

# The *Call Letter*

November, 2010  
Vol. 36 — No. 11



Celebrating **35** years in print!

# The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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

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

The *Call Letter* has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

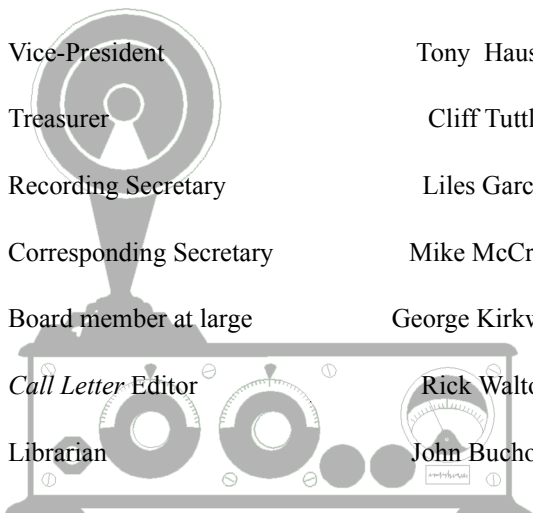
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the *Call Letter*.



## Society Officers for 2010:

President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 <a href="mailto:rf2af@comcast.net">rf2af@comcast.net</a>
Vice-President	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074 <a href="mailto:abhauser@aol.com">abhauser@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <a href="mailto:kiptuttle@comcast.net">kiptuttle@comcast.net</a>
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 <a href="mailto:landn2@frontier.com">landn2@frontier.com</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Mike McCrow	(503) 730-4639 <a href="mailto:tranny53@comcast.net">tranny53@comcast.net</a>
Board member at large	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 <a href="mailto:radiogeo@hevanet.com">radiogeo@hevanet.com</a>
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 <a href="mailto:rwalton@easystreet.net">rwalton@easystreet.net</a>
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 <a href="mailto:Bucholtz3049@comcast.net">Bucholtz3049@comcast.net</a>



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# November 2010

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**On the cover:** The elections are over, but this is a timely subject for our November cover. After all the rancor, maybe it is time for the elephant and the donkey to share the microphone. This *Wireless Age* cover is from October, 1924, when broadcasting was still new to politics.

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**The next meeting is November 13, 2010.**

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**November Monthly Feature: Before And After Project Radios.**

**Officer nominations for 2011!**

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

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**Next Call Letter Deadline: December 2, 2010.**

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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

Last month I told you of the request our club received to provide a speaker to talk to the participants in program call “Lake Oswego Reads” sponsored by the Lake Oswego Public Library. Blake Dietze has agreed to represent our society. The library still would like to find a Grundig radio/phono from the early ‘50s that they can display. If you have one or know of one, contact me and I will put you in touch with the right people.

It is always sad to have to report the death of a member as we’ve had to do for Dennis Killeby. Our thoughts are with his wife, Sylvia, and their family.

This is a full issue. There are lots of pictures from the Swap Meet last month. Although I couldn’t stay for the whole day, it appears that it was another successful event. There is a note from President Dick Bixler that reminds us that we nominate candidates for society offices; an announcement of a contest for the November meeting from Cliff Tuttle; more Archive news from our historian, Mark Moore; and Dave Wise regales us with another of his restoration sagas, this time with photos.


See you all at the meeting.

**Always sunny & warm.**

*For a refreshing change,  
check it out!*



**Sunny 1550 KKAD**

	Herb Alpert - Tony Bennett - Michael Buble - Carpenters
	Nat King Cole - Perry Como - Neil Diamond - Diana Krall
	Barry Manilow - Johnny Mathis - Platters - Carly Simon
	Elvis - Frank Sinatra - Babara Streisand - Andy Williams

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# From the President

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by Dick Bixler

Two good show/sales under our belts with reinforced relationships with our partners, The Aurora Folks, Norvac, KKAD, and the many radio/electronics clubs in the area, all result in increased attendance. The quality of programs from invited guests and the increased participation in “Show and Tell” reflect the greater interest of members. Special “Atta-boys” to Blake and the Wednesday night group, WRNO.

