# The Call Letter

*June, 2009*
*Vol. 35 — No.6*

Almost 35 years in print!

# The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

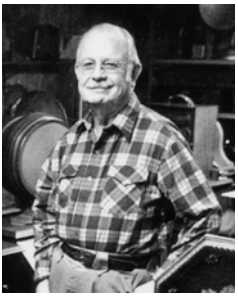
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage radio" and wireless equipment.

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 1998. 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 2009:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President | George Kirkwood | (503) 648-4809<br>radiogeo@hevanet.com |
| Vice-President | Dick Bixler | (503) 690-2557<br>rf2af@verizon.net |
| Treasurer | Cliff Tuttle | (503) 666-7005<br>kiptuttle@comcast.net |
| Recording Secretary | Liles Garcia | (503) 649-9288<br>landn2@verizon.net |
| Corresponding Secretary | Tony Hauser | (503)397-0074<br>abhauser@aol.com |
| Board member at large | Cliff Tuttle | (503) 666-7005<br>kiptuttle@comcast.net |
| *Call Letter* Editor | Rick Walton | (503) 656-4104<br>rwalton@easystreet.net |
| Librarian | John Bucholtz | (360) 693-7135<br>Bucholtz3049@comcast.net |

# June 2009
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**On the cover:** "On the cover is charter NWVRS member Don Iverson, who passed away on May 2.

## The next meeting is June 13, 2009.

### June Feature: Your Smallest Tube Radio

### Visit our web site at http://nwvrs.org.

## Next *Call Letter* Deadline: July 2, 2009.

# From the Editor

by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

On May 2 Don Iverson, one of our charter members passed away. I didn't know him terribly well, but I spent an afternoon at his house a few years back becoming acquainted with his many collections, not just radios, and his amazing skill as a craftsman. Don was a unique individual, and we will miss him.

Well, you've gone and done it again — you sent me enough good stuff to thoroughly fill this issue of the *Call Letter*. There are pictures from last month's Radio Sale and a brief commentary on the Sale by Liles Garcia, Mike Parker has picked another of his vintage *In the Shack* articles, Jay Johnston has compiled an impressive array for *Voilá*, and Blake Dietze has submitted another informative report from WRNO.

I will not be attending the June meeting, but will be in the air on my way to North Carolina to visit my first grandchild who was born in March. I'll get back just in time to assemble the July issue.

Are you wondering where the promised society rosters are? The new roster is just about complete and should be in the mail very soon. I think you'll like it.

# 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

| | |
|---|---|
| **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/. |
| **August 8** | **NWVRS** monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. |
| **August 8** | Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest. Spanaway, WA. http://www.w7dk.org/ Hamfest@W7DK.org |
| **August 16** | Antique Radio Swap Meet. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html (See the flyer on the back page) |
| **September 12** | **NWVRS** monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. |
| **September 12** | The 3rd Annual Clark County ARC Tail-Gate Swapmeet. Vancouver, WA. http://www.w7aia.org/ Rob, K7JAO at k7jao@arrl.net |
| **October 10** | **NWVRS** Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon. |
| **November 14** | **NWVRS** monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2010. |
| **December 12** | **NWVRS** monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2010. |

# Voilá

## *...new and recent finds by NVRS members*

Compiled by Jay Johnston

**Dick Dielschneider —1938 Zenith 5S218** "Cube"
**Philmore Selective** xtal set. Manufactured in New York, this radio has a unique metal cabinet with a slant front and a black crackle finish.
**1945 Teletalk intercom**, Model 105M code 23-2

**Mike Parker —Bosworth B-2** 5 tube TRF table battery set. It is a 2-dialer, made in Cincinnati in 1926. This beautiful radio features a front panel decorated in embossed intricate bronze scrollwork. The original manual was included with all major west coast stations listed as received.

**Rick Walton —Arvin 444** red midget receiver. 4-tube, metal cabinet.
**Monarch "Hi Fi Master"**. Another tiny 5-tube Japanese plastic set, late '50s or early '60s, this one is a light chocolate brown.
**Nine issues of *Radio Craft*** magazine, all from 1946.
**Arvin 540T** red midget receiver. 4-tube, metal cabinet. Purchased from John Bucholtz at the May Swap Meet.

**Dave Wise —RCA Regenoflex** This is my first venture into 1920's battery sets. It has the same circuit as the Radiola X, but a different cabinet. It uses four WD-11's behind a neat tilt-out panel. I got the Regenoflex from Sonny at the swap meet.

