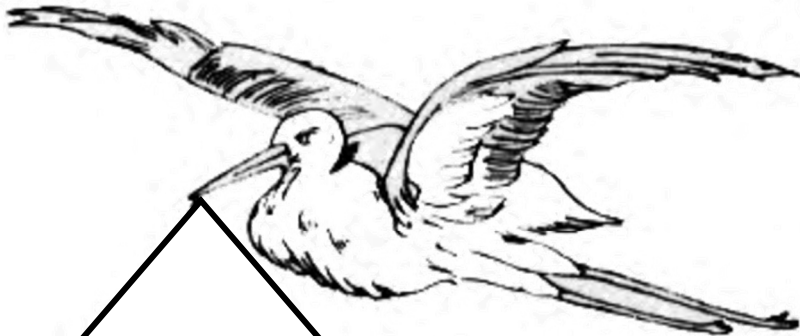


The

Call Exchange *Letter*

January, 2025

Volume 51 #1



2025

Welcoming 2025

**Annual Business Meeting January 11, 2025
the Grange Hall – business begins at 9:30
Arrive early for Featured Radio/contest
see details on page 1**

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 which are 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 Scott Thomas

Vice President Jake Austin

Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360) 635-2489

Recording Secretary Jeff Hutchinson

Corresponding Secretary Art Redman

Board member at large Pat Kagi

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Feature for the January meeting is Crystal Sets and collector's choice.

What's a featured radio?

At eight of our monthly meetings (omitting swap meets, parties, and picnics) members are encouraged to display and explain a radio that is "featured" for that meeting. The Collector's Choice indicator means that members are welcome to bring a favorite of their own choosing. The featured radio category is announced by the Vice President in advance. The popularity of the displays is indicated by votes of those attending the meeting. Take part in our meetings. Plan ahead and bring a radio to display and explain.

Limit sharing to 2 or 3 minutes so there is time for questions.

Birthday Greetings for January



Elbert Hardin

Armon Doll

Mike McCrow

Derrick Meury

Mark Moore

Allan Wetzell

Christian Winfield

If you'd rather not have your birthday recognized in the Newsletter, please tell a board member

President's Column

From Scott Thomas, NWVRS President

As the “new” president I want to thank everyone who attended the December meeting under less-than-ideal circumstances. Your support for the society and for the new board is appreciated. I look forward to serving a society that I truly enjoy, and meeting and getting to know others who have the “radio bug”.

Remember that the January 11 meeting at the Grange Hall is the first official meeting of 2025 and is considered the “annual business meeting” of the society.

Our **Featured Radio** display will be Crystal Sets and “collector’s choice” meaning any set that you’d like to ‘show off.’ The members in attendance will vote on the most popular display/set.

Dues are due and we’ll hear from Vice President Jake Austin about the plans for meetings and events for the new year. Plan to attend! (We look forward to having lights and heat at this gathering.)

I wish everyone Happy Holidays and really look forward to the New Year and all it brings!

The NW Vintage Radio Society wants to thank Ken Seymour and the **Western Oregon Radio Club** for their support of NWVRS & its activities.

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.

*Photo memories
from December
Meeting*

December door prizes



A nice lunch after the
lights came back on

Franklin- winner of the
Ugly Sweater Contest



Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Dan Howard, et. al, secretary pro tem

President Pat Kagi called the December 14, 2024 meeting of the NW Vintage Radio Society at the Grange Hall to order at 9:30.

A motion was made and passed to suspend Roberts Rules of Order for the December meeting.

All candidates for office in 2025 are running unopposed. A motion to elect officers by acclamation was made and seconded. Officer nominees for all positions running were elected to those positions. The 2025 President is Scott Thomas; VP is Jake Austin; Treasurer is Ed Tompkins; Recording Secretary is Jeff Hutchinson; Corresponding Secretary is Art Redman.

Health and Welfare:

Mike McCrow is recovering from surgery and doing well.

Bob Duel is doing well.

Outgoing President Pat Kagi was thanked for his eight years of service. He will remain on the board as the member-at-large. Outgoing Vice President Franklin Ouchida was thanked for his six years of service.

Guests were introduced. Murray Stone came with Art Redman. Andy Reynolds and his mother Jennifer introduced themselves. Following the guest introductions, all members and their families introduced themselves. About 25 members registered their attendance on the provided sign in sheet.

Votes were tallied for the 2024 Display-of-the-Year. The Log Cabin radio, an entry in May's wooden radio display category, received the most votes.

The attendees thanked Christian Winfield, the Toons, the Ranfts and other members of the party team for their efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 and guests enjoyed the potluck.

[Party, Potluck, and other activities were curtailed due to the power outage that darkened the Grange Hall during the overnight wind storm until about 10 AM.]

