

The **Call Letter**

June, 2003
Vol. 29 — No. 6



Over **25** years in print!

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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 \$20.00 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 (except July and August) 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 show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2003:

President	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Wendy Johnson-Kent	(503) 281-9335
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society's address is:

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



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On the cover: — A quartette of plastic radios from the 1940s, starting with a 1940 Zenith in the upper left, a Tesla of unknown vintage, a 1947 Zenith portable, and a 1949 Philco.

The next meeting is on June 14, 2003.

Monthly feature for June:

Plastic radios of the '40's.

Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

Visit our web site at <http://nwvrs.org>.

June Call Letter Deadline: June 3, 2003.

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.

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

The past month for your editor has been one almost devoid of radio interest, but focused on getting the new computer that I've been threatening for the past couple of years. I have it now, and it is a muscular screamer, bulging with RAM and hard disk space. It is connected to a new scanner, and new printer, and best of all, a new DSL modem that eliminates the wait for everything internet, and allows me to play on the internet without fear of missing a call from family overseas or friends in need.

The new membership roster is ready for distribution. Although I can't be at the June meeting, I'll make sure that the rosters are there for you to pick up, and those that aren't picked up will be mailed.

The Swap Meet/Sale seemed to be a success, just about breaking even, and providing a lot of fun for all who attended. Kudos to Tony Hauser for handling the table sales, and all the others who put in time to make the event come off smoothly. Pictures of the Swap Meet fill the Photo Display this month.

This month we have a technical article by former editor Dick Karman, who explains to us his process for recreating the iron ring for the carbon button microphones of the '20s. We also have an article of interest to all of us as collectors from Sonny Clutter's Radiolaguy web site. It gives general guidelines for estimating the age of a radio.

The radios at the right are a pair of Silvertones from the late 1940s, about 1948. They are the radios I might have brought to the June meeting were I able to attend. The larger one is identical to one my family had when I was kindergarten age on into starting school. I can remember *Big John and Sparky* playing on that set.



Have a great Summer, everyone.

NWVRS 2003 Calendar of Events

- June 14** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 13-15** SEA*PAC, Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, OR Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC www.seapac.org
- July 19-21** Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest July 18-20, 2003, East Glacier, MT. www.gwhamfest.org
- August 2-4** Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Portland, OR. Willamette Valley DX Club
www.wvdx.org
- August 16** Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Spanaway, WA
www.w7dk.org
- September 13** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- October 11** NVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- November 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Nomination of officers for 2004.
- December 13** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Election of officers for 2004. Annual Holiday Party!

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

Photos from the May Swap Meet/Sale.



Yes, it's a radio!



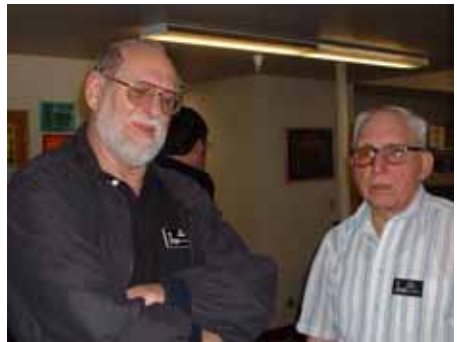
Speed and Eileen



Gordon Phillips



Activity in the back corner.



Del Dixon

Rudy Zvarich



Mark Richardson and Jim from CHRS



Vance Daberko and Jerry Talbott



It's a Crosley.



Brian Toon and Myron White



Raffle winners!



Andy Bell and Tony Hauser



Lunch time.



Going once... Going twice...



Sold!

Tech Tips and Techniques from Reliving Radio

By Dick Karman

The carbon button microphone, spring-mounted in an iron ring, has long been an icon of a vintage time in radio history. (I bought both of my examples of this microphone from the Jim Mason collection.) To those of us who collect such memorabilia they are a cherished possession, often admired by visitors and guests.

One such guest in my home recently quipped that “there must be a lot of carbon button mics out there without their rings.” He went on to relate that as a boy in the early 1940s he did his part for the war effort by dismantling these microphones “by the dozens” and sending the iron rings off to the war scrap metal drives. His father owned Halls Electronics & Recording in Portland, Oregon, and most of the carbon buttons had already seen their usefulness and were not yet the collector’s item. (My guest never said what he did with the microphone elements.)

