

The

# Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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Vol. 25

July 1999

No. 7

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*NWVRS Hats and Jackets Available.  
Place your order NOW! See page 3.*

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In print since 1974

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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 \$15.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The *Call Letter* has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous 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).

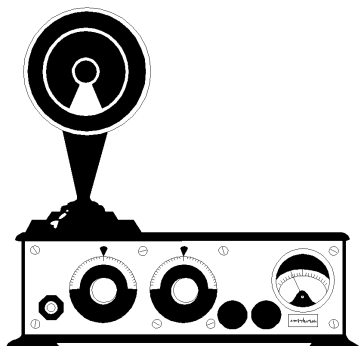
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

## Society Officers for 1999:

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

The Society's address is:

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



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# July 1999

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**On the cover:** This Songbird box is a lovely example of the art that decorated the tube boxes of the 20's. Thanks to Charles & Sue Phillips of Mobile, Alabama, whose beautiful color version of this picture accompanied an ebay auction as part of the description.

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### **IMPORTANT NOTE!**

### **Deadline for the August Call Letter:**

### **July 11.**

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**No meeting this month! We meet next at the usual time on September 11. Check the calendar for events occurring during July.**

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

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

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# From the Editor

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by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

The Rose Festival is now over, the Spring Swap Meet is past us, and the NWVRS doesn't have another meeting until September. The *Call Letter* continues, though. Please pay special attention to the early deadline date for the August issue. I'll be leaving on vacation July 16, so the *Call Letter* has to go to print no later than Wednesday, the 13th. To ensure that it appears in the August issue, I must have it by July 11.

My thanks to Charles and Sue Phillips of Mobile, Alabama for graciously granting me permission to use their photo of the Songbird tube and box that graces this month's cover. This is another of those items I wish I could have done in color.

In this issue we have several things of interest. The announcement about hats, jackets, and nametags is running again. Be sure to send in your order to Ed Charman soon. The low price on these items depends on a sufficient number of orders. You'll notice an article with my byline on it about an experience I had recently with a CRT from an oscilloscope, and Tom Moore reports on his visit to the Carolinas Chapter—AWA annual springtime swap meet. Ludwell Sibley, one of our members and a recognized authority on tubes, announces the formation of the Tube Collectors Association.

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## NWVRS 1999 Calendar of Events

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**July 25** "Concours d'Elegance" at Forest Grove.

**July 31** Coos Bay Hamfest, The Barn, Bandon, OR

**August 15** PSARA swap meet and monthly meeting in Seattle.

**September 11** Regular meeting

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# Tube Collectors Association Formed

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This new group is now in operation. Started by dedicated collector-historians, it is international in scope, nonprofit, and noncommercial. It addresses tubes of all vintages and types. For a membership application and sample copy of *Tube Collector*, please contact the club at PO Box 1181, Medford, OR 97501. Details are also available from Al Jones, W1ITX, on (707) 464-6470 or Ludwell Sibley on (541) 855-5207.

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## Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance

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announcement by Jerry Talbott

I plan set up a club display at the Forest Grove Auto Show /Concourse July 25th. Currently about six members have volunteered to help operate the display, but more are certainly welcome. If anyone else is interested in taking part, call me at 503-649-6717, or e-mail me at [PTL@worldaccessnet.com](mailto:PTL@worldaccessnet.com).

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## Jackets, Caps & Nametags

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by Gordon Phillips

For those who want jackets or caps or nametags, the prices are as follows:

**Windbreaker Nylon Jackets** (white) with the large NWVRS letters and logo on the back of the Jacket and a smaller size on the upper left front of the jacket. \$13.50

**Caps with solid white front and bill** with white knit remainder and with the smaller NWVRS letters and logo on the front **\$3.00**

**Caps with solid white front and solid black bill** with black knit remainder and with the smaller NWVRS letters and logo on the front **\$3.00**

**Nametags** like the previous ones the members have had made (which are of black plastic with the NWVRS letters and logo and your name engraved in white). When ordering, write your name as you want it on the nametag. **\$6.50**

When you order your Jackets, be sure to state your size. Small, Medium, Large or Extra Large. The Caps are adjustable.

