

The

Call Letter

September, 2001
Vol. 27 — No. 9



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).

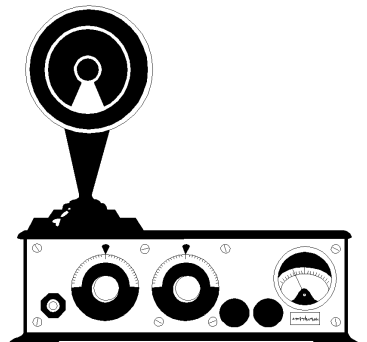
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2001:

President	Charles Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Dave Rutland	(541) 929-4498
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society's address is:

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Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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On the cover: Artwork from the cover of *Radio News*, September, 1925.

October Call Letter Deadline: October 2.

**The next meeting is on September 8
(following the Summer break).**

The monthly feature is:

Your summer acquisition and/or summer project.

Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

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

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 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

I hope that each of you had a pleasant Labor Day holiday and are ready to recommence NWVRS activities with the resumption of monthly meetings. Be sure to take note of Cliff Tuttle's announcement of the Swap Meet on October 13th. If you need a table, be sure to get in touch with Cliff.

I just returned from a trip to Spearfish, South Dakota, where I attended a reunion of the crew of the USS Knox, the frigate I served aboard in the US Navy. Of course I had to snoop about for radios, and in an antique and collectible store in Spearfish, I found a marvelous Howard console radio, 10 tubes, deco wood cabinet, for only \$165. If I could have packed it back on the plane, I'd have probably bought it even though my basement cannot possibly hold another console. Sigh!

What a treat to have Mike Parker back *In the Shack*. Mike reminisces about a childhood experience that he suspects played a part in his taking up of our hobby. I'll bet many of us could dredge up a similar story from the dim past. Mine would be a tragedy, though. My cousin and I at some point got hold of my great-grandfather's old multi-dialer and managed to break all those "bulbs" that it had. The remnants of the chassis/cabinet laid on a junk pile out behind the barn for many years before it finally disappeared, probably taken for scrap metal.

For a look back at early radio, I found an article in *The Sunday Oregonian* of September 12, 1925, that explains to radio enthusiasts how they can improve their "super-hetrodyne" sets with some regenerative feedback. What I have is Section Four of the paper, which covers "Dramatic, Photoplay News, Radio and Musical Events."

Then there's *Voilà*. We've got a whole page full of acquisitions. I'm included there with a radio/phono I found right in my own neighborhood. The Beaumont district where I live holds the Fremont Fest each year in August. Many of the merchants have special sales and move a lot of merchandise out on to the sidewalk. Vestiges, an antique gallery, participated by holding a flea market in the parking lot behind the store. When I walked through the alley to the parking lot, there was the radio! And at a garage sale price! Of course it followed me home (along with a number of other "treasures" that my wife found). I almost have the radio working, but the record player will be a little harder.

NWVRS 2001 Calendar of Events

- September 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 30** Chehalis Valley ARS Hamfest, Chehalis, WA.
<http://www.cvars.org>
- October 13** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale. 9 am to 4 pm. See the announcement below.
- November 10** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- December 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

October 13th Swap Meet!

by Cliff Tuttle

The fall swap meet will take place at the Salvation Army Rose Center at 1785 NE Sandy Blvd. on Saturday, October 13, 2001. Doors will be open for move-in Friday evening from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, and again Saturday morning from 7:00 to 9:00 am. The sale hours will be 9:00 to 4:00.

Table space will go for \$15 a table. As was the case at the spring meet, there are a limited number of tables where power is available, so let us know if you need an outlet and we will try to accommodate you.

I will be at the September 8th meeting early to sell table space, but feel free to call me at home with your reservations. JoBeth has volunteered (?) to field some calls if I'm not available. Be sure to identify yourself as a radio club member. My kids are kind of short with sales calls we all seem to be bombarded with in the evenings.

To anyone who can lend a hand, especially with set up (Friday afternoon) and tear down (Saturday after 4:00), please give me a call. We could sure use the help.

Our home contact:
Cliff and JoBeth Tuttle
2572 NE Linden Ave.
Gresham, Oregon 97030
(503) 666 7005
E-mail kiptuttle@aol.com



The Dump

This story goes way back to when I was a little kid... probably about 7 or 8 years old. I have had quite a time trying to remember some of the finer details of this but I think that now is going to be "as good as it gets!"

