

The

# Call Letter

October, 2014  
Vol. 40 – No. 10



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**NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**

**AUCTION!**

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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.

## Society Officers for 2014:

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 Secretary	Wendy Johnson-Kent (503)281-9335	
Board member at large	Mark Moore (503)286-5224	<a href="mailto:mark@pdxhistory.com">mark@pdxhistory.com</a>
Call Letter Editor	Tony Hauser (503)438-0297	<a href="mailto:abhauser@aol.com">abhauser@aol.com</a>
Librarian	Robert Robinson (503) 255-3585	<a href="mailto:srrobins@comcast.net">srrobins@comcast.net</a>



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# October 2014

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**On the cover:** Ed Guenther (in the blue shirt) showing his sale items at the inaugural NWVRS Swap Meet at the North Portland Eagles Aerie & Auxiliary last month.

**No Monthly feature.** There will be a brief business meeting followed by the auction of NWVRS charter members Tom and Marilyn Seben’s radio collection.

**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: October 29, 2014**

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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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# September NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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By Recording Secretary Charlie Kent

President Sid Saul called the September 13, 2014 Northwest Vintage Radio Society meeting to order at precisely 10:00am. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by our President. A headcount found 42 members and no guests in attendance.

Sid read quotes from Rudy Zvarich's funeral program. His service and burial were held on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Remembrances of Rudy were shared by members. A sympathy card was immediately sent to Rudy's family upon learning of his death and a flowering basket of plants was sent by the club to his funeral service. A plaque to memorialize Rudy will be created for the coffee service offered each month or possibly a new coffee maker for its placement.

Liles and Naomi Garcia were thanked for donating two dozen donuts to the meeting and Jeff LaDoe was thanked for setting up, and putting back, the tables and chairs. Damon Vandehey reminded all Rudy would deliver the items left on the free table to R5D3 and we'd need to find someone else to do this or the owners of the remaining items will need to take them home.

## **Health and Welfare**

Alan Shadduck had surgery and says he'll be back to meetings soon. Ray Holland relayed his wife was in a serious car accident in July and she's having a long recovery. Following the meeting Alan and Mrs. Holland were sent cards of recovery wishes from the club.

## **Upcoming October Auction**

Vice President Mike McCrow noted the October meeting would have a short business meeting followed by an auction of a charter member's collection. The Board created policy points for auctions that he read:

- All consigned items for donation will be for 10% of the purchase price going to NWVRS
- If the person donating the items wishes to donate a higher rate to NWVRS (for example 50%) the club will accept the higher percentage
- If someone wants to donate items outright to NWVRS we will accept the donations

- If someone wants to donate items anonymously to NWVRS we will accept the donations
- If there is a reserve on an item, and the reserve is not met, the item goes back to the individual
- Any two of the webmaster, auctioneer, President, and any other Board member may check out a collection lead
- The NWVRS club members noted above who evaluate a collection are not allowed to purchase the items individually
- There is no credit in auctions; cash or check only

Suggestions were given by the membership and discussion ensued. At one point Ed Tompkins stated there is no problem in auctioning consigned and wholly donated items as if does not affect our 501c3 status. He further clarified in the presentation he made later in the meeting.

### **Recording Secretary**

Charlie Kent asked for a motion to approve the August 9, 2014 meeting minutes as they appeared in The Call Letter. A motion was made to accept, seconded, and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ed Tompkins gave his Treasurer's report on club finances. A Board vote made the decision to transfer costs of the October swap meet from the Education fund. A later addition to Ed's report was the question posed on the status of the Mason funds. Ed stated he is still working on its investment.

### **Website**

Webmaster Pat Kagi announced our website has a new section. It can contain the Leads and Needs information formerly contained in The Call Letter. If members want to have their items listed for 30 days, contact Pat. You can also renew your ad by contacting Pat. The exception to the one-month listing will be Bob Lee's R5D3 ad. Pat was given applause for his work.

### **September Swap Meet**

Swap Meet co-coordinator Rick Ryan reminded all Friday night set up would remain the same of 4:00-7:00pm. Charlie Kent, Mike McCrow, and Rick will arrive about noon on Friday to place the tables, chairs, and

electrical cords. Also, like Brian Toon's set ups, names will be placed on the tables.

Co-coordinator Charlie Kent spoke on the Saturday doors opening at 7:00am for club members and public who rented tables. There is plenty of parking with 125 spaces in the lot, plus street parking. Security will direct vendors to unload and then move their vehicles to elsewhere from the front to in the lot. Outside vendors or public will be using parking spaces in front of the two entry doors.

For those members who have not taken the opportunity to GoogleMap directions (see last page of the September Call Letter) and for public, Pat Kagi will add a map to our website.

