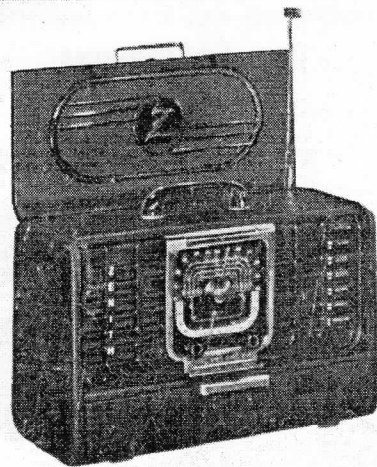
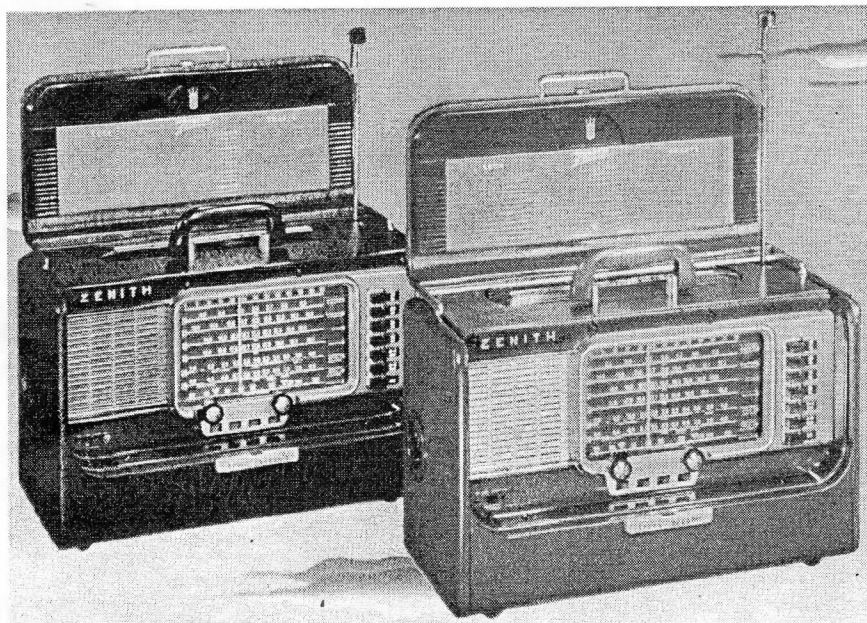


The

Call Letter

February, 2003
Vol. 29 — No. 2



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).

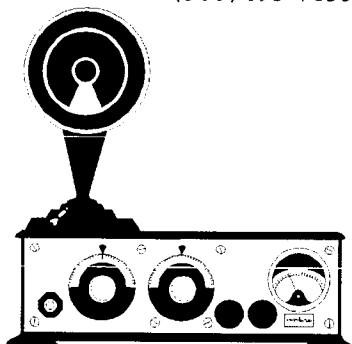
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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: The February monthly feature (below) inspires this month's cover. The pair of Zenith Transoceanics (L600s) are from a 1954 ad in *The Saturday Evening Post*. 1954 was the first year of the six tube - 600 series of TO's. The TO shown at the bottom is from an ad in the June, 1948, issue of *Holiday* magazine. Although not identified by model in the ad, it is likely an 8G005.

The next meeting is on February 8, 2003.

Annual dues are past due!

Monthly feature:

Tube multi-band portables.

Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

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

March Call Letter Deadline: February 25, 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 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*

For the first time in a few years, this February issue doesn't have a Valentine theme on the cover. Instead I found some suitable pictures in magazine ads of Zenith Transoceanics, in keeping with this month's feature. Don't forget, though, that this month's feature also includes the TO wanna-be's, of which there are several. I expect we will see some of those at the meeting.

Notable by its absence in this issue is "Voilà." It is missing due to lack of interest on the part of club members. Surely there are more members acquiring radios than just Sonny Clutter and myself! It's really fun to see what other people have added to their collections. When you find another radio or a whole bunch of radios, drop Sonny a line, either by e-mail or snail mail, and let him and the rest of us in on your triumph!

