

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

Volume 15, Number 8, September 2005

Garfield High School Radio Club 1922

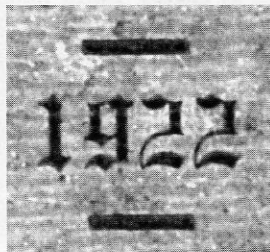
Let us look into a little of the history of radio. In keeping with the name of our group, *The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound*, this happened in Seattle. As you read below the term *radio enthusiasts* may not be an original concept in Seattle. A new Garfield High School was built in 1920 replacing an older structure. This article is taken from *The Arrow*, 1922, the second edition of the yearbook.

The young folks going to the Garfield in 1921 and 1922 would have been from 15 to 18 years old. That is 83 years ago, now they now will be from 98 to 101. Many of them are no longer with us but some of their children or grandchildren most likely will be. Perhaps one of them will read this newsletter. Walter Lemke, the secretary then, at age 99 now still lives in Kirkland and his son Walter Jr attended Central Grade School in Kirkland two grades lower than me during the years I attended. Franz

Quoting from the Annual:

The Garfield Radio Club

Garfield was the first high school in Seattle to have a Radio Club. This club was organized early in the first semester and has led a very successful year considering the difficulties that have had to be overcome. A constitution was adopted and the following officers were elected for the year: Morris Angell, president; Walter Lemke, secretary; Carl Johnson,



vice-president; and Ben Gates treasurer. About the middle of the year Secretary Lemke resigned and Donald Duncan filled the vacancy.

In order to advertise the Radio Club, and to give the school a taste of radio entertainment, a radio concert was held March 10. This was something new in assemblies, but the school was very enthusiastic about it.

A large set was borrowed from the Northern Radio and Electric Company and this was set up in the Assembly Hall, with a small antenna on the roof.

An orchestra composed of Herbert Burns, piano, and Graham Smith and O'Neil Gavin, saxophones, went down to the *Post-Intelligencer* broadcasting station and gave several numbers. Carl Johnson, representing the Radio Club, also went down to the *Post-Intelligencer* and gave a talk on why the school should purchase a wireless set. This gave a personal touch to the program. Several phonograph records were sent over the ether, too.

This concert probably did more to create radio enthusiasts than all the books one could buy. There was something awe-inspiring about listening to the voice and playing

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Radio Club Officers

MORRIS ANGELL	President
CARL JOHNSON	Vice-President
DONALD DUNCAN	Secretary
BEN GATES	Treasurer
MR. STANTON	Adviser

The publicity agent, rather an innovation in the club organization, had charge of advertising the club and seeing that club news gets into the school paper.

Dues, twenty-five cents a month; meetings, Tuesday and Friday noons.

The main object of the club has been to buy a large receiving set for the school which would cost about one hundred dollars. Such a set would be a great asset to the school, as concerts like the last one could be held as often as desired. It would be a source of pleasure and education to all.

