

Over 30 years in print!

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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 \$25.00 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 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.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.



Society Officers for 2006:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 <u>radiogeo@hevanet.com</u>
Vice-President	Dave Brown	(503) 585-4667 <u>ironradio@qwest.net</u>
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <u>kiptuttle@aol.com</u>
Call Letter Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 <u>rwalton@easystreet.com</u>
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 BonJonBuck@webtv.net

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On the cover: Jerry Talbott at the October 21 NWVRS Radio Sale in Aurora, just one week before his passing on October 28.

The next meeting is on November 11, 2006.

Nomination of Officers for 2007

November Feature: Obscure And Little Known Tube Radio Manufacturers And Brand Names

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: December 1, 2006.

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

For the second time this year, we as a club, and each of us as individuals are faced with the loss of a good friend and ardent collector. I think we were all aware that Jerry Talbott's health was failing, but it is painful nonetheless to learn of his passing. "Remembering Jerry" is a collection of remembrances sent in just prior to publishing this issue. If you feel moved to add a remembrance, we'll continue the column next month in the *Call Letter*. The photo on the cover is one I took at the swap meet on October 21st. I had originally planned a different cover, but I felt that I needed to honor Jerry in this way.

This issue is filled with photos: of last month's meeting, of the swap meet, and of Cliff Tuttle's trip to the radio museum in Ligonier, Indiana. Cliff has put into writing the presentation he gave at the October meeting. In addition to all that, there is "In the Shack" with Mike Parker, this being the article he wrote for the April '97 *Call Letter*.

Don't forget that we nominate officers for 2007 at this meeting. See the last page for the officer responsibilities.

NWVRS 2006 Calendar of Events

November 11	NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2007.

December 9 NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2007.

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the October 14, 2006 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Liles Garcia read the minutes from the September meeting, and they were approved as printed in the October Call Letter. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved as provided by Ed. Ed added that the Jim Mason Fund is increasing in value. There were 43 members at our meeting today. Tom Hudson, Bryan Dietze, and Lars Torgerson attended today's meeting as guests. Welcome to our guests!

Old Business

Swap Meet -- Brian Toon said that there are still tables available. Members voted on the food items that we will have at our Swap Meet. Setup times on Friday evening are from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The building will open for setup at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning.

Grange Meeting -- Sonny Clutter, Tony Hauser, Rick Walton, and Bill Meloy attended a Grange Meeting in September. They took some radios to display at a social after the Grange Meeting.

New Business

Radio Museum Trip -- Cliff Tuttle visited a radio museum in Ligonier, Indiana. He described the museum and showed the group several pictures. Members gave Cliff a round of applause for his interesting discussion.

Technical Talk

George showed the group an Atwater-Kent Model 5 that he rebuilt. He demonstrated the Model 5 working, and described how it worked using a large schematic diagram. There were several questions from the group. Members gave George a round of applause for his interesting discussion.

Leads and Needs

Sonny needs the "Crosley" insignia for a Crosley rep-wood cabinet front.

The program topic for our meeting today was "Anything Atwater-Kent." Members showed and discussed the radios and items that they brought.

The program topic for our November meeting will be "Obscure And Little Known Tube Radio Manufacturers And Brand Names."

The meeting was adjourned.

Jerry Talbott, Silent Key

by Dick Karman

Long-time NWVRS member and three-time Society president, Jerry Talbott, recently lost his battle with cancer. We were grieved to hear that Jerry passed away on October 28, 2006, attended by his loving wife, Ruth.

Jerry was born in San Francisco and attended Sequoia High School in Redwood City, California. He went on to San Mateo College and landed his first job in nearby San Carlos. He served his country in the United States Navy. Although his unit was assigned to San Diego Naval Base, Jerry spent most of his time on a Navy tugboat in Alaska (a far cry from the balmy waters of Southern California).

His wife Ruth tells this writer that Jerry and she made a trip to Carson City, Nevada, in 1961 to get married, but set up house back in Redwood City. Jerry was an electronics repairman. It was 7 years later that they moved to the Northwest. Jerry took a job for Sears as a TV repairman and they settled in Hillsboro. About a year later, in 1969, Jerry landed a job with the fast-growing Tektronix Corporation.

It was in the 29 years that Jerry was working at Tek that many of us got to know him, and Jerry got to know the NWVRS. Jerry often shared a ride to the meetings with Jim Mason, until Jim's passing in 1999. Jerry "did time" as displays coordinator for the Society and handled many radio displays at the Forrest Grove Vintage Car show. If memory serves, Jerry also helped with many of the Swap Meets down through the years. Jerry accepted the nomination for Society President in October 1983. Jerry served as president for the 1984 and 1985 terms.

When Jerry left office in January 1986 he went on to help with the monthly show and tell segments of the meetings, and was a worker on the Rasada Museum project. The museum never worked out for the Society, but it wasn't for lack of effort on the part of Sonny Clutter, Dick Dielschneider, Jerry and many other members.

