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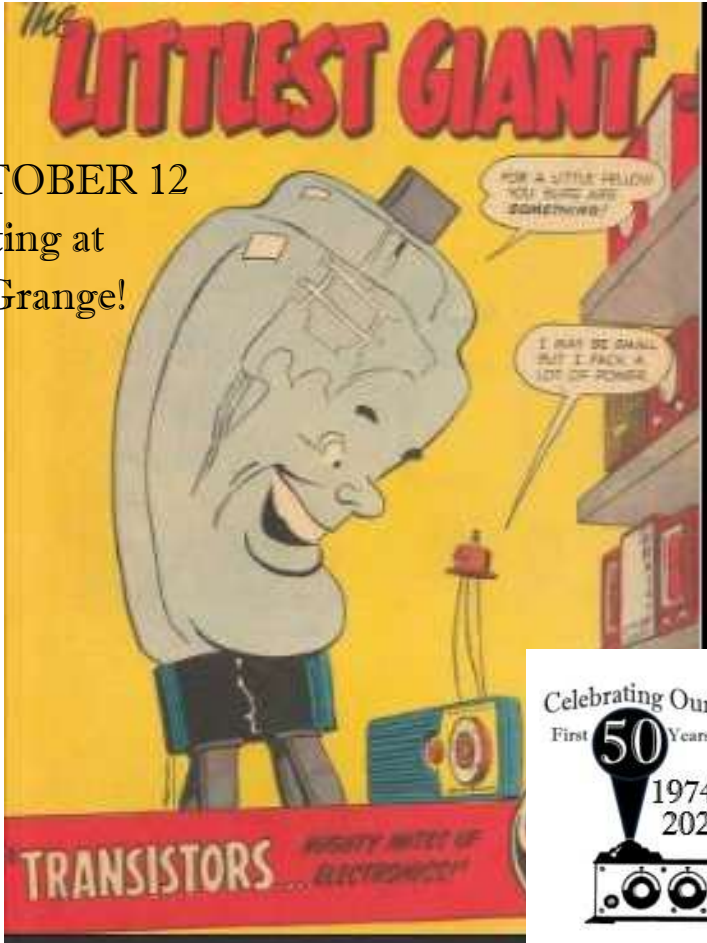
Call Exchange

October, 2024
Volume 50 #10

Letter

TRANSISTOR

OCTOBER 12
meeting at
the Grange!



Celebrating Our
First 50 Years

50

1974...
2024



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 is open to all. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Contact a society officer to confirm the location of the next meeting. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions. Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, and radio sales, announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. 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

President Pat Kagi (360) 909-7009	patkagi@yahoo.com
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President’s Page

From Pat Kagi, President

The monthly feature for October is transistor radios. The winner of the best radio, by majority vote, will be entered into the December Christmas Party contest to win a cash prize. If you don’t win in October, your last chance will be November which will be 100+ year old radios, Collector’s choice and your November project radio. On the subject of project radios, the October meeting will be your last chance to pick up a free project radio from the club. All radios which are not claimed by 8:30 am on Saturday, October 12th, will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Check out the free radios at this link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/FpMjDs4raHr2yczs5>

Volunteers are needed for just about every aspect of our club. If you have any free time available, please speak up as we can use you! Our club has done very well over the years, but we need to keep that momentum going.

The “Save the Story” project has been completed! This project involved going through the 5,000+ emails sent into NWVRS@googlegroups.com and saving those stories that have meaning and can be enjoyed for future members. For example, look at the responses members chime in when asked about some radio tools and some ‘tube’ blankets. <https://groups.google.com/g/nwvrs/c/fnWTKDpsvXs/m/Ksc2UAEZAQAJ>

We will have our Christmas party at the December meeting and the special NWVRS 50 Year Anniversary celebration in early 2025, so watch the Call Letter

The NW Vintage Radio Society Thanks Ken Seymour and the Western Oregon Radio Club for their support of our activities and goals, keeping Portland's radio heritage alive 24 hours a day.

W.O.R.C. brings you



streaming at

<https://www.goodguyradio.com/>

and KQRZ-LP (100.7 LPFM) in Hillsboro,

a low-power FM station owned by the Oregon Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

An editorial word of thanks!

