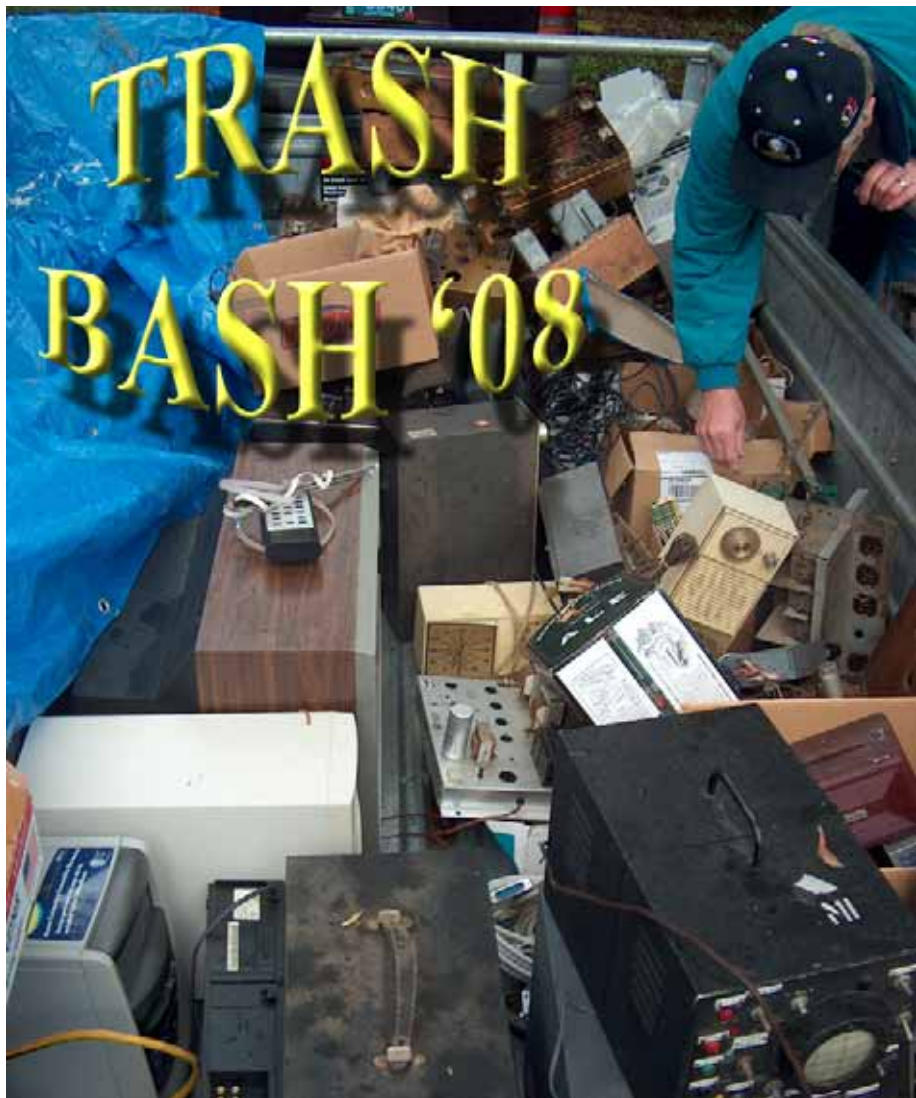


The *Call*  
*Letter*

April, 2008  
Vol. 34 — No. 4



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Over 30 years in print!

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# 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).

