

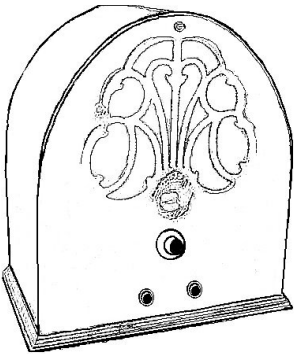
The

Call Letter

May, 2003
Vol. 29 — No. 5

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**

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).

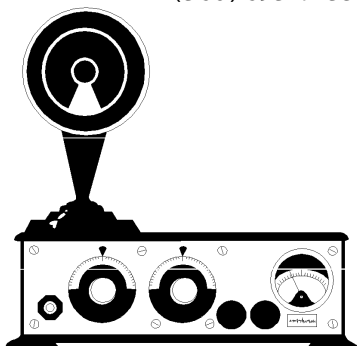
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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 flyer for our Spring Swap/Sale.

The Swap/Sale is on May 10, 2003.

Annual dues are past due!

Monthly feature for June:

Plastic radios of the '40's.

The Swap/Sale starts at 9:00 a.m.!

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

June Call Letter Deadline: June 3, 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

What happened to April? It seems just days, not weeks, ago that I was finishing up the April issue of the *Call Letter* and here I am, scrambling to put the final touches on the May issue.

This month's cover is the flyer for the May Swap/Sale. I don't know about the rest of you, but the Swap/Sales are the events I most enjoy. I always seem to bring home some treasure (that's not what my wife calls it). Maybe by the Fall Swap/Sale, I'll be ready to haul a few of those treasures to the Rose Center for someone else to find irresistible!

In this month's photos, you'll see the Trego sets that took first place for Blake Dietz in the voting at last month's meeting. As Blake gave his description of the radios and their history, I was reminded that there had been coverage of Trego in one of Mike Parker's "In the Shack" columns at some point in the not-too-distant past. With just a little digging, I found it in the February 1999 issue of the *Call Letter* and I've reprinted it for the benefit of those who weren't members in 1999 (as well as those who were).

The subject of one-tube radios took my thinking in another direction. I'm sure that a number of you were Cub Scouts in the early fifties as I was, and perhaps you remember that in one of the Cub handbooks there were plans for a one-tube set. If anyone has those plans or the book, I'd love to see them and perhaps reprint them in the *Call Letter* at some point.

The "Radio Service" category is now in the "Swap Shop." I listed just the two members whose names I have in my notes, and I apologize to those who gave me their names and I have forgotten. Please remind me again so I can include you.

NWVRS 2003 Calendar of Events

- 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

Liles Garcia, Secretary

President Cliff Tuttle called the April 12, 2003 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. He thanked Ed Charman for chairing the March meeting in the absence of Cliff, George, and Liles. There were 47 members and guests at our meeting today. Ed gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the March Call Letter. Cliff also thanked Tony Hauser for taking the meeting minutes at our March meeting. Members gave Rick Walton a round of applause for the very timely April *Call Letter* cover. Jim Harper from Newberg and Dave Hackney attended today's meeting as guests. Welcome to our guests!

Old Business

Library — John said that our library is busy and active. We have some long unused library books that will be available for sale at our Swap Meet.

Swap Meet — Tony asked for volunteers to help set up for our Swap Meet; several members raised their hands. Dick Bixler described the advertising for our swap meet. He also asked for volunteers to attend the morning TV show at KATU (Channel 2) on May 8. We will print some extra Call Letters to pass out at our swap meet and also at the Red Cross event.

Airport Display — The Airport is delaying installing the display cases because of increased security. The display could be postponed for as long as six months, and the Airport will keep our club informed.

Name Tags — See Gordon Phillips if you would like a name tag.

New Business

Red Cross Blood Drive Display — The Red Cross is having a 1950's theme blood drive on July 19. They would like for us to display some of our radios at the event. The blood drive event will be from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Red Cross. An old car club and an Elvis Presley impersonator will also be at this blood drive event. Wendy Johnson-Kent works for the Red Cross and she will coordinate this event for our club.

