

The
**Call
Letter**

March, 2003
Vol. 29 — No. 3



The **CROSLEY** *Pup*



Over **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 \$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 2003:

President	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Wendy Johnson-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:

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March 2003

Table of Contents

From the Editor2

NWVRS 2003 Calendar of Events3

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes4

Roster Update5

Photo Display.....6

Collecting.....8

Voilà ...new and recent finds by NVRS members10

Swap Shop11

The Back Page12

On the cover: A random selection of Crosleys, including a couple of ads and a few pictures acquired from here and there, that covers a portion of the long history of radios from the Crosley Corporation.

The next meeting is on March 8, 2003.

Annual dues are past due!

Monthly feature:

Any tube Crosley radio.

Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!

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

March Call Letter Deadline: April 1, 2003.

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

Crosley tube radios are the feature for this month's meeting, and I expect that we will see quite a showing, at least from those members who aren't in Puyallup. One of the pictures on this month's cover is from another monthly feature display, although that feature was not just for Crosleys. In May 1999, "Your favorite Crosley" was the feature.

In the February meeting I was asked to add a Repair Services classification to the Swap Shop (see "New Business" in the minutes). I did not do so in this issue because I don't have the names of members willing to provide that service. Be sure to let me know if you are willing. In order to relieve the club of liability for problems that might arise from any such dealings, I've added "or services" to the little fine print disclaimer that appears each month at the bottom of page one.

"Voilà" has returned with quite a variety of acquisitions by club members. I'm really glad that Sonny's request for participation at the last meeting drew such results.

Once again we have a submission from former editor Dick Karman. This article on collecting is one that Dick originally wrote for the December 1997 *Call Letter*. I took a look at that issue and I see that in re-submitting it, Dick has updated the epilog just a bit.

This month's photo display reveals the popularity of the Zenith Transoceanic with collectors. Fortunately there were other multi-band tube portables in the offerings to provide some spice in the mixture. One thing that was a little odd was the lack of the G500 model T-O. All the other versions of the tube T-O were represented, but not the G500.

Have you paid your dues for 2003 yet? If not, please do so by this meeting. If you haven't paid at this meeting (or shortly afterward), then I'm afraid this will be your last issue of the *Call Letter* until I receive word from Ed Charman that you are re-instated. Also, following this meeting I will be closing out the roster and getting it ready for printing. If your dues aren't paid up, I can't include you in the roster.

Finally, I want to thank John Bucholtz for a HUGE piece of work he did in listing by category *all* the articles in the *Call Letter* from 1977 through 2001. He provided me with this list as an aid in selecting articles from previous issues that could be of interest to newer members who weren't with the club when the articles first appeared. There are seven pages of article title, neatly typed and double-spaced. That was a lot of work! Thanks, John, for your efforts over and above the great job you do as our librarian.

NWVRS 2003 Calendar of Events

- March 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 8** 22nd Annual Electronics Show & Fleamarket,
Mike and Key ARC, Puyallup, WA.
www.mikeandkey.com
- April 6-7** Yakima Amateur Radio Club W7AQ Hamfest 2003
April 5th, One day only this year, Yakima, WA.
eagle.ykm.com/~W7aq/hamfest.html
- April 12** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 12-13** The Early Television Foundation will hold its first annual
Early Television Convention and Swap Meet. Details at:
www.earlytelevision.org/swapmeet.html
- April 26** Eagle Rock ARC & Eastern Idaho UHF Society
Idaho Falls, ID
myweb.cableone.net/wa4vrv/hamfest.htm
- May 10** NVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- May 10** Hamfest, Stanwood-Camano ARC, Stanwood, WA.
- June 14** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 13-15** SEA *PAC, Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside,
OR Oregon Tualatin Valley ARC
www.seapac.org
- July 19-21** Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest July
18-20, 2003, East Glacier, MT.
www.gwhamfest.org
- August 2-4** Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Portland, OR. Willa-
mette Valley DX Club
www.wvdx.org
- August 16** Hamfest, Radio Club of Tacoma, Spanaway, WA
www.w7dk.org
- September 13** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- October 11** NVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Salvation Army Rose Center.
- November 8** Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Nomination of officers for 2004.

