

*The*

# *Call Letter*

*August, 2013  
Vol. 39 – No. 8*



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**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup> @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:edtomp@Q.com">edtomp@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>
Board member at large	Mark Moore (503)286-5224	<a href="mailto:mark@pdxhistory.com">mark@pdxhistory.com</a>
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# August 2013

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**On the cover:** A scene from the inaugural Speed Feldschau Memorial Swap Meet at our regular meeting location in Oregon City.

**Monthly Feature:** West Coast Radios. No scheduled Tech Talk.

Visit our web site at [www.nwvrs.com](http://www.nwvrs.com)  
 and on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NWVRS](http://www.facebook.com/NWVRS)

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**Next Call Letter deadline: August 31, 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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## From The Editor

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by Call Letter Editor Tony Hauser

Hello again fellow Society members.

Judging by the pictures I received from last month's first annual Speed Feldschau Memorial Swap Meet I would say the everyone really enjoyed themselves and the weather did not disappoint. Charlie Kent deserves our thanks for coordinating the new event that pays homage to Speed Feldschau and the summer swap meets he hosted at his property in years past. I hope this becomes a permanent fixture on our annual calendar.

I appreciate all of the feedback I received on using larger pictures in last month's issue. So far everyone has liked the new format since it is easier to see detail in the photos.

Also, I wanted to make everyone aware that Glen Bricker has informed me that his entire radio collection is for sale. Glen lives in Cottage Grove and has been a collector and Society member since 1978 but has not made it out to meetings very often in the last several years. Glen can be reached at 541-942-3717.

Remember, the dial stops here.

Tony



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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)

- August 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30. West Coast radios display.
- 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)
- August 24** **Clark County Amateur Radio Club Ham Fair** [clarkcountyhamfair@w7aia.org](mailto:clarkcountyhamfair@w7aia.org)
- September 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- October 12** **NWVRS Fall Show & Sale** 9am-3pm. American Legion Hall, 21510 Main St. Aurora, OR.
- October 26** **Swap-Tober-Fest. Mid-Valley ARES** Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. [K7un@swaptoberfest.net](mailto:K7un@swaptoberfest.net) [www.swaptoberfest.net](http://www.swaptoberfest.net)
- November 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nominations for 2014 Officers.
- December 14** **NWVRS Holiday Party** 10am; Election of 2014 Officers.
- January 11** **NWVRS Annual Meeting** 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.

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# Speed Feldschau Memorial Swap Meet & Picnic

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by *Recording Secretary* Charlie Kent



Upon our arrival at 7:20 am, a number of helpers began setting up tables outside the Grange Hall for club members, including Jeff LaDoe and Sid Saul.





At 7:50 am Damon Vandehey rolled up in a cab bringing tubes with him. Soon after vendors arrived in droves bringing with them their radios of all types.

The tables were set, the power cords were laid and the brisk business of making sales, trades and negotiations happened everywhere. Meanwhile, to keep everybody energized, Rudy Zvarich had donuts and coffee ready inside.



Dick Karman gave all his timely playing of old tunes, encouraging everyone to ask for requests. He contributed a feeling of continuity to the event that not only entertained, but had everyone feeling the nostalgia.

A number of public came to sell, including a lady selling escutcheons, dial pointers and tube shields. I found a much-needed escutcheon for my Stewart Warner cathedral in her stock. A Korean man and his son bought five out of the six radios Mike McCrow brought to sell. He said he'd be shipping them back to Korea. Mike used part of his earnings to purchase a Philco 20.

Among the items I saw were ham sets, ornate wood speakers, lots of parts, many wood and Bakelite radios, stereo tube amps, keys and vintage grill cloths.

Tom Hoskins was seen walking to his car with a beautiful Spartan table radio, and a scarce Emerson plaskon set. Rick Ryan acquired a Zenith table set. I sold well, but spent the profits on a Philco 90, Airline cathedral and a Belmont Bakelite.



Special recognition goes to Brian Snawder who not only provided the tent over the food tables which kept the sun off the food while creating a cozy gathering spot, but worked to obtain the cooking grill, and expertly cooked about 50 delicious fresh, not frozen, hamburgers and 25 hotdogs. Next year we'll be sure to have a second cook spell Brian so he can join in the fun of the hunt. Several members brought potluck items that joined with the menu adding special variety.