The following test instruments came to me free from a friend (?):

**HP (Mosely Autograf) 60D Logarithmic Converter** — useful for monitoring AC or DC voltages that vary over large ranges. It appears to work.

**Monsanto 2000 Digital Voltmeter**. 4.5 digits, DC volts only, autoranging. Nixies! Appears to work.

**HP 740B DC Standard/Differential Voltmeter**. It's not working, but I look forward to fixing it. A manual is on the way.

**General Radio 1672A Digital Control Unit and 1673A Automatic Capacitance Bridge**. It doesn't work but I couldn't pass it up. A manual is on the way.

And finally, I bought a **Tektronix Type 130 L-C Meter**. All those years at Tek, hearing the occasional prank page for "Elsie Meter", finally made me do it. It worked immediately but needed calibration.

# Photo Display

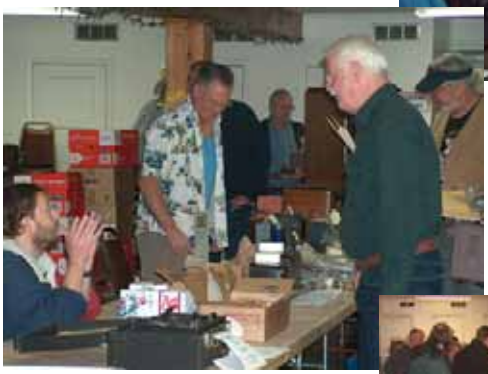
Photos by Rick Walton

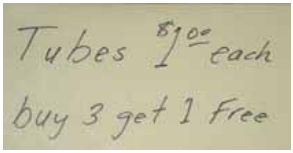
A few photos of the Spring, 2009, Radio Sale & Swap Meet.



PHILCO


THWEST
GE RADIO



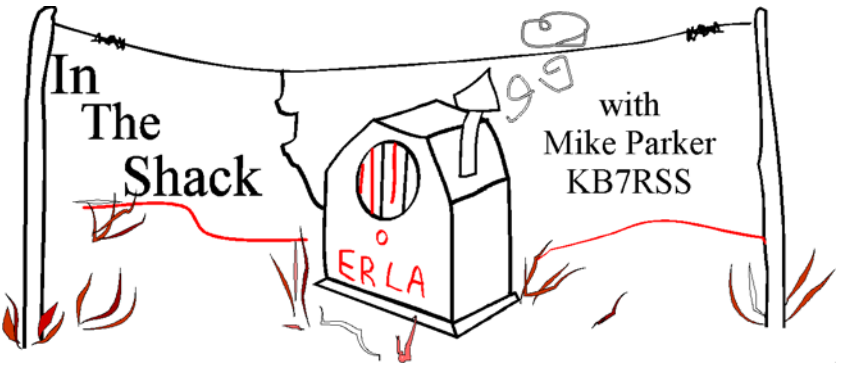

Tubes $1.00 each
buy 3 get 1 Free

# Secretary's Comments On May Swap Meet

Liles Garcia, Recording Secretary

I really enjoyed our May Swap Meet!! The good thing was that all of our swap tables were sold. There didn't seem to be many of the Aurora shopping crowd at our Swap Meet this time. I did very well at buying at our Swap Meet. I bought a mid-production Atwater-Kent Model 30 on eBay. The seller lives between Canby and Aurora, so I invited him to bring his radio to our Swap Meet so that I could pay him for it, and so that he could look at some other radios. This worked out great!! I also bought an Atwater-Kent Model 20.

Usually I bring a radio for "Show-And-Tell" at our Swap Meets. I am currently between projects at my home, and I didn't know which of my radios I should bring. I was talking to Kurt Torgerson a week or so before our Swap Meet, and he graciously offered to bring a three-dial battery set for the "Show-And-Tell" display at the front of the American Legion Hall. Kurt and his son, Lars, brought a beautiful Atwater-Kent Model 20C and an Atwater-Kent horn speaker. Kurt also had a well-engineered power supply for his radio. The radio received many stations, and the radio and horn speaker attracted quite a bit of attention from everyone walking by. Kurt and Lars answered many questions about the radio. Many thanks to Kurt and Lars for bringing such an interesting display of old radio to our Swap Meet!! I hope that everyone enjoyed our Swap Meet as much as I did!!




*Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article appeared initially in the May, 1995* Call Letter*, and was reprinted at least once. Mike has edited and corrected it, and presents it to us as his pick for June.*

Mike is submitting this "In The Shack" article in memory of the late Don Iverson, WA7AKY, a charter member who passed away May 2,2009.

## Restoring A Halowat

Ever since I became interested in 1920's radios, I decided there are two battery sets that I must have in my collection. An Atwater Kent breadboard and a Portland built battery set. Preferably a Halowat.

Well, I still don't have a breadboard, but I came across a Halowat last summer in a rather interesting way.

In the past few years, I have gotten to know Don Iverson quite well. Here is a guy as interesting as his collection of various radios and radio related items. A person with a full time repair shop known as "Wireless Antiques" and able to fabricate his own parts from scratch, if necessary.

Many of the replicated items he has built are under the name "Wireless Apparatus". Don is a charter NWVRS member.

I have never seen Don without at least 3 or 4 projects going on at once. A creative individual, Don has been "at it" for about 40 years. Name an old rare radio part or tube and sure enough, Don has it somewhere! Who else has a working spark transmitter in his living room?

One day while Don and I were prowling through his attic, a virtual "wrecking yard" of 1920's radios, we came across two Halowat TR-5 receivers. One was very complete and one appeared to be all there but was missing some parts. Don wouldn't part with the good one but was

willing to come to terms with me on the partial set, a 1926 model Halowat TR-5 three dial....made in Portland!

Don didn't see any reason to have two Halowat TR-5's and I discussed my plans to restore the parted one to operation, so he decided to sell it to me. He even offered to look through his junk for extra parts and eventually found a few.

As I put the old piece of “junk” in the car, I was so thrilled that I don't even remember driving home!

Upon closer inspection, “In the Shack”, I found that it was missing the rheostat and the hard to find tap switch knob, the on-off switch, the tube sockets and some binding posts. Someone, years ago, had cut out many of the square bus bar connections under the panel. Don swears he didn't do it and found it “as is”.

To the rescue came another friend and long time NWVRS member, Jim Mason. Jim had a nice Halowat TR-5 in his vast collection and when I told him my restoration plans, he kindly let me borrow his set to use as a model.

This kind of cooperation by Don Iverson and Jim Mason is what a radio club is all about and I thank them both for their efforts.

I carefully took Mason's Halowat out of the cabinet and set the chassis upside down. I could now see what my Halowat was missing.

After I compared the two, I marveled at how anybody, other than a nitwit, could have butchered a radio like that! The square busbars were clipped in a crude, illogical manner. Many nuts, bolts and screws were lost including some hard to find nickel plated acorn nuts that Hallock & Watson used to mount the tube sockets to the top of the Bakelite sub-panel. The amber colored “spaghetti” tubing used to cover the busbars was gone. The whole set was filthy.

Many would have given up in disgust, but I had a vision....a perfect, playing Halowat receiver! I had to get busy. I couldn't keep Mason's Halowat forever and besides, I had a goal to fulfill that vision.

I had to order new busbar from Antique Electronic Supply, 6221 S. Maple Ave. Tempe AZ. 85283. Listed in their catalog as “Early Style Square Bus Wire” it is part No. SW-140 and costs $2.00 per 10 ft. roll, plus S&H charges.

My own parts collection produced some of the Eby binding posts, as well as identical small “mica sandwich” capacitors, one with the grid leak clips just like the original. Also, an identical make rheostat appeared. I had to send away for the correct on-off switch.

Another well known NWVRS member, Sonny Clutter, unknowingly supplied the authentic color of wire spaghetti when I picked up a nearly stripped out 1929 Coast Guard receiver from his “free” pile at his radio garage sale last summer.

I cleaned every inch of the Halowat with cotton balls, Q-tips and water or Liquid Wrench. A lot of work but after a while, no more grime and no more Bakelite scratches.

Finding the nickel plated acorn nuts was another story and I learned a lesson the hard way after several wild goose chases. Don't just go to Freddy's or Ace Hardware and expect things to magically appear. They won't! Go to specialty places like General Threaded Products, 2318 S.E. 10th, Portland or Winks Hardware, Portland. There are other places as well that I won't list here. For about $3.00 and $20.00 worth of gas, I found the elusive nickel plated cap nuts at Winks. They are almost identical but have a lower profile hex cut. I guessed that they don't cut them nowdays like they did in the 1920's. The lesson here is that anything new and nickel plated is very scarce these days!