I pondered the ringless microphone phenomenon and studied microphone rings. I found that the rings were never standard. Some of them looked like they were cast, polished, and chromed with great care, while others appear to be made by a blacksmith.

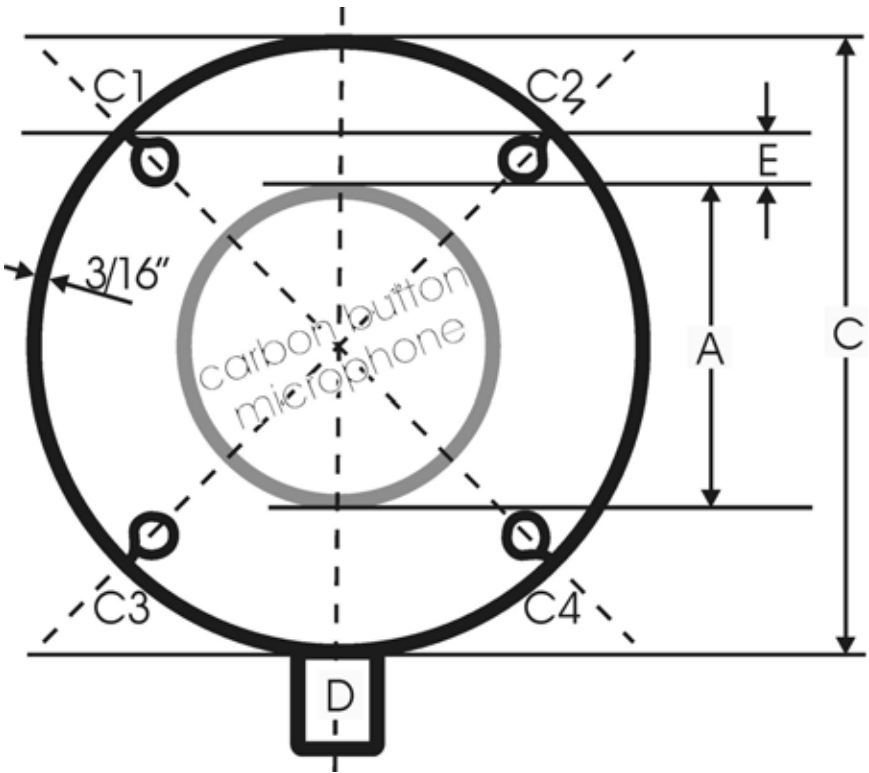
I made some rings to use as stage props in an endeavor called Reliving Radio, (where civic, church, or school groups can perform radio drama using them). The imitations came out so well that others have asked me to make some. I don’t consider myself a metal fabricator so I’ll pass along my process and let others try their hand using the same method.

[A note before you get started: The springs I found were at Parkrose Hardware in Portland and made by Century Spring. They are expensive. You will need 8 springs, so I bought 4 long ones and cut them in half.]

Making the ring:

Step one. Measure the button microphone that you wish to mount. If it has 4 eyelets include them in the measurement. This is measurement A in the diagram.

Step two. At a steel fabricator or in a steel supply yard (or even a scrap yard) locate a piece of steel or iron pipe with walls that are at least 1/4 of an inch thick and the diameter of C (see diagram). Look for a sample with smooth inside and outside. Avoid cast iron. (C is approximately 2 times A + roughly E)



Step three. Cut a slice off of this pipe of a uniform thickness approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch. The cutting can be done with a power hacksaw, or an industrial band saw. The two sides of the ring must be parallel. This is the most critical step.

Step four. Mark the four points on the ring C1, C2, C3, and C4, and drill $\frac{7}{64}$ " holes through the ring at these points. Tap each of the holes 6-32 NC thread. (These were specified because they fit the cheapest machine screw eyes that I could find. If you find better eyes then tap to fit the appropriate thread.)