The Society once again called upon Jerry for leadership in 1997. Jerry took the position of president with the firm resolve that it would only be for one year. He held to that resolution and turned the position over to Dave Rutland in January of 1998. Also in 1998 Jerry retired from Tektronix.

He and Ruth continued to live in Hillsboro, and Jerry stayed active in the radio club. His collections of early television sets and smaller sized table radios continued to grow. There was seldom a NW Vintage Radio Society meeting that Jerry didn't bring something to share. In recent years Jerry and Ruth moved to Newberg. "The house is great!" Jerry told this writer, "but it still doesn't have enough room for radios." Jerry often tried to "downsize" his collection. Ruth tells me the radios numbered somewhere over 800. Ruth could honestly be considered a long-suffering wife.

The new house was very enjoyable for the Talbotts and the radios. Jerry would drive in to Oregon City for Society meetings once a month, but Jerry and Ruth would still drive to Beaverton once a week for church. Talbotts attended Beaverton Christian Church (BCC) on Allen Blvd. Jerry was a Christian and made a decision to follow Christ in 1971. This reporter enjoyed Christian fellowship with Jerry. Jerry was a Christ-like witness of patience and concern for others. Ruth and his friends at BCC consider this not a passing, but a home-going. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful wife.

Beaverton Christian Church held a memorial service for Jerry on November 6, 2006.

Remembering Jerry

Sonny Clutter

Jerry was the first vintage radio person I came in touch with shortly after moving to Portland, OR, in August of 1984. I learned of him from an antique shop (while on one of my first hunting trips in Portland) where I asked for info on local vintage radio collectors. I soon made contact with Jerry and he invited me to come visit. He signed me up as an NWVRS member and in short order we were doing some trading. I believe he was the president of NWVRS at that time.

I don't think many of you realize what a huge asset Jerry was to our group, especially those of you that came to the monthly meetings a little later in the morning after things were all set up and ready. In spite of the fact that Jerry held no official position of responsibility for much of what he contributed, he was always the first one to arrive at our monthly meeting place. He would open up, clean the place up, and have the chairs and tables in place. He would often be assisted by one of us other early arrivers, with Rudy Zvarich being a loyal assistant. In the early days when we met at the Buena Vista Club house, on cold days he had to build a wood fire to get the building heated before meeting time. Jerry would often bring his own wood for the old wood stove. Although Jerry was an aggressive and passionate collector, his passion was not just oriented to his collection. He was a *rather quiet pillar* of our group, always helping, assisting and promoting the NWVRS.

Over the years, Jerry and I have had our (private) differences and myself being rather outspoken, I would let him know just how I felt. You could do this with Jerry without worry of him holding a grudge or any animosity. Such disagreements would soon be reconciled and he would still be my friend.

Before he passed away, Jerry expressed to his wife "Ruthie" how thankful he was to have been able to attend the last meeting on Saturday, Oct. 21st, and be with all of us. It was his last good day.

It was a rare occasion when Jerry wasn't at our meetings or events, he will be sorely missed.

Tony Hauser

Jerry not only introduced me to radio collecting, and the NWVRS, but he was also the first real friend I ever made after moving to Oregon. I am forever grateful that Jerry was able to attend our last radio sale and visit with so many of us one last time. I will miss him very much.

Voilá

... new and recent finds by NVRS members

Compiled by Jay Johnston

- **Robert Campbell:** 1918 book "How to Become a Wireless Operator". Found at Goodwill for the princely sum of 100 pennies. It's in great condition, over 300 pages, and includes many photos and diagrams.
- Liles Garcia: Hallicrafters WR-1000 radio.
- **Jay Johnston:** Another addition to my collection of book-shaped radios: a transistorized GE.
- **Rick Walton:** Four issues of "Citizens Radio Call Book" magazine with interesting cover art that will appear on the *Call Letter* cover. An eBay find.

Send word of your latest find to Jay Johnston, <u>withat@msn.com</u>, or by post at 1451 SW Market St., Portland, OR 97201-2555.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

A few photos of "everything Atwater Kent" from the October 14th meeting.



John Bucholtz – Model E Speaker





Bob Campbell – Advertising Bell



Lloyd Harris – Pooley Cabinet



Rudy Zvarich – Model 555



Mark Richardson – Model 637



George Kirkwood – Model 9 Breadboard

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Cliff Tuttle - AK Induction Coil, Model 555 before (I) and after (r)



Alan Shadduck – Model 725



Liles Garcia – Model 48



Kurt Torgerson – Model 35

The Fall Radio Sale in Aurora

photos by Rick Walton

It was a gorgeous Autumn day with the sun shining and the air clear. Inside the Aurora American Legion Hall (and a little outside, too) the NWVRS held its Fall Radio Sale (swap meet for us old-timers). There were fewer sellers for this meet than in the Spring, with just enough to fill the tables upstairs. The ladies in the kitchen prepared a nice lunch, though, and most of us there at lunchtime enjoyed their efforts. As reported elsewhere in this issue, Jerry Talbott had his usual spot with a number of items for sale. Sadly, Jerry passed from us a week later.



