
September 2007

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On the cover: The September, 1937 issue of *Radio Craft*, with a motorcycle-led pack of bicyclists winding their way along a coastal road that could easily be somewhere in Oregon.

The next meeting is on September 8, 2007.

September Feature: Radio Advertising and Memorabilia.

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: October 4, 2007.

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

As usual for the season, things are pretty quiet. So I'll keep this short!

This month's *Call Letter* consists of the usual suspects including the minutes of the last meeting, photos of the radios shown, and yet another of Mike Parker's *In the Shack* columns, this time from February of 1998. Because things have been so quiet, there is no *Voilà* this month. Sonny Clutter has contributed another of his *Tech Tips*, this time a nifty way to use connect a modern speaker to a 1920's set, or a 1920's speaker to a modern set.

Another sign of the Summer doldrums is another appearance of "The Back Page." It is a piece of radio memorabilia that I've collected within the last year. I find it interesting because of the picture of Henry Burr on the cover. I have quite a few very old 78s on which he is the singer. Mr. Burr was known for sentimental songs popular in the early 1900s.

For those of you inclined to e-mail me, my e-mail address is changing slightly. Instead of ending in .com it will end with .net. So the new address is: rwalton@easystreet.net. If you don't use the new one, don't worry — the old one will forward to the new.

Sinatra, Bennett, Norah.

Portland's only station for classic American standards
of yesterday and today. Sunny 1550 KKAD.

Listen online at: www.sunny1550kkad.com



NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

Vice-President Dick Bixler called the August 11, 2007 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. The July meeting minutes were approved as printed in the August Call Letter. Ed Charman gave the Treasurer's report, and it was approved as provided by Ed. John Bucholtz reported that the library is doing fine--he also mentioned that he will be increasing his coordinating efforts for any books out over two months. Al Zimmerman attended our meeting today as a guest--members gave Al a round of applause. Bill Meloy told the group about his trip to the Virginia City Radio Museum (www.radioblvd.com/). There were 30 people at our meeting today.

Old Business

Swap Meet--Brian Toon reported that everything is in place for our October Swap Meet. Blake Dietze brought some Swap Meet flyers for members to distribute. Liles Garcia briefly summarized his recent letter on networking and outreach that he wrote to our Society's e-mail list. The group briefly discussed our Society's goals and direction, and also our increased outreach and networking ideas. Dick Bixler would like to continue to hear any ideas from members about networking and outreach.

New Business

Sams Photofacts Needed--Gordon Phillips told members that the Multnomah County Library is missing some Sams Photofacts from its collection. He passed out a list of the Photofacts that the Library needs. Liles put the list of needed items on the Society's e-mail list. If anyone has any of the needed items, please get them to Gordon.

The program topic for our meeting today was "Foreign Radios ". Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought.

The program topic for our September meeting will be "Radio Advertising And Memorabilia".

The meeting was adjourned.

NWVRS 2007 Calendar of Events

Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from:
PNW Hamfair web page at www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm

- September 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 22** Spokane Hamfest. (ARRL Washington State Convention). University High School, Spokane, WA 99206. Contact Betsy Ashleman, N7WRQ, n7wrq@aol.com. (509)448-5821. www.kbara.org.
- October 13** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 14** North Kitsap Amateur Radio Club Hamfair. Bremerton, WA. ARRL sanctioned event. Kitsap Fairgrounds. Info: contact Ron Sefton, N7EM, (360)779-5418, ron-sefton@hotmail.com or Horace Ory, (360)779-2215, ory001@comcast.net. www.nkarc.org/hamfest/index.html
- October 21** Swap-Toberfest, Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, Oregon. (Ten miles west of Salem). Info: contact Fred Rodley at n7lqd@aol.com. www.swaptoberfest.net/
- October 27** Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club Flea Market, Lynden, WA. ARRL sanctioned event. Always last Saturday in October. Info: contact k7iey@netscape.net. www.qsl.net/k7skw/.
- November 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2007.
- November 4** Maple Ridge, ARC Swap Meet. 12460 Harris Road Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge B.C. Canada. www.qsl.net/ve7rmr/
- December 8** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2007.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Here is the diverse group of foreign (non-US) radios displayed at the August meeting.



