

The Call Letters

April, 2010
Vol. 36 — No. 4

Thursday Evening, November 13, 1924

THE PORTLAND TELEGRAM

TELE RADIOGRAM COLUMN

TIMELY TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

A New Super-Receiver

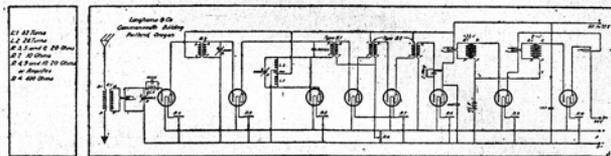


Diagram showing hookup for the Langhorne super-receiver.

SEEKING THE LOW LOSS IDEAL

The low loss idea is rapidly gaining ground with radio fans because it is logical. Time was when the value of a radio receiver was measured largely by the number of controls, switch points and other plated gadgets that decorated the front of the panel.

Real efficiency was not to be found in the sets of that day because even radio engineers knew very little about dielectric loss capacity effects and other factors now considered so important in radio design.

The receiver described here was constructed with the low loss ideal in mind, and, consequently simplicity and efficiency have been the keynote. It should appeal to the distinct classes of radio fans.

APPEALS TO MANY.

First—To the man who now owns a receiver that covers the usual broadcasting wave band, but who wants to know what is to be had on the air below his tuning capacity especially the short wave broadcasting from stations such as WC and KDKA.

Second—To the amateur who owns a transmitting station. He will fit this ideal receiver for continuous wave reception on all wavelengths from about 50 meters up to 275 meters.

Third—To the man who has a set and who wants to build one. It tuning unit A B C in the list of parts can also be supplied with for the wavelengths from 250 meters up to 350 meters. With headphones he will find that this receiver is efficient; that it will almost equal any of the radio frequency sets, and bringing in distant stations additionally, it will be found considerably more selective.

NOTHING NOVEL IN HOOKUP.

There is nothing novel in the circuit employed, as it is the standard three circuit, regenerative hookup. The primary consists of six turns, enough to secure an efficient transfer of energy to the secondary circuit. The coupling can be set as loose as desired for this reason there is little or no radiation to disturb your neighbor's reception. High resistance in the secondary circuit always results in broad tuning and weak signals, and in the receiver the resistance has been reduced to the minimum. The secondary coil is wound with heavy wire in a basket weave form to reduce the distributed capacity between turns and it is mounted so that there is no winding form or other dielectric in the magnetic field.

A jack is not included in the detector circuit because practically a listening post included an audio amplification anyway, and it simplifies the wiring to leave it out.

DETAILS IN TUNING.

The variable dial specified here will help in tuning the receiver, as it will have no play in them, and it is relatively simple with a type of receiver to locate a sta-

SUPER CIRCUIT FAR REACHING

BY SYD DURBIN, Telegram Radio Specialist.

A great deal has been written about superheterodyne circuits, and no doubt a great deal more will be written in the future.

During the last five months, T. Langhorne has experimented with fifteen types of super in his laboratory, using material of his own design as well as that of other manufacturers. Some of these wonder circuits proved to be very good, some indifferent and others a travesty on the name of superheterodyne.

The radio fans of the West Coast who build their own receivers have always looked forward to the circuits perfected in the East. They lose sight of the fact that these receivers are tested under conditions far different from Pacific Coast conditions.

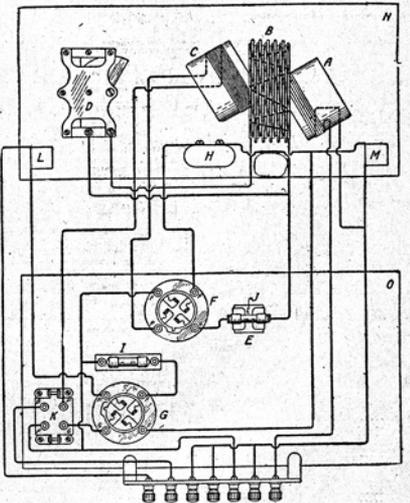
We are giving to the fans the hookup of this new super circuit, which has been thoroughly tested by a number of local fans, who report wonderful results.