With all the parts ready, I went to work. The square bus wire pieces must be measured and bent accordingly. I used a long nose pliers, being careful not to mar up or twist the bus wire. I cut the spaghetti to fit and butt spliced the new bus wire to the old, forming the pieces to look just like the ones in Mason's Halowat. I could just see the assembly workers in the 1920's, doing this all day for a mere pittance. We have come a long way in electronic assembly!

The bus wires require a lot of heat and I found that an old style big soldering iron worked the best, after I got the feel of it. They are clumsy at first. A high powered soldering gun would work, as well. The tube sockets were not hard to find since Hallock & Watson tended to use common mail order electronic parts rather than make their own like their local competitor, Northwestern Radio.

Finally, the magic moment arrived and I put in the tubes and hooked it up. Response was very good and the Halowat is quite a performer. It pulls in a lot of stations with good volume for a 5 tube TRF circuit and compares favorably to the Fada 192-A, Atwater Kent 20 and Grebe Synchrophase.

“Halowat” was a trade name used by the Hallock & Watson Radio Corp. and formed by using the owners, Joe Hallock and Cliff Watson's last names. The address on the instruction card of my set, serial No. 456, was 192 Park St., Portland, Ore. Also stamped on the instruction card is the name Art Torgler in 2 places. With the help of my friend Bill Hayes, a local Portland historian and ex-radio repairman, we discovered the company was located in a building that still stands at the corner of S.W. Park and Taylor Streets in downtown Portland. He also actually knew Art Torgler and commented that Art was a well known Portland radio enthusiast.

According to McMahon's “Radio Collectors Guide” Hallock & Watson listed a model RF-12 for 1922-23 at $100. The last year listed was 1926 with my model TR-5 for $90 and a 2 dial AW-5 for $160. All indications are that they last sold radios during the 1926-27 season however. They also made several transmitters used locally. A Portland telephone directory after 1927 lists Hallock & Watson as a radio repair shop on E. Grand Ave. I would appreciate any info from other Halowat owners or any historical info on the company.

This was a fun project with a reward and I hope it will inspire anyone with “half a radio” not to give up and to finish the job.

Now, where is that elusive tap switch knob? It is 2 inches across, black with an arrow part way around the skirt....missing knobs are the curse of this hobby! (as you can see by the enclosed photo, I finally found it!).

See you next time, "IN THE SHACK"....73 Mike Parker

# WRNO: May, 2009

Contributed by Blake Dietze

Last time, we discussed resistance line cords in depth and I'm happy to report that all of affected radios have been repaired and reassembled. This month we turned our attention to a more typical power supply component, the power transformer. While the power transformer is a pretty tough when it comes to taking punishment, they can and do fail occasionally. One of the reasons we, as radio collectors, always warn owners not to plug in old radios, and often put fuses in our own radios, is to protect this expensive and hard to change component.

Our key discussion for this month's column is on checking power transformers. The preliminary checks are made with the radio unplugged, tubes removed, and the power switch in the "on" position. The only piece of test equipment required is a simple ohm meter set to the 1K-ohm setting (if you don't have an auto-ranging meter).

Check the resistance presented by each of the windings on the transformer:

- The *primary winding* (should be less than 25 Ohms, typically less than 10 Ohms)
- *High Voltage Secondary* (usually 100 – 250 Ohms); be sure to check the Center tap.
- *Filament Secondary* (typically 1 Ohm or less)
- *Rectifier Filament Secondary* (typically 1 Ohm or less).

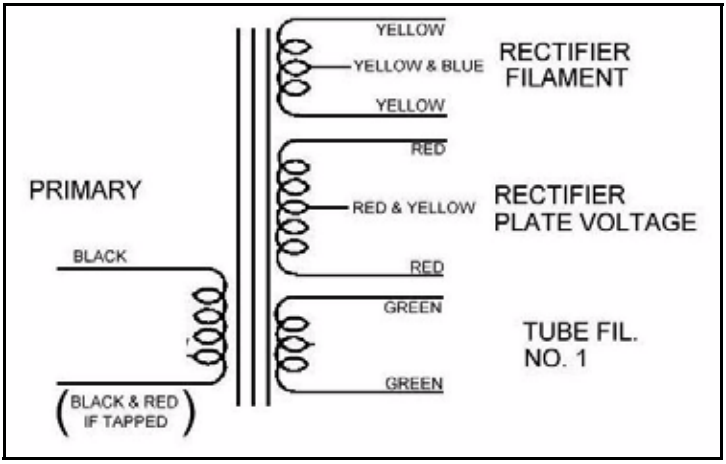
When the transformer is still in the radio, it's actually pretty easy to take these measurements. All of the tubes should be out of the radio. First, locate the rectifier tube socket. Determine which tube pins are for the filament and which are for the High Voltage (HV). If the rectifier is a 4-pin type, the fat pins are the filament, and the narrow ones are for the HV. Other rectifier tubes may require the use of a tube manual or a visit to the web. Some radios use a cathode type rectifier and these radios will only have one filament winding. These rectifiers always have the same filament voltage as the rest of the radio and include: 6X5, 6V4, 6AX5, etc. (versus 5-Volt types like the 5Y3, 5R4, 5Z3, and 80 – 83).