Technical Talk

George Kirkwood talked to the group about constant-frequency crystals. He showed the group a constant-frequency crystal assembly. The crystal is kept at a controlled elevated temperature in a tiny oven. The crystal and its oven are then contained in a thermos-like container. A crystal assembly like this can provide a very stable, constant frequency that can be used for various applications. Members gave George a round of applause for his interesting presentation.



Leads and Needs

Dick Bixler needs a wood knob for an Airline table radio. He also needs to know how to fix a slipping dial on an Hammarlund SP-600 receiver.

Ray Nelson has three consoles for sale.

Program Topic

The program topic for today was “One Tube Radios“. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First Place—Blake Dietze—Trego radios

Second Place—Roger Brown—One tube home built radio

Third Place—Alan Shadduck—Westinghouse Aeriola Sr.

The program topic for June will be “1940's Plastic Radios“.

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

Here are the one-tube radios featured at the April meeting.



1923 Trego — Blake Dietze —



Tri-City 2-tube amp & horn



Airline Special – UV199 — Blake Dietze —



Tri-City – '01A



One-tube Transmitting Station — Dick Bixler



Crosley Cincinatti Model V – WD12
— George Kirkwood —



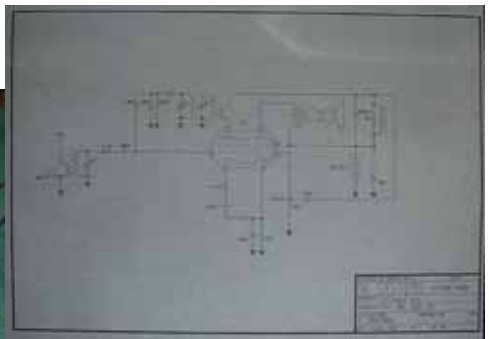
Kirkwood reflex



Aeriola Sr. — George Kirkwood — Monroe – 201A



Brown single reflex – 1E7 — Roger Brown





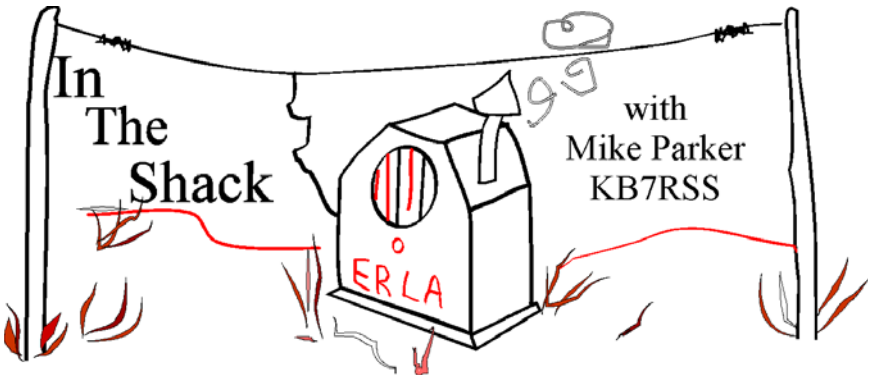
Homebrew with WD11 — Mark Richardson



Kit built by Dave's Grandfather – WD12 — Dave Brown — Radiola Sr.



Aeriola Sr. — Alan Shadduck



In the Shack

Nellie Trego's Radio

At the recent auction of the late James Mason's collection, I was a successful bidder on a rather interesting Battery Set. The radio is a TREGO, 3 tube regenerative set, circa 1923 or 24, made in Kansas City, MO.



I had never seen this radio during several of the times that I visited the wonderful Mr. Mason's Museum and if it was where I found it at the auction preview, it was on the floor, shoved under a table.

