

The **Call
Letter**

April, 2003
Vol. 29 — No. 4



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).

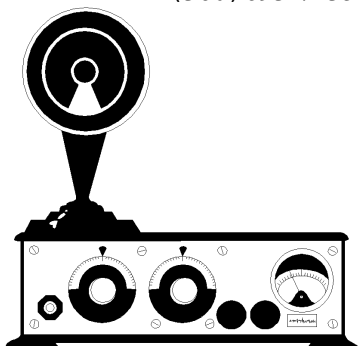
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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: This cover from the July 1943 issue of “Radio News” points out the importance of radio communication in modern warfare. This picture is fitting for this month’s cover as, like sixty years ago, we find our nation at war. “Radio News” attributed the photo to the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

The next meeting is on April 12, 2003.

Annual dues are past due!

Monthly feature:

Any one-tube radio.

Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

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

May Call Letter Deadline: April 29, 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 events in the Middle East have pushed their way to the front of our thinking and, by reflecting on the war in progress 60 years ago, to the front cover of the *Call Letter*. The image of the soldier using a field telephone is certainly different from the images we are receiving from the front of the Iraq war. A similar image of today might show a young woman in camouflage gear covered in sand and dust talking into a handset that would have all the capability of the huge pack on our WWII soldier's back.

This war holds personal interest for my wife and me because both of our daughters are enlisted in the U.S. Army. The eldest is with the 311th Military Intelligence Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division, and is probably headed north out of Kuwait as I am writing this. Our younger daughter is in Germany with the 1st Infantry Division, all packed and ready to go somewhere.

Since I've started on my family, I shouldn't leave my son out of things. He is currently in a production of *West Side Story* at Grant High School. I asked the director if they needed any old radios as props, and he gave me an enthusiastic "Yes." So for a short while I'll be able to park a small part of my collection at my son's school instead of in my basement, and I'll be helping the school with its production of the musical.

Turning our attention from the front cover to the rest of the issue, we have the usual features for your perusal. In the Photo Display are the pictures of the Crosley sets that members brought in. The one surprise is that no one brought in a Crosley "Pup". Of particular interest is Myron White's radio made by Motorola for a Crosley automobile. Jeff Martin's stunningly restored tombstone won a deserved first place in the voting. From the *Call Letter* archives we've reprinted Ray Nelson's tips on improvising a tuning belt. And from Art Redman, we have a glimpse of the early days of wireless in Portland, as reported in the *Oregonian*. Following Art's article are a couple of ads scanned from the October, 1924 issue of *Radio Broadcast* that highlight this month's feature, one-tube receivers. Voilà is brimming with the finds reported by members.

Inside the back cover is the flyer for the May swap meet. Keep in mind that this month's meeting is the last before the Swap Meet. As of this writing, there are still a number of tables available for sellers. Tony Hauser would be glad to oblige you with a table rental.

NWVRS 2003 Calendar of Events

- April 12** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 12-13** The Early Television Foundation will hold its first annual Early Television Convention and Swap Meet. Details at: www.earlytelevision.org/swapmeet.html
- April 26** Eagle Rock ARC & Eastern Idaho UHF Society
Idaho Falls, ID
myweb.cableone.net/wa4vrv/hamfest.htm
- May 10** NVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- May 10** Hamfest, Stanwood-Camano ARC, Stanwood, WA.
- 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!

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

Tony Hauser for Liles Garcia

The meeting was called to order at 10:01am by Treasurer Ed Charman. Ed announced that the President, Vice President, and Secretary were all unable to make today's meeting. The Meeting Minutes from the February meeting were approved as written in the March edition of the Call Letter. Ed gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved as submitted. There was no Good and Welfare to report and we welcomed guests Ed Thompkins and John Roland.

Old Business

John Bucholtz reported that the library is being well-used with 17 books currently checked out.

Tony Hauser called for volunteers for the May swap meet so that a list of volunteers could be compiled by the April meeting. He will contact other local clubs to also participate in the swap meet.

Jerry Talbott reported that many people who visited the Club display table at February's Sounds of Nostalgia show in Salem were asking about having their radios repaired. Rick Walton then called for members willing to repair radios for the public to contact him soon so he can publish a list in the Swap Shop section of the Call Letter. Rick also called for anyone who wants to be included on the email list to contact him.

Ed Charman reminded members that if they have not yet paid their 2003 membership dues they would no longer receive the Call Letter.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Leads & Needs

Glen Bricker needs the clock motor for a GE grandfather clock with the S-22 radio chassis.

Jerry Talbott announced that Al Smith is beginning to sell off his Sam's Photofacts. He asked members to please not call Al on Saturdays.