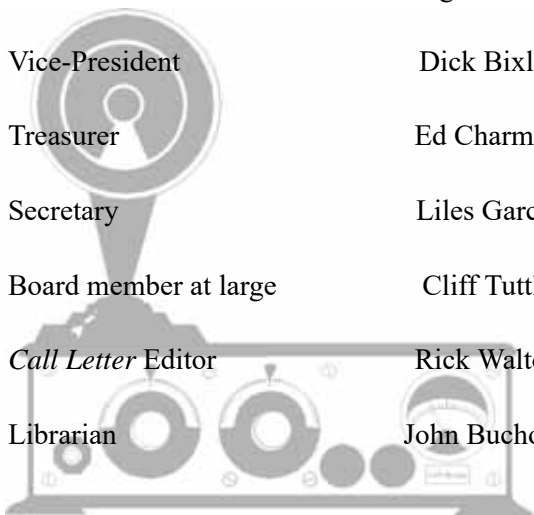
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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 2008:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 <a href="mailto:radiogeo@hevanet.com">radiogeo@hevanet.com</a>
Vice-President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 <a href="mailto:rf2af@verizon.net">rf2af@verizon.net</a>
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387 <a href="mailto:enamrahc@peoplepc.com">enamrahc@peoplepc.com</a>
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 <a href="mailto:landn2@verizon.net">landn2@verizon.net</a>
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <a href="mailto:kiptuttle@aol.com">kiptuttle@aol.com</a>
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 <a href="mailto:rwalton@easystreet.net">rwalton@easystreet.net</a>
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 <a href="mailto:BonJonBuck@webtv.net">BonJonBuck@webtv.net</a>



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# April 2008

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**On the cover:** “A photo of the trailer full of trash/treasures from last year’s trash bash.

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**The next meeting is on April 12, 2008.**

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**Bring your unwanted radio stuff for the Spring Trash Bash, and a couple of bucks to help defray the cost of the trailer.**

**April Feature: Radios that have Other Than Wood or Plastic Cases**

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

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**Next Call Letter Deadline: May 1, 2008.**

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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.

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## From the Editor

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by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

Are you all ready for the Trash Bash? Have you been into your basements, sheds, attics, workshops, or storage units and gathered up all that stuff that has been hanging around just too long? If not, do so right away. Seldom do you get such an opportunity to get rid of the things you just couldn't quite throw away but don't really want to keep. And who knows? Maybe you'll find that one item you've been looking for that you need to complete a project.

For this month's issue, I've extended and expanded the calendar of events to take us to the end of the year. There are numerous hamfests and swap meets here in the Pacific Northwest. There are the usual photos of last month's featured radios. Thanks to Liles Garcia, who helped me immensely by letting me know the names of the folks associated with the radios. I wasn't able to stay for the presentations, just take the pictures.

This month's "In the Shack" jumps forward a few months because the next one in the sequence was the December '98 edition, and I want to save it for this coming December's issue.

Here's hoping I'll see you at the Trash Bash this Saturday.

# Sinatra, Bennett, Norah.

Portland's only station for classic American standards  
of yesterday and today. Sunny 1550 KKAD.

Listen online at: [www.sunny1550kkad.com](http://www.sunny1550kkad.com)



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# NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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## Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the March 8, 2008 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the February meeting; the meeting minutes were approved as printed in the March Call Letter. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report; it was approved as provided by Ed. Ed also added that the Jim Mason Fund continues to increase in value. Members gave Ed a round of applause for finding this investment for our Society. Jack Taylor attended today as a guest; members gave Jack a round of applause. Jim Lippincott attended today as a new member; members gave Jim a round of applause. Sonny Clutter informed us that the "Sounds Of Nostalgia" management would like for our Society to return to their antique sale. There were approximately 40 people at our meeting today.

## **Old Business**

Spring Trash Bash – We will have our Spring Trash Bash at our April meeting. Cliff Tuttle gave the group some details about the Spring Trash Bash. Members can bring most electronic items for disposal; however, please don't bring TV's and computer monitors.

## **New Business**

Meeting Program Topics – Vice President Dick Bixler passed out a list program topics for members to consider and then choose topics that are interesting to them.

Counter Flyers – Members discussed the counter flyer that Liles Garcia proposed at the February meeting. Corresponding Secretary Tony Hauser's name will be on the flyer as a phone contact person. There will be no radio repair people identified on the flyer. Members voted to approve the counter flyer as specified at the meeting.