Although "Voilà" is missing, "Play it Again, Sam!" has returned to these pages. I don't know if it was planned this way, but Dave Wise has stayed with the Transoceanic theme by describing his restoration of an 8G005 TO. As always, Dave has given us all the details with lots of hints and tips for other restorers.

Speaking of tips, Dick Karman shares some collecting wisdom with tips for determining the approximate age of a radio.

Bud Larson shares some of his excitement about the hamfest at Rickreall. That event takes place one week after our club meeting.

For those of you who noticed that I failed to include a Spring Swap Meet in the calendar, I've corrected that oversight and listed the Swap Meet for May 10. Another calendar addition is the Sounds of Nostalgia in Salem on Sunday, February 9. With the club meeting on Saturday, that will be a busy weekend.

Finally, inside the back cover is the Member Information form. If you need to update any of the information requested, fill out that form (or a reasonable facsimile) and mail it to me, or send me the information by e-mail.

NWVRS 2003 Calendar of Events

- February 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 9** Sounds of Nostalgia, State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR.

- February 15** Salem Hamfair, Salem Repeater Association,
Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR
<http://www.qsl.net/w7sra>
- February 22** Hamfest, Naval Postgraduate School ARC,
Seaside (Monterey), CA <http://www.radiofest.org>
- March 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 8** 22nd Annual Electronics Show & Fleamarket,
Mike and Key ARC, Puyallup, WA.
<http://www.mikeandkey.com>
- April 6-7** Yakima Amateur Radio Club W7AQ Hamfest 2003
April 5th, One day only this year, Yakima, WA.
<http://eagle.ykm.com/~W7aq/hamfest.html>
- April 12** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 26** Eagle Rock ARC & Eastern Idaho UHF Society
Idaho Falls, ID
<http://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
<http://www.seapac.org>
- July 19-21** Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest July
18-20, 2003, East Glacier, MT.
<http://www.gwhamfest.org>
- August 2-4** Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Portland, OR. Wil-
lamette Valley DX Club
<http://www.wvdx.org>
- August 16** Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Spanaway, WA
<http://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

Liles Garcia, Secretary

President Cliff Tuttle called the January 11, 2003 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. There were 41 members and guests at our meeting today. Cliff thanked last year's club officers for their service last year. Club members thanked the members and spouses who helped with the Christmas Party in December. The group gave all who helped a round of applause. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the December Call Letter. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved. Armon and Kathy Doll attended today's meeting as guests; and Gordon Phillips introduced his grandson from Chile to the group. Welcome to all of our guests! Club member Don Hunker is recovering well after his surgery.

Old Business

Airport Display: Cliff said that we should have more information about our display later this month.

Swap Meet: Our Spring 2003 Swap Meet will be on May 10, which is the second Saturday in May. The group discussed and approved the idea of having our Swap Meets on a consistent weekend in both May and October.

New Business

Swap Meet Coordinator: Tony Hauser volunteered to coordinate our next swap meet.

Information Book: Cliff discussed the idea of assembling an information book for people new to antique radio collecting. Rick Walton volunteered to help with editing the book; and other members volunteered to contribute to the book. A starting document for the new information book would be our club's "Red Book" that we already have. Cliff asked that any more club members that would like to contribute to the new book contact him during January.

Video Tape on Radio Repair: Cliff asked Sonny Clutter to review a video tape on beginning radio repair. If the tape proves to be beneficial, we can discuss buying one for the library.

“Sounds of Nostalgia”: This swap meet will be on February 9 this year at the State Fairgrounds in Salem. Speed Feldschau has three tables reserved for our club for this event.

Dye Stain: See Gordon Phillips if you are interested in buying any dye stain.

Leads and Needs

Dave Wise would like to find some information written by Bob Pierfelice about a solid state design for the 1L6 tube.

Bob Campbell asked to get information about people that will repair radios.