The filament secondary may be measured from any one of the remaining tubes. Remember that the filament is tied to the larger openings on 4, 6, and 7-pin tube socket. The primary may be tested by measuring the resistance across the plug at the end of the electric cord with the on/off switch turned on. If you believe you have an open primary, always put a jumper across the switch to assure that it's the transformer and not the on/off switch.

A note of Caution when looking up tubes in books, manuals, and web sites; Tube Manuals and other resources always depict the socket from a bottom view (underside of the chassis) and pins are counted clockwise. When working from the top of the chassis, remember to count "counter clock wise".

If a complete check of the windings indicates that everything's within acceptable limits of the guidelines listed above, or better yet against the radios schematic, there are still a few important checks to make. With all of the tubes **out** of the radio, power the radio up and look for heat related issues like burning smells, leaking tar from inside of the transformer housing, and check the physical temperature of the transformer. With no load, the transformer should never exceed a luke-warm temperature. Once completed, put all tubes with the exception of the rectifier back in their sockets and repeat the test again. Finally, after your have replaced the filter capacitors, or determined that the existing filters are not shorted; put the rectifier back in the radio and repeat these tests one more time.

If the transformer is out of the radio, or you're replacing the old transformer with a suitable replacement; the diagram below will be of some aid if you are lucky enough to have colored leads that haven't faded to oblivion.




RMA Standard Power Transformer color coding

This month's photo review includes Pat Kagi repairing a speaker on an All American Five in an attempt to foil the local reconing resources (and save a good chunk of cash).

Rick Walton and Ed Tomkins inspecting the chassis from a small Bakelite set purchased on EBay and badly damaged in transit.

Our final picture this month reminds us that warmer weather and longer evenings are fast returning, setting the stage for future topics on cabinet reconstruction and restoration. Cheers till next time.

# 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:* ****RARE** Grunow Selectrol # 1101, 11 tubes 1934. Dick Bosch 1-360-693-3482.

*FOR SALE:* Tektronix type 191 constant amplitude signal generator 335 kc to 100 mc. Robert Campbell

## 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

Todd Olmert – (503) 246-4141

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or walterranft@hotmail.com – 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.

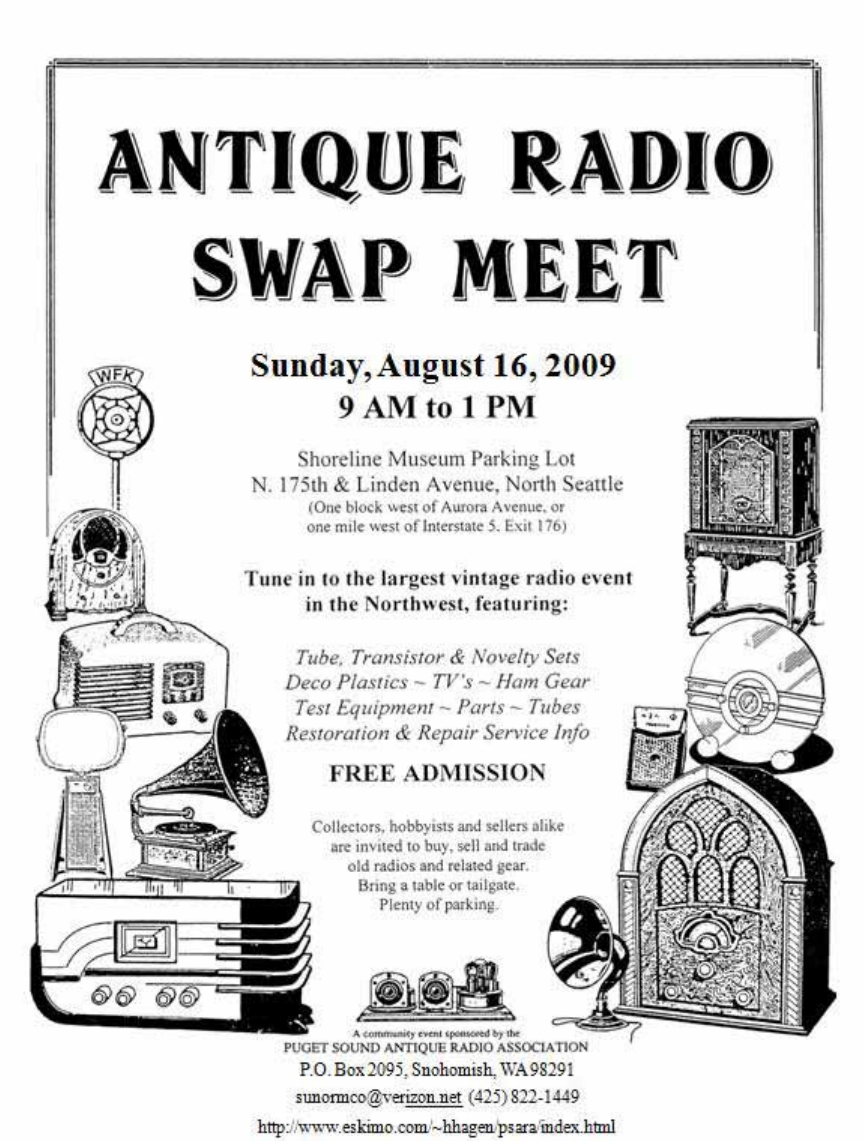
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

