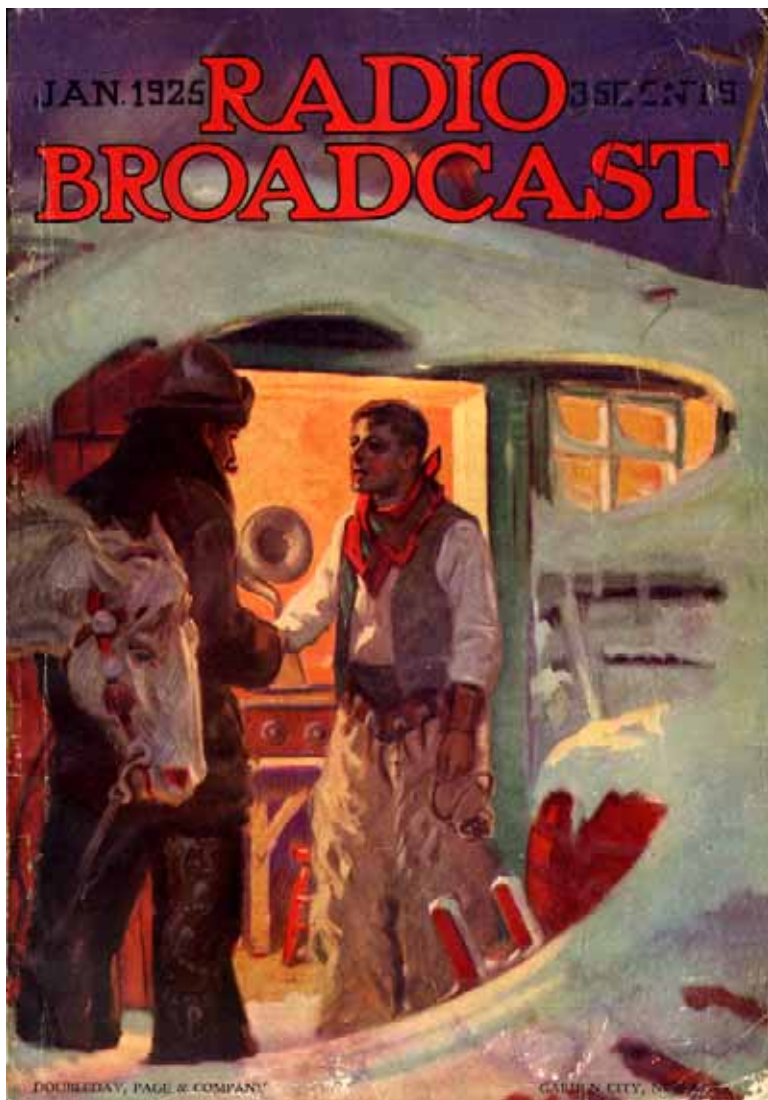


The
**Call
Letter**

January, 2009
Vol. 35 — No. 1



Almost **35** 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 shows, 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 radiogeo@hevanet.com
Vice-President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 rf2af@verizon.net
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Corresponding Secretary	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074 abhauser@aol.com
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 rwalton@easystreet.net
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 BonJonBuck@webtv.net



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On the cover: “This wintery, Old West scene on the cover of the January, 1925 *Radio Broadcast* magazine is from a painting by Remington Schuyler. This painting serves as a lead-in to an article in the same issue called “Static Days and Nights, The Boredom of Ranch Life is Now Broken by Radio, Word and Pen Pictures of the E-Bar Ranch,” also by Mr. Schuyler.

The next meeting is on January 10, 2009.

January Feature: Tube Televisions

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: January 30, 2008.

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

Because my wife and I traveled to North Carolina to be with our daughter for Christmas, it was necessary to put this issue together somewhat ahead of schedule. I tried to get it printed before we departed, but I just wasn't able to. Too much packing, housecleaning, etc.

So I find myself sitting at PDX, snowed in, hoping to board a flight near midnight after our scheduled flight was cancelled. This is probably the first *Call Letter* put together at an airport!

I thought I had exhausted all of Mike Parker's *In the Shack* articles, but as I was searching through the archives, I discovered that I had not reprinted the article from April, 1996.

