

The

Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Vol. 25

April 1999

No. 4



In print since 1974

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 \$15.00 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 members of the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that both informs members of the society's business and that has supported 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).

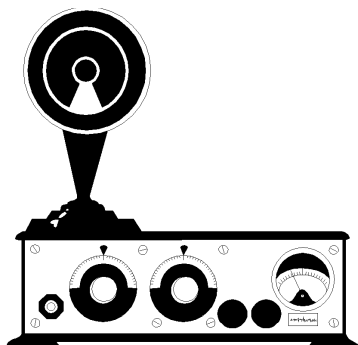
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 1999:

President	Charles Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Dave Rutland	(541) 929-4498
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	Tony Hauser	(503) 629-4836

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: This is the Ozarka logo that Mike Parker describes in his article this month. This logo was scanned off a kraft paper mailing envelope that came from Jim Mason’s collection.

Call Letter Deadline
10 days prior
to meeting day.

Bring your favorite homebrew to the meeting on April 10
at the Abernethy Grange Hall, 15745 S. Harley Ave.,
Oregon City.

Visit the NWVRS web site at:
<http://www.peak.org/~wren/nvrs.html>.

The Call Letter is the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Circulation is limited to the membership and guests of the Society. The Society is not responsible for the material contributed for publication, nor the quality, timeliness, or accuracy of the items offered for sale in the SWAP SHOP. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

From the Editor

by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

What a full plate we have this month! Dick Karman has provided us with another of his web wanderings, and Mike Parker is back “In the Shack” fixing up yet another radio. It’s great to have both of these familiar voices back in the *Call Letter*.

Dick also provides us with a remembrance of “Tech” Sloat, a one-time active member of our club and contributor to the *Call Letter*. Although there isn’t room this month, in the near future I’ll reprint a couple of articles that Tech wrote for the *Call Letter*, and that Dick Karman passed along to me.

For those of you who attended last month’s meeting, you know how well the “pre-meeting” parking lot swap meet turned out. Not being an early riser, I didn’t make it there at 8:30, but by the time I got there, there were several trunks and tail-gates open and there was a lot of interest as you can see from the photos on page 5. I don’t know how many swaps or sales took place, but everyone seemed to have a good time in any case.

We have a couple of pages full of pictures of the Zenith sets that members brought to display at last month’s meeting. My apologies for missing the name of one of our exhibitors.

Be sure to read Tony Hauser’s information about the materials he has that came out of Jim Mason’s auction.

NWVRS 1999 Calendar of Events

- April 10** 8:30 am: Pre-meeting tailgate swap session in the parking lot.
10:00 am: Regular meeting at the new meeting location, Abernethy Grange Hall, 15745 S. Harley Ave., Oregon City. Monthly feature: homebrew, tube radios, from a kit or from scratch; not, however, from one of the electronics courses.
- May 8** 10:00 am Regular meeting.
- June 12** Spring Swap Meet with Oregon Triode Society.

Meeting Minutes

Wendy Johnson-Kent for Liles Garcia, Secretary

Our first pre-meeting tailgate swap was held in the west parking lot between 8:30-10:00 AM and six members participated with many more purchasing great finds. We'll continue this event next month and hope more will bring their treasures for sale.

The March 13, 1999 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society was called to order by President Charlie Kent at 10:03 AM. There were 31 members present. The February 1999 minutes as presented in the March *Call Letter* were approved by members.

Treasurer's Report

Ed Charman reported the income and expenses during the past month leaving an ending balance of \$2,348.70 on the books.

Speed Feldschau introduced new member Ray Elkins from Aumsville.
Welcome, Ray!

(Of special note: Our special mascot "DC" brought her owner Speed Feldschau to our meeting and chastised latecomers by barking – she is a most welcome addition to our group.)

Ways & Means

The passing of two men was recently learned of. "Tech" Sloat who passed away in January after a prolonged illness; and Marvin Hobbes, who was 80 years old and retired in Mexico after working over 50 years in the industry part of them as Chief Engineer at Scott.