Program Topic

The program topic for today is “Vintage Speakers, Microphones, and Power Amplifiers”. Members showed and discussed the items that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their items:

First Place: Sonny Clutter—Magnavox Amplifiers and Speakers

Second Place: George Kirkwood—Western Electric 7-A Amplifier and Speakers

Third Place: Dave Brown—1926 Super Musicone Speaker

The program topic for February will be “Multi-band Tube Portables such as Transoceanics, and TO look-a-likes” (the radio should have a handle on the top).

Dave Wise will have a technical session on a 1930’s tombstone radio at our next meeting.

Roster Update

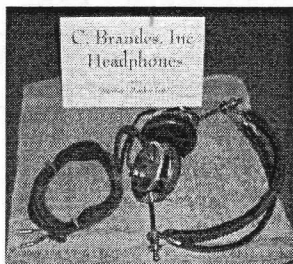
New member:

Armon Doll
2015 Cranbrook Dr.
Vancouver, WA 98664
(360) 896-9234
meeeggshell@AOL.com

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

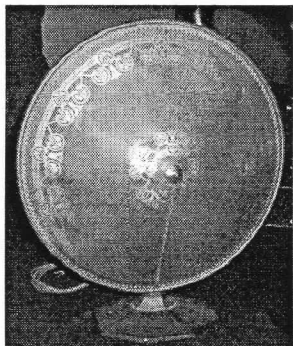
Speakers and microphones featured at the January meeting.



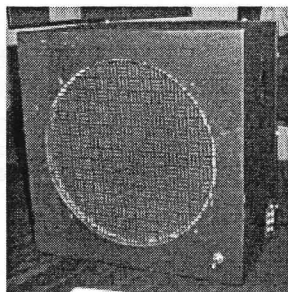
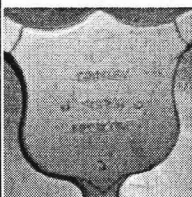
Lloyd Harris –
Brandes Headphones



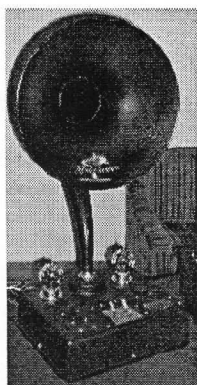
Andy Bell – Carbon Microphone and
Bristol Model C folded horn



