

The

Call Letter

October 2000
Vol. 26 — No. 10

Radio Swap Meet

**Salvation Army
Rose Center
NE 17th and Sandy Blvd**

Portland, Oregon

Admission \$2.00



October 7, 2000

9 AM until 2 PM

* Antique Radios and Parts * Vintage Audio *
* Vacuum Tubes *

Sponsored by
Northwest Vintage Radio Society

For more information call Wendy Johnson-Kent at (503) 281-9335

Celebrating **25** years in print!

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 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.

Society Officers for 2000:

President	Charles Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Dave Rutland	(541) 929-4498
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society’s address is:

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



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On the cover: There it is folks, the new location for the Fall Swap Meet.

**Call Letter Deadline: 10 days prior
to meeting day.**

**The next meeting is on October 14.
The monthly feature is:
Portable and clock radios!
Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

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

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.

From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

There were radios everywhere! Even in the glare of the naked bulbs suspended from the dark ceilings, the sheer numbers were overwhelming. But the sale at Henry's Radio Shop turned out to be a disappointment. Many of the myriad radios were in poor condition. There were few bargains, even at half-price. I walked away with only a transformer, an unusual solid-state rectifier, and a "Sand-no-mor" block for removing old finishes. There were a couple of radios that interested me until I saw their condition. After that, they stayed on the shelf. It was good to run into other club members, though, and renew an acquaintance with a fellow I'd worked with some years back.

I'm excited about the new swap meet location. It is a matter of just a few minutes from my house. And not only is it easy for me to get to, but it should also prove easy for the public to get to. This is certainly a beneficial arrangement for our club and I hope that we will be able to maintain a long and agreeable relationship with the Salvation Army. Most amazing is the serendipitous nature of its availability. I truly wish I could have been at the meeting when Jeff Martin made the suggestion that we could use the Salvation Army Rose Center. At the time of this writing, I'm told that most of the tables are sold, which should cover most of the expenses we will incur. That is really good news.

In this issue we have the return of the Photo Display. Thanks to Dave Brown for taking all the pictures. I've brought out another archive edition of Mike Parker's *In the Shack*, this time the second article that Mike wrote for the February 1995 issue. Be sure to update your rosters with the names listed in the *Roster Corrections* this month.

See you all at the Swap Meet!

NWVRS 2000 Calendar of Events

- October 9** Fall Swap Meet at the Salvation Army Rose Center. 9 am - 2 pm.
- October 14** Regular monthly meeting at 10:00 am. Monthly feature: your favorite radio.
- November 11** Regular monthly meeting.
- December 9** Regular monthly meeting.

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

President Charles Kent called the September 9, 2000 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Jeff Martin and Frank Richards introduced themselves as guests. Welcome Jeff and Frank!!!

Old Business

Financial Information — Scott Hoke gave members a financial presentation on the club's income and expenses over the past few years. We had a large library expense last year that members approved by vote. We discussed some ways to reduce the Call Letter publishing costs. Publishing the Call Letter online to those members that prefer to receive it that way was also discussed to reduce publishing costs. Next, members discussed our projected expenses, and some other ways to possibly save some money. Members then voted to increase our annual dues to \$20.00 per year beginning in 2001.

October Swap Meet

The Hillsboro National Guard Armory has increased their rates for swap meets. The Swap Meet Committee was considering having our October Swap Meet at our Abernethy Grange Building. Jeff Martin volunteered to let our club use the Salvation Army facility at NE 17th and Sandy for our Swap Meet. This is where our October Swap Meet will be. Many thanks to Jeff for his help!!!

Library

John Bucholtz reported that our library has been and continues to be well-used.

Leads And Needs

Sonny Clutter has a lead on a ham that wants to sell a bunch of items. See Sonny for more information.

Glen Bricker needs a Zenith 12A58 chassis with or without dial. He also needs a foil for a Hopalong Cassidy radio.

Dick Dielschneider saw a Model 1258 Sparton in an antique mall in Sandy.

Robert Robinson needs some high voltage electrolytic capacitors.

Charlie Kent reported that the Henry’s Radio Sale will occur next weekend (Sep 16), and that the prices will be much more reasonable this round.

Program

Today’s program item was “ your favorite radio ”. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First place—Ed Cook

Second place—Dave Rutland

Third place—Dick Dielschneider

The program topic for the October meeting will be tube portable radios and clock radios.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Liles Garcia

Secretary

Roster Corrections

If your club roster listing is in error as published in the July *Call Letter*, or if you want to add to or change any part of your listing, please contact me, Rick Walton, with your corrections.

New member:

Sampson, Mark R
60260 Nighthawk Road
Bend, OR 97702
(541) 388-0906
General Interest

Re-instated member:

Thomson, David L. R
3521 SW Gale Avenue
Portland, OR 97201
503-228-7022



by Mike Parker

Editor's note: This is an archive edition of "In the Shack" from the February, 1995, Call Letter.

Recently, I purchased another seldom seen brand 1925 3-dial "freak", a "MAGNUTROL" radio by Magnus Electric & Radio Co., New York.



I bought it "mail order" sight unseen through an ad in *Antique Radio Classified*. The seller, hopefully will represent the radio accurately and the buyer will, hopefully ask the right questions about it!

You never really know what you are getting buying this way, and this set was no exception. It had two common problems associated with many 1920's battery sets. (1) One of the audio transformer windings was open, which I will discuss in another article. And (2) the numerals and the increment marks were flaking off of the tuning knobs, which is the subject of this article.

You can do a couple of things in this case: take the easy out and replace the knobs with a good set you have found, or restore the ones you have on the set.