December 13 Regular monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
Election of officers for 2004. Annual Holiday Party!

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, Secretary

President Cliff Tuttle called the February 8, 2003 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. There were 45 members and guests at our meeting today. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the February Call Letter. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved. John Senteno and Estevon Mendoza attended today's meeting as guests. Welcome to our guests!

Old Business

Swap Meet—Tony Hauser is ready to take swap meet table reservations for our May Swap Meet. Liles Garcia and Dick Bixler will take swap meet flyers to the Rickreall Swap Meet on February 15 and pass them out.

Airport Display—No new information on this yet.

Information Book—Cliff still would like some more input and information for this book.

Video Tape on Radio Repair—Sonny Clutter viewed the video tape “Antique Radio Restoration”, and gave the group his impressions of the tape. Sonny felt that the video tape was not very good for a person that is new to the hobby of working on old radios.

New Business

“Sounds of Nostalgia”—Tony described this antique swap meet to the group. It is located at the State Fairgrounds in Salem, and the hours are from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

Repairing Old Radios—Cliff said that we could put the names of people that will fix old radios in the Call Letter. We can add a liability statement to protect the Club.

“Voila” Feature—Sonny mentioned that he was not getting very many acquisitions for the “Voila” section of our Call Letter.

Technical Talk

George Kirkwood talked to the group about using a beam of infrared light for communicating between ships at sea during World War II. A special cesium tube generated the light beam which was 8200 Angstroms long. The light beam was amplitude modulated and detected by a photocell. This method of communicating could be used for short distances such as between ships in a convoy. Information was not intercepted because the light was invisible, and it was impossible to tell that the system was being used. George showed the group a cesium tube and a photocell detector tube. Members gave George a round of applause for his interesting presentation.

Leads and Needs

Gordon Phillips is selling most of his radios because he will be moving. He has approximately 200 radios for sale.

Dave Wise needs a Zenith TO 7G605 tuning capacitor; 8G005 or G500 tuning capacitor plates; an 8G005 battery pack; and a Precision E400 Signal Generator manual.

- George Kirkwood needs a Norco 99 schematic.
- Pat Kagi needs a glass dial for a Silvertone 1981 console.
- John Otterstedt has an Airline 7VQ5 and some parts for sale.

Program Topic

The program topic for today was “Tube Multi-Band Portable Radios“. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First Place—Jeff Martin—Stromberg Carlson AWP-8

Second Place—Joe Beseda—Philco 53-658

Third Place—Frank Olberding—Zenith A600 TransOceanic

The program topic for March will be “Crosley Tube Radios”.

Dave Wise gave a technical session on a 1930’s Philco tombstone radio after the meeting.

Roster Update

Welcome to two new members:

John Senteno

P.O. Box 524

Washougal, WA 98671-0524

KarenSSS2001@Yahoo.com

Estevon Mendoza

6404 NE 112th

Vancouver, WA 98686

860-571-9703

Photo Display

Photography by Rick Walton

Multi-band, tube portables brought in by members for February's feature.



Zenith 6G004Y

TransOceanic 8G005
Del Dixon

TransOceanic B600



Stromberg-Carlson
Jeff Martin



TransOceanic 7G605 "Sailboat"
Ron Hershey



Philco 53-658
Joe Beseda



GE 260 w/ rechargeable battery
Rudy Zvarich



R-520/URR (like H500)
Jerry Talbott



TransOceanic 8G005
Sonny Clutter



Heathkit Mohican
Brian Toon



TransOceanic 8G005
Roger Brown



TransOceanic 7G605 "Bomber"
Brian Toon

TransOceanic A-600
Frank Olberding



Hallicrafters TW-1000
Liles Garcia



TransOceanic 8G005
Unknown Owner



TransOceanic H-500



Hallicrafters S72

Dave Wise

Collecting

By Dick Karman

This article was suggested by Jerry Talbott, and inspired by two car collectors, Larry Givens, and Michael Lamm. The ideas are not original. What I have to say, they said before me and other said before them.