Swap Meet Promotion – Dick has 8 1/2 X 11 inch posters to pass out to antique shops and other stores. Radio Station KKAD will advertise our Swap Meet in early May.

## **Leads and Needs**

Cliff Tuttle needs some Atwater-Kent audio transformers. He needs the transformers that have three mounting holes. These are used in some early Atwater-Kent battery sets.

Kurt Torgerson needs some headphone tip plugs.

Robbie Robinson needs a knob for a Hallicrafters S-38A.

Don Iverson needs a Philco 46-250 chassis.

## Program Topic

The program topic for today was “Philco Radios”. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The program topic for the April meeting is “Radios That Have Other Than Wood Or Plastic Cases”.

The meeting was adjourned.

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## NWVRS Calendar of Events

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Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at [www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm)

- April 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; annual Spring Trash Bash 8:30 am.
- April 12** Yakima Hamfest. Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street, Selah, WA. Info, contact Lindsay Kooser, N7RHW 141 Stark Road #7 Yakima, WA 98908. Phone: 509-965-6612 Email: [n7rhw@arrl.net](mailto:n7rhw@arrl.net). <http://w7aq.org/>
- May 10** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- May 30-June 1** Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. Email [ai9q@arrl.net](mailto:ai9q@arrl.net), [www.seapac.org/](http://www.seapac.org/).
- June 6-8** Wenatchee Hamfest. Apple City ARC. Dryden Gun Club. Dryden, WA. Contact Jim W7JBP at [shultzjims@aol.com](mailto:shultzjims@aol.com), or Judy at [ka7zna@msn.com](mailto:ka7zna@msn.com) for information. <http://www.qsl.net/w7td/>
- June 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 14** Hamfest 2008. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. American Legion Hall, 1138 E. Poleline, Post Falls, Idaho. Contact Jim, N7ESU at (208)755-2100 or email [n7esu@arrl.net](mailto:n7esu@arrl.net). <http://k7id.com/>
- June 21** 3rd Annual Port Ludlow ARC Tailgate Swap Meet. <http://www.n7pl.org/>.
- July 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

- July 19** Coos County Radio Club Hamfest and Swapmeet. North Bend Middle School, North Bend, OR. Contact Marilyn Mansker, [ke7oam@yahoo.com](mailto:ke7oam@yahoo.com).
- August 1-3** Pacific Northwest DX Convention. Monarch Hotel, Portland, OR. Hosted by the Willamette Valley DX Club. [www.wvdx.org](http://www.wvdx.org).
- August 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 16** Antique Radio Swap Meet. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. One block west of Aurora Avenue - one mile west of I-5, exit 176. Free admission. <http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html> (Always the 3rd Sunday in August)
- August 16** W7PL Pendleton ARC Second Annual Swapmeet. SW 13th St. & Emigrant, Pendleton, OR. Free admission. For table information, contact [denton@oregontrail.net](mailto:denton@oregontrail.net). <http://w7pl.com/>.
- September 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 27** Spokane Hamfest. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216. For more info contact Bryan, K7WXO at [k7wxo@gktech.net](mailto:k7wxo@gktech.net)
- October 11** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 11** North Kitsap ARC Hamfest and Electronics Swapmeet. Bremerton, WA at the President's Hall – Kitsap County Fairgrounds. \$5.00 admission, \$15.00/Table. For more information: <http://www.nkarc.org/hamfest.html> or e-mail [kb2skp@arrl.net](mailto:kb2skp@arrl.net)
- October 25** Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. Always the last Saturday in October. Contact [k7iey@netscape.net](mailto:k7iey@netscape.net); <http://www.qsl.net/k7skw/>.
- November 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Officer nominations for 2009.
- December 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Officer elections, annual Holiday party.

# Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Philco radios were the feature at the March meeting. Along with a couple of other makes, these are the radios members displayed.