Not too long before that, I had been reading with fascination the story of Nellie Trego and her radio company, as outlined on page 195 of *Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's, Vol.3* by Alan Douglas. Trego Radio is mentioned in his section on TRI-CITY Radio Electric Supply Co. of Davenport, Iowa (TRESKO) because Trego was one of several companies that were using Tresco's Armstrong license for his patented regenerative radio circuit, which had been loaned illegally by Tresco. Douglas speculates that Westinghouse, that ubiquitous guardian of the "radio patents" during the '20's filed suit with Tresco to stop this illegal subcontracting in 1923. The ad for Trego shown on page 195 is in *Radio News*, dated April, 1923 and shows a 1 tube regenerative receiver using a WD-11 tube. Some photos of other Trego one tube sets are included, which all look very similar to the Tresco. The 3 tube set that I have, is not mentioned nor is it listed in McMahan's blue book, *Radio Collectors Guide*, who list Trego from 1923 and list only a 1-tube regen. that year and a 3-dial 5-tube TRF for '24, '25 and '26. McMahan's *Vintage Radio* shows a picture of a Trego 3-dial set and I have seen one in a junk shop here in Oregon, in shabby condition and priced in orbit! I can only guess

that Trego made my set right around the time of the Tresco lawsuit and did not advertise it nationally, therefore not making McMahon's listing. So Trego had to switch to a common TRF circuit, which was better anyway and did not radiate signals, and Tresco, after getting fined by the folks at the "Patent Fort", kept on making regenerative sets such as the TRESCOLA, until they sold their license and name to Steinite, Atchison, KS. later on. TRI-CITY/TRESCO was also noted for making many radios for Montgomery Ward & Co. and were sold through their store and catalog.

The story of Nellie Trego is even more interesting and is also presented in Douglas Vol. 3, p.195. An article in the New York *Telegram*, dated Aug. 20, 1927 is headlined; "Young Woman Heads Large Radio Company" and "Started on Credit-----Business Now Said to be Million Dollars Annually" and describes how Nellie started into the radio business....very unusual in those times of male dominated manufacturers. A photo of a rather determined Mrs. Trego, accompanies the article.

The article describes how Nellie was left a widow when her husband, a hardware dealer in Humboldt, Kansas, died in 1915. Nellie, packed up her young daughter and a few belongings and headed for Kansas City, the nearest metropolis. She went to business college for a few weeks and then obtained employment with a rubber and tire manufacturer. Starting as a stenographer, she rose to success in the company and purchased company stock along the way, when a collapse of the market brought the concern to bankruptcy, (apparently the 1921 crash).

She then mortgaged her small home for \$3000, spent \$2500 on advertising and with the remaining \$500, purchased equipment and started a small radio company on credit, using men as helpers, formerly with the tire company. The article states that the orders just kept rolling in and Nellie was now a well recognized Kansas City businesswoman with the plant covering an entire block and bringing in a "Million Dollars Annually" (I have trouble swallowing that last part!). No radio company, as small and Midwestern as hers, could have possibly pulled in that kind of money!

Nellie Trego, small in stature and weighing 110 pounds, who had denied many marriage proposals, is quoted as saying, "It is not necessary that one be a physical giant to be a success in business. One merely must be able to look ahead and willing to risk his or her own judgement. That is what I did when I foresaw the future of the radio business."

How true! I speculate that she was very lucky that she tried it in 1922 or 23 because by 1925 she would not have had a chance against the onslaught of new competition in THAT peak sales year. I also find it curious that the New York *Telegram* article was in August, 1927, yet

McMahon's guide shows Trego's last production year as 1926. Perhaps some 1927 models were made but I would guess the company quit production by not being ready to gear up for production of AC plug-in radio sets.