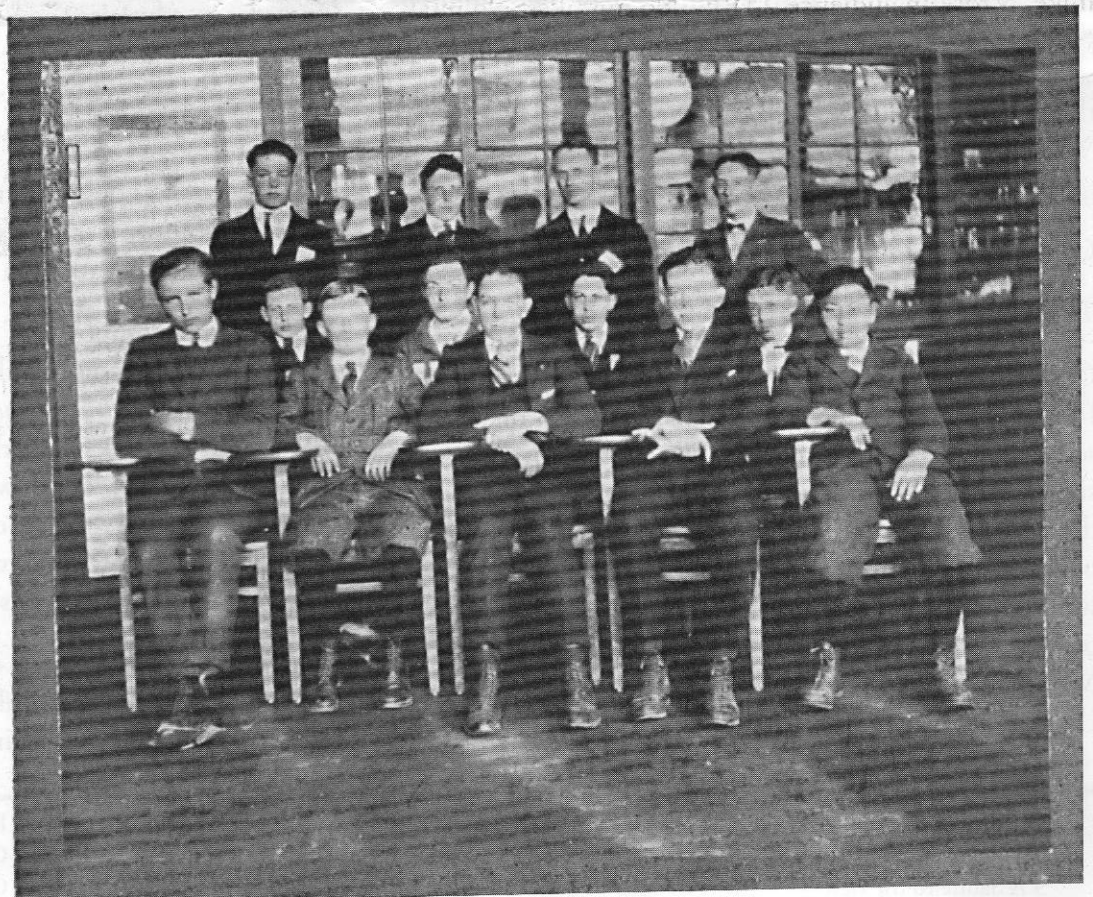
However this year it was decided to put off the purchase till next fall, when

there will be more pupils in school and radio equipment will probably be cheaper. It is planned to raise money by a tag sale and subscriptions by other school clubs. At any rate when the campaign is launched it is hoped that the school will go 'over the top' for the radio set.

of our school mates where a mile and a half away, with nothing connecting but the mysterious ether waves that travel unseen through space. It was fascinating to wonder at the black boxes with their myriad knobs and electric bulbs. The few in school were not interested before were now probably bitten by the long slumbering 'bug' in their soul, and the assembly had done its part in spreading the gospel of radio.

Toward the spring the first constitution proved too small for the scope of the club. Accordingly, the same committee, was delegated to draw up a more detailed document, which they made along the following lines: To invite the pupils of Garfield High interested in wireless and to cultivate the highest standard of ethics among them.

Officers: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and publicity agent.



A SALUTE TO THE BEST

Dick Beals



Sure....it's Bob Hope's theme song, but "Thanks for the Memories" also rings in our ears when we once more review the Showcase 2005 issue of Air Check

Mike Sprague said it best; "We set out to enjoy **The Good Ol' Days** with some Good Ol' friends doing some Good Ol' shows." However, these Good Ol' Friends delivered a rare treat that has gone un-noticed. Your favorite veteran actors performed 60 year old scripts, with but one rehearsal, on mike, before an audience, LIVE. No mistakes. No retakes. No corrections. **LIVE.**

Rare? Not really. The initial Gunsmoke broadcast, March, 1952, was the first show at CBS to be taped. The veteran cast was so highly trained that they just went on as usual as if it was live, network. It was maybe the fifth show before someone hesitated slightly on a word, but quickly ad-libbed and kept going. The actor, a real pro, wanted to eat his script. "Live" or taped, you weren't paid to make mistakes.

Director Norm McDonnell was truly a class act. He waited until the end of the show, then casually hit the talkback and quietly suggested that the line be picked up, in the clear....."just in case...."

As more and more shows were taped, there were more and more retakes, more writers in the booth suggesting line changes, which slowed down what were now recording sessions.

