

The
**Call
Letter**

March, 2005
Vol. 31 — No. 3



30 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 (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 2005:



President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
Vice-President	Dave Brown	(503) 585-4667 ironradio@qwest.net
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@aol.com
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648 rwalton@easystreet.com
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 BonJonBuck@webtv.net

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On the cover: The marvels of radio are depicted in this cover from the 1927 catalog published by the T. Eaton Co., Ltd., of Winnipeg, Canada

The next meeting is on March 12, 2005.

Last call for annual dues

March Feature: The radio you are least likely to sell

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

Have you paid your dues for 2005 yet? If not, this is your last issue of the Call Letter! Don't miss a single issue. Pay your dues at the next meeting or send them to the club treasurer at the club's post office box.

Don't delay!

April Call Letter Deadline: March 30, 2005.

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.

Announcing the NWVRS 2005 Annual Radio Competition

During our regular April gathering on April 9th 2005, we will be having our Annual Radio Competition in place of the Monthly Feature. There will be six categories:

- Wireless Sets and Pre-War Crystal Sets
- '20s Battery Sets
- '20s AC Sets
- '30s - '40s Wood Sets
- '30s - '40s Plastic Sets
- Miscellaneous

One entrant may enter as many 2 radios. They may be entered in the same or in different categories.

The following panel will judge:

- Sonny Clutter
- Blake Dietz
- George Kirkwood
- Mike Parker (tentative)

First, Second and Third place ribbons will be awarded in each category.

Bring out your best, let's have a little competition and a lot of fun!

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

I'll start out with the unpleasant stuff. If you didn't notice on the contents page, this is your last Call Letter if you haven't paid your dues for 2005. Dues are supposed to be paid in January, but we try to cut some slack because that's right on top of the holidays, home heating costs are at their highest, and other reasons that we can buy — until March. Now it's time to take care of that little obligation that falls to all members. I don't know how many haven't paid yet. Maybe it's only a few. Nevertheless, we must have your financial commitment to the society for another year or we must take your name off the rolls. We'd rather not.

Now on to more pleasant topics.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming meeting because I have a radio to bring. In case you didn't see it on the contents page, the feature this month is "The radio you're least likely to part with." I got excited as soon as I heard it announced because I knew exactly which radio to bring. Of all the radios that clutter my house bottom-to-top, front-to-back, there is really only one that I would keep if forced to make that choice. It isn't the most valuable, most beautiful, oldest radio I own, but it is the one I treasure most for reasons I'll explain at the meeting. I'll bet that most of you have a set that fits that description.

In putting together the Photo Display this month, I discovered that I had failed to get the name of Frank Olberding's radio. Try as I might, I couldn't quite make it out in the close-up photo that I have. So I posed the question to the e-mail list: What was the name of Frank Olberding's radio? Right away Liles Garcia and Mike Parker assured me that the radio was a Dymac (or Dymec - neither was quite sure of the spelling). Mike wrote:

Frank's radio is a DYMAC (spelling?) A circa 1925 5-tube TRF 3-dial battery set. Very obscure brand made in Rhode Island. I see no info on it in what available sources I have checked so far. Will let you know if I find anything.

I tried a Google search for that name, but came up with only a couple of headphones, Dymac Type F. Then came the e-mail from Ludwell Sibley, giving me a short history of the Dymac. He wrote:

"Dymac" in Rider's or the McMahon "Radio Collector's Guide" or the 1924 Radio Trade Directory is strictly fuhgeddaboutit. However, the '25 Radio Trade Directory says the brand belonged to the Electrical Products Mfg. Co. of 69 Sprague St., Providence, RI. Going back into McMahon under Electrical Products yields a 1925 "Dymac Selecto 5" and a 1926 "Dymac Somerlog" [sic]. TRFs of 5 and 6 tubes respectively. Rare stuff!

Wow. All that in just one day. The Yahoo group can be trying at times, but it can also be a great resource.

I've begun this month reprinting one of the more popular and enjoyable series of articles in recent years, Mike Parker's "In the Shack." This month I've reprinted the very first of the series from the January 1995 Call Letter. I'll continue to do that because many current members haven't had opportunity to read these informative and entertaining pieces.

From that same January 1995 issue, I've reprinted "Atmospherica," the longrunning poetry series in the Call Letter by Tom James. Tom began contributing humorous poetry to the newsletter in early 1975 (it was issue #4), and continued until the time of his death in 1984. I will try to include more of Tom's witty and often insightful poetry in coming issues.

