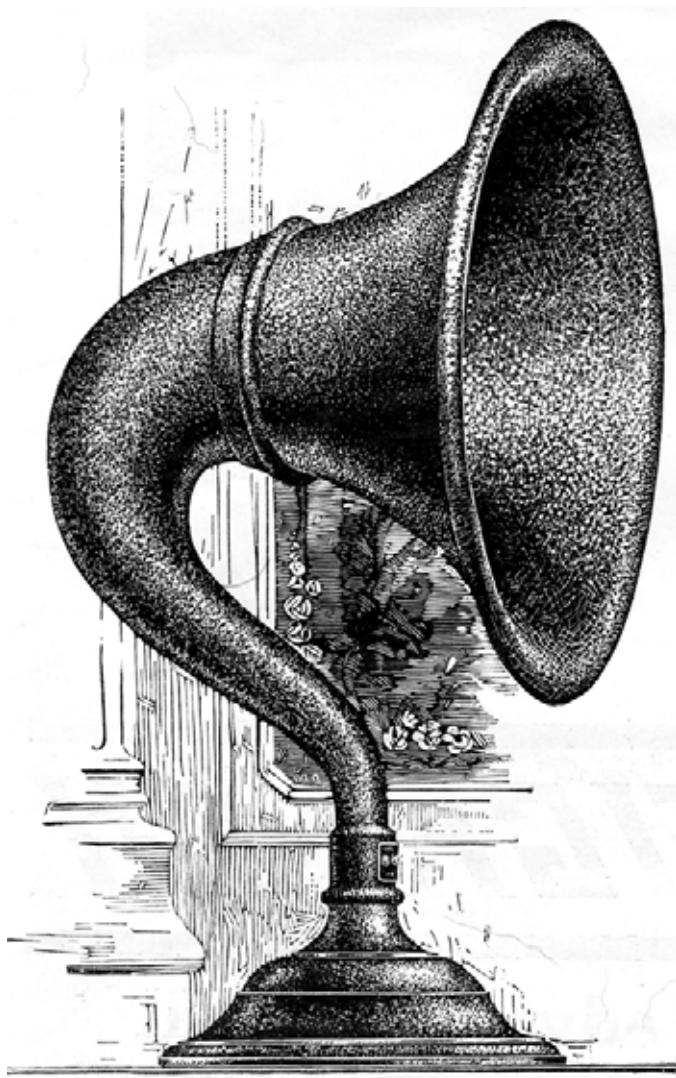


*The*  
**Call  
Letter**

March, 2006  
Vol. 32 — No. 3



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Over **30** years in print!

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# The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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

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

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

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

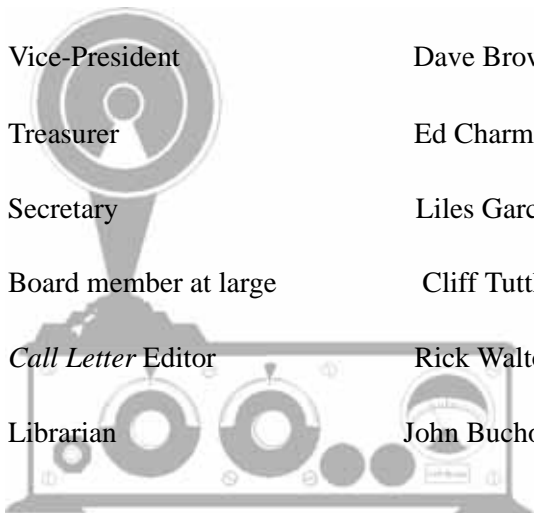
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the *Call Letter*.



