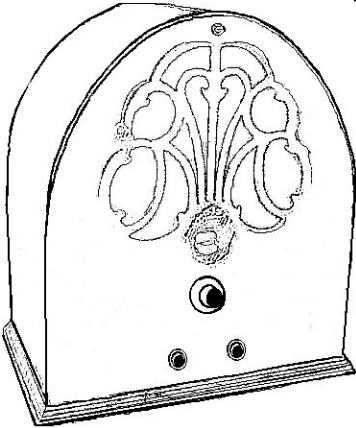


The

# Call Letter

October, 2006  
Vol. 32 — No. 10

## ANTIQUÉ



## RADIO

## SALE

**10 AM - 4 PM**

**Saturday, October 21**

**American Legion Hall  
Corner 3rd & Main  
Aurora, Oregon**

**For information contact:  
Brian Toon (503)266-5527**

Presented by



Over **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.

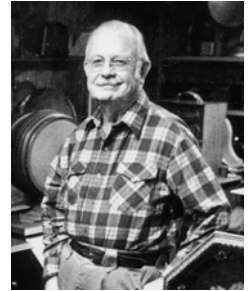
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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 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).

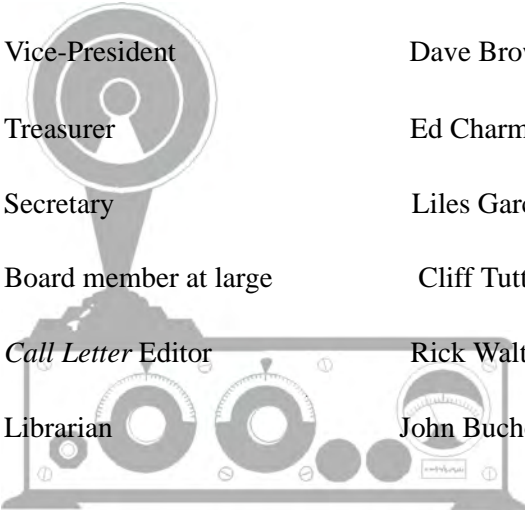
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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:radiogeo@hevanet.com">radiogeo@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) 656-4104 <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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# October 2006

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**On the cover:** It's time again for the Swap Meet. As always in the month that the Swap Meet occurs, our cover carries the Swap Meet flier. Look inside the rear cover for directions to the American Legion Hall in Aurora.

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**The next meeting is on October 14, 2006.**

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**October Feature: Anything and Everything Atwater-Kent**

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

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**Next Call Letter Deadline: November 2, 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

I still haven't fully made up my mind to do it, but I am seriously thinking about it. What is "it?" you ask. "It" is joining the Abernethy Grange, the organization that owns and maintains the building we use as a meeting place, as do several other hobby and special interest groups. The Grange invited club members to attend their September meeting just to get a sample of what a Grange meeting is like (see my report on page 5) and to get a sense of the activities that make up a Grange chapter. Several of the members that we met explained that they were first members of one or another of the organizations that meet in the Grange Hall, and joined the Grange as a way to keep it healthy and able to continue its work in the community as well as continuing to provide a convenient and affordable meeting place for their hobby group and others. Yeah, I just might!

We've got a full plate in this issue with lots of photos from various events, a "news" piece (forwarded to us by Blake Dietze) about Radio Daze absorbing Rock Sea Enterprises, another "In the Shack" with Mike Parker, this time from March '97, and new items in the Swap Shop. I included a lead that Blake Dietze sent me for Russel Industries, who distribute all kinds of parts and components useful for radio restoration.

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## NWVRS 2006 Calendar of Events

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- October 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- 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 21** NWVRS Antique Radio Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 21** 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 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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Tony Hauser for Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the September 9th, 2006 meeting to order at 10:01am.

There were 39 members and guests in attendance. The August meeting minutes, as written in the September, 2006, *Call Letter* were recited and accepted as written.

Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report. The treasury balance, as of September 9<sup>th</sup>, was \$234.64. The report was approved.