Because we won't be meeting in the Clubhouse until our September meeting, we thought if you could get your order in early, we could have them for you in September.

We have to get a minimum of 10 Jackets and Caps to get this rate.

To order, write your preference of Caps and your Jacket size and send it along with a check made payable to Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Send it to:

Northwest Radio Society  
Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379.  
Attention: Ed Charman.

Gordon Phillips will pickup and distribute the Jackets.

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## Club Listing with Multnomah Co.

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by Jerry Talbott

NWVRS will be included in the Multnomah County Library data base under "Club & Organizations." This is a service that used to be provided by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. The library did not say how one could purchase the list, but they will look up any interest group with a phone call.

**Vacuum Tubes**  
**Repaired**

WD-11, WD-12, UV-201A, UV-199  
and others for

**\$3.00**

Quick service. All tubes repaired by us guaranteed to work as good as new.  
Send your dead tubes. We prepay parcel post to you. All you pay is \$3.00 to postman. We give 48 hour service.

**THOMAS BROWN CO.**  
511-517 Orange Street                      Newark, N. J.

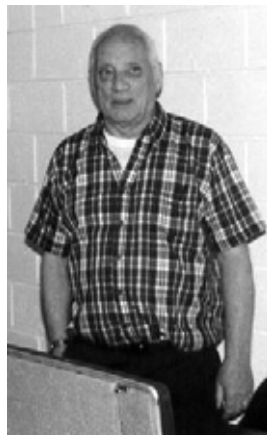
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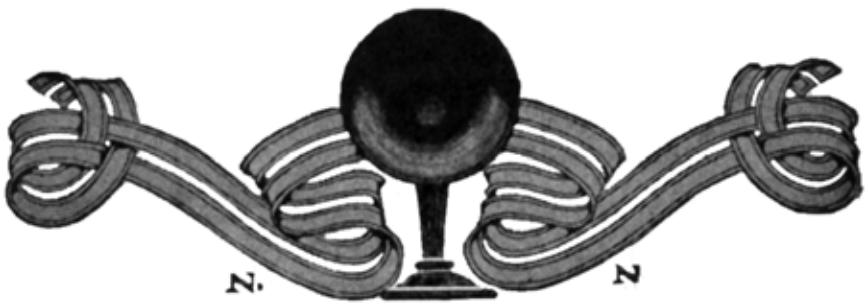
# Photo Display

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Photos by Rick Walton

Here are a few shots of the Spring Swap meet held in conjunction with the Oregon Triode Society.







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# Fools Rush In

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by Rick Walton

I was thrilled when my wife told me that the UPS truck had stopped by and delivered two large boxes. I knew what was in them: oscilloscopes! I'd won a pair of oscilloscopes on eBay for a bid lower than what it had cost to ship the things. One was an Eico 460 like the one I already have and just got to working. The other was a DuMont 274, the one that seduced me into spending my money for equipment I don't need. It's just that I just liked the looks of that scope's face, with its dark front and silvery outlines in deco patterns. The picture on ebay didn't show that the color is a dark, almost forest green. The scope's outer case and crt shield are done in crinkle finish of the same dark green. When all cleaned up, it should be a handsome piece.

I took it to my basement (where my wife makes me take all the things she doesn't want to have to look at) and as I do with all new toys, I began taking it apart. I just had to see how it was put together. After I had marveled at how little was in there considering how heavy the thing is, I went to work replacing the power cord. As soon as I had begun to unwrap it from the storage brackets, the insulation had begun to crumble and fall off in chunks. This thing hadn't been plugged in in years!

With a new power cord in place, I hooked it up to my autotransformer and slowly brought up the voltage until I could see the filaments glowing. They all seemed OK . . . except the CRT. No filament glow, no trace on the screen, not even a fuzzy spot. Naturally, I had to know why.

