

The

# Call Letter

July, 2001  
Vol. 27 — No. 7



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Over **25** years in print!

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# The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$20.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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

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

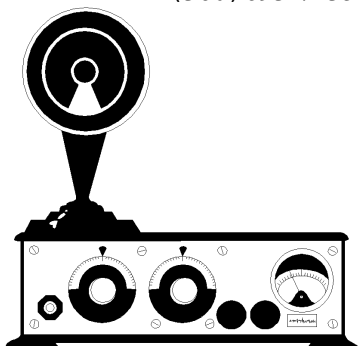
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

## Society Officers for 2001:

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	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society  
Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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**On the cover:** This is the artwork from the cover of the July, 1924, issue of *Wireless Age* magazine.

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### August Call Letter Deadline: August 1.

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**The next meeting is on September 8  
(following the Summer break).**

**The monthly feature is:**

**Your summer acquisition and/or summer project.**

**Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

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

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.

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## From the Editor

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by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

The mystery is solved! Jerry Talbott was the club member who provided me with that great send-up of the NRI ads that were an institution in all the radio magazines of the '30's and '40's. I'm glad that I can correctly attribute the source, but it's depressing how frequently my memory fails me like that these days.

I've received the updated membership list from our treasurer, Ed Charman. Some of you received this issue with an extra sticker on it alerting you that this is your last issue. If you intend to maintain your membership with the society and continue to receive the *Call Letter*, be sure to get in touch with Ed right away.

In this month's *Call Letter* we have a large "Play it again, Sam" section with two restoration stories, one from David Wise and the other from Jeff Martin. Their stories are alike in that they both come to a satisfying and successful conclusion, but are different because of the difference in experience and expertise of these two collectors. Dave is an electronics professional, and an old hand at radio troubleshooting. Jeff, on the other hand, is new to radio collecting but filled with enthusiasm and eager to learn the techniques for making his radio work properly. Of course, the readily available help from other club members points up the value of belonging to a club like ours.

There is no entry in the Club Calendar for a swap meet of any kind in August, but I saw one or two mentions of such a thing in the NWVRS e-group. If anyone decides to host an informal gathering for the purpose of swapping radios at some point in the month of August, be sure to let me know in time so that I can include the notice in the August *Call Letter*. Publishing date will most likely be August 2, so have any notices to me before then.

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# NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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By Liles Garcia, Secretary, NWVRS

Vice-President George Kirkwood called the June 9, 2001 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in the Call Letter. There were 36 people at our meeting today; the following guests attended: Lloyd Commandant, James Ellsworth, Tom Guthrie, and Chris Martinez. Liles conveyed many thanks and much appreciation from President Charlie Kent to those members that contributed to and helped with our Swap Meet.

## **Old Business**

Swap Meet—Club members in general felt that our Swap Meet was a great success! Some suggestions were to have better walking flow from the front of the building to the rear of the building, and to have better walking flow from the first floor to the second floor. Jeff Martin mentioned that we could use the other front door and maybe that would encourage more people to go upstairs.

## **New Business**

Ribbons for Awards—Members voted for Gordon Phillips to buy more ribbons for our monthly program awards.

NWVRS Web Site—Dave Brown informed everybody that our club's web site has been moved, but the name is still the same.

## **Leads and Needs**

Dick Bixler would like to buy a small shortwave receiver with a band spread that is calibrated for the ham bands.

David Wise needs a knob for a Zenith 500 or 600 Series TransOceanic; he also would like to get an R-390A receiver.

Jeff Martin needs a Crosley 168 chassis, a 179 chassis will also work fine.

Glen Bricker has a matched pair of 7591's for sale.

Pat Kagi needs a console radio for someone's home.

Dave Brown has a friend that needs information on a Westinghouse Baby Grand radio.