## Society Officers for 2006:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 <a href="mailto:radigeo@hevanet.com">radigeo@hevanet.com</a>
Vice-President	Dave Brown	(503) 585-4667 <a href="mailto:ironradio@qwest.net">ironradio@qwest.net</a>
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 <a href="mailto:landn2@verizon.net">landn2@verizon.net</a>
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <a href="mailto:kiptuttle@aol.com">kiptuttle@aol.com</a>
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648 <a href="mailto:rwalton@easystreet.com">rwalton@easystreet.com</a>
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 <a href="mailto:BonJonBuck@webtv.net">BonJonBuck@webtv.net</a>



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# March 2006

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**On the cover:** It's an "Atwater Kent Loud Speaker" from a 1924 magazine ad which claims that it will "Bring out the best from any set."

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**The next meeting is on March 11, 2006.**

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**Annual dues are now overdue!**

**February Feature: "Three Dial Radios" — radios that have three dials for tuning in stations.**

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

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**Next Call Letter Deadline: March 29, 2006.**

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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

First of all, let me express my thanks to the Society for the sympathy card for my father's death. I truly appreciate it. His death came as no surprise after my visit with him in January. The funeral was a real celebration of his life, and he is now at peace. My sisters and I agree that the sadness we feel is for ourselves and certainly not for him.

I look forward to being at the meeting this month to regain a sense of being connected to the club. This is the first time in a long time that I've missed two meetings in a row and I've begun to feel "out of the loop." My great thanks to Sonny Clutter who stepped up and took the photos of the tubes on display at the February meeting. I wish I could have been there to see them.

Just recently I've begun watching Craig's List for Portland on the internet. Those of you who are into using the computer might discover, as I have, that there are a fair number of radios (okay, lots of consoles) available at reasonable prices. Some have even been free. I've called a couple, usually too late, but I've picked up a deal or two (see Voilá). I had my best luck at finding them in the "collectibles" and "furniture" categories. I just search for "radio" in those categories. Occasionally if I look in the "electronics" category there might be something of interest, but the stuff found there is usually satellite radio or the like. With eBay prices getting so astronomical, Craig's List offers another way to use the internet for radio collecting, and it has the advantage of being local.

This month's Call Letter is a little on the slender side, but full of quality stuff. There are all the usuals including the meeting minutes, the Photo Display, Voilá, and the Swap Shop, plus the conclusion to Mike Parker's "In the Shack" series on collecting 78's. Be sure to check through the calendar of events and note that there have been some changes and additions.

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## NWVRS 2006 Calendar of Events

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- March 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 11** 25th Annual Electronics Show & Fleamarket, Mike and Key ARC, Puyallup, WA.  
<http://www.mikeandkey.com/flea.htm>

- March 18** 2006 NWAPRS Winter/Spring Digital Gathering. Chehalis, WA. \$5 donation requested to help cover expenses. <http://wiki.ampr2.net/nwaps/SpringGatheringCentralia>  
For information, email [ac7yy@amsat.org](mailto:ac7yy@amsat.org).
- March 26** Ham & Computer & Electronic Swapmeet. Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Club, 12460 Harris Road Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, BC. (Lougheed Hwy & Harris Road - On the East Side of Harris Road across from Subway in the OLD Rec Center.) Contact Mike VA7MR Manager (604) 466-2957 E-mail [va7mr@telus.net](mailto:va7mr@telus.net). <http://www.qsl.net/ve7rnr>
- April 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 8?** Inland Northwest Hamfest & Computer Show, Spokane, Wa. **CANCELED**
- April 8** Yakima Amateur Radio Club W7AQ Hamfest 2006 Selah Civic Center, Selah, WA. Info, contact Lindsay Kooser, N7RHW 141 Stark Road #7 Yakima, WA 98908 Phone: 509-965-6612 Email: [n7rhw@arrl.net](mailto:n7rhw@arrl.net).
- May 6** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360-387-7705). [huppert@whidbey.net](mailto:huppert@whidbey.net).
- May 7** O.C.A.R.C. 2nd Annual Flea Market. Orchard City Amateur Radio Club. Kelowna, BC. <http://www.ocarc.ca/2006%20Flea%20market.htm>
- May 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- May 20** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora VFW Hall, Aurora, Oregon. *NEW LOCATION!*
- May 27** The Third Annual 145.29 Chili Cookout and Swap Meet. 1055 Erixon St. NE Salem, Oregon, close to I-5. The cost is \$5 and \$10 for families. 12 noon to 3 PM. For information, contact Dan, WA7ABU, [wa7abu@arrl.net](mailto:wa7abu@arrl.net). <http://www.qsl.net/wa7abu/Chili.html>.
- June 2, 3 & 4** Apple City Radio Club Hamfest, Dryden Gun club. Dryden, WA. Contact Judy, [ka7zna@msn.com](mailto:ka7zna@msn.com) for information. <http://www.qsl.net/w7td/>