Mark Moore has again provided us with some pictures, this time from his website. I've added text to the pictures, some taken from Mark's website, and some from the other website cited in the article.

Don't miss Cliff Tuttle's informative and enlightening budget proposal for the year. It clearly explains how your annual dues keep our club going.

Happy New Year, everyone!

Sinatra, Bennett,
Norah.

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

Listen online at: www.sunny1550kkad.com



NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the December 13, 2008 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:15 AM. Cliff Tuttle read the minutes of the November meeting; the minutes were approved as published in the December Call Letter. Cliff gave the Treasurer's report; it was approved as provided by Cliff. George said that we will discuss our dues cash flow at our January meeting. Dick Bixler explained the swap meet advertising expenses that we had. Dick Bixler told the group that Don Copeland's wife, Sandy, recently fell and broke her leg. She is in the hospital. There were approximately 35 people at our meeting today.

New Business

Election Of Officers — There was a motion to elect the nominated officers to their respective positions for next Year. The following members were elected:

President — George Kirkwood

Vice-President — Dick Bixler

Secretary — Liles Garcia

Corresponding Secretary — Tony Hauser

Treasurer — Cliff Tuttle

December Call Letter — George thanked Rick Walton for the very colorful December Call Letter. Rick thanked Mark Moore for the colorful antique radio Christmas cards that are in the Call Letter.

Program Topic

The program topic for our January meeting is "Tube Televisions."

The meeting was adjourned, and everyone had a great lunch! During lunch, George thanked the ladies who prepared and arranged our food items for serving. Everybody gave the ladies a round of applause.

Annual Dues Now Due

If you haven't done so already (and only about one third of you have), now is the time to pay your annual dues. If you are curious how your dues are spent, take a look at the proposed budget that Cliff has submitted. It's on page 9.

KPTV - A brief History

by Mark Moore and Rick Walton

This article got its start when Mark sent me the photos and other graphics that you see here. They come from Mark's website at www.pdxhistory.com/html/kptv.html. Another interesting website dedicated to KPTV is presented by Ron Dunevant, a former KPTV employee, at kptv.home.comcast.net/~kptv/. Visit these web sites for more fascinating details of KPTV's history.

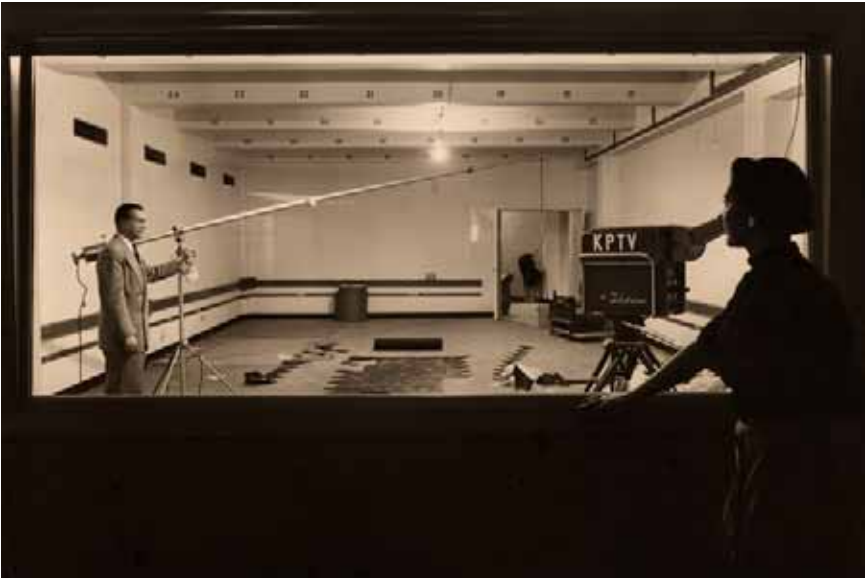
The invitation (see page 6) in particular piqued my curiosity with its claim of "First commercial UHF broadcast in history" added to the distinction of being Portland's first television station.

KPTV, operating on UHF channel 27 was Portland's first television station. In 1952, Herbert Mayer of Empire Coil secured the license to operate the station. He purchased the UHF transmitter that had been in use at the nation's first UHF station of any kind, experimental station KC2XAK in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

KPTV moved to channel 12 in 1957 when it merged with KLOR, an independent station that was operating on channel 12.