## Program

Today's program was "rare radios". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First place—Sonny Clutter—Clapp-Eastham Model HRL radio

Second place—Mike Parker—Remler Infradyne radio

Third place—Jeff Martin—General Electric H-610U radio

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## NWVRS 2001 Calendar of Events

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- July 22**      Concours d'Elegance vintage car show, Forest Grove.
- August 3,4,5**      Ralph Muchow Estate Auction in Elgin, Illinois.
- August 11**      Ham Radio, Computer, & Electronic Equipment swap meet, Lower Columbia Amateur Radio Association, W7DG, Longview, WA, Cowlitz Co. Expo Center  
<http://www.qsl.net/Nc7p/Swapmeet.htm>
- August 19**      PSARA Annual Swap Meet.
- September 8**      Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 30**      Chehalis Valley ARS Hamfest, Chehalis, WA.  
<http://www.cvars.org>
- October 13**      Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- TBA**              NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale.
- November 10**      Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- December 8**      Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

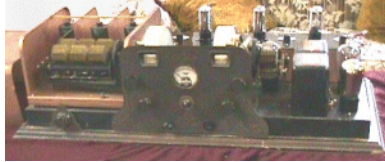
# Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

Here are the radios that were on display at the June meeting.



Liles Garcia -  
Echophone EX-108



Mike Parker - Remler Infradyne



George Kirkwood -  
Kirkwood Model-2000



Ed Cook - Clinton TRF



George Kirkwood -  
Kilbourne & Clark



George Kirkwood -  
Crosley Model V



Scott Hoke -  
Serenader 5092



Dave Brown -  
California Radio Shop  
Prototype?





Art Redman -  
Cockaday LC-27



Sonny Clutter -  
Clapp-eastham  
Model HRL



Dave Brown -  
Splendid SR



Jeff Martin -  
GE H-610-U



David Wise -  
Sony ICR-120 Micro



Dave Wise leads a class in troubleshooting.



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# Voilà

*...new and recent finds by NVRs members*

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by Sonny Clutter

**Gary Marvin** — Midwest Royal, a scarce 24 tube console from the late 30's.

**Sonny Clutter** — Radiola "Long Distance Radio Concert Amplifier" circa 1921, model AA-485. This is a special regenerative RF amplifier/detector unit that feature 6 exposed UV201 tubes lined up in a row on top of the unit.

**Ed Cook** — a Firestone Air Chief model S 7403-6 from 1940 in a rare Ingraham cabinet with fluted front speaker grill.

**Rudy Zvarich** — BC-342-N military receiver. It covers 1500-18000 KC in 6 bands, has Xtal filter, BFO, can be used as a boat anchor (weighs about 55 lbs.), with original built in 120 AC power supply, MFG in Dec. 1944, all in excellent/ "low miles"

**David Wise** — 1. Delmonico AM/FM Japanese tube-type table model, wood case.

2. Zenith AM/FM tube-type large good-looking clock radio, wood case.

3. Newcomb classroom-style record player.

4. HP 608D VHF Signal Generator.

5. I don't have it yet, but a '56 Motorola R-390A is on its way.

6. Triplett 310 pocket VOM.

**Dave Brown** — a 1933 Emerson Model 411 Mickey Mouse radio in excellent condition.

**Rick Walton** — 1. GE Model 67 white plaskon clock radio

2. Philco B714 off-white "Multiwave" clock radio

Cheers, Sonny the RadiolaGuy

Visit my vintage radio site at: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

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# Play It Again, Sam!

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## Compiled by Dave Brown

The column where club members can publish their restoration accomplishments!

### **Dave Wise — Hallicrafters S-72R**

Bought at the Henry's estate sale last summer, it sat around 'til May. Cosmetically, the cabinet is fine. The faceplate was dirty and the knobs had a thick buildup of white waxy stuff. (What is that stuff anyway?) I pulled off the knobs and slowly and gently scraped most of the stuff with a dental pick that has a scraper. I finished up with a stiff-bristle toothbrush, dry. The faceplate looks like copperplate, with painted trim. The copper has a slight mottled tarnish under what seems to be a wax polish. I got the plate off after removing the headphone jack nut and the small wood screws around the edge. After removing the other dirt with a soft toothbrush in soapy water, I decided that I wouldn't get anywhere with the copper and anyway, it was good enough.