There is nothing entirely new in this hookup, as some of the fine points are taken from standard circuits which are now on the open market. It will be noted the first tube works at low radio frequency, ahead of a modulated tube which does not carry any high B battery voltage. This tube has not been balanced out by condenser capacitors, nor is it stabilized by the use of a potentiometer; still it is impossible in this circuit to force this tube into violent oscillation.

For D. X. reception, it is well understood among radio authorities that radio frequency has proved to be the best method of detection before the natural detector and then add audio frequency to build up the received signal.

The transformers used in this hookup are tuned to a wave length of 4300 meters, and are of the air core type. Capacity and resistance have been figured to such an extent that they will tune down to the noise level, with very little inter-tube noise, and still retain the ex-

LOW LOSS TUNER WHICH IS POPULAR WITH FANS



To build a low loss tuner for short wave stations you will need the following parts: A, B, C, low loss tuner with two extune dials; D, variable condenser .0005; E, Mica fixed condenser with clips for tubular grid leak .00025; F, G, two standard sockets; H, Bradlystat (New type); I, Amperite No. 1-A mounting; J, 2 megohm grid leak; K, audio transformer; L, single circuit jack; M, filament switch; N, panel 7x15 inches; O, base board 1/2x1 1/4 inches; P, composition binding post strip; Q, cabinet; R, angle brackets for binding post strip; binding posts, bus-wire, screws, etc.

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.

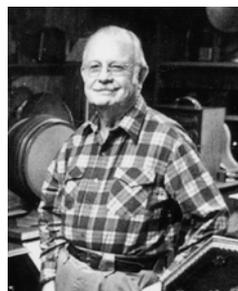
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

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).

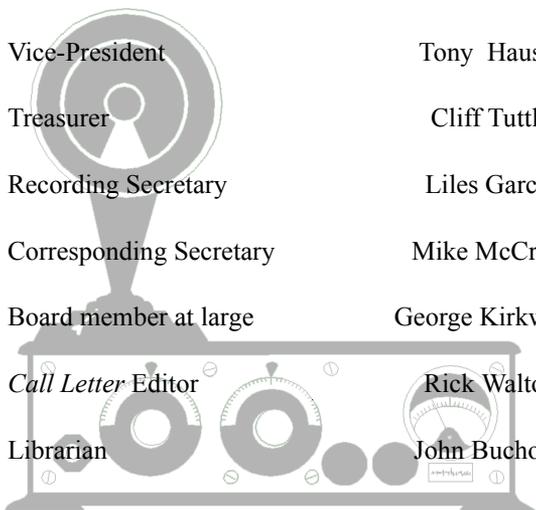
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. 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 2010:

President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 rf2af@comcast.net
Vice-President	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074 abhauser@aol.com
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@verizon.net
Corresponding Secretary	Mike McCrow	(503) 730-4639 tranny53@comcast.net
Board member at large	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 rwalton@easystreet.net
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 Bucholtz3049@comcast.net



April 2010

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On the cover: “In honor of our guest speaker’s topic, “Early Days of Portland Radio,” this month’s cover presents a part of the radio page of the *Portland Telegram* for November 13, 1924. The *Portland Telegram* was one of Portland’s two afternoon daily papers, the other being the *Oregon Journal*.

The next meeting is April 10, 2010.

**April Feature: Microphones
plus guest speaker, Craig Adams**

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: April 29, 2010.

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

This issue of *The Call Letter* is not as large or tightly compacted as the last few have been. It must be the hint of Spring making its way into our area. Everybody must be outside in the longer and occasionally warmer days getting the gardens ready and clearing away the winter debris.

While some of the usual features are missing, there is still plenty to warrant your attention. Mark Moore gives us a report on the growing collection in the society archives. It is really great that we have Mark in charge of gathering up the fascinating history of our society, even as we in the society go about gathering up the fascinating history of radio.

I've reprinted an April Fool's piece from the April, 2002, Call Letter that Dan Howard originally submitted. Perhaps some of you will recognize the subject of the article, the grid leak drip pan. We were privileged to see an example dangling from the grid leak resistor of Dick Howard's Crosley Pup displayed in February.

