

The

# Call Letter

August, 2002  
Vol. 28 — No. 8



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Over 25 years in print!

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# 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 \$20.00 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 2002:

President	Wendy Johnson-Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Charlie Kent	(503) 281-9335
<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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# August 2002

## Table of Contents

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From the Editor .....	2
NWVRS 2002 Calendar of Events .....	2
Concours d'Elegance Display .....	3
Remembering Radio for July .....	5
Remembering Radio for August .....	6
Voilà ...new and recent finds by NVRS members .....	7
Swap Shop .....	8

**On the cover:** Just some of the radios that NWVRS members displayed at the Concours d'Elegance 2002 at Pacific University in Forest Grove. See all of the pictures on page 3.

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**The next meeting is on September 14, 2002.**

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**Monthly feature: Your best "project" radio and its story.**  
**Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

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

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**September Call Letter Deadline: September 3,  
2002.**

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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.

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## From the Editor

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by *Call Letter Editor*, Rick Walton

For the first couple of weeks in July, your editor was on vacation, once again making the trek to the Deep South. As we traveled, we smelled the smoke from wildfires in Arizona and Colorado, suffered the drought in New Mexico, and just missed being washed away by the flooding around San Antonio, Texas. Of particular note to you radio folks is a contact I made in Austin, Texas, while prowling through antique stores. I chanced upon a very friendly gentleman, Carter Cook, who has a booth in an antique mall in Austin, and who is an active member of the Texas Antique Radio Club (TARC). Carter is author of an article about Texas radios that you can view on the TARC web site (just do a search for the club name). When I introduced myself as a radio collector and NWVRS member, he quickly confided to me that the prices on the radios in his booth weren't "collector" prices. I knew I had found a friend! Unfortunately, nothing in the booth begged me to take it to Oregon, so I returned from vacation empty handed but filled with pleasant memories.

The pictures from the Forest Grove Concours d'Elegance are courtesy of Tony Hauser. Thanks to Dick Karman for the two "remembering Radio" columns. The July column arrived in my e-mail box a couple of days too late to make it in last month's issue, but I saved it to appear with the August column. Voila lets me know that not everyone has succumbed to Summer doldrums.

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## NWVRS 2002 Calendar of Events

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|--------------|--|
| September 14 | Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.   |
| September 14 | Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Graham, WA<br><a href="http://w7dk.org">http://w7dk.org</a>   |
| October 12   | NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale, 9 am to 2 pm.  |
| October 26   | Swap-toberfest, Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall.<br><a href="http://www.qsl.net/w7oem/swaptobe.html">http://www.qsl.net/w7oem/swaptobe.html</a> |
| November 9   | Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.   |
| December 14  | Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.   |

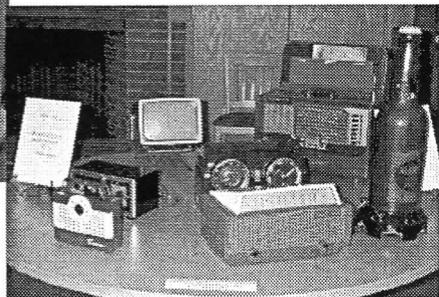
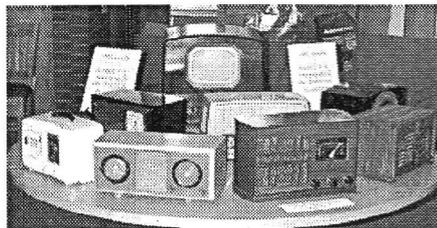
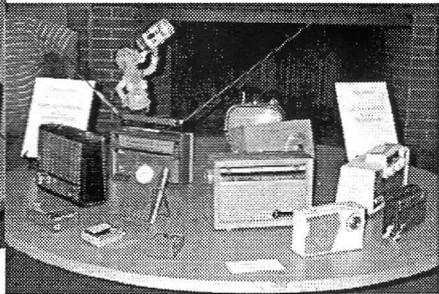
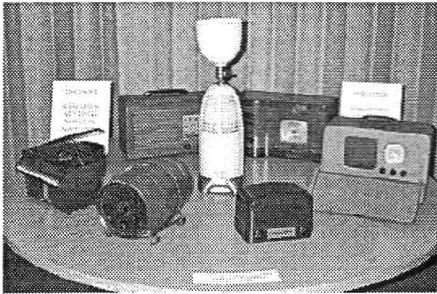
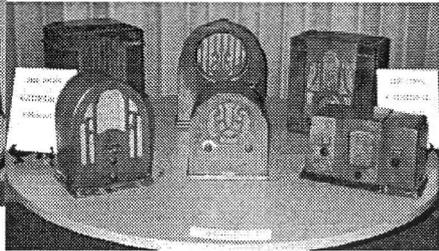
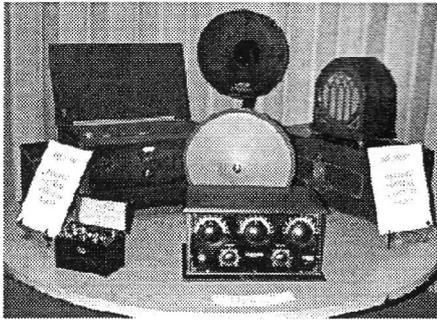
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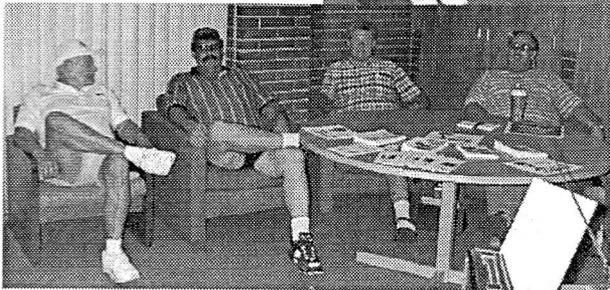
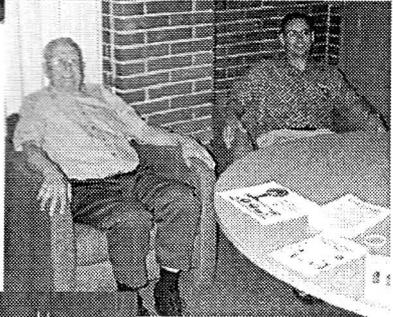
# Concours d'Elegance Display