## 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

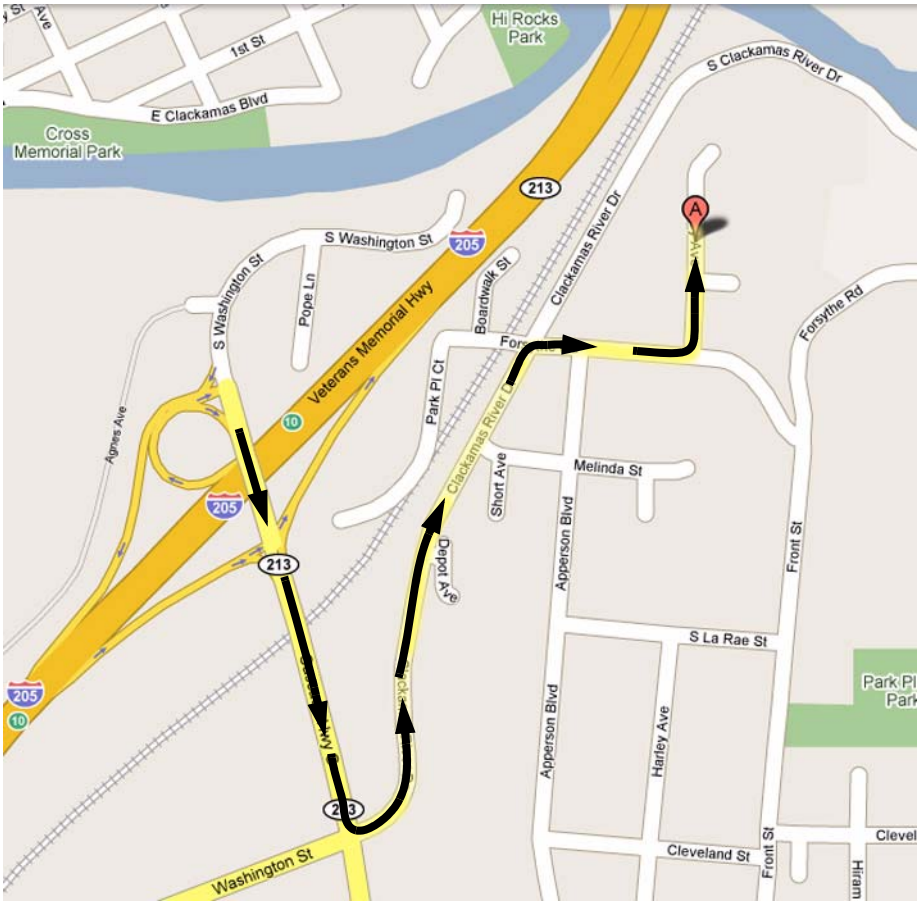
# The Back Page

Our good friends to the north sent us this notice of their upcoming swap meet.



# 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.