

The

# Call Letter

April, 2007  
Vol. 33 — No. 4



*"We're headed for the Spring Trash Bash  
over at the NWWRS monthly meeting!"*

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Over **30** years in print!

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# 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.

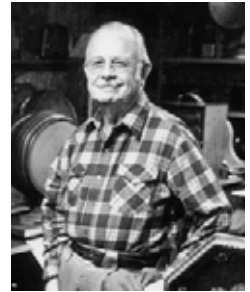
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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).

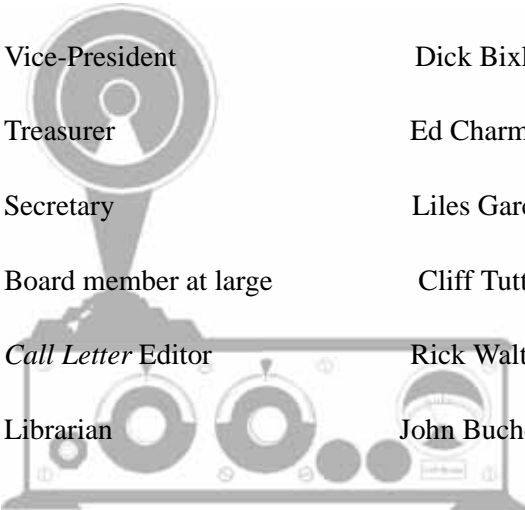
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. 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 2007:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 <a href="mailto:radiogeo@hevanet.com">radiogeo@hevanet.com</a>
Vice-President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 <a href="mailto:RF2AF@comcast.net">RF2AF@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387 <a href="mailto:enamrahc@peoplepc.com">enamrahc@peoplepc.com</a>
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 <a href="mailto:landn2@verizon.net">landn2@verizon.net</a>
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <a href="mailto:kiptuttle@aol.com">kiptuttle@aol.com</a>
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 <a href="mailto:rwalton@easystreet.com">rwalton@easystreet.com</a>
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 <a href="mailto:BonJonBuck@webtv.net">BonJonBuck@webtv.net</a>



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# April 2007

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**On the cover:** A repeat of our cover from March, 2004, announcing the Spring Trash Bash.

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**The next meeting is on April 14, 2007.**

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**April Feature: Vintage Non-Radio Electronic Entertainment Items!**

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

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**Next Call Letter Deadline: May 3, 2007.**

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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.

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## From the Editor

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by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

This month some of you received your *Call Letter* with an extra label advising you that this is your last issue. What that means is that Ed Charman doesn't have a record of you paying your annual dues. I hope that those who have paid will clear it up with Ed right away; and I hope that those who have not yet paid will do so before the May issue is mailed. More importantly, I hope you will do so before I finalize the new club roster that I'd like to send out by late April.

Be sure to take notice of the ad for "Sunny 1550 KKAD." Our intrepid Vice President has worked out an arrangement with them that gives them a monthly promo in our newsletter, and gives us some valuable spots on their airwaves announcing our May and October Swap Meets. This is a nice partnership that should be beneficial to us all.

You've probably noticed that we don't have "Voilà" in this issue. That's because Jay and I were the only contributors this month, so we'll just add those items to next month's list. That list should be large when everyone heads home from the Trash Bash with treasures.

And that segues nicely into this month's special event. Actually, I don't need to say anything. Just read Cliff's piece on page 4.

Speaking of Cliff, he has another piece in this issue that is unfortunate. He is missing an Atwater Kent radio that is of special importance to him, and he could use your help in locating it.

This month's "In the Shack" is reprinted from the October 1997 *Call Letter*. Mike tells us the story of his 1997 Vacation Radio. As always, Mike reminds us of the joy of our hobby through his own experiences.

Next month we'll have a puzzle submitted by Don Iverson, and it's a good one. Until then,

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## NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the March 10, 2007 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the February meeting, and they were approved as published in the March Call Letter. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved as provided by Ed. John Bucholtz reported that the library is doing fine; he also said that three library books are lost.

Mark Richardson invited a friend to join our club--his name is Tom Hermann. Welcome to Tom! There were 40 people at our meeting today.