Night photo of KPTV studio building. Note the "Channel 27" above the entry way.



Studio still under construction as can be seen by the floor tiles.



This is thought to be the KPTV control room, but it can't be verified.

KPTV Presents
The Inauguration of Television in Portland
and
The First Commercial UHF Broadcast in History
Saturday, September 20, 1952

PROGRAM

12:00 NOON	RECEPTION GRAND BALLROOM, MULTNOMAH HOTEL
1:00 P. M.	LUNCHEON
2:00 P. M.	ADDRESSES
3:00 P. M.	BUSSES TO COUNCIL CREST
3:30 P. M.	INSPECTION TOUR TRANSMITTER BUILDING
4:00 P. M.	BUSSES TO BENSON HOTEL
4:30 P. M.	FIRST PROGRAM ON THE AIR
5:00 P. M.	ALL STAR REVUE
6:00 P. M.	SHOW OF SHOWS
7:30 P. M.	SIGN OFF

Refreshments will be served during the Show of Shows, which continues until 7:30 P. M. Each guest may invite an additional person to the Benson Hotel to view the first television program in Portland. Kindly ask your guest to arrive before 4:30 P. M.

Invitation to the KPTV opening in 1952.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Here are a few photos from the annual Christmas Party.



JoBeth Tuttle, Jan McCrow, Jan Kirkwood, and Lila Clutter, our wonderful volunteers who kept the kitchen running smoothly.

NWVRS Calendar of Events

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

- January 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 14** Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, Oregon at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com>.
- March 7** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 7** Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. Contact mwdink@eskimo.com. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>.
- April 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 24-26** Idaho State Convention. Voice of Idaho ARC. Idaho's FIRST Section Convention! This is an ARRL Sanctioned event. <http://www.voiceofidaho.org/>
- May 9** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- May 9** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Always the second Saturday in May. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7705). nwecop@tgi.net
- June 5-7** Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. ai9q@arrl.net www.seapac.org/
- June 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 18** Coos County Radio Club Hamfest and Swapmeet. North Bend Middle School, North Bend, OR. Contact Marilyn Mansker, ke7oam@yahoo.com or Dave Granicy k7nbo@charter.net. www.coosradioclub.net/.

Preliminary 2009 Budget:

Submitted Dec. 20, 2008 by Cliff Tuttle – Treasurer NWVRS

Based on our spending in 2008, and the following assumptions, I have put together this Preliminary 2009 budget for review at our January meeting (aka the “Annual Meeting”).

Assumptions:

- We will have 105 paid members at \$25 each
- **Call Letter** expenses - \$1,300 (Up from 2008 as we will now have to pay for all toner). Estimated costs are \$600 for postage, \$600 for toner and \$100 for other supplies.
- **Annual** expenses - \$940 (about the same as 2008: \$500 rent, \$300 insurance, \$140 for other annuals - PO Box, Website, Corp Registration)
- **Xmas Party** expenses - \$200
- **Miscellaneous** expenses - \$200 (flowers, supplies, etc.
- **Swap Meets** will lose a small amount. (We make a bit on the spring meet, we lose a bit on the fall meet).
- **Trash Bash** will break even.
- Jim Mason fund is not included in this budget.

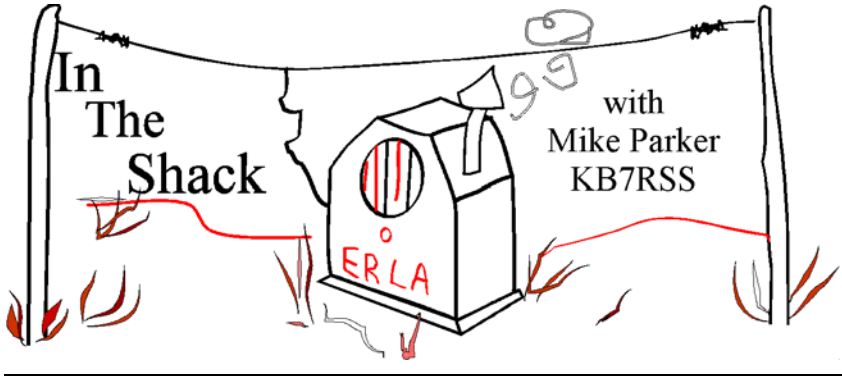
Overall 2009 preliminary budget:

(including Swap Meet and Trash Bash proceeds and expenses)
 \$3,627 in income
 \$3,605 in expenses

Outside of this budget, I estimate a roll over balance from 2008 of about \$1300 (excluding 2009 dues collected in 2008). This budget would expect to roll a similar balance into 2010.