There are also photos of the Sounds of Nostalgia display, of last months featured radios, and of Dave Brown's restoration project.

NWVRS 2005 Calendar of Events

- March 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 12** 23rd Annual Electronics Show & Fleamarket, Mike and Key ARC, Puyallup, WA.
<http://www.mikeandkey.com/flea.htm>
- March 26** Langley Amateur Radio Association, Radio & Computer Swap Meet. Aldergrove Elks Hall, 27309 Fraser Highway, Aldergrove BC. www.langleyamateurradio.com
- April 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 9** Inland Northwest Hamfest & Computer Show, Lilac City ARC & Lilac City Chapter of 10-10 International, St. Ann's Parish Hall, East 2120 First Avenue, Spokane, Wa.
- April 16** Yakima Amateur Radio Club W7AQ Hamfest 2004 Selah Civic Center, Selah, WA.
<http://eagle.ykm.com/~W7aq/hamfest.html>
- May 8** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- May 8** Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Club Ham, Computer and Electronics Swap Meet. Maple Ridge, BC. www.qsl.net/ve7rnr/index5.html
- May 14** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- May ?** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood, WA. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7005.
- May 21** Chili Cook Off and Electronics Swap Meet. Albany, Oregon Near 1-5 just off Highway 20. 12:00 noon until! Contact Steve, (541)928-2207. www.qsl.net/wa7abu.
- June 3,4,5** Apple City Radio Club Hamfest, Dryden Gun club. Dryden, WA. Go to the intersection of Hiway 2 and Hiway 97 and look for the signs. Contact Judy, ka7zna(5),msn.com. www.qsl.net/w7td/
- June 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

- June 11** Hamfest 2005. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. Lions Club, Hiway 53, Rathdrum, ID. For more info contact Jim, N7ESU at (208)667-4915 or email n7esu@arrl.net
- July 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 17-19** SEA*PAC, Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, OR Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC <http://www.seapac.org>
- July 15-17** Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest July 18-20, 2003, East Glacier, MT.
<http://www.gwhamfest.org>
- July 23** Hamfest - Swapmeet. Bandon, OR. Located at the "Barn" (Bandon's Community Center). Sponsored by the Coos County Radio Club. Contact Paul, K7AIA at (541)888-2050 or k7aia@arrl.net.
- July 30** Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society Hamfest. Lewis County Fair Grounds, Chehalis, WA. For details, contact John Ellingson, K7OSK, k7osk@boatanchor.com.
- August 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 13** Hamfest and Electronics Flea Market, Radio Club of Tacoma; Bethel Junior High School 22001 38th Avenue East, Spanaway, WA
- August 13** Christina Lake Amateur Radio Picnic/Camp out. Christina Lake Motor Inn, Christina lake, BC, Canada. For information, contact janroyfg@shaw.ca. (250)497-6136.
- August 13** The 8th Annual Greater Portland Insulator Swap. Located on Mt. Scott in southeast Portland -- 9999 SE Frenchacres Dr. Portland, OR Starts at 1:00 pm and runs until early evening. No charge. For more information contact Dan Howard (503)761-7799 email strains@msn.com.
- August 20** Longview Hamfair. New location at the Castle Rock Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Lower Columbia Amateur Radio Association. For information contact Bob, KB7ADO, KB7ADO@aol.com. Flyer in PDF, (37K)
Map in PDF, (3IK)

(Turn to *Calendar* on page 15.)

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2005

By Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the January 8, 2005 meeting to order at 10:00 AM. There were 40 members at our meeting today, and no guests. The January meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Call Letter. Treasurer Ed Charman was not at the meeting today, so George gave the treasurer's report. Librarian John Bucholtz said that he will be calling members that have had library books for a few months.

Old Business

Radio Display Contest--We will have our Radio Display Contest at our April meeting. The entry categories will be published in future Call Letters. Awards will be ribbons.

Club History Project--Dick Karman is collecting information for our Society's history. He has assembled a table of contents, and he would like members to look at it and see if any more information should be added.

Jim Mason Fund--George discussed using some of the money from the fund for operating expenses during the year. Members voted to include Jim's name in the Call Letter. There was a motion to keep the principal amount of money in the Jim Mason Fund at all times. The motion did not pass.