Finally, here's a final reminder, that Cliff is closing the books on 2009, and that we'll be trimming the roster to members in good standing. After that, we'll be mailing *The Call Letter* only to those whose dues are paid.

Always sunny & warm.

*For a refreshing change,
check it out!*



Sunny 1550 KKAD

	Herb Alpert - Tony Bennett - Michael Buble - Carpenters
	Nat King Cole - Perry Como - Neil Diamond - Diana Krall
	Barry Manilow - Johnny Mathis - Platters - Carly Simon
	Elvis - Frank Sinatra - Babara Streisand - Andy Williams

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

submitted by Liles Garcia, Recording Secretary

President Dick Bixler called the March 13, 2010 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. He welcomed everyone to our meeting. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the February meeting and they were approved as published in the March Call Letter. Cliff Tuttle gave the Treasurer's Report; his report was approved as provided by Cliff. John Bucholtz said that the library is doing well. Dave Eaton joined our Society today; members gave Dave a round of applause. There were 60 people at our meeting today.

Items of Interest

George Kirkwood told the group about a telephone conversation that he had with the nephew of Philo Farnsworth. Mark Moore showed the group a book of photos about NWVRS history that he is assembling. Blake Dietze agreed to be our Technical Committee Chairman. Contact Gordon Phillips if you would like a NWVRS nametag. The cost is \$6.00. Contact Tony Hauser if you would like to get a NWVRS jacket, baseball cap, T-Shirt, or coffee mug. Craig Adams will speak to us at our April meeting. His topic will be "Early Days Of Portland Radio".

Old Business

Swap Meet--Brian Toon said that there are only two Swap Meet tables left to sell. Set-up times will be on Friday from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM; and on Saturday starting at 7:00 AM. Our Swap Meet starts at 9:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM.

New Business

Sounds Of Nostalgia--This event will be in Salem on May 23. Pat Kagi needs to know if our Society would like to participate.

Leads and Needs

Ken Ericksen needs some Philco 70 and Philco 90 resistor/ capacitor networks so that he can manufacture them. Bill Holeman needs a speaker for a Scott 800B.

Program Topic

For future planning, our November meeting topic will be "Before And After Restorations".

The program topic today is “Bring What You Want”. Members showed and discussed the approximately 17 radios and other items that they brought. The program topic for April will be “Microphones”.

The meeting was adjourned.

NWVRS 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

- April 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- May 8** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- May 8** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Always the second Saturday in May. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7705. nwecop@tgi.net
- June 4-6** Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. ai9q@arrl.net www.seapac.org/
- June 11-13** 41st Annual Wenatchee Hamfest. Apple City ARC. Dryden Gun Club. Dryden, WA. Contact Jim, W7JBP at shultzjims@aol.com or Judy, at ka7zna@msn.com for information. www.qsl.net/w7td/.
- June 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- June 12** Port Ludlow ARC tailgate swap meet. Port Ludlow, WA. www.n7pl.org/
- July 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 2010** Chehalis Valley ARS 11th Annual Hamfair. Lewis County Fairgrounds. Contact John Ellingson, K7OSK. johnk7osk@boatanchor.com. www.cvars.org/
- July 17** Coos County Radio Club Hamfest and Swapmeet. North Bend Middle School, North Bend, OR. Contact Marilyn Mansker, ke7oam@yahoo.com or Dave Granicy k7nbo@charter.net. www.coosradioclub.net/.
- August 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

- August 15** Antique Radio Swap Meet. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. One block west of Aurora Avenue - one mile west of I-5, exit 176. Free admission. www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html (Always the 3rd Sunday in August)
- August 2010** Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest. www.w7dk.org/
- September 11** The 4th Annual Clark County ARC Tail-Gate Swapmeet. Vancouver, WA. www.w7aia.org/ Rob, K7JAO at k7jao@arrl.net
- September 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 2010** Spokane Hamfest. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216. For information contact Betsy, N7WRQ n7wrq@aol.com.
- October 9** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 23?** Swaptoberfest. Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. Contact: Chris Portal, W7CLP (503)559-7837. w7clp@arrl.net 520 South Pacific Highway. www.swaptoberfest.net
- November 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2011.
- December 11** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2011.

