

The
**Call
Letter**

January, 2006
Vol. 32 — No. 1



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 (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).

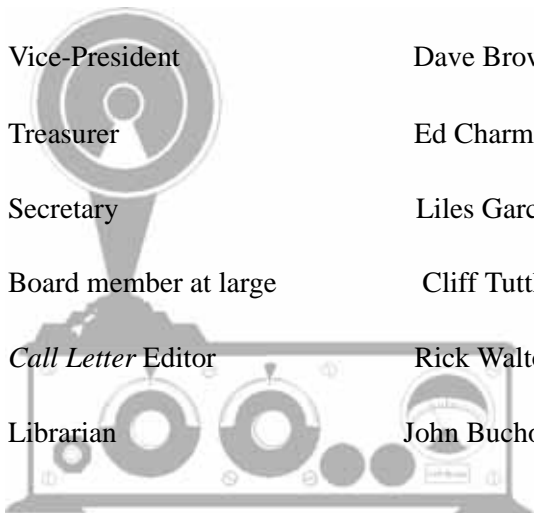
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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 2006:

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



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On the cover: A group of radios all made by Gilfillan. Starting in the upper left corner: a Falck Cub, a Gilfillan GN4x, a Gilfillan 5B8, a Gilfillan GN1, a Kemper K52, and a Gilfillan Overland 66B. All photos except the 5B8 and 66B are from Sonny Clutter’s Radiolaguy web site. The 5B8 photo is from Michael Feldt’s Antique Radio Collection web site, and the Overland 66B is from your editor’s collection.

The next meeting is on January 14, 2006.

Annual dues are due!

January Feature: Gilfillan Radios

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: February 1, 2006.

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.

From the Editor

by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

Happy New Year one and all!

My holidays were spent in North Carolina visiting family. The visit gave me a lot of rest, opportunities to browse numerous antique and junk stores, and to bring home a radio. Finding a radio turns out to be easy, but getting it home can be tricky when traveling by air. I probably should have just shipped it, but I wasn't that smart. I managed with a box small enough to carry on. Fortunately TSA saw no reason to inspect it beyond the X-ray, or they would have discovered the dirty laundry I used as packing.

This issue of the *Call Letter* contains a nice assortment of goodies. In keeping with the monthly feature, Blake Dietze has put together a short history of the Gilfillan company, and a long list of the radio brands with which Gilfillan was associated in one way or another. Jerry Talbott sent me a list of the codes used to designate the manufacturers of Sears' Silvertone radios. I looked back in the archives and found the original list that Jerry sent me back in 2000, and I'm reprinting that list, which has a lot of interesting information as well as the useful codes. This month's rerun of "In the Shack" covers 78-rpm record collecting. As always there are photos, a few Voilá items, and new items in the Swap Shop. My thanks to my wife, Elizabeth, who snapped the photos at the holiday party. In the Swap Shop, take especial note that Bob Campbell will have CDs of some early volumes of the *Call Letter* at the meeting this month. These should prove most interesting to newer members wanting to learn some of the club's early history.

The calendar is updated to include the meeting in May *and* the Swap Meet in Aurora. Jerry Talbott also informs me that we are set up to meet every month this year at the Grange Hall. Notice also the tentative date in February for the Sounds of Nostalgia.

NWVRS 2006 Calendar of Events

- January 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 12** (Tentative) Sounds of Nostalgia, Salem, Oregon.

- February 18** Salem Hamfair, Salem Repeater Association, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR
<http://www.qsl.net/w7sra>
- February 26** Hamfest, Naval Postgraduate School ARC, Seaside (Monterey), CA <http://www.radiofest.org>
- 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>
- April 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 8?** Inland Northwest Hamfest & Computer Show, Lilac City ARC & Lilac City Chapter of 10-10 International, St. Ann's Parish Hall, East 2120 First Avenue, Spokane, Wa.
- 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.
- May 6** **(Tentative date)** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360-387-7705). hup-pert@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 2006** The Third Annual 145.29 Chili Cookout and Swap Meet. Albany, Oregon, 22 minutes south of Salem, close to I-5. The cost is \$5 and \$10 for families. 12 noon to closing near 5 PM. For information, contact Dan, WA7ABU, 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 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.
- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- October 14** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- 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.

