

The

Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Vol. 23

April 1997

No. 4

The Cover Art Is Not Available

In print since 1974

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 members the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that both informs members of the society's business and that has supported 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 Buena Vista Club House at 16th & Jackson Streets 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 shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers:

President	Jerry Talbott	(503) 649-6717
Vice President	Tony Hauser	(503) 629-4836
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Dan Howard	(503) 761-7799
Board member at large	Greg Bonn	(503) 642-5097
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648

The Society's address is:
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society
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Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



April 1997

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The *CALL LETTER*

Editor, Rick Walton, (503) 284-5648, rwalton@mtsi.com

Call Letter Deadline

20th of the month

prior to publication.

The next meeting of the NWVRS is on April 12, at the Buena Vista Clubhouse, 16th and Jackson streets in Oregon City. See you there!

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.

Meeting Minutes

By Vice Pres. Tony Hauser

Jerry Talbott called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Jerry mentioned that last month's meeting minutes needed to be corrected to state that the display for this year's Concours d'Elegance has not been submitted to the coordinators of the car show yet. He mentioned that he will approach one of the coordinators about NWVRS participation at this year's show. Last month's minutes were then accepted and approved.

Dave McMullan was introduced as a guest at the meeting. Rick Hoest introduced himself as a new member. (I hope I spelled your names correctly).

There were no reports for the good and welfare.

Old Business

Myron White reported only 14 tables remained to be sold to members at the upcoming May swap meet. He also told sellers that they could unload items Friday night from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Jerry asked that the list of local media who provide free advertising be given to Myron.

David Rutland brought in copies of the newly re-edited radio collector's information sourcebook. Member's in attendance were allowed to take one copy. One copy will go into the NWVRS library. MEMBERS WERE NOTIFIED THAT THE ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER LISTED FOR WACKY WILLY'S IN PORTLAND IS INCORRECT! David mentioned that there are too few people interested in ordering club logo jackets to put in an order. He also reported that club badges cost \$6.00 each with a minimum order of 6 badges. Member's who still do not have badges were encouraged to order one.

New Business

Gordon Sippert gave a brief report on the radios auctioned earlier that morning in Oregon City.

Speed Feldschau and Jerry reported on their leads and sales at last month's Sounds of Nostalgia in Salem. Myron said that the club will have a club table at the May swap.

Jerry mentioned that Adam Schoolsky is creating a website for the club. The address will be: www.artdeco.com/nvrs.

Jerry indicated that Antique Electronic Supply in Phoenix is the only source for the books covering the history of the Heath corporation. He also mentioned that they sell some of the videos which were stolen from the club library, including the Radio Collectors series. Jerry said that Pete Keller will be writing a new book on radio receiving tubes.

Jerry volunteered to contact the Portland Chamber of Commerce to insure the NWVRS will be included in their club & organization list.

The treasurer's report was submitted and approved. The club's current balance is \$2833.17.

Proceeding's were then suspended for a humorous, albeit painful, story by Speed about a Kaiser radio he destroyed in his workshop. Then members who brought radios for the "rare and obscure brands" display discussed their sets. Next month's feature is "radio station advertising radios and related memorabilia." The members agreed to include flatware, including radio manufacturing information and the like.

Numerous requests were submitted for Leads and Needs (see Leads and Needs in this month's Call Letter).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

Submitted March 16, 1997,

Tony Hauser
Vice-president

The Monthly Feature

April's monthly feature is "radio station advertising radios and related memorabilia." This includes flatware, including radio

manufacturing information and the like. Bring it all to the meeting, Saturday, April 12.

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

Despite busy schedules we've managed to put together a full issue for you. There are a couple of sites to look at on the Web, Mike Parker has come through again with a tale from "In the Shack," last month's quiz has all the questions answered, and Dick Karman ~~has given us a brief rundown on the~~ very full life of Hugo Gernsback.

Myron White has provided us with directions to the fairgrounds where we will hold next month's swap meet in conjunction with the Portland Amateur Radio Club and the Oregon Triode Society. I am looking forward to that meet with great anticipation.