### **October Auction**

Auctioneer Charlie Kent noted that NWVRS charter member Marilyn Sebens, widow of charter member Tom Sebens, asked Sid and himself if they would auction her collection. Marilyn's intent was the items go back to NWVRS members, but wished her identity to not be disclosed. Her request was honored until she allowed it to be released at the meeting.

A pictorial catalog has been emailed to members and hard copies were offered at the meeting for those who do not have email. NWVRS and PSARA club members asked if our sister-city Seattle club members could attend the auction. Positive discussion took place with all but one being in favor of extending the invite. President Sid Saul said he would contact Puget Sound Antique Radio Association with the welcome invite.

Due to the large number of items, and the limited amount of time, we will be using the auction number system. When members arrive on October 11<sup>th</sup>, if they wish to bid on any of the approximately 80 items, they'll sign up for an auction number. Bid spotters, people to hold up auction items, and additional help for our Treasurer, will expedite the process.

Marilyn asked the items start with a low reserve of 30% of estimated market value. Market value will be determined by auctioneer Charlie Kent. Even with brisk bidding, our intent is to have Marilyn receive a fair price for her collection, and members acquire excellent examples at a reduced, under market amount. Her collection is in very good to excellent condition from the 20's through 40's period.

### **Aurora Swap Location Refund**

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

## **Library**

Librarian Robbie Robinson told of new additions to the library.

## **Grange**

The Grange notified our President we have left the tables we use in an unclean condition with smudging and leaving tables greasy. The free tables where parts are placed need to be particularly mindfully checked for this occurrence. All members need to clean up after themselves when they spill coffee or find they've left donut crumbs.

## **Monthly Feature**

September's monthly feature was Farm radios. Sonny Clutter displayed and presented his 1933 Silvertone which was the only entry. There will not be a Monthly Feature in October due to the auction. For November, **Crystal Radios** (no tubes) was chosen, with the carryover being Brightly Colored Plastic Radios.

## **501c3 Presentation**

Ed Tompkins gave a presentation on research he'd done on our 501c3 status. He read website articles on the topic and shared what he learned. Bottom line, our current practices fulfill our requirements. Ed was given a round of applause for his research work and presentation. Cliff Tuttle added about five years ago we added to the Bylaws Ed was reading from. Cliff said he would send Ed a copy of the updated Bylaws.

Pat Kagi suggested, with regard to our requirement to educate the public, that we add to our website that the public be invited to our Tech Talks. The membership felt this was an excellent idea.

Charlie Kent noted NWVRS has had many public education events this year alone, including:

1. Grange celebration presentation
2. April Aurora Swap Meet
3. Elderly home visit presentation in May
4. June VW Club event
5. July Swap Meet and picnic

## **Tech Talk**

President Sid Saul showed a short video on Electron vs. Current Flow and AC Impedance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

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## October Auction

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By Auctioneer Charlie Kent

Message from the Auctioneer:

1. When you arrive, sign up for your bidding number in order to bid.
2. All sales will be made to bidders who are present. All sales are final and items are as is.
3. Cash and checks only. No I Owe You's.
4. Once you've paid, keep your receipt to show when exiting with your merchandise. All items are to be taken by the end of the auction.
5. There will be no free table or sales tables this month.

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## September Meeting Display

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By Photographer Chris Butler



Sony Clutter

Sony Clutter's 1931 Silvertone portable (the only radio this month!)

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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)

The PSARA monthly meeting information comes from The Horn of Plenty. Times/dates/locations subject to change.

- October 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; **AUCTION ONLY!** Brief business meeting. No tailgate swap, sales, or free table!
- October 19** PSARA monthly meeting 11:30am; tailgate swap 10am. Cedar Valley Grange, 20526 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA. Election of Officers. [www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index](http://www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index)
- October 25** **Swap-Tober-Fest** Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. [www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/swpt14.pdf](http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/swpt14.pdf)
- November 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nominations for 2015 Officers. Monthly Feature: Crystal Radios with no tubes.
- November 16** PSARA monthly meeting 11:30am; tailgate swap 10am. Cedar Valley Grange, 20526 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA. Annual Radio Show and Contest. [www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index](http://www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index)
- December 13** NWVRS **Annual Holiday Party** Brief meeting and election of 2015 Officers at 10am; party immediately thereafter No monthly feature or tailgate swap.
- December 14** PSARA monthly meeting 11:30am (**Note: second Sunday this month!**); tailgate swap 10am. Cedar Valley Grange, 20526 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA. Award Ribbons. [www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index](http://www.pugetsoundantiqueradio.com/index)

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# September NWVRS Swap Meet

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Photos submitted by Chris Butler, Bruce Baur, and Tony Hauser

Our first ever swap meet at our new location in North Portland.



