

The
**Call
Letter**

August, 2006
Vol. 32 — No. 8



Over **30** years in print!

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).

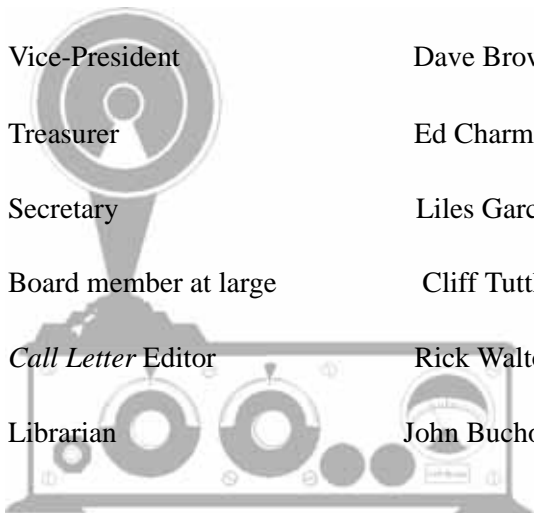
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. 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 for 2006:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
Vice-President	Dave Brown	(503) 585-4667 ironradio@qwest.net
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@aol.com
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 rwalton@easystreet.com
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 BonJonBuck@webtv.net



August 2006

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On the cover: Ron Hershey, active NWVRS member and good friend, who passed away July 3.

The next meeting is on August 12, 2006.

August Feature: Radios that have large (over four inches), multicolor, or unusual dials

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: August 30, 2006.

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

It is Tuesday night, well, actually Wednesday morning, and I've spent my entire evening in my basement sorting through the accumulation of stuff, trying to decide what will go and what will stay as I prepare to move. There hasn't been a whole lot of time for the *Call Letter*.

It has really been one of "those" months for your editor. Things started with a huge scare when my computer died as a result of me inadvertently tripping the breaker the computer was on. A bit of troubleshooting revealed that something on the motherboard went bad and would not allow the computer to start. Fortunately, the hard drives were OK and I've been able to retrieve all the data. Thus we have pictures in this issue of the radios displayed at the last meeting.

Another huge scare occurred when I started to reassemble the Zenith Walton set and discovered that the knobs and hardware were missing. I was distraught for a couple of days before my wife uncovered them.

Finally there is this move and the fear that we won't be able to get it all packed before we are due to haul it all down to Oregon City, and the bigger fear that despite a 20 cubic yard drop box in front of our house for a week, we'll still have too much stuff to fit in the new place. By the time you read this, the move will be a *fait accompli* and I'll be living in Oregon City just ten minutes away from our meeting place.

Despite the craziness, we have a full list of articles for you. In addition to the meeting minutes, the calendar, and the photo display, we have another reprint of Mike Parker's "In the Shack" series. In this one Mike explains his love for "three-dialers." "Voilà" is missing this month, but should return next month if enough submissions come in. Sonny Clutter has a new column, "Sonny's Tech Tips." The Swap Shop has lots of goodies as Jerry Talbott continues to sell off his collection. Be sure to take a good look at Key Seymour's list of stolen radio gear.

Ron Hershey

by Rick Walton

In last month's *Call Letter* we reported Ron Hershey's diagnosis with a terminal illness. To our dismay and sorrow, we learned of his death just a short time later. By the time you received your July issue, Ron had already passed from us. I learned of Ron's passing on July 3 when I called his home to see if I could drop by. His son informed me then that Ron had died earlier the same day. As is recorded in the minutes of the last meeting, we observed a minute of silence at the beginning of the meeting in memory of Ron. He was a loyal club member, part of the *Call Letter* folding staff, an avid collector, and a good friend. We will certainly miss him.