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Photography by Tony Hauser

Here are some photos of the radios that were put on display at the Concours de'Elegance in Forest Grove on July 21. The members who contributed and manned the display were Tony Hauser, Jerry Talbott, Gordon Phillips, Speed Feldschau, Tom Hoskins, and Bert Arndt.





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## Remembering Radio for July

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by Dick Karman

National Broadcasting Company was formed July 7, 1926. It was a collaboration between RCA (50% of the shares), General Electric (30%) and Westinghouse (20%). To tie the network together it leased telephone lines from AT&T, who only three years earlier had declared that it had the 1st permanent radio network with wires between WEAJ in New York and WMAF in Massachusetts. NBC went coast to coast and within a few months had 48 affiliated stations on the air. The new network began the tradition of selling "sustaining" programs to its affiliate stations but broadcasting "sponsored" programs for national clients such as American Tobacco Co. across the country.

On a sober note Guglielmo Marconi, who patented radio in 1898, and won the Nobel prize for his invention in 1909, passed away on July 20, 1937

Another passing noted on July 5, 1996 is that of Anne Hummert. Anne was the wife of advertising executive Frank Hummert. Together they were responsible for bringing to radio some of the most prolific script writers known in their day. The Hummerts generated legends in the tradition of soap opera entertainment including *Our Gal Sunday*, *Ma Perkins*, *Valiant Lady*, *Bill the Barber*, *The Romance of Helen Trent*, *Terry and Mary*, and *Skippy*. At one point the Hummert agency was responsible for over half of all of the soaps on radio at the time. Anne Hummert died at age 91.

Radio shows that first came to the airwaves in July include:

- 7/30/30 - "Death Valley Days" on NBC
- 7/31/33 - "Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy" on CBS
- 7/05/35 - "Hawaii Calls" broadcast
- 7/20/35 - "Gang Busters" on NBC
- 7/26/38 - "Young Widder Brown" on NBC
- 7/11/38 - "Mercury Theatre on the Air" with Orson Welles on CBS
- 7/2/39 - "The Aldrich Family" on NBC (-1953)
- 7/3/39 - "Blondie" (based on the comic strip) on CBS (-1950)
- 7/6/47 - "The Candid Microphone with Allen Funt" on ABC (-1948)
- 7/7/47 - "You Are There" historical drama on CBS (-1950)
- 7/7/47 - "Escape" adventure series on CBS (-1954)
- 7/19/48 - "Our Miss Brooks" with Eve Arden on CBS
- 7/5/48 - "My Favorite Husband" with Lucille Ball
- 7/26/48 - "Bob Howard Show" on CBS (1st black host of a network show)
- 7/07/49 - "Dragnet" on NBC 7/02/51 - "Bob & Ray show" on NBC

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# Remembering Radio for August

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by Dick Karman

On the hot August days in the 1920s radio innovation was flourishing. A Detroit station broadcast the first scheduled news program August 31, 1920. A year later KDKA in Pittsburgh broadcast the game between the Pirates and Phillies. They claim it was the first live baseball game on the air. And a year later in 1922 WEAJ in NYC claims it aired the first radio commercial advertising real estate. They reported that they got a full \$100 for the ten minute description of properties for sale. And in August of 1922 the New York City station WBAY, owned by American Telephone and Telegraph, changed it's name to WEAJ.