Old Business

The next Swap Meet is April 3rd at Oak Hills Recreation Center – North of Cornell Road, just East of the Cornell Road exit from Hwy. 26, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Jerry Talbot let us know tables are for sale at \$15 each and are now almost all sold. Space is available and bringing your own table for display is encouraged. A special thank you goes to Ed Pittaway for finding this location for us.

Rick Walton did not purchase the software equipment we approved last month. We're going with a higher cost printer by supplying a computer disk for production purposes. Rick received a round of applause for his good work.

The *Call Letter's* mailing was discussed at length and at Gordon Phillip's request a vote was taken to leave it as is with no change.

Rudy Zvarich said the Scott radio chassis that was stolen out of a car and listed as missing in a previous *Call Letter* had surfaced in California and might be reappearing that day at another L.A. sale. He indicated that by having it listed in our bulletin, we may be assisting in its retrieval.

Myron White reported on advertising for the swap meet in June.

New Business

Jerry Talbot told of a new Zenith book (\$35-45) that would have been most helpful in identifying the Zeniths on display this month. A motion picture was carried to purchase it for our library.

Rick Walton brought to members' attention the Jim Mason auction article in the current month's *ARC* publication.

Leads and Needs

Sonny Clutter has a lead on a 50's Magnavox stereo. He also has a list of old test equipment for sale.

Dick Dielschneider needs Zenith tube shields and has other tube shields to trade or sell. He will bring them to our next meet.

George Kirkwood asked if anyone had 864 tubes for sale and Ron Hershey has a contact to put him in touch with.

Dick Bixler is looking for a manual for a Hickory tube tester he purchased at Jim Mason's auction.

Ed Charman has neighbors that are moving and selling a K-part radio-phonograph tube unit (approx. 1952). See Ed if you are interested.

Sonny Clutter still needs a junker chassis for a Radiola. Call Sonny for details.

Program for April will be *home brew tube radios*.

15 members showed and discussed their favorite Zenith radios. The first winners of our newly revitalized award ribbons were:

First Place – tie: Dick Dielschneider

Ed Cook

Second Place: Ron Hershey

Third Place: Del Dixon

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

The Pre-Meeting Swap Meet

by Rick Walton

Here are three views of the swap activity that took place at the inaugural pre-meeting parking lot swap meet. Be there at 8:30 a.m. to take part in the fun.



Radio Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

“Your favorite Zenith” was the monthly feature for March. Members voted on the set they liked best, and the contest winners took home ribbons. Here are all the exhibitors and their radios:

Jerry Talbott	6D614 (1) 6D414 (2)
Rick Walton	Royal 250 Transistor (3)
Charlie Kent	Royal 500H Transistor (4)
Ed Pittaway	6D015 Consoltone (5)
Scott Hoke	6D2614 (6)
Ed Cook	801 (1934) (7) 1st Place (tie)!
Del Dixon	Y600L Transoceanic (8) 3rd Place!
Dick Dielschneider	10S130 (9) 1st Place (tie)!
George Kirkwood	5S226 (10)
(Sorry! Missed the name)	4G800Z (11)
Bill Malloy	Royal 3000 Transoceanic (transistor) (12)
Rudy Zvarich	6D219 (13)
Ron Hershey	6S27 (14) 2nd Place!
Tony Ranft	G601-L (15)
Alan Shadduck	Box for D7000Y Transoceanic (16)
Larry Tobkin	6B321 (17)
Joe Beseda	4T26 (18)