Hopefully 2011 will see more tech education for those desiring it.

Don’t forget that November is nominations for next year’s officers. Election will, of course, be at the Christmas party.

This is also a time to once again sincerely thank the club members who have contributed their time and talents to the needed area:

1. To Brian Toon and his wife, Kathleen, for keeping organization of our show/sales successful.
2. To our doughty editor, Rick Walton, for overseeing the production of our monthly *Call Letter*. The bright appearance of our publication and its professional production is particularly noted.
3. To John Bucholtz who cheerfully shepherds our growing library and provides us with our selections.
4. To Mark Moore, our able historian under whose guidance our club’s archives will soon be a usable resource for research as well as a repository for a remarkable collection of memorabilia.
5. To Rudy Zvarich and Jeff LaDoe who “put-up and take down” before and after each meeting. Great coffee, Rudy!
6. To Sonny Clutter for his skilled and artistic composition of our promotional materials.

Also to your hard-working officers: Tony hauser, Cliff Tuttle, Liles Garcia, and Mike McCrow.

I also take note of our Board Member at Large and Immediate Past President George Kirkwood, who is particularly thanked for his wise counsel to a sometime “frazzled” president.

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## “What Is This?” Contest

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from Cliff Tuttle

We have a mystery!

During our October swap meet, someone donated seven identical boxes to our auction, each with a couple of knobs. No one in the crowd had an immediate convincing explanation for what they were. So we decided to have a contest.

For a buck, seven eager contestants were able to buy one, thus entering the competition. The well thought out rules of the game (put together at the spur of the moment) require these 7 research experts to take their prize home, and come to our November meeting prepared to give their 'best' description of what the units might be. The winner takes the jackpot (the 7 bucks originally collected) and of course acquires significant bragging rights.

The judges for this competition will be our entire attending membership. Each contestant who brings their box to the meeting (to show they actually bought one) will be given the opportunity to sell their explanation to the crowd. Each of us judges should listen to these 7 well researched and reasoned yarns, and vote for the best story. Note that none of this has anything to do with finding the truth. Here we are looking for the most entertaining story line.

See you in November.

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## Roster Update

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Here are the most recent updates:

- New e-mail address:  
Larry Tobkin: [LTOBKIN@CLEAR.NET](mailto:LTOBKIN@CLEAR.NET)
- New members:

**Raymond Holland**  
6015 N.W. Perthshire Rd  
Vancouver, Wa 98663-1175  
360-695-6349  
[chev33radio@comcast.net](mailto:chev33radio@comcast.net)  
Area of Interest: Car Radios 1932-64,  
specialize in Chev and GM Portables

**Brian Snawder**  
10293 SE Park Mountain Lane  
Clackamas, Or 97015  
503-449-8585  
[brian@thepartyplacepdx.com](mailto:brian@thepartyplacepdx.com)  
Area of interest - Tube, Scanners

**Cedric D. Stephen**  
12620 NE Morris St  
Portland, Or 97230  
503-253-4470  
[cedricstephen@yahoo.com](mailto:cedricstephen@yahoo.com)

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## NWVRS 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)

**November 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.  
Nomination of officers for 2011.

**December 11** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10  
am. Election of officers for 2011.

### 2011

**January 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

**February 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

**February 19** Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet.  
Rickreall, Oregon at the Polk County Fairgrounds.  
<http://www.w7sra.com>.

**March 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

**March 12** Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition  
hall, Puyallup, WA. For information, contact  
[dmdink@yahoo.com](mailto:dmdink@yahoo.com) or [n7wa@arrl.net](mailto:n7wa@arrl.net). [http://  
www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm](http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm).