John Bucholtz then gave the Librarian's report. He said the Library is being used, but there are a few books that have been out for more than 6 months now. John has been in contact with the members who have overdue books. He also asked for a new volunteer to take over the library since he has been the Librarian for the last 7 years.

Brian Toon presented the Swap Meet report. He mentioned that our sale occurs on the same day as the Rickreall Swaptoberfest on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Options for minimizing the impact of this were discussed and a vote to keep the sale on the 21<sup>st</sup> was passed with the exception of keeping the sale going later than the published time of 4:00pm.

There was no Good & Welfare.

### Old Business

Tony Hauser reminded members to volunteer for tomorrow's (September 10<sup>th</sup>'s) Radio display at the Abernethy Grange awards ceremony at 2:00pm.

### New Business

Society Outreach: George asked for ideas about attracting new members to the Society.

Budget: George asked Ed about the financial outlook for the remainder of the year. Rick Walton said that we are now printing the Call Letter ourselves with our own printer. This will significantly reduce the

cost of producing the Call Letter. Members thanked Rick and also Blake Dietze for donating paper and a Hewlett-Packard printer in the near future.

Sale signs: Bill Meloy announced the completion of the new signs in time for the October Swap Meet.

Tube data CD-ROM: Bob Campbell compiled, and Blake reproduced on CD, a collection of tube data and Rider's index. Bob asked for a voluntary donation to the Society for a copy of the CD. The attendees decided to set a price of \$5 per copy. George will bring copies of the first 30 years of the Call Letter on CD to the next meeting. The price for these is \$1.

## Leads & Needs

Rick will be having a storage unit sale immediately after the meeting at his new house in Oregon City.

Pat Kagi needs the push buttons for a Stewart Warner wood radio.

## Monthly Feature

Seven members discussed nine "ugly" radios brought for this month's display. The October meeting feature will be anything (radio, automotive, etc.) made by Atwater Kent.

George adjourned the meeting at 10:52am.

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# *Voilà*

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

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Compiled by Jay Johnston

**Sonny Clutter:** Electro Importing Company (the original EICO) model 1500 slide tuner crystal set from 1916  
RCA 621TS. Their first post-war TV; this is a pre-war design, shelved during WWII, and released in 1947 with a retrofitted 13 channel tuner.

**Jay Johnston:** Two beautiful pieces from the Jerry Talbott collection, a Long Radio Works tombstone and a NORCO variometer.

**Art Redman:** "Shorty" Shortwave Adapter. Another locally-made gem from the Jerry Talbott collection; this one has a 24a screen grid tube and 3 round knobs. Watch the newsstands for Art's soon-to-be-published article in A.R.C. about this manufacturer.

**Rick Walton:** FADA Model 1000 “Bullet”. This butterscotch catalin beauty completes Rick’s collection of radios remembered from his childhood... but will he find room for it in his new home?

Send word of your latest find to Jay Johnston, [withat@msn.com](mailto:withat@msn.com), or by post at 1451 SW Market St., Portland, OR 97201-2555.

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## A Visit to the Abernethy Grange

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### Rick Walton

On September 10 a small group of NWVRS members attended a meeting of the Abernethy Grange at the Grange’s invitation. The group included Sonny Clutter, Tony Hauser, Bill Meloy, and Rick Walton. We set up a small display of radios in the basement.

At the meeting we were able to see how the Grange conducts its meetings, marching in to piano accompaniment and following well-established rituals. A number of awards were given out to Grange members for their length membership. A couple of the awards were for membership exceeding 50 years! There was also an exhibition of square dancing put on by two of the square dance clubs that use the Abernethy Grange Hall.

Following the meeting, everyone went down to the basement for refreshments and socializing.



Some of the radios displayed by club members at the Grange meeting.

Sonny Clutter discusses the radios on display with Grange members.



# Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

The September feature was “Ugly Radios.” Ugliness, like beauty, seems to be in the eye of the beholder.