NWVRS 2006 Calendar of Events

- August 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 12** The 10th Annual Greater Portland Insulator Swap — 9999 SE Frenchacres Dr. Portland, OR. 1:00 pm until early evening. No charge. RSVP appreciated so that we can plan the food. Contact Dan Howard (503)659-3520 e-mail: strains@msn.com.
- August 12** Hamfest and Electronics Flea Market, Radio Club of Tacoma; Bethel Junior High School
22001 38th Avenue East, Spanaway, WA
- August 20** Antique Radio Swap Meet — Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle.
- September 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 23** Spokane Hamfest. (ARRL Washington State Convention) University High School, Spokane, WA 99206. <http://www.kbara.org>. Info, contact Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, n7wrq@aol.com. (509)448-5821.
- October, 2006** Swap-Toberfest, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon. (Ten miles west of Salem). For information, contact n7bud@arrl.net. <http://www.swaptoberfest.net/>
- October 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- October 14** North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club Hamfair. Bremerton, WA. Kitsap Fairgrounds. For information, contact Ron Sefton, N7EM, (360)779-5418, ronsefton@hotmail.com or Horace Ory, (360)779-2215. ory001@comcast.net. <http://www.nkarc.org/hamfest/index.html>.
- October 21** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora VFW Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 28** Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. Always the last Saturday in October. For information, contact k7iey@netscape.net
- November 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2007.
- December 9** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2007.

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the July 8, 2006 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. All members stood for a moment of silence in honor of fellow member, Ron Hershey. Liles Garcia read the minutes from the June meeting, and they were approved as printed in the Call Letter. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved as provided by Ed. Ed reported that the Jim Mason Fund is now \$900.00 over its base amount. Members gave Ed a round of applause for his great work at finding us such a well-performing investment fund. There were 38 members at our meeting today.

THERE WAS NO OLD BUSINESS AND NO NEW BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.

Leads and Needs

Sonny Clutter needs a type 83 tube.

The program topic for our meeting was "Farm Radios". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. This program topic was very popular, and the display tables were completely filled with "Farm Radios". There were also a lot of questions, answers, and other discussion about this topic.

The program topic for our August meeting will be "Radios That Have Large (over four inches), Multi color, or Unusual Dials".

Our program topic for September will be "Radios - Before And After".

The meeting was adjourned.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Jay Johnston

Sadly, there were too few submissions to file a report. The one acquisition reported will be included in next month's "Voilà".

Send word of your latest find to Jay Johnston, withat@msn.com, or by post at 1451 SW Market St., Portland, OR 97201-2555.

Sonny's Tech Tips

by Sonny Clutter

Tip #18 Deluxing or “Spiffing Up” a wood radio cabinet.

You have a wood radio cabinet which could be real wood, wood veneer or a “Faux” or “Photo Finish”. It looks pretty good but you want to make it look better without re-finishing it.

First, give it a good cleaning. There are usually two types of crud on an old radio cabinet; (1) greasy, waxy stuff from household contaminate, candles, dirty oily fingers etc. (2) foodstuffs (again from dirty fingers, kids or just plain slob). Different cleaners are required as one wont have much of an effect on the other. Here's what I have found that works very well:

(1) First clean off the water soluble stuff with a damp (not soaking wet) cloth with an ammonia based cleaner. This works on the foodstuff contamination (the remains of the peanut butter & jelly sandwich for example). Be careful not to get the surface too wet, you don't want to let the cleaner soak into the wood.

(2) Then for the waxy, greasy film, I've found that cigarette lighter fluid (or paint thinner) works best on this household stuff that has accumulated over the years. Whatever you do, **DO NOT USE LACQUER THINNER!** (It will dissolve the finish). Wet # 0000 steel wool with the paint thinner or cigarette lighter fluid and give it a good rubbing, going with the grain (careful not to rub off the finish). Do this until it looks nice an clean, then wipe it down with the fluid. If the finish looks good at this point, go to step #3. If the finish is discolored, has minor surface scratches, or irregular or blotched color, I recommend and use “Mar-A-Way”. It can be purchased from the distributor in Portland, Hoch & Selby just off Sandy Blvd. on 25th Ave. Scratches that go through the finish will not be corrected by using Mar-A-Way.

(3) After you get it clean and smooth, touch up any remaining scratches with a felt tipped staining pen of the correct color. I recommend and use either the “Miller” or “Mohawk” brand felt tip touch-up staining pens, they come in a variety of colors. I've tried the “Minwax” brand with disappointing results.