On a per paid member basis:

- \$12.40 – Call Letter
- \$ 8.90 – Annual
- \$ 1.90 – Xmas Party
- \$ 1.90 – Miscellaneous
- \$ 0.20 – Swap Meet subsidy
- \$ -0.60** – Coffee bar contributions
- \$24.70 - Estimated operation expenses per paid member in 2009



Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the April, 1996, Call Letter.!

Picking up where we left off last month In the Shack, I'm talking about collecting and storing phonograph records.

Old records are just like any other collectibles, they have to be of acceptable quality to the consumer-collector. When 78's are not in the top condition (and they are not, as a rule) they neither sell, nor play very well.



Always store your 78's standing on edge, preferably in a storage album or in record sleeves. When storing them in a box (preferably a wooden box) leave plenty of room to be able to flip through them and to see the labels. Never cram them into a storage place under pressure. A good source for records sleeves is Antique Phonograph Supply Co., Rt 23 Box 123, Davenport Center, New York 13751. They also have a catalog which I am looking forward to receiving.

Unfortunately, it is common to find 78's stacked on top of one another without sleeves, in a damp basement or garage, near a leaky pipe or sitting too close to a hot furnace. I have witnessed this at countless garage sales. Never store them "flapjacked" atop one another, but when you must use sleeves or paper towel between each disk. Cardboard boxes, altogether too often used, attract moisture like a sponge. If they are used they should be used at room temperature in a dry location.

A widely accepted grading system for phonograph record condition has been in use for some time and is commonly seen when listing records for sale. This one is copied from a record auction catalog published by Nauck's Vintage Records, 6323 Inway Dr., Spring, Texas 77389.

M-Just this side of Mint condition. Few, if any, are perfect so "mint condition" is never used.

E+A choice copy. No detectable wear whatsoever.

E Excellent. No trace of groove wear, minimal traces of handling.

E- An above average record. Some groove wear, but not enough to detract from the audio quality.

V+Very good. Well played, but enjoyable.

V Very well worn, but listenable. Expect surface noise.

V- Wiped out. Stressed grooves; graying. Could be played with the right equipment. (I will add: a Zenith "Cobra" will play anything! MP)

P Poor. Possibly unplayable.

In addition, more detailed description abbreviations are used such as SCR for scratched; CR for cracked; ND for needle drop; etc. Some use the common grading system of M, VG, G, F, and P (self explanatory).

Nauck's catalog, published periodically before each auction, is an excellent source of information on vintage records. The minimum bid price per record can be used as a price guide to determine a record's collectibility. Nauck's prices range from \$3 to more than \$200 per disk. They are listed by the type of record, artist, record number, lot number, and condition. Each auction lists an average of 5,000 items, identified by lot number. They handle only 78's, thick Edison's, cylinders, and some literature. For \$4 they will send you their current, most excellent catalog. In addition they will send you the next publication, if by chance, you didn't participate in the first one.

But how much are those old disk really worth? Well, virtually thousands and thousands of them are worth between \$1 and \$3, regardless of age. A few are worth between \$10 and \$30. Fewer are worth between \$50 and \$100. Recently an Elvis Presley 78 on the Sun label sold for \$870.00 at an auction; \$470 above the minimum bid (wow! don't drop it).

Many people prefer to collect what they like, regardless of the record's value. This includes me. Other seek only the obscure. This is currently the trend in 78's collecting. A perfect Tommy Dorsey 78 (which has been reissued on an LP) may be worth \$2, while a 78 of Pig Meat Strut by the "Famous Hokum Boys" on the Homestead label of the 1920's will fetch \$500. Early blues and hillbilly records from the 20's and 30's, if done by obscure artists, or that used a musician that later became famous, are now commanding premium prices,

Another category that is increasing in popularity are the discs made before 1900, or 78's made just prior to 1960. As usual, people are looking for the first and the last.