Packard-Bell Portable -  
Art Redman



Tradio Hotel Radio -  
Alan Shaddock



Silvertone - Sonny Clutter



Admiral - Anonymous



Teal Westinghouse -  
Lloyd Harris



Aeriola Homebrew -  
Dave Brown



Westinghouse - Blake Dietze





Troy 444 and Stewart-Warner - Bill Meloy



*Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the March, 1997 Call Letter!*

## WINDOWS '25

Just what exactly was it that finally turned a household radio into an object of "beauty" back in the 1920's?

It certainly wasn't the cabinet itself, basically a "box" with a lift up lid that was considered a standard design from the early teens until 1929 or so.

Yes, some radio designs dared to be different back then — the 1925 Thompson "Minuet" is a good example. This cathedral shaped radio had an extruded paper-cone speaker with the tuning dial around the circumference of the speaker. This radio, which incidentally is featured in



an article in the latest Antique Radio Classified magazine, was indeed so different that it didn't sell!

This is analogous to a couple of automobiles that suffered a similar fate, the Chrysler "Airflow" of 1934 and the Ford "Edsel" of 1958. Maybe they were considered ahead of their time, but I don't think that was the problem, I think that people could not accept the radical departure from what they accepted as normal.

Prior to the mid-1920's, a normal looking radio was a box of the type mentioned above, with a front panel loaded with knobs and all kinds of functional stuff such as jacks and wire binding posts, bezels to look at the tube filaments glowing, and in some cases, the tubes themselves and even, coils, all in full view, right in milady's fine living room! A case in point is the 1923 Federal 61, which had 22 visible items on the front panel alone!

Of course, some of this was cleverly hidden behind doors, but this was usually done on the higher priced models. By 1925, during that decade of flamboyance, style and modern design influence, the radio that looked as if it was lifted from Frankenstein's laboratory was beginning to be a total misfit. The novelty of radio was wearing off. A radio set was no longer tolerated in the house as an object of curiosity, but was being accepted as a new symbol of "status quo" much like the TV or computer of today.

And so, to answer my first question, the one single item that was responsible for a revolution in radio design, adding beauty and decreasing clutter was none other than the WINDOW TUNING DIAL!

But before that, the advancement of the one dial radio had to happen. This was accomplished in late 1924 with the introduction of three different radios at about the same time. THERMIODYNE had only one tuning dial but several other knobs on the panel.

MAGNAVOX had introduced a one dial set with a cleaner look, and in my opinion was a modern looking set for its time. The MOHAWK A-5, first advertised in November, 1924, was considered a true one-dial set but still had four items on the front panel. None of the above mentioned radios used a window dial of any type.

So, who really was first with a window dial? In my opinion, that honor had to go to Charlie Freshman and his B series FRESHMAN MASTERPIECE of August, 1925. By contrast, Atwater Kent didn't use a window dial until the Model 55 of 1929. If any of you readers know of one made earlier, I certainly would like to hear about it!

Freshman had already taken the radio industry by storm when he introduced his A series Masterpiece in mid 1924. This cheap model 3-dial, using the TRF circuit and a trick form of neutralization by coil and

condenser placement, sold for \$60 and started a revolution in low-cost radio design.

When Freshman introduced the B-series Masterpiece, they designed the tuners with a circular number plate to be viewed through a small window in the front panel. This was cheaper than using full-vision knobs, as on the A-series, and I am not sure that Freshman did this with aesthetics in mind! Nevertheless, it started another revolution — WINDOWS '25!

But, the B Freshman still had 3 dials, and it wasn't until the mid 1927 season that Charlie came out with a true one-dial. This time, however, it had one window dial, a harbinger of things to come.

Getting back to around August, 1925, a new radio company came on the scene, a company with plenty of money and a fair amount of technical expertise. And, just by chance, they had designed a four-gang tuning condenser made to mount across the front of the chassis. This new design made use of a drum-shaped circular number plate, to be viewed through a slot-shaped window. Although it got off to a slow start, the KOLSTER soon started selling quite well and, again in my opinion, was the perfect radio for milady's moderm living room!