It has been suggested that collecting falls into 4 phases. It's not hard to see them when you look back, but it would have been hard to predict them looking forward. Perhaps too many of you may have come into the radio collecting arena during one of these stages and have not had the opportunity to look back.

The first phase of collecting popularity is when the general public sees the item being collected as junk. For radio, those were the late fifties and early sixties. I was not collecting radios during those years, but research shows that most people were enraptured with new exciting transistor radios, television, automobiles, plastic and synthetics. Wooden radios had no value and most folks had no desire to do anything more than get them out of their basements into a dump. If you were perceptive enough to recognize the aesthetic, historic and economic side of tube radio in the sixties, you could have built one of the more valuable collections of your time.

Alas, most of us missed phase one collecting. Some joined the radio collecting hobby while it was in its second phase. Those are the years that collectors actually started seeking out "classic" sets, and started looking at each other's collections. Informal groups were formed and someone in each part of the country started publishing a rough newsletter. The Horn Speaker out of Texas was one of those early newsletters. The Puget Sound Antique Radio Association, the California Historic Radio Society, many chapters of the Antique Wireless Association, and our own NW Vintage Radio Society were formed between 1971 and 1975. Inevitably the media

got wind of the collecting fad and wrote it in the papers, and put it on TV. A new wave of collectors and would- be collectors join the junk phase. The pioneers start to sell some of their “nearly free” junk at 4 or 5 times what they paid for it (but one twentieth of what is worth today). Later they’ll hate themselves for it.

In the third phase restoration, documentation, and even reproduction of some hard-to-find parts has begun to take place. Collectors delve deeper into who made the original sets and the economics behind them. Academic pursuits add a veneer of class to an otherwise “rough” hobby. Thus the advent of collectors guides. Morgan McMahon published some of the first and some of the best collector’s guides. Next comes the price books telling everyone what a radio should be worth. At this point I have to pass on a word of advice to those who try to sell their radios for the price listed in the book: sell it at a price a few dollars more than buyer wants to pay, and not at the price in the book. Books don’t buy radios; People buy radios.

Another unfortunate part of phase three is that some collectors began to realize the inflationary value of their collection, and became collectors/salesmen. The goal becomes, buy more radios, so you can sell more radios. This has driven wedges between friends, and even split up some clubs. It’s too bad that profit is more important than restoration and preservation even today.

Phase four is that time when the collectibles are not readily available. Large collections are hoarded, and radios are sold only at the book price or more. Collecting is no longer based on interest in and love for the objects themselves, but rather for the money that can be made. It’s a shame because whether it be radios, cars, or music boxes, when the hobby is no longer a hobby, but is a business investment — the thrill for the beginner is gone.

Phase four may be around the corner for the hobby/business of radio collecting. I sense it when I see a \$1,000 price tag on a AK breadboard, or on a \$20,000 on a Marconi Spark Gap. I certainly can’t afford those prices.

Larry Givens, long-time editor of *Automotive Engineering*, reminds us that even in the heyday of collecting we don’t own the cherished items. We are only their steward; their caretaker. We have them for a short time. We will either pass them on to another generation or we will destroy them with our greed. Let’s try to preserve them for another generation.

Epilogue

Take a look around. Phase one may be coming around again. What junk will look good to collectors thirty years from now? VHS video cameras, IMACs, hardline phones, or FAX machines. You don’t know, it could pay off.

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Larry Tobkin: Crosley model 515 basket case. The cabinet needs total rebuilding, but all the parts including knobs are there. This restoration will be a huge challenge though the set is small.

Philco Transitone Model 46-200.

Lloyd Harris: A nice 9-tube 1930's Silvertone console model 4586 with round dial, tuning eye, 3 bands in working condition!

Cliff Tuttle: Atwater Kent Model 32 (a bit of a project, but one I did not have, and the Globe 01A's were all great). Also got an Atwater Kent 427 console (a real project, this one has been antiques with the olive green stuff, but the chassis is complete and very clean).