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# September NWVRS Swap Meet

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Plenty of room inside and outside



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# September NWVRS Swap Meet

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Lots of smiling faces



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# September NWVRS Swap Meet

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Swap meet co-coordinator Rick Ryan



Pat Kagi at the snow cone machine

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# September NWVRS Swap Meet

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# The Aspiring Radiotrician

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By President Sid Saul

## From The Road

### Getting Closer

This month finds us with a favorable appraisal in-hand, and a locked-in mortgage rate good for the next 30 days. Although as luck would have it, interest rates have dropped since our lock, but impossible to have predicted. Anyway we are happy with our historically low rate. Why anyone would trust me a large sum of money is beyond me. We anticipate closing on the Hebo house on or about Oct 10. Once again we are car camping at beautiful Fort Stevens State Park for what has been the last five days exploring more gun batteries. How could Belen possibly pass this up? Did I mention that this was totally my own idea?

These concrete batteries were poured just prior to the turn of the 20th century. These “pours” were done in sometimes six month intervals, with the weather playing into the *mix*, so to speak. I have a feeling that the salt air will take all traces of these magnificent historic war monuments from us in another human lifetime. The earlier Earthworks part of the fort was built during the civil war on orders from President Lincoln. This was the only military installation in the continental United States that was fired upon in a time of war since the war of 1812. Seventeen 5.5 inch shells were fired from a range of ten miles from the Japanese Imperial Navy submarine (I-25) upon Fort Stevens most westward facing battery, Battery Russell, on Sept 21, 1942. The sub’s commander, LT CMDR Meiji Tagami, stated after the war that if he was aware of the firepower at Fort Stevens, he would never have fired his gun. There was, and still is, tremendous controversy as to why the commanding officer of Fort Stevens, Colonel Doney, with his threats of courts martial, that return fire not be used. The *official* reason cited was that the sub was out of the ten mile range of his guns, (the men in the plotting rooms later contradicted this), and that the muzzle flash would

give the gun positions away. The following day saw troops going AWOL. The commander ordered those who protested his order to practice marching on the forts parade ground the following day.

The topography of the beach is quite different from that of the war years. Belen and I could plainly hear the ocean from the batteries, but could never quite see it, wondering how things must have looked at the time. Later we discovered that around 1935 the newly formed Soil Conservation Service planted grasses and trees to help stabilize the sandy beaches in front of the fort. Today almost eighty years later tall trees all but block the views of the ocean and the mouth of the Columbia River. As you may recall from a previous article, it was on June 30 of this year, that my wonderful wife Belen and I closed one chapter in our lives and became essentially homeless without the usual creature comforts. It has been a journey we will never forget. We want to thank all of you for allowing me the time to wander away from radio business. Until next time, and NOT living in a car down by the river.

Your Aspiring Radiotrician, Sid



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# Swap Meet Report

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By Swap Meet Co-coordinator Charlie Kent

Dear Members,

First of all I wish to thank you for your support in attending. A special thanks to the vendors and buyers as without them the success we had would not have been. While this is still fresh in our minds I wanted to make some observations, as the October meeting in less then 2 weeks will not afford any time for discussion of the Swap meet. We will have a lengthy discussion in November's meeting by myself and Rick with plenty of time for member comments.

We had more public than at any of our Swap meets in the last 10 years. We had twice the amount of vendors than before and twice the size building. With this goes the need for twice the amount of public and any kind of buyer in general. Many vendors did quite well while others not so much. It really depended to a fine degree of what you were selling and what the buyer was looking for, combined with price.

Advertising is going to be needed for bringing more public. Already there have been ideas as how to make that happen. Fine tuning this event will happen with each future meet. I welcome your ideas so Rick and I can implement changes. Our ending time continues to be a major problem as public at most of these types of events are gone by noon. At last member vote 3 p.m. was voted for. Please think about scaling this back to open at 7 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. with the Auction at 1 p.m. as 8 people showed up before 3 p.m. and my radios were the only ones on the tables. If you have sold or nearly sold out of course you have the right to leave. However in saying this I also point out that more vendors stayed until Auction time than ever before. Thank you so much for your doing that.

I believe the first NWVRS Lombard Swap/Sale to be a great success and may we have many more even better.

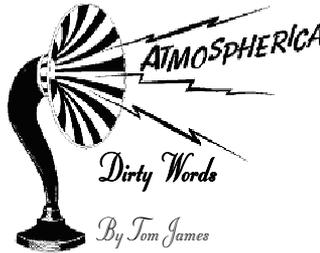
Thank you,

Charlie Kent

Lombard Swap Co- Coordinator

# Looking Back: Tom James Poetry

Reprinted from "Looking Back: 30 Years"



## *The Drip*

*By Tom James*

(From November, 1976 Call Letter)  
 My wife said it would be well,  
 To fix our spare room roof:  
 The weather's fair, the spot is marked,  
 There'll be no chance of goof.