After removing the chassis, I found that one of the chassis-mounting blocks had broken loose. I put wood glue on it and braced a screwdriver between the block and the cabinet back.

The dial markings are painted on a metal plate mounted on the chassis. They were pretty good; I just wiped gently with a soft soapy cloth. (I tried a little corner first, and the paint held.) Same with the back surface of the clear plastic dial cover, which stays in the cabinet.

The loop antenna is stapled to the cabinet, which makes a bit more hassle during alignment. Wherever you do it, the cabinet has to come along.

This radio came with a manual, which included schematics.

The chassis looked so good I decided what the heck, and proceeded to fire it up gently using a variac with a small 12V bulb in series as indicator/fuse. I turned the volume pot and heard scratches. I set the band to 1, hooked up the loop, turned the tuning, and voila - it worked immediately. It seemed weak, though. Substituting a 10 ohm resistor for the 22 ohm resistor ahead of the selenium rectifier raised the voltage on the filament string from 5.5 to 7 with a 120 VAC input. A battery would have made 7.5, but 3-way sets seem to intentionally run the filaments a little dim on line power.

Study of the schematics revealed that the only paper caps were located where leakage is not a problem, so I let them be.

I warmed up my signal generator and proceeded with alignment. The IFs were pretty far off. During the RF portion, the dial cord developed a fray where it wrapped around the shaft and finally snapped, requiring replacement with salvaged dial cord.

Prior to this I had noticed that the tuning was hard, and investigated. I have to conclude that the tuning cap frame is just too tight. There's no adjustment like there is on some caps. With so much torque required to turn the cap, the dial cord tension had to be very high, which led to endless tweaking of the cord length and spring tension. The cord also tended to slip on the shaft. I was able to stop this last problem with a solution of violin bow rosin in 70% alcohol. Be sparing! I put way too much on, and had to remove most of it (with a knife and many alcohol-soaked q-tips).

After the dial cord debacle, I finished the RF alignment, buttoned it up, and called it good. It's quite sensitive on the lower three bands, equal to my S-38C. On the high band, I think Hallicrafters compromised on the coil designs, sacrificing low-end gain for the sake of even gain across the band. I have a couple of other receivers that act the same.

### **Jeff Martin** — 1946 Admiral Bakelite AM Radio Model 6T02 -5b1-MA

I found this radio in an antique shop, marked at \$20 but they were having a sale, so I got it for \$15. I could tell this was not going to be easy. The cord was cut off, and things looked a little gruesome inside.

I took it all apart and began working on the case. I tried some rock polish. Don't worry, I won't do that again! It was the finest polish but still a little too rough. I finally settled on Blue Magic, which Charlie recommended. Fortunately the case had no cracks, and it did polish up nicely. Then I finished it off with furniture polish.

For the electrical part, I noticed only hum when I first plugged it in so I started by replacing a filter capacitor of three elements with 3 separate caps, but I misunderstood the arrows, and put them in backwards. Then I fired it up and the 35Z5 glowed very brightly. I asked Charlie about those arrows, and he explained that the arrow points toward ground. I had replaced the burnt resistor with a 33-ohm ½ watt resistor from Radio Shack. I replaced several wax paper caps that looked pretty bad and then I turned it on. Before I got the variac up to 120 volts, I notice the 35Z5 still seemed way too bright.

By this time all the hum was gone, and I was receiving radio signals, but the volume was very low. I started e-mailing David (Wise), and doing

some testing as he recommended to see if my switch was the problem. This involved touching the volume control leads, but I made sure I was wearing shoes and not touching anything when I did that. I've been shocked by my radios before, so this one was a little scary, but it proved that my switch was good.