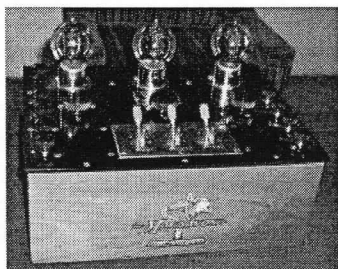
Dave Brown – Crosley
cone speaker



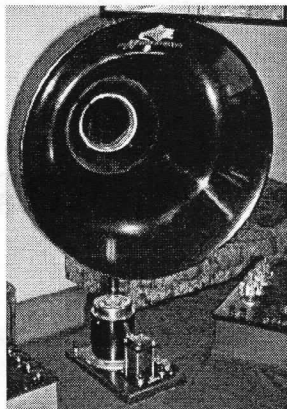
Liles Garcia –
Military Speaker



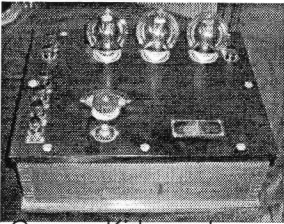
Sonny Clutter –
Magnavox A2-B



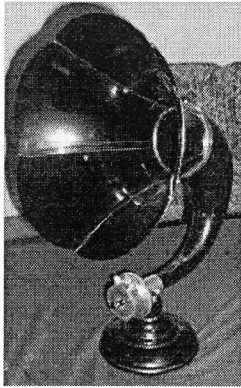
Sonny Clutter –
Magnavox A3-C



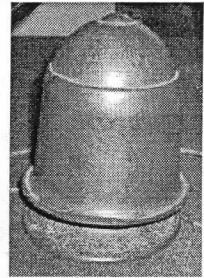
Sonny Clutter –
Magnavox R2-B



George Kirkwood –
Western Electric Amp



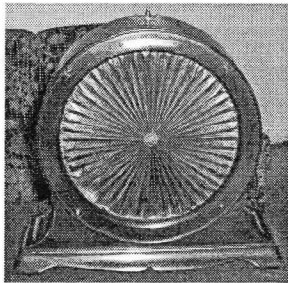
George Kirkwood –
Burns horn speaker



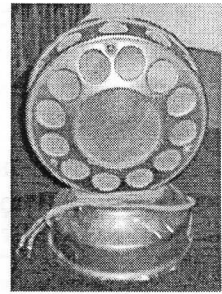
George Kirkwood –
Utah "Mushroom"
folded horn



Jerry Talbott –
Magnavox Aristocrat



Jerry Talbott –
Victor Model 1 (not RCA)



Jerry Talbott –
Kodel Mic/Speaker

Officers for 2003



Cliff Tuttle,
President

George Kirkwood,
Vice President

Ed Charman,
Treasurer

Liles Garcia,
Secretary

Tips

By Dick Karman

Down through the years the question that I get asked most is, "How old is this radio?" I don't claim to be a great authority on radios so I don't trust my own judgement. I use a quick reference guide that I'd gleaned from some knowledgeable collectors down through the years.

For instance certain characteristics of a radio were not seen prior to particular years.

- Alternating Current consoles with built-in speakers were seldom seen before 1927.
- Cathedrals and "compact" radios weren't seen much before 1929.
- Airplane type tuning dials - 1933.
- Plastic radio sets - 1937.
- Cloth covered portable radio sets and consoles with push button tuning - 1939.
- FM sets that show frequencies of 42-50 MC - 1941.
- And FM sets that show dial frequencies of 88-108 MC - about 1946.

If you have the set in front of you and the manufacturer's plate is still stuck to the back you can also look at the patent number. (This trick was published in *Vintage Radio* many years ago.) It is easy to understand that radio set was manufactured after the most recent patent number was issued. By referring to this chart of the year that the patent number began to be issued you can get a pretty good idea of how young the set is.

1900 - 660,000	1918 - 1,240,000	1936 - 2,010,000
1902 - 720,000	1920 - 1,320,000	1938 - 2,100,000
1904 - 770,000	1922 - 1,410,000	1940 - 2,180,000
1906 - 830,000	1924 - 1,500,000	1942 - 2,270,000
1908 - 890,000	1926 - 1,580,000	1944 - 2,340,000
1910 - 950,000	1928 - 1,660,000	1946 - 2,390,000
1912 - 1,020,000	1930 - 1,760,000	1948 - 2,430,000
1914 - 1,080,000	1932 - 1,850,000	1950 - 2,500,000
1916 - 1,150,000	1934 - 1,940,000	

And lastly, for you technical folks, a fellow named Herb Brams who was a member several years ago (may still be) used tube identifiers as dating criteria. My scribbles may be a little shaky so some of you may have a better reference point than this.

- Early 1920s (WD-11, WD-12, 00-A, and 01-A.) 4 pin bases.
- Late 1920s (26,27,45,50, and 71A,) 4 or 5 pin bases.
- Early 1930s (24A, 35, 57, 58, and 2A5) 5 or 6 pin bases.
- Mid 1930s (41, 42, 75, 8, 6A7, and 6D6) 6 or 7 pin bases.
- Late 1930s (5Y3, 6A8, 6K7, 6Q7, and 6F6) 8 pin bases.
- Early 1940s (7B7, 7C5, 7C6, 7Y4, and 35Z3) lock in bases.
- Late 1940s (12SA7, 12SK7, 12SQ7, and 50L6) Octal bases.
- 1950s (12BA6, 12BE6, 12AV6, and 50C5) miniature 7 pin bases.

I'll be sending some more tips to our editor - You can too. Just take a few minutes to share with other members things that might help out. It makes you feel worthwhile and it helps the editor.