Step five. Place the ring on a lathe and turn the outer edges so that they are smooth, and polish the two sides of the ring. Without a lathe you can use a drag-file approach to flatten rough spots and emery clothe to polish and smooth the ring. It is time-consuming when done by hand.

Step six. Thread four machine screw eye bolts into the holes from the inside of the ring. Cut them off on the outside of the ring leaving enough to peen over so that they cannot be backed out. Grind and polish the peened ends.

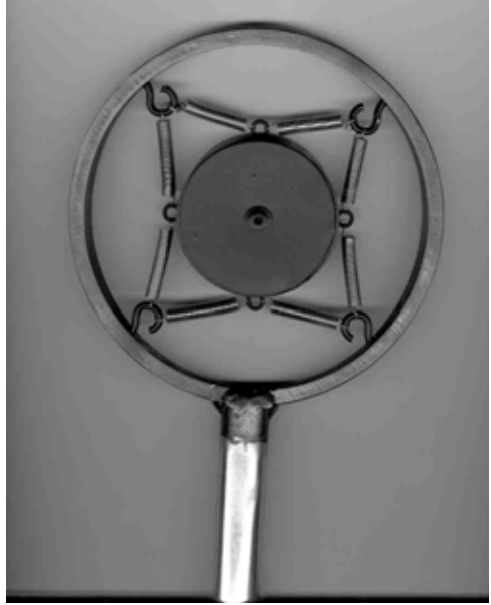
Step seven. At point D on the ring weld a mounting to the ring. Some may choose a hanging loop. Others may wish to find a nipple with the distinctive 5/8 by 27 thread pattern used in microphone stands. I just used a piece of chrome tubing that just slides over the standard microphone stand, thus saving the expense of threads, etc.

Option 1: Some folks have postponed step six until the smoothed ring and mounting can be chrome plated. (Car clubs and restoration folks can help you with the plating.) Then carefully place the eye bolts in and cut them short so that they don't protrude through the chrome surface.

Option 2: Some folks wish the eye bolts to be open hooks. This requires cutting off a portion of the "eye" so that when they are screwed in they present an open hook.

Option 3: To make the ring look older and worn (if you are not going to chrome it)

postpone step six until after the mounting is attached. When the ring and mounting are complete place the assembly in an oven at 500 degrees for about 45 minutes. The bare metal will weep oils which then turn black or dark blue and give the look of age. Spray paint your eye bolts black and do not peen them or polish the ends.



Date Your Radio

by Sonny Clutter (from radiolaguy.com)

Want to date your radio? You will need to know what “Sams” or “Rider” service data volume or folder it's in. Riders covers the years 1920 to about 1952, Sams covers the years from about 1940 to present.

PLEASE NOTE: This bit of information is for informational purposes only. I make no claim to be 100% accurate, I welcome corrections and or additional information.

Be aware that the model year precedes the actual year of introduction, the new models were usually introduced in the fall, i.e. the 1940 line was introduced in the fall of 1939. The service data lagged the model years by about a year, i.e. the service data released in 1941 would cover models made and introduced prior to 1940. With this in mind you can see why it is not always possible to determine the actual date of manufacture by the service data index. There is also some overlapping of the years covered and sometimes a recent release would cover a model that was actually introduced several years earlier. With your index to the service publication, find your radio's model number and use the table below to determine the approximate date of manufacture.

Riders Volume #	Covers Years:	SAMS Folder#	Date Issued:
1	1920 - 1931	1 - 10	1946*
2	1930 - 1932	11 - 30	1947*
3	1931 - 1933	31 - 52	1948
4	1932 - 1933	53 - 80	1949
5	1933 - 1934	81 - 118	1950
6	1934 - 1935	119 - 154	1951
7	1935 - 1936	155 - 189	1952
8	1936 - 1937	190 - 225	1953
9	1937 - 1938	226 - 261	1954
10	1938 - 1939	262 - 301	1955
11	1939 - 1940	302 - 341	1956
12	1940 - 1941	342 - 382	1957
13	1941 - 1942	383 - 425	1958
14	1942 - 1943	426 - 468	1959
15	1943 - 1946	469 - 512	1960

* Covers some of the radios made prior to the war back to about 1940.