- June 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 10** Hamfest 2006. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. Lions Club, Hiway 53, Rathdrum, ID. For more info contact Jim, N7ESU at (208)667-4915 or email [n7esu@arrl.net](mailto:n7esu@arrl.net).
- June 16-18** SEA \*PAC, Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, OR Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC <http://www.seapac.org>
- July 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 14-16** Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest July 18-20, 2003, East Glacier, MT.  
<http://www.gwhamfest.org>
- July 29** Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society Hamfest. Lewis County Fair Grounds, Chehalis, WA. Contact John Ellingson, K7OSK, [k7osk@boatanchor.com](mailto:k7osk@boatanchor.com)
- August 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 12** The 10th Annual Greater Portland Insulator Swap — 9999 SE Frenchacres Dr. Portland, OR. 1:00 pm until early evening. No charge. RSVP appreciated so that we can plan the food. Contact Dan Howard (503)659-3520 e-mail: [strains@msn.com](mailto:strains@msn.com).
- August 12** Hamfest and Electronics Flea Market, Radio Club of Tacoma; Bethel Junior High School  
22001 38th Avenue East, Spanaway, WA
- August 20** Antique Radio Swap Meet — Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle.
- September 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 23** Spokane Hamfest. (ARRL Washington State Convention) University High School, Spokane, WA 99206.  
<http://www.kbara.org>. Info, contact Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, [n7wrq@aol.com](mailto:n7wrq@aol.com). (509)448-5821.
- October, 2006** Swap-Toberfest, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon. (Ten miles west of Salem). For information, contact [n7bud@arrl.net](mailto:n7bud@arrl.net). <http://www.swaptoberfest.net/>
- October 14** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora VFW Hall, Aurora, Oregon.

- October 14** North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club Hamfair. Bremerton, WA. Kitsap Fairgrounds. For information, contact Ron Sefton, N7EM, (360)779-5418, [ronsefton@hotmail.com](mailto:ronsefton@hotmail.com) or Horace Ory, (360)779-2215. [ory001@comcast.net](mailto:ory001@comcast.net). <http://www.nkarc.org/hamfest/index.html>.
- October 28** Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. Always the last Saturday in October. For information, contact [k7iey@netscape.net](mailto:k7iey@netscape.net)
- November 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2007.
- December 9** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2007.

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## NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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### Liles Garcia, Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the February 11, 2006 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes from the January meeting were approved as printed in the February Call Letter. There were 42 members at our meeting today. Paul Workinger attended today as a guest; members gave Paul a welcoming round of applause. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved as provided by Ed. Librarian John Bucholtz reported that our Library is doing fine.

### **New Business**

Swap Meet--We discussed our Swap Meet at Aurora this May. Blake Dietze and Sonny Clutter will make a flyer, and Brian Toon will distribute them for us. We are planning to start our Swap Meet at 10:00 AM, and to end it about 5:00 PM. These extra hours will be close to the business hours of the antique shops in Aurora. Also, please note that our Swap Meet will be on May 20.

### **Tech Talks**

Jerry Talbott brought some early style video cassettes to show the group. Many thanks to Jerry for bringing these video cassettes!