One month later, hard on Kolster's heels, came RCA and the Uni- Control drum dial designed by Westinghouse for the Radiola 20, 25, 28, and 30-series radios. This type used a window slot but also had a thumb-wheel tuner, setting another trend for the future.

The Radiolas were advertised in a luxurious home theme, making a further statement that radio should be beautiful.

Who had the last window dial radio?....PHILCO used that concept up until 1939. Many short wave radios used it until much later, and I have seen it used on transistor radios made in the last decade. It's a sensible tuning arrangement, now in a very insensible world!

See you next time.....IN THE SHACK.

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## **Dial News - July, August, September 2006**

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In June of 2006, a portion of the Rock-Sea Enterprises business was acquired by Radio Daze of Victor, NY. The Tobin family is moving, and a new address and telephone number will be posted in September. We will continue to make OEM and custom products but will no longer manufacture decals or dials scales antique radios. We may provide some artwork services for antique radio items. Radio Daze expects to begin production in September.

### **Radio Daze acquires dial business**

In an agreement reached in May of 2006, John Slussers's Radio Daze acquired the Rock-Sea Enterprises antique radio dial scale and decal business. Radio Daze is a major supplier of parts and accessories for

antique radio collectors and dealers offering a full line of tubes, grille cloth, capacitors, resistors, cloth covered wire, tube sockets, shields, transformers and refinishing products, and books related to antique radio.

John dabbled in radio since his teen years, and his interest in collecting led to the formation of Radio Daze in 1998. John is now an avid collector of Scott radios and is also well known for publishing "The Collectors Guide to Antique Radios", Volume 5 & 6 which he obtained from Marty Bunis in 2000.

Rock-Sea's flat glass dial scale business was acquired by Radio Daze six years ago and they are now making these dials in the most appropriate form, silk screened on glass.

During the first week of June, Phil Hasten of Radio Daze visited the shop in Oujia to inspect equipment, methods and resources for making dial scales and decals.

This acquisition includes the artwork files for decals and dial scales, and the manufacturing equipment for producing these items. Radio Daze will continue to make the Rock-Sea line.

They have considerable experience in computer graphic artwork and will be making these items in house with production expected to resume in September.

If you would like one of their catalogs, call 877-653-8823 or e-mail [info@radiodaze.com](mailto:info@radiodaze.com). You can visit the Radio Daze web site at [www.radiodaze.com](http://www.radiodaze.com).

## **It's been a fun ride!**

Said Mike Tobin, founder of Rock Sea Enterprises, "Making dials and decals over the past 10 years has been a marvelous experience and a great hobby, but it's time to move on."

Tobin will retain the name "Rock-Sea Enterprises" and will continue to make OEM and custom decals and dial plates, which are not related to antique radios. He may do some artwork for old radio dial scales, but he will no longer actually make the dial.

Tobin will continue to consult with Radio Daze for a period of time in areas of unique production techniques and dial scale identification.

Concurrent with the sale of the dial and decal business, the Tobin family and the Rock-Sea shop will be moving from Ojai to the Temecula, California area. It is expected that Rock-Sea will re-open sometime in September. A new telephone number and address will be posted on the web site. "If you are in Southern California, stop and see us!" said Tobin.

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# Seattle Swap Meet Photos

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Photos by Blake Dietze



Dick Howard and Tom Hoskins



Sony Clutter



Shirley and Dick Bosch



Mark Richardson, Brian Toon, Pat Kagi



Dick Dielschneider

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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:** "\$200 each console radio sale." There are 8 sets in all: 1935 Fada 170, 1935 Atwater Kent 828, 1940 Philco 40-190, 1939 GE G-95 "Radioforte" electric tuning, rare 1947 Midwest 816, 1941 Motorola 103CK2 10 tube, timer & motor tune, 1932 Philco 12X 11 tube slope speaker cavity, 1929 RCA 66 with excellent tapestry grill. Call for more information. I plan to take pictures also. Jerry Talbott (503-538-4041) or email ([lords1st@easystreet.com](mailto:lords1st@easystreet.com))

**FOR SALE:** \*Radio/phono consoles including a Scott 800B, clock radios, Eico oscilloscopes, other stuff. Gotta empty that storage unit! Call Rick Walton, 503-656-4104, or e-mail [rwalton@easystreet.com](mailto:rwalton@easystreet.com).