Zenith Museum -- Rudy is still trying to contact the museum owners to arrange for a time for members to visit the museum.

New Business

Society Pictures --We discussed the idea of having everyone's picture in the membership roster.

Electronic Call Letter -- Cliff told the group that the Call Letter was published electronically this month. One big benefit is that the radio pictures are in color. He asked for any members that are interested to let him know and they can receive the Call Letter electronically.

Technical Talk

Cliff Tuttle described and demonstrated a remote control device that can be activated by a cell phone.

Leads And Needs

Damon Vandehey would like to get some NOS tubes and a mutual conductance tube tester. His phone number is (503)259-9129.

Mike Parker has a 1949 Hammond Organ Model CV with speaker cabinet for sale.

Blake Dietze needs a push button assembly for a 1942 Zenith. He needs one that has spaces for 5 push buttons.

Dave Wise would like to borrow a vector voltmeter or a spectrum analyzer.

Bob Campbell said that there is a Zenith console at the Good Will Outlet Store in Hillsboro.

Program Topic

The program topic for this month was “Radios With A Valentine Theme” and “Radios that require a headset for operation”. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought.

The meeting was adjourned.

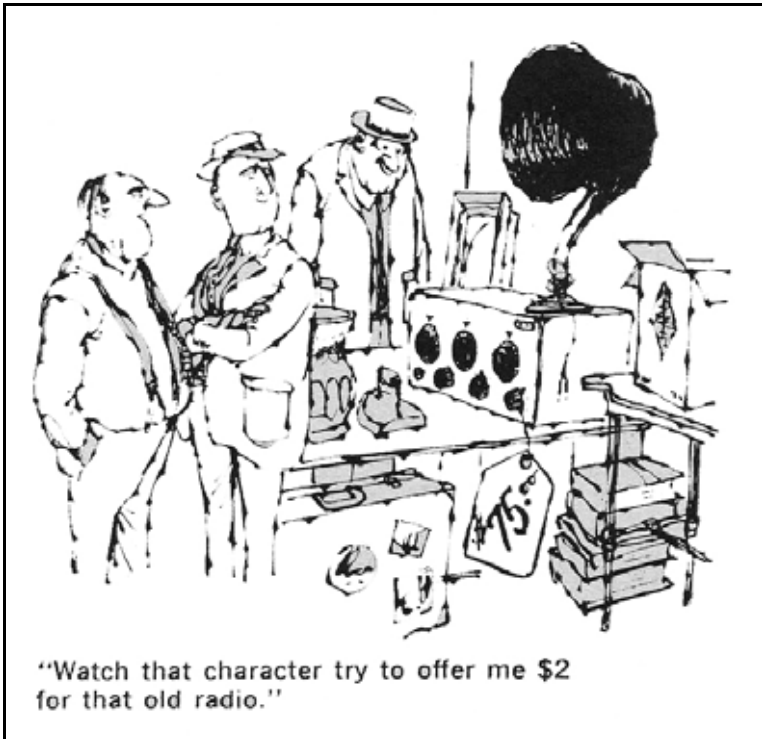


Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

These are the sets that require headphones that members displayed at the February meeting.



Marla Midget(1993 Homebrew) - Mike Parker



DYMAC Selecto Five Frank Olberding



Giblin RadioEar Dave Brown



DayFan - Phil LeVelle



Sharp - Sonny Clutter



Kilbourne & Clark Sonny Clutter



Pa-kette - Brian Toon



Homebrew in Basket Sonny Clutter



Heathkit Crystal Set - Brian Toon



Stantex - Jerry Talbott



Crosley 51 - Jerry Talbott



Beaver Baby Grand
Jerry Talbott



PrivateEar
Jerry Talbott



Pa-kette - Jerry Talbott



Westinghouse
Radiola Sr.
George Kirkwood



Steinite - Mark Richardson



Radiola Special
George Kirkwood



Tri-City W-2 - Blake Dietze



Tri-City W-1
Blake Dietze



Westinghouse
Crystal Set
George Kirkwood

Play It Again, Sam!

The repair of my Westinghouse Aeriola Sr. Amplifier

By Dave Brown

Recently, I obtained a quite nice Westinghouse Aeriola Sr. Amplifier. For those who don't know, this amplifier was the companion piece to the one-tube Westinghouse Sr. Receiver and has two WD11 powered AF stages.