Perhaps because of the upcoming swap meet, most of the new "Swap Shop" items are "wanted" rather than "for sale." Thanks to Tony Hauser for capturing all the needs from last month's meeting. I'm discovering that the Swap Shop is probably the most difficult part of the Call Letter to make ready for publication. Thanks to all who've called, written, or e-mailed their ads.

Again this month I extend my personal thanks to Dick Karman for providing us with the Call Letter cover. Dick leads a life even busier than mine, so I appreciate the time he is willing to devote to the club and to helping get a Call Letter out each month.



Wandering on the Web

by Rick Walton

I've been extremely busy over the last month and have had almost no time to "web wandering" but there are a couple of sites of interest that I need to tell you about. For you Philco enthusiasts, "Mr. Philco," Ron Ramirez finally has a Website. When I glanced at it on March 22, I noticed that the last update was March 22. I had a little difficulty with one of his links because of a problem in his code (something to do with Java), but it should prove an interesting site for Philco collectors. The URL:

<http://www.chevytrucks.org/mrphilco/index.htm>

The other one you've got to check out is one that member Adam Schoolsky has done for us, the NWVRS. Yep, we've got our own Web page. Check it out at:

<http://www.artdeco.com/nvrs>

That's all I had time for in the last month, and Dick Karman tells me he's no better off.

The Upcoming Swap Meet

by Myron White

The Spring Swap meet will be held on Saturday, May 10th, from 9 AM to 3 PM. It will be held as a combined meet with the Portland Amateur Radio club.

Public admission is \$2.00, and members of NWVRS are admitted free.

The Meet will be held the Hillsboro National Guard Armory, located on the Washington County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro. This meet will be the biggest ever, with 70 tables available for vendors.

The fee for tables is \$10.00 each. Tables may be reserved by contacting Myron White at (503) 629-5513, or e-mail: Myron_White@latticesemi.com.

How to get there:

From Portland, Go west on Highway 26 about 10 miles to the Helvetia Rd-Shute Rd exit (Exit 61).

Turn left onto Shute Rd.

Go straight for about 3 miles through three traffic signals.

At the 4th signal, turn right onto Cornell Road.

Fairgrounds parking is located on the left side of Cornell Road. The National Guard Armory is at the west end of the fairgrounds.



12 VOLT TUBES IN A 1920's BATTERY SET

April Fool! “Aw come on!” you say, “Never happened, nobody was making 12 volt triodes for broadcast use in the 1920's.” Well, you are probably right. But, one time I got a crazy idea and decided to try it anyway. Maybe I was the April Fool, but the experiment was fun, albeit slightly expensive. An April fool and his money soon part company or something like that.

Always having a few odd 1920's Battery Set chassis laying around here IN THE SHACK, I thought that it would be interesting to try to run one of them on 12 volts. Why not? 12 volt batteries are very plentiful nowadays. Let's see what happens!

The subject radio is a venerable old 1926 or 27 AIRLINE one-dial with a slanted, slightly decorated metal front panel. It has a window tuning dial and 3 knobs arranged in a Y configuration. This chassis is usually seen in a highly unusual cabinet which, unfortunately, I do not possess. It is a 6-tube TRF using very unusual “Figure Eight” shaped RF coils that are wound with green silk wire and are spring mounted to a vertical plate mounted on the chassis, perhaps to offer some sort of shielding.

Further research revealed that this radio was made by Apex Electric Co. for Montgomery Ward, which is not unusual since all AIRLINE brand sets were made for M-W by other contractors.

The subject radio then, is actually an APEX 6, as shown on page 60 of “Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's,” Vol. 1, by Alan Douglas. The advertisement highly touts the “Just One Dial” feature and their patented “Compensator” which was “Patented in 1924 and withheld

from the market until its merit had been established beyond all question.”(!) This features an extra tuning control, which is the upper right knob marked “Balance”, which operates a shaft attached to the first RF stage tuning condenser and swings the entire unit in or out of proximity with the adjacent tuning condenser. All three tuners are gear driven from the central tuning knob. The set features impedance audio coupling using 3 audio transformers, hence the use of 6 tubes. Other than that the radio is just another “losser” TRF with a tuning gimmick, as aptly described in our own David Rutland’s book, “Behind the Front Panel.”

