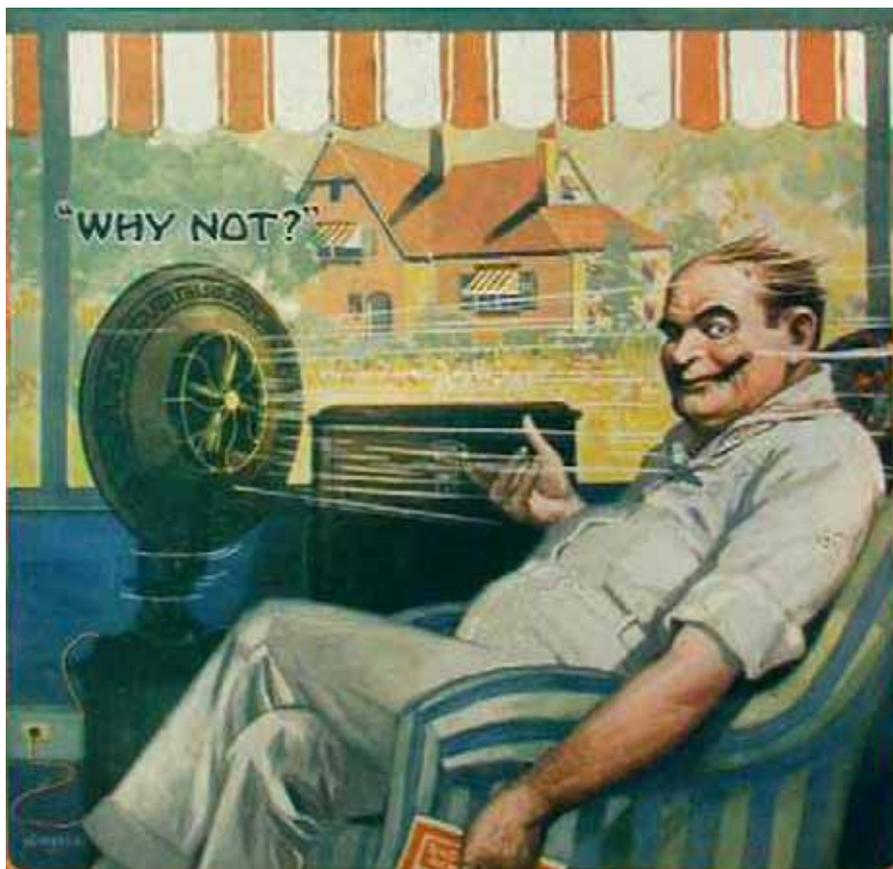


The
**Call
Letter**

July, 2003
Vol. 29 — No. 7



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:

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



July 2003

Table of Contents

From the Editor2

NWVRS 2003 Calendar of Events3

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes3

A Quote from the Past5

Photo Display.....6

Voilà ...new and recent finds by NVRS members8

Improvements to the Poitivient Z-985 Battery Pack9

Swap Shop 11

The Last Page.....12

On the cover: Artwork from *Radio News* of July, 1928. The speaker fan is a little far-fetched, but staying cool is the right idea.

The next meeting is on September 13, 2003.

**Monthly feature for September:
 Kit radios. Any kit - tube, transistor, whatever.
 Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

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

August Call Letter Deadline: July 30, 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

Summer is here - sometimes - and we're taking a rest from our monthly meetings. But we're all set to resume in September. Although I wasn't able to attend the June meeting, I see by the minutes that there is much to think about as we enter the Fall. The possibility of having to find a new meeting place is a bit disturbing.

In this month's issue we have the usual line-up of monthly features, including the return of Voilá. In addition, there is a short article by Dick Karman quoting a 1993 magazine article about our hobby. Dave Wise has contributed an article about his design improvements to a solid-state replacement for the battery pack used in TransOceanics.

Here is a group of members who deserve a bit of extra recognition. These are the "staff" members who gather each month to fold, staple, stamp, and mail the Call Letter. They perform a wonderful service for the society, and have good time doing it. Shown here from left to right are Ron Hershey, Kem Sypher, Sonny Clutter, Rudy Zvarich, Gordon Phillips, who usually hosts these sessions, and Brian Toon. Tony Hauser, also a regular attendee, couldn't be there when I took this photo. I want to



thank them personally for all the fun we have at the folding sessions, and thank them on behalf of the society for making sure the Call Letter makes it out to the membership each month.