Home brew loose coupler -
Dick Bixler



German Telefunken licensed by RCA
ca. 1921 - Sonny Clutter



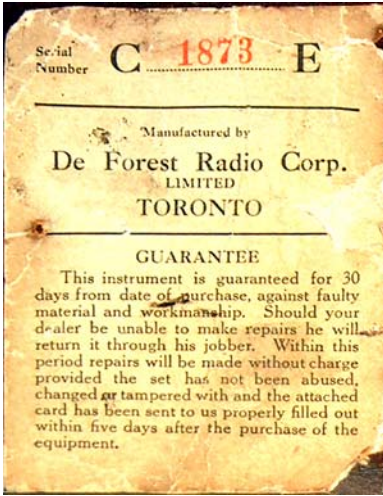
Three Czech Teslas - Brian Toon



British Murphy - Blake Dietze



Nazi German Volksempfänger -
Alan Shadduck



Canadian DeForest Crosley - Bill Meloy



German Korting - Bill Meloy



Czech Tesla - Ed Tomkins



German Telefunken - Jerry Hertel



German Blaupunkt - Rick Walton

Website Suggestions Requested

Pat Kagi, our new web master, is looking for suggestions for website content. What do you, the members, want to see on the website? Contact Pat and let him know. E-mail him at kagi.pat@con-way.com, or phone him at (360) 694-6149.

Tech Tips

by Sonny clutter

Tip #21 Operate your vintage radio with a modern speaker, or operate your vintage speaker on a modern radio or amplifier.

If you've ever hooked up an old horn or other early (1920's) radio speaker to a modern radio or amplifier, you have undoubtedly found it works very poorly, producing weak or no sound.

Reason:

Most all the 1920's radio speakers were high impedance while nearly all modern speakers (those made from the early 1930's on) are low impedance. Most high impedance speakers are on the order of around 2000 ohms. Modern ones are usually 4 -16 ohms (quite a mismatch if the wrong speaker is connected to the wrong output). Most tube type amplifiers made from the 1950's on offered a range of output impedances but none high enough for a proper match to the early speakers.

Solution:

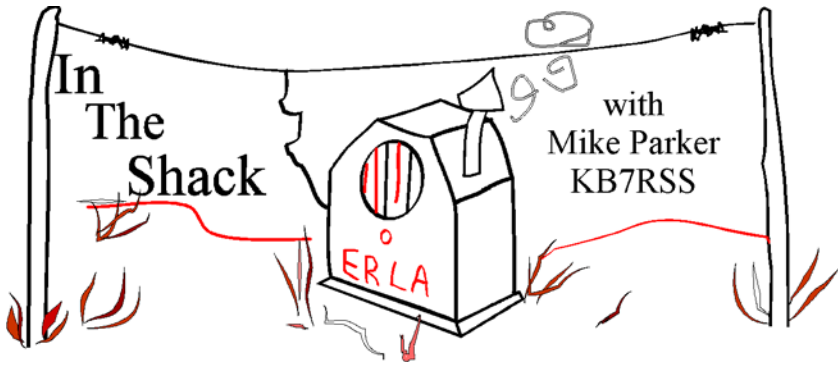
It's quite easy to match your modern amp (or radio) to a vintage horn or disc radio speaker. Just use a common output transformer connecting the primary side to the vintage speaker, and the secondary to your radio or amp's output.

If you wish to connect a vintage radio to a modern speaker, just do the reverse (primary to the radio, secondary to speaker). If your vintage speaker is in good working order, you'll find this will work just fine.

If you are not a technical person and can't tell the primary from the secondary, here are a couple of tips: The primary side is usually color coded with cloth, rubber or plastic insulated wires that are red and blue. The secondary is often bare wires,* or if insulated, green & black are the usual colors.

If you still cant determine which way is correct and you don't have an ohmmeter (or know how to use one), try it each way. There's no harm if you get it wrong (as long as you keep the volume level of your amp at a minimum), just weak or no sound.

* The wires aren't really bare, but are insulated with an enamel coating.



Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is from the February, 1998, Call Letter.!

No Birthday Radio

I am going to be the grand old age of 57 this month. My, how things are changing! I guess I will not be getting a "Birthday Radio" this year. I suppose what I am really trying to say to you fellow collectors is that I really don't particularly care if I get one or not, and that is quite a change from the way I felt about it 5 years ago. The underlying message that I am trying to send is that there is something that we collectors go through that only time seems to bring about and I think that we develop a different perspective on how we approach the acquisition and care of what we collect. You long time hobbyists out there may be well aware of this syndrome. Apparently, I am just realizing it.



