

The **Call Letter**

November, 2007
Vol. 33 — No. 11

CITIZENS
Radio Call Book Magazine
and TECHNICAL REVIEW
FALL EDITION 50¢



SERVICE - REPAIR - ENGINEERING

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.

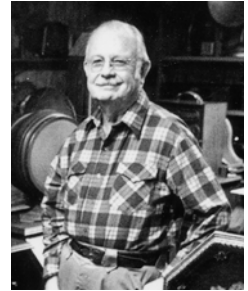
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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).

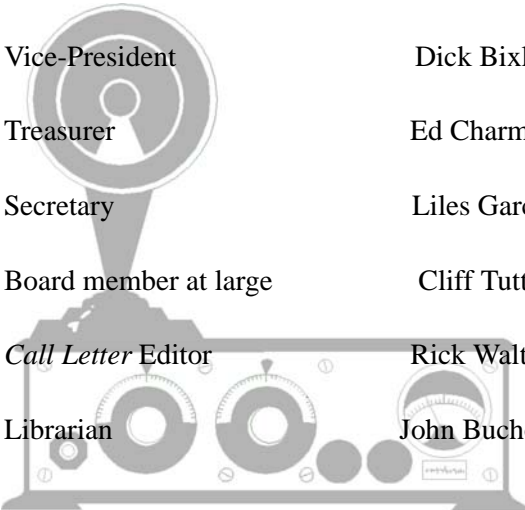
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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 2007:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radigeo@hevanet.com
Vice-President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 RF2AF@comcast.net
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387 enamrahc@peoplepc.com
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) 656-4104 rwalton@easystreet.net
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 BonJonBuck@webtv.net



November 2007

Table of Contents

From the Editor2

NWVRS Calendar of Events3

Swap Meet Notes4

Voilà ...new and recent finds by NVRS members4

Guest Speaker Ken Lomax5

In The Shack6

Swap Shop8

On the cover: The cover of the Fall, 1930 edition of *Radio Call Book Magazine*. There is no description of the cover art in the magazine, but comparisons of this drawing with photos on the U.S. Naval Historical Center web site indicate this is a battleship of the Colorado class, possibly even the USS Colorado, BB45. Radio relation? Notice all the antennae hanging from the arm of the forward mast.

The next meeting is on November 10, 2007.

For November: Special guest speaker!

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: November 29, 2007.

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

Why a battleship on the cover? Partly because it is from an early radio publication, and partly because our guest speaker this month was curator for the Battleship Oregon exhibit. The Oregon, of course, predated the ship on the cover by about a quarter of a century. A tenuous connection, I realize, but the best I could come up with.

This issue is a small one. Since I couldn't make it to the Swap/Sale last month, and failed to assign anyone the task of taking pictures, there are no photos to display. But we do have a calendar that now has some 2008 dates, Voilá is back for the first time since August (and it isn't that Jay hasn't tried!), there is a page of info and a photo of our November guest speaker, there's another installment of "In the Shack," and there is a new "For Sale" ad in the Swap Shop for you to check out.

The inner back cover serves as a reminder that the November meeting is always when we nominate candidates for the next year's club offices. Look through the officers' responsibilities and be ready to participate in the club's nomination process.

Sinatra, Bennett, Norah.

Portland's only station for classic American standards
of yesterday and today. Sunny 1550 KKAD.

Listen online at: www.sunny1550kkad.com



NWVRS Calendar of Events

Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from:
PNW Hamfair web page at www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm

November 10 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Nomination of officers for 2007. Special guest speaker,
Ken Lomax!

December 8 NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10
am. Election of officers for 2007.

2008

January 12 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

February 9 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

February 16 Salem Hamfair, Salem Repeater Association,
Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR
www.w7sra.com/.

March 8 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

March 8 Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition
hall, Puyallup, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.*
Contact mwdink@eskimo.com.

April 5-6 Communications Academy. Seattle, WA. S. Seattle Com-
munity College. <http://www.commacademy.org>.