So, the biggest question now became, “Where do I find 12-volt triodes, obviously of a later vintage, that have characteristics similar to the good old 201-A 5-volt triode?” After an extensive search through my copy of an old SYLVANIA radio and television tube characteristics chart, I narrowed it down to some octal-based 12.6-volt cathode heater triodes. 12E5 became the choice triode amplifier tube and close other choices were the 12F5 and the 12G5. The 12F5 uses a grid cap, which I ruled out, and the 12G5 is rated at 9 milliamps plate current. The 12E5 was rated with many features similar to the 201-A such as 100 volts plate, negative 5 volts grid and 2.5 ma. plate current. An amplification factor of only 13.5 compared only slightly above the 201-A’s factor of 8. Grid-to-plate capacitance was much less on the 12E5 with 2.5 mmf, compared to 8 mmf on the 201-A. I considered that an improvement.

Next, came the task of finding six 12E5’s, a chore that actually ended up making me feel indeed, like an April Fool!

Searching the local scene, I naturally went to my old friend Bob Lee, of R-5 D-3 Surplus, in Portland on S.E 82nd near Woodstock. Bob, a fellow NWVRS member always has a wide variety of tubes on hand. Bob will tell you if he has the tube in stock (he did not), or will let you look through every tube box in the store, if you are that much of a zealot (I was!). Finding none, and even more peculiar, no listing for this tube in some manuals other than Sylvania, I gained a whole new attitude about this project.

Bordering on despair, I placed a want ad in the magazine, ANTIQUE RADIO CLASSIFIED, P.O. Box 2, Carlisle, MA. 01741. This would give me worldwide coverage to round up this elusive 12E5 triode. Soon I started receiving replies from various people

around the country. A fellow in Ohio had two of them in the original boxes. ANTIQUE ELECTRONIC SUPPLY, Tempe, Arizona 85283 supplied the other four. A fellow wrote and insisted that there was no such tube and that I must have meant that I wanted some 12ED5's and that he could supply all of those that I wanted!

I now had all six 12E5's, all were Tung-Sol brand and not the Sylvania's. I still do not know the purpose of this particular tube, I have never seen them in a radio. Since they were 5-pin octal base tubes, I had to make some adapters to fit the old 4-pin sockets. I found enough discarded 4-pin tube bases and 6 octal tube sockets. I then wired the octal sockets, stripped of their metal mounts, into the 4-pin bases and wired the cathode to one side of the filament, since I was using DC filaments. I filled the 4-pin bases with black silicone, holding the octal socket firmly in the base, and let them dry.

Setting the Airline up, I used a power supply here IN THE SHACK that I use to run 90 volts B+ for the plate voltage, with a tap for 45 volts or less, to run plate voltage for the detector tube. I then hooked up a heavy duty 12 volt auto battery to the filaments and tied A+ to B- in the usual manner for old battery sets. With my fingers crossed, it was time to "smoke test" the radio.

I flipped the switches and the filaments in the 12E5's glowed brightly. I could hear a faint amount of audio and a weak station. I increased the rheostat, which acted rather quickly compared to 5 volts. This increased the volume to normal and even a loud sound level. The radio played fine in every way, but the rheostat felt a little warm after a while. Actually, the whole experiment was a success, in fact it was a little boring since I saw no burning, smoke or fireworks nor any other malady that I may have been expecting.

The only satisfaction that I had was that it worked and I thought how handy it would be to get some B batteries and play the thing in my car. You could definitely be the first on your block to run an old 1920's TRF radio, hooked to your car battery and playing loudly, from your back seat!

Will somebody please drop me a line and tell me just what those blasted 12E5's are really for? Thanks!