(4) Then give it several coats of lacquer (I prefer Deft), steel wool it again (no more cigarette lighter fluid) then clean (to remove the dust particles) now a few more coats of lacquer and give it a final steel wool rub down. Clean it real good and rub it out with a deluxing compound or similar very fine, light abrasive polish. If you can't find a deluxing rub, make your own by using rottenstone wetted with lemon oil.

Sonny, the RadiolaGuy Web Site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Here are the sets that members displayed at the July meeting. The feature was farm radios, and as the pictures show, there were a bunch.



Warren Bergh - 1935 L'Tatro



John Bucholtz - Philco 46-132



Bob Campbell - 1941 Zenith



John Bucholtz - Westinghouse



Del Dixon - Stewart-Warner



George Kirkwood - Velvetone and Silvertone



Rick Walton - Philco and Stewart-Warner



Bill Meloy - Airline



Rudy Zvarich - RCA Victor



Alan Shaddock - Airline



Art Redman - Philco 39-70



Jerry Talbott - Silvertone



Liles Garcia - '37 Silvertone



Sonny Clutter - '41 Zenith



Larry Tobkin - Zenith

Roster Update

Here are a three address changes for your club roster. Two are simply address changes, but welcome back to Ken Seymour.

Martin, Jeff
3173 Papala St.
Honolulu, HI 96822
808-988-4183

R

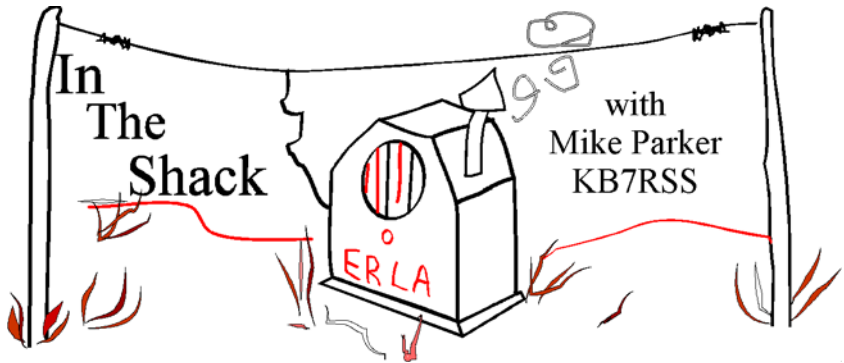
Seymour, Ken
9115 SW 176th Ave
Beaverton, Oregon 97007
503-642-9115

R

Walton, Rick
204 Madison St.
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-656-4104

R

If you have a change of address or phone number or e-mail or all of the above, please let us know. Contact the *Call Letter* editor.



Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the January, 1997 Call Letter!

Cotton Balls & Water

Recently, I acquired another one of those "3-Dial Freak" radios. I don't know what it is that I have for these things, other than the fact that my range of interest in Communication, Media and Music, and the devices that reproduce all of the above, centers upon the year 1925! I know we collectors are "nuts"... But this?



The radio is a Halowat, Model TR-5, made in Portland, and, I might add that I am accepting any and all information, from club members, historians, anybody at all, about this company. Hallock and Watson Radio Corp., 193 Park St., Portland, Ore. The information may come from one who was there, (Where are you, Tech Sloat?), or you collectors that have a particular model Halowat set, and wouldn't mind sharing information about it for a database on this company that I am compiling for a future article about Halowat radio. Please help any way you can. the purpose, of course, is to gather and to document historic events on this pioneer local radio company. I will be happy to return any postage concerned. I guess that what I like the most about these old time Battery Sets is the actual

construction of them. The way they were built, with carefully formed bus bar wires, the intricate design of the coils, the quality of the components, the primitive simplicity of their design, when radio was virtually in its infancy and the endeavor to make something so modern and up to date was foremost, along with the pride of workmanship and hope of mass production.