### Old Business

Web Site--Our website is outdated. Liles will contact Dave Brown about updating our website.

“Spring Trash Bash”--This event will be at our April meeting. You can bring electronic junk including computers; but please no computer monitors.

### Leads and Needs

Ed Charman has a lead in Salem for a Zenith TransOceanic. Dave Wise needs a Zenith Royal 500H radio for a parts set.

The program topic for our meeting today is “AC-Operated Non-Superheterodyne Radios”. Members showed and discussed the radios and other items that they brought.

The program topic for our April meeting is “Vintage Non-Radio Electronic Entertainment Items”.

The meeting was adjourned.

# Sinatra, Bennett, Norah.

Portland's only station for classic American standards  
of yesterday and today. Sunny 1550 KKAD.

Listen online at: [www.sunny1550kkad.com](http://www.sunny1550kkad.com)



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## Special Event: Spring Trash Bash

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by Cliff Tuttle

Once again, it is time to clean out our garage, our storage buildings, even our spare bedrooms, and bring out all those odds and ends we know we will never use and pawn them off on some unsuspecting soul. Yes, it is time for our second annual (ok, so it's been 3 years) Spring Trash Bash.

As in the first annual Trash Bash (March, 2004), I will bring in a flat trailer (2 foot sides) to simplify the "dumpster dipping". Everybody who wants to participate brings their true junk and a buck or two to throw in the pot (to cover the trailer rental – any left over cash goes to the club). Then everybody gets to dig thru the pile, taking home what they can use (or at least pack). People are welcome to try and sell items, and what does not sell, toss it into the "dig through" pile. What does not get "recycled" to members goes to R5D3. Our friend Bob Lee has recyclers who will dispose of it for us.

Pretty much anything electronics related is OK, though if you are not sure, go ahead and bring it (ok, no washer, dryers or refrigerators). While we would normally think of radio and TV related stuff, old computers and related equipment is fine also. It is a bit of work for Bob to get rid of computer monitors, so let's avoid them.

Last time, when I asked a member what he thought of the idea, he suggested "Folks could bring radio stuff no holes barred because they know they wouldn't need to bring anything home. This would really up the variety and volume of thing folks would bring."

I will have the trailer there by 8:30. The meeting will start at 10, and at the end of the meeting, there will be one last shot at the pile before it is hauled off to R5D3.

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## NWVRS 2007 Calendar of Events

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Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at [www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm)

**April 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am;  
Spring Trash Bash 8:30 am.

**April 14** Yakima Amateur Radio Club W7AQ Hamfest 2006  
Selah Civic Center, Selah, WA. Info, contact Lindsay  
Kooser, N7RHW 141 Stark Road #7 Yakima, WA 98908  
Phone: 509-965-6612 Email: [n7rhw@arrl.net](mailto:n7rhw@arrl.net) [w7aq.org/](http://w7aq.org/)

- May 6** Kelowna Flea Market. Orchard City Amateur Radio Club. Kelowna, BC. [www.ocarc.ca/2006%20Flea%20market.htm](http://www.ocarc.ca/2006%20Flea%20market.htm) For info, contact Carl, [ve7clc@rac.ca](mailto:ve7clc@rac.ca) or Keith, [ve7kng@hotmail.com](mailto:ve7kng@hotmail.com).
- May 12** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360-387-7705). [huppert@whidbey.net](mailto:huppert@whidbey.net).
- May 12** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- May 13** Maple Ridge, ARC Swap Meet. 12460 Harris Road Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge B.C. Canada. [www.qsl.net/ve7rmr/](http://www.qsl.net/ve7rmr/)
- May 2007** NARA's Spring Swap and Shop. Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association. Departure Bay Activity centre, 1415 Wingrove St. Departure Bay, Nanaimo BC. Info: call Dick 250-390-0181 or email [ve7rlh@shaw.ca](mailto:ve7rlh@shaw.ca). [www.nara.nisa.com](http://www.nara.nisa.com).
- June 1-3** Sea-Pac Hamfest. (Note that the dates for this event have changed from early announcements.) ARRL Northwest Division Convention, Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. [www.seapac.org](http://www.seapac.org).
- June 8-10** Wenatchee Hamfest, Apple City ARC. Dryden Gun Club. Dryden, WA. ARRL sanctioned event. [www.qsl.net/w7td/](http://www.qsl.net/w7td/)
- June 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 10** Hamfest 2007. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. Lions Club, Hiway 53, Rathdrum, ID. Info: contact Jim, N7ESU at (208)667-4915 or email [n7esu@arrl.net](mailto:n7esu@arrl.net)
- July 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 16-17** Northeast Montana Father's Day Hamfest. Down Stream Campground at Fort Peck Lake. Info or details: contact Bob Parker, K7TNJ, at [k7tnj@yahoo.com](mailto:k7tnj@yahoo.com)
- July 20-22** Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest. Glacier Meadows Campground, 13 miles west of East Glacier on MT Hwy 2. [www.gwhamfest.org](http://www.gwhamfest.org)