Well, I had September, a month  
 To see those peky shingles laid,  
 But just a week or less to go,  
 To get my Vintage Set displayed!

As a beaver mends his broken dam,  
 I slaved all that final week  
 To rebuild, restore and polish up  
 My Clarion, my classic antique.

Then I went a fishing a week or so  
 To ease my nerves and tension:  
 I went far-a-field in finny quest,  
 The Camper is a great invention.

When I returned, would you believe,  
 The sight that met my gaze?  
 My beautiful Clarion wet as a sponge,  
 'Neath that leaky roof for days!!

I haven't told the efficient wife  
 Of the tragedy out our way.  
 After all . . . how would I start?  
 And what the heck would I say?

## *Dirty Words*

*By Tom James*

(From October, 1977 Call Letter)  
 I answered an ad the other day;  
 Antique radios for sale, it said.  
 The address was some ways away,  
 But that wasn't the factor to dread.

I hit the freeway, wind at my tail,  
 Fourteen miles, then a two lane pike,  
 Four more miles on a Clackamas trail  
 And I wound up smack on a dike.

A modest house was nestled there,  
 And a rustic type answered my call.  
 He said visitors were awful rare,  
 With the washboard roads, and all.

He led me inside to his "shop";  
 There a wonderland opened up!  
 I hadn't seen such a radio crop  
 Since CROSLY had his PUP!

SPARTAN, and CLARIONS, and R.C.A.s,  
 MID-WESTS, PILOTS, and CROWNS —  
 Just as in their maiden days,  
 When owned by Johnson or Brown.

I spotted a long hidden FORD'S;  
 I'd been many years on its trail!  
 When I heard those "THREE DIRTY WORDS":  
 "That'un right thar's NOT FOR SALE!"

There were over 60 poems and limericks written by Tom and published in the NWVRS Call Letter. During his lifetime Tom gave his poems to many folks. Upon his death, his wife Dorothy gave the NW Vintage Radio Society and the Call Letter exclusive rights to reprint.

# Remembering Tom James

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Reprinted from “Looking Back: 30 Years”

Anyone who was a member at the end of the first year of the NW Vintage Radio Society was considered a charter member. Though the society was starting in 1974, Tom James and his wife Dorothy heard about the group from Peter Young and by reading an Oregonian article in early 1975. They joined the society and thereby were considered charter members.



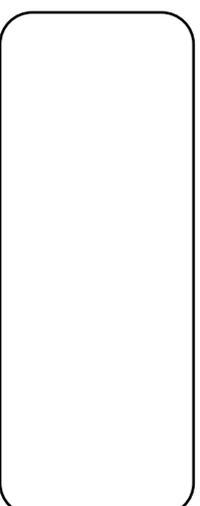
Tom began writing a “poetry corner” in the regularly published newsletter in 1975. His interest in old radios gave him a wealth of things to write about. Beginning in April of 1976 Tom placed all of his poetry contributions under the title Atmospherica. Atmospherica appeared monthly in the Call Letter beginning in 1977. Tom’s print contributions were always recognized because Tom consistently used a typewriter that produced script text. Thus his editorials (while he was editor), his limericks, Atmospherica, Ole! (the original “brag column”), and his occasional tongue-in-cheek report as president were all in script type.

Tom’s history was not just in radio collecting. He was transmitter engineer for radio station KALE, which later became KPOJ. In his own words he, “signed the log” for over 20 years. (In the merry-go-round of call signs and radio stations, KPOJ is now at 620 AM. This frequency was the originally KGW.) Tom knew how to wind his own coils and be sure that transmitter voltage stayed constant (at least during the FCC inspections).

His collection of radio geared followed no particular pattern. He had sets from all years and all makers. He lived in a very modest house in “close in” Southeast Portland. Behind the house was his workshop. The bench might have resembled a repair bench in any 1950s radio store, but up on a shelf near the door was a horn speaker which played permanently. Tom had built a small crystal set with a coil tuned to one of many powerful AM stations which blanketed SE Portland. The “crystal set” (it used a silicon diode as a detector) was in the base of the horn speaker and nothing but an antennae wire was connected to it. It was a testimony to the knowledge of radio and skills that Tom displayed.

Tom was responsible for inviting many members to join the Society. Tom was known by many as “our friendliest member.” He was also tireless in his support of the members. Wife Dorothy was active in our Power Supply (Women’s Auxiliary) and served as an officer of the Buena Vista club for many years on behalf of the Radio Society.

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



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