In the case of the Magnus radio, a little research by looking through my reprint of the *1925 Radio Trade Directory*, revealed that Magnus made their own knobs and didn't rely on the standard types made by companies like Kurz-Kasch or Na-Ald, etc. Restoring the original knobs was the only alternative.

Having made that decision, I purchased a *Lacquer Stick* paint stick from Antique Electronic Supply, 6221 s. Maple Ave, Tempe, AZ 85283. The price was \$.90 plus S&H.

Ten-Step Process for Battery Set Knobs

1. Set tuners to 0 or 100 or whatever position is easiest to access the knob set screw with a screwdriver.
2. Remove knob, bursh out the dirt with a small, clean soft-bristle paint brush. If the set screw is rusty, dab threads with one drop of light oil and work thread in an out. Soak a Q-tip with a drop of *Liquid Wrench* or *WD-40*. Dab the screw until entirely soaked and wipe it off to avoid dripping. This should preserve the screw and avoid future rust.

3. Peel paper off the end of the *Lacquer Stick* to prepare a clean, fresh surface. Apply end of *Lacquer Stick* to dial increments and numerals. Use a generous amount. Although this seems to waste it, it is the only way to insure uniform coverage.
 4. Tapping the *Lacquer Stick* into the marks seems to work the best. A rubbing motion across them will tend to pull the material back out of the grooves. Tap the paint stick in until all marks are covered.
 5. Let the dial dry for a period of time, allowing the paint to set up. Two minutes is too soon to wipe off and two days may be too long to wait.
 6. My main objection to the *Lacquer Stick* has been it's color. It is too white! There are original battery set knob numerals and increment marks as white as the *Lacquer Stick*! They don't make one in ivory or off-white color; so, what to do?
 7. Wipe off excess Lacquer Stick from numerals with a clean soft cloth using a careful one-way motion and turning over the cloth frequently. Do not rub hard but make sure lacquer remains in grooves. This may require a careful re-application in some spots. Worn surfaces may be hard to cover and in worse cases, impossible.
 8. After *Lacquer Stick* is rubbed off but still dry, apply the coloring agent for an old off-white look. At first I used dust from the shop floor but found that we want clean off-white numerals, not dirty ones. Go to the spice cabinet in the kitchen and get a can of pure powdered mustard or turmeric (turmeric is a bit too yellow). I sneaked this item into the shop to avoid an explanation to the wife of this "hair brained scheme" with her spices. Use your own discretion!
 9. While lacquer in numeral marks is still tacky, rub mustard powder into the dial marks with finger. The knob will take on the 70-year old look it should have. Brush off excess mustard with a soft bristle brush. Reapply if necessary.
 10. Install knobs on radio, setting tuning condensers to 0 or 100, whatever is easiest to access set screw. Position knob slightly out from panel to avoid rubbing. In case you have Kurz-Kasch two-piece compression knobs with no set screw, common on many battery sets, use a small wrench to hold hexagon shoulder on dial face part of knob, while tightening the hex shaft nut with another wrench. Avoid slipping or over-tightening. This type is rather tricky and you have to hold by hand, the tuning condenser in full mesh which is generally indicated at 100 on the dial. Screw on knob portion snug but not tight enough to twist dial past the correct setting. When tuning a 3-dialer, do not try to adjust dials on the shafts to the same numeral for a peak station setting. A slight and sometimes wide variance, depending on the set is normal for these receivers. Log the peak station setting on a piece of paper or chart, i.e. KEX @ 20-22-24. Have some fun with that old radio. Train your pet monkey to use both arms and his tail to run all three dials!...
- See you next time "IN THE SHACK" 73's Mike Parker

Photo Display

Photography by Dave Brown

Here are the photos of the radios and most of their owners at the September meeting.



Glen Bricker



Dick Dielschneider



Ron Hershey



Lloyd Harris



Rudy Zvarich



Ed Cook's radio



Dick Bixler's radio



Jeff Martin



Jerry Talbott



Charlie Kent



Alan Shadduck



Dave Rutland



Sonny Clutter



Tony Hauser

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) 774-6560

BUY, SELL, & TRADE: Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV.

Visit my web-site at: < <http://www.radiolaguy.com> > or e-mail me at:

< sonny@radiolaguy.com >

Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

WANTED: The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

WANTED: ** I bought a junker basket-case Radiola 18 from my barber and restored it. When he saw and heard the finished gem he had to have it back, so we made a trade that involved a lot of haircuts. However, unbeknownst to me, my wife had gotten attached to it and its fancy 100A speaker and was unpleasantly surprised by the missing radio. So, to patch things up, I bought a Radiola 17 from Charlie Kent at the May Swap Meet. All it needs are cabinet parts: the two small brass escutcheons and the lid prop. Can anyone help me to find parts, a junk cabinet, or a whole non-working set? Gordon Ormsby, Corvallis, gormsby@trixaxiseng.com, 541-753-6398

FOR SALE: *Cabinet for a Silvertone Table-R/P, Model No. 7210. It has the record player with the crank and it winds up and turns fine. No radio included. Looking for an offer.

I also have a wood battery box w/o lid for the Voltamp Battery No. 12

“Champion”. The label is still attached. Contact Larry Beaver at 503-669-0358.

Leads and Needs

Radiolaguy’s web page is full of lots of information on early radio, TV and also provides lots of links to other valuable info resources relating to the radio collecting hobby; it’s not just a “for sale” site. Be sure and visit the site often. One of the services offered is pictures and information on the entire RCA “Radiola” line from 1921 to 1931 and my “show and tell” page.