## 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

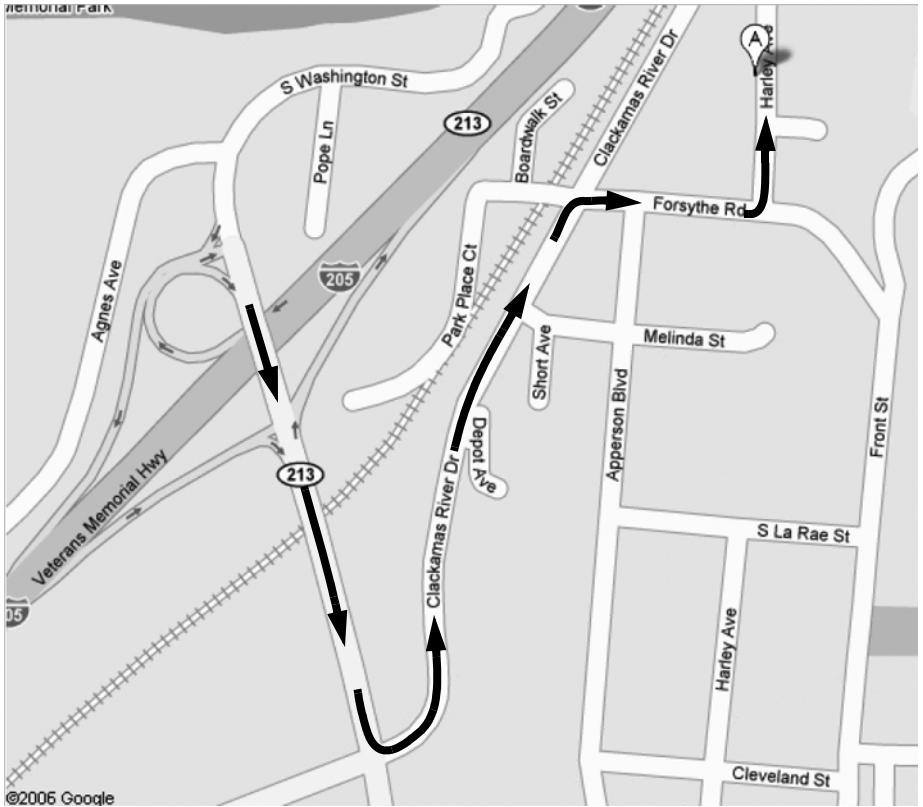
Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photo's, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy  
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

Russell Industries, Inc., 3000 Lawson Blvd., Oceanside, NY 11572, offers round, flat or square rubber, spring or fabric belts for rebuilding any equipment, needles or cartridges for turntables, electrolytic or mylar capacitors, rubber idlers and pinch rollers. Catalogs for Russel Industries can be viewed on line at [www.prblinc.com](http://www.prblinc.com) and [www.russellind.com](http://www.russellind.com).

They also offer a rebuilding service for pinch rollers, pressure rollers and idlers that are no longer available outright.

# Meeting Location

Here is a map (thanks to Google Maps) to the Abernethy Grange Hall (the pointer marked "A"), where the Northwest Vintage Society meets the second Saturday of each month. Just follow the arrows on the map.



To get to the Abernethy Grange Hall:

1. Exit I-205 at SR-213 (Exit 10 to Molalla) and head south on 213.
2. At the first intersection (the traffic light), turn left onto Clackamas River Dr.
3. Turn right at Forsythe Rd.
4. Turn left onto Harley Ave. The Grange Hall is on the left about a block and a half.