George Kirkwood showed the group a technique for making plastic dial covers from plastic sheets. George uses a plywood mold and a weighted top for the mold to form the plastic sheet. Heat the plastic in the

mold in a 325 degree oven for about 20 minutes or until the weight moves down into the mold. George passed his mold around the room so that everyone could see how it is built. Many thanks to George for showing us this helpful technique!

## Leads and Needs

Bob Campbell has a copy of the Mallory vibrator manual if anyone would like one. Damon Vandehey would like to get some 6 in X 6 in X 4 in cardboard boxes. Jerry Talbott has three Tek CRT's available. Dick Dielschneider is looking for a Zenith 15 tube chassis.

Mark Richardson donated 7 Riders Volumes to be auctioned at our meeting. He brought Volume III, Volume IV, Volume V, Volume VI, Volume XII, Volume XIV, and Volume XV. The Riders Volumes sold for \$77.50; the money went to our Society's treasury. Many thanks to Mark for donating these books for our auction today!

The program topic for the meeting today was "Tubes with local test stickers." Members showed and discussed the tubes that they brought. Some members are planning to make a list of the addresses that were on the tubes, and then try to find what is at those addresses today.

The program topic for our March meeting will be "Three Dial Radios." These are radios that have three dials for tuning in stations.

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# *Voilà*

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

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Compiled by Sonny Clutter

**Pat Kagi:** Motorola 53H 'Jet' bakelite radio

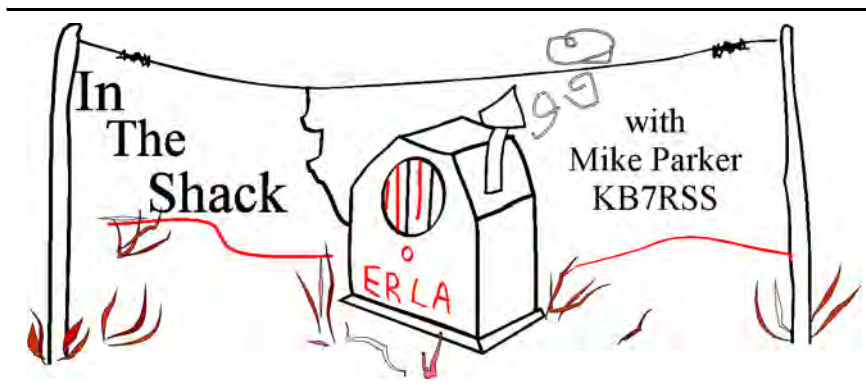
Setchell Carlson 437 large 'Frog Eye' swirled maroon plastic radio

Silvertone 7000 left handed bakelite radio.

**Rick Walton:** 1946 Zenith TransOceanic model 8G005YT. The outer covering is worn, but all parts are there including knobs, wave-magnet, rubber suction cups, and extender ribbon for the broadcast antenna. No cracks on the front panel. Found in the Collectibles section of Craig's List. At some point someone substituted the 117Z6GT rectifier with a selenium rectifier soldered onto an octal tube base. Don't know if any of it works.



**Sonny Clutter:** Rare 1933 large “Coca-Cola” bottle radio. This has been a long sought after item as the first radio I ever repaired (I was 14) was one of these. I don't know what I ever did with it and have never seen another. In fact I have not seen this one yet as it's in transit from Pennsylvania but I couldn't wait to proclaim my find for this long awaited treasure. Hopefully I will have it to show at the April meeting.



*Editor's note: This “In The Shack” article is from the May, 1996 Call Letter.*

## Collecting 78's (conclusion)

Just like radios and tubes, I have found it very interesting to research vintage records by the year of manufacture. This can be done by using the record catalog number on the label. However, it is not easy because each label has its own numerical series.