I have named my Trego 3-tube set "Nellie" after that very courageous young lady who had a vision and made a business out of it. Recently I have tried Nellie under D.C. power, using a 6 volt storage battery for the tube filaments and a 90 volt battery pack made out of series 9 volt batteries, with taps for 45 and 22.5 for the B+ for tube plate voltages. A 35 foot antenna, up here IN THE SHACK is connected to Ant. binding post on the front panel. The set has 2 dials, on the left, a variable condenser with a small knob in the center of the large knob turns a single blade on the rear of the condenser for fine tuning, causing the usual regenerative squealing. The right tuning knob controls a variometer with taps wired to a five point external tap switch below the tuning knobs. The far left point is KXL 750 all over most of the range. The tap switch is progressive up the AM dial with tap 4 swamped with blowtorch KEX 1190. So far, after a lot of careful tuning, I have logged 7 stations, mostly mixed with other stations in the background. With the bandwidth of the modern day mega-power AM stations, I can excuse Nellie for not being very selective. I hope all those regen. "bloopers" are not disturbing the neighbors! They are all FM heads anyway!

On the right side of the front panel is the audio section with a rheostat for each of the 3 stages and an output phone jack for each stage, like the Westinghouse RC. What really stands out are the 3 large peephole bezels with screens to view the tube filaments. They are trimmed with very nice silver escutcheons. The wiring inside is square busbar and the tube sockets and the very small sub-panel are screwed to a base board, like a home-brew set. the transformers are very crude and are open frame with the winding around the top side of the square lamination frame. A small factory tag is attached under the lid that simply says Trego Radio manufactured by Trego Radio Mfg. Co. Kansas City Mo. The lift top has hook and eye lid locks on each side of the cabinet, like a Grebe CR-9.

I can only describe this radio, old Nellie, as....primitive, both in appearance and in performance, which is exactly the way I want her! My future plans for the Trego are.....none at all! Since it works, I prefer to keep it the way Jim found it. By the way, if any of you know where in H....Jim found it, I would very much like to know. Maybe at a flea market in K.C.?

QSO you next time.....IN THE SHACK

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Vance Daberko — Another busy month. (Some of these items came from a retired radio/tv service shop owner, north of Corvallis.)

Hallicrafters S-40A and S-20R receivers.

Early Hewlett Packard audio generator model 202D.

Motorola DS-9660B “CONELRAD” industrial grade, rack mount a.m. receiver.

1952 Brook 3C audio preamp.

Bogen theatre amplifier with 807 output tubes.

Knight kit KF-65 am/fm tuner with unusual miniature tuning eye.

Lloyd Harris — 1941 Philco console, model 41-265. 3 band, push-button, 7-tube, 2 IF's, works great!

1955 Zenith TransOceanic Model A600. Complete with books and schematic. Works fine.

Dave Brown — Found: Twenty years ago and before I started collecting, I unwisely sold three radios from my grandfather's personal estate to a collector in Washington. About 10 years ago I realized my mistake and started searching for this collector. Finally about two months ago, I located him and he still had the radios I had sold him! When he realized that I had sold him members of my family, he was pleased to put together a trade that has allowed me to once again take ownership of two of the three radios - a Radiola 25 and a 1918 Giblyn RadioEar Crystal set. Over the years my dad had told me many, many stories about his family gatherings around the Radiola 25 in the late 1920s. What of the third radio? It's a Radiola 1. Perhaps someday we'll make a deal for it too!

Sonny Clutter — Found a rare “Donle-Bristol” vacuum tube while on my trip to Ohio/Kentucky to attend the open house of The “Early Television Foundation”, more on this later.

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 "[hopopcol1@attbi.com](mailto:hpopcol1@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@trixaxiseng.com.

FOR SALE: DC-to-AC power converter. 24VDC input, 110 VAC output. Provides emergency backup power and voltage spike protection. \$100. Includes two 12V auto batteries and converter unit. Contact Frank Olberding. 503-357-8375.

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)

Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

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

Dave Wise – (503) 293-7835, david_wise@phoenix.net

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

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>

Swap/Sale Location!

The Swap/Sale is held at the Salvation Army Rose Center, 1785 NE Sandy Boulevard (see the map).