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the December 10, 2005 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:10 AM. The minutes from the November meeting were published in the December Call Letter. There were 45 members and guests at our Christmas Party today. Welcome to all members, spouses and guests that attended!

New Business

Election Of Officers--All of the existing officers were nominated for another term at our November meeting. The existing officers were elected to their respective offices for Year 2006.

Announcements

It is time to pay dues for 2006; the dues are \$25.00 for a year.

George announced that we will have a meeting in May. Our May Swap Meet will be on the third Saturday in May, and it will be in Aurora.

Those members that participated enjoyed a gift exchange of a "radio" or a "radio-related item". There were many interesting gifts that were exchanged. President George Kirkwood wished everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The meeting was adjourned and everybody ate lunch and visited with each other.

Program Topic for January Meeting

The program topic for our January meeting will be "Gilfillan radios and Gilfillan-manufactured radios".

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Blake Dietze 1926 AC Dayton XL-20 (Small slant front 3-dialer) with tubes and tags. Very good, working condition.

Pat Kagi Silvertone 225 portable with a leatherette covering
Zenith F508 red plastic radio
Westinghouse H-536T6 tan plastic radio

Rick Walton Farnsworth ET-060 six-tube bakelite table model. Found at an antique store in Tryon, North Carolina.

Photo Display

Photos by Elizabeth Walton

The hall was decked, the table was full at the annual holiday party.



Index of Source Numbers

Contributed by Jerry Talbott

The SOURCE NUMBER in this index corresponds to the first three digits of the chassis number on a Silvertone radio.

“When referring to a Parts List in this book, the SOURCE NUMBER shown at the heading of the list indicates the name of the company to whom parts orders should be sent.”

“The various assigned SOURCE NUMBERS appearing in the Service Notes are shown below, followed by the NAME and ADDRESS of the COMPANY authorized to supply parts:”

SOURCE NO. 100 Stewart-Warner Corp. 1828 W. Diversey Pkwy. Chicago, Ill.	SOURCE NO. 107 Howard Radio Co. 1731 Belmont Ave. Chicago, Ill.	SOURCE NO. 119 Automatic Radio Mfg. Co. 1201 E. Lake St. Minneapolis, Minn.
SOURCE NO. 101 Colonial Radio Corp. 254 Rano St. Buffalo, N.Y.	SOURCE NO. 108 Automatic Radio Mfg. Co. 112 Canal St. Boston, Mass.	SOURCE NO. 120 Sterling Sales & Mfg. Co. 2845 Prospect Ave. Cleveland, Ohio
SOURCE NO. 102 Majestic Radio & Telev. Co. (Formerly Case Elec. Co.) Marion, Ind.	SOURCE NO. 109 Detrola Radio Corp. 3630 W. Fort St. Detroit, Mich.	SOURCE NO. 121 Zenith Radio Corp. 3620 Iron St. Chicago, Ill.
SOURCE NO. 104 Corona Radio & Telev. Co. 420 No. Sacramento Blvd. Chicago, Ill.	SOURCE NO. 110 Air-King Products Co. 40th Ave. & 21st St. Long Island City, N.Y.	SOURCE NO. 122 Warwick Radio Mfg. Co. 1700 W. Washington Blvd. Chicago, Ill.
SOURCE NO. 105 Continental Radio & Telev. 325 Huron St. Chicago, Ill.	SOURCE NO. 117 G. & G. Radio Corp. 5801 Dickens Ave. Chicago, Ill.	SOURCE NO. 123 Crosley Distributing Corp. 160 E. Illinois St. Chicago, Ill.
SOURCE NO. 106 Sentinel Radio Corp. 2222 Diversey Blvd. Chicago, Ill.	SOURCE NO. 118 Wholesale Radio Service Co. 100 - 6th Ave. New York City	SOURCE NO. 124 Operadio Mfg. Co. St. Charles Illinois
SOURCE NO. 478 Tele-Tone	SOURCE NO. 528 Warwick	SOURCE NO. 132 Arvin

Manufacturers' Guarantee

"All radios are subject to the standard 90-day (from date of sale to customer) Radio Manufacturers' Association guarantee against defects in material and workmanship." (This will require that a careful check be kept on the radio service repair shop to see that all sets that become defective are promptly handled, and that defective parts subject to credit are returned to the source within the 90-day guarantee and replacement period.)

