

The
**Call
Letter**

February, 2006
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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).

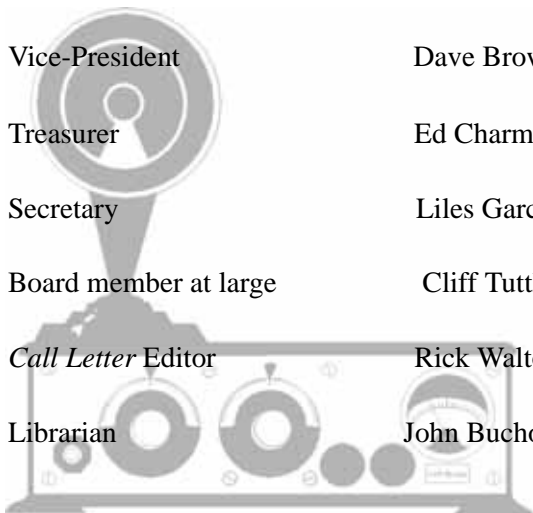
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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 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: Scenes of romance fill her imagination as she hears them drawn from the air through the magic of her radio. Are the tissues meant to wipe away tears for the lovers in the radio play, or for the absent lover who gave her the chocolates? This Wireless Age cover from February, 1925, tells a story of romance, loneliness, and fantasy.

The next meeting is on February 11, 2006.

Annual dues are now overdue!

February Feature: Vacuum Tubes with Portland area stickers on them

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: March 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

There is a line from a song that goes “what a long, strange trip it’s been,” (Grateful Dead?) that pretty much characterizes my month of January. My plans to attend the January meeting were abruptly changed by a call from my sister in Texas. She informed me that our 93-year old father was again in the hospital, and this time his kidneys were failing. That was Friday morning before the meeting, and by Friday noon I was aboard a plane on my way to Beaumont. Fortunately for us all, he came around enough to be released from the hospital and placed in nursing care. He isn’t really recovering, but his end isn’t nearly as imminent as we feared.

That is a long-winded explanation of why, for the first time in years, there is no Photo Display in this issue of the *Call Letter*. There just wasn’t time to arrange for someone to take photos in my absence.

Now, if you check out Voilá, you’ll discover the reason for the other emotional extreme in the wild ride that January has been. I received an e-mail from a gentleman who wanted to give a “1932 Zenith” to a “loving home,” and if he couldn’t find someone, he’d be forced to put it in the dumpster. I replied to him that I would gladly provide the home, thinking to myself that I don’t need another console but I can’t stand the thought of a radio like that in the dumpster. But it wasn’t a console, and it wasn’t a 1932 Zenith. When I arrived to pick up the radio, the gentleman mentioned that it was fitting that I should be taking this radio. I didn’t quite get what he meant until I saw that the radio was a 1938 12-tube Zenith tombstone, better known as a “Walton.” This was a collector’s fantasy, but it was real! Years ago, during the Jim Mason auction, Jerry Talbott told me I should buy the “Walton” set in Jim’s collection. I had to let that one go, but now I have my “Walton.”

Despite the lack of photos, we do have a number of items for you to explore this month including Voilá, In the Shack, a little reprise of some past *Call Letter* cover Valentine art, and the usual meeting minutes and Swap Shop.

NWVRS 2006 Calendar of Events

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

Vice President Dave Brown called the January 14, 2006 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes from the December meeting were approved as printed in the January Call Letter. There were 43 members at our meeting today. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved as provided by Ed. Our Society has changed liability insurance companies and we will have a substantial cost savings.

Old Business

Christmas Party — Members commented that our Christmas Party was a great success!! All members would like to thank President George Kirkwood and his wife, Jan, for making our Christmas Party very successful. Members gave George and Jan a round of applause. Many thanks also to other members and spouses that helped with our Christmas Party!!

Membership Dues — It is time to pay dues for 2006; our dues are \$25.00 for a year.

New Business

Call Letter CD — Bob Campbell gave all members present a CD that contains Volumes 1 through 3 of the Call Letter. Members gave Bob a round of applause.