Just a few years ago, I would conjure up any old excuse to have a certain radio that I liked. A birthday radio I bought for just me, myself and I. A Christmas radio, a vacation radio, a walk into a second hand shop radio. Even a radio that I thought I could get away with because it was a type my wife likes! I know that I am not the first to use THIS excuse!

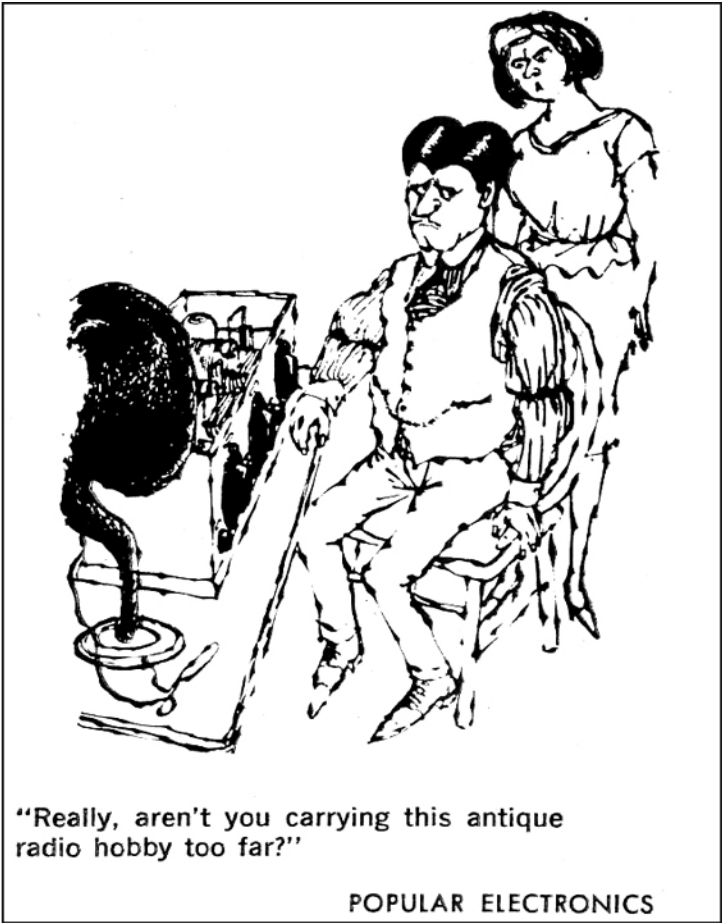
Now, it seems that I am somehow "holding out" or rationalizing in some way that I will wait until I find only the ones near the top of my long running "GOTTAHAVIT" list. I have acquired most all of my recently purchased radios this way...sort of a super selective attitude. Oh, I will admit that I have been putting my money into other places lately, I am trying to buy a piano, I put a lot of my money into a couple of my vehicles lately and the results are rewarding me now, I am trying to channel more money into fixing up the old house. These are definite reasons to not buy radios but this underlying fact still remains, I have changed my outlook

on radio collecting. It's too bad because currently, a lot of local radios are being offered for sale at this time.

If any of you have any input on this, I would like to talk about it with you. I don't think I am going to completely stop collecting, I would not want that to happen. They say that we curators of these "objects" that we arbitrarily put ourselves in charge of will experience 7 year cycles as hobbyists of said objects. Maybe this is what I am going through, since I started this in 1990.

So, no birthday radio for me this year, however if you would like to give me an Atwater Kent breadboard, a Grebe CR-18, or a nice Crosley RFL-60 battery set with a gold etched art panel, well, I will gladly accept it!

QSO you next time....IN THE SHACK



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: **I need the base and driver for a Music Master horn speaker (the one with the wood bell). An example of the base can be seen here: <http://www.radiolaguy.com/images/hornSpeakers/MusicMaster-bs.jpg>. Thanks, Sonny the Radiola Guy.

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) 648-0897, 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

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

Here's a piece of radio ephemera that can also be phono ephemera. *Standby!* was the weekly program list for WLS in Chicago. Henry Burr, the gentleman pictured on the cover, was a recording artist for a number of labels in the early 20th century, later working for WLS.

