

The
**Call
Letter**

September, 2014
Vol. 40 – No. 9



NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2014

SWAP MEET: SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2014

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).

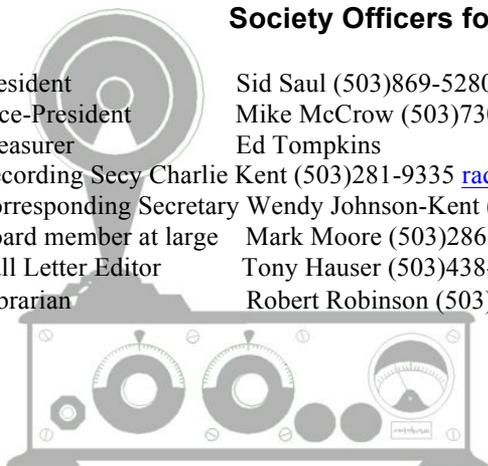
The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the 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.

Society Officers for 2014:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| President | Sid Saul (503)869-5280 | saulsidney@gmail.com |
| Vice-President | Mike McCrow (503)730-4639 | tranny53@frontier.com |
| Treasurer | Ed Tompkins | edtomp@Q.com |
| Recording Secy | Charlie Kent (503)281-9335 | radiogallerykent@qwestoffice.net |
| Corresponding Secretary | Wendy Johnson-Kent (503)281-9335 | |
| Board member at large | Mark Moore (503)286-5224 | mark@pdxhistory.com |
| Call Letter Editor | Tony Hauser (503)438-0297 | abhauser@aol.com |
| Librarian | Robert Robinson (503) 255-3585 | srrobins@comcast.net |



August 2014

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On the cover: Rudy Zvarich. April 3, 1927 – August 28, 2014.
 Remembrances of Rudy are on page 4.

Monthly Feature: Farm Radios. Treasurer Ed Tompkins will give a 30 minute presentation on holding auctions and the impact on staying within 501c3 regulations. Charlie Kent will provide additional information on the subject.

**Visit our web site at www.nwvrs.com
 and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NWVRS**

Next Call Letter deadline: September 26, 2014

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.

Sunny 1550 Ad

**...it's always
a Sunny Day at...**



NWVRS Calendar of Events

Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at www.n7cfo.com/amJradio/hf/hf.htm

The PSARA monthly meeting information comes from The Horn of Plenty.

- Sept 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Monthly Feature: Farm Radios.
- Sept 13** **La Grande Swap Meet** La Grande, OR
<http://w7gra.org/>
- Sept 21** **PSARA** monthly meeting 11:30am; tailgate swap 10am.
Cedar Valley Grange, 20526 52nd Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA. Repair Potluck.
www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index
- Sept 27** **NWVRS Fall Swap & Sale**, **new location**: Lombard Eagles Lodge, 7611 N. Exeter Ave. Portland, OR 97203.
Friday setup 4pm-7pm, Saturday setup 7am, open to the public 9am-3pm.
- October 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Monthly Feature: TBD.
- October 19** **PSARA** monthly meeting 11:30am; tailgate swap 10am.
Cedar Valley Grange, 20526 52nd Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA. Election of Officers.
www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index
- October 25** **Swap-Tober-Fest** Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/swpt14.pdf
- November 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Nominations for 2015 Officers. Monthly Feature: TBD.

Remembering Rudy Zvarich

Our Society has lost a long-time member and dear friend to many of us. Rudy was part of the NWVRS for as long as I have been involved and was one of the first members I met. I was very fortunate to have known Rudy as part of the “Folding Party” or the group that meets monthly to fold, staple, address, and stamp your Call Letter.

Everyone knows him as our “coffee and donuts” man and also they guy who couldn’t pass up a \$1 item at our end of the day auctions at our swap meets. But I was one of the few lucky ones who got to know his humor, history, other interests, faith in God, and true uniqueness from so many of those “foldings” over the last 25 years.

Things are certainly going to be different without him.

Tony Hauser

Dear Members,

It was very upsetting to learn of Rudy's passing this evening. I was lucky to have spoken with Rudy just a few days ago. I reminded him of just how much he meant to this club. We spoke of how our club was a large part in his life, and he in ours. We will all miss seeing him, and hearing his pleasant voice on his answering machine. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family.

Sid Saul

I will really miss Rudy, his knowledge and all the stories he told. It is a shame that I didn’t write them all down. I guess I just assumed that he would be around forever since he was so dependable, opening up the club house, providing donuts and making coffee.