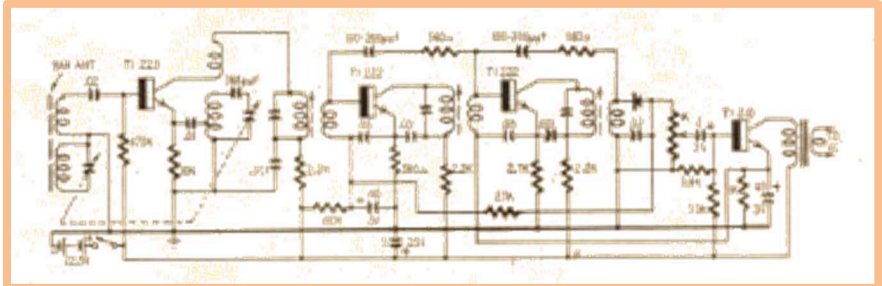
The Call Letter would not be possible without continuing contributions and assistance by willing people. When all is said and done it takes your editor about 16 hours a month. But there are always folks willing to contribute stories and give me ideas. I hope many of you still have articles that you will eventually send my way. In years past Sonny Clutter, Mike Parker, Tony Hauser, Mike McCrow and Pat Kagi made routine contributions.

Historically members Tom James, Bob Bilbie, Jim Mason, Bill Baker and a long line of editors have contributed. **Dan and Dick Howard** have long supported the Call Letter with contributions from historical publications, their own research, other authors, and the NWVRS archives. **Art Redman** is always on the lookout for pieces of Portland history suitable for the Call Letter. Art recently suggested the Tesla Edition and the "Transistor Edition." **Brian Toon** does the printing and the fellows who meet monthly "fold, staple, stamp and seal" everything for the US Mail.

The Transistor Radio Turns 70

(submitted by Art Redman)

From **Radio** magazine, December 1954



The transistor portable, predicted by many as a certain 1955 development, is now [1954] in production. It is a super heterodyne and uses four transistors of new design plus a diode detector. The set is only 3 x 5 x 1.4 inches in dimensions and weighs less than 12 ounces. Design of such a set is made possible by new high-performance transistors developed by Texas Instruments Inc., Dallas, Texas.

Power is supplied by a single 22.5-volt battery, whose life is naturally expected to be very long.

The little set is made by Regency (a division of Industrial Development Engineering Associates) of Indianapolis, Ind., and is priced at \$49.95. It is expected to be on the market in time for the Christmas [1955] trade.



Ode to the Regency Radio

The first transistor portable,
 Manufactured during October 1954,
 The Regency is most notable,
 Because it inspired a roar,
 The song "My 'Transistor Sister',
 listening to her radio",
 Obtained one large ear blister,
 While lounging on the patio.

Where did this all begin?

(Editors)

The **Call Letter**

This is the history of the Call Letter editors.

The first newsletter was in 1974 was edited by Bob Bilbie, who was considered the founder of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. The newsletter was essentially the hand-typed, mimeographed format. In April 1977, Bob Bilbie, in a surprise move, announced his resignation from the Call Letter (and from the club).

The June 1977 issue of the Call Letter, with Bob Hay as editor, began the half-sheet booklet format size that was proposed months earlier by Mark Moore. Paid advertisements were also introduced to help pay for the postage increase.

When Bob Hay stepped down in June 1978, Tom James took the position and formalized certain pages for certain purposes; The Power Supply, Our People, Swap Shop, Atmospherica, Cartoon Clippings, etc.

January 1980 found Bill DeVey as editor. Bill pretty much followed the established format. His copy was good and his editorials were excellent. In January 1981, Jim Mason took over because Bill took the post of Vice President. Jim included things like **Display News** documenting our public displays; **Wireless Quote of the Month** (from historical magazines and trade journals); and **Bits and Pieces** amassing all of the other ephemera contributions. In 1983 Jim passed the reins to Dick Karman. Dick changed the outward images, but not the size and booklet shape.

Dick was the first to use a home computer to do the layout of the Call Letter, complimented by his laser printer. Most of the text had justified columns and allowed for stylized column heads, and bylines. Dick held the position until the Spring of 1987.

Ed Buhite volunteered for the job in June 1987. He changed the outward appearance and reverted back to previous page layout conventions. Between May and October of 1992, Ed tried to co-edit with the PSARA in Seattle; sharing the work. It was not a success. By November the Call Letter was once again an NWVRS publication and once again in the hands of Dick Karman. Business as usual made the Call Letter one of the longest running continuous radio collector's newsletters. In December 1996 Dick resigned and, for a month, the future of the Call Letter was uncertain.