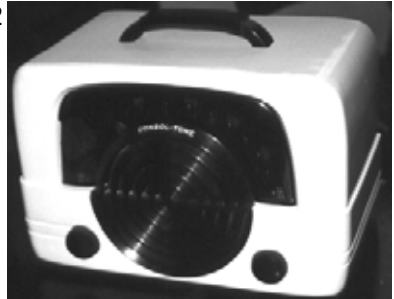
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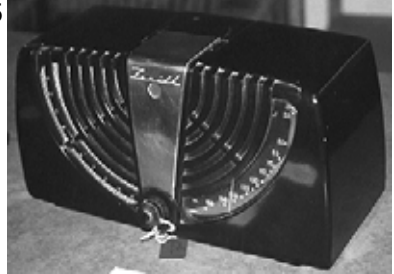
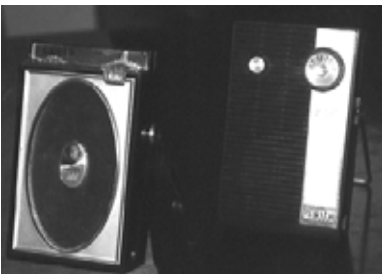
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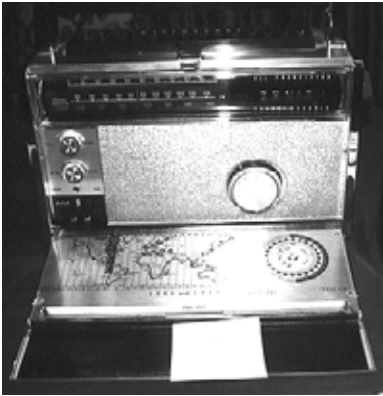
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In the Shack

by Mike Parker

Dunk Your Battery Set

Well, maybe just IMMERSE it! This is going to take some explaining and no, I am not crazy yet but just working on it!

So, to start this explanation from the beginning, I will have to tell you about a radio I recently acquired from NWVRS member Art Redman. It is an OZARKA Battery set, a SENIOR model 7 tube TRF, (Tuned Radio Frequency circuit), circa 1927.



Some time back, I had acquired an unusual electronic “antique” from a friend. It was an electric medical surgery device from the 1920's called an ENDOTHERM, mfg. by the WAPPLER Electric Co. of NYC. This device was actually known as a “Transformer Knife” and was basically a transmitter of high frequency that when connected to a probe with various platinum cutting tips, could cut you long, wide and frequent!

Huge and heavy, it is truly a beautiful device in it's own way and is housed in a tall wooden cabinet with doors opening front and rear. The front doors open to a very fine Bakelite panel with meters, knobs and switches all made in the 1920,s.

The rear doors reveal the “works”...coils of cloth covered wires and real iron core transformers, all original, tagged and unmodified. Two huge 50 watt transmitting tubes reside in the top section and a neon indicator bulb, an Edison screw base bulb shaped like a 201-A tube with a tip top. Truly a piece of work! Some of you may have seen it at one of our more recent swap meets in Hillsboro. I would have loved to keep it but it was just too large and heavy to add to my collection.

Art Redman had a look at it and since he and I both have a special addiction to Battery Sets from the '20's....(Art, if you won't admit it in public...I will!) Ha Ha Ha. Anyway, I was joking with him that I would trade a Battery Set for it. He seemed OK with the idea and mentioned some sets that I already had so I told him to keep looking, that I didn't expect to get his THERMIODYNE, (Art has a really fine Thermiodyne radio) but maybe he could come up with something I

didn't have. So one day he showed me this OZARKA set that he offered to trade. I had thought that Art was not real interested in the surgery device but it turns out that Art is very interested in getting it to go under power and I am very glad it went to someone interested in making that happen. I can just see him, in his basement shooting sparks and dressed in a white lab coat, annoying the neighbors TV reception with that thing!

