



"MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

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Welcome to the first edition of "Museum Sparks", a quarterly newsletter for the Friends of the Antique Wireless Museum. Also, our welcome to our new Friends members! We are very pleased to have you join AWA. Each quarter, "SPARKS" will provide general information, latest news, new exhibits and happenings at the Museum. "SPARKS" will be posted on the AWA web site at www.antiquewireless.org for convenient referral.

SCHOOL TOURS

Recently, 68 fourth grade students from Honeoye Falls–Lima Manor School visited the Museum for the first time. Museum Staff enjoyed hosting the students in four sessions. Based on the noise level in the Museum (that was good noise), the students were enjoying themselves. Next week, another 88 fourth grade students from HFL will visit the Museum. And, in May, for the third year, 77 third grade students will tour the Museum. It is rewarding to have the students become excited about science and history and the Museum volunteers really enjoyed their visits.





This is an important growth area for the Museum. We have a significant responsibility to share the history and technology of communications with the younger generations. And, to see them so excited is very rewarding. It makes all the hours our volunteers have generously committed to AWA worthwhile.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND CLASSES AT THE MUSEUM

We are well along in developing four tracks of programs and classes to be presented at the Museum. The first track of classes will be for those under 20 years old. In a series of 12 two hour classes to be held once a month, the students will be introduced to basic electronics, basic safety around electronics, communications, computers, and amateur radio. This will be a hands on course. Students will learn the basics of electronics, how to use simple test equipment, and building crystal sets, simple radios, a simple transmitter, how to operate amateur radios, and how to use an Arduino computer. At the end of the course, students will take home their projects.

In the fall, we plan to offer Radio Merit Badges classes for scouts. This often is a difficult badge to achieve because of the specific communication requirements of the badge. But, the Museum has the facility and expertise to help them.

The third track will be series of entertaining and informative programs to be presented at the Museum during the evening. A wide ranging series programs with topics such as the history of Western Union (first created in Rochester, NY), the history of the Voice of America, the major inventors in communication history, the iconic women in radio, to a live “old time” radio show production.

The fourth track will be for adults who want to learn how to repair and restore older radios. It will include basic electronics and safety, understanding the operation of radios, how to troubleshoot problems, how to fix problems, and cabinet restoration.

WHAT’S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

Well, there is always something new at the Museum. Currently, Museum Staff is developing a “Made in Rochester” exhibit. Rochester has always had a rich history in communications, radio and television right from the start ranging from Mignon and Peerless in radio, to

Stromberg Carlson in telephone, radio and television, to Harris in today's military equipment just to name a few companies. The exhibit will feature a wide range of Made in Rochester artifacts.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The annual AWA Spring Meet will be held at Veteran's Park in Bloomfield (immediately across from the Museum) on Saturday, May 6 beginning at 7 am. The Spring Meet will include a Flea Market, a Museum bargain table including radio related books, and at 1 pm a huge auction of duplicate or surplus artifacts from the Museum. Admission is only \$5.

AWA WEB SITE and FACEBOOK

For ongoing contact information, membership applications, news, announcements, program schedules, AWA history, and lots of useful links to other radio sites, please visit www.antiquewireless.org or the AWA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/antiquewirelessmuseum (using CTRL+CLICK to follow the URL.)

VOLUNTEERS AT AWA

We are always looking for volunteers at AWA and especially guides for Tuesday and Saturday Museum hours. We will train you and what a great way to learn all about the history and technology of 200 years of communications. Just call 585-257-5119 on a Tuesday or Saturday or leave a message. It is fun and very rewarding.

MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum is open on Tuesdays from 10 am to 3 pm and Saturdays from 1 pm to 5 pm. We are closed on major holidays and holiday weekends so our volunteers can enjoy the holidays with their families

Bob Hobday

Deputy Director