Jerry is also selling a Viking model RP-88 reel-to-reel tape deck with tapes.

David Wise is still looking for a grid-dip meter.

Program Topic

Sonny Clutter stood in as host as members talked about their favorite Crosley radios they brought for display. Jeff Martin won first place for his 1934 model 61 restoration. There was a five-way tie for second place so no second place ribbons were awarded. The members in attendance decided that next month's display will be one-tube radios.

Ed Charman adjourned the meeting at 10:46am.

Technical Tips

from Ray Nelson

Editor's note: This article is reprinted from the July 1986 Call Letter.

“in need of a drive belt for your newest acquisition, so the dial will turn and you can tune in all those stations?” Maybe you just can't locate on that is the proper size. A serviceable substitute can be fabricated from old-fashion friction tape, still available in some hardware or electrical supply outlets. Begin by unwinding a strip of tape long enough to go around the various drive and idler pulleys several times. Lay the tape out straight on a clean, flat surface and using a straight-edge and a razor blade, cut a continuous strip wide enough between the sides of the pulleys. Now lift the tape and begin wrapping it around the pulley path being careful to lay each layer of tape exactly on top of the preceding. Cut another strip of tape and repeat until you have a “belt” about six layers thick. Lastly, stitch down the loose end of the tape on the inside and outside surfaces of the belt after securing them with a sparse amount of super glue. If the inside of the belt is too sticky, you can powder it with some talc, or whatever.

Good luck, and happy tuning,

Ray Nelson

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

With one exception (sort of), all these radios that were displayed at the March meeting are Crosleys. So we'll just give the model and the owner's name.



Book Radio — Ray Nelson



10-136E — Ray Nelson



425 "New Travo" — Jerry Talbott



628B — Jerry Talbott



4-29 — Mike Parker



Model 50 — Art Redman



Model 50 — Mark Richardson



Model 61 — Jeff Martin
First Place Winner



Model 4-29 — Sonny Clutter



Motorola for Crosley Auto —
Myron White



Model 655 —
Myron White



Trirdyn — Art Redman

City Is Now On Wireless Circuit

From Oregonian April 7, 1908, Page 14. Page 975 Oregonian indexes.
Submitted by Art Redman

Messages Are Exchanged With All Stations but One on Pacific Coast

Expert Explains System

Ex-government Employee gives Interesting Data on Communicating Through Air and Prophecies Still Greater Wonders

The Council Crest station of the United Wireless Telegraph Company has just been put in operation and is now working with San Francisco, Taloosh Island, and the Table Bluff station near Eureka, California. The operator of the Council Crest can hear wireless stations working from Vancouver Island to Magdalena Bay. The only station on the Pacific Coast the operator cannot talk with is that of Sitka, Alaska. Sunday night the Council Crest operator picked up the Steamship Enterprise 400 miles out of San Francisco for Honolulu.

O.L. Milligan is an expert in wireless work who was in the government employ for years and has watched the development of wireless telegraphy from the first attempts at transmission of messages without wires, when inventors first succeeded in sending a message of four miles. Mr. Milligan came here to "tune" the local station. This is rendered necessary by the fact that different stations send out ether waves of different lengths. These have to be harmonized, a process that is accomplished by a special device.

In Service for Years

Mr. Milligan was an electrical engineer in the United States Signal Corps for years and installed wireless apparatus in the Jolo Peninsula, Philippines Islands. He also put in the wireless station at St. Michael, Alaska. This was established in 1904 and was the first commercial wireless station ever established. Mr. Milligan says 60,000 words of press matter were handled by this station on the night of President Roosevelt's election.

“This station will handle all of the telegraph business of the Steward Peninsula,” said Mr. Milligan. “At the time we were installing this station, I noticed telegraph poles placed near Nome that were put here in 1865 by the Western Union, which had started a line to Europe by way of Bering Straits that was projected across Siberia, but while this line was building the Field cable was laid across the Atlantic and the Alaskan line was abandoned.

The best line of wireless stations in the world will soon be installed on this coast. Wireless telegraphy works here better than in the east because there is less humidity in the air. I shall go from Portland to Alaska, where the company will install its stations. The United Wireless Telegraph Company now has about 100 land stations, and 100 steamers have been equipped with the apparatus.

“Wireless telegraphy is not wholly new, although the receiving and sending apparatus that has perfected it is new.” The theory is as old as the Hertzian wave. Morse, who perfected the old system of telegraphy really transmitted a wireless message across the across the Susquehanna River, although he believed he was sending the message under the river. Wires were laid to the water’s edge on both sides and the message was carried in the ether instead of the water.