10% DISCOUNT

To all members in good standing of the
Northwest Vintage Radio Society
for any purchase from



NORVAC
ELECTRONICS, INC.

BEAVERTON (503) 644-1025
7940 SW Nimbus Ave.

SALEM (503) 583-9810
1545 Commercial St. NE

EUGENE (541) 345-2904
960 Conger St.

Please show your current
NWVRS membership card
to receive discount.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Photos of radios displayed by members at the March meeting.



Radio Builders' Manual
Bob Campbell



Emerson "Strad"
Ed Cook



Zenith 6S222 Cube
Blake Dietze



Crosley Deflectron Tube Display
Bob Duell



KEX & KGW Mic & British Horn Speaker
Sonny Clutter



Zenith FM Only set
Gerry Hertel

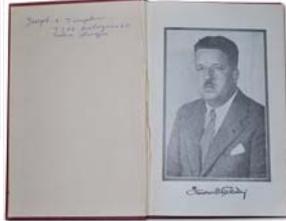


Detrola 5T "Super Midget" & Zenith 706
Alan Shaddock



Philco 37-61
Mike McCrow

Silver Cockaday 630 &
book by Cockaday
Art Redman



Echophone Model 60
Mark Moore



H-P Precision Voltmeter
Dave Wise



Gilfillan & Western Air Patrol TRFs
(same chassis) — George Kirkwood



Coradio - coin-op
Pat Kagi



Heathkit Transistor Multi-band
Brian Toon



Sonora RDU-208
Rick Walton



Philco Transitone
Larry Tobkin

Roster Correction & Additions

by Rick Walton

If I haven't taken your photo for the roster, please see me at the meeting.

Updates

Call sign, phone, e-mail address, or interest correction:

Ed Cook WA7SPX

Updated callsign:WA7SPX

Mel DeBoer

kingmeld@aol.com

Robert Ewing

robert.ewing9@comcast.net

New phone: 503-349-8734

Additions

Photo added, interests and e-mail updated:



Saul, Sid

P.O. Box 40621

Portland, Or 97240-0621

503-869-5280

Table Top 20's, 30's and 40's

saulsidney@gmail.com

R

New member:



Eaton, David

2007 NE 60th St.

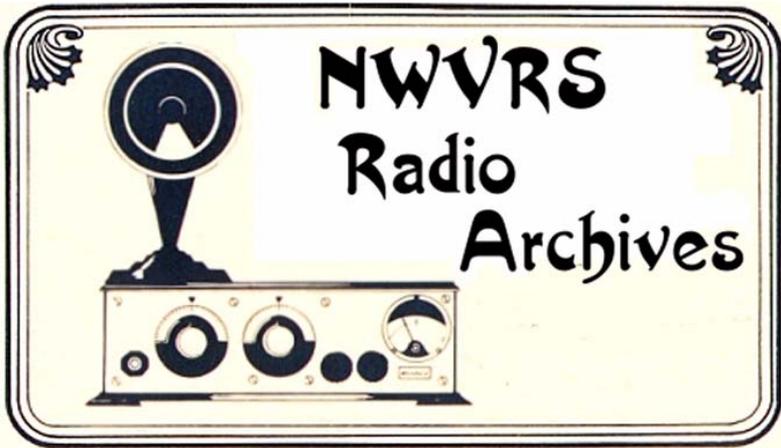
Vancouver, Wa. 98665

360-694-2232

DX'ing AM, variety 30's-40's wood radios & C.W. receivers

duckpoint2@aol.com

R



by Mark Moore, NWVRS Archivist

Thanks for all the submissions to the archives. As we get new items, I want to bring them to your attention. We are very fortunate to have the Original Club Scrapbook that Rick Walton has been keeping safe for a number of years. It was started by Bob and Sandy Bilbie in 1974 and it includes photos and memorabilia from 20 years of NWVRS Activities from Dec. 1974 to Nov. 1994.

