

*The*  
**Call  
Letter**

*December, 2014  
Vol. 40 – No. 12*

You and your family are invited to  
the NWVRS Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>  
**at The Abernathy Grange Hall**  
15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City.

Doors open at 8:00  
Brief Meeting & election of 2015 officers: 10:00  
Party: immediately after

There will be no radio display.  
Next regular radio display at the Jan. meeting.

Please bring your favorite **salad, main dish, side  
dish, or dessert.**

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**NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**

**ELECTION AND HOLIDAY PARTY**

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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.

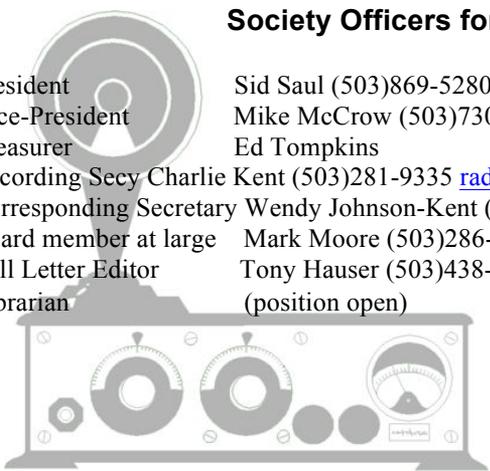
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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	(position open)	

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# December 2014

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**On the cover:** 2014 Holiday Party announcement.

**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: December 28, 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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# December NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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By Recording Secretary Charlie Kent

President Sid Saul called the November 8, 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 and guests were in attendance.

Yvonne McNeil, Bill Meloy's granddaughter, who has attended many meetings and NWVRS events, joined the club today. Steve Stokes, brother to new member Jim Steward, also attended the meeting.

## **Health and Welfare**

Tony Hauser's wife is still in the hospital and getting better. Alan Shaddock who had surgery was sent a card.

## **Thank you**

Sid thanked members who helped with last month's auction; and thanked Jeff LaDoe for making coffee, bringing donuts and creamer, and as always arriving to the clubhouse early for set up and staying late for taking down the tables and chairs.

## **Annual Christmas Party**

Mike McCrow announced planning has already begun for the December 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party. Tony Hauser will again bring poinsettias; Brian Snawder will secure plates, silverware and linens from the Party Place; Liles Garcia will supply hams; Charlie Kent will bring drinks; and members are asked to bring their favorite side dish. We have the Grange Hall until 1:30 pm, which includes clean up.

Mike noted we won't have Dick Karman's Christmas program as his children are sending him to Disneyland, but Charlie Kent will bring a boom box and Christmas music to play in the background.

### **Recording Secretary**

The Call Letter has two name spelling corrections: Jim Steward and Charlie Kent. With these corrections, a motion to approve the October 11, 2014 meeting minutes as they appeared in *The Call Letter* made to accept, seconded and approved.

### **Merchandising**

Charlie Kent reminded members hats and some NWVRS shirts are available for purchase. Magnetic name badges can also be purchased by contacting Charlie.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ed Tompkins gave his Treasurer's Report on club finances. 2015 membership dues have been coming in and can be paid to Ed now. Chris Butler will work with Ed to set up with a mutual fund for the James Mason monies.

### **Eagles Swap Meet Recap**

Charlie Kent reviewed the first Eagles swap meet of September 27. He noted there was a variety of items being sold, and more public was in attendance. It was decided by vote the set up will start at 7:00 am on the swap meet day (Friday set up will continue), with the doors being opened to the public at 9:00 am. It was unanimous the ending time is 1:00 pm with the auction starting at 1:00 pm "until we're done".

### **Free Table**

All are reminded the free table items must disappear at the meeting's end. Tom Mayfield volunteered to take remaining items to Bob Lee's. Note: Bob does not take all materials (i.e. no consoles), and if Tom is not present, check that your items do not remain or take them home with you.

### **Membership Chair / Webmaster**

Pat Kagi asked members to contact him to have items listed for sale on the club website, and to check out what's there.

### **Library**

Librarian Robbie Robinson announced his two years were up and he's resigning at the end of the year. The position is open for someone else to step up and take. Robbie was given a round of applause for his work as our Librarian.

### **Aurora Refund**

Brian Toon reported we would not be receiving the \$100 refund as it was a hold the date from event to event over the years. Brian was thanked for is 9 years of Aurora Swap Meet work in our behalf.

### **Roster**

When the next roster will be published was raised, with Blake Dietze and Brian Snawder both offering to print the roster. Members who have not had their photos taken for the roster were asked to see Chris Butler after the meeting.