I decided to remove the CRT from the scope and see if I could figure out what was wrong. Without a schematic or even a page of tube data for the CRT, I began to make a close inspection and came to the conclusion that the heater pins on this 5BP1A tube are 1 and 11. A quick check with the ohmmeter revealed that the heater was open — maybe! I also noticed that the tube base was loose on the bulb. Now my curiosity was fully aroused and I decided that maybe the lead wires had broken away from the pins or something like that. At this point, you'll begin to understand the title of this piece. I warmed up the soldering iron and, using a solder sucker, began removing the solder from each of the pins. When they were all emptied, a gentle tug was all that it took to lift the base off the tube. Immediately I recognized my folly! Even though all the lead wires were there, how was I going to put that base back on the tube? I was still holding the base in the position that it came off the tube, so I carefully noted where the locator key was in relation to the heater leads, the only ones I could identify with any confidence. And a plan for getting those lead wires back into those pins began to hatch. I reasoned that to put them

in place the first time, the lead wires must have been longer. So all I have to do is make the wires longer. But how? I dwelt on it for all of a couple of minutes and figured I could attach fine wires to the tube's lead wires, then use those to guide the lead wires back into the tube base pins. I cut about a six-inch section of the old power cord and removed all of the crumbling insulation. Then I took individual strands of the wire and wrapped each one about two turns around the tube lead wire. A little solder to hold it in place and I was in business — I thought. It turns out all of my solder joints were worthless. Too much junk and oxidation on those lead wires. None of them would hold well enough to pull the lead wire into the pin. By now it was late and I was tired and more that a little frustrated, so I called it quits.

The next evening, I started in again, this time with a fresh outlook. I knew that I had to get a good solder joint between the lead wire and the guide wire if this strategy was going to work. I went to work with a little piece of 600-grit sandpaper cleaning the oxidation from each lead wire and each guide wire. This time the solder made good connection and the guide wires held.

Next came the business of being sure I put the wires back in the right pins. I knew where the heater wires had to go, and I knew that there were more pins than there were lead wires. A little study of the tube socket quickly told me which pins didn't get leads. With only minor difficulty (mostly finding the right focus spot in my progressive bifocals) I was able to thread each guide wire through its proper pin. By carefully and sequentially pulling on the guide wires so that the progress of each guide wire through the pins was more or less even, I was able to slide the base to the point where all the lead wires were at the openings of the pins. Now I had to get them into the pins so that the base shell was up against the tube glass. After a lot of wiggling and jiggling and tugging and tapping and slight twisting, I finally got all of the tube's lead wires back into their pins and the tube base back in place on the end of the tube neck. I carefully soldered each of the pins.

Now the moment of truth! I installed the jug back in the scope, tightened everything down, plugged in the scope (into the Variac, of course), and began powering it up. Wonder of wonders, it worked! Well, sort of. I got a spot on the screen that I can't focus, and a sometimes horizontal sweep, and the intensity control won't take the tube into cutoff, but all the same, the tube seems OK. When I get the schematic, I'll do some more troubleshooting and get this old baby to working again. And in the future, I don't think I'll be so quick to rush in and pull the tube base off of a crt.

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# Visit to “Spring Meet in the Carolinas”

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by Tom Moore

Recently, on one of those occasional business trips that remind me of the movie “If It’s Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium,” I had the good fortune to be in Charlotte in time for the Carolinas Chapter—AWA annual springtime swap meet. It started at noon on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, and ran through late afternoon on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The location was the Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel near the Charlotte–Douglas airport. The entire three day program was quite ambitious with seminars, forums, flea markets, an estate auction plus miscellaneous single-lot entries, equipment contests and dynamic and static radio displays.

Registration began at noon on March 18th and I received bidder card 281, so at least 280 participants had preregistered. During the auction on Friday, I noted bidder numbers of up to 390; not everyone participated in the auction, so there probably were at least 400 who attended the three-day meet. Also, on Thursday the auction display room was open for prospective bidders to review the “goodies.” Approximately 100 radios and box lots of paperware, parts and miscellaneous items were on hand from the J. Adams estate and individuals brought in additional items as the day wore on. Finally, on Friday about 2 hours before the auction began the auction organizers cut off the submissions. At that time they had over 200 lots, and they had only allotted 3 hours to complete the auction. J. Adams appeared to have been an excellent restorer, or had access to one, for most of the pieces in the estate were in excellent, restored condition, inside and out. All outside events were held in a controlled-entry area of the Sheraton parking lot and inside events were located in various ballrooms and breakout rooms.