He is one of the few people that I know that has more junk than I do. If I could sum it up, I would say that Rudy never met a radio or radio component that he didn’t like or take home with him.

Thanks,

Pat Kagi

I arrived to a meeting, new, not knowing anyone but Sonny who I had met outside of the club.

I also do not know very much about electronics. Rudy was one the first (If not the first) people to walk up and talk to me. He made me feel welcome in a room full of really smart people.

It is rough when you do not know anyone and you feel out of your element. Rudy helped me, a total stranger, just by walking up to me from time to time to see how I was doing.

I really appreciated that.

Jack Honeycutt



Rudy, at left, enjoying another Aurora Swap Meet, May, 2007

August PSARA Swap Meet

Photos by Recording Secretay Charlie Kent



August PSARA Swap Meet



NWVRS August Meeting Minutes

By Recording Secretary Charlie Kent

President Sid Saul called the August 9, 2014 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by our President. Forty-five members were in attendance, with no guests.

Health and Welfare

Tony Ranft's wife had knee surgery and is doing well. Alan Shaddock will be having surgery later this month, so he won't be attending a couple of meetings.

Upcoming October Auction

Charlie Kent shared a private collection of approximately 60 pieces will be auctioned after our October meeting, with 10% of the proceeds going to the club. The items are of excellent quality and the reserves will be approximately 30% of retail value. Work will begin on creating a listing of the items for members to view.

2nd Annual Speed Feldschau Memorial Swap Meet and Picnic

Charlie Kent gave a report on the July 12th event, where over 60 in attendance had a good time viewing, buying and selling. When asked if a 3rd Annual Speed Feldschau Memorial Swap Meet and Picnic should be held, members gave a thumbs up with no dissensions. A cost of \$350.00 to put on the event found no objections with unanimous approval.

Education Outreach

Charlie Kent reported there were no outreach events scheduled for August, but September should find the club again holding something with Dick Karman's help.

Corresponding Secretary's & Archives Reports

Sid Saul found addresses for two local radio-related clubs, so flyers for our upcoming September swap meet were mailed to each. Wendy Johnson-Kent found an original NWVRS application in the archives which she read. A number of changes have occurred over the last 40

years. Jerry Hertel, who mans the club's business table at events handing out membership brochures and signing up new members, was given applause for his club work.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Tompkins gave his Treasurer's Report on club finances.

Membership Committee / Webmaster

Pat Kagi stated Mark Moore has been mentoring him, and Mark is also the webmaster for four other clubs. Pat appreciates his wife, Robin's, diligence in finding a low-cost laptop. After the meeting Robin was sent a thank you card thanking her for saving the club lots of money.

Aurora Swap Location Refund

Brian Toon will check on the deposit refund from our former Aurora swap location.

Radio Advertising

Dick Bixler read his script that he had taped live for a Sunny 1550 radio advertisement that will be played for the upcoming Eagles Swap Meet on Lombard. Dick was given a loud round of applause for his professional delivery.

Library

Librarian Robbie Robinson personally donated a 1935 Short Wave Craft magazine to our library; and noted the latest Antique Wireless Radio (AWA) book arrived and is in the library for check out.

Of Note

Pat Kagi noted the club's 40 years in existence is rapidly approaching and suggested we get word out to the public.

August Presentation

Jerry Hertel gave a presentation on credit card swipers noting it could come in handy for use at swap meets. He told of varying fees charged suggesting a wireless service with no monthly fee and 2-3/4% of purchase fee. Jerry was thanked and given a round of applause for his informative presentation.

Monthly Feature

August's monthly feature was Large Dial Table Radios. Charlie Kent took a video of the six submissions and made into stills for *The Call Letter*. (editors note: Many thanks to Charlie for all of his work in making stills from the video, however, the resulting images just were not sharp enough to provide a good printed image for the CL. I instead have included Charlie's pictures from the PSARA sale last month.)

September's Monthly Feature will be **Farm Radio Sets**. Carry-over for October's consideration is Pilot Radios.

Tech Talk

Mike McCrow gave a presentation on loctal tube substitution.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.

The Aspiring Radiotrician

By President Sid Saul

From The Road:
Hugo Gernsback (1884-1967)

This month finds Belen and me with an accepted offer to our future home near the town of Hebo between Tillamook and Pacific City. I may have made mention of this at our last meeting. We won't take possession until early to mid Oct, so it is back to living in the back of a car down by the river! It was also at last month's meeting that our librarian, Robbie, held up the latest addition to our library. I don't recall the title, but it had the much familiar Hugo Gernsback (HG) editor on the cover.