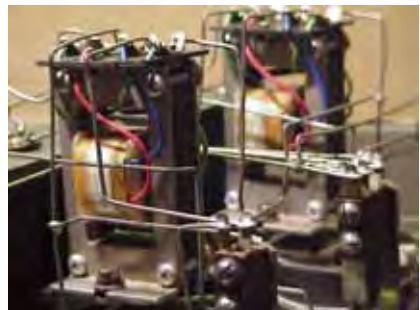
I tested it when it arrived to find that not one but both interstage transformers were open. This came as quite a disappointment to me due to reasons including the price I paid plus the rarity of parts.



Not to be outdone, I started my search for replacement transformers and quickly found that ones which would work, looked nothing like the originals and didn't even possess the same mounting scheme. Then in my review of the AES catalog, I found their P-T431 interstage transformer coil assembly. This coil was documented to have a 1/2" x 1/2"

center core hole and almost the exact external dimensions as the bad cores. So I ordered a couple.

When they came in, I painstakingly disassembled each transformer frame and moved each core laminate one at a time from the old cores to the new cores and then reassembled everything. The result? The amplifier now works perfectly!



So remember - if you have an Aeriola (or Radiola) Sr. Amplifier with open interstage transformers, the AES P-T431 is a perfect replacement part.



Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is the very first one from the January, 1995 Call Letter

I have volunteered to help make the Call Letter "fatter." Allow me to say a bit about myself, since you will be hearing from me "in the shack" for a while. I am 53 years old and have been an electrical hobbyist since childhood. I was a boy with a red Philmore crystal set, and outdoor antenna and a two-band cathedral 'in the bedroom. The family Philco 42-380 console was our home entertainment, along with the piano. Television didn't exist for us until I was 12. I first saw KPTV-127 through the window at McNaughton's in nearby Milwaukie.



Across the street from our house was the house of an old ham operator. His name was Mr. McKay (W7HJI). He was deceased and the house sat empty for years... (haunted, we thought). All of us kids knew the way in and out of the house and what was inside would make a pretty good swap meet, today. I remember seeing the names Atwater Kent and DeForest in there. I also remember all of the radios that each relative and neighbor had. They were part of my lives, like television is today.

Some of us had an informal radio club and we would create fun by hanging around the local radio repair shop, pestering the owner and sniffing the hot tube and transformer smells.

In high school I joined the Radio Amateur Club and had a ham license until I let it go later, when cars and girls became more important. In the Air Force I went to electronics school and served in Radio Relay Maintenance. After the military I spent many years in the telephone installation and wire maintenance business. I was also a vintage auto hobbyist and rail car enthusiast spending more than 10 years making the old electric trolleys in this area run again.

Although I had a couple of sets, I didn't become an avid radio collector until I joined the NW Vintage Radio Society in January 1990. My main interest lies in the 20's and 30's radios and in the pre-1960 short wave gear. I have since acquired another amateur license, KB7RSS, but my favorite pastime is collecting and repairing those 1925-style, three dial receivers. I am also fond of cathedrals and other AC sets until they have push buttons - (there I lose interest).

Presently, I have about 105 complete sets and my shop is in the attic. We call it the Shack hence the title of my page. Some radios are displayed downstairs, but only the ones my wife will tolerate. She has a few pretty ones of her own in the living room.

I like the Vintage Radio Society and never have met a member that I didn't like, but there are many that I still do not know. I am a strong supporter of our link with the radio museum and believe that we should not lose sight of this identity. Our objective is to preserve radio history, which the museum accomplishes.

I don't claim to be an expert, but I am learning all the time and am willing to pass on to others what I know. "Knowledge is of no value until shared with others."

73's Mike Parker

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Jay Johnston:

- "Shorty" Shortwave Adapter - Made on Burnside in Portland by Shorty Manufacturing Company, Reid Brothers proprietors. The cathedral cabinet houses a one-tube shortwave converter used to pick up ambulance, airport, and police frequencies. I bought it on eBay, and the seller turned out to be fellow NVRS member Todd Ommert.
- Emerson "Library". A 1947 novelty set, appearing to be a set of 8 hardback books, but the 4 on the left hide the speaker and the 4 on the right open to provide access to dial, volume, and tuner controls. It's in amazing shape, and the delicate cloth hinge is original and unturned. Another addition to my collection of novelty sets in the guise of books is a transistor set of unknown manufacture. It looks like a 1960s model, and appears to be a pair of hardback books.
- Emerson 217. This is a beautiful little 5-tube model with a wood Ingraham cabinet. It is in excellent original condition and about as small as these sets get: 9" long, 5" tall, & 4" deep.