Riders Volume #	Covers Years:	SAMS Folder#	Date Issued:
16	1944 - 1947	513 - 560	1961
17	1946 - 1948	561 - 611	1962
18	1947 - 1949	612 - 671	1963
19	1948 - 1950	672 - 731	1964
20	1949 - 1951	732 - 791	1965
21	1950 - 1952	792 - 857	1966
22	1951 - 1953	858 - 929	1967

Determine the approximate era of your radio by the tubes used

If tubes used are:

(these are some examples of just some of the common tubes used)

- UX or UV 201A, 301A or 01A, it would be a mid 20's design
- UY224, 24, 27, 26, 71A or 45: late 20s
- UY235, 35, 51 late 20s to early 30s
- 41, 42, 56, 57, 58, 59, 78, 79, 6C6, 6D6 early to mid 30s
- 6A8, 6K7, 6K8, 6Q7, 12A8, 12K7, 12Q7, 25Z5, mid to late 30s
- 12SA7, 12SK7, 12SQ7, 35Z5, 50L6 late 30s to early 50s
- 12BA6, 12BE6, 12AT6, 35W4, 50C5 late 40s thru the 50s

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

WANTED: The INGRAHAM man wants radios with wood Ingraham cabinets. If you're not sure if it's an Ingraham, call Ed Cook in Vancouver, (360) 573-1439, or e-mail "hopopco1@attbi.com".

FOR SALE: A wide variety of radios at <http://radiogallerykent.com>. Charlie Kent

FOR SALE or TRADE: SAMS Photofacts service folders 1 thru 600+ covering radio only. There are no TV, record changer, automotive radio or audio in the mix, after folder 50. Consists of one full 4-drawer file cabinet and one large box. The file cabinet is included. There are a few missing folders but the vast majority are there. I am in Corvallis but will deliver to the Salem area. \$75.00 or trade? Vance 541-753-3356 or vdaberko@fastmail.fm

FOR SALE: Zenith radio/phono console, model 8A03. Restorable. \$55. Contact Bill Meloy (503) 667-8109.

FOR SALE: For Sale: Model 40 -200 Philco Console. \$60, Call Tony @360-944-8489 or ranft@saw.net

FOR SALE or TRADE: **For Sale or Trade: Rare and strange Philco Part No. 39-1665 Electrostatic Speaker w/o cabinet, about 12"X18". (\$30 or trade) Excellent condition, .015uF and ohm tests as an open circuit, so it should work. Previous owner said that it ran at plate voltage and worked fine. My guess is that Philco made this in the 1960's as part of a fancy hi-fi. Also, Riders Vol. 5 and 7-15, all 10 books complete and good typical shape, \$10 each, or \$90 for the lot, or trade. Call: Gordon Ormsby (Corvallis) 541-753-6398, gormsby@triaxiseng.com.

FOR SALE: *DC-to-AC power converter. 24VDC input, 110 VAC output. Provides emergency backup power and voltage spike protection. \$100. Includes two 12V auto batteries and converter unit. Contact Frank Olberding. 503-357-8375.

WANTED: **Clock motor for the clock shown at right. Made by L. S. Brach Electric Clock Corp. of Newark, N. J. Motor is 2 9/16" dia. Contact Glen Bricker (541) 942-3717



WANTED: **1930's & 1940's early audio amps using 2A3's or other triodes. Prefer manufactured units but "home-brew" ok also. Phone: Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717) E-mail (jerryt@easystreet.com)

Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, wb6jhh@ix.netcom.com

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or ranft@saw.net – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 293-7835, david_wise@phoenix.net

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photo's, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Meeting Location!

Our monthly meetings are held in the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

1. Take the OR-213 exit, exit number 10, towards PARK PLACE/MOLALLA.
2. From the South, turn RIGHT onto SR-213, or from the North, keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp and merge onto SR-213.
3. Turn LEFT at the first traffic light onto CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.
4. Turn RIGHT onto S FORSYTHE RD.
5. Turn LEFT onto S HARLEY AVE. The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S. Taylor Lane.

The written instructions came from “Map Quest” on the Internet; the map is scanned from a AAA map with much detail removed for the sake of clarity.

