

The **Call**  
**Letter**

August, 2005  
Vol. 31 — No. 8



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 <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>
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# August 2005

## Table of Contents

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From the Editor .....2

NWVRS 2005 Calendar of Events .....3

NWVRS Meeting Minutes.....4

Roster Updates .....5

Photo Display .....6

Play It Again, Sam!.....7

Voilà ...new and recent finds by NVRS members .....8

In The Shack .....9

Swap Shop .....12

**On the cover:** This months cover is from *Radio News* of September, 1927. Surely it was drawn by someone in New York idealizing the camping experience. Can you imagine a woman, even in 1927, camping in a dress and heels?

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**The next meeting is on Sept 10, 2005.**

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**September Feature: Pre-WWII Test Equipment**

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

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**Next Call Letter Deadline: August 31, 2005.**

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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 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

If you hadn't heard earlier, our fellow collector and good friend, Speed Feldschau, passed away last month. He died about 7:30 am on July 9th, not long before our meeting began. Here is a quote from Speed's obituary in the Salem Statesman Journal:

Speed worked a variety of jobs during his life time, from truck driver to building homes and theatres. He was also the owner/operator of John Feldschau & Son concrete business. He was a member of the Jaycees in Salem, belonged to an old car club, and in his later years collected, restored and sold vintage and collectible radios. He loved to bowl and play cribbage with pal Larry Watson, and meet the "boys" for breakfast at Bray's Restaurant.

I'm sure most members who've been around the club for a while have at least one Speed story to tell. Be sure to read Mike Parker's tribute to Speed in this month's "In the Shack." I think Mike's experience was typical. I will miss him. This photo of Speed with Louise Wood, his companion, was taken at the Spring Swap Meet in 2003.



For those who are curious about what happened to our August picnic, it seems that to make use of Champoeg Park, you need to make reservations almost a year in advance. At the July meeting we decided that since we didn't have time to scout out a new place either to picnic or just to meet, that we'd cancel the meeting for August.

This issue is full of most of the usual suspects that lurk in these pages. There are photos of the cathedrals that members showed at the July meeting, there is a little bit of Voila, Dave Wise describes his restoration work on a signal generator in "Play It Again, Sam!", and of course there is another in the "In the Shack" series of reprints, this time from July, 1995. Inside the back cover is an invitation to NWVRS members from Walt Kiefner of the Puget Sound club to take a jaunt to Seattle for the 23rd Annual PSARA August Swap Meet.

As noted in the meeting minutes, new rosters are available, and members present at the meeting were able to pick theirs up right then. The remainder will go out along with the mailing of this issue of the *Call Letter*.

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## NWVRS 2005 Calendar of Events

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- August 13** NWVRS monthly meeting and Summer picnic - Cham-poeg State Park. Details to follow.
- August 13** Hamfest and Electronics Flea Market, Radio Club of Tacoma; Bethel Junior High School 22001 38th Avenue East, Spanaway, WA
- August 13** Hamfest - Swapmeet. Bandon, OR. (Note new date!!!) Located at the "Barn" (Bandon's Community Center). Sponsored by the Coos County Radio Club. Contact Paul, K7AIA at (541)888-2050 or k7aia@arrl.net.
- August 13** Christina Lake Amateur Radio Picnic/Camp out. Christina Lake Motor Inn, Christina lake, BC, Canada. For information, contact janroy@shaw.ca, (250)497-6136,
- August 13** The 8th Annual Greater Portland Insulator Swap. Located on Mt. Scott in southeast Portland - 9999 SE Frenchacres Dr. Portland, OR Starts at 1:00 pm and runs until early evening. No charge. For more information contact Dan Howard (503)761- 7799 email strains.@msn.com.
- August 20** Longview Hamfair. New location at the Castle Rock Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Lower Columbia Amateur Radio Association. For information contact Bob, KB7ADO, KB7ADO@aol.com. Flyer in PDF, (37K) Map in PDF, (3 IK)
- August 21** Antique Radio Swap Meet. Sponsored by the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. One block west of Aurora Ave. or one mile west of I-5, exit 176. Free admission.
- 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.CQm.