- July 21** Bandon Hamfest. Bandon, Oregon. ARRL sanctioned event. Follow the signs to “The Barn”, aka “Bandon Community Building.” Contact Ron W7VU at (541) 572-5546, w7vu@arrl.net
- July 28** Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society Hamfest. Lewis County Fair Grounds, Chehalis, WA. Contact John Ellingson, K7OSK, [k7osk@boatanchor.com](mailto:k7osk@boatanchor.com)
- August 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 12** The 10th Annual Greater Portland Insulator Swap — Location TBA. Always the second Sunday in August. Contact Dan Howard (503)659-3520 e-mail: [strains@msn.com](mailto:strains@msn.com).
- August 11** Hamfest and Electronics Flea Market, Radio Club of Tacoma; Bethel Junior High School, 22001 38th Avenue East, Spanaway, WA [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org)
- August 19** Puget Sound Antique Radio Association Swap Meet. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. [www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html](http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html)
- September 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 22** Spokane Hamfest. (ARRL Washington State Convention). University High School, Spokane, WA 99206. Contact Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, [n7wrq@aol.com](mailto:n7wrq@aol.com). (509)448-5821. [www.kbara.org](http://www.kbara.org).
- October 13** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 14** North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club Hamfair. Bremerton, WA. ARRL sanctioned event. Kitsap Fairgrounds. Info: contact Ron Sefton, N7EM, (360)779-5418, [ronsefton@hotmail.com](mailto:ronsefton@hotmail.com) or Horace Ory, (360)779-2215, [ory001@comcast.net](mailto:ory001@comcast.net). [www.nkarc.org/hamfest/index.html](http://www.nkarc.org/hamfest/index.html)
- October 21** Swap-Toberfest, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon. (Ten miles west of Salem). Info: contact Fred Rodley at [n7lqd@aol.com](mailto:n7lqd@aol.com). [www.swaptoberfest.net/](http://www.swaptoberfest.net/)



- October 27** Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. ARRL sanctioned event. Always last Saturday in October. Info: contact [k7iey@netscape.net](mailto:k7iey@netscape.net). [www.qsl.net/k7skw/](http://www.qsl.net/k7skw/).
- November 10** **NWVRS** monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2007.
- November ?** Maple Ridge, ARC Swap Meet. 12460 Harris Road Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge B.C. Canada. [www.qsl.net/ve7rmt/](http://www.qsl.net/ve7rmt/)
- December 8** **NWVRS** monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2007.

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## Missing Radio

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### I have looked about everywhere...

It seems I am missing my Atwater Kent 555 (the treasure chest). What is really embarrassing about it is that the last time I remember seeing it, was at our October meeting (you can see a picture of it in our November Call Letter). I had brought a lot of stuff to that meeting, and got home with most items. Perhaps I left the car unlocked while making trips out to load it up? Perhaps I left the garage door open at home too long? Perhaps it is still out there in that garage of mine, though I have torn it up looking.

Anyway, this is a pretty important radio to me. This is the one that had been tole painted. I had put lots of hours into stripping it down and uncovering that wonderful inlay, and while not a great restoration, was one I was pretty proud of. This was one my kids might have kept around after I am gone...

If you run across it, please let me know. There is always the chance it has changed hands a time or two, and I am willing to buy it if someone locates it.