**April 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

**April 22-24** Idaho State Convention. Garden City, ID, Voice of Idaho  
ARC. ARRL sanctioned. Info, Lynn Rasmussen,  
W7RAZ, (208)550-7710, [w7raz24@gmail.com](mailto:w7raz24@gmail.com). [http://  
www.idahostateconvention.com/](http://www.idahostateconvention.com/)

**May 14** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion  
Hall, Aurora, Oregon.

**May 14** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Stan-  
wood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Always the second  
Saturday in May. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7705)  
[nwecop@tgi.net](mailto:nwecop@tgi.net) <http://www.scarcwa.org/>

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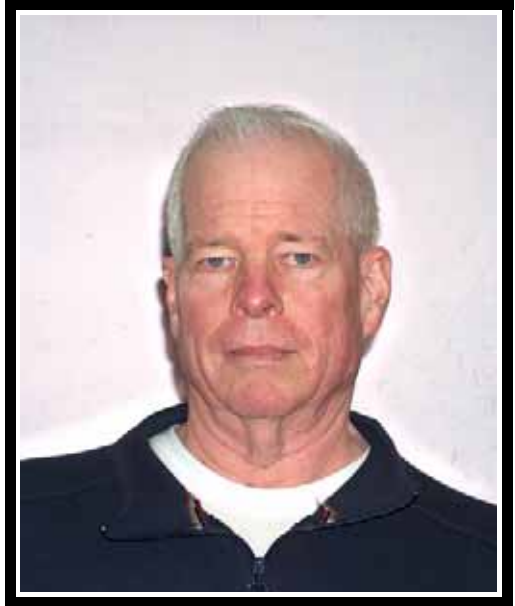
# A Silent Key

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by Rick Walton

By now, those of you on the e-mail lists have heard the sad news of the sudden and totally unexpected passing of NWVRS member Dennis Killeby, K6IVY, in early October. Dennis' wife, Sylvia, contacted President Dick Bixler on October 16 to let him know. Dick contacted me the next day. There was no funeral.

Dennis and Sylvia have been frequent attendees at monthly meetings and have taken an active part in publicizing our twice-yearly Swap Meets. He will be missed.



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# Getty Radio

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President Dick Bixler received this e-mail last month just too late to include it in the October *Call Letter*:

From: jeana geragosian  
<[jeanageragosian@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanageragosian@yahoo.com)>

Subject: GETTY TIRE RADIO

Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2010, 8:11 AM

Hello...am looking for a 1970's 'GETTY GAS STATION' A.M. RADIO IN THE SHAPE OF A TIRE.

HAS TO INCLUDE THE PEDESTAL IT SITS ON THAT HAS AN ADHESIVE THAT SAYS GETTY  
THANX, Jeana



If you can help this young lady, contact her at the e-mail address shown above. This is an opportunity to create some "transcontinental" good will for the NWVRS.



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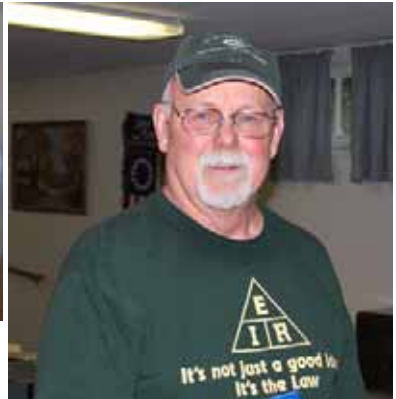
# Photo Display

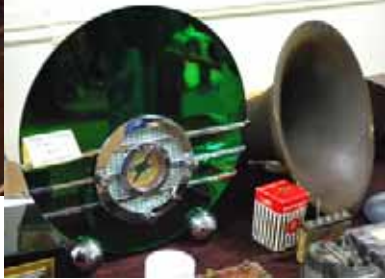
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Photos by Rick Walton

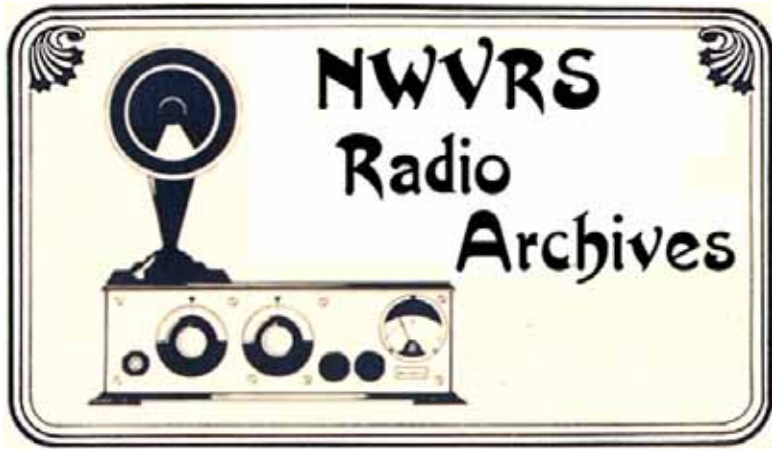
Here are photos of the Fall Show and Sale in Aurora.