Meeting Adjourned

Portland's Early Radio Clubs

By member Jim Mason, silent key

In December 1925, Sid Goodwin, radio editor of the Portland Telegram, suggested formation of an organization of radio listeners in the area to pursue locating and eliminating the problem of local interference. Three weeks later he reported very little interest in the project.

Hallock and Watson also promoted the formation of a listener's club over station KFJR. Early in March 1926, a committee was appointed by the Oregon Radio Trades Association which scheduled meetings to elect officers and a board of directors; to adopt a constitution and by-laws; and to begin a membership drive.

The club was open to all listeners in the greater Portland area. The primary purpose of a small dues assessment was to hire trouble shooters to locate and help eliminate (and if necessary, pursue legal action against) sources of problems such as power lines, "outlaw amateurs," violet ray and other medical devices, and ' other sources not yet identified. One of the major sources of interference was the Federal telegraph spark station KEK, located east of Hillsboro. This operated on 706 meters with a power of 5 Kw, making it impossible to tune out as far west as Tillamook, and south and east to Yamhill and East Multnomah counties.

AMATEUR WIRELESS ASSOCIATION ACTIVE [June 1920]

The reorganization of the Astoria Amateur Wireless Association effected recently, with E. P. Hawkins as president, Carl Josephson as vice-president and E. A. Smith as secretary-treasurer. will stimulate anew the active interest in the radio game which was suspended at the outbreak of the war. The association has a charter membership of fifteen.

The aim of this association is to place all amateur wireless men of the lower Columbia River district under one head in order that the full educational value, as well as a pleasant pastime, may be obtained out of this work. A chain of relay stations is contemplated.

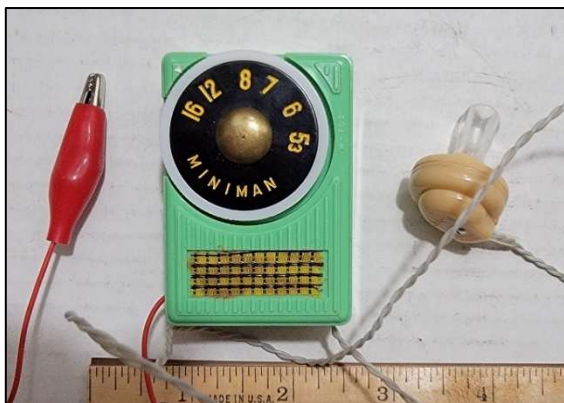
Classes will be held each week under the supervision of Messrs. Hawkins. Josephson and Smith, all of whom are experienced commercial operators, and the boys will be given every opportunity to improve themselves in all branches of wireless communication.

‘A ‘Miniman’ Crystal Radio

[To Infinity and Beyond]

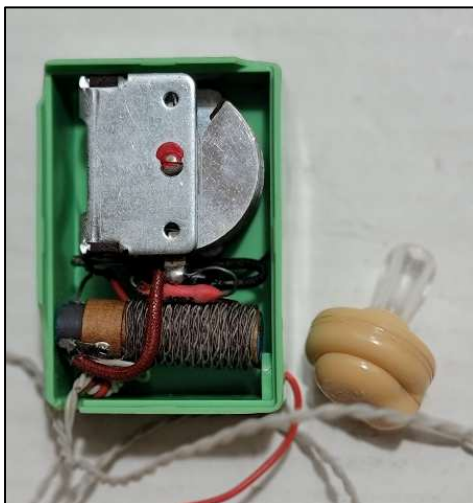
From Hue Miller

Recently I repaired a ‘Miniman’ Japanese toy crystal radio so I could sell it, although it won’t bring any big money. The piezo earpiece didn’t seem to have any sensitivity so I replaced it with a new one. The rest of the small parts count seemed to be okay. I have no real antenna here so last night I connected it to a remaining, (now unused) landline telephone jack coming into my apartment.



I started DXing and reminiscing about Crystal Radio reception.

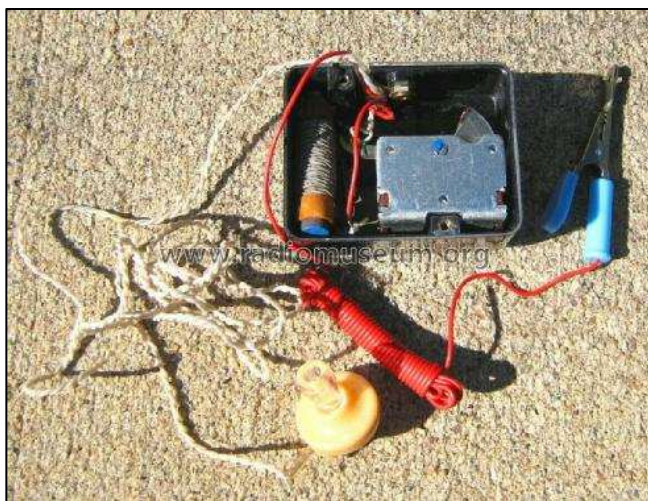
Our local (the Oregon Coast) MW AM broadcast station went bankrupt and the only options are now a 1 kW station 7 miles (15 km) away but over and beyond the crest of the coastal hill range, and more powerful stations in the 10 kW class about 50 miles away (110 km). I only was able to hear bits of the 1 kW Toledo OR station a few moments. I don’t know how to explain that. The only other station I heard was KGO San Francisco, California, 810 kHz 50 kW, 624 miles from here (1370 km.) Odd results; you would think I would