David told me to test the voltage level in certain areas, so I did, but I didn't realize when I was testing those voltages that I should have had my multimeter set to DC voltage, and had to go back and do my voltage tests all over again. Even then, the voltage was too high. I thought the replaced resistor might be at fault because it was hot, so I replaced the 33-ohm ½ watt resistor on the 35Z5 with a 2-watt, and it was also hot.

After a series of e-mails back and forth with my test results, and David's insights he writes....

"Open and shut, Jeff! Pin 5 should be 0. 90% likely it's the coupling cap, 9% it's the resistor. If the cap is a paper tubular, don't even check, just clip it out and replace with a new cap. It's pretty non-critical, if you can't read the value or don't have an exact replacement, just about anything .01 or larger, rated at 200V or higher, will do. If the pin 5 voltage goes to 0 when you clip out the cap, you're done. Pin 5 is the control grid. (BTW, if you don't have a tube book, there's a nice web site at <http://duncanamps.com/Tubedata/>.)

Like virtually all tubes, the 50L6 is meant to operate with its control grid negative wrt its cathode, in this case by 8 to 10 volts. In AA5's this is achieved with a series resistor on the cathode. Cathode current makes a drop across the resistor which makes the cathode positive wrt ground. The grid, which is returned to ground via a resistor (typically 470K), looks negative wrt the cathode. This topology is called "cathode bias" or "self-bias". In your case, the grid is at +0.2V wrt the cathode, which makes the tube conduct like crazy. It's running way outside its linear range, which would result in low volume and distortion. Just for completeness, measure the resistor after clipping the cap, to confirm it's still within tolerance."

The last meeting we had, I brought this set in for the trouble shooting class, and we went through the whole set, until coming down to the capacitor connected to the 50L6, that David described in his e-mail, and he determined that it was the culprit. He was right all the way down to the value (.01mf) as he indicated above. He clipped it out, and the voltage went back to normal. So I went home and replaced that cap, and the set worked fine! My 35Z5 looked normal, and the 33 ohm resistor was cool. Then... I turned the volume up loud, and it would drop off. So, it went back to the garage, and I replaced two more of these odd looking (at least to me) square capacitors, and now the radio is doing wonderfully, with all the volume and more than I'll ever need. Thanks to all who offered help and advice!

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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

**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](mailto: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.

**WANTED:** The INGRAHAM man wants radios with wood Ingraham cabinets. If you're not sure if it's an Ingraham, call Ed Cook in Vancouver, (360) 573-1439, or e-mail "[hopopco1@home.com](mailto:hopopco1@home.com)".

**WANTED:** \*Dial glass for a Philco 41-295 console. Record turn table for a Philco 46-1201 table top radio/phonograph. Pat Kagi (360) 694-6149  
[kagi.pat@con-way.com](mailto:kagi.pat@con-way.com)

**WANTED:** \*Chassis for 1932 Airline 62-51, 12-tube superhet, (or similar model). Radiola 17 or 18 lamp hood (original or reproduction). Gordon Ormsby, 1855 NW Circle Place, Corvallis, OR 97330 ph 503-753-6398,  
[gormsby@trixiseng.com](mailto:gormsby@trixiseng.com)

**WANTED:** \*\*Zenith speakers — any condition. 12" #49-150 (Bee hive cover), 6" #49-158 (with metal end bell). R.A. Dielschneider, 7040 S.W. 2nd Ave., Portland, OR 97219, 503-246-1062

**FOR SALE:** \*A wide variety of radios at <http://radiogallerykent.com>. Charlie Kent

**FOR SALE:** \*Send large SASE for my new revised list of reasonably priced transformers, test equipment, ham gear and other stuff. Bud Larson, 1325 Ridge Way, Medford, OR 97504

## Leads and Needs

Be sure to look through the "Leads and Needs" in the meeting minutes.