The OZARKA Senior S-7 model is a LARGE table radio and the cabinet was built with space under the chassis for batteries. This cabinet can be seen in the Ozarka section of Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's, Vol. 2 by Alan Douglas. The cabinet was designed in 1924 for a 4-dial, 4 tube Ozarka model and the cabinet was a carry-over of 3 years when my set was built. I had been looking for an Ozarka Junior, which has a slant front panel with exposed tubes and built in speaker, but had not found one so I thought why not an Ozarka Senior. So I traded Art for it. The front panel is brass with brown pseudo woodgrain and gold trim with the circular blue Ozarka symbol, a flying goose inside the numerals and increments of a full vision 1920's tuning dial. This logo was used often by Ozarka and appeared on every radio and loudspeaker, on literature and on buttons, pinned on every Ozarka sales and service person for instant recognition.

The 7 tube model has some features that I feel were somehow dishonest. For instance, it has 2 detector tubes and has 2 last audio tubes in parallel! After I got it working, I found that neither feature helped in performance. Just to impress people and suck more power out of the A battery. But those extra 201-A tubes are impressive to look at. It has all three dials ganged together with pulleys and dial cords, and one knob turns all 3 dials at once....until the cord broke!

I took the Ozarka home and up IN THE SHACK. It was fairly complete but was absolutely filthy. The set looked very much like it had taken on some water, perhaps even was a flood victim at one point. The front panel was coated with a mixture of grime and someone's attempt to shine it with wax. The cabinet had been refinished and looked pretty nice. I took the chassis apart and removed the front panel and the tuning condensers. Corrosion was setting in on the metal parts. I completely stripped the front panel and started scrubbing it with GOOF-OFF, which worked pretty well, but be sure and use it in a well ventilated area, the stuff smells AWFUL and can give you a headache. The panel finally shined with brilliance but has a few worn spots.

Looking at the Bakelite sub panel, I found dirt and grime in places in and under the RF coils and knew that it would be impossible to remove without a complete strip down. The 3 audio transformers had surface rust on them and the metal binding posts were corroded. So what to do? I removed the audio transformers, cleaned and repainted them. I brushed the binding posts with 0000 steel wool to no avail. I took some metal parts and put them in a plastic bucket of water and TSP, (Tri-sodium phosphate) and threw in the binding posts. After soaking for a while in TSP and a scrub again, I got results.

Back to the sub-panel (chassis).....I thought, why not strip all the parts affected by moisture and dunk (sorry, IMMERSE) the panel in the laundry tray full of water and TSP and see if it gets clean. I removed the transformers, the sandwich type fixed capacitors but left the 3 RF coils on, which had the green silk covered windings and were extremely dirty. I left the Bakelite tube sockets and all the spaghetti covered wire on the panel and filled up the tray, dumped in a healthy amount of TSP and blub- blub, sank the chassis and let it soak for hours.

I thought that if it gets ruined, so what, not a big investment anyway. After a while, I took a look and the water was very black! I sloshed it around for a while

and let it soak some more, washing my hands immediately with water, the TSP will eat at your skin. Later, I drained the grime and rinsed the sub-panel under the tap with clear water. I let it dry out for several days and was amazed at how clean everything was. The black Bakelite was unharmed, nothing was discolored or eaten away.

After drying out, I reassembled the set and touched up some corroded metal parts with silver paint. I installed a computer power supply in the empty space under the chassis for the 5 volt DC for filament supply. I made up a B battery pack for the plate voltages and put them under the chassis. I put a cloth twisted cord on the power supply to look old and authentic and installed the 201-A tubes. The set performs quite well and is now clean inside.

Art came up with an OZARKA cathedral shaped speaker for it which is HUGE and with that on top of the radio, the whole works stands a full 30 inches high and 24 inches wide! Not exactly a compact set but very impressive, visually.

I will not guarantee that you will not have any problems if you choose to immerse your Battery Set, but with a little care, what could you possibly harm? Just let it dry completely.

All in all, I was very satisfied with the results except for one problem....I still do not have ENOUGH ROOM for it!