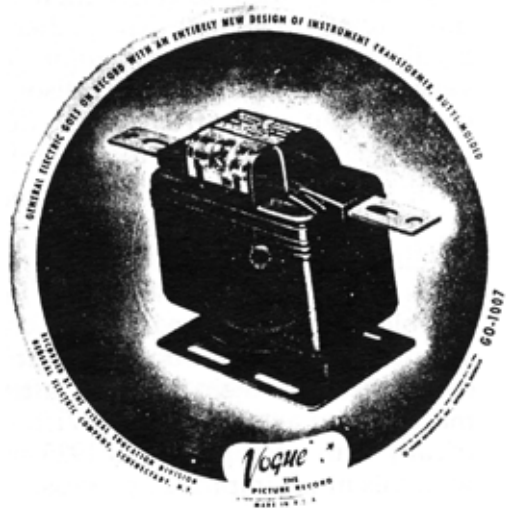
Generally, they are consecutive between years with a different number series for record types such as classical, popular, foreign artists, race, etc. The label style or color may or may not have anything to do with the catalog number.

It can be very easy or very confusing, depending on the record brand. Seasoned collectors pride themselves on finding a certain number series Victor.Columbia, Brunswick or Okeh record and this sought after number series corresponds with the date of manufacture. Records from 1929 to 1935 are sought after in particular because some very good music was recorded at that time but relatively few records were sold, due to the depression, making them scarce today.

The label style is often referred to approximate years of manufacture, for example, a Victor “Scroll” is a label style used from 1926 to 1937 with a fancy scroll like filigree around the outer edge of the label. A Columbia “Flag” is a short lived label style used only during part of 1923 and 1924. It is a gold label



with horrible looking orange, blue and white flags unfurled on each side of a white title box. Some labels are identified by years only by the label color, a Gennett record had a blue label before 1925 and a red label after 1925, later switching to black with gold letters as did every other label during the later 1920's. During the 1930's and 40's colored labels again came into vogue. Speaking of Vogue, oddities like the Vogue picture record are quite collectible and usually range from \$25 to \$100 each. The entire record is a picture, usually of the artist although one, a promotional record by General Electric, is a picture of their latest—Transformer! (see photo)



There are a few published guides to label catalog numbers in various books on old records and most are described as follows: Columbia Records number A-1 (1908) to A-4000 (1923), number 1-D (1923) to 3170-D (1936). The Columbia A series went through two label styles and the D series went through four label styles. During this time they had a special “race” record category starting in 1923 at 13000-D to 1932, 14700-D and a “country” record category starting at 15000-D. This was for popular music records only. Classical and foreign records had their own number series and label colors. Confused? You are not alone!

Victor popular series was a bit simpler after 1908, starting at 16000 and ending in 1942 at 28000. Therefore, I know that a 1920 Victor record is numbered at about 18600. It is documented that Paul Whiteman made a Victor record number 18690 of “Whispering,” in August 1920 which sold two million copies! But Victor red seal and Victrola red label records had their own numerical series. It's enough to boggle the mind!

Starting in the teens, but very prevalent by the early twenties, were the appearance of many cheap records on various labels. At first, selling cut rate in defiance of the large established companies like Victor, Columbia and Brunswick, they sold in five and dime and department stores as well as magazine racks and cigar stores. Grey Gull, Radiex, Arto, Cameo, Emerson and Oriole were just a few in this category. Later, the major record companies issued their own cheap labels to better compete with these upstarts. Columbia made records such as Harmony, Velvet Tone and Diva. Victor made Electradisk and the popular Bluebird label. Brunswick bought out Vocation and later made the Melotone label. These records were all made of lesser quality materials and sold for half price or less of a major brand. They were not made to last forever although many are still around and playable.

The recording artists on these cheap labels recorded for the major labels under their real names but used pseudonyms to record on these cheap labels. A good example was popular singer Annette Hanshaw on Columbia who became

Dot Dare on Harmony and Gay Ellison Diva. The Golden Gate Orchestra on Edison became the California Ramblers on Columbia.