My thanks also go to Blake Dietze, who filled in for me as photographer at the June meeting. His excellent photos of the featured radios fill the Photo Display pages. And thanks to Sonny Clutter, who also offered his services as photographer.

Have a great Summer, ya'll!

NWVRS 2003 Calendar of Events

- 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. Willamette 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

David Wise for Liles Garcia, Secretary

President Cliff Tuttle called the June 13, 2003 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes of the April 2003 meeting were approved as printed in the May *Call Letter*.

Ed Charman presented the Treasurer's report. The bank balance is steady at about \$1200. The investment account is slowly growing (in spite of withdrawals), and is at about \$30300.

Guests/New Members — Kathy Dahl became a member, welcome!

Good/Welfare — Charlie Kent will be going into the hospital for sinus surgery July 7. Jerry says Wendy Johnson-Kent has high hopes for the Red Cross nostalgia-format blood drive. Still soliciting for volunteers.

Old Business

Library — John Bucholtz presented Librarian's report. Good usage, with 12 checkouts at this time. Cliff recommended we buy "The Last Great Inventor". George K. recommended "The Tube".

Swap Meet — Tony Hauser (Swap Meet coordinator) absent. Cliff: “We lost just a little”. Normally, we make a little on the June swap meet and lose a little in September. Keep an eye on it. More discussion: A vendor from California was buying. Jerry Talbott: We didn’t contact PSARA this time, should do so next time. Offer free tables? Some dissent. Cliff will talk it over with Tony.

Airport Display — Uncertain if they will follow through. Ideas for other places solicited for September meeting. Suggestions: Washington County Historical Society. Shopping Mall (Cliff will ask around). Papa Murphy’s. Spend some Mason money for a travelling show? Discuss at September meeting.

Any new repairers for the Call Letter? No.

New Business

Ok 50 extra Call Letters? No dissent. Three meetings left this year; only one left till nominations for office. Run!

Abernethy Grange — Ominous letter from Abernethy Grange: They need bodies to fill officer roles to prevent organization from reverting to state org. control, which might have bad side effects, like the building getting sold! Ed Charman has membership applications. Grange meetings are held 7:30pm 1st Monday Jan.-Jun. and Oct.-Dec., 3rd Monday Jul.-Sep. Questions: 1. Residency requirements? 2. Proxy membership? Cliff requests these be added to the September agenda, also ask the Grange secretary (Judy Huey) to make a short presentation at the September meeting. We might want to look for another place in 2004. How about Salvation Army? Jeff: Probably fine.

Technical Talk

Mark Richardson gave a presentation on Digital Radio. (See Mark for a handout.)

Monthly Feature

This month’s feature was Plastic Radios of the 1940s. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First Place — Sonny Clutter — 1940 Zenith 6D114. Chassis is inverted and “made of bakelite”.

Second Place — Eugene Castaneda — 1946 Delco R1230 “ribbon grill”.

Third Place — Eugene Castaneda: 1945 Majestic 51

Other radios displayed were:

Jeff Martin: Astor (Australian) “football”.

Joe Beseda: 1941 Airline 04BR-511A midget.

Eugene Castaneda: Airline 54BR-1506A.

Pat Kagi: 1941 GE, 1942 GE, 1940 Admiral.

Ron Hershey: 1940 Crosley J739 transformer-less AC-only set.

Al Shadduck: 1941 Airline 04BR-511A, red 1940 Emerson 540
“world’s smallest AC-DC set”.

Next Meeting’s Feature: Kit Radios. Any kit. Tube, transistor,
whatever.

Leads/Needs

Jeff Martin needs three two-diameter cylindrical tube shields for mid-30’s Crosley cathedral.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

A Quote from the Past

By Dick Karman

From *Collector’s News* — February, 1974

A quote from Morgan McMahon

“You thought the thrill of the chase was gone. You’ve already got all the Blob-dome insulators, and have a complete line of regulator clocks? Here’s the latest collecting sport: Wireless, radio and early TV. It’s everybody’s ball game. Anyone can play. The name of the game is to keep these pieces of history from being tossed on junk heap, and to turn them into collector’s items instead.”