Pat Kagi's popcorn and snow cone machines added greatly to the festive atmosphere.

The auction brought in \$98 for the Education Fund, and \$50 was contributed to the donation can. Estimates are there were about 100 people in attendance.

I wish to thank all that rendered assistance in making the inaugural Speed Feldschau Memorial Swap Meet and Picnic of 2013 a resounding success.



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# The Legacy of Leslie M. Long

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by Art Redman

The most original designs of Long's were the Low Wing Longsters adapted from larger mail planes. The Hi-Low has slightly bent wings instead of being straight similar to wings of a gull or swan. Eastern experts in the 1930's predicted that the plane might establish a new style in airplane building. Long concluded that there are only two practical designs for light low wing planes. The cantilever and the wire braced type. Since the cantilever is much too difficult for an amateur to construct, being like a pre-stressed steel or wood beam, Long went ahead with the wire braced low wing.

Low wings are easier to fly and build. In addition, they are faster, have lower landing speed, quicker take off, and better visibility for the pilot. In retrospect this seemed obvious to Long because nearly all racing, military, and commercial planes are low wings. Long's low wings were designed solely for amateurs in mind with safety, ease of construction and low cost.

The Long Brother's business of planning and building light planes faced declining sales in the late 1930s. One dealer experienced a ninety percent reduction in sales of light plane kits in the ten years ending in 1937. Seventy-five percent of the state laws based on the Uniform State Flying Law restricted the use of home built aircraft. Oregon was the only state that did not restrict home builds and inspected an amateur plane while under construction.

Les Long wrote in Popular Aviation that he blamed his lost business on the depression and big business aided by government regulation. It became easier for thousands of young men to give up their hobby and instead of being "down in the basement making up a set of Clark Y ribs are out on the roads, trying to wrap dad's sedan around a telegraph pole."

Long's last plane design was the open cockpit Wimpy powered by a 27 horsepower Aeronca engine or a forty horsepower Continental. It had a welded steel fuselage, external wire bracing attached to a fitting behind the tire of each wheel, tail feathers, and a wooden wing with a span of 31.5 feet and length of 21 feet. The Wimpy design came to influence all future homebuilt airplanes after World War II.

The great hope for the future of aviation according to Les Long were his students of the Long School of Flying and plane helpers who

came to the Long family farm in droves aiding in welding and painting. Long wrote “neither Orville nor Wilbur Wright were licensed by either Federal or State Authorities. Yet it was they who launched the flimsy glider at Kitty Hawk.”

George Bogardus of Troutdale, Oregon bought a Wimpy after the Second World War that was in storage, renaming it the Little Gee Bee, and got the plane certified in 1947. He added a canopy, a new tail and cowling. He then flew the Little Bee Gee from Oregon to Washington DC in 1948 to lobby the Civil Aviation Authority for an establishment of the Experimental/Amateur Built license category. The effort was ultimately successful.

The Federal Aviation Administration, successor to the CAA, added an experimental class of aircraft license for non-commercial recreational purposes such as educational and personal class use due in part to the Bogardus flight of Long’s designed Wimpy. Long’s dream of Federal licensing of homebuilt aircraft based on the Oregon model became his legacy.



# PSARA Swap Meet Flyer

## ANTIQUÉ RADIO SWAP MEET

Celebrating our 31st Year

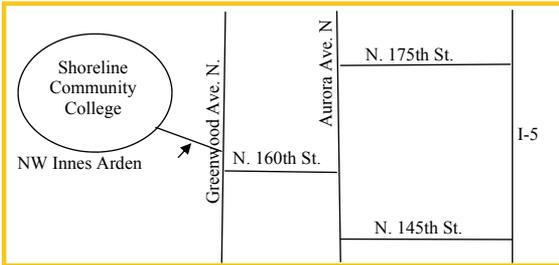
**Sunday, August 18, 2013**

**9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**BUYERS FREE ADMISSION**  
**Vendors \$15 donation recommended**

**Tune in to the largest vintage radio event in the Northwest!**  
**Buy, sell and trade old radios and related gear!**

**Shoreline Community College**  
**16101 Greenwood Avenue North**  
**Shoreline, WA 98133**



**Sponsored by**  
**Puget Sound Antique Radio Association**  
**P. O. Box 7567, Tacoma, WA 98417-0567**  
**<http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/>**

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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>

*FOR SALE:* Entire radio collection of Glen Bricker. Contact Glen at (541) 942-3717.