It can be recognized in a couple of ways. When it left me, the finish was OK but not exact. The family thought it looked great, but to those of you who really know how to refinish radios, it was not as even as I would have liked, and while I had dulled it down a bit, it still had a bit more glossy finish than appropriate. Also, the top metal plate (where the knobs stick thru) is a reproduction. The fake wood grain finish had a couple of very small bubbles, and was too dark to really match the finish I put on the box. Also, I had not gotten the decals on it, so you will not see the normal Atwater Kent printed on the top. If you get to the inside, you will see the replacement transformer is mounted on a couple of strips of aluminum (so I could avoid new hole in the chassis, incase I got around to having the original transformer rewind). I did put a fuse holder under the chassis, and the serial number on the chassis is 5061033.

Thanks

Cliff Tuttle

Home phone 503 666 7005

[kiptuttle@comcast.net](mailto:kiptuttle@comcast.net)

# Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

For March, the feature was non-superheterodyne radios that are AC powered. These are the radios displayed by members.



Above: Atwater-Kent 37  
Cliff Tuttle



Left: Gloritone front view  
Above: Gloritone rear view  
George Kirkwood



Above: Telechron 8H59  
Below: International Kadette  
Alan Shaddock

Below: Heathkit GR-81  
Mike Parker



Above: Jackson-Bell "Peter Pan"  
Sonny Clutter



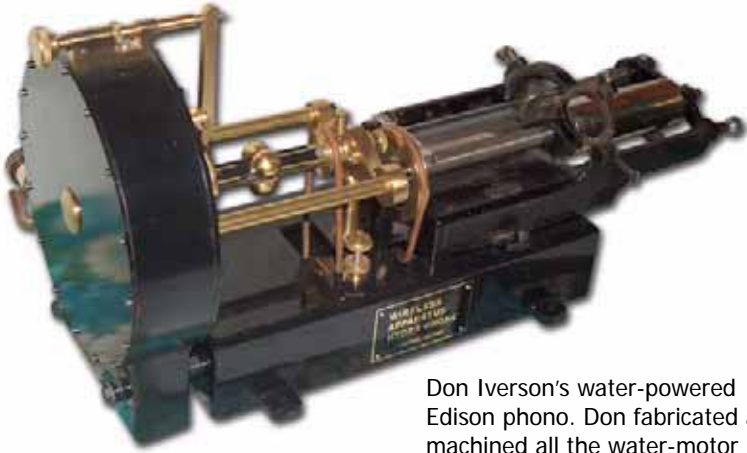
Left: Meissner tuner  
Rick Walton



Right: Jackson-Bell  
chassis  
Roger Brown



Here are some other photos of interest from the March meeting.



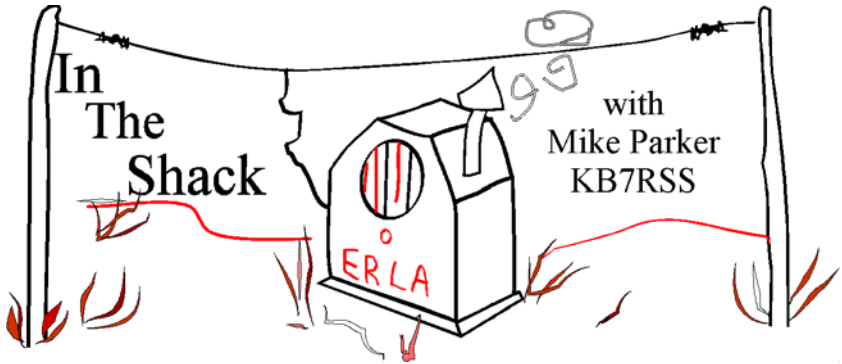
Don Iverson's water-powered Edison phono. Don fabricated and machined all the water-motor parts.



Club members looking over some of the items from the Ron Hershey collection.



One of the critters that live under the blackberry thicket across the yard from the Grange Hall.



*Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the October, 1997 Call Letter!*

### My Vacation Radio



Every year, in September, my wife and I go on a vacation. We love the ocean and usually go to the coast somewhere. Naturally, since we are both into browsing the local "junque" shops where we are staying, I end up with an old RADIO of some kind.-I just can't help it!