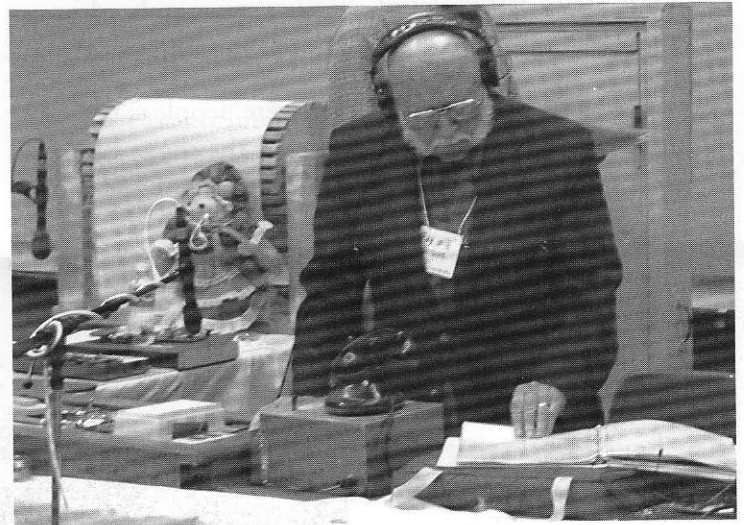
There were some beauties before tape. Tonto and the Lone Ranger, on the second floor of a saloon, spotted the bad guy across the street. Brace Beamer whispered to John Todd, "There he is Tonto, there's our man. Let's get him."

John said,"Ah Kemosabe, **Git 'em up Scout.**" OK veteran sfx folks, now what do you do? The engineer didn't know either so he started the theme music.

The Lum and Abner shows were all live, network, 5 days a week. All network shows end when the clock reads 29:30 or 59:30.

Fortunately, director Forrest Owen was a pro and Chet and Tuffy were top notch ad libbers. To whit.....many times, with but five minutes left on the clock, the writers never finished rewriting the final 6 pages, so the stars ad-libbed their way home. Or worse yet, the writers quietly rushed in with 10 minutes of new script with only four minutes to go.

So let's throw another salute to our Guests of Honor. These Honorary Members demonstrated time and time again why they are truly professionals. They took a new script,



were assigned a part, marked it, rehearsed it on mike, and before a full house when the Red Light went on demonstrated why their phone was always ringing. They were then and they are today.....the best.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

Published by the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound 9811
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Volume 15, Number 8

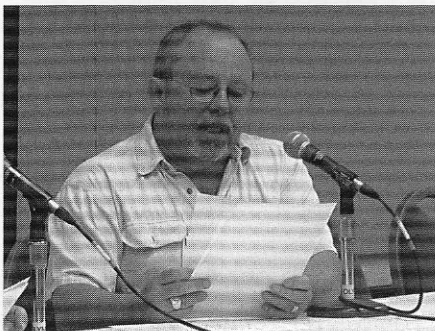
September 2005



Inside REPS

Imagination Theatre

The 500th week of Jim French's Imagination Theater was presented at the Kirkland Performance Center on September 19th.



It was also the first time the Radio Enthusiast of Puget Sound was there to present our club to those attending the show. Liz Roach and Mary were at our table in the foyer to greet people that stopped

by to talk about REPS, hand out our new membership brochure, and give some free CD's to those interested.

Folks, it was very successful. There were people standing in line before, at intermission and after the show. By being there we hope to attract some new members.

The next Imagination Theater presentation at the Kirkland Performance Center is November 28th and we'll be there. A special thanks to Liz and Mary. They did an outstanding job !!!

Paul Secord

First Generation Archives

First Generation Archives is an organization that has a goal of gathering original ET disks and original tapes to make them available to the fans all around to have the best possible sound quality.

Restoring original ET disks is a daunting task. Over the years the disks have cracked, have gotten scratched, and worst of all, are beginning to turn into palmitic acid. Exposure to air and the moisture in the air over the years causes the acetate to turn into a white powder, palmitic acid. Some ET disks are beyond working with at all after some 60 years of storage. This task is ever so important now while the ET disks can still be worked with. Once on CDs in digital form the sound content is safe for another 100 or more years.

First Generation was kind enough to transcribe REPS's ET disks of Archie Andrews to CDs. These sets were available at Showcase 2005 and a CD with 2 of the episodes were given to all attending.