- Sept 30 - Oct 2** Pacific Northwest VHF Society Annual Conference. Shilo Inn, Seaside Oregon, [http://www.pnwvhfs.org/pressreleases/PR\\_12182004.htm](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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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By Liles Garcia. NWVRS Secretary

Vice-President Dave Brown called the July 9, 2005 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. This is the first July meeting of our Society in a long time. There were 36 members and guests at our meeting today. Ken Brickman and Theresa Ybarra (Ray's wife) attended our meeting today as guests. The minutes for the June meeting were approved as printed in the Call Letter. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved as provided by Ed. Member Tom Moore has recently been in poor health, and he is interested in selling all of his radios. Members should contact him directly if they are interested.

### Old Business

Membership Rosters--New membership rosters are available. Members picked up their new rosters at the meeting and the others will be mailed out.

Zenith Museum Trip--The 16 members that attended the tour at Electrical Distributing Inc. enjoyed it very much.

Airport Display--We have discussed the idea of having a display case in the Portland Airport in past meetings. Cliff Tuttle will check into this again.

### New Business

August Meeting — We will not have a meeting in August.

### Leads and Needs

Dick Dielschneider needs a working Grunow model 750, 751, 752, or 753 chassis. He also would like to find a 1938 Zenith “1501” 15 tube chassis in any condition.

Damon Vandehey needs a mutual conductance tube tester, some NOS tubes, and color TV picture tubes.

Bill Meloy brought a Philco Radio/Phono to the meeting for sale.

Blake Dietze needs a left-hand five push button assembly similar to one on a Zenith 7S633.

James Harper needs two 5 henry, 300 ma, 250 to 300 ohm power supply chokes.

### Program Topic

The program topic for today's meeting was “Cathedral Radios”. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The program topic for the September meeting will be “Pre-War Test Equipment”.

The meeting was adjourned.

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## Roster Updates

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<b>Brickman, Kim C.</b> 1840 Evergreen NE Salem, OR 97303 (503) 504-4785 kcbrickman@hotmail.com 1920s-30s wood, table, cathedral/tombstone, & literature.	<b>R</b>	<b>(new member)</b>
<b>Newkirk, John L.</b> 16930 SW Monterey Lane Portland, OR 97224	<b>R</b>	<b>(new address)</b>
<b>Damon Vandehey</b> 18620 SW Aloha Ct. Aloha, OR 997006 (503)259-9129	<b>R</b>	<b>(returning member)</b>

# Photo Display

## Photos by Dave Brown

Here are the radios displayed by members at the July meeting for the month's feature, cathedrals.



Powell - Jerry Talbott



Uncertain Make  
Dave Brown



Atwater Kent 82  
Cliff Tuttle



Lyric (by Wurlitzer)  
Sonny clutter



Jackson Bell mod. 62  
Ron Hershey



RCA Model 121  
Bill Meloy



Philco Model 20  
Bill Meloy



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# Play It Again, Sam!

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by Dave Wise

## **Marconi TF1370 Wide-Range RC Oscillator**

I got this English boat anchor from Andy Bell. About the only information I've dug up is a photo on the web, at [www.thevalvepage.com](http://www.thevalvepage.com).

This lovely piece of ca- 1960 test equipment puts out a low-distortion sine or square wave from 10Hz to 10MHz +/- about 1dB. That's really flat! Output level is displayed on a meter, and is variable in ranges of 30V (rms for sine, peak for square), 10V, or a seven-step 75-, 100-, or 600-ohm attenuator that goes in steps of 3V/1V/.3V etc. down to 3mV. The front panel is dominated by the enormous disc-type frequency dial, coupled to a silky knob with a two-speed action. Above 100kHz, you are not permitted to use anything but the low-voltage sine wave mode, and if you attempt to get around this, you are rebuked by a bright yellow "WARNING" neon lamp.

Under the hood there are fourteen tubes, or should I say valves, including two stubby little octal 3A/167M's (equivalent to the Western Electric 437A) which have an astonishing 45000-umho mutual conductance. Pity they're just being used as cathode followers, but the gm is needed because of the heavy loads they're driving.

The core of the instrument is a four-tube operational amplifier arranged in the classic Wien Bridge configuration, stabilized by a negative temperature coefficient (NTC) thermistor. I don't know what it's made of, but I believe that today it's called "unobtainium".