The quarter inch thick Edison disks are quite a story in itself. These, along with Pathe' and early Okeh labels were recorded with the grooves cut vertically and must only be played on the phonographs they were made for. Edison, like Henry Ford, had his own way of thinking and after 1920, when lateral cut grooves became standard in the industry, continued the vertical cut thick records until 1928, switching to the electrical recording process of the thick records briefly, then, to conventional thin records for a year until giving up entirely. The Father of the Phonograph was finally beaten by the competition. Thin Edison records are very scarce today. The thick Edison records are still easy to come by but suffer from severe delamination and chipping. They generally sell for around \$5 each.

It is generally regarded that the first 78's were developed by Emile Berliner and first sold to the public in 1893. The last issued 78 is now thought to be "Fannie Mae," a blues 78 by Buster Brown on the Fire label issued in 1960. Double sided 78's were introduced in 1908 although single sided disks were produced until around 1923. Cylinder records were on their way out after 1912 but some were made as late as 1920 or later. Victor started recording electrically with microphones in 1925 and others soon followed with this much improved process. Recently, I have been taping some of my 1920's 78's of interest onto cassettes. I am using a 1948 Webster-Chicago turntable with the tone arm pickup output direct with a Y-cord to the stereo input of a cheap GE "boom box" AM-FM cassette stereo. The quality is good and I can get fifteen 78 sides on one side of a 90 minute tape. It saves wear on the disks and I think of it as a way to preserve my collection. I like to listen to the tapes while working on my 1920's radios up In The Shack. It is almost like a "time warp!" I guess the ultimate would be to find some rare 1920's "Blu-Disc" records to match the blue Arcturus tubes!



Finally, I must mention a new book I got for my birthday. It is the best book I have seen yet on record collecting...The American Premium Record Guide, 4th Edition, by Les Docks. It covers records from 1900 to 1965 and includes 78's, 45's and LP albums. It has a beautiful cover showing rare labels in color and has 465 pages. A 58 page section is record label photos alphabetically with circa dates for each. Four full sections plus an index give listings by artist, label, record number and current value for each disk. IT is well worth the price of \$22.95. I am no big Beatles fan but you might look for their "Butcher" Yesterday and Today LP album now worth \$1,000! I know that I don't have it, if I did I would trade it for an Atwater Kent Breadboard Radio! I think I have covered all that I could on collecting 78's, but if any of you readers have a question about the subject, please feel free, as always, to contact me "In The Shack." See you next time.

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# Photo Display

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Photos by Sonny Clutter

These are the tubes with Portland area labels on them that were shown by members at the February meeting.





Mike Parker

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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:** \*Tubes, NOS. All tested on a mutual conductance tester. Many of each of the following types available: 6BQ5 @ \$20; 6SN7 @ \$18; 6V6 @ \$18; 12AX7 @ \$20. Contact Damon Vandehey, 503-481-9344.

**FOR SALE:** \*Triplett Tube Tester, Model 1210A. \$50 OBO. Damon Vandehey 503-481-9344 (work) or 503-259-9129 (message).

**WANTED:** \*\*Any old tube organs such as Thomas or Hammond, working or not. Damon Vandehey 503-481-9344 (work) or 503-259-9129 (message).

**FREE** to a good home: \*\*Bendix console AM/FM/Phono. Works but needs alignment, phono works, cabinet is "basket case." Contact Jerry, 503-784-7649, or Damon Vandehey 503-481-9344 (work) or 503-259-9129 (message).

## Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

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

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

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

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>

I am looking for the second volume of Alan Douglas' "Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's." Jay Johnston (503) 226-4181 [wihat@msn.com](mailto:wihat@msn.com)

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# Member Information

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

**Name\*:**

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**Mailing Address\*:**

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

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**Ham Call Sign:**

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**E-mail:**

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

**Phone:**

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

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

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

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379

Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

or e-mail the information to [rwalton@easystreet.com](mailto:rwalton@easystreet.com).