The year had to be around 1948 or 49 and we lived in Oak Grove, Oregon, a suburban area south of Milwaukee and Portland. Now days, that area is very well developed, perhaps even over-developed. But at that time there weren't so many houses. Lots of vacant land here and there with woods. Fir, maple and oak trees with lots of underbrush and the dreaded poison oak abounded anywhere there wasn't a house. We would go off and play in the woods, down at the river, or anywhere our parents told us not to go. It seems that compared to today's youth, we just were not watched very close all of the time. It was OK as long as we came home when our parents told us to (sometimes NOT), and since dad was a builder, he always had a piece of lath handy for *that* painful occasion!

My uncle's mother had a quaint little white bungalow, maybe larger than that, on the bluff, with a fantastic view to the West that looked out over the Willamette River and the railroad trestle and bridge between there and the town of (Lake) Oswego. One day, we went to visit her for a bit and played around in her yard. Then we went down to the train track below her place and played on the railroad trestle. We would walk the wooden planks, high up between the trestle timbers and climb down the big ladder to the beach on the river. Steam engines would clunk by above us and drip scalding water down through the timbers. Once, my sister got burned somewhat badly on the arm and we had to take her home, but that's another story. Those places were all on our parents no-no list, remember! Anyway, that day we walked back off of the trestle toward Aunt Marie's place again but before we got there, we were walking the rails and a man shouted at us to get off the track. We were not too good at

telling the bums from the railroad workers, since they both seemed to wear shabby clothes, so we ran into the bushes. We stumbled right into a hobo camp. Now we were really scared! But they seemed friendly to us and struck up a conversation. The usual questions were asked, you know, "Where do you kids live? What are you doing down here?" Basically, we asked them why they lived like that and if they liked it. One by one they told us stories about why they lived that way and how they got there. I guess we had enough and told them we had to go but we didn't want to take the tracks because of the man that had shouted to us. We headed straight into the brush toward Aunt Marie's road, climbed over a small hill into a clearing and sat down to talk over our recent adventure.

By now, I am sure you are asking what in the blankety-blank does this have to do with radio! Looking down on the ground, we found a bunch of black cylinder like things with writing on them and prongs sticking out. There were wires and weird looking metal plates sticking out of the opposite end of the cylinders through broken glass. None of us really knew what they were. We started digging into the ground and into the brush, finding more and more of them. We found balls of wire, and square metal things with holes punched in them and funny looking plates that moved into each other attached to the metal. We started reading the strange sounding names that were etched into the side of the black cylinder shaped things with the prongs on them. We threw all of the ones with the same names into our own little piles, to see who could get the most in a pile. I remember that my pile was "Cunningham" with that strange looking "C" and I must have had 25 or 30 of them! We saw Sylvania, Tung-Sol ("What does THAT mean?"), National Union, Silvertone, Arcturus, Crosley, Airline, RCA Radiotron, General Electric, Sonatron, Sparton, Zenith with the neat lightning bolt "Z", Philco, and many other names that I don't remember. Oddly, none of us knew what these things were! Some of them were not broken, but we took care of that, they made a neat popping noise when thrown against a rock. Finally, the fun was over and I stuffed one into my pocket and took it home to show dad. The conversation went something like this, "Dad! Look what I found in the woods up by Aunt Marie's. What is it?" I remember dad saying, "That is a radio tube. We have some of those already." And he pulled the family '42 Philco console out from the wall, which up to that time, I had never looked in the back of, and said, "There they are!" Standing tall above the lowly loctals were two Philco type 41's, just like the ones we had been playing with!

Perhaps that day was the one that changed my life forever and infected me with that lifelong disease... Radiomania!"

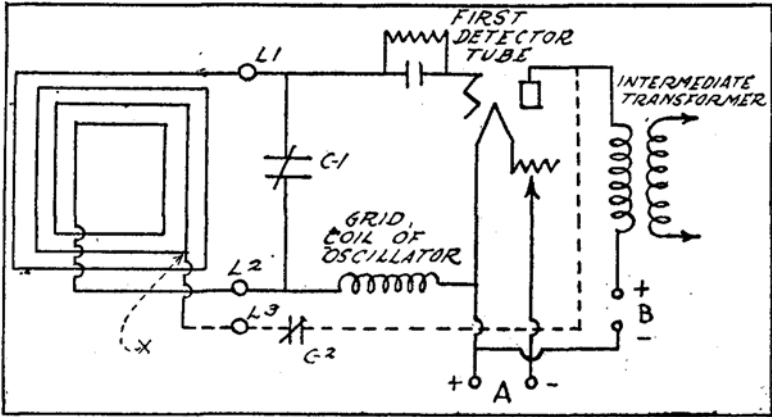
QSO you next time... IN THE SHACK

A Look Back

from the Sunday Oregonian, September 13, 1925

**REGENERATION INCREASES
SENSITIVITY, SELECTIVITY**

**Older Types of Superheterodyne Receivers Can Be Bettered by
Simple Method of Tapping Loop and Adding Midget Variable.**