Model 144 – Lloyd Harris



Unknown Model – Mike McCrow



Model 16B – Mark Richardson



Model 42-355 – Larry Tobkin



Portable – Peter Durkee



1940 AM/Police/TV Audio Receiver – Joe Corsi



Model U52C – Alan Shadduck





Model 54 – Alan Shaddock



Model 81 – George Kirkwood



Model PT28 – George Kirkwood



Model 54C – Sonny Clutter



Model 1201-128 – Tony Hauser



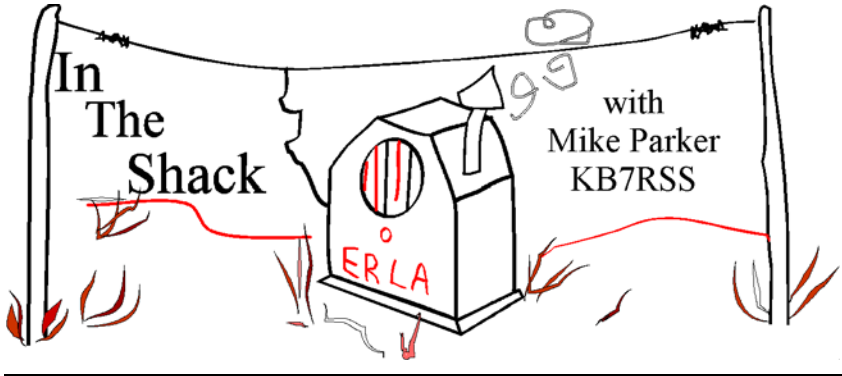
Wood-case radio--Dick Bixler

Airline



Westinghouse





*Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the February, 1999, Call Letter.!*

**Nellie Trego's Radio**



At the recent auction of the late James Mason's collection, I was a successful bidder on a rather interesting Battery Set. The radio is a TREGO, 3 tube regenerative set, circa 1923 or 24, made in Kansas City, MO.

I had never seen this radio during several of the times that I visited the wonderful Mr. Mason's Museum and if it was where I found it at the auction preview, it was on the floor, shoved under a table.

Not too long before that, I had been reading with fascination the story of Nellie Trego and her radio company, as outlined on page 195 of Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's, Vol.3 by Alan Douglas. Trego Radio is mentioned in his section on TRI-CITY Radio Electric Supply Co. of Davenport. Iowa (TRESKO) because Trego was one of several companies that were using Tresco's Armstrong license for his patented regenerative radio circuit, which had been loaned illegally by Tresco. Douglas speculates that Westinghouse, that ubiquitous guardian of the "radio patents" during the '20's filed suit with Tresco to stop this illegal subcontracting in 1923. The ad for Trego shown on page 195 is in Radio News, dated April, 1923 and shows a 1 tube regenerative receiver using a WD-11 tube. Some photos of other Trego one tube sets are included, which all look very similar to the Tresco. The 3 tube set that I have, is not mentioned nor is it listed in McMahon's blue book, RADIO COLLECTORS GUIDE, who list Trego from 1923 and list only a 1-tube regen. that year and a 3-dial 5-tube TRF for '24, '25 and '26. McMahon's VINTAGE RADIO shows a picture of a Trego 3-dial set and I have seen

one in a junk shop here in Oregon, in shabby condition and priced in orbit! I can only guess that Trego made my set right around the time of the Tresco lawsuit and did not advertise it nationally, therefore not making McMahon's listing. So Trego had to switch to a common TRF circuit, which was better anyway and did not radiate signals, and Tresco, after getting fined by the folks at the "Patent Fort", kept on making regenerative sets such as the TRESCOLA, until they sold their license and name to Steinite, Atchison, KS. later on. TRI-CITY/TRESCO was also noted for making many radios for Montgomery Ward & Co. and were sold through their store and catalog.