Morgan went on, 20 years ago, to list where to look for radios, how to determine their age and what should be inside those empty cabinets you find in the attic.

This story ran in *Collector’s News*, a publication which talked about European antiques, 17th century clocks, collector’s art, “priceless coins,” and 1000-year-old oriental fans. It might have seemed to these folks that Morgan, seeking and collecting 40 year old radios, had a few of his capacitors uncoupled. Our society was formed in those younger years and the “sport” of chasing the illusive radio is just as strong, if not stronger than it was 30 years ago.

Photo Display

Photography by Blake Dietze

Photos of sets featured at the June meeting.



Astor "Football" — Jeff Martin



Zenith 6D414 — Sonny Clutter



Airline 04BR-511A — Joe Beseda



Majestic Model 51 — Eugene Castaneda



Airline 54BR-1506A — Eugene Castaneda



Delco R1230 — Eugene Castaneda



General Electric M29J15 — Pat Kagi



General Electric J603 — Pat Kagi



Admiral 5E23 — Pat Kagi



Crosley (model unknown) — Ron Hershey



Airline 04BR-511— Al Shadduck



Emerson 540 — Al Shadduck

Voilà

...new and recent finds by NVRs members

Compiled by Sonny Clutter

Vance Daberko American Bosch model 48 chassis (with interesting vanometer on tuning condenser).
Hallicrafters 10 tube S-51 "Marine" receiver. Works but is missing two original knobs.

Glen Bricker: King Hinners; 1926 5-tube battery set, model 10SK
Freshman Masterpiece; 1926 5-tube battery set, model 6-F-5
Atwater Kent; 1925 5-tube battery set, model 20 small box
Thompson; 1925 5-tube battery set, model S-60 "Parlor Grand"
Atwater Kent model F-2 speaker
Kolster model K-6 speaker
Brandes speaker
Rola speaker
Philco model 37-60 "tombstone"
Gilfillan model 5G8 table radio
RCA model 1-AX-591 table radio
Silvertone Portable model 225
Hallicrafters model S-210
Zenith TRO model H-500
Crosley model O2CA 1941 console

Jeff Martin: CBS Columbia model 515, black bakelite table top radio.

George Kirkwood: Globe "Duo-Dyne" a 4-tube regenerative battery set from about 1925

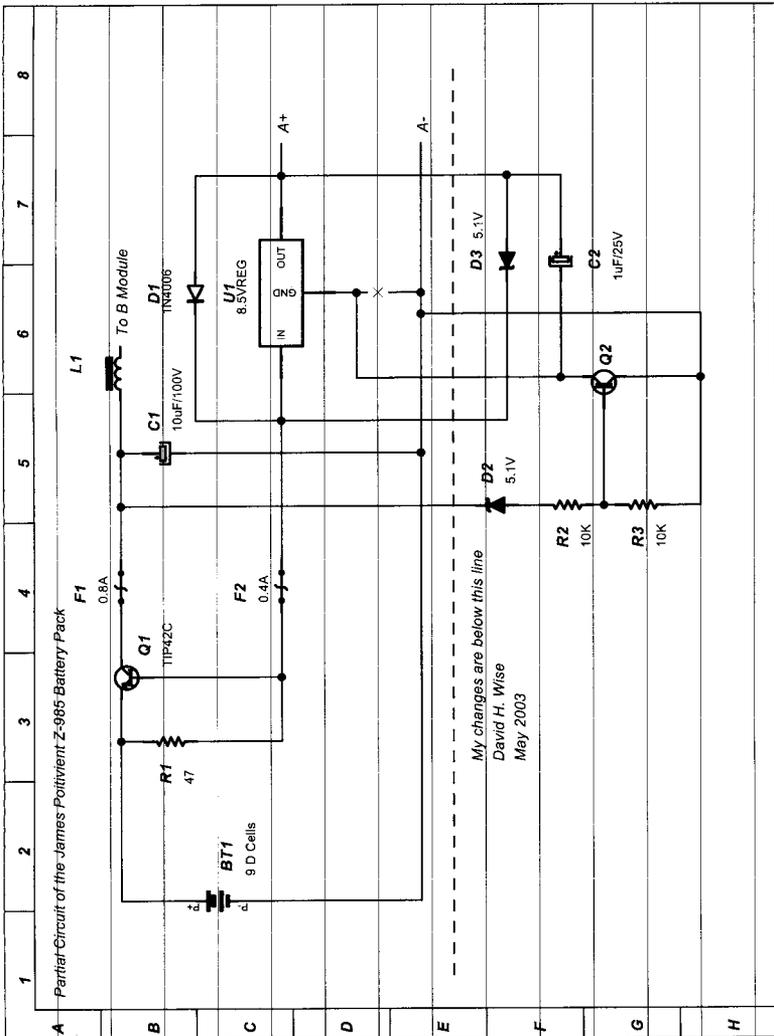
Sonny Clutter: mid '20's British crystal set with the name "Bijou" by the British "Radiola" co.