hear 50 kW stations closer to me, like Portland Oregon, 79 miles (146 km.) I can regularly hear on other radios here, KKOH Reno, NV 780 and KGO San Francisco, CA 810 with good reliable reception. Those of course are skywave propagation. Oh also, KFBK Bakersfield CA 1530. A straight shot into California, for some reason. One thing about using a crystal radio out where there are few AM broadcast stations: there's a whole lot less interference from local stations. Maybe that's how those surprising DX receptions via crystal radios were made. I do recall when living in Albany, Oregon, I could hear KSL Salt Lake City, Utah, 1160 kHz, 675 miles (1080 km) on a simple crystal radio.

Several decades ago, still living in Seattle, I was trying to optimize the passive radio receiver, the "crystal radio." Instead of a diode, I was using 2 high-beta germanium transistors I got at Wallingford Surplus in Seattle. I was using the rain gutter of the apartment building for my antenna. On the 6 MHz shortwave broadcast band, I could hear a Voice of America station in California. That station, as with most shortwave broadcast voices, is now gone.

A “Miniman” from the Radio Museum:



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=aHdjRXdqcm1lS0ZBZk9mV1A4d1hrZz09>

Meeting ID: 916 955 9120

Passcode: 339545

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.

Atmospherica

By Tom James

*Santa Claus has come and went,
Leaving Papa badly bent;
Daddy'll regain his composure, true,
In '25 he'll be "Nicked" anew.*

*'Twas a strain on mama-san
(Ever since the feast began)
And daddy dassen't even twit,
About her poundage, up a bit.*

*The kids all loved the fuss'n furze,
All the presents, his and hers.
For '24 it should suffice
I suppose twas well worth the price*

(from Tom James circa 1985)

*The Other Side of the Mic**The Passing of Mike Adams*

From Dick Karman

Old Time and vintage Radio fans lost a friend last year. The California Historical Society reports that Mike Adams, chairman of the CHRS board lost his battle with Parkinson's disease when he passed away in October, 2024. I knew Mike back in "pandemic days."



Mike Adams has been a radio personality and a film maker. Before his retirement in 2013 he was a professor emeritus at San Jose State University where he had been the department chair of radio, television, and film, and the associate dean of the College of Humanities and the Arts. He is a creator of television about the history of radio, including the Emmy-nominated PBS series "Radio Collector," and "Broadcasting's Forgotten Father."

For his broadcast history research, he received the AWA Houck Award, the RCA Ralph Batcher Award, the Tube Collectors of America Stokes Award, and he is a CHRS and AWA History Fellow. He is the author of 7 books, Including *Lee de Forest, King of Radio, Television, and Film*, Springer, 2012, *The Radio Boys and Girls*, McFarland, 2015, and *Columbus Radio*

Without making folks think that I knew him better than I did, I'll borrow a piece of the remembrance from the CHRS web site written by Bill Wray: (written in 2012)

"Mike remembers a time in the early 1950s when he discovered the power of the microphone. His Junior High school in Cambridge Ohio was located right next door to the phone company, and every day during his lunch break, little Mike would visit their trash bin.

"He managed to get plenty of carbon granule telephone mics, and soon he discovered that he could wire a battery in series with the carbon mic and a small loudspeaker, to create a tiny PA system.

“As Mike progressed onto high school, he became the school DJ and its audiovisual geek-in-residence. Mike also recorded the school marching band on his Webcor tape recorder, and cut records for the students.

“He went on to college, studied radio, got a job as a top-40 DJ, went back to school to study film, got a job as a documentary film maker, became a college professor, and is currently [until 2023] the Chair of the department of TV-Radio-Film and Theatre at San Jose State University. He was also the advisor to the school’s FM radio station and a senior member of the California Historical Radio Society. . .” Bill Wray

[Mike was a lifelong radio historian, collecting radios, teaching radio theory, and explaining the impact radio had on generations of listeners His written works include several books about Charles Herrold; books for younger readers like “The Radio Boys and Girls: Radio, Telegraph, Telephone and Wireless, and Adventures for Juvenile Readers, 1890-1945. And his last book “Lee de Forest, King of Radio, Television, and Film”]

ARE YOU GOING TO BE Satisfied With Obsolete Apparatus

or are you going to start the new year with something new

Attend the auctions and Swap Meets!

Find some *new projects!*

Don't Miss the fun

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