Tuning is via a two-section variable condenser, switched to one of six pairs of resistors. The largest is 27Meg! Which is why the op-amp's noninverting input required two cathode followers in cascade - the second stage can't stand such a high grid return. The R and C form the positive feedback that gets it oscillating, and it's kept from saturating by negative feedback, regulated by the thermistor. If the output increases, the thermistor gets hotter, its resistance drops, and the resulting increased negative feedback pulls the output back down.

The output is either amplified or squared, then amplified again by a pair of 6BQ5's in an AC-coupled "totem pole" configuration. The power supply uses five tubes (including the inevitable 6080) and three transistors, putting out 300-some volts of regulated B+ and 6.3V regulated DC for the oscillator-section heaters. The transistors must be

Germanium, judging from the enormous size and barely-noticeable temperature of the heat sink.

I believe the 3A/167M's deserve cooling more, which is why I mounted a small computer fan next to them, I felt bad adding noise to a previously-silent box, but I really don't want to replace them - have you seen what they're selling for? Shudder.

I believe this unit sets the record for the number of bad resistors. I replaced about a dozen! A couple of them were completely open. There was no sign of violence. This was also my introduction to the universally loathed "Hunts" capacitors. Fully half of them were split open, and half of the rest were horribly leaky. Funny, the final few seemed okay. Except for one open, all the electrolytics were fine. After the resistors, I'm keeping an eye on all passives.

The oddest problem was that at some frequencies, the control loop oscillated, resulting in a waveform that looked as if it was modulated. I never found the root cause, but I suspect the thermistor, because when I was bridging caps and such, I accidentally discharged into it, and voila - it cleaned up and didn't squeg again. I'm *really* keeping an eye on this.

This bit of lab-grade kit was quite entertaining to fix and I'm sure it will be a welcome addition to my bench in years to come.

One final note. I am absolutely flabbergasted by the degree to which these Brits trusted their insulation. Have you ever taken apart a 60s or newer record player tonearm? Did you look at the wires? Well, it's like that inside the Marconi. Tiny, baby-size wires, with no more insulation than if it were sprayed on. They use it for B+. They use it for AC mains. Heck, they use it going to the 5V4 plates! It's a miracle these things didn't all vanish in a ball of flame. Or maybe not - it also has three fuses. Kind of like "Trust, but verify," I guess.

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# *Voilà*

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

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Compiled by Sonny Clutter

**Vance Daberko:** Came across two tube organs (for parts): A Conn and a Lowrey. Also acquired a well used but restorable early 40's Hammarlund HQ-120 boat anchor receiver. Thanks Glen!

**Rick Walton:** My wife found a Zenith model K526, '50s brown bakelite table model, at an antique store in Minnesota. She couldn't bring it home, but I get to pick it up next time we visit her sister in Minnesota.



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

## Atwater's First Tin Box Radio



The first time I ever saw an Atwater Kent Model 35, I thought, "Man! that is the homeliest, brown, upside-down tub with knobs I have ever seen!"

I noted that its saving grace was the bright, golden emblem, with a sailing ship embossed upon it. Inscribed below that, was the well known name, "Atwater Kent Radio," for all the world to see.

After that, I never gave it much thought and since then, I have amassed a fair collection of other brand 1920's battery sets.

I only had two AK's in my collection, a reliable old Model 40 and a very selective Model 20 compact. Something kept haunting me about the AK Model 35. The fact is, the "ugly tub" is quite significant because it was Atwater Kent's first metal radio. It represented a new era of one piece metal stamping technology.

So not too long ago, I decided that I liked that ship emblem and that the Model 35 is so ugly that I've got to have one. I believe that most Psychiatrists call this, "Object Affiliation!"

Cruising through the ads in "Antique Radio Classified," I came across it advertised as, "AK 35, Original finish, not working, no tubes, \$35." The radio was located in New Jersey. While calling about it, I thought to myself, "Here we go again, another mail order radio. Be prepared to expect anything."

As I talked to the owner, who admitted he was specifically, an Atwater Kent collector, I asked him why it didn't work. "The tuning bands are broken, but are in the radio," he replied.

A common AK problem, I thought to myself. "You can get good bands for it, or repair those," he said. I agreed and an image of the "Mayflower," sailing across the seas flashed through my radio crazed mind.

