

The
**Call
Letter**

September, 2005
Vol. 31 — No. 9



30 years in print!

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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

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

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

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

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

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 2005:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
Vice-President	Dave Brown	(503) 585-4667 ironradio@qwest.net
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@aol.com
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648 rwalton@easystreet.com
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On the cover: One of the many Zenith radios seen by club members when they toured the Zenith museum in June. More of the tour is pictured in the Photo Display.

The next meeting is on Sept 10, 2005.

September Feature: Pre-WWII Test Equipment

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: September 28, 2005.

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

From the Editor

by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

My attention this week has been riveted on my home state of Louisiana and the difficulties that face New Orleans as it lies devastated in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. We can't imagine the difficulties faced by those who evacuated the city and now are unable to learn of the fate of their neighborhoods and their neighbors, friends, and family. The most chilling aspect of it all is the descent into anarchy and chaos among those remaining in the city. I am particularly concerned because I have family, including a sister, who live in and around New Orleans.

This month we've got a great lineup of stuff for you. This could be called the "it's about time" issue because the Zenith museum tour, which took place in June, is just now being featured in the Photo Display. I was unable to take part in that tour, so I couldn't take pictures. My thanks to Kem Sypher for making his photos of the event available for publication in the *Call Letter*. The other overdue item this month is Art Redman's "Long Radio Works," which appeared in the February 2005 issue of *Antique Radio Classified*. By the way, Art appears in the current issue of *A.R.C.* with an article on Northwest Radio Company, Norco. I greatly appreciate the folks at *A.R.C.* generously granting us permission to reprint Art's article. That current article caused a little confusion when I call *A.R.C.* to request permission to reprint Art's article. Pat, who took my call, assumed I was asking about the current article. I didn't realize it until I received her e-mail with the permission information, and discovered that the acknowledgment paragraph declared that the article was printed in the September issue of *A.R.C.*

Another reprint in this month's issue is Mike Parker's "In the Shack," which I've been re-running as a series over the last few months. In this installment, Mike is doing some mental wrestling with the dilemma of stripping old chassis for parts. Then there are the regulars, Voila and the Swap Shop. A question arose during the preparation of this issue about the Swap Shop and the appropriateness of newer items. My response was that it is radio-related, you are a member, and it isn't like the Swap Shop is overrun with ads, so I'll be happy to include the newer item. If the day comes when we are filling pages with ads and I'm having trouble getting things to fit, then I might take a different approach, but until that day arrives, I'm happy to serve members' needs.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting place as we return to our regular monthly meetings after a brief hiatus in August. The feature is pre-WWII test equipment which should be an interesting topic.

NWVRS 2005 Calendar of Events

- September 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 24** Spokane Hamfest. (ARRL Washington State Convention)
New University High School, Spokane, WA 99206. <http://www.kbara.org>. Info, contact Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, n7wrq@aol.com.
- Sept 30 - Oct 2** Pacific Northwest VHF Society Annual Conference.
Shilo Inn, Seaside Oregon, http://www.pnwvhfs.org/pressreleases/PR_12182004.htm
- October 8** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- October 22** Swap-Toberfest, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon, (Ten miles west of Salem). This is a big one and a good one! For information, contact n7bud@arrl.net.
<http://www.swaptoberfest.net>
- October 29** Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. <http://www.qsl.net/k7skw/fleamarket.htm>. Info, contact k7iey@netscape.net
- November 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Nomination of officers for 2006.
- December 10** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2006.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Sonny Clutter: A very nice Atwater Kent 84 “round top,” and a Rare Kadette model “B,” small deco set from 1933.



Rick Walton: Blaupunkt Typ 2430 “Virginia.” 7-tube AM/FM/SW.

Photo Display

Photos by Kem Sypher

These photos are from the long-awaited Zenith Museum tour that members took back in June.





Long Radio Works

by Art Redman

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Entrepreneurs crop up in every decade. Art Redman introduces us to the Long brothers who resembled Powel Crosley in their wide interests from radios to airplanes, which they put into actual production in the early 20th century. (Editor)

Long Radio Works dates from 1912 when Leslie L. Long built and sold his first radio set at the age of twenty-three. During World War I, he picked up messages from and tried to trace a German transmitter believed to be located in the nearby hills. Unfortunately, Long was unable to decipher the code, which appeared to be an endless series of numbers.

In 1920, Long went into commercial radio production at the family farm located on Rural Route 1, later renamed NW Long Road, twenty miles west of Portland, Oregon, and one mile north of the town of Cornelius. In the radio business with Les Long was his brother George known as the “radio repairman.” The other two Long brothers, Carl and William, operated the 200-acre farm raising corn and grain.