New stations on the air included KMA in Shenandoah, Iowa (08/12/1925) and WJR in Detroit (08/20/1925). In 1937 experimental station W1X0J in Boston was issued a construction permit for station WGTR, the first licensed frequency modulation transmitter. In August of '58 Austin, Texas station KUT-FM came on the air.

A few of radio's pioneers were born in August also. Louis Hazeltine who invented the neutrodyne circuit was born August 7, 1886 and Lee De Forest, responsible for the Audion vacuum tube was born in Council Bluff, Iowa on August 26, 1873. Some entertainment pioneers were also born in August. Arthur Godfrey (Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scout), was born August 31, 1903, and Garrison Keillor, originator, writer, and star of a Prairie Home Companion was born August 7, 1942.

Very few shows came to air in August. This was the traditional season for summer replacements: those 4 or 5 week "substitutes" while the stars were on vacation. But the records show that NBC introduced the Dinah Shore Show in 1939, and that the Jackie Gleason / Les Tremayne show in 1944.

August obituaries include a classic English radio actor, Norman Shelley, who died at age 77 (08/23/1980) and (from a more modern part of radio) Don Steele died of Cancer in 1997. Mr. Shelley played Dr. Watson to Carleton Hobb's Sherlock Holmes for many years on radio and in the movies. The "Real Don Steele" was on Los Angeles Radio for over 30 years. He was one of the "voices of rock and roll" on the west coast. Most recently he was on KRTH. Don was 61 years old.

That's all for August -thanks to our editor for making the space available.

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# *Voilà*

*...new and recent finds by NVRS members*

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Compiled by 'Sonny Clutter

**Jeff Martin:** Mission Bell model 35

Packard Bell model 651

Motorola model 77x

Sonora Model RDAU209

Stewart Warner model 91-51 (The Spade)

Stewart Warner model 62T16

Mayfair model 530W

Crosley model 9-122W

Philco Model D665-124 (like a vanity case)

Motorola model A17G

**Liles Garcia:** Hallicrafters S-22 Skyrider Marine (1938 vintage marine band communications receiver)

Hallicrafters S-85 Communications Receiver (1955-1959 vintage communications receiver)

**David Wise:** GE K53M (1935 small AC wood table model)

Crosley 56TX (~1940 AA5 in white-painted bakelite)

Nice 1938 Airline bakelite table model with push button tuning

Zenith owl-eye plastic portable (the inexpensive one, not the valuable K412 or whatever it is)

~1935 Troy AC wood table model (volume and tuning dials both light up)

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## Swap Shop

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**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:** 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](mailto:sonny@radiolaguy.com)

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

**WANTED:** The INGRAHAM man wants radios with wood Ingraham cabinets. If you're not sure if it's an Ingraham, call Ed Cook in Vancouver, (360) 573-1439, or e-mail "[hopocol@atbi.com](mailto:hopocol@atbi.com)".

**FOR SALE:** A wide variety of radios at <http://radiogalerykent.com>. Charlie Kent

**FOR SALE:** Radio collection, 40 sets, about half are wood and half bakelite table sets. A few are pre-WWII. Also 2 tube testers, VTVM, VOM, misc. tubes, knobs, speakers, etc. Sold only as a lot - \$700. Call Art at (503-690-7909)

**FOR SALE:** 18" paper cone speaker by Leaf-Burkhard of NY

1927 Factory Browning Drake 5 tube

1925 Fada Neutrolette 192a

1925 Howe crystal set

1949 RCA 9X641 6 tube plastic table model

1947 Mantola 92506 6 tube plastic table model

Eico Tv-Fm sweep and marker generator model 368

Sico cap tester

Heath sine-square wave gen IG 5218

Heath cap tester IT 28 condition ??

Heath Transistor tester IM 30.

All items sold as a lot \$500 Robert Campbell 503 648 7331

## Leads and Needs

See the "Leads and Needs" section of the Meeting Minutes.

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.

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# Membership Form

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If you'd like to join the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, simply fill out this membership form and return it with your dues to the Society Treasurer, Ed Charman, either in person at a Society Swap Meet or Meeting, or by mail at the Society's address listed inside the front cover.

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**Name**

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**Address**

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**City**

**State or Province**

**Zip or Postal Code**

**Country**

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**Phone(s):**

**E-mail:**

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**Collecting Interests (i.e. Catalin, Clock Radios, General)**

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This information is published in the Society's Membership Roster and distributed *only* to the membership of the Society. We need your mailing address at a minimum to be able to mail you the *Call Letter* each month. If you include your e-mail address, you will be invited to join an e-mail list whose membership is restricted to Society members.