“Does it have the ship emblem, or the one that just says Atwater Kent?” (an earlier version) I asked.

He replied, “It has the ship...(silence)...”

“Sold!” I said... This kind of nonsense causes the buying and selling of this old junk all the time, and I am just another victim. All it takes is one thing that I like about an item.

Finally, it arrived at my door and upon inspection, “In the Shack,” what the owner said was true, the bands promptly fell out of the bottom of this right side up radio. Actually, one got caught on the bottom piece, a rectangular metal “ring” with felt pads on it that screws on the underside of the radio. Incidentally, I made sure that this piece was intact before I bought the radio. Many AK 35's I have seen for sale have that part missing.

I proceeded to remove the right side up chassis from the upside down tub. The chassis is held by the front panel plate and screwed to threaded metal tabs stamped inside the front of the tub. I quickly learned that one has to be a contortionist to access all three mounting screws on each side of the chassis. Fortunately, someone had left out the two screws deep in the top of the tub.

Can somebody help me out on this one? Did AK sell special short 90 degree angle screwdrivers to accomplish this feat? I can't get my big hand in the set far enough to reach the screws. I suppose small handed women deftly assembled the AK 35 at lightning speed back in 1926.

Once the chassis was out, I turned it right side up and assessed the situation. The bands were broken where they always break, at the holes in the band, used to line it up with a metal stud in the pulley, to prevent slippage.

Then, I saw something I was not prepared for....the pulleys were made of pot metal! Cracked, distorted, misshapen, ugly pot metal! Definitely the biggest “curse” of the mid 1920's radios.

I quickly grabbed a flashlight and looked in my Atwater Kent 40, There were 3 nicely machined bronze pulleys. The size of the bands also looked the same. I started thinking of anybody I knew with a junker AK, with nice bands and pulleys.

I looked in the Antique Electronic Supply catalog, and they stock new, Beryllium copper tuning belt material in 5 ft. or 100 ft. lengths, and reproduction pulleys also. That was more belt stock than I needed. However, it is the correct, authentic way to fix the problem. Also one should use a riveted link at the joint, as the factory did. I didn't take that route, and may be guilty of something...I'll explain later.

Finally, I thought of Speed Feldschau, our illustrious NWVRS member from Keizer, OR. He said that he had a lot of AK stuff to get rid of. Famous for his sense of humor, hard volunteer work and great summer swap meets in his yard, he just may have what you need. A collector and purveyor of radios, Speed's workshop and garage is usually stacked with radios and parts for sale. I gave him a call and he said he would bring a junker AK chassis, with bands and pulleys to the next club meet.

In the meantime, I put six 201-A tubes in my chassis and some knobs on the three tuning condensers. I hooked it up to the batteries and after some static crashes, it came to life and played fine. I tuned it like an ordinary 3-dial, which is exactly what it is. I breathed a sigh of relief that the audio transformers were good. Speed brought an AK 60 chassis to the meet. An A.C. set, with heavy

transformers, it was in disgusting condition, but had good bands and pulleys. However, it is a bigger radio and I noticed that the bands were longer than an AK 35. For a small fee, it was mine and as I lugged it away, I realized what a fine boat anchor it would make.

Back "In the Shack," I got the bands and pulleys removed and ready to install, but I felt "guilty" of something. I will try to discuss that in next months article. It is too involved to include in this one.

I cut the bands in a spot that allowed me to keep the joint from traveling around the pulleys and also let me drill only one hole in the band for the studs. I drilled the new hole with a hand operated Yankee drill. I avoided using an electric drill, in case I accidentally twisted the band around the drill bit.

I installed the pulleys and had cut the bands with a 3/4 inch overlap. Using alligator clips to hold the bands, I heated up a big iron and tinned the band ends, snugged up the belt and held the joint closed with the clips. I then soldered the joint with the iron, let it cool and tried them out. They worked fine.

I ear tuned the set for peak signal at the low frequency end of the band, where it counts. KXL, 750 was good for this test, so I peaked it while letting the tuning condensers slip in the slightly loose pulleys. When I was satisfied, I tightened the pulleys, I put the right side up chassis upside down in the upside down tub and turned it all right side up. At last, I now had a working, one dial AK 35 tin tub radio.