The quality and appearance of the materials used, is also a factor. I like the rich look of the real solid wood cabinets; the type of metal used, (except pot metal!), the name tags and instruction cards, hinges and latches, knobs, pointers, dials and etched incremental marks, wire binding posts, condenser construction and cloth covered wire. Nothing looks better than the gleaming Bakelite front and inner panels, sometimes decorated with the ornate artwork of that period. Wait a minute! Did I say "gleaming Bakelite?" Well, when I found this halawat, the panels were far from gleaming. I think that "grungy" was a better description. I suppose there are those that think this condition is something gathered by time alone and any amount of cleaning would destroy the effects of something that took 70 years to make? Don't get me wrong, I like the original "patina" of these items as well as anybody and furthermore, I like this patina clean. But let's face it, dirt is nothing but dirt and something like these radios, having been on this planet for 70 years, are going to acquire dirt and grime.

So, how to get rid of this grime and still have a gleaming bakelite surface, perfectly clean with a good patina, becomes the question; Bakelite is a very strange and sensitive surface. You can scratch it with your fingernail, and actually make a mark that is almost impossible to get rid of!

I will say NO! to the following Bakelite cleaning methods and products. you will be more than sorry if you use them. Soap, (even mild), any chemical cleaner, 409, etc., grit cleanser, steel wool, plastic scrubbers, alcohol, cloth rags, paper towels, waxes, polishes, even "organic cleaners" such as Simple Green are taboo! Oil-based anything, no, Windex or Glass Plus, no. You will permanently discolor, scratch, dry out and destroy the Bakelite surface and the associated Polymers with it using any of the above and others I have not mentioned such as rubbing compound and even "Jewelers Rouge." Use your imagination and some common sense by avoiding all of these. Don't even wipe off loose dust with a rag! I will say YES! to the following: water, cotton balls or Q-tips, Kleenex (not toilet tissue), but wipe off with cotton or kleenex, soon. Paint remover, such as Zip-Strip will actually not harm the surface if you rinse with water and cotton balls, after the paint is gone.

On the front panel, remove the knobs, note which is left, middle and right so you can replace them in their proper order. Grab some cotton balls, dip one in some water, and lightly rub away the grime. You will get a brown color on the cotton, mixed with grime, very quick, so throw the cotton away and get a clean one, do this often. Stop and let the surface dry, you will see a film on the disturbed Bakelite. Repeat the above process until you have a clean, shiny surface. Start on another section of the panel. You will have to "blend" the sections to one another creating a clean, even transition between them. You should have a Bakelite surface that is mirror like, once the residual film goes away. Be sure and do this under a very good light to that you can observe and continue to remove the film, continue to rinse with cotton and water until surface is clean and film free.

Do the above process with the knobs, also but use an old toothbrush to get the grime out of the serrated finger grip marks. WD-40 will help clean them out, but rinse with water and cotton. Use Q-tips inside the chassis in hard-to-reach areas.

I will bring this Halowat to a meeting sometime. You will like the results of a few hours effort with ...Cotton Balls and Water!

Remember, clean Bakelite is happy Bakelite and an even happier radio collector!

See you next time...IN THE SHACK.

Stolen Radio Equipment

Ken Seymour, 503-720-2200 cell, 503-642-9115 home

- RME -99 receiver (circa 1940 Black with large dial) Rare. I will offer a reward for this one as it originally belonged to my great grandfather. His SS# is etched on the upper front left of the set.
- Heathkit HR-10 receiver (green below– matches DX-60)
- Heathkit DX-100 transmitter (large shown at right)



- **3 old microphones** with stands, pictured at right (Turner, Realistic, and Cal-rad)



- Hallicrafters 12" "h" speaker (new grill cloth and new powder coat paint), Hallicrafters Reproducer, and home made speaker with green center with wooden frame (all shown below). **Reward for these will be given too.**



- Hallicrafters SX-101 Mark III receiver (large slide rule dial).



- Hallicrafters SX-25 receiver with schematic inside



- Large old General Motors (GM) lowboy wooden console radio circa 1930's – sun faded wood stained dark brown. 2 small access doors that open to expose the tuning and volume knobs. I don't know the model number but the tube compliment is: qty 3 – 224's, qty 2 – 227's, qty 2 – 245's, and 1 – 280 rectifier
- Old radio station audio mixer (blue – with dials all over) no pictures
- Airline small table top wooden radio. I don't have the model number handy but it was perhaps a 62-xxx series with a tuning eye. Similar but not exactly like below.