QSO you next time.....IN THE SHACK

1997 NWVRS Calendar of Events

- APRIL 12:** Display of radio station advertising radios and related memorabilia
- MAY 10:** NWVRS/Portland Amateur Radio Club/Triode Society swap meet at the Washington County Fairgrounds
- JUNE 14:** Display of art deco radios
- JUNE 29:** Display at the Concourse d'Elegance automobile show in Forest Grove
- SEPTEMBER 13:** Member presentation (topic to be determined)
- OCTOBER 11:** Display of 1950's tube or transistor portable radios
- OCTOBER 18-19:** Display at the Northwest Car Collector's show
- NOVEMBER 1:** Fall swap meet (location to be determined)
- NOVEMBER 8:** Nomination of 1998 officers
Display of battery sets and crystal sets
- DECEMBER 13:** Election of 1998 officers and Christmas party

Remembering . . .

By Dick Karman

This is in memory of a man who died thirty years ago. For many years his name was synonymous with hobby radio and electronics. Our fathers may have ordered things from his company, The Electro Importing Company (TELMCO), 87 Warren St., New York, New York, USA. This man was Hugo Gernsback.

He was born in the principality of Luxembourg in 1884, came to America in 1904, and by 1906 had opened TELMCO. Many have claimed that his first shop on Fulton Street was the first such company to sell wireless apparatus to the public. The shop was only the beginning. In 1908 Gernsback published the first magazine dedicated to things electric, **Modern Electrics magazine**, and in 1909 he formed the Wireless Association of America. That same year he built the first portable transceiver. We now know it as the “walkie talkie.”

As the time line progresses, by 1910, Amateur radio was threatened by government regulations that would have regulated every transmitter. Gernsback was in the forefront lobbying against no less than six separate pieces of legislation aimed at regulating Ham radio. His editorials and letters to the editor of such publications as the **Scientific American** and the New York Times urged more than 8,000 wireless amateurs to send letters to Congress on this single issue.

Gernsback saw the writing on the wall however. In 1912 he, himself, made recommendations to congress to limit ham radio to 200 meters and below and not to exceed 1,000 watts. This was accepted, both by the Ham community and by government; both seeing the need for some regulation.

In 1916, Gernsback formed the Radio League of America, but it had stiff competition from the American Radio Relay League which was now nearly two years old. Eventually the ARRL won out, and is still active today.

Hugo Gernsback, not content with radio, conducted some of the first experiments in television in 1928. Well into the 1930's Gernsback coined the phrase, *science fiction*. His mind wouldn't stop. he imagined radio transmitters that would fit inside a pocket watch case and charge their batteries from a pendulum that would swing as you walked. He also thought that one day space travel would be possible using radio waves as propulsion. But apart from his imaginary accomplishments, radio fans will remember him for his vision and his many down-to-earth accomplishments making radio what we know it is today.

If you would like to read more about Hugo Gernsback, find a copy of QST Magazine, February 1995, or get Susan Douglas' book, **Inventing American Broadcasting 1899-1922**, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987, or Clinton Desoto's **200 Meters and Down, the Story of Amateur Radio**, Published by the American Radio Relay League in 1936 (if you can find it).

Swap Shop

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.

RESTORATION/REPAIR SERVICES OFFERED

Quality repairs and restoration services now offered on vintage Radio, TV, Hi-Fi, & other pre-60's electronic equipment. Some small parts fabrication and location services of vintage items also offered.

Phone: Sonny Clutter, (360) 834-5741

FOR SALE: *Hallicrafters short-wave receiver S40B (ca. 1954) \$25.00.

Untested SBE 34 Single sideband transceiver. Looks nice. Needs work. Former owner said receiver intermittent. \$50.00

ca. 1920 Duolateral plugin coils (8) + 4 sockets \$40.00

Abbott TR4 2-1/2 meter trancivers (ca. 1943) \$20.00 each

Lots of oil-filled capacitors reasonable.

Bud Larson, W7LNG, 1325 Ridge Way, Medford, OR 97504.

(541) 773-5214.

FOR SALE or Trade: *1938 RCA HF-2, 12-tube console with motor-drive tuning. "Low-boy" design. \$200. Jerry Talbott, 1440 SW 239th, Hillsboro, OR 97123, (503) 649-6717.