In January 1997, Rick Walton took up the editorial responsibilities. Quality was a priority and the Society purchased a flatbed scanner, a printer, and the software to include occasional color illustrations on the Call Letter cover. Rick kept improving the Call Letter and by 2000, he had made possible the ability to send electronic copies to members who requested them. In a PDF the entire publication could be in color and cost no more to produce (or mail). For another 11 years Rick Walton continued as the Call Letter editor. His work is noteworthy and his diligence can be seen in the Society's archives.

When Rick did step down, Tony Hauser took the editorship. Tony handled the publication from January 2012 until February 2015. In those years the Society moved to printing in color. For a few months in 2015 Dick Karman acted as editor pro tem. In September of 2015 Don Hanson became the editor.

In 2020 during the pandemic kerfuffle Dick Karman augmented the Call Letter with an "easy reader" publication known as the ***Bald Letter***. Late in 2021 Dick discontinued the Bald Letter and eventually moved into the role of Call Letter editor for a third time.

In the few years that followed, the **Call Letter** grew to be 3 different documents with a common core. The print publication in full color thanks to the Society's purchase of a color printer, continued to be a ½ page booklet format of 16 pages (for postage considerations); The **Call Letter PLUS** was formatted with much of the print page content but had more in depth material and photo spreads made possible because it was a PDF, only distributed by email; and the **Call Letter Exchange** edition was formatted much like the print version but was sent to other organizations in a PDF via email in exchange for a copy of their newsletters. The PLUS version was maintained as a membership-only benefit.

For 50 years the Call Letter has been in continuous production and remains the voice of the NW Vintage Radio Society.

Restoring A Transistor Radio

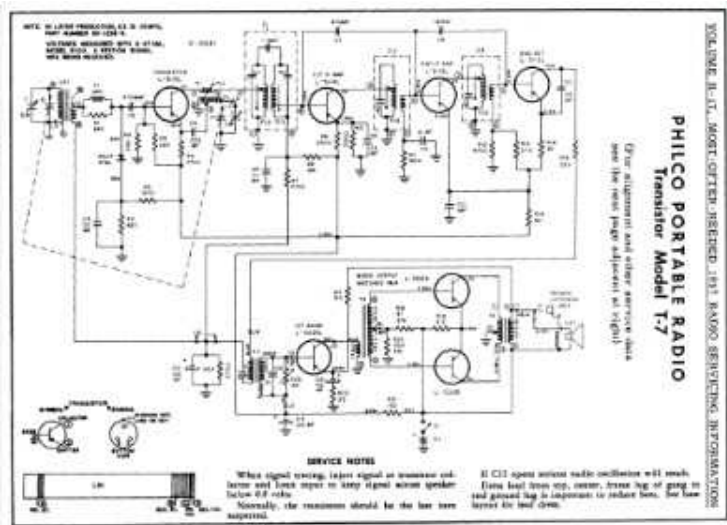
by Dave Wise

Restoration of the Philco T-7 Transistor radio

This set, made in 1957, was Philco's first transistor offering. All three electrolytic caps were bad and easily replaced - in a pinch you wouldn't even have to take the circuit board out of the cabinet. That was all it took to get it working. On the other hand, I feel that it's always worth doing an alignment, because the oldest slug-tuned stuff always seems to be off.

The T7 was no exception, benefiting greatly. The loop stick was intended to be adjustable, but again I left it alone, this time due to my annoyance at Philco for making such a good circuit (lots of gain and selectivity, tightly controlled by a wonderfully clever AVC design) and then ruining it with a rubbery direct-drive tuning cap that squeezes the high end so bad it's almost impossible to tune.

You'll notice that high-end squeeze on most transistor sets and some late tube portables. It all began with the drive to miniaturize. Prior to this period, most tuning caps used a large stator, with a specially-shaped rotor that changed capacitance faster and faster as the plates meshed.



While ideal for the user, the so-called "straight-line frequency" profile represents an unhealthy extreme in this respect. I have one in the junk box, and that rotor extends a LONG way out from the shaft. Almost nobody used it; instead, they went with the milder "straight-line wavelength" profile. (Later they did away with the need for a padder in the oscillator section by making that section smaller than its RF cousins. That has nothing to do with the squeeze.)