Travels Fast as Light

“When a message is started by wireless telegraphy, it is not altogether unlike a pebble dropped in a lake. Waves are started in each direction and travel faster than lightning. The wave is about 500 meters long, which means it extends that far above the surface of the ground, or water, although a theory now somewhat generally accepted is that the wave is half above and half beneath the surface. These waves are have no resemblance to sound, for sound waves move in the air; the Hertzian waves are in the ether.

“These waves travel as fast as light, 186,000 miles a second. If one of these waves were sent from the Portland station and lasted a single second, it would at the end of the second, pass Portland on the seventh lap around the world. The further a wave travels, the more energy is lost, although it will cross mountain ranges, pass through cities, forests, leap across an ocean before breaking up. Ocean offers the best surface for the wave to travel, they will further without being broken up and lost.

“Wonderful as wireless telegraphy has been, I believe there are great discoveries yet to be made along the same line. I believe we will make sunlight by the proper control of ether waves. The wave differs only from light in the number of vibrations, and it’s a question only of getting the waves short enough and the vibrations high enough to make daylight. When that is accomplished, we shall have color photography.”

Send Power through Air

“I think there are great possibilities in the future for the transmission of power without wires in the same way. There is now a question whether electricity travels in a wire or simply around it, the wire making a pathway for the electricity. I have seen a motor that Tesla operated across a hall without wires, the motive power being sent through the air.

“Wireless telephones are already accomplished. Admiral Evan’s fleet is equipped with these instruments, which were used repeatedly, on the trip around to the pacific coast. They work in the same way as wireless, sending and receiving an ether wave of high frequency.”

“The uses of wireless are almost limitless. It has been developed until now two messages can be received on the same antenna. Two messages, one in English and one in French has been taken in this way simultaneously. Four operators can work at the same time at the same station, the duplex system being as practicable as in the old system. This is accomplished by changing the frequency of the spark.”

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VESCO RADIO SHOP, Box RB-117 Oakland, Calif.

These are a couple of ads for one-tube sets from the October, 1924 issue of *Radio Broadcast* magazine.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRs members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Vance Daberko American Bosch model 48 chassis (with interesting vanometer on tuning condenser).

Hallicrafters 10 tube S-51 "Marine" receiver. Works but is missing two original knobs.

Two basket cases: a Zenith two-band "Global" portable, 1946?; and a tweed case Zenith "Universal" portable, probably about 1941.

A Magnacord PT6-J rack mount audio amplifier with VU meter. (Wouldn't mind finding a match for it.)

An interesting service bench style Hickok 209C VTVM with a huge 9 inch analog meter.

A mid 50's RCA leather case "Transoceanic" style portable radio.

Ron Hershey Crosley 729 tabletop set made in 1940. Blue painted bakelite case, two bands with push buttons.

Kolster 8B battery console with external loop antenna made in 1926.

Zenith 42 console made in 1929, early push button tuning.

Sparton 1867 Triolian console made in 1936, 5 bands and mirrored dial, very deco cabinet.

Superheterodyne kit radio made circa 1926, mostly Remler parts, Modified Best circuitry

Stewart Warner speaker for battery sets with dancing ladies grill

Dave Wise vintage test equipment? HP 400D AC Voltmeter (1mV to 300V, 10Hz to 4MHz)

Jeff Martin acquired an Emerson model R167; also a chassis for my Crosley 168 Cathedral at the last meeting.

Sonny Clutter A long desired and rare "Radiola Special", a one tube receiver from 1923

Rick Walton: Guild Spice chest Model 484 with solid doors.

Sylvania Model 5184 Painted Bakelite table set.

Gilfillan 56-A small wood table set.

Philco Transitone 52-547 Clock radio, wood with blond photofinish.

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 "hopopcol@attbi.com".

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

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.

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)

Leads and Needs

See the meeting minutes.

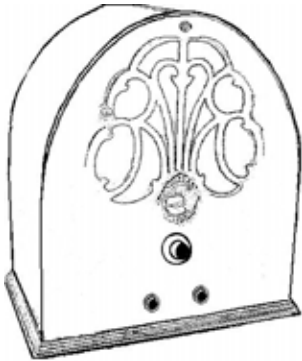
Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photo's, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial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

Don't Miss This!

VINTAGE RADIO SALE

and

SWAP MEET



9 AM - 1 PM

Saturday, May 10

**Salvation Army Rose Center
N.E. 18th Ave. and Sandy Blvd.
Portland, Oregon**

**For information contact:
Tony Hauser, 503-629-4836**

www.nwvrs.org

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