Radiolaguy's web page is full of lots of information on early radio, TV and also provides lots of links to other valuable info resources relating to the radio collecting hobby; it's not just a "for sale" site. Be sure and visit the site often. One of the services offered is pictures and information on the entire RCA "Radiola" line from 1921 to 1931 and my "show and tell" page.



*Ah!! This IS the Life*

*For full enjoyment from your Christmas Radio*  
**WESTINGHOUSE "COZY CORNER" ENSEMBLE**

*"What a swell idea!" "Tops in Radio Comfort."*  
*"JUST THE HOME SET FOR THIS CHRISTMAS."*

That's what folks are saying about the Westinghouse "Cozy Corner" Ensemble. For what could be more downright convenient and enjoyable than to have within lazy reach of your easy chair a Westinghouse Armchair Radio, together with the newest Certified I. E. S. End Table Lamp and Westinghouse Electric Clock? It's an appropriate ensemble, of course. But it's even more enticing once you've heard the new Westinghouse Radio perform.

In its 1938 models Westinghouse has combined every worthwhile feature of modern radio science. Clear, rich, mellow tone is blended with control and selectivity features which preserve Westinghouse leadership in design.

That's why we suggest—before you buy—visit your Westinghouse Radio Dealer, see and hear these amazing models. Westinghouse Radio Headquarters, 150 Varick St., New York.

**78**  
**BEAUTIFUL NEW MODELS**  
 for every purse and purpose



A compact 6-tube Personal Radio with big radio performance for only \$19.95. Slightly higher west of the Rockies.



Automatic electric tuning plus other advanced features in this 13-tube De Luxe All-Wave Console.

**Westinghouse** *Precision Radio*

This Westinghouse Radio ad is the inside front cover of the January, 1938 "Esquire" magazine.

**19TH ANNUAL**

**PSARA**

**AUGUST SWAP MEET**

**Sunday, August 19, 2001**

**9 AM to 1 PM**

Members of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society are cordially invited to the 19th Annual PSARA Antique Radio Swap Meet. Last year's swap meet was the biggest and best ever. Hopefully, we'll even exceed that this year. So dig out those unwanted radios, dust them off and bring them to the August Swap Meet. And don't forget to bring a tent...just in case. To ensure a smooth operation and a pleasant experience for all, please review the swap meet guidelines below.

1. The entire parking lot is for sellers only until 10:30 AM. Arrive anytime you like. Buyers may park in the street (where permitted) or in the large lot in front of the school (facing Fremont Avenue.) A walkway connects both lots. Follow the signs. You can also park in the Water Department parking lot directly across the street from the museum. Ignore the "No Parking" signs.
2. Sellers who arrive early should park as far in the back of the lot as possible. This is where most of the shoppers will be. This also gives late-comers easier access to a space in the front rows.
3. The parking area along the east fence is reserved for large trucks. Pickups and small vans should park in the main area.
4. Each seller is entitled to two free marked parking spaces, including a space for your vehicle. Additional spaces (or their unmarked equivalents) can be purchased for \$25 each.
5. Tables, merchandise or structures (i.e., tents) cannot extend more than 6 feet beyond a marked parking space into the driveway.
6. Sellers must begin to set up within one hour after they arrive.
7. Selling spaces are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please don't save spaces for late arrivals.
8. Don't park in the narrow alley between the museum and the school. You're violating fire codes and may be towed.
9. Volunteers will be available throughout the morning to help sellers find a parking space and offer other assistance.
10. Although the event is free, voluntary contributions from sellers (and buyers too!) are always welcomed to help pay the sizeable cost of conducting this event. The suggested donation is \$5 but if you're having a particularly good day, our donation taker/fee collector will be happy to accept more.

We look forward to seeing you on August 19th. Come early, stay late, bring radios and money, and have great time!

-Walt Kiefner