April 12 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

April 12 Yakima Hamfest. Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st
Street, Selah, WA. Info, contact Lindsay Kooser,
N7RHW 141 Stark Road #7 Yakima, WA 98908. Phone:
509-965-6612 Email: n7rhw@arrl.net. <http://w7aq.org/>

May 10 NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion
Hall, Aurora, Oregon.

June 14 NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

June 14 Hamfest 2008. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. Ameri-
can Legion Hall, 1138 E. Poleline, Post Falls, Idaho.
Contact Jim, N7ESU at (208)755-2100 or email
n7esu@arrl.net. <http://k7id.com/>

Swap Meet Notes

From Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary:

I immediately noticed that there were a lot of people there that I had not seen before. I had to leave our Swap Meet early; but even though I left early I saw a lot of empty space on some club members' sale tables.

I would like to thank John Bucholtz, Sonny Clutter, and Blake Dietze for getting our Society's radio, the Hunkerdyne, working for our Swap Meet and for showing it playing during the Swap Meet. Was there much interest in the Hunkerdyne?

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Jay Johnston

Dick Bixler —Matsushita 4-tube tombstone, a Japanese set manufactured under the trade name of National. This piece has a tie to the pre-WWII Japanese navy, and will make a great restoration project.

Sonny Clutter —National Radio Institute crystal radio from the mid-1920s, a vintage of which I was unaware NRI was conducting its correspondence courses/kits.

Liles Garcia —General Electric H-31, an early 1930s 9-tube superheterodyne in a lowboy cabinet.

Jay Johnston —Kilborne & Clark fixed condenser, part #002. NOS in original box.

Martian Special crystal radio. Dating from the mid-1920s, this piece rests on a low-profile metal base, unlike the tripod on which its more famous brother (the Big-4) rests.

A collection of local radio memorabilia, including parts catalogs and station air checks.

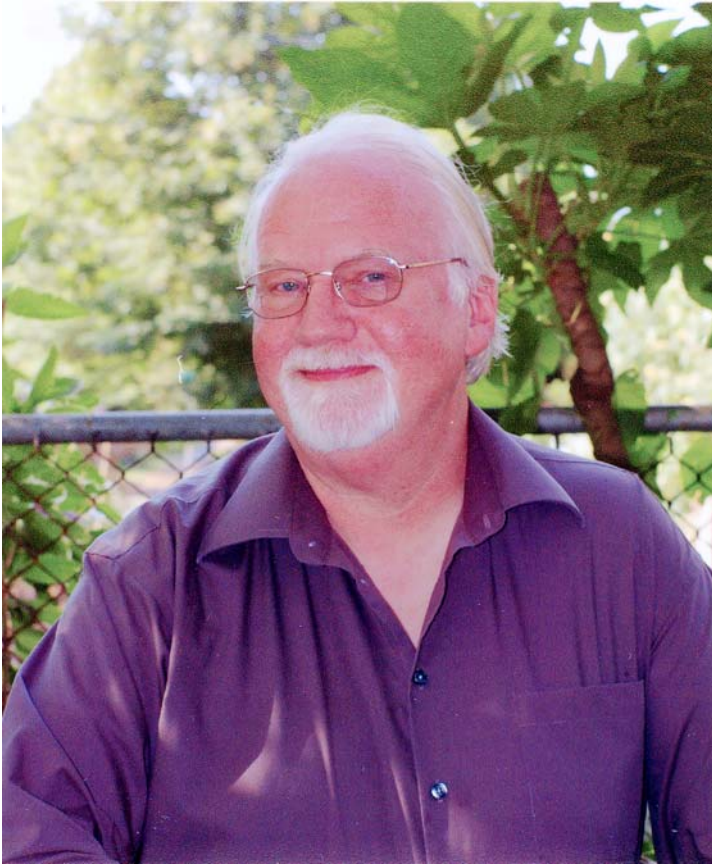
Volksempfänger (German People's Radio), a small plastic tombstone manufactured by the third reich. It was designed to be the radio that any German family could afford, and was part of a campaign discouraging reception of foreign broadcasts (a capital crime in Nazi Germany).