The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound is making some arrangements with First Generation Archives. By the next issue of *Aircheck* you will find a set of programs from First Generation available to purchase at a reasonable price. The profit from the sale of the sets will go into the REPS fund for forthcoming Showcases. This will be on going in every issue from then on. More details will be in the next *Aircheck*.

Yesterday USA.com

Many of you will recall Walden Hughes. He did the interview with Bob Hastings at Showcase 2005 and broadcast most of the Showcase live over Yesterday USA. This broadcast goes worldwide over the internet and several AM radio stations. He is now, weekly, presenting several hours of programing under the REPS byline using material from the REPS CD library. On October 31, 2005 from 6 to 12 pm Pacific Time REPS is presenting a 6 hour Halloween lineup of some of the most chilling of all programs over the Yesterday USA network. Do you have a favorite Halloween episode you might want broadcast? If you do, time is short but let one of the board members know what it is, we might be able to get included in the lineup. Check out www.YesterdayUSA.com.

REPS Bylaws

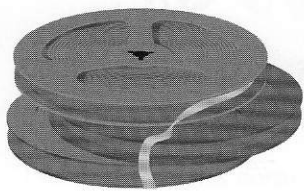
Last year some changes were made to both the REPS Bylaws and State of Washington REPS Articles of Incorporation. They must comply with each other so some minor language must be changed in the Bylaws to make them comply.

The main change in the Bylaws will be to have any subsequent Bylaw change approved by the membership. The Articles of Incorporation provide this but the present Bylaw language does not. This needs to be updated to conform.

A proposed set of Bylaws will be sent to all members with a ballot to accept or decline the changes. This will go out along with the ballot for the election of officers and board members. In the mean time a proposed set will be available upon request.

What is a CD.

In the early days those collecting and exchanging vintage programs began with reel to reel tape. Copies were easy to make and blank tape was not really very expensive.

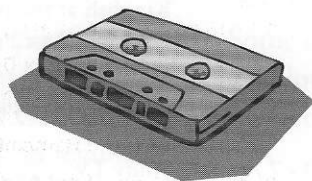


Later many collectors switched to cassettes. Cassettes and the players were smaller and the cassettes themselves somewhat easier to mail and store.

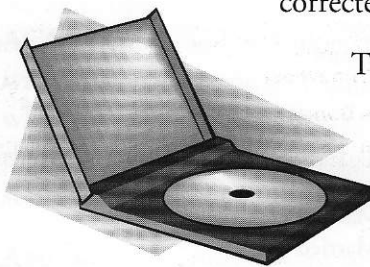
There are problems with reel to reel tape and cassettes however

which are generation quality loss each time a copy is made from a copy, tape hiss, crosstalk from adjacent tracks and windings, and general tape decomposition from age. Some reels

and cassettes even though 50 years old are still good and can continue to be used. The same goes with the original 70 or so year old ET disks. Many are not.



The whole music industry switched to Compact Disks or CDs as we call them several years ago. About 5 years ago it became practical to 'burn' our own CDs using the average home computer. An added advantage to this is the computer program where clicks and pops can be removed and some extent sound problems can be corrected as the CD is being made.



The two biggest problems are solved with CDs. There is no generation loss from a copy of a copy because the media is digital, and there is no background hiss.

Sony and other manufacturers of blank CDs say that with proper care and storage, the CD will last for 100 or more years. This 100 years may or may not be true but it is a good sign, shelf life will be at least as long or longer than the original ET disks and tape. Who knows, the industry may change once again. A few years from now an entirely different storage media may arise but the CDs are digital and will be easy to make comply.

The CD we hold in our hands is a polycarbonate disk about 1/32 of an inch thick and 4 3/4 inches in diameter. This disk is usually clear but may come in other transparent colors. There is a small circular ridge near the center hole, this indicates the bottom of the CD.

The top surface of the disk has a very fine spiral groove etched in it similar to the groove in a phonograph record. This fine groove is what makes the rainbow we see reflected from the shiny areas.

There is a thin layer of dye on top of the spiral groove. It is this dye layer that either has a hole or no hole burned in it by a strong laser. These holes or no holes are what store the digital sound.

The next layer is a reflective layer. It can be gold, silver, or most likely aluminum. A much less strong laser is either reflected back or not reflected back depending on the hole or no hole in the dye layer during playback. This is what reproduces the sound while the CD spins and the laser follows the groove starting from the inside going outward.