November 2006

NW Vintage Radio Society Call Letter





A Visit to Indiana Historical Radio Museum

Text and photos by Cliff Tuttle

JoBeth and I traveled out to Ft. Wayne, Indiana the first week in September. Before we left, I took a moment to Google "Old Radios in Indiana", and became intrigued by the web site for the Indiana Historical Radio Society. Based on one of their links, we took a morning to run up to the small rural community of Ligonier, Indiana. As it turns out, they have converted an old gas



station (actually a very pretty building) into the Ligonier Visitors Bureau & Indiana Historical Radio Museum. What a fun side trip!



The place is run by volunteers, and the sweet woman who greeted us showed us her favorite radios, and filled us in on the history of the place, both the museum and the town. She then took us over to a hands on display of a 3-dialer, and tuned in a local station, no small feat as she balanced with one hand running the dials and the other holding her cane. She left us to wander at our own pace, and while there is something there for all interests, for me, the most amazing find of all was

an Atwater Kent Model 8!

Getting there was fun too. Located about half way between South Bend and Fort Wayne, you have to get off the interstates and enjoy the winding country roads through the fields of corn and soy beans. Life just seems to run at a calmer pace there, illustrated by a grocery store parking lot that was complete with a hitching post for the horse drawn Amish carriages that frequent the region. Once I returned home, I e-mailed Fred Schultz, the curator of the museum and it's radio station WNRL 105.9 FM (If you go to yahoo and type in WNRLLP – the LP stands for low power - then click on listen you can pick them up on the internet). Fred was very helpful, and filled me in on some of the mechanics of running such an endeavor.

This facility could be a bit of an inspiration to our radio club if we ever wanted to set up a semi-permanent radio display somewhere. As radio museums go, it is not huge, but is a wonderful size that accommodates most interests without being overwhelming for our spouses (or grand kids). Items that can easily walk away are in glass display cases, or just out of reach. As I understand it, the facility was donated by a local family (actually leased for a buck or so a year). Tying it in as a visitor center in a small town brings more foot traffic and a further draw for volunteers who do not necessarily have a background in radios. There is no charge for the tour, but to cover operating expenses, there is a donation jar, and they sell memorabilia (I got a deck of cards). The bulk of the collection belong to just a couple of fellows, but quite a few club members have an item or two there. They have had a few things walk away, but with some adaptations, this is not much of an issue anymore.



So if you get a chance to be in northern Indiana, I recommend you take a short detour to Ligonier. And if this inspires any great ideas on how we could share our hobby with others, I recommend you make a short detour to our next meeting.



Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the April, 1997 Call Letter.!

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, 1 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," Val. I, by Alan Douglas.

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. (*Ed. note: R*-5 *D*-3 has long since moved. See Bob's ad in the Swap Shop.)

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 Sylvanias. 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 1 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

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 knob. The set features impedance audio coupling using 3 audio transformers, hence the use of 6 tubes. Other than that the radio is

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
- *FOR SALE:* *Radio/phono consoles including a Scott 800B, clock radios, Eico oscilloscopes, other stuff. Gotta empty that storage unit! Call Rick Walton, 503-656-4104, or e-mail <u>rwalton@easystreet.com</u>.

WANTED: Glen Bricker is looking for one of these Crosley cabinets:





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 <u>ranft@saw.net</u> - 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.

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Leads and Needs

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

Jay Johnston: I experienced great results having Dorian's Shoe Repair (611 SW 6th Ave in Portland, 503-223-0046) replace a rotted and torn leather strap from a 1950s portable radio. They cut, dyed, and punched the leather and replaced the rusty buckle, rivets, and D-rings- all matching the original.

Officer's Roles

The President

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall set the time and the place of Board of Directors' Meetings. The President has the power to appoint members of committees as appropriate to enhance the activities of the society.

The Vice President

The Vice President shall be responsible for planning and arranging technical and entertaining activities associated with the society's meetings. He serves as chairman of the program committee if such a committee is appointed. He acts as presiding officer at meetings if the President is unavailable.

The Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting and for receiving and preparing all of the society's correspondence.

The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds received and disbursed by the society and shall report all monetary transactions and treasury balance at each regular meeting of the society. The Treasurer shall prepare a list of members in good standing for distribution at the next regular meeting following the annual meeting of the society.

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of the society plus the immediate past president of the society. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the society. The Board shall determine a suitable time and place for regular society business meetings.

Meeting Location

Here is a map (thanks to Google Maps) to the Abernethy Grange Hall (the pointer marked "A"), where the Northwest Vintage Society meets the second Saturday of each month. Just follow the arrows on the map.



To get to the Abernethy Grange Hall:

- 1. Exit I-205 at SR-213 (Exit 10 to Molalla) and head south on 213.
- 2. At the first intersection (the traffic light), turn left onto Clackamas River Dr.
- 3. Turn right at Forsythe Rd.
- 4. Turn left onto Harley Ave. The Grange Hall is on the left about a block and a half.