Zenith Shutterdial, 1938 12-tube motorized chassis at the Rickreall Ham Swapfest. Now all I need is the Walton or console cabinet (a basket case is OK with me) and a speaker to go with it. Also, same day, I bought a AK-55 breadbox with a matching speaker, and a AK model e speaker in great shape from a long-retired radio repairman north of Corvallis.

Jeff Martin: Black Bakelite Stromberg Carlson 1500H

Silvertone Cathedral model 1800

RCA model 9x-562

Emerson Model 539 with an Ingraham cabinet

Tony Hauser: 1970's space age looking Zenith model A424W AM/FM transistor table radio.

Liles Garcia: Hallicrafters SX-28 Communications receiver

National NC-156 Communications receiver

Rick Walton: Guild "Country Belle" AM/FM, Model 6407

Philco 53-706 Transitone clock radio, table lamp

Novelty "Chicken" clock radio with crow alarm.

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

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 "[hopopocol@attbi.com](mailto:hpopocol@attbi.com)".

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

FOR SALE: **Tubes, tested except the 807s.

2	1L6	\$20 ea.	4	6V6	\$5 ea.
2	6L6 metal	\$20 ea.	1	NOS 45	\$70
1	NOS 6L6	\$45	2	45	\$35 ea.
1	6MJ6	\$35	1	NOS 83	\$20
1	6JE6	\$15	6	807	\$3

And more in tube caddy — or whole lot for \$225. Contact Damon Vandehey, (503)259-9129.

WANTED: *Chassis for the cabinets shown at right. Contact Glen Bricker (541) 942-3717

Leads and Needs

Cliff Tuttle feels ready to acquire a breadboard Atwater Kent, preferably a 10C.

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>



The Back Page

Submitted by Dick Karman

Tech Tips From the Past - Radio News 1926

Regeneration Is Improved By Small Fixed Condenser

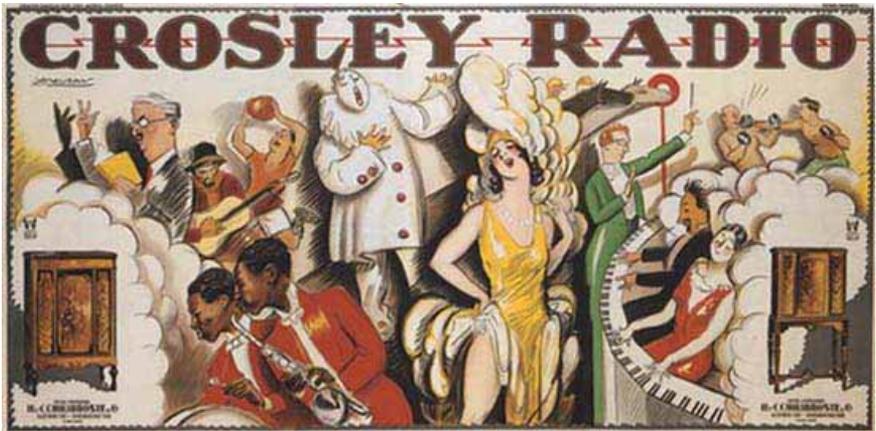
Many builders of regenerative receivers find upon the completion of the set that it does not regenerate as well as it ought to. As a rule this condition is due to insufficient inductance in the tickler coil, making it difficult to place the place circuit into the proper resonance with the grid circuit and obtain a feed-back of radio frequency currents.

There are two ways to overcome this condition. One is to add more turns on the tickler coil. The other is to place fixed condensers across the coil. The second method is much the simplest and most satisfactory.

[The condenser should be placed between one headphone lead and the cathode of the tube.] The capacity of the condensers will vary, so that several units ranging from .00025 to .001 mfd. should be purchased.

In some cases an improved condition will result with [an additional] condenser applied [from the negative pole of the "A" battery to the same lead of the headphones]. At any rate it acts as a by-pass for the radio frequency currents, making an easier path for their traveling than through the high resistance batteries and phones.

[From the pages of Radio News circa 1926]



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:

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.