This year, we vacationed on the Northern California coast and visited the shops in the Old Town area of Eureka, California. There are many interesting places to go, but one shop in particular that I would like to bring to the radio hobbyist's attention. It is called, "Old Town Antiques," located at 318 F St., (corner of 3rd and F) in Eureka.

The shop is unusual because a full window, facing the sidewalk is devoted to early radiomania. Older radios from the late 20's to the 40's are on display and some are elevated, affording a good view of all of them. On the bottom shelf, against the window is an array of early tubes, some blue glass types and other small parts, earphones, microphones, etc. The display is very well arranged and has a look to it like nothing has been touched for 10 years or so.

Inside the store, more radios, phonographs, telephones, insulators and other indescribable old electrical items abound. Numerous porcelain signs from yesteryear of all subjects decorate the walls. Old books, records, fixtures and piles of flotsam and jetsam stacked toward the ceiling with narrow aisles between them, complete the picture.

The owner, a young fellow named Gary Krela, can be found behind a large U shaped glass display counter at the front of the store. The counter contains many small items on display and piles of this and that surround

the counter in the rear and to one side, making the people near seem small in comparison. Talking with Gary, I discovered that he likes old radios and likes to find them and tinker with them but is not a “collector” and does not belong to any radio clubs. His interest in them, however does create the well- displayed area mentioned above.

When I was a kid about 9, I had to have an old “round top radio.” I whined and hinted about it until one day. Dad came home with a round top radio. It was a genuine GE model E-61 Cathedral. It went immediately into my bedroom and got connected to my outdoor crystal set longwire antenna. This 6 tube superhet, with one Short Wave band and a small slide rule dial glowing a brilliant yellow, (new for 1936), was my companion for years. As time went on, I very stupidly “tore into it,” and managed to totally disassemble the chassis, throwing it away and the parts into various boxes, some of which I still have today, if I could only find them! The cabinet remained unscathed, and although somewhat scuffed up, I managed to refinish it around 1991.

The General Electric Model E-61 is kind of a radio of conjecture, that being the question; “Is it a Cathedral or a Tombstone?” The arch top is rather flat on top but not enough of an area to emulate a typical Tombstone. The arch is graceful but not pointed like many earlier Cathedrals. I have seen the E-61 listed in various ads as either type. I tend to call it a Cathedral, because it is shaped exactly like the earlier model Jax and Zaney- Gill Cathedrals, which are always referred to as Cathedrals.

This is all leading up to the fact that when I was in the above mentioned store in Eureka, I gazed up onto a shelf of radios and there sat a GE Model E-61! Upon closer examination, I found that it had a chassis, with the usual amount of coastal rust on board. It had the original speaker, one knob, all of the tubes, the dial lens was perfect and the cabinet was good but distorted in shape somewhat, a product of years of damp coastal moisture,. The owner would not sell me the chassis alone. I don’t blame him. The price wanted was not excessive, but I would have liked to pay even less. The thrill of finding another E-61 was worth it and even more, I had just purchased my 1997 vacation radio!

At last, I now had a chance to put back all of the stupid things I had done to my GE E-61 Cathedral, when I was a youngster! Who knows, I may even find 3 knobs and the dial cord pulleys. Somewhere, IN THE SHACK, is that old box of parts!

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

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## Swap Shop

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**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:** \*Pre-1920 meters. Contact Len Cartwright, 503-690-0472, email: [lencartwright@msn.com](mailto:lencartwright@msn.com)

## 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](mailto:wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com)

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

Dave Wise – (503) 293-7835, [david\\_wise@phoenix.com](mailto:david_wise@phoenix.com)

Repair or replacement of pre-1930 meters. Over 200 in stock! Contact Len Cartwright, 503-690-0472, email: [lencartwright@msn.com](mailto:lencartwright@msn.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>

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# Member Information

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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\*:**

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**Mailing Address\*:**

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**City, State, ZIP\*:**

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**Ham Call Sign:**

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**E-mail:**

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**Phone:**

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Check here if you'd like to be added to the Yahoo e-mail list.

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

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\*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](mailto:rwalton@easystreet.com).