For a 3-to-1 frequency ratio, you need a 9-to-1 capacitance ratio. Practical loop antennas translate this into a lower bound on the full-mesh RF capacitance. When you have to cram a variable cap into a small space, there's only so far you can go with decreasing the plate spacing before it becomes prone to shorts. At some point you have to give up on special plate profiles and go with whatever gives maximum capacitance per cubic inch, namely, straight-line capacitance: plain old semicircular plates. (Actually, they did not go all the way to SLC, just partway.)

This is what gives the top end that awful squeeze. It's not intuitive, but you can confirm it by looking at the oscillator section. In order to maintain tracking, it is severely deformed; in fact, the profile is the opposite of what you'd like; the capacitance changing slowly at full-mesh, and rapidly at near-open. Look at any small transistor set with an air-variable cap (die plastic ones are too hard to see into) and you'll see what I mean. Don't get thrown by the fact that the profile has been imposed on the stator instead of the rotor.

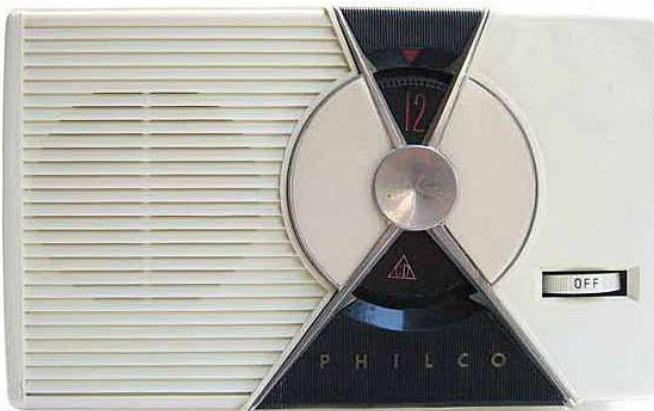


Photo from the Swap Meet

Photos and captions by Dan Howard

Celebrating the 128th rivalry game (that was played during the swap meet), Dan created a



display with an orange and black Arvin (Go Beavers!), a green and yellow Arvin (Go Ducks!), and a 1948 Empire Gridiron Football radio..



Hard-working swap meet chairman Scott Thomas takes a break at his table full of beautifully-restored radios.



Dick Howard returns a Portland-made Apollo radio. to Tom Hoskins who graciously shared it for Dick's Made-In-Portland documentation project.



Colorful plastic radios were in abundance.

An interesting Remler awaits restoration at Brian Wegener's table.



Bob Hay with an unusual battery set that he purchased in Bristol England.





A rare Hallicrafter with lucite cabinet clock radio got plenty of attention.



Not one, but two Charlie McCarthy radios from the late 1930's.



Robbie Robinson, Dave Pidwerbecki, Bill Ostrander et al enjoy the swap meet.

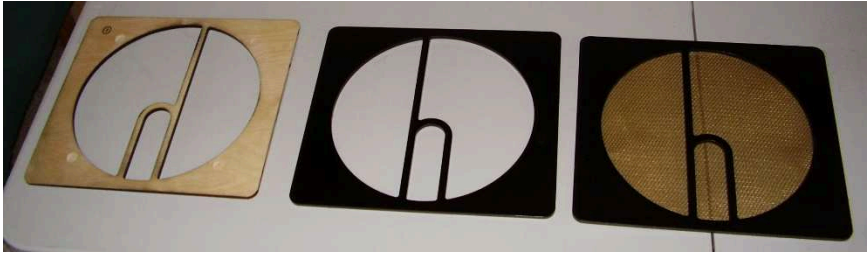


Jake Austin, Jon Woolf, Franklin Ouchida, Mike McCrow, Dan Olson, Mike Miller, Ed Guenther et al survey the offerings upstairs and enjoy the fellowship.



Bill Ostrander displayed several nicely-restored consoles.

A hearty WELL DONE to Scott Thomas and all THE CREW who helped out



I have a few replica grills for Hallicrafters R12 speaker box. They are available for \$38 without grill cloth and \$46 with nice vintage looking grill cloth. Contact me John Guilmette <upf7@canby.com>

WRNZ

Wednesday Radio Night Zoom gathering
A Radio Meeting as close as your phone!