The NWVRS Scrapbook includes a copy of the original letter sent to invite people to a Dec. 14, 1974 organizational meeting to see if there was enough interest to start a club for Old Radio Collectors. It includes a copy of the original constitution and newsletters 1, 2 and 13. There are posters from our first Swap Meets beginning Oct. 25, 1975.

There are many photos including several from our first display at Mall 205 on May 10, 1975, there are photos of the first display at Forest Grove in July 1976, there are photos of the Canby Swap in the spring of 1977, as well as the Omsi Show in 1979 and many other events throughout the years.

Thanks to Dan Howard for a display of photos from the display at the 1990 Northwest Car Collectors Show. We were given a collection of 19 prints, including 6 views of a Salem Display, 12 views of the exterior and interior of a display and contest at the Multnomah Village Masonic Hall and one print showing F.M. "Tex" Sloat talk about Radio History at the Jan. 1991 Meeting.

There are photos of the Vintage TV Display in Dec. 1989; a display of pre-1940 tabletop radios from Feb. 1990; there are photos from the Sounds of Nostalgia display at the Salem Flea Market in Feb. 1990; as well as photos from PSARA contests and Swap Meets from 1990.

We received another set of black and white prints: there are 39 views of battery sets and 8 views of Cathedral Radios and miscellaneous superhets. There are also three unidentified photos of someone's radio collection in their home.

We look forward to seeing all of you with your microphones at our next meeting on April 10 when Radio Historian Craig Adams will talk about the highlights of Portland Radio Broadcasting History.

It Was Radio's Latest Gadget?

Submitted by Dan Howard for the April, 2002 *Call Letter*

Editor's note: Editor's note: This tongue-in-cheek article is from the September, 1927 issue of Radio News and was headlined "Radio's Latest Gadget." The illustration with this article was on the cover of the April, 2002 Call Letter.

For the past ten years the common radio grid leak has been the favorite victim of the sharp pens of comic writers. In numerous cartoons this defenseless little device has been shown equipped with faucets, lengths of garden hose, sprinkler nozzles, pails, sponges, blotters, water tanks and other contraptions; intended, presumably, to control and catch the leakage from it. However, it has remained for a Chicago radio manufacturer blessed with a sense of humor to actually make and publicly display a grid-leak drip pan, a little nickel-plated brass trough which swings from the body of a grid leak in the manner indicated in the accompanying illustration.

This great invention was exhibited for the first time a couple of months ago, at the Radio Trade Show held in Chicago, where it was displayed in perfectly serious fashion along with the grid leaks, condensers, choke coils and other legitimate products of the manufacturer. Believe it or not, but a number of visiting dealers thought the device was an article intended for sale, and innocently inquired about prices, package quantities, and so forth! A printed folder was given away with each drip pan. We are reprinting its contents here so that our readers may acquaint themselves with the attachment:

Functions Of The Drip Pan

"The tremendous strides of radio during the past year are only exceeded by this remarkable invention. No single radio item has ever been able to accomplish so much, in doing so little. The ability of the Grid Leak Drip Pan to perform as well as anticipate irregularities in remote parts of the set with which it is not connected is almost

beyond human comprehension. In fact, the inventor himself could never advance any real necessity for its use.

“The exact value of the grid leak has always been a question amongst authorities and yet this simple device easily settles the question for all time. Consider a two-megohm grid leak installed with a Grid Leak Drip Pan, in a position requiring a three megohm grid leak. One megohm immediately drips into the pan which with the value of the grid leak itself gives the proper value of three megohms, as the Pan easily understands the conditions and being very industrious maintains this position in spite of the laws of electricity, which it takes particular delight in upsetting without, of course, spilling its vague contents and *vice versa*.”

“While testimonials have been rather slow incoming in, we feel confident that a trial on your part will readily substantiate the great merit of this device. While you grid leak might, again it might not. Who can tell? With summer here, this is at least a conservative sound and logical investment by which you alone can prove the numerous shortcomings of the device. As production will be limited to ten percent of the “B” Power Units made this year, we suggest your early action, although there will probably be a great surplus”

Grid Leak Drip Pan

**Uniform
Leakage
(Maybe)**



**Automatic
Control
(Perhaps)**

Patented and Patents Pending — Who Cares ?