Arthur Atwater Kent made 322,019 Model 35's at the plant in Philadelphia, in 1926 and part of 1927. Their 1,000,000th radio was a model 35, made in December, 1926. One million radios in 4 years is a lot of sets.

As I listened to it play, I stared down at the fine gold sailing ship and wondered what keeps the dog-gone tubes from falling out? And, just what is Beryllium copper/copper anyway?

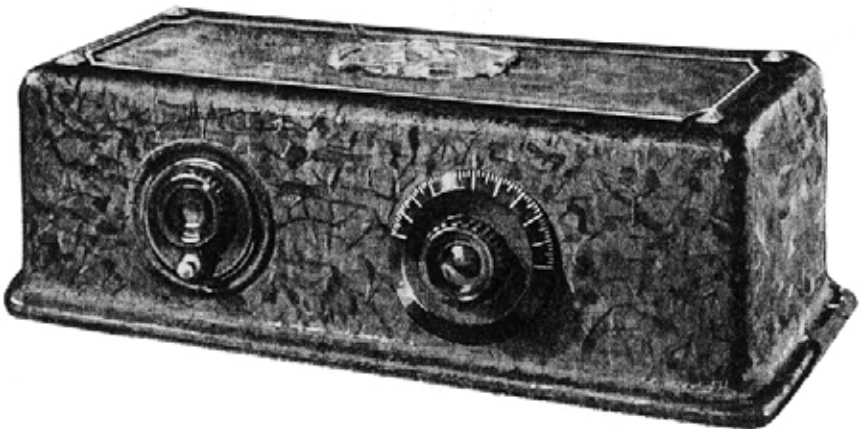
See you next time, "In the Shack" 73's, Mike Parker

#### References:

Antique Radio Classified, Magazine; Aug. 1992, P.6, May, 1995.P.58.

Antique Electronic Supply, Catalog, 1995,6221 S. Maple, Tempo AZ. 85283

Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's Vol. 1, Alan Douglas. Vestal Press, 1988



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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

**WANTED:** \*Sams 222-complete folder needed, as this one is missing from my set. Jerry Talbott (503-538-4041) email (vinradio@easystreet.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, wb6jhj@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

See the meeting minutes.

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>.

# 23RD ANNUAL PSARA AUGUST SWAP MEET

**Sunday, August 21, 2005 — 9 AM to 1 PM**

Members of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society are cordially invited to the 23rd Annual PSARA Antique Radio Swap Meet. Lots of treasures and many eager shoppers turned up for last year's event. This year promises more of the same. So dig out those unwanted radios, dust them off and bring them to the August Swap Meet. And don't forget to bring a tent...just in case. To ensure a smooth operation and a pleasant experience for all, please review the swap meet guidelines below.

1. The entire parking lot is for sellers only until 10:30 AM. Arrive anytime you like. Buyers may park in the street (where permitted) or in the large lot in front of the school (facing Fremont Avenue.) A walkway connects both lots. Follow the signs. You can also park in the Water Department parking lot directly across the street from the museum. Ignore the "No Parking" signs.

2. Sellers who arrive early should park as far in the back of the lot as possible. This is where most of the shoppers will be. This also gives late-comers easier access to a space in the front rows.

3. The parking area along the east fence is reserved for large trucks. Pickups and small vans should park in the main area.

4. Each seller is entitled to two free marked parking spaces, including a space for your vehicle. Additional spaces (or their unmarked equivalents) can be purchased for \$25 each.

5. Tables, merchandise or structures (i.e., tents) cannot extend more than 6 feet beyond a marked parking space into the driveway.

6. Sellers must begin to set up within one hour after they arrive.

7. Selling spaces are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please don't save spaces for late arrivals.

8. Don't park in the narrow alley between the museum and the school. You're violating fire codes and may be towed.

9. Volunteers will be available throughout the morning to help sellers find a parking space and offer other assistance.

10. Although the event is free, voluntary contributions from sellers (and buyers too!) are always welcomed to help pay the sizeable cost of conducting this event.

We look forward to seeing you on August 21st. Come early, stay late, bring radios and money, and have a great time!

-Walt Kiefner