The story of Nellie Trego is even more interesting and is also presented in Douglas Vol. 3, p.195. An article in the New York TELEGRAM, dated Aug. 20, 1927 is headlined; "Young Woman Heads Large Radio Company" and "Started on Credit-----Business Now Said to be Million Dollars Annually" and describes how Nellie started into the radio business....very unusual in those times of male dominated manufacturers. A photo of a rather determined Mrs. Trego, accompanies the article.

The article describes how Nellie was left a widow when her husband, a hardware dealer in Humboldt, Kansas, died in 1915. Nellie, packed up her young daughter and a few belongings and headed for Kansas City, the nearest metropolis. She went to business college for a few weeks and then obtained employment with a rubber and tire manufacturer. Starting as a stenographer, she rose to success in the company and purchased company stock along the way, when a collapse of the market brought the concern to bankruptcy, (apparently the 1921 crash).

She then mortgaged her small home for \$3000, spent \$2500 on advertising and with the remaining \$500, purchased equipment and started a small radio company on credit, using men as helpers, formerly with the tire company. The article states that the orders just kept rolling in and Nellie was now a well recognized Kansas City businesswoman with the plant covering an entire block and bringing in a "Million Dollars Annually", (I have trouble swallowing that last part!) No radio company, as small and Midwestern as hers, could have possibly pulled in that kind of money!

Nellie Trego, small in stature and weighing 110 pounds, who had denied many marriage proposals, is quoted as saying, "It is not necessary that one be a physical giant to be a success in business. One merely must be able to look ahead and willing to risk his or her own judgement. That is what I did when I foresaw the future of the radio business."

How true! I speculate that she was very lucky that she tried it in 1922 or 23 because by 1925 she would not have had a chance against the

onslaught of new competition in THAT peak sales year. I also find it curious that the New York Telegram article was in August, 1927, yet McMahon's guide shows Trego's last production year as 1926. Perhaps some 1927 models were made but I would guess the company quit production by not being ready to gear up for production of AC plug-in radio sets.

I have named my Trego 3-tube set, "Nellie" after that very courageous young lady who had a vision and made a business out of it. Recently I have tried Nellie under D.C. power, using a 6 volt storage battery for the tube filaments and a 90 volt battery pack made out of series 9 volt batteries, with taps for 45 and 22.5 for the B+ for tube plate voltages. A 35 foot antenna, up here IN THE SHACK is connected to Ant. binding post on the front panel. The set has 2 dials, on the left, a variable condenser with a small knob in the center of the large knob turns a single blade on the rear of the condenser for fine tuning, causing the usual regenerative squealing. The right tuning knob controls a variometer with taps wired to a five point external tap switch below the tuning knobs. The far left point is KXL 750 all over most of the range. The tap switch is progressive up the AM dial with tap 4 swamped with blowtorch KEX 1190. So far, after a lot of careful tuning, I have logged 7 stations, mostly mixed with other stations in the background. With the bandwidth of the modern day mega-power AM stations, I can excuse Nellie for not being very selective. I hope all those regen. "bloopers" are not disturbing the neighbors! They are all FM heads anyway!

On the right side of the front panel is the audio section with a rheostat for each of the 3 stages and an output phone jack for each stage, like the Westinghouse RC. What really stands out are the 3 large peephole bezels with screens to view the tube filaments. They are trimmed with very nice silver escutcheons. The wiring inside is square busbar and the tube sockets and the very small sub-panel are screwed to a base board, like a home-brew set. the transformers are very crude and are open frame with the winding around the top side of the square lamination frame. A small factory tag is attached under the lid that simply says Trego Radio manufactured by Trego Radio Mfg. Co. Kansas City Mo. The lift top has hook and eye lid locks on each side of the cabinet, like a Grebe CR-9.

I can only describe this radio, old Nellie, as....primitive, both in appearance and in performance, which is exactly the way I want her! My future plans for the Trego are.....none at all! Since it works, I prefer to keep it the way Jim found it. By the way, if any of you know where in H....Jim found it, I would very much like to know. Maybe at a flea market in K.C.?