by Mark Moore, NWVRS Archivist

My apologies to those of you who may have brought items to donate to the Archives at the October Show. My power went out that morning and I couldn't get my car out because the gate operates with electricity. Had I known the electricity wouldn't be back on as promised by 8:30, then 9:30, then 10:30, then 1:30, I would have asked for a ride.

While getting some Halloween skeletons (decorations) out of my closet recently, I ran across some things I would like to donate to the Archives. I have two photos of Aaron Stubblefield and his family with their early radio receivers. I also found a set of four early Swap Meet posters as well as a paste-up from our April 1976 show. There is also a letter from Concours d'Elegance from April 11, 1977 inviting us to their fifth annual show.

In addition, I found a couple original paste-ups and a negative of our logo with the Oregon City address. There are paste-ups from our 1976 Roster and I also located the original paste-ups from the April 1976 Call Letter which featured a photo of Jim Lansing of Altec-Lansing. The find of the day though was the original paste-ups from our original membership application.

I also came across five study publications from the American Radio Relay League that would be used in learning the radiotelegraph code and studying to obtain a license to operate an amateur radio station.

At some point in time, we should consider finding a home in Portland for our Archives material. I will donate my collection of Portland radio memorabilia when we find a suitable location to house our material. Possibly we should pursue setting up an alliance with one of the local colleges that teaches radio broadcasting.

# Play It Again, Sam!

by Dave Wise

1. Final note on the Marconi TF1370. In the last article, I had installed a 4C7/120 night light bulb in place of the 250 ohm resistor originally in the lower leg of the feedback network. I was planning to try a 7C7 (7W C7 common “indoor” Christmas bulb).



As it turned out, I didn't have any 7C7's handy, but I did have a 5C7, which today is the most common C7 xmas bulb. (For a while it was marketed as “energy saving”, but today it appears that that moniker has been taken over by the 3C7. 7C7's are now special-order items.) The 5C7 increases the load enough to bring the HF trimmers

comfortably into range. All is well, and I've buttoned it up. Until the next problem - whatever that might be!

2. Channel Master 6515A “Super Fringe”. This is a big coat pocket size eight-transistor radio. The face is dominated by a rectangular silver sheerform speaker grill on the left, and on the right by a square reverse-painted tuning dial with a polished gold pointer. This is all bordered by painted white trim and a chrome strip.



The cabinet is black. It's a very clean, controlled look, like a tuxedo-clad butler.

Unlike most eights, this set puts one of its extra transistors to work improving image rejection, with a TRF stage. The layout is (1) RF amp, (2) converter, (3) IF, (4) IF, (5) AF, (6) AF, (7&8) Output. Audio detection is handled by a diode, and the resulting AGC is amplified by the 1st IF transistor before being applied to the RF and 2nd IF stages, a technique discarded later as designs cheapened. Negative feedback around the entire

audio section (including the output transformer), plus a large speaker, gives clean, rich sound.

I got this set off eBay about ten years ago, replaced one cap, and put it in the rotating stable of daily runners. About five years ago it went on a shelf and I sort of forgot about it.