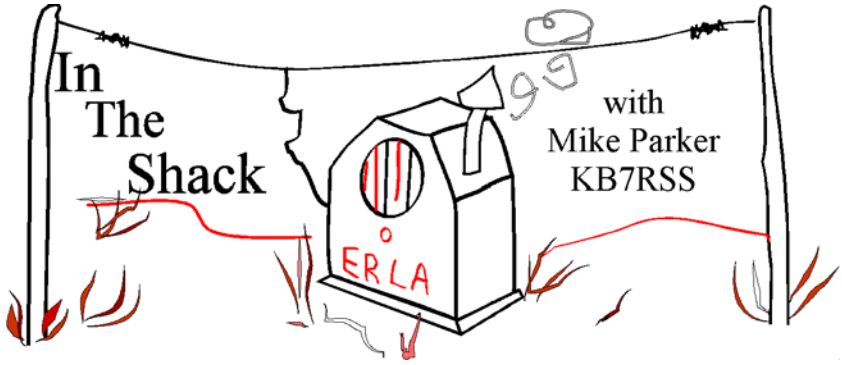
Rick Walton —Since the beginning of September, four small Japanese plastic radios: two Monarch (Monacor) RE 5-1's, one Zephyr Model 1, and one Claricon 45-151. Also fifteen different early radio publications including Radio Call Book Magazine, Radio News, Radio, Radio Mechanics, etc.

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

Guest Speaker Ken Lomax

From 1989 until 2006, Ken Lomax served on the staff of the Oregon Historical Society where his positions included: Research Library staff; Recorded Sound Preservationist; and Senior Visitor Services Representative. He was a curator for the exhibit “Battleship Oregon: Bulldog of the Navy “, did audio production work on 10 OHS museum exhibits and managed a project that preserved over 1000 transcription discs in the OHS Recorded Sound Collection. He has been published in the “Oregon Spectator” magazine and the “Oregon Historical Quarterly”. Ken currently works as a professional musician and is a volunteer at the Oregon Maritime Museum. He has a continuing interest in audio preservation and Northwest maritime history.





Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the April, 1998, Call Letter.!

Marwol

A Marwol Jewel for an April Fool! Well this is not entirely true because the Marwol radio works very well, although it sounds kind of trashy...true to form for a cheap radio. It does not even have the condenser, other than the grid leak and the tuners, that was used in the audio circuit of many 3-dial sets of the mid 1920's to improve clarity. But in light of what I am about to document in this article, it is no wonder there is no extra capacitor, the company had trouble paying for the capacitors they had! I don't want to solder one in and spoil the originality of this radio. (See my article in the 3-98 CALL LETTER), for the circumstances I went through when acquiring this Jewel!



I took the Marwol up in the shack and took out the chassis. An inspection underneath found a visual lesson in basics, not one of the usual artistry in square busbars, but directly wired with black cloth covered wire. The audio transformers have bare wire poked through holes in the Bakelite chassis panel and soldered to lugs. The pancake low loss RF coils are hung under the panel and things are crowded under there because this is a small radio using only a 7 by 14 inch front panel instead of the usual 18 inch or larger panel. This was only a \$39.95 factory set, and a cut in price from the \$60 Freshman Masterpiece it imitated.

The 201-A tubes tested very good and some had interesting test stickers, dated 1931, from Baker, Oregon. I hooked it up to my battery eliminators, plugged in a W.E. 540AW cone speaker that is noted for it's good tone and started twisting dials. I then logged all the dial settings and received all the local radio stations an old Tuned Radio Frequency set

such as this can pickup, all the while noting what poor tone quality the Marwol had.

What's in a name?, with one like "Marwol", I began to wonder. I sent a card to Alan Douglas, Pocasset, Ma., author of the books, "Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's". Alan had been a big help in the past with my Kardon endeavor, (see ARC, Apr. 1994).