On Thursday afternoon the CC-AWA had arranged for an open forum on general restoration topics and a seminar in the evening on cabinet restoration. The afternoon session elicited such tips as using Dow Corning DC734 silicone for repairing speaker cones. It is self-leveling before it hardens -- just paint it on. Also, one restorer uses boot laces (the flat, hollow ones) to replace frayed and deteriorated speaker and headphone wire looms. Another suggested painting DC3145 on the old, fragile, broken or missing rubber wire insulation in some sets. One individual showed and described the restoration of bakelite panels using a double-ended motor with Sears 6" buffing wheels. Rough cleanup and polishing is accomplished on one wheel treated with Sears Tripoli Brown, and finish polishing on the other treated with White Rouge. It appeared to be an excellent technique. Other discussions included proper B+ and

filament power supply construction for 1920's sets and metal chassis and parts cleanup and polishing. All in all, a very interesting forum.

At 7:30 p.m. Stan Watkins of Watkins Restorations (Charlotte, NC) led a seminar on cabinet restoration. Stan has boxes of large and small pieces of veneers salvaged from junked, basket cases which he keeps for patching "keeper" cabinets. He admonished us all to never junk a cabinet without salvaging the veneers. The older veneers are different (thickness, cell size, color, etc.) than those available today; therefore, if you want the patch to blend into the old –using old veneers is the only way to go. He demonstrated how to cut the patch properly to insure that the seams will not show after the refinish is completed. Finally, he demonstrated the proper techniques for the application of sealers, lacquers and toners. For the latter two stages he used a high-volume, low-pressure spray system with a small transportable air unit. All during the seminar Stan answered questions from the audience which sat and watched with great interest and enthusiasm throughout the entire period.

The next morning, Friday, opened the 2-day flea market. No one was permitted to buy or sell until 8:00 a.m. and it looked like peak activity was between 10:00 a. m. and noon. There were many sellers and buyers with a full gamut of items: old, used and new parts; radio models of all vintages; old ham equipment; software; paperware; radio-related items and miscellaneous. Marty Bunis had a table hawking his CD-ROM version of the "combined edition" of the Bunis book. K2TQN's traveling Old Radio Museum was also set up for visitors to explore. Everett Hoard of Frontier Electronics had a table loaded with new capacitors and other items. I browsed and chatted and picked up a few items, including two unmodified BC-454's.

The auction opened at 3:30 p.m. The ballroom reserved for the auction was packed and the auctioneer had lots of lots to cover in the three hours allocated to the auction. Each set or item was brought into the bidding area from the preview room and held up for all to see. Bidding was active on almost every item. As mentioned earlier, most of the radios and equipment from the Adams estate were offered in excellent, restored condition, inside and out. Previewers had been given the opportunity earlier to check out the electronics of any set prior to the auction at a special test set-up station, and most of the sets were offered in working condition. Some examples of a few of the more desirable items and prices received were:

Philco 90.....	\$325	Radiola 60.....	\$195
AK Model M Speaker.....	\$130	Crosley Pup w/dud WD12.....	\$375
Dave Gingery Coil Winding machine...	\$110	Mark Twain Riverboat.....	\$50
AK Model 45 w/matching speaker.....	\$145	Philco 21.....	\$260
RCA Mod 110.....	\$175	AK 165.....	\$245
AK 84.....	\$500	Philco 89.....	\$125
Crosley 515.....	\$150		