But why pay high prices for these records when, if you keep looking, you may find a gem among the rubble? recently I found a "pre-dog" (before Nipper



was on the label) Victor Monarch one sided record with a catalog number of “2” for \$1. To the flea market clerk it was just another old record/one of ten that I bought. Like radio hunting, looking for them is half the fun.

In spite of it all, I have many hobby interests other than old records. I will always be a Type 3 collector [See the March Call Letter for details], Well, maybe a type 4, but never a type 5... I can't stand to sell anything!

Stay in the Groove — be cause I'll include some more information about collecting

78's next time In the Shack...

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: I have 3 radios I am offering for sale. (1) Packard Bell 1939 Wood table radio that works great with tuning eye and bass and treble controls. (2) Setchell Carlson portable AC Radio that works great and (3) A Traveler bakelite that works, but needs filter caps. James Harper 503-432-0607

WANTED: Chassis for a 1938 Sparton Model #1068, 1168, 1268 or 1568 to restore an unrestorable Sparton console I purchased from a club member at the last club show. Gary Marvin 541-515-5733

WANTED: Jay Johnston is seeking a brass horn speaker in good condition. A Kilbourne & Clark speaker of any material is desired as well. 503-226-4181 or withat@msn.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

Todd Olmert – (503) 246-4141

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

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, 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.

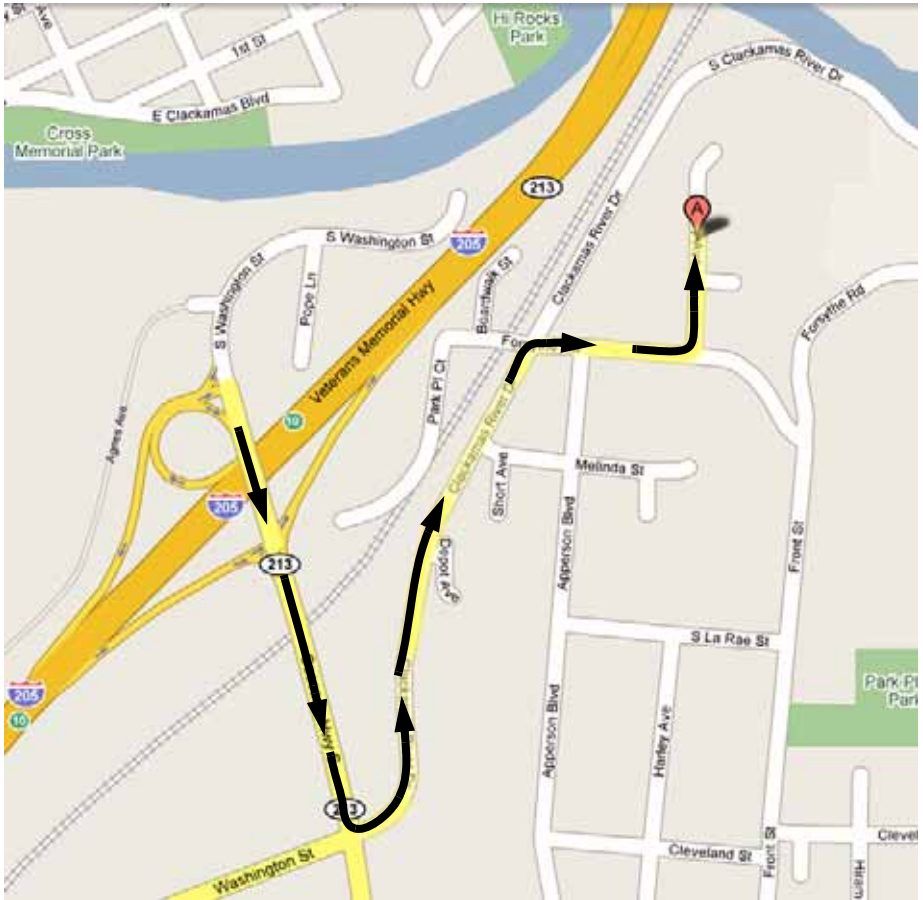
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

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>

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.