There are one or more layers on top of the reflective layer of protective lacquer. This keeps the reflective layer and dye layer from being scratched. Most brand name CDs have their brand logo printed on this layer. Some CDs without the brand name on this surface have a reflective shiny top surface only. Some CDs have a paper like top surface and can be written on with some ink-jet printers.

A scratch or flaw in the dye or reflective layer completely ruins a CD. It is this top layer that we write on with a 'Sharpie' pen or glue on a paper label.

My own editorial opinion is the paper label and glue have a different expansion rate than the CD itself and in the long run may ruin the CD. Some car players will not play CDs with paper labels. The heat build up in a parked car may destroy the glue and the top layer of the CD. Others like to use and design paper labels and have no problems with them.

Scratches and fingerprints on the bottom surface of the CD are not good but may not be damaging. It is the top surface that must be protected. As we did with the old phonograph records, it is best to handle by the edges only.

Franz

CD and DVD Library

You will find another insert in this *Aircheck* for more CDs that are available in the REPS library. There are more than we can print this month, check the www.repsonline.org web page for the most up to date listing.

The goal was to have at least 1000 CDs available with the best possible sound quality in the library this year. Well, we are up to over 800 now and it looks like there will be almost 2000 when we are done by the end of 2006.

CD 688 and CD 689 were donated to REPS by Mike Wheeler. Mike is doing a Gildersleeve project to correctly date and gather the best sound of all the existing episodes. These two CDs contain 4 episodes that have recently been discovered and have not circulated widely to date. Thank you, Mike.

To avoid confusion, the CD, DVD, and Cassette libraries are completely independent of one another. A catalog number in one of them has no relationship to something in the other library. Be sure to indicate, CD, DVD, or Cassette as part of the catalog number when you order from the library.

The first of the DVDs in the library are listed here. Although CDs and Cassettes will play in almost any brand or model of player, the DVDs can be a bit fussy. There are some players that will not play our DVDs. If you experience this, we would like to know the brand and model there is a problem with.

DVD - 1 Amos 'n Andy TV
Rare Coin
New Neighbors
Viv A La France
Income Tax Show
Vacation Show

DVD - 2 Amos 'n Andy TV
The Light Blue Show
Society Party
The Conversation
Girls Upstairs
Kingfish Goes to Work

DVD - 3 Amos 'n Andy TV
The Engagement
The Eyeglass
Hospitalization
The Adoption
The Broken Clock

DVD - 4 Amos 'n Andy TV
The Ballet Tickets
The Boarder
Arabia
The Piggy Bank
Superfine Brush

DVD - 5 Amos 'n Andy TV
Cousin Effie's Will
Kingfish finds his Future
Antique Shop
Kingfish Sells a Lot
Birthday Card

DVD - 6 Amos 'n Andy TV
Andy Falls in Love with an Actress
Kingfish at the Ballgame
Kingfish's Last Friend
Leroy's Suits
Seeing is Believing

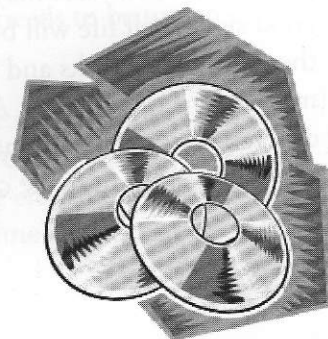
DVD - 7 Amos 'n Andy TV
Kingfish has a Baby
Kingfish's Secretary
Kingfish gets Drafted
The Gun
Young Girl's Mother

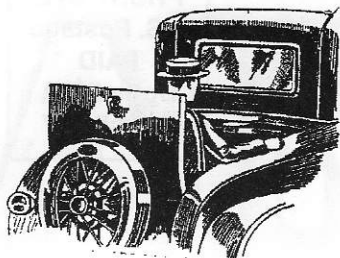
DVD - 8 Amos 'n Andy TV
Sapphire Disappears
Jewelry Store Robbery
The Winsow Woman
Call Lehigh 4-9900
Leroy Lends a Hand

DVD - 9 Amos 'n Andy TV
Amos Helps Out
Andy Buys a House
Andy Gets a Telegram
The Christmas Story
The Diner

DVD - 10 Amos 'n Andy TV
Getting Mama Married Part 1
Getting Mama Married Part 2
The Happy Stevens
Ready Made Family
Relatives

DVD - 11 Amos 'n Andy TV
Traffic Violation
The Turkey Dinner
Quo Vadis
Chinchilla Business
Uranium Mine





Rumble Seat

Franz

This is an editorial opinion. If someone has a differing view, we will print it in the next issue.