He was born in 1884 in Luxembourg. His interest in electricity started at the age of six when his nanny gave him an electric bell and a coil of wire. I am certain that many of us share similar stories. I was about this age when I tried to polish my dad's pride and joy TV picture tube with his car polisher. Needless to say, all of the picture tube wires wrapped around the

buffing wheel and electric drill. Wires were torn from the chassis and tube. The set never played again as was typical for my formative electronic endeavors. Some could make a similar contemporary statement of me. After recovery from martial punishment, I was free to dismantle said set for parts, something I am much better at. I flinch to this day when seeing a car polisher!

HG soon was on the trail to perfect a better battery to power his little bell. After immigrating to America, he began manufacturing automobile ignition batteries. His company flourished until the depression of 1907 when he closed shop. It was at this time he became acquainted with Louis Coggeshall who was a wireless operator. That same evening they decided to go into business selling electrical supplies from a small catalog. HG suggested the name of Electro Importing Company, which became the world's first wireless amateur supply. Taking a small office in downtown New York, they took out a one inch advertisement in the Jan 13, 1906 edition of Scientific American Magazine. This was the very first time a radio set was offered to the public. This set used a single battery, where the popular Marconi design used separate batteries for the coherer and another for the decoherer. Mr. Coggeshall, who was an artist with a flair for beautiful women, evident by the early covers of the first ever Gernsback publications of Modern Electrics. The first issue coming out in April 1908, ceasing publication with the Dec 1913 issue, and merging with another HG publication Electrician and Mechanic. HG went on to publish over fifty magazine titles such as the popular Radio News, Radio Craft, and Short-Wave-Craft being just a few of many successes, along with lesser known titles such as Scientific Detective Monthly, and Science Wonder Stories.

Several writers contributed their articles in the early years of Modern Electrics magazine. John F. Rider (1900-1985), and

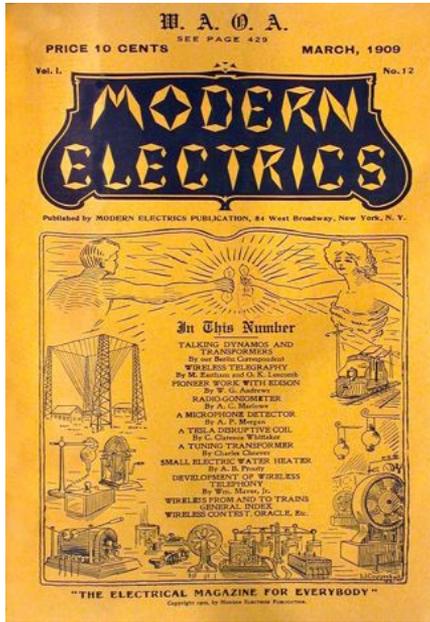
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NW Vintage Radio Society Call Letter

Alfred P. Morgan (1889-1972) were just two of many. John F. Rider started his own publishing company around 1931, becoming famous for his technical books and the Perpetual Troubleshooting Manuals (1931-1954). Morgan wrote 50 books, with outstanding self-illustrations, the most famous titles being “The Boys First Books” a series of radio and electronics.

Until next time from the road, your Aspiring Radiotrician.
Sid

Reference: Radio-Craft March 1938



Close-up of cover showing Alfred Morgan's contribution

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, 2014, 9am - 3pm

ANTIQUE RADIO

Show & SALE

New, Huge
Location on
N. Lombard



Presented by the
Northwest Vintage Radio Society

at the North Portland Eagles Lodge
7611 No. Exeter St. Portland, OR 97203

You can see and purchase vintage radios
from the 1920s - '70s. Short wave, plastic,
consoles, wood, radio tubes & audio equip-
ment will be available.

Low cost tables are available for
vendors as well as outside spaces.
For more info, contact Rick at
(503) 474-7778 or Charlie at
(503) 891-4615.

FREE (limited) Tube Testing
AUCTION (near end of sale)

FOOD CONCESSIONS

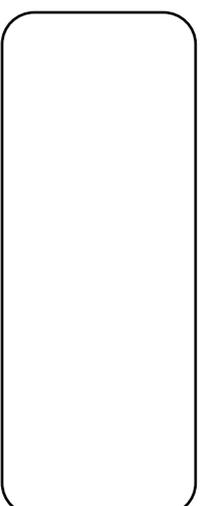
FREE PARKING
FREE ADMISSION

for more information, see our
website www.NWVRS.org





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