



ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

"MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

DECEMBER 2017 VOLUME 1 NO. 4

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

"RADIO FAB LAB" CLASSES AT THE MUSEUM:

Radio Fab Lab classes began September 9 with 23 new Technology Explorers enrolled. After a successful 12 weeks of classes, graduation was held December 2, 2017. On Saturday, December 9, three boy scouts qualified for their Boy Scout Radio Merit Badges. Several youngsters and parents asked if we could schedule some "reunion" classes in 2018 and Museum Staff agrees that is a great idea. Plans are underway for those classes and we will let the Technology Explorers know when they are scheduled.

Museum Staff plans to offer Radio Fab Lab again in the fall. We considered offering the course this spring, but with winter and Easter week long breaks, the spring schedule is not favorable.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

Well, there is always something new at the Museum. The construction is nearly complete on the 28 foot by 28 foot all-purpose room in the Museum. This room will allow us to host meetings, provide classes and programs, and could be used for parties. This is a wonderful addition to our Museum space and allows us to expand exhibits at the south end of the Museum. One of the walls of the Teletype exhibit has been removed to allow easier access to that exhibit for visitors. When you visit, always browse through the display shelving. David Kaiser continues to add interesting and unique items on those shelves each week.

Bruce Roloson, Curator Emeritus, has begun a labeling project on items in the Museum. As you can imagine, this is a big and never ending task.

The architect is finalizing plans for the "ham shack" (amateur operator lingo for their radio room) addition to the Museum on the east side of the building. This 1,440 sq ft addition to the Museum will house multiple operating amateur radio stations and displays of equipment as well as room for the Registrar's operation. Registrar Sandy MacMillen and his team are responsible for photographing, bar coding, and recording of all items donated to AWA. As you can imagine, this is a big job and the new addition will provide a much improved working space.

"AFTER HOURS AT THE MUSEUM" – A NEW SERIES OF BIMONTHLY PROGRAMS

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 730 PM - "*A Old Time Live Radio Program and Music*" by the West Bloomfield UCC Players

After Hours at the Museum is a series of exciting bimonthly presentations, discussions and demonstrations led by experts from academia, industry and the Museum. The series will cover a broad spectrum of entertaining topics from the history of radio and television to the latest developments in communications and entertainment technology. Our region continues to generate an extraordinary amount of wireless innovation and our communities are rich with creative and technical expertise. *After Hours at the Museum* is designed to be entertaining and informative for adults and young adults and will be held in the Museum for 90 minutes on Wednesday evenings.

After Hours at the Museum will combine laughter, learning, camaraderie, and networking. The current schedule of 2018 programs includes:

- Live Performance "*Old Time Radio Show*" - March 7, 2018
- "*Canandaigua Main Street 1964 and Today*" by Dave Hayden - May 2, 2018
- "*Telegraph and Rochester Tombstones*" by Bruce Roloson - July 11, 2018
- "*Impact of Radio on Society*" by Robert Hobday - September 5, 2018
- "*The Item in Question at the Museum*" by William Hopkins - November 7, 2018

A wide variety of future programs may include: Iconic Women of Radio by Karen Noske, Radio Broadcasting Today by Bob Savage WYSL, Finger Lakes Wine Industry, History of the Voice of America by Robert Hobday, Distilleries in Rochester, and the History of WHAM Radio by Ed Gable.

This series should be great fun, educational, and entertaining. The programs will be held in the Museum on Wednesday nights beginning at 730 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Adult admission will be \$10 including admission to the Museum, but as a member of the Museum, you will receive a 50% discount on your program ticket.

2018 AWA ANNUAL CONVENTION:

The AWA Annual Convention will be held Tuesday evening August 14 to Saturday, August 18 at the RIT Inn in Henrietta. The convention included 3 full days of informational and educational programs, an outdoor flea market, a book fair, an auction, lots of good food, tours of the Museum, and 4+ days of good fellowship.

RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA HONORS:

At its annual awards banquet held in Pittsburgh November 16, 2018, RCA awarded the Ralph Batcher Memorial Award to AWA Director Thomas F. Peterson Jr for significant work in preserving the history of radio and electronic communications. The Jack Poppele Award was presented to AWA Deputy Director Robert Hobday for important and long-term contributions to the field of radio broadcasting (I am very much honored). For outstanding contributions to the art and science of radio communications, broadcast, or the Radio Club of America, AWA Trustee David Bart and AWA Curator Emeritus Bruce Roloson were elevated to RCA Fellows.

MAKE PRESERVATION OF COMMUNICATIONS HISTORY YOUR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS:

Help AWA provide for the preservation and sharing of communications history by making a charitable gift to AWA through your will or trust. There are many creative and flexible options that can benefit you, your loved ones and AWA in its commitment to preserving history. If you are updating your will or trust, consult your tax advisor on the many options available.

With the passage of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, individuals, age 70 ½ and older, may direct any sum up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA to any qualified charitable organization, including Antique Wireless Association, EIN 16-1501004. While this outright gift would not produce a charitable income tax deduction, it would fulfill your required minimum distribution requirement without increasing your taxable income. Again, please consult your tax advisor to determine whether this is a financially attractive option for you.

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. Docents are also needed for Saturday afternoon Museum hours. If you would like to come out and volunteer, we can always use your help. Just call me at 585-314-7310, call the Museum at 585-257-5119 on a Tuesday or Saturday, or just show up at the Museum on a Tuesday and say "I'm here to help." It is fun and very rewarding.

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 URLs.)

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.

Don't forget, as a Member of AWA, your admission to the Museum is always free.

Bob Hobday

Deputy Director

585-314-7310