A membership benefit of NW Vintage Radio Society
Every Wednesday 7:00 pm Pacific Time

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9169559120?pwd=aHdjRXdqcmtlS0ZBZk9mV1A4d1hrZz09>

Meeting ID: 916 955 9120

Passcode: 339545

Birthday Greetings for October



Daphne Dike
Ken Miller

Atmospherics by Tom James



History: Fifty years ago, everyone remembered the scratchy reception of the 30's and 40's. It was blamed on atmospheric conditions, defined as the cause of breaks in serious reception. Atmospheric conditions soon were referred to as "atmospherics." Charter member Tom James thought that our newsletter should have some breaks in serious reception and started to write poetry, titled first Atmospherics, and later as Atmospherica. Tom and his wife, Dorothy, are gone now, but the Call Letter continues to publish Tom's works as a break in serious reception.

High ~~Fidelity~~ Futility

Away back in my twenties,
I was an audio nut.
Hi-fi was a way of life,
No if, no and, nor but.

I tried to get the best of sound
That technique could produce;
Anything less than quality
Was staunchly banned from use.

With the advent of the transistor
More from A M I could assure
Tracking down each signal
High fidelity I would procure

I still demand perfection
In every set I've got,
But what's the use, I ask of you,
With AM broadcast gone to pot

From the Tom James Collection ©



100 Years Ago (Football on the radio)

The Literary Digest for November 22, 1924

1



J. F. McMAN

YAY—a touchdown!

Mickey over the line! Listen to 'em cheer! 'Ray—Mick! Thousands at the game. Hundreds of thousands listening in! Everybody's eager — excited — keeping young with new enthusiasms. Listening in!

It's great to get every word from the field — just as sharp and distinct as if you stood beside the announcer. It's great to get music that comes from miles away, every tone and overtone mellow and clear.

And these are the things that are making the fame of Radiola Regenoflex.

The Regenoflex is simple to operate. It is non-radiating—doesn't disturb your neighbor's program. It is selective—gets the station you want without interference. It is sensitive—gets big distances on the Loudspeaker. But most important is the new tone quality so real that it doubles the fun of getting the game!

Radiola Regenoflex

with compartments to hold the batteries, with 4 Radiotrons WD-11 and Radiola Loudspeaker. Complete except batteries and antenna. \$191. Same without Radiotrons and Loudspeaker \$150



This symbol of quality is your protection

Want a Radiola this Christmas?

A gentle hint does wonders. Send us the name of the relative who doesn't know what to get you, and we'll mail to him—or her—a book about all the Radiolas from \$35 to \$425. It may help.

"There's a Radiola for every purse"

Radio Corporation of America

233 Broadway
New York

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10 So. La Salle Street
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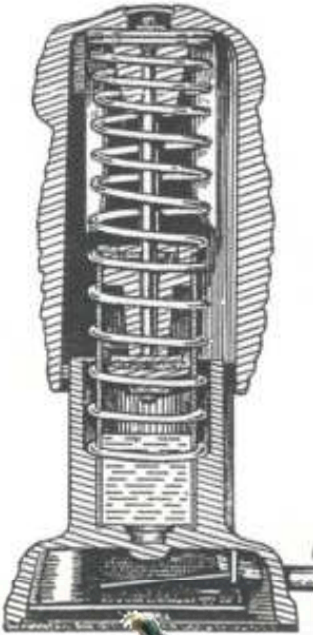
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

Or send for the booklet yourself for Christmas ideas.

RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA
Dept. 1947 (Address office nearest you)
Please send a Christmas booklet on Radiolas to

Name _____ R.F.D. _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____

Owls and Halloween just go together



SAVES TUBES BATTERIES

SHUTS OFF SET AUTOMATICALLY

OFF
1/2 HR
1 HR
2 HR

RADIO OWL

Price \$3.50

Join Today!!

NWVRS Membership

Membership in the NW Vintage Radio Society is open to all. The dues are \$25 each year and come due every January. They can be paid at meetings or online using Zelle inter-bank services. Specify your name and “membership” when you use Zelle. The NWVRS phone number identity is 360 635-2489. Membership lists are not used for solicitation or unsolicited sales contacts.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City State Zip _____

Email Address _____

Radio/history Interest

Return to The Northwest Vintage Radio Society
Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