### **Board Nominations**

Nominations for a membership vote at the December meeting are:

President: Sid Saul and Mike McCrow

Vice President: Brian Toon and Charlie Kent

Secretary: Liles Garcia

Treasurer: Ed Tompkins

Jerry Hertel and Jeff LaDoe were asked to tally the election ballots.

### **Monthly Feature**

January's Monthly Feature (December will be the Christmas Party so there will be no Monthly Feature) will be **Mystery Item** –

**Radio-related.** Carry-over for February's consideration is Home Brews.

### Archivist Report

Wendy Johnson-Kent read from the December 2004 Call Letter with her Rudolph radio displayed on the cover. She felt with the upcoming elections it was timely to recount Dick Karman's summary of all the club's presidents to that date and displaying photos.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.

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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.

**December 13 NWVRS Annual Holiday Party** Brief meeting and election of 2015 Officers at 10am; party immediately thereafter. Doors open at 8am. 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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## **Forty Years of Leadership**

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Compiled by Dick Karman and Rick Walton

The NW Vintage Radio Society began in 1974 as a collector's club with family memberships, associate members, and an out-of-state discount. Much of this changed in 1978 when we became a corporation. One thing that hasn't changed is the office of the president.

Founder Bob Bilbie did not become the first president. Harley Perkins took that term of office in December of 1974, serving in 1975. Bob Campbell took the office for the 1976 season. Bob Bilbie took the position of President in 1977 but mysteriously resigned in May of that year. Vice President Tom James stepped up to serve the balance of the term.

Tom James stayed in office through 1978. Tom set the precedent that a president could serve multiple terms. Jim Mason took the office for 1979, but it is interesting to note that John Wood, elected his vice president, had to resign because of work and family issues in May. For the balance of the year Craig Hoaglin filled the VP shoes and he was elected president in 1980.

Don Iverson was elected for the 1981 term, and Bill Devey took it for 1982. In 1983 Jerry Talbot was elected holding the position for '83 and '84, Dick Karman followed him in '85 and '86. Dan Howard took '88 and '89. Dick Karman came back in '90 and '91. Speed Feldschau was in office for '92 and '93. For nearly a decade the "two year term" was only broken by Ray Nelson (president in 1987) and by Ed Pittaway (elected in 1994).

Those weren't the last of the two year terms. Greg Bonn, a brand new member who was willing to help the Society "get organized and grow" took the office in '95 and '96. We got some publicity during those years and we did manage to pick up some new members, but it was no silver bullet for growth. In 1997 Jerry Talbot assumed the gavel again for his third term in the office.

As the 1990s were drawing to a close Dave Rutland took the office (1998), and Charlie Kent finished out the century with a record breaking three consecutive terms. Charlie came in in 1999, and held the office until January of 2002, when he turned the presidential duties over to his wife Wendy Johnson-Kent. The Society had its first woman president for 2002.

Cliff Tuttle took the gavel in 2003 and 2004.

In 2005 George Kirkwood was elected President and served the society in that role for an unprecedented 5 terms. He was the only president to break the 4 term record held by Dick Karman and the consecutive term record (3) held by Charlie Kent.

Dick Bixler was nominated and won the election in 2010, and served both that year and the following year.

One of our earliest members returned to the society after an absence; Mark Moore was elected president for the 2012 term.

Sid Saul held the office and the gavel for 2013 and 2014.

The membership of the Society owes a great deal to these folks who have spent their time organizing and agonizing over details of our society. They've been the primary movers behind getting the meetings going on time, and all of them have helped the organization as a whole grow to the maturity of four decades.

Chronologically:

Harley Perkins	'75
Bob Campbell	'76
Bob Bilbie	'77 (5 months)
Tom James	'77 & '78
Jim Mason	'79
Craig Hoaglin	'80
Don Iverson	'81
Bill DeVey	'82
Jerry Talbot	'83 & '84
Dick Karman	'85 & '86
Ray Nelson	'87
Dan Howard	'88 & '89
Dick Karman	'90 & '91
Speed Feldschau	'92 & '93
Ed Pittaway	'94
Greg Bonn	'95 & '96
Jerry Talbot	'97
David Rutland	'98
Charlie Kent	'99, '00 & '01
Wendy Johnson-Kent	'02
Cliff Tuttle	'03 & '04
George Kirkwood	'05, '06, '07, '08, & '09
Dick Bixler	'10 & '11
Mark Moore	'12
Sid Saul	'13 & '14

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# November Display and Auction

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By Call Letter Photographer Chris Butler  
Crystal Radios with no tubes and auction items.