Long Battery and AC Sets

The Long Radio Works made several battery radios and AC sets. The 1926 Model B5, shown in Figure 1, has NA-ALD brand dials, five Type 01-A tubes, three binocular coils, and a thumbwheel dial tuning three ganged capacitors. It sold as a complete set. The Model F5, shown in Figures 2 and 3, is a 5-tube TRF with two Kurz-Kasch style dials. These model numbers are etched in the front



Figure 1. The Long Model B5, ca. 1926, has NA-ALD brand dials, five Type 01-A tubes, three binocular coils, and a thumbwheel dial.

panels of the sets. In addition, a Model L5, a 2-dial set, consisted of a tuned detector and two capacitor ganged RF stages.

The AC sets of the Long Radio Works are difficult to identify. One 5-tube AC table radio has only a paper label inside the wood cabinet stating, "Long Radio Works -- Standard Since 1912, Cornelius, Oregon," referring to the year Les Long sold his first radio. A 6-tube TRF console, shown in Figure 4, includes Type 224 screen-grid tubes and a Jensen electrodynamic speaker, but it also has no visible model number. The only visible identification is the paper label affixed inside the cabinet. Another Long radio in existence, a 5-tube table model, has an inside paper label and a Lansing speaker. The speaker may not be original. One other midget set in the collection of an Oregon radio collector has a Magnavox speaker.

In 1985, this collector bought a small 4-tube tombstone radio at a garage sale. The set, shown in Figure 5, had no identifying marks; however, a fellow member of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society said it was a Long Radio because he had found a similar set with an ink marking on the rear of the chassis.

To a collector who comes across an unidentified 1930s AC set, I would suggest looking inside the cabinet for a possible Long Radio Works paper label or an identification label inked by hand on the back of the metal chassis, which is typical of the tombstone and cathedral models. More than likely, the tombstone I had come across and subsequently sold had the ink label erased by time.



Figure 2. The Long Model F5, a 5-tube TRF with two Kurz-Kasch style dials, with the lid up.

The Radio Collectors Guide by Morgan E. McMahon lists a Long's Radio Company. The set listed is a 1930TRF Cardinal midget radio/phonograph combination made by Long's Radio of Los Angeles, California, which later became the Cardinal Radio Company. It has no connection with the Cornelius, Oregon, firm.



Figure 3. An inside view of the Long Model F5.

Other Long Ventures

When an aviator landed his plane next to the Long family home in 1927, Leslie Long decided he had to build an airplane. He started that same night. The plane, completed in October 1929, weighed 425 pounds, and had a 25-horsepower motor, a speed of 90 miles per hour, and mileage of 35 miles to a gallon of fuel. The planes at first were a sideline to the radio business, but soon the Longs became more famous for their plane designs.

Over the next ten years, Les and George Long built eleven light airplanes, including the Anzani and Henderson Longster. Plans of their airplanes powered by adapted motorcycle engines and sold through hobby magazines were the acme of light airplane design.

“I like to fool with things that require exactness,” said Les Long. He ground telescope lenses and whittled airplane propellers by hand, and his plant became the only federally licensed one in the Pacific Northwest. Propellers are similar to fans and Long adapted them to the fruit dryers necessary to eliminate pests like vinegar flies. The fruit dryer and other industrial fans outsold airplane propellers ten to one and became the main product of the



Figure 4. This 6-tube console with a Jensen electrodynamic speaker has no visible model number.

Long family business. The Long Brothers also manufactured electric fence controllers.

The radio and propeller business remained a Long family enterprise. Leslie Long refused numerous offers to go into large-scale production because he always considered himself a craftsman preferring to carve propellers by hand. The Long Radio Works was still in business in late 1939, but probably ended manufacturing when the government shut down all civilian radio production at the start of World War II.

The Long Brothers airplane business faced a decline in the late 1930s. Les Long blamed this decline on the Depression and big business competition aided by government regulation. He said that made it so difficult to make planes at home that “thousands of young men who, instead of being down in the basement constructing planes, are out nightclubbing and driving on the roads trying to wrap dad’s sedan around a telegraph pole.”

Leslie Long died suddenly on January 18, 1945, at the age of fifty-five years on the family farm. His brother and partner George Dewey Long “the radio repairman” passed away in 1953 at the age of 54.

Photo credits: By Tony Hauser, George Kirkwood, Mike Parker, and Jerry Talbot from the files of the Call Letter, the newsletter of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society.

References:

“Carl Long, Obituary,” The Hillsboro Argus, March 31, 1981, p. 10.

“First Plane Built in County is Success. Les Long, Cornelius Radio Man, Designer,” The Hillsboro Argus, October 17, 1929, p. 1.

“Lester Long Dies Suddenly,” Hillsboro Argus, January 25, 1945, Section 2, p. 8.

Millman, Loren H. “Worldwide Industry Rises From Modest Oregon Farm,” The Oregonian, July 31, 1938, Section 6, p. 4.

Parker, Michael, Portland, Oregon, Member of Northwest Vintage Radio Society and owner of two Long radios.

(Art Redman, 7731 SE 44th Avenue, Portland. Oregon 97206)

Art Redman is a charter member of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, which was founded in 1974. He is a frequent contributor to the Society's newsletter “The Call Letter.” His current interest is doing research on Pacific Northwest radio manufacturers, including Long Radio Works, Northwest Radio Manufacturing, Cole, McKay, and Magic crystal sets, as well as the firm of Hallock and Watson. He has no Long sets in his collection.