After the auction, one of the ballrooms was set up for a reception and a place to view contest entries. There were several categories and some very interesting entries in most of them. Of general interest was a working TPTG transmitter by Kenny Mullis. Many folks came by and rattled the key a few times. Robert Lozier had set up his “Tinkerer’s Radio” as described in a recent issue of the Old Timer’s Bulletin. It is set up and enclosed in clear acrylic with controls accessible to the public. A Philips Model V4A radio was on display, unusual in that all of the components are arranged and attached around the inside surfaces of the cabinet. I saw my first Melody Ship Speaker (*La Pinta*) owned by Buford Chidester; I was fascinated by the way the speaker sound surface (cone) is the main sail and the driver mechanism is integrated into the main mast. It was connected to an operating period set and sounded pretty good. (See A.R.C. January 1999 issue for further information.) There were several other interesting sets displayed; however, the *pièce-de-résistance* for me was a Colin B. Kennedy Type 110 Universal Receiver owned by Ernie Hite. For those that have one, or have seen one, you know what I mean. This set is built like a battleship. It is a regenerative set and uses a single UV-200. All of the insides are arranged in or on cast metal partitions and there are 11 knobs on the panel front to adjust for selectivity, sensitivity and who knows what else. It was operating and that brilliant glow from the 00 lit up every nook and cranny of the interior. Wow!

On Saturday the flea market was in full swing again and I picked up a few more items. I got the impression from talking to several of the participants that the swap meet had drawn visitors from around the world. I met people from New England to New Zealand and several points in between. All in all it was a fun event!

## FLERON RADIO SPECIALTIES



**The Porcelain Sockets**  
Very carefully made. Brass parts included. Black Glaze. Two sizes. Standard Bulbs and U. V. 199.  
Each socket in a carton. 35c. each.



**The Vernier Adjuster**  
The best adjuster on the market. Spring holds head away from dial when not in use. With slight adjustment spring can be made to hold head against dial if desired. Patented. 65c.



**The Phono Adapter**  
Fits through the hole of the receiver cap and then slides on the photograph cone arm. Fits Victor, Columbia, and others. Works perfectly. Only 35c. ea.



**The Porcelain Insulators**  
Lowest power losses in the antenna. Dielectric absorption reduced to minimum because of very low phase difference of Fleron Porcelain. Very tough body. Solid Black Glaze. Seven sizes, 25c to \$1.00. Each insulator in a separate carton.



**The Stand-Off Insulator**  
Fills the much-needed requirement for a good strong looking and practical stand-off insulator. Meets every requirement of the Board of Fire Underwriters. \$1.25 each.

*For Sale by all Good Jobbers and Dealers* **M. M. FLERON & SON, Inc., 112 No. Broad St., Trenton, N. J.**

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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, 6111 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, OR, (503) 774-6560.

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

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: < <http://www.radiolaguy.com> > or e-mail me at: < [sonny@radiolaguy.com](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:** Zenith tube shields. Have non-Zenith shields (Philco, other brands) to swap. Contact Dick Dielschneider.

**WANTED:** Zenith Transoceanic parts, cases, non-working units, any models . . . also interested in T/O wannabe's by Hallicrafters, RCA, etc. Vance Daberko, (541) 753-3356.

**WANTED:** Drive belt for Zenith 7J259, Chassis 5711. Ray Vanderzanden. (503) 648-2287

**FOR SALE:** Atwater Kent Model 40 in nice working condition with tubes and very nice Type E speaker, \$165.00. Dave Brown (503) 585-4667, [dbrown@mail.ncn.com](mailto:dbrown@mail.ncn.com).

**FOR SALE:** 3 TV's: 10" Olympic wood table model, 12" Majestic wood table model, and 14" Admiral brown bakelite table model. Call for prices and details. Still have a few radios left to sell also. Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717)

## Leads and Needs

I am in need of a clock and/or clock lens for the Crosley clock radio, D25 series, will buy a junker with good clock and lens. Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741 or e-mail me at: < [sonny@radiolaguy.com](mailto:sonny@radiolaguy.com) >

**"The Best Built Set in America"**  
**R-212**



Embodiment of the Hazeltine Neutrodyne circuit in an improved form as to neutralization, workmanship, quality, appearance and efficiency of operation.

Radio Service Laboratories, 1000 11th Ave. Asbury Park, N. J.

Licensed by I. R. M., Inc., under Hazeltine Patents

# Meeting Location!

Our monthly meetings are held in the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

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

The written instructions came from “Map Quest” on the Internet; the map is scanned from a AAA map with much detail removed for the sake of clarity.