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## Tuned Into: Art Redman

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### Art Redman: Thinking Locally

Art Redman joined the Northwest Vintage Radio society as a Charter Member during December, 1974 and supplied the original draft of the Society's constitution and came up with the name "Society" because of its similarity to the Oregon Historical Society, which was voted on by members in 1975. The term Vintage Radio was earlier supplied by Tom James while Bob Bilbie always insisted on the term "club". Art graduated from Benson Polytechnic High School in 1965 majoring in vocational radio and television. At Portland State University he majored in Geography and never achieved his early life aim of working as a cartographer or urban planner.

The reason Art became interested in collecting and restoring old radios is after he went into the Meier and Frank store (now Macy's) at the Lloyd Center and he saw a reproduction radio for sale; an inaccurate recreation of the Philco Model 70B Cathedral in a plastic case. Soon he went seeking an original set before they all disappeared in the hands of collectors and antique dealers.

Two months later, an ad appeared in the Oregonian offering vintage radios for sale in Oregon City where he met Bob and Sandi Bilbie who asked if he wanted to join a radio club (not society because Bob hated the word) and Art gave them his phone number believing there probably were maybe ten people interested in antique radio collecting in all of Oregon and he would never hear from the Bilbies' again. The only radio Mr. Redman ever bought from Mr. Bilbie was a Crosley Model 516, which he later sold; he could not afford the Philco cathedral, Atwater-Kent breadboard Model 5, or the Crosley Treasure Chest radio offered for sale.

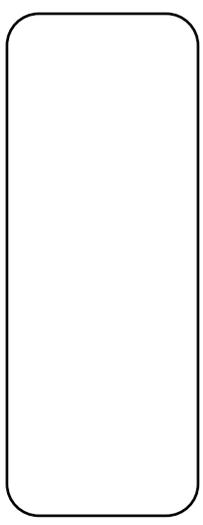
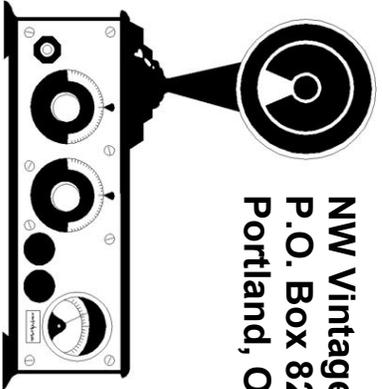
Since joining the society at the age of twenty-seven as the youngest member at that time, Redman worked and retired from the Oregon Department of Transportation in 2008 after thirty-three years as a drafter before the computer age. Also as a head chainman on a survey crew, construction inspector, and lastly for ten years as the person who reviews quantity and quality documentation and makes contract payments to private contractors at the construction field office in Troutdale. The NWVRS officer positions he held were Vice President for a year and one half and one term as Secretary.

The radios Art likes most are his local items. In his collection are a Shorty shortwave adapter, Hallock and Watson All Wave Five in the short cabinet and a Northwestern Model 23 Variometer because I receive more comments from non-collectors and visitors. "I don't care if I never buy another battery radio", he said "except maybe a battery set made by Leslie Long or a Crosley Pup."

The radios he would like to obtain are a 1912 Long Radio Works variocoupler made in Cornelius, Oregon, a Magic crystal set and a Sonometer speaker made in Portland but states little desire for a Langhorne superhet or Radio Specialty Company radio. The National brands he likes are his Deforest D-10 and Cockaday Model LC-27. He would like to obtain either a gold plated Lincoln, McMurdo-Silver, or a violin dial Scott without going broke.

Mr. Redman has written two dozen plus articles which have appeared in the Call Letter over the years and eight more which have appeared in the periodical Antique Radio Classified on Oregon radio. He has also written over twenty historical articles that have appeared in the magazines Oregon Coast, Lost Treasure and Treasure Cache on Pacific Northwest based subjects. "Most writing and collecting should begin locally," he mused.

**NW Vintage Radio Society**  
**P.O. Box 82379**  
**Portland, Oregon 97282-0379**



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