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

FOR SALE: Hickok 533A & 600a tube tester, Heathkit IT-11 capacitor tester and Hammarlund HQ 110 AC receiver. All items have manualz. To be sold at the August meeting. Mr. Robert Campbell

RADIO COLLECTION REDUCTION SALE: After 26 years of collecting vintage radio and TV, etc., it has become necessary to reduce my collection. I need to sell enough to move to a smaller home due to my wife's and my health problems. I will be selling consoles, bakelite and wood table models, portables, clock radios, transistor radios, Hi-Fi & audio equipment, TV sets-some will be free, and magazines and radio ads. I prefer no more than 2 people to come out at a time and they need not be just NWVRS members. I live right near HWY 99 in Newberg. Call Jerry Talbott at 503-538-4041. email (lords1st@easystreet.com)

FOR SALE: 1920's Grebe MU-1 complete with optional power supply-\$200. Zenith Model VII large table model battery set- \$300. 1947 Scott 800B radio/phono console. Excellent condition, both chrome and cabinet-\$200. Early "blue front" EICO test equipment group includes: 7" scope, tube tester, VTVM, both audio and RF generators and more-\$125 for all. Have manuals for most all. Contact Jerry Talbott at(503-538-4041) or email at (lords1st@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, wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com

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

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

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

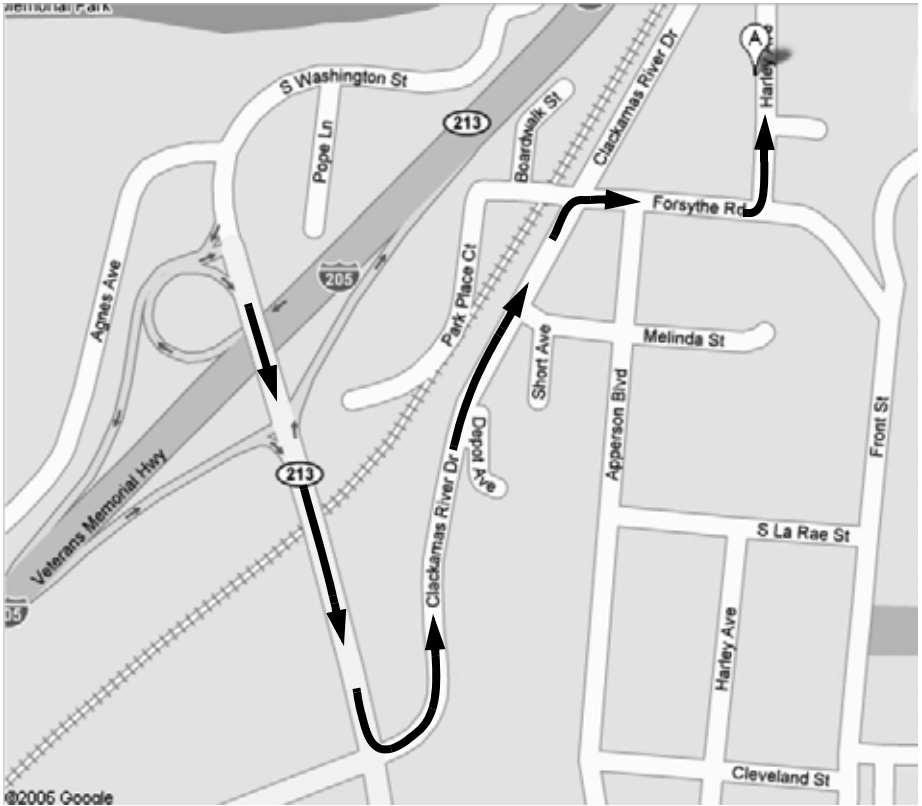
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Leads and Needs

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

Here is a map (thanks to Google Maps) to the Abernethy Grange Hall (the pointer marked “A”), where the Northwest Vintage Society meets the second Saturday of each month. Just follow the arrows on the map.



To get to the Abernethy Grange Hall:

1. Exit I-205 at SR-213 (Exit 10 to Molalla) and head south on 213.
2. At the first intersection (the traffic light), turn left onto Clackamas River Dr.
3. Turn right at Forsythe Rd.
4. Turn left onto Harley Ave. The Grange Hall is on the left about a block and a half.