Joe Beseda



Mel Sutton

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# November Display and Auction

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Brian Toon



Some of the auction items

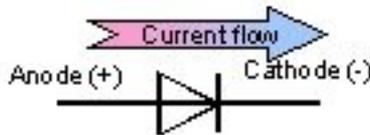
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# The Aspiring Radiotrician

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By President Sid Saul

As with you, our member's choice segments always invoke at least one personal interest. Last month's segment on crystal sets did not fail to draw me in again. This time being the simple coiled wire known as the cat whisker, part of the crystal detector. This combination mineral-wire making up what is referred to as a point-contact rectifier. Discovered in the 1870s and patented in 1906 becoming the most widely used detector of the day until the advent of the vacuum tube detector of the mid-20s. The tip of a phosphor bronze wire of about 30 gauge (found to possess the right amount of springiness) contacts the crystal in a special region known as the junction. A spring was often incorporated at mid span to give just the right amount of pressure. Too much pressure and the detector would start to conduct in both directions, stopping detection. The detector conducts ac current, converting this to a pulsating dc current in one direction only. Thus making possible the extraction of audio from the RF carrier. The metal wire or "whisker" is called the anode, the crystal making up the cathode. Current flows from the more positive potential of the anode to the less positive cathode. Although electron flow is the reverse, being from cathode to anode. This is known as conventional current flow theory. When I started my journey with radio, and not that long ago, I had a very hard time with this concept. Perhaps easier for me to not fight what I don't quite comprehend.



Other than galena (lead sulfide) there were tens of thousands of mineral combinations that were tried. The most common being fool's gold (iron pyrite) and silicon carbide. Carborundum was found to be very stable, and with its large contact area made into a cartridges with permanent spring loaded contacts. This made it less susceptible to strong RF currents generated by powerful spark transmitters of the time. Little known was the use of batteries connected across these diodes (bias) to increase their sensitivity. The famous foxhole sets used in WW2 used razor blades and safety pins (sometimes lead pencils) as detectors. All too often requiring great patience to locate the active area on the blade before detection would occur. Germanium diodes (as sensitive as galena) became widely available after the war. These being fixed and not requiring adjustment. Of course a purist like me would never stoop to using one!

I especially took high interest at our last meeting when member George Kirkwood briefly described how he manufactures galena crystals at home combining lead and sulfur. Perhaps if we are fortunate enough, George will further share his technique with us.

Until next time from your aspiring radiotrician, Sid



George Kirkwood

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## Eagles Radio Restoration

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By Swap Meet Co-coordinator Charlie Kent



This photo represents the finished restoration of a Stewart Warner BC/SW radio. Knowing of my connection in radio, Mike, an Eagles Board of Trustees member, approached me at an Eagles meeting. Mike said they had an old radio on a shelf in the club's kitchen, and asked if I would take a look at it. When pulling the radio from the kitchen shelf, I could see it was in great need of help. The cabinet needed sanding, toning and re-lacquering. The good part was the veneer was tight. I told Mike I'd see what could be done for it.

I approached Blake Dietze knowing the electronics needed work and left it with him. I had originally intended to foot the bill and present it back to the Eagles. After some time had past, I got a call from Blake just before our September 27th Swap/Sale. He told me of the radio's extensive electronic issues, some of which were caused by furry little visitors. Just when I thought all was lost, Blake said the radio was fixed! He had done the electronic work and Chris Butler had refinished

the cabinet - all gratis! Knowing this would mean a lot to the Eagles to set it behind the bar for all to see, I presented the radio back to the Eagles at a meeting to the delight of everyone in attendance. I am so happy to say that with the help of NWVRS and some of its members, this was made possible - from one philanthropic organization to another.

Charlie Kent

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## **From The Vice President**

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By Vice President Mike McCrow

Christmas Party 2014, Saturday December 13

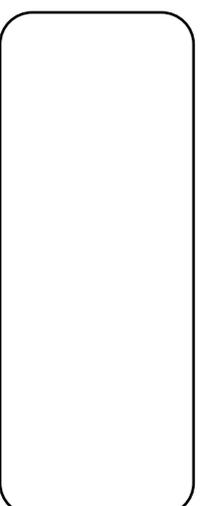
Greetings everyone. Again it is time for our annual Christmas Party. I am looking forward to seeing everyone for some food, laughter, and good times. For all our new members this is a pot luck format. You can bring any kind of salad, main dish, side dish, or dessert. The doors will open at 8:00. There will be a short business meeting, with brunch to follow. We will also be holding our annual elections. The society will provide two hams, and drinks. As always it will be a good time for all. I hope to see you there!

Mike



Sonny Clutter

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



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