



# ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

## "MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

JUNE 2017 VOLUME 1 NO. 2

"Museum Sparks" is a quarterly newsletter for the Friends of the Antique Wireless Museum. Our welcome to our new "Friends" members! We are very pleased to have you join AWA. Thanks for your support of the AWA Museum. Each quarter, "SPARKS" will provide general information, latest news, new exhibits and happenings at the Museum. "SPARKS" will also be posted on the AWA web site at [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org) for convenient referral.

### HISTORY OF ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION:

AWA began as an idea of three amateur radio friends at Eastman Kodak, George Batterson, Linc Cundall, and Bruce Kelley in 1952 to collect and preserve early wireless and radio equipment and the historical background on items, "the Stories", before they were lost to future generations. From humble beginnings in upstate New York, that profound idea has evolved into an internationally renowned association with a world-class museum and collection supported by 1600 international members. AWA began in a barn at Bruce Kelley's home in Spencerport and in 1958, when Kelley moved to Holcomb (now Bloomfield), the AWA moved into the carriage house behind Kelley's home. As more display and storage space was needed, in 1974 the museum moved to a leased 1800 square foot space upstairs in the circa 1850 Academy Building on the park square in Bloomfield. Later, the AWA built a storage and technical support building (called the Annex) located in what is now Veteran's Park.

Although the Academy Building was a wonderfully historic location, it had many severe limitations for AWA whose collection was growing daily. The museum space was leased from the Bloomfield Historical Society, no further display space was available to lease, and the

museum space was not handicap accessible or heated. Thomas Peterson, AWA Director, purchased buildings and property just east of Bloomfield and in October 2012 the “third generation” of the museum closed for the season and the Museum opened at the current location (“fourth generation”) in May 2013. In February 2014, with generous donations from members, AWA was able to purchase the office building with an attached storage building and 2.5 acres directly across from the Museum. Thanks to Tom’s generous donation and that of many other AWA members, AWA and the world-class Antique Wireless Museum are now located on the four-building, five-acre Thomas Peterson, Jr. AWA Museum and Research Campus.

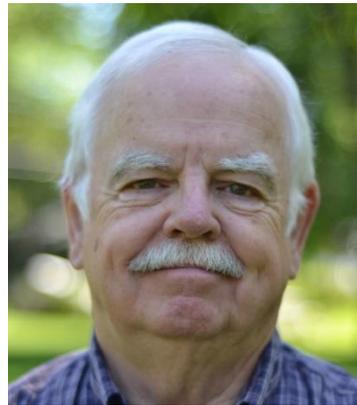
**BRUCE ROLOSON W2BDR AWA CURATOR RETIRES:**

Bruce Roloson W2BDR has retired as AWA Curator effective July 1, 2017. He is succeeded by Lynn Bisha W2BSN as AWA Curator. The Board has expressed their sincere appreciation for Bruce’s leadership and guidance during his tenure which saw the transition from a modest museum at the Bloomfield Academy to today’s world-class museum on the Thomas Peterson Jr. AWA Museum and Research Campus and a huge increase in the size and quality of the Museum collection. Bruce has indicated that he will continue to be a key member of the Museum Staff, but seeks to devote more time to museum exhibit design and educational programming.

Prior to his election as Curator, Lynn served as Associate Curator. He has been a key member of the AWA management team and brings an amazing wealth of communication knowledge in general and knowledge of the AWA collection specifically. Lynn will do an excellent job as Curator and we wish him well in his new position.



Bruce Roloson W2BDR



Lynn Bisha

**“RADIO FAB LAB” CLASSES AT THE MUSEUM:**

We have just announced registration for Radio Fab Lab classes for youngsters 10 to 18. In a series of two hour classes to be held weekly for 12 Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 am beginning September 8, 2017, 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 a crystal set, a simple transistor receiver, a simple transistor transmitter, how to operate amateur radios, and an introduction to drones. Students will take home their projects. An adult is encouraged to attend and share some quality time with their son or daughter, granddaughter or grandson, niece or nephew or just a friend. The cost is \$140 for the series and supplies. The class will be limited to the first 30 registrants. Registration information and applications are posted on the AWA website. In addition, for boy and girl scouts we will conduct a scout radio merit badge class in the 13<sup>th</sup> week. Thanks to Dean Faklis and Dan Waterstraat for organizing this course.