Rick Walton: Hoffman A300 6-tube AC wood table radio from the late '40s, and Howard model 901A 5-tube AC-DC white-painted bakelite, probably late '30s.

Improvements to the Poitvient Z-985 Battery Pack

by Dave Wise

James Poitvient (darbycircle@aol.com) markets a solid-state replacement for the Z-985 9V/90V battery pack used in the Zenith Trans-Oceanics. It is powered by 9 "D" cells. When the radio is on, the pack furnishes an 8.5V regulated A supply and a 90V regulated B supply.



When I attached the pack to an 8G005, I found that it didn't work. This may just be this particular unit, but upon drawing a partial schematic, I found that a bypass capacitor, recommended by all manufacturers of regulator ICs, was not present. Adding it corrected the problem. In the schematic, it is C2.

When the radio is on, the pack draws about 200mA from the batteries. When the radio is off, the pack continues to draw a small current, about 1mA. If you use it infrequently, this makes it necessary to remove the batteries if their full shelf life is to be enjoyed. I have figured out a modification that reduces the idle current to essentially zero.

Without the Mod:

When the radio is off, U1's idle current of 1mA goes through R1, generating about 50mV, too little to turn on Q1.

When the radio is on, most of the A current goes through the emitter-base junction of Q1, turning on its collector, which energizes the B module with 13.2V. U1 regulates 12.8V down to 8.5V.

With the Mod:

When the radio is off, Q2 (which can be virtually any NPN transistor) is off, interrupting U1's idle current.

When the radio is turned on, U1, lacking a ground, doesn't pass any current, but zener diode D3 does, turning on Q1. When Q1's collector exceeds 6V, zener diode D2, Q2, and U1 turn on. With U1 on, D3 sees less than 5.1V and plays no further role. A+ is about 0.1V higher than usual because Q2 cannot pull its collector all the way to ground.

When the radio is turned off, Q1 turns off and the battery current drops to 1mA. When C1 discharges below about 6V, D2 and Q2 turn off and battery current drops to Q2's leakage current, which is typically less than 1µA.

If for Q2 you used an N-channel enhancement-mode MOSFET (e.g. 2N7000), you could probably dispense with D2, R2, and R3.

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 "hopopcol@attbi.com".

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

FOR SALE: *Zenith radio/phono console, model 8A03. Restorable. \$55. Contact Bill Meloy (503) 667-8109.

FOR SALE: *Model 40 -200 Philco Console. \$60, Call Tony @360-944-8489 or ranft@saw.net

FOR SALE: **DC-to-AC power converter. 24VDC input, 110 VAC output. Provides emergency backup power and voltage spike protection. \$100. Includes two 12V auto batteries and converter unit. Contact Frank Olberding. 503-357-8375.

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

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

Dave Wise – (503) 293-7835, 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

Normende Carmen 55 available for sale. If interested, contact Robb Sparks by phone at 503-262-7111 or by e-mail at solaris@pacifier.com.

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 Last Page

Photos by Blake Dietze

While photographing radios at the June meeting, Blake also snapped these shots of members.



Meeting Location!

Our monthly meetings are held in the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

1. Take the OR-213 exit, exit number 10, towards PARK PLACE/MOLALLA.
2. From the South, turn RIGHT onto SR-213, or from the North, keep RIGHT at the fork in the ramp and merge onto SR-213.
3. Turn LEFT at the first traffic light onto CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.
4. Turn RIGHT onto S FORSYTHE RD.
5. Turn LEFT onto S HARLEY AVE. The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S. Taylor Lane.

The written instructions came from “Map Quest” on the Internet; the map is scanned from a AAA map with much detail removed for the sake of clarity.