Customers' Guarantee

"Component parts in all radios are guaranteed against defects in material or workmanship for a period of 90 days from the date the radio is sold by Sears, Roebuck and Co."

Editor's note: The last three numbers that give names without addresses were penciled in on the copy of the list that Jerry submitted.

The Many Radios of Gilfillan Brothers, Inc.

by Blake Dietze

The January 2006 meeting will feature Gilfillan Radios as the show-and-tell topic, and it seems timely to offer a brief history of Gilfillan, and expose many of the brands that were built, at least in part, in the Gilfillan factories in Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; and Waukegan, Illinois. Gilfillan was arguably the best-known radio manufacturer on the west coast during the late twenties and early thirties. The company's roots begin around 1912 when Sennet Gilfillan purchased his uncle's smelting business in Los Angeles shortly after graduating from College (Stanford). Sennet was joined later that year by his younger brother, Jay; and the company was incorporated in 1914 under the name Gilfillan Brothers Smelting and Refining Company. In 1915 the company ventured into the automotive components industry (manufacturing products similar to Atwater Kent), becoming the first company on the west coast to manufacture and distribute products made of Bakelite.

In 1921 the company was re-organized and shortened its name to Gilfillan Brothers. 1921 also marked the year that Gilfillan entered the radio industry offering radio parts to amateur radio operators and wireless enthusiasts. The company continued to design, build and market radios through the late 1940's changing it's name to Gilfillan Corp. in the mid-1950's. Gilfillan was eventually purchased by ITT in 1963 and still operates as ITT Gilfillan today, building equipment Air Traffic Control systems.

Gilfillan Brothers built its first radios using a license from Hazeltine as part of the Independent Radio Manufacturers (IRC) to avoid RCA's strangle hold on radio design patents. In 1927 RCA sued several members of the IRC, claiming that the Hazeltine design infringed on RCA's neutralization patents, and the courts agreed. After lobbying RCA for a costly license, they received territorial rights to the RCA patents. By working with RCA, and licensing other west-coast radio manufacturers, Gilfillan was able to defray some of the licensing costs (and royalty payments to RCA).

Here is a fairly comprehensive list of radio manufacturers known to have ties with Gilfillan Brothers during the late 1920's and early 1930's:

Advance Electric (Falck)	Long Radio
Baldwin	Magic
Balkeit	Master Radio
Barker Brothers (Invincible and Templetone)	Melburn Radio
Breting	Mission Bell (Trinity, Freedson, Florette)
Cardinal Radio	Packard Bell
Consolidated (Mission Bell)	Patterson
Continental Radio Co.	Pierson DeLane
Davis – Haynes (contracting for Montgomery Wards)	Powell Manufacturing
Flint Radio	Remler
Golden Bear Radio	Rola
Griffin Smith (Royale)	Royale Radio Mfg.
Herbert Horn (Tiffany Tone)	Sears
J.W. Robinson (Autocrat)	Shelley Standard (Radio Apparatus)
Jackson Bell	Troy
Keller-Fuller (Radiette)	Ufonic (Echophone)
Kemper	Western Auto (Western Air Patrol)
Los Angeles Radio	

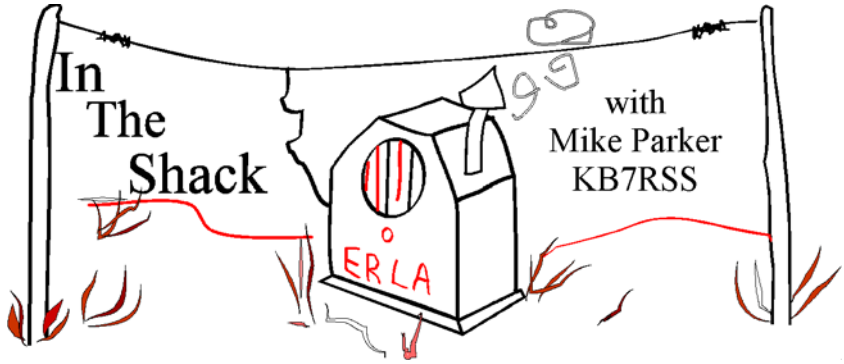
References:

Paul, Floyd A. *Los Angeles Radio Manufacturing*; Glendale, CA; 1988

Paul, Floyd A. *Los Angeles Radio Manufacturing - Supplement 2*; Glendale, CA; 1999

Douglas, Alan. *Radio Manufactures of the 1920's*. Vestal Press. Vestal, New York; 1989.