FOR SALE or Trade: **Over 400 78's (records) in excellent condition. \$1 each or will trade for radios. Records are of Glenn Miller, Tommy & Jimmy Dorsey, Sammy Kaye, Tex Beneke, Eddy Howard, etc. Also Bing Crosby, Margaret Whiting, Dinah Shore, etc. Contact Howard Burgoyne, West Linn, OR, (503) 650-3828.

FOR SALE or Trade: **Knight console, sliding doors (circa 1930 or '32), working condition - \$60 or will swap for table radio or tapes.

Philco - console r/p, model #52-1730. No r/p. \$25.

Magnavox - console r/p. Model 81-49 -late 40's. Works. \$25.

General Electric - console r/p, 1941, model LC-619. Good condition, needs speaker - \$40.

Flashing neon Export (beer) light. New in box, about 2 feet high - value \$200. Will swap for ? --

Contact Howard Burgoyne, West Linn, OR, (503) 650-3828.

WANTED: Base (with driver) for horn speaker. Also restorable cabinet for Philco Model 90 cathedral. Contact Glen Bricker, (541) 942-3717.

WANTED: T/O's: *Pre-WWII, R-7000-2, R-520/URR, 600L. Mike Roy, Work (503)-627-1580 / Home 360-254-8082

WANTED: **Vintage amateur radio receivers, AM transmitters, and other related amateur gear (circa: 1936 to 1960). ARRL Handbooks from 1935 to 1954. Ken Seymour (KA7OSM); 9115 S.W. 176th Avenue, Beaverton, OR 97007; 503-306- 7439 days/eve. Email: ken.seymour@attws.com

Leads:

FOR SALE: Complete Instructions for Adjusting All Philco Radio Receivers, a reproduction of a 1934 Philco Service Department publication. \$3.50 postpaid. Pete Petersen, 5214 120th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006.

FOR SALE: 86 radios, battery and AC. For information, call Bud. (503) 538-3548

*FOR SALE: **Magnificent Magnavox* (1951?), console, AM/FM, Stereo Phono. All tube with “magic eye” tuning indicator. Single owner, purchased at Joseph & Lucas Music in Portland. Located in SE Portland. Needs a home. Make an offer to Tracy Spencer, 231-1317.

Needs:

Gordon Phillips was contacted about repairing a wire recorder. Anyone interested should contact Gordon.

Speed Feldschau needs pushbuttons for a Belmont.

Gordon Phillips needs a thumbwheel dial for a repwood set. (contact Gordon for the make of the set).

Myron White needs parts for a "Bomber" style Zenith Transoceanic.

A neighbor of Mike Parker's is looking for parts for a Sparton console.

Josh Carter is looking for a Hallicrafter's Civil Patrol set.

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Workup/Info Sheet

Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Acquisitions: _____

For Sale/Trade: _____

Wanted Items: _____

Leads: _____

Suggestions: _____

Memories of Radio

Compiled by Dick Karman

Answers to Last Month's Quiz

Match the show with the sponsor:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Oxydol | Ma Perkins |
| 2 Pepsodent | Bob Hope |
| 3 Mars | Dr. I.Q. |
| 4 Pall Mall | The Big Story |
| 5 Eversharp | Take It or Leave It |
| 6 International Sterling Silver | The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet |
| 7 Johnson's Wax | Fibber McGee & Molly |
| 8 Ovaltine | Little Orphan Annie |

Sidekicks

Name the sidekick for these leading western characters:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 Tom Mix | Wash |
| 2 Hopalong Cassidy | California |
| 3 The Lone Ranger | Tonto |
| 4 Red Ryder | Little Beaver |
| 5 Straight Arrow | Packy |

Knowing the News

What newsman was known to say:

- 1 "Mr. & Mrs. America, and all the ships at sea . . ." —
Walter Winchell
- 2 "Ah, There's good news tonight." — Gabriel Heater
- 3 "This . . . Is . . . London" — Edward R Murrow
- 4 "Good night and 30" — Paul Sullivan
- 5 "And that's the top of the news as it looks from here." —
Fulton Lewis Jr.
- 6 "Cheerio!" — Boake Carter