The grid leak drip pan simply swings from the body of the leak, in the manner indicated above.

Illustration reproduced from folder of the Leslie F. Muter Co.

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: **Rider's *Perpetual Troubleshooter* manuals, Vols. 1-22 with indexes, \$200. Contact Damon Vandehey, 503-459-1777.

FOR SALE: *Downsizing – Selling mostly 20's - 40's radio collection. Includes a very good original Philco 112X Bel Geddes console plus a couple of dozen table tops, including a Midwest G10 (34-10), Zenith 6S632, Trirdyn. A few horn, drum and cathedral speakers. A Columbia Graphophone and a TV-7D/U. Most work, all very good condition. Call Bill Merry in Salem at (503) 371-0097 and bring your truck for pick-up.

WANTED: *Antique Radio Classified Magazine 2000-2005, 1986-1987, etc. Old Timer's Bulletin before September 1970. QST before 1920. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net.

Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Bruce Baur - (503)-708-4537, brucebaur@comcast.net

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Pat Hickman – (503) 887-9015 Web: www.classictubeaudio.com
Email: phickman@comcast.net

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141 Web: www.burlingame-radio.com
Email: burltv@msn.com

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or walterranft@hotmail.com – 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.

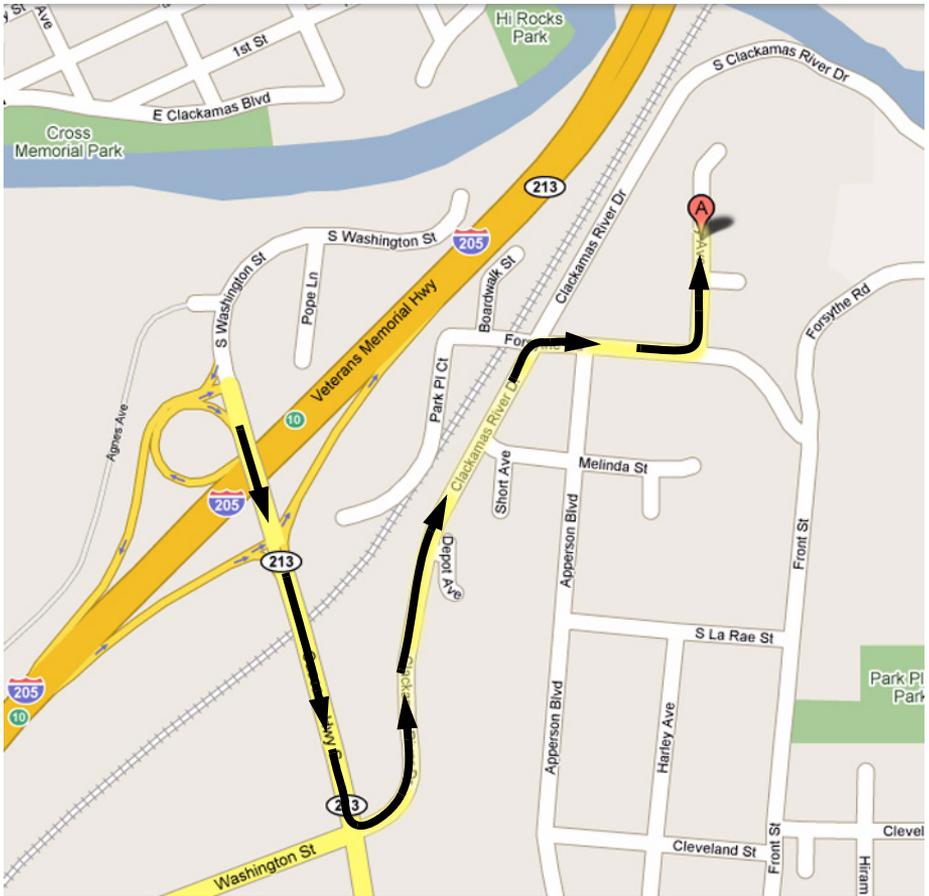
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit Radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photos, 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>

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.