How to make the first detector of a superheterodyne regenerative to increase the sensitivity and selectivity. The loop is tapped at its midpoint and a midget variable condenser is connected from the tap to the plate of the tube.

Owners of some of the older types of super-hetrodyne receivers, in which the first detector is non-regenerative, may increase both the sensitivity and selectivity of the set by incorporating regeneration in the first detector tube.

This may be accomplished in a very simple manner by tapping the loop at a midway point, and adding a small midget variable in the manner shown in the above diagram. The dotted line shows the connections to the midget condenser. One terminal of the condenser unit is simply connected to the plate terminal on the first detector tube socket, while the other terminal goes to an extra binding post mounted on the panel below the other two regular loop posts.

The loop is tapped at the midpoint of the entire winding. If there are 12 turns in the loop, bare the wire at the sixth turn, solder a piece of stranded cord wire to the bared spot and connect this to the extra post on the panel.

In the diagram, L-1 and L-2 represent the two regular loop posts of the set, with L-3, the new post. The tap made midway of the loop is shown by the arrow X. C-1 is the regular tuning condenser of the set, while C-2, the newly added midget condenser.

Regeneration is accomplished by C-3, which allows a feed-back of the detector plate current into the grid through half of the loop. Simply adjust C-2

after the station has been brought in until maximum strength has been obtained. It will be found that the use of regeneration in the detector will sharpen the tuning considerably.

For those who use a tuning coupler with outside antenna instead of the loop, the same plan may be followed by tapping the coupler secondary at the midpoint in the windings, and connecting the tap to the extra post.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

by Sonny Clutter

Dave Wise

Tube radios:

R-390A/URR, Contract No. 363-PH-54 (Motorola)
Packard Bell 631 6-tube twin-speaker plastic tabletop

Test gear:

Heathkit V-6 VTVM
Sprague TO-4 TelOhmike
Triplett 310 mini-VOM

Transistor radios:

Motorola 6X28N
RCA 1-TP-1JE
RCA 8-BT-8JE
RCA 9-BT-9J
Travler TR-281
Travler TR-282
Zenith Royal 50L
2x Zenith Royal 500E for parts
Zenith Royal 755

Ron Hershey: Jackson Bell model 62 cathedral with cockatoo grill

Radyne battery set, uses 5 UV-199s

Crosley 5M3 mini tombstone

Patterson All Wave console

Radiola 18

Motorola spindle leg speaker cabinet

Kip Tuttle: Atwater Kent 376 lowboy

George Kirkwood: Hal-O-Wat, 3 dial battery set built from a kit.

Liles Garcia: Hammarlund SP-10X Super Pro Communications Receiver, first announced in 1936 and the original Super Pro Hallicrafters SX-42 Communications Receiver with Hallicrafters R-42 Speaker

Sonny Clutter: Supertone, 4 tube midget cathedral from the early 30's

Rick Walton: Bendix 656A table model radio/phonograph

Cheers, Sonny the RadiolaGuy

Visit my vintage radio site at: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

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

BUY, SELL, & TRADE: Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: <http://www.radiolaguy.com> or e-mail me at: sonny@radiolaguy.com

Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

WANTED: The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

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@home.com".

WANTED: *Junker Philco clock radio from 1950-52 for clock parts. In particular, I need the alarm set shaft and gear. Contact Rick Walton, 3024 NE 49th Ave., Portland, OR 97213 ph. 503-284-5648 or 503-701-3260. rwalton@ftconnect.com

Leads and Needs

Federal radio/phonograph, no model number, purchased by owner's father in 1941. Among the first programs heard was Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech to Congress! Contact Emily Rampton 503-282-3749.

Radiolaguy's web page is full of lots of information on early radio, TV and also provides lots of links to other valuable info resources relating to the radio collecting hobby; it's not just a "for sale" site. Be sure and visit the site often. One of the services offered is pictures and information on the entire RCA "Radiola" line from 1921 to 1931 and my "show and tell" page.

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.