Personal discussions with John Freed (Freedson Radio); Summer 2000.



Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the March, 1996 Call Letter.

Collecting 78's

Very much like radio collectors, vintage record collectors seem to fall into a few categories. From the book, *78 RPM Records and Prices*, by Peter A. Soderbergh, here are five types of 78 record enthusiasts.



Type 1 —If, after pursuing a stack of 78's and some are warped, cracked, worn out or otherwise damaged, you feel guilty that you even considered wasting time on such inferior merchandise, you are probably this type. Some records may have been "rare" but you didn't know it. However, knowing that they are of some value because they are old, you pulled out *White Christmas* by Bing Crosby. After all, it sold a million copies; it must be priceless... Wrong! As for the rest of the records you left them alone or threw them away.

Type 2 —You are pleased to have all those 78's but have no desire to do more than leave them in the cardboard box, out of sight. You might play

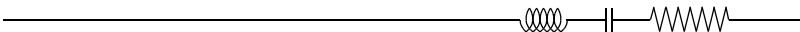
one or two once in a while just for fun. They are good conversation pieces but not central to your overall lifestyle. Questions of market value do not concern you. You will probably keep them, but you would not miss them, particularly knowing that they sound terrible on the family stereo!

Type 3 —You are moderately concerned about 78's and wish to make some sense of your collection. You would like to learn about their comparative worth and the artists who made them, and wish to prevent further decay by storing them properly. Playing 78's give you a good feeling. You may add to your modest collection now and then when you come across a familiar oldie at a flea market. Generally yours is a personal hobby with no organized blueprint for the future.

Type 4 —You would like to amass a substantial collection of 78's (1,000 pieces or more) that is representative rather than comprehensive. You fill in the gaps carefully and gradually with quality discs from reliable dealers. Perhaps you wish to specialize in one label, one orchestra, one time period or one mode of popular music, rather than collect everything within your reach. You probably have a sense of history and recognize that records often reflect the times in which they were made.

Type 5 —You wish to deal in records as an entrepreneur for whatever financial and mental profit may be made. You feel good at two times: when you find a valuable item and when you trade or sell it off. Collecting for aesthetic or historical reasons is not the basic purpose. It is a means to a logical end: selling records to people who need them. To do that successfully you need to amass a very large premier stock that will satisfy consumer demands. You are not motivated by nostalgia or any other impractical sentiments; 78's are a legitimate business enterprise and little more. You may have some favorite records within your own collection. [These categories, with a few words changed, fit radio collectors too.]

Facing up to what collector type you are and how far you wish to go with 78's is important, but there are some mundane aspects relating to records that must be confronted, also. Proper storage and handling are two of these aspects. We'll look at them next month. In the Shack.



Bob Campbell sent this bit of Portland radio history:

The nation's first educational radio station broadcast took place on March 23, 1923 over station KGY from Benson Polytechnic High School.

Swap Shop

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

FOR SALE: **Triplet Tube Tester, Model 1210A. \$75 OBO. Damon Vandehey 503-481-9344 (work) or 503-259-9129 (message).

FOR SALE: Tektronix “schematic books” (2) these are very rare-\$35
Tektronix “Calculator”, like new with manual. Like a circular slide rule-\$20
Tek 453A dual trace SS 50Mhz portable scope with manuals and probes-\$150
Tek TU-50 generator, combines 3 types in one box, tube unit with manual-\$50
Tek line cords, special round end type, 7 for \$10
Jerry Talbott, 503-538-4041, vinradio@easystreet.com

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).

CDz of the *Call Letter*, V1 to V3#5, at the next meeting. Mr. Robert Campbell

Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, wb6jhh@ix.netcom.com

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

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

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

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

Leads and Needs

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