Figure 5. A 4-tube tombstone with no identifying marks purchased at a garage sale.



Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the September, 1995 Call Letter.

In the last "In the Shack," I mentioned that I felt "guilty" when I robbed some perfectly good parts from a restorable Atwater Kent radio chassis. I know that this practice is common, one can always find an ad from someone wanting a junker chassis, for parts. My concern is, if all the old chassis are cannibalized for parts, sooner or later there might be an excess of stripped out chassis. Will they just exist with no usable parts and possibilities of restoration? There may come a day when there is restorable collector desired radio chassis left.



A good example of this syndrome is the possibility of finding a complete Philco 70 or 90 chassis, and I emphasize the word "complete". Just try and find a multiple tube shield for one of these models! I see ads for just this tube shield, alone. How many of you, once upon a time, found an extra chassis for a Philco 90, took the tube shield off and sold or gave the chassis away? Models like this, with high end collector value, are always the ones that parts for completion are sought after first. Somebody out there probably has 3 or 4 stripped out Philco 90 chassis, used as parts donors. I simply ask, "What good are they now?" Where is the future restorer going to find those parts? You may now have a complete set, but what is the future restorer to do?

Maybe, I am being an extremist. Maybe, it just doesn't matter and it is not important. I really don't know. I need some input. Should we really be concerned with what a future restorer has to go through someday? I know that we all appreciate a nicely restored old radio or even just a nice old radio that has been untouched. I also know that what I have had to go through to restore my radios in the past few years, has been harder than it would have been 20 years ago.

Let's face it, little by little, good original radio parts are slowly disappearing as more collecting and restoration occurs.

If you don't believe this, just look at the vintage auto hobby, a much more active endeavor than ours. Entire businesses are now devoted to nothing but manufacturing reproduction vintage auto parts. But, the demand for reproduction '32 Philco parts will never exceed the demand for reproduction '32 Ford parts.

Another example is an ad saying; Atwater Kent Model 10 Breadboard, complete except for tube island. Where will you find it? It won't be cheap, if you find it! Collector demand has driven this stuff clear out of sight.

There are some excellent reproduction radio parts already available and, I believe, more to come. I would encourage all of us to take advantage of this service, no matter what the price is, within reason, of course. The lower the demand, the higher the price of these items will remain. Nobody can survive just making repro Philco 90 tube shields!

Maybe we should just recycle our old chassis, just throw it in the scrap metal bin, this should eventually drive the price of an Atwater Kent 55 chassis to that of an AK Breadboard tube island!

This may be the only way to solve the parts cannibalizing dilemma, in the future.

I encourage any feedback or comments about this subject from you, the reader, collector and restorer. Just contact the CALL LETTER editor or call me at (503) 235-7187 and we will print your comment. Your name may not be printed, if you so specify. I hope to hear some input on this subject, otherwise, the next time that I need Atwater Kent belts and pulleys, I'll just find an old unused chassis and "STRIP 'ER OUT!" ...Guilty or not.

See you next time, "In the Shack"...73's... Mike Parker

Swap Shop

FOR SALE: Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503)513-0410

FOR SALE: Compaq "Presario" Model 5340 with low hours and has excellent 14" monitor- \$150. It isn't "vintage radio" but comes in handy buying and selling on the web or just keeping track of our collections. Contact Jerry Talbott at (vinradio@easystreet.com) or phone (503-538-4041).

FOR SALE: Two remote control Philco console radios with matching Mystery Dial remotes. \$200 for both. Included is a third console without remote and a Philco cathedral. Contact Pat Kagi (360)694-6149.

FOR SALE: Hallicrafters TW-1000 for sale, \$60.00. Color is black. The TW-1000 is the Hallicrafters version of the Zenith Transoceanic. Liles Garcia

FOR SALE: Icom R 8500 100kh to 1.999gh all mode. Played about 30 hours. E/W shipping box, manuals, software for computer control and TV R 7000 TV picture adapter. \$1200, Robert Campbell 503 648 7331 or hmlcc@aol.com.

WANTED: *Tubes, large quantities, preferably NOS, radio or TV. Also dial pointer, knobs, & antenna for Silvertone Candycane (model 3351?). Damon Vandehey, 503-259-9129.

Radio Service

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

Roger Brown - (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze - (360) 944-7172, wb6jhhj@ix.netcom.com

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

Dave Wise - (503) 293-7835, david_wise@phoenix.com

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

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

Leads and Needs

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>.

Member Information

Just in case we don't have your most current member information, please take the time to send the information requested on this form.

Name*:

Mailing Address*:

City, State, ZIP*:

Ham Call Sign:

E-mail:

Phone:

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

*Information we must have to be able to send you your Call Letter. The rest is optional, but we hope you'll share it with other club members.

Mail this sheet (or something like it) to Rick Walton at the society's mailing address:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379

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or e-mail the information to rwalton@easystreet.com.