Alan has quite an extensive home library and happens to contain copies of popular radio trade periodicals of the 1920's including "Radio Retailing & Jobber" which kept a regular gossip column going about the New York City radio business in the 1920's. They never missed a chance to poke fun at RCA and their pomposities and wrote all they could on the small companies that were doomed to bankruptcy. Alan copied a page of such articles on the Marwol Radio Corp. and also a full page ad from RR&J, Sept. 1925. He sent them to me right away. The ad showed 6 different models and listed a portable, a phonograph panel, a console table, a home builder kit and a loud speaker. It showed my "Jewel" model in a much larger cabinet and two desirable looking models with five exposed tubes. Highest price was a console grand 3-dial with a built in speaker for \$130. The advertisement bragged heavily and emphasized that their "great new factory" would back up the un-changing demand for this outstanding radio success. It listed the upcoming radio shows where Marwol would display it's wares and it listed distributors nationwide, including a C.E. Gay, Portland, Ore.

The articles included told the real story of Marwol. This was a combined name of two owners; Ralph Martin and Irving Wollins, much like our Portland Halowat company by Joe Hallock and Cliff Watson. The company started in 1924 at 85 Mercer St., New York, NY and was quite successful during the 1924-25 radio season. Marwol had by Sept. 1925, moved to a "large factory" at 546-548 Broadway, NYC. RR&J, in it's usual style of reporting, described the Marwol executives, after moving into their new factory as becoming very "silk hattie". They also described the troubles various creditors were having with Marwol listing them by name and how much they were owed. Marwol continued and perhaps had overproduced during the sales season but by Feb. 1926, had filed for bankruptcy, with a total liability of \$195,722.

The company had tried a new product line for 1925-26, apparently at least in part, based on a redesign of the Jewel series cabinet radio, which is the set that I have. By this time, the list of creditors was a mile long and included two condenser companies. Not surprisingly, a second foreclosure was served on this company in Oct. 1926. By Nov. 1926, the two owners were facing criminal prosecution by the District Attorney's office of New York County! This is certainly why my set, with a 15000 series serial number, is shy of a few condensers!

In March, 1927, a meeting of creditors was held to consider an application for bankruptcy discharge by Ralph Martin, former treasurer and general manager of the defunct Marwol Radio Corp. RR&J stated that at that time, a large number of judgements had already been awarded to creditors by various county courts in and around New York City. The flash in the pan success of Marwol is a story of an industry in the making and the less than serious endeavors of “also ran” companies against the real competition such as RCA, Atwater Kent, Crosley and Philco.

We all have lots of radios made by those companies, but it is kind of exciting to own an orphan such as a Marwol. It is real amusement to tell someone you have a Marwol and to hear them reply, “A What?” I plan on researching and listing more of these cute combined radio trade names at a future date. My thanks to Alan Douglas for making this research possible. QSO you next time.....IN THE SHACK.

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: Clearing out most of my collection. Radios include brand names like Zenith, Crosley, Packard Bell Colonial, RCA, Airline and more. All are wood case radios, most are table top. If interested, E-mail me for a list of radio brands and model numbers: tobkin@pcez.com. Larry Tobkin

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

Todd Olmert – (503) 246-4141

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

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, 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>

Officer's Roles

The President

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall set the time and the place of Board of Directors' Meetings. The President has the power to appoint members of committees as appropriate to enhance the activities of the society.

The Vice President

The Vice President shall be responsible for planning and arranging technical and entertaining activities associated with the society's meetings. He serves as chairman of the program committee if such a committee is appointed. He acts as presiding officer at meetings if the President is unavailable.

The Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting and for receiving and preparing all of the society's correspondence.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds received and disbursed by the society and shall report all monetary transactions and treasury balance at each regular meeting of the society. The Treasurer shall prepare a list of members in good standing for distribution at the next regular meeting following the annual meeting of the society.

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of the society plus the immediate past president of the society. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the society. The Board shall determine a suitable time and place for regular society business meetings.