Widen Your Interests: An Invitation to Rickreall

Bud Larson, W7LNG

Many of us radio people get in a rut. Maybe we specialize in collecting tubes, fixing old radios or even tackling an impossible job. (Not worth fixing) Attending a swapmeet can give some fresh ideas.

Twice a year there are meets at Polk Co. Fairgrounds west of Salem where Hwy 22 meets 99W (usually called Rickreall.) info:wc7m@arrl.net or (503)585-5338. The next one occurs SATURDAY, FEB. 15, 2003. 9AM-3PM. Vendors can get in 2 hours early for set up.

While mostly radio amateurs show up, others attend, too. Last time, beside the ham items, there were several old radios, tubes, and test equipment. Components can be cheap. What to do with 500 2N2222A transistors? or dozens of 12A6 tubes? The tubes found a place in a simple transmitter. When it appeared in the Oct. '02 World Radio mag, the orders started coming. Soon I was scrambling to find parts enough.

My personality changes when I have a swap table. It's a challenge to sell your wares and become a sales person for a day. Come to Rickreall and have fun.

Play It Again, Sam!

Compiled by Dave Brown

David Wise: Zenith Transoceanic 8G005

To others doing an 8G005: The following caps all need to be replaced: C24 on 1LE3, C23 on 1LB4, C10 on 1LD5, C24 on 1LB4, C22 on vol. cont., C13 on 1LE3, C10 on RF 1LN5, and C10 buried in the pegboard wiring. This is all the audio coupling caps (quite a few in the 8G005) and the AVC bypasses. People tend to ignore the latter, but the AVC string has a pretty high impedance in this model, and the bypass caps go to odd voltages, so even a little leakage will pull the whole string awry, which can really hurt weak-signal performance.

Zenith had an annoying habit of assigning a circuit number for each part VALUE, not each part individually. That's why I list three C10s.

If you change the VC C22 from .0005 to .001 and the front 1LB4 C23 from .001 to .005, bass response will improve. However, the output transformer saturates easily, so you can't take it any further without distortion on some kinds of music. This is the only tube T-O with push-pull output. This sounds neat, but even with the cap changes, it is no match for the later models. My H500 is the best-sounding portable I've ever heard, beating most table models too.

Weak 1LD5 or 1LE3 will not materially affect performance unless they're 90% dead. The 1LD5 is loafing along at a tiny fraction of its rated plate current. The 1LE3, used as a phase inverter for the push-pull 1LB4s, is wired with circuit values that make the gain almost independent of emission. On the other hand, a weak 1LC6 or 1LN5 will put a dent in shortwave sensitivity. The converter is particularly important. The 8G005 uses a 1LC6, and all newer sets use a 1L6. My Hickok 600A Gm tester has two tests for these tubes, one for the oscillator section and one for the mixer. The oscillator test is the touchstone. If it's even a little weak, SW performance will be way down, and in fact the oscillator may either fail to start or run a minute then drop out. Since the supply of weak 1L6s is bigger than the supply of good ones, I intend to experiment with a switchable chassis mod which increases its filament voltage, trading short life against unusability.

If a tube burns out, one or more filter caps charge to high voltages and will either blow up after a while, or, if you insert a fresh tube with the power on, they'll burn it out. As a safety measure, I always add a zener

diode across the filament string. Since this customer insisted he wanted to run the set on batteries (!), I found a neat place to put the zener so it wouldn't drain them. The spot is on the changeover switch, between an unused terminal and A-. The unused terminal happens to connect to A+ but only when the set is on line power. For the 7G605 and 8G005, A+ is 10.5V and I use an 11V, 1W diode. On other T-Os, A+ is 9V and I use a 9V diode. On 600-series T-Os, this allows you to replace a burned-out 50A1 with a power resistor while maintaining filament regulation.

These sets always have alignment trouble. There's too much stray capacitance in the wiring on the RF grid, mixer grid, and oscillator grid. When the sets were new, they would barely align. I don't know for sure, but I think the coil forms and sealing wax have slowly undergone chemical changes over the decades that increased their dielectric constant. By paying close attention to lead dress, you may be able to bring a set back from the brink. Keep those three wires as far away from everything else as possible. If that isn't enough, your only choice is to remove turns from coils. On this set, I got away without having to do so.