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

NWVRS Library News

by Tony Hauser, Club Librarian

I have two items pertaining to Jim Mason's collection:

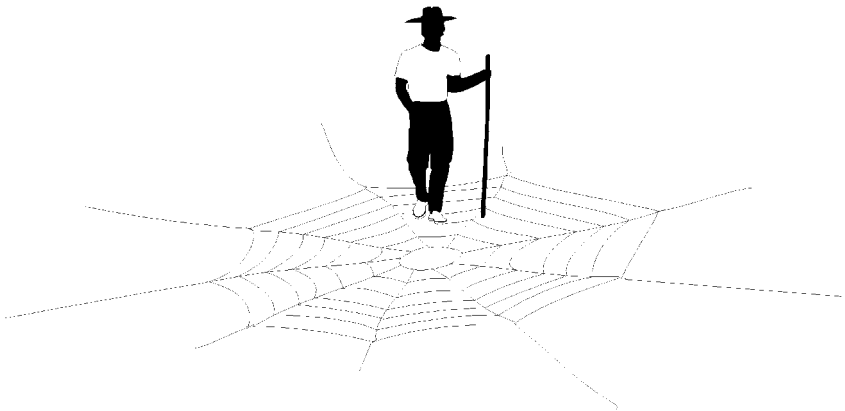
1) The club library is now in possession of a box of "flatware" that was missed and not included in Jim Mason's auction. The box includes service info, instruction manuals, catalogs, and other similar items that should have been included with radios, test equipment, and the like.

If you think I might have the manual for a set that you purchased from Jim's collection, please call me at (503)629-4836, or e-mail me at tonyhauser@bigfoot.com. If you can give me the model # or the auction lot # of the item you purchased, and if I have any manuals, etc., for that item, then I will get them to you.

If any of these items go unclaimed by June 11, then they will be sold at the June 12 swap meet. All proceeds will go to the club treasury.

2) The library is now also the proud keeper of Jim's index card file to his collection. As best as I can tell, it lists every single radio Jim had in his collection. Most of these cards include information on when he bought it, how much he paid, repairs he made, date of manufacture, etc.

I plan on keeping the card catalog intact as part of the library collection. If anyone is interested in having the info from these cards on items they purchased from Jim's collection, please contact me.



Wandering the Web

by Dick Karman

After a slight hiatus, I'm back looking for our hobby on the World Wide Web. What I have today is a sight that has more to do with broadcast stations and their history than with the receiving sets themselves.

How often have you bought a classic console and wondered about the curious call signs on the tags that mark the preset stations on the tuning dial? Those small three letters that no longer make sense to the radio audiences of today. To me they have always been a good indicator of where the set originated. For instance, a radio with presets for KOL, KVL, KXA, or KTW? That would be an early set from the Seattle/Tacoma market. Few of those call signs live today, except in our memory.

If you'd like to know more about the three letter call signs, or many other portions of radio station licensing take a look at

<http://www.ipass.net/~whitetho/3myst.htm>

This sight is the work of Thomas White, and a few other contributors. Take a look. Sit back. Relax, and do some wandering on the web in those golden days of yesteryear.

Call Sign Scramble

Match these 3 letter west coast call signs with their city:

KDB	Portland, OR
KFI	Olympia, WA
KGO	Yakima, WA
KEX	Wenatchee, WA
KGY	Walla Walla, WA
KIT	Seattle, WA
KJR	Santa Barbara, CA
KMJ	Los Angeles, CA
KNX	San Francisco, CA
KPQ	Stockton, CA
KUJ	Portland, OR
KVI	El Centro, CA
KWG	Seattle, WA
KXL	Fresno, CA
KXO	Los Angeles

Solution on page 16.

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 6111 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, OR, (503) 774-6560.

BUY, SELL, & TRADE: Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: < <http://www.radiolaguy.com> > or e-mail me at: < sonny@radiolaguy.com >

Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

WANTED: The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

FOR SALE: **Must reduce my radio collection. Need the room. What are you looking for? I can mail a list if you're interested. Jim Broeffle, 1138 SW Ballinger Dr., Grants Pass OR 97526 Call (541) 479-3607.

