" TV started my career in consumer electronics.

More about me can be found at my website: [radiolaguy.com](http://radiolaguy.com).

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