Recently I rediscovered it in that least favorite of ways, by knocking it to the floor. The cabinet broke at the right bottom corner. I was sad, because it had been perfect, but nevertheless I set out to repair it. I was nervous about this, because the broken spot receives the force exerted by the battery spring. I cleaned the area with alcohol, roughened it with a Dremel grinding bit, and applied as much JB Weld epoxy as there was room for. I didn't make a jig to hold it in place before setting; I just rearranged it as it set. In the mean time, I examined the spring. I think C batteries have gotten slightly bigger, because when they're in position, most of the spring coils are "bottomed", compressed to the point where they're rigidly jammed together. I noticed that the last two coils were the same diameter, and cut one off to relieve the pressure a bit. This appears to have worked. The batteries fit and have good contact, and the cabinet is holding. There are still gray JB sutures on the corner and more importantly, on the white trim. Maybe I'll paint them sometime. Meantime, on to my usual preoccupation:

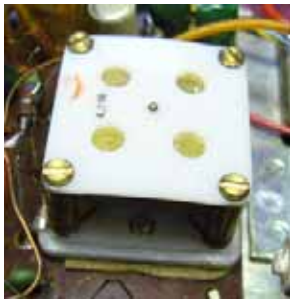
Does it work? NO! Since I had previously replaced only one electrolytic capacitor, the remaining nine were instant suspects. My ESR meter quickly showed - without having to unsolder them - that every last one had opened since my original repair. I adhere firmly to the "never go down" rule for replacement values; here, most can be doubled or tripled with no adverse effect and perhaps some benefit. However, the AGC bypass requires care. While more is in some ways better, as it reduces intermodulation distortion on bass notes, too much will result in annoyance when tuning, as the first derivative begins to overshadow the basic level response. I replaced the original 30uF with 47uF since I didn't have any 33's in stock.



Now the set played, but I noticed a glaring problem that had escaped notice before - the tuning was frozen in place!

I lost my head and forced it. DON'T DO THIS.

The shaft came free and turned - but the radio stayed on the same station! Now I rolled up my sleeves and did what I should have done in the first place. I took off the pulley. (I didn't have to unstring the dial cord.) I unsoldered the cap and removed it. I ground off the bead of glue at the base and pried off the plastic dust cover. This is an early style of polyvaricon (polyethylene variable condenser), with a built-up rotor instead of the later press-fit construction. There's a nut on the back end of the shaft that exerts pressure on the stack of plates and washers. My brute force had loosened this nut. Lucky - if I had turned the other way, I probably would have torn the polyethylene sheets off the stator plates, which there is no fixing.



But I was still in a pickle, because some rotor plates had moved while others stuck. I had lost registration. I turned the shaft back to about where it started, rotated the free plates back to about where I guessed they should be (you see why losing registration is bad?), and tightened the nut. Thank goodness none had rotated all the way out of the stator; I might never get them back in. I flushed the cap with alcohol, waited, flushed it again, put on my magnifier hood, threaded a length of Crest "Glide" dental floss (it's very thin) through as many plates as I could, in all three gangs, and put GENTLE rocking torque on the shaft. It broke free, this time taking all the rotor plates with it.



Now I could see the ragged line where the plates had gone cattywompus. I loosened the nut and tried to line them all up. I tightened the nut - and half the plates moved. The factory must use a jig. I discovered that if I pushed on the nut as I tightened it - preloading some friction into the washer stack I guess - it wasn't quite as bad. This requires a stack of backing washers in the nutdriver, or a pair of

pliers and steady hands. I really needed six arms, but with much patience and muttered curses, I got things approximately right, and tight.

I lost my head again and buttoned it all up. Don't do this. With no lubrication, the cap turned so hard when fully closed that the dial cord slipped. I HATE slipping dial cords.

Finally becoming intelligent, I did a dry run. I bought several different lubes and lined them up. I took an empty plastic one-gallon milk jug (made of High Density PolyEthylene), flame-polished six areas, and one by one, applied lube and tried rubbing a little square of thin brass sheet. (Different square each time to avoid cross-contamination.)

1. Dow-Corning #4 silicone grease is too viscous. Too bad, I have nine lives' supply.
2. White lithium grease is too viscous.
3. Mobil One doesn't lubricate plastic.
4. Tri-Flow PTFE has stiction, even though it's "good for... plastic glides".
5. 3-In-One PTFE Dry Lube same-same but almost okay.
6. Liquid Wrench Silicone Spray is perfect.