“Sounds of Nostalgia” Antique Show — Tony Hauser is trying to contact the coordinating person for the “Sounds of Nostalgia” show for details on the show. Tony will have more information on this show at our February meeting.

Leads and Needs

Damon Vandehey needs an RCA phono cartridge. Contact Damon for details on what he needs. Dick Bixler needs two narrow-skirted vernier knobs such as those from a BC-375 Tuning Unit. James Harper needs a mutual conductance tube tester. Ed Charman has a lead on a Packard-Bell Model 861 radio, record player, and record cutter. Robbie Robinson needs a Philco 38-116 Code 125 chassis. Dave Wise is looking for a Hewlett-Packard 8556A Spectrum Analyzer/ RF Module. Dave Brown is looking for an octal socket saver for a tube tester; he has a Pooley cabinet for an Atwater-Kent Model 10C and a Westinghouse cabinet from about the same year.

The program topic for the meeting today is “Gilfillan Radios and Gilfillan-manufactured Radios.” Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought.

Four radios were auctioned at the end of the meeting. The auction sales went to our Society’s treasury.

The program topic for our February meeting will be “Tubes with local test stickers.” Local test stickers can include the Portland and Vancouver area.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

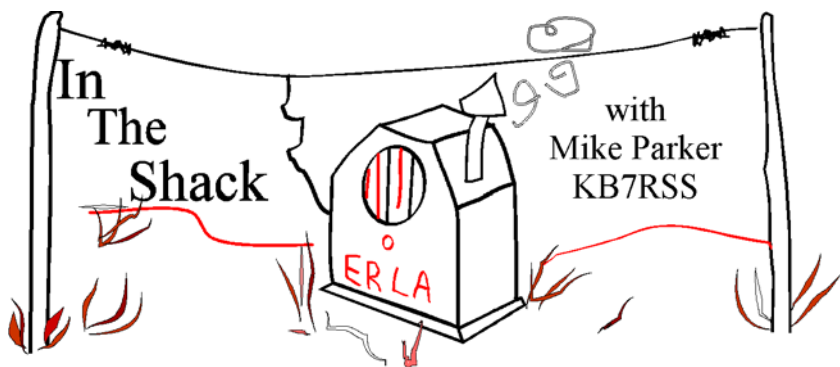
Rick Walton: 1938 Zenith 12S232 “Walton” tombstone. 12 tubes including eye tube, motor drive tuning, shutter dial. Fair to poor condition but restorable. Missing all knobs but volume knob, and two tube shields; speaker is correct but needs reconing.

Rudy Zvarich: Heathkit SB-303 receiver. He needs manual for it.

Sonny Clutter: A rare Howard model 200 metal radio from 1938, all metal looks like a small toaster.

Pat Kagi: I got the following radios since the last *Call Letter*:

- Motorola 5C5 AM clock radio
- Emerson 652 bakelite radio in original box
- Fleetwood 53-53 metal radio
- Arvin 502A metal radio
- Silvertone 1 metal radio
- Silvertone 6002 metal radio
- Arvin 840-T metal radio
- Arvin 341-T metal radio
- Arvin 242-T metal radio
- Arvin 444AM metal radio
- Arvin 542-T metal radio
- Silvertone 8003 metal radio
- Airline 1524 metal radio



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

Collecting 78's (continued)

Picking up where we left off last month In the Shack, I'm talking about collecting and storing phonograph records.



Old records are just like any other collectibles, they have to be of acceptable quality to the consumer-collector. When 78's are not in the top condition (and they are not, as a rule) they neither sell, nor play very well.

Always store your 78's standing on edge, preferably in a storage album or in record sleeves. When storing them in a box (preferably a wooden box) leave plenty of room to be able to flip through them and to see the labels. Never cram them into a storage place under pressure. A good source for records sleeves is Antique Phonograph Supply Co., Rt. 23 Box 123, Davenport Center, New York 13751. They also have a catalog which I am looking forward to receiving.

Unfortunately, it is common to find 78's stacked on top of one another without sleeves, in a damp basement or garage, near a leaky pipe or sitting too close to a hot furnace. I have witnessed this at countless garage sales. Never store them "flapjacked" atop one another, but when you must use sleeves or paper towel between each disk. Cardboard boxes, altogether too often used, attract moisture like a sponge. If they are used they should be used at room temperature in a dry location.