QSO you next time.....IN THE SHACK

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## Roster Additions/Corrections

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Rick Walton, Call Letter editor

Add this reinstated member to your roster.

**Norm Gunning**

13935 SW Weir Rd,

Beaverton, Or 97008-9068

503-524-1785

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## Swap Shop

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**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:** I have several old radios I need to get rid of including a Sparton console and a Zenith console Model 10-S153, plus 2 or 3 table tops. The condition is pretty marginal but someone talented in repair and restoration could probably make something of them. I'm not trying to make any money, just clear out some stuff I don't have room for. Contact Norm Gunning for a complete list of radios. 503-524-1785

**WANTED:** \*I am looking for a couple of audio transformers from the old big box Atwater Kent model 20. These are 1 3/4 in diameter and about 3 1/4 inches high. They are known by the 3 hole flange on the bottom (later AKs had a 2 hole flange. I have a lot of those). The transformers do not have to work. Cliff Tuttle [kiptuttle@comcast.net](mailto:kiptuttle@comcast.net)

## 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](mailto:wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com)

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141, website [www.burlingame-radio.com](http://www.burlingame-radio.com)

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

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, [david\\_wise@phoenix.com](mailto: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.

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>

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## The Back Page

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### The Editor

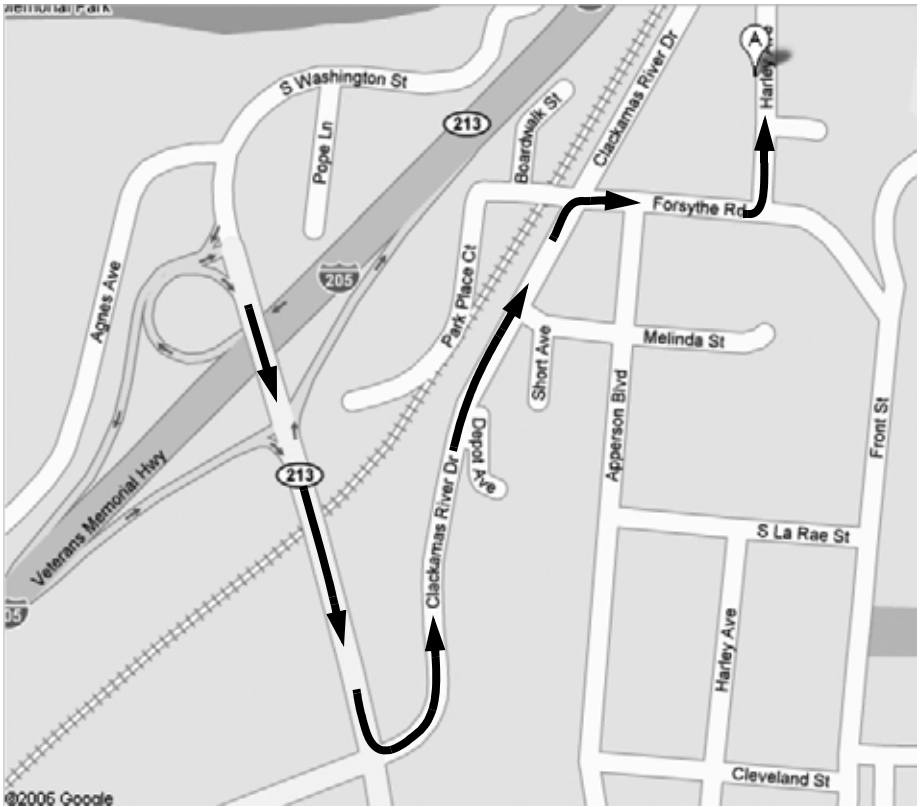
Don't forget to bring your stuff, whether trash or treasure, to the Spring Trash Bash this coming Saturday, April 12.



*"We're headed for the Spring Trash Bash over at the NWVRS monthly meeting!"*

# 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.