### **WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?**

Well, there is always something new at the Museum. Currently, Museum Staff has just completed a "Made in Rochester" exhibit. Rochester has always had a rich history in communications, radio and television right from the start of the industry. Thanks to Duncan Brown, Assistant Curator, the exhibit features a wide range of Made in Rochester artifacts.

### **2017 AWA SPRING MEET:**

Although the weather for the Spring Meet was not the best, we had a great turnout. The morning was filled with a member flea market, an AWA flea market and book sale, and then time for 50 plus visitors to see the AWA Museum. The Auction in the afternoon under the gavel of Bruce Roloson was especially active. Thanks to Ron Roach, Operations Manager, for organizing the Spring Meet.



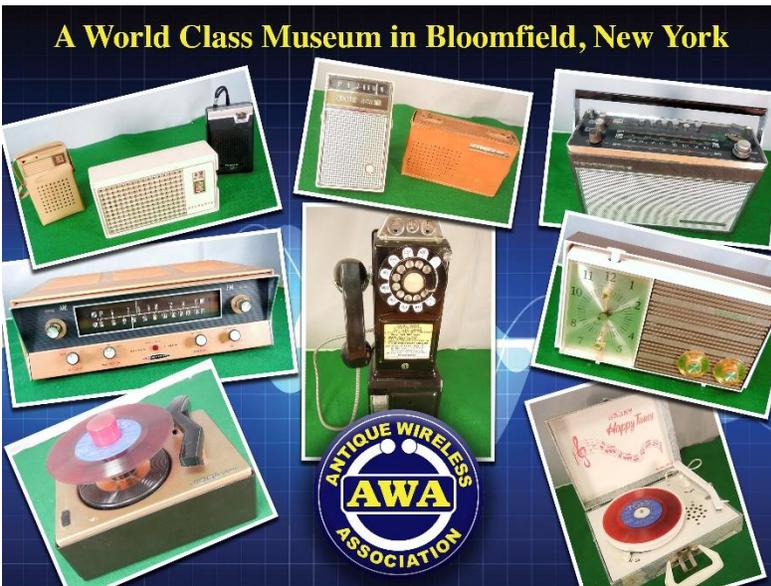
### **RECENT VISITOR TOURS:**

Boston, NY Seniors – this was a lively group of 55 seniors from Boston, NY (south of Buffalo) on a bus tour. What a great group and we all have a fun time. The Museum was really hopping with that large a group.



### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

An AWA display is a part of the “1964 Canandaigua Exhibit” at the Ontario County Historical Society Museum opening July 8, 2017. Overall, the exhibit is based on a 1964 picture of the main street of Canandaigua, NY. Dave Hayden and Greg Russell have identified the history of most of the buildings in the picture and have found that about 50 buildings are no longer there. AWA was asked to develop an exhibit of 1964 era communication and entertainment artifacts for a display in the exhibit. Dave Hayden prepared the poster below which shows many of the artifacts AWA will have on display. This has been a real fun project and we are pleased to be part of the “1964 Exhibit”. Thanks to David Kaiser, AWA Journal Editor, for his help in preparing the display items.



The 54th Annual AWA Convention will be held at the RIT Inn August 15 – 19, 2017. There will be lots of fellowship, four days of food events, outdoor and indoor flea markets, seventeen informative presentations, a book sale market, and concluding with a big auction beginning Saturday morning. Everyone is invited to attend. Registration is \$60 for the whole four days. Details, daily schedules, and on-line registration for the convention is posted on the AWA web site.

**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](http://www.antiquewireless.org) or the AWA Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/antiquewirelessmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/antiquewirelessmuseum) (using CTRL+CLICK to follow the URLs.)

**VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITIES AT AWA:**

Did you know that the AWA and AWA Museum are operated by a 100% volunteer staff? 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. The Museum Staff works at the Museum on Tuesdays doing a wide variety of work. If you would like to come out and volunteer, we can always use the help. Just call 585-257-5119 on a Tuesday or Saturday or leave a message or just show up at the Museum on a Tuesday. 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