I took the cap back out and got the cover off again. (By the way, I had sealed it on with dabs of "coil dope" I made by dissolving styrofoam packing peanuts in Acetone. It takes a lot of peanuts - at first they just vanish like a magic trick.) I sprayed a bit of LWSS into a bottle cap, sucked it into a narrow- gauge syringe ("allergy syringe" at Safeway etc.), and applied several drops to each gang. It freed right up. I buttoned up again and aligned the set.

It was not easy. With the cap all messed up, the various RF trims were wildly off. I got it, just barely; everything is at its limit. But the radio sings like new. It even tracks the dial. I'm a happy guy. Mostly...

# 10% DISCOUNT

To all members in good standing of the  
**Northwest Vintage Radio Society**  
for any purchase from



BEAVERTON (503) 644-1025  
7940 SW Nimbus Ave.

SALEM (503) 583-9810  
1545 Commercial St. NE

EUGENE (541) 345-2904  
960 Conger St.

Please show your current  
NWVRS membership card  
to receive discount.



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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

*FOR SALE:* Hickok 288X signal generator, Hickok 600A tuber tester, Eico 7 1/2" Tube type VTVM, Eico solid state signal tracer, Mallory vibrator tester, Radio Shack 22-215 VOM with half scale, MFJ 2035MV 0-15 VDC 30 amp continuous power supply. THANX Robert Campbell

*FOR SALE:* Riders Manuals, 1 thru 5 abridged and 2 thru 21 (3 &4 are in National binders). Also Index for abridged 1 thru 5, Master index for 1 thru 15 and index for 16 thru 21. All for \$225 or best reasonable offer by Dec. 31, 2120. Contact John Bucholtz at 360-693-7135 or e-mail at Bucholtz3049@comcast.net

*FOR SALE:* \*\*Freed-Eisenman FE-15 battery set. Excellent original condition inside and out. Complete with period tube complement. \$140. Nick Tonkin. 360-750-0286. [nick9818@gmail.com](mailto:nick9818@gmail.com).

*FOR SALE:* \*\*RCA Radiola 20 battery set. Excellent original condition inside and out. Complete with original plug-in voltmeter. Also a set of new replacement tubes. \$160. Nick Tonkin. 360-750-0286. [nick9818@gmail.com](mailto:nick9818@gmail.com)

## Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Bruce Baur - (503)-708-4537, [brucebaur@comcast.net](mailto:brucebaur@comcast.net)

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, [wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com)

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Pat Hickman – (503) 887-9015 Web: [www.classictubeaudio.com](http://www.classictubeaudio.com)  
Email: [phickman@comcast.net](mailto:phickman@comcast.net)

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141 Web: [www.burlingame-radio.com](http://www.burlingame-radio.com)  
Email: [burltv@msn.com](mailto:burltv@msn.com)

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or [walterranft@hotmail.com](mailto:walterranft@hotmail.com) – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, [david\\_wise@phoenix.com](mailto:david_wise@phoenix.com)

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

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

## Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit Radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photos, 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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## New Caps & Shirts!

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New caps and new shirts are available. Caps are \$10, and shirts are \$22 for M & L sizes, \$24 for XL. Contact Tony Hauser for more information.



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# Officer's Roles

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## **The President**

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall set the time and the place of Board of Directors' Meetings. The President has the power to appoint members of committees as appropriate to enhance the activities of the society.

## **The Vice President**

The Vice President shall be responsible for planning and arranging technical and entertaining activities associated with the society's meetings. He serves as chairman of the program committee if such a committee is appointed. He acts as presiding officer at meetings if the President is unavailable.

## **The Recording Secretary**

The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting.

## **The Corresponding Secretary**

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all of the society's networking and correspondence tasks.

## **The Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds received and disbursed by the society and shall report all monetary transactions and treasury balance at each regular meeting of the society. The Treasurer shall prepare a list of members in good standing for distribution at the next regular meeting following the annual meeting of the society.

## **The Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of the society plus the immediate past president of the society. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the society. The Board shall determine a suitable time and place for regular society business meetings.