Note that the rod antenna's stray capacitance is tuned by the antenna coils. If you just lay it on the bench, it will have more capacitance than usual and your alignment will be wrong if it's even possible to align. Hang it from the ceiling so its bottom end is next to the chassis, and hook it up with a *short* jumper. Collapse one antenna section by the exact length of the jumper. On the G500 and newer, all the slugs face to the rear and you can align it in the cabinet. You can also align the 7G605 in the cabinet. Its slugs face to the front and are accessible if you remove the bandswitch escutcheon.

The tuning cap stators were loose. I was surprised to find that their exact position is less critical than I thought. I took advantage of it to peak up the tuning slightly at the bottom end of the MW band (not otherwise adjustable), then glued them down.

DeOxit works wonders with dirty bandswitch contacts, but some contacts may be "sprung" and must be tightened up to make a reliable contact. Heaven help you if the bad one is buried deep inside! On the 8G005 and later, the AVC is distributed through a fairly complicated divider network. I went to the trouble of calculating the expected no-signal voltages. I recommend novices do this as an exercise in Thevenin's theorem, but if you just want results, the RF, mixer, and IF grids are all within 0.10V of their respective F- pin.

Riders publishes stage gains for the T-Os. Since they don't tell you how they were measured, this isn't too useful, but for the heck of it I did my own, and to my surprise they weren't too far off. Contact me if you want to discuss my test setup.

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 "hopopco1@attbi.com".

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

FOR SALE: **1938 Stromberg Carlson console. \$110. Call Tony at 360-944-8489 or ranft@saw.net

FOR SALE: *Tubes, tested except the 807s.

2	1L6	\$20 ea.	4	6V6	\$5 ea.
2	6L6 metal	\$20 ea.	1	NOS 45	\$70
1	NOS 6L6	\$45	2	45	\$35 ea.
1	6MJ6	\$35	1	NOS 83	\$20
1	6JE6	\$15	6	807	\$3

And more in tube caddy — or whole lot for \$225. Contact Damon Vandehey, (503)259-9129.

FOR SALE: **Grunow console model 1080 "Super Teledial" chassis 10G, very nice working radio with a beautiful cabinet, \$150. Call or write for more details, Vance 541-753-3356 or vdaberko@fastmail.fm

WANTED: Chassis for the cabinets shown at right. Contact Glen Bricker (541) 942-3717

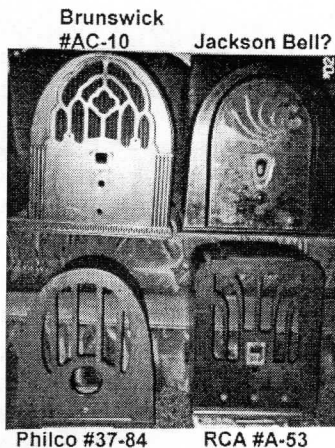
Leads and Needs

Jeff Martin: I need an instruction book or one that I could copy for a Sprague Tel_Ohmike (TO-5). I also need a copy of the sticker for the bottom of a Stromberg Carlson Model 1101 that I am restoring.

Pat Kagi: I need a dial glass for a Silvertone console, model 1981. It is a round dial, about 7 1/4 inches in diameter. If you have one of these for sale, or one that I could scan, please let me know.

Also see the "Leads and Needs" section of 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>



Member Information

Just in case we don't have your most current member information, please take the time to send the information requested on this form.

Name*:

Mailing Address*:

City, State, ZIP*:

Ham Call Sign:

E-mail:

Phone:

Collecting Interest (e.g. Battery sets, consoles, clock radios, etc.):

*Information we must have to be able to send you your Call Letter. The rest is optional, but we hope you'll share it with other club members.

Mail this sheet (or something like it) to Rick Walton at the society's mailing address:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379

Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

or e-mail the information to rwalton@easystreet.com.