WANTED: **Cabinet and Speaker for Philco Model 90. Also Remote Speaker and Lid for Philco Model 65. Jim Barratt, 26313 SE Leonard Road, Camas, WA 98607 Call (360) 834-4429.

WANTED: **Silvertone, model 8021 AM/FM bakelite table model from 1949. Contact Rick Walton, (503)284-5648 or e-mail rwalton@teleport.com.

WANTED: **Looking for affordable: 6G5G, 6AD6G, UX-280 (1), UX245 (1), UX224 (2)

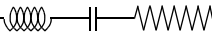
Looking for schematics and service data on the following Radios: Ward's Model# 62-476, Zenith Model# 6D525, Colonial Model# 655, Silvertone Model# 1291, Crosley Model# F5TWE, Emerson Model# BA-199, Granco Model# TU160U (?). Contact: Scott Hoke, e-mail: desk.jet@CWIX.com home phone: (503) 646-9392

WANTED: Zenith tube shields. Have non-Zenith shields (Philco, other brands) to swap. Contact Dick Dielschneider.

Leads & Needs

Would like to borrow (or rent) the complete Rider CD set. I am willing give the loaner of these CDs a cash deposit and/or rental fee. Contact: Scott Hoke, e-mail: desk.jet@CWIX.com home phone: (503) 646-9392

Roster Corrections

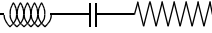
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Burgoyne, Howard*

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3910 Poseidon Ct.

West Linn, Oregon 97068

(503) 650-3828 Radiomemories@webtv.net

_____  _____
Elkins, Ray†

_____  _____
Hoke, Scott‡

R

6978 SW Tierra del Mar Dr.

Beaverton, OR 97007

(503) 696 9392 desk.jet@CWIX.com

Tube Radios, incl. consoles.

* New e-mail address.

† New member. I didn't receive Ray's address and phone in time for this issue.

‡ New e-mail address.

Remembering “Tech” Sloat

by Dick Karman

Many of the men and women who made radio what it became in the early days were not the actors, announcers, and writers of New York, Chicago, and Hollywood. They were the local radio engineers that kept the ever-increasing number of local stations on the air.

The NW Vintage Radio Society has often attracted those engineers and their relatives because we keep a small portion of that legacy alive. We lost one of our honorary members last January. New members to the Society will not remember him, but many of his writings live on in the pages of past Call Letters. Francis Sloat, an early radio engineer, seldom used his given name. Instead everyone call him Tech. Many of us at first mistakenly called him, “Tex.” It didn’t matter to him. He was part of the history of radio in the NW. He told of helping to build stations in Olympia, Wenatchee, Tri Cities, Longview, Portland, and every other nook and cranny.

His health for several years had kept him from attending meetings, but we’ll miss him and the history he represents.

Solution to the Call Sign scramble from page 13:

KDB Santa Barbara, CA
KFI Los Angeles, CA
KGO San Francisco, CA
KEX Portland, OR
KGY Olympia, WA
KIT Yakima, WA
KJR Seattle, WA
KMJ Fresno, CA
KNX Los Angeles
KPQ Wenatchee, WA
KUI Walla Walla, WA
KVI Seattle, WA
KWG Stockton, CA
KXL Portland, OR
KXO El Centro, CA

New Meeting Location!

In February we changed our meeting location to the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

1. Take the OR-213 exit, exit number 10, towards PARK PLACE/MOLLA.
2. From the South, turn RIGHT onto SR-213, or from the North, keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp and merge onto SR-213.
3. Turn LEFT onto CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.
4. Turn RIGHT onto S FORSYTHE RD. (appears on the map to turn into PARK PLACE)
5. Turn LEFT onto S HARLEY AVE. The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S Taylor Lane.

The written instructions and the map came from “Map Quest” on the Internet, with some additions and editing for the sake of clarity and purpose.