Rick Walton:

- Stewart-Warner model 01-521, 5-tube AC set, small wood tombstone.
- Packard-Bell Model 501, 5-tube AC/DC, small plaskon table model. Seems to be from the early '50s but uses all octal tubes.

Sounds of Nostalgia

Photos by Jerry Talbott

Here are a few pictures from the Sounds of Nostalgia display & sale at the Salem flea market.



Pat Kagi and
James Harper



Dick Dielschneider
and Ron Hershey

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: *Packard-Bell tube type portable radio, AC-DC or battery only, any vintage. Jerry Talbott, E-mail (vinradio@easystreet.com) or phone (503-538-4041).

FOR SALE: Need to downsize for upcoming move - Hallicrafters SX-100 \$150; SX111 \$80; SX25 \$100; S-38(also B & C models) \$40-\$60; S72 \$50; S-118 \$25; S-120 \$25, EC-1 \$30; Also DX-150 \$35; Lafayette HA-600 \$40; National NC-57B \$35, Knight Star Roamer \$50, Zenith Model 825 Wood Table Model, need re-finishing, make offer. Mike Roy 360 254-8082 or coastiesfgicomcast.net.

FOR TRADE: *I have a 1936 Zenith model 6v27 Tombstone farm set (6 volt) in pretty fair shape. It is as I found it, complete with the original shipping box (the box is a bit sad). I am not a Zenith guy, so would like to trade it for an Atwater Kent Tombstone or Cathedral. This is the unit I presented at the January Show and Tell. Cliff Tuttle kiptuttle@comcast.net 503 666 7005

WANTED: *Manuals for a Heath VT1 and Mallory 12VT1D vibrator testers.
THANX — R 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

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

Dave Wise - (503) 293-7835, 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.

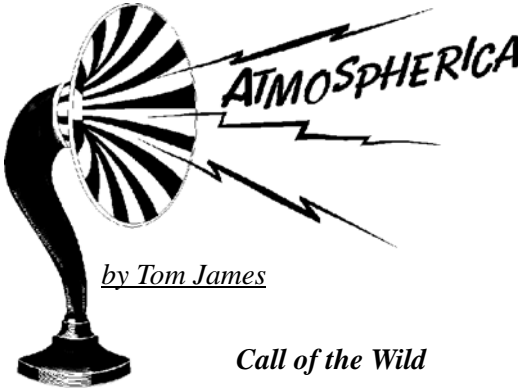
Leads and Needs

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>.

(Calendar — continued from page 5)

- August 21** Antique Radio Swap Meet. Sponsored by the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. One block west of Aurora Ave. or one mile west of 1-5, exit 176. Free admission.
- September 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 24** Spokane Hamfest. (ARRL Washington State Convention) New University High School, Spokane, WA 99206. <http://www.kbara.org>. Info, contact Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, n7wrq@aol.com.
- Sept 30 - Oct 2** Pacific Northwest VHF Society Annual Conference. Shilo Inn, Seaside Oregon, http://www.pnwvhfs.org/pressreleases/PR_12182004.htm
- October 8** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- November 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2006.
- October?** Swap-Toberfest, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon, (Ten miles west of Salem). This is a big one and a good one! For information, contact n7bud@arrl.net. <http://www.swaptoberfest.net/>
- October 29** Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. <http://www.qsl.net/k7skw/fleamarket.htm>. Info, contact k7iey@netscape.net
- December 10** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2006.



by Tom James

Call of the Wild

*The Golden Fleece,
being fetched home by Jason,
Brought odds he was constantly facin',
So too with our hero,
His perils weren't zero,
Our venturesome member, Jim Mason.

Up into the wilds of Wenatchee,
Through realms of the tricky Sasquatchee,
Over hill and down dale,
On track nearly stale,
Surpassing a prowling Apachee.

He climaxed his mission with joy
At the garage of a Peachy Street boy -
Buying old sets galore - -
(A truckload or more)
And boxes of "je ne sais quoi!" **

*French for *Boxes of I don't know what.*

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.