A widely accepted grading system for phonograph record condition has been in use for some time and is commonly seen when listing records for sale. This one is copied from a record auction catalog published by Nauck's Vintage Records, 6323 Inway Dr., Spring, Texas 77389.

M- Just this side of Mint condition. Few, if any, are perfect so “mint condition” is never used.

E+ A choice copy. No detectable wear whatsoever.

E Excellent. No trace of groove wear, minimal traces of handling.

E- An above average record. Some groove wear, but not enough to detract from the audio quality.

V+ Very good. Well played, but enjoyable.

V Very well worn, but listenable. Expect surface noise.

V- Wiped out. Stressed grooves; graying. Could be played with the right equipment. (I will add: a Zenith “Cobra” will play anything! MP)

P Poor. Possibly unplayable.

In addition, more detailed description abbreviations are used such as SCR for scratched; CR for cracked; ND for needle drop; etc. Some use the common grading system of M, VG, G, F, and P (self explanatory).

Nauck's catalog, published periodically before each auction, is an excellent source of information on vintage records. The minimum bid price per record can be used as a price guide to determine a record's collectibility. Nauck's prices range from \$3 to more than \$200 per disk. They are listed by the type of record, artist, record number, lot number, and condition. Each auction lists an average of 5,000 items, identified by lot number. They handle only 78's, thick Edison's, cylinders, and some literature. For \$4 they will send you their current, most excellent catalog. In addition they will send you the next publication, if by chance, you didn't participate in the first one.

But how much are those old disk really worth? Well, virtually thousands and thousands of them are worth between \$1 and \$3, regardless of age. A few are worth between \$10 and \$30. Fewer are worth between \$50 and \$100. Recently an Elvis Presley 78 on the Sun label sold for \$870.00 at an auction; \$470 above the minimum bid (wow! don't drop it).

Many people prefer to collect what they like, regardless of the record's value. This includes me. Other seek only the obscure. This is currently the trend in 78's collecting. A perfect Tommy Dorsey 78 (which has been reissued on an LP) may be worth \$2, while a 78 of Pig Meat Strut by the “Famous Hokum Boys” on the Homestead label of the 1920's will fetch \$500. Early blues and hillbilly records from the 20's and 30's, if done by obscure artists, or that used a musician that later became famous, are now commanding premium prices. Another category that is increasing in popularity are the discs made before 1900, or 78's made just prior to 1960. As usual, people are looking for the first and the last.

But why pay high prices for these records when, if you keep looking, you may find a gem among the rubble? recently I found a “pre-dog” (before Nipper was on the label) Victor Monarch one-sided record with a catalog number of “2” for \$1. To the flea market clerk it was just another old record/one of ten that I bought. Like radio hunting, looking for them is half the fun.

In spite of it all, I have many hobby interests other than old records. I will always be a Type 3 collector [See the March Call Letter for details]. Well, maybe a type 4, but never a type 5... I can't stand to sell anything!

Stay in the Groove — because I'll include some more information about collecting 78's next time In the Shack...

Valentine Covers from the Past



These images were on the February 2001 *Call Letter* cover.

ST. VALENTINE'S GREETING *Through the Radio*



This little cutie was on the February 2002 cover.



This piece of 1926 sheet music came from Jim Mason's collection, and graced the February, 1999, *Call Letter*.

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

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

FOR SALE: "Vintage TVs" all in working condition. 1950 RCA 12" round table top set-\$150, 1950 Sparton 19" round console-\$75, 1951 Capehart 20" table top set-\$75, and 1952 Fada 17" table top set-\$35. Delivery possible. Jerry Talbott email for pictures at (vinradio@easystreet.com) or call for more information at (503-538-4041)

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

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

Radio Service

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

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

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

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>

Member Information

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

Name*:

Mailing Address*:

City, State, ZIP*:

Ham Call Sign:

E-mail:

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

Phone:

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

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

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

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

or e-mail the information to rwalton@easystreet.com.