The question has come up about MP3 disks in the REPS Library. The decision was made to have regular high quality CDs only.

I have many MP3 disks in my personal library. Some of them are fine and a convenient way to store lots and lots of material. All but my oldest CD player will play them. Most of my library however is on regular CDs.

The CD and MP3 are digital formats. There is no generation loss when making a copy of either of them. There is a loss though, when the digital signal is compressed from the CD format to the MP3 format. Think of it, there are usually 2 half hour programs on a regular CD and as many as 100 or more half hour programs on the average MP3 that is for sale on the internet. Once the program is compressed into MP3 format, it can be restored to regular CD format but the digital material that was there originally is lost forever. There is a quality difference.

Some people liken this to originally listening to a 3 tube AC/DC radio with a 3 inch speaker. They say listening was not all that good to begin with and MP3 quality is what they remember. It may not have been good to them then, but we have the quality now, why put up with bad sound.

And if you do indeed want to have MP3 disks with the material in the REPS Library, you can check out the CDs, compress them in your computer and make your own MP3 disks.

Aircheck is created on a Mac G4 computer with Adobe Indesign CS and Adobe Photoshop CS. Most of the text is *Garamond* at 12 points with the headlines at 12, 14 and 18 points bold. If you would like a copy on a CD, write to Frank Rosín, 9811 NE 139th St, Kirkland WA 98034.



Quiz Time

Take a half sheet of paper. Number to 9. Name at the top right corner. If you share this *Aircheck* with others in your family or friends, make sure you do not write on the newsletter pages. There are two ways to take this quiz: 1. Not looking back. 2. Looking back as you take the quiz to find the answers. Try the 'not looking' way first.

Score as shown here. 5 points if you did not look and have all 9 correct. 4 points if you did not look and have 7 or 8 correct. 3 points if you did not look and have 6 correct. 3 points if you did look and have at least 8 correct.

1. What is the name of the 1922 Garfield Annual?
a. Arrow, b. Shaft c. Bow, d. Quiver
2. Garfield was the: a. fourth Seattle school to have a Radio Club, b. third Seattle school to have a Radio Club, c. second Seattle school to have a Radio Club, d. first Seattle school to have a Radio Club.
3. The Assembly broadcast was from the: a. Seattle Star, b. Post Intelligencer, c. Seattle Times, d. Tacoma News Tribune.
4. Purchasing a radio set for assemblies in 1922 would cost about: a. \$100, b. \$200, c. \$150, d. \$1000.
5. The first CBS show to be taped was: a. Escape, b. Gunsmoke, c. Ozzie and Harriet, d. Archie Andrews
6. The director of Lum and Abner was: a. Dick Beals, b. Ray Erlenborn, c. Forest Owen, d. Herb Ellis
7. The reflective layer in a CD can be: a. Gold, Silver, or Aluminum, b. Gold, Mercury, or Aluminum, c. Mercury, Silver, or Aluminum, d. Gold, Silver, or Mercury.
8. CDs, MP3s, and DVDs, are: a. Analog, b. Digital
9. The first DVDs in the REPS Library are video episodes of: a. Lum and Abner, b. Amos 'n Andy, c. Fibber McGee and Molly, d. Great Gildersleeve

1. a, 2. d, 3. b, 4. a, 5. b, 6. c, 7. a, 8. b, 9. b.

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9811 NE 139th St
Kirkland WA 98034

Sept 2005

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Schedule

September 30, 2005, Board Meeting
October 1, 2005, Membership Meeting
November 4, 2005, Board Meeting
November 5, 2005, Membership Meeting
December 2, 2005, Board Meeting
December 3, 2005, Membership Meeting
Membership Meetings are from 2 to 4, first Saturday of each month at the Norse Home on Phinney Ave in Seattle. Coffee and social time from about 1:30 to 2.

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