



# ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

## "MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

MARCH 2019 VOLUME 3 NO. 1

"**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 be posted on the AWA web site at [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org) for convenient referral.

### AWA SPRING MEET:

The annual AWA Spring Meet, Flea Market and Auction will be held Saturday, May 4 in East Bloomfield Veteran's Park (directly across Route 5 from the Museum) beginning at 7 am. AWA will be operating a Museum Bargain Table, a large Book Sale and in the afternoon a large Auction of duplicate and surplus items from the Museum's artifacts.

### Complete Schedule

7 am – noon	Open, flea market for tailgate sales by attendees
8 am – noon	AWA Bargain Table and Book Sale in Annex building
10 am – 5 pm	Antique Wireless Museum open for visitors
8 am – 1 pm	AWA auction preview
1 pm – end	AWA Auction

### Admission for the Day

AWA Member admission	\$5 (includes auction bidder card)
Non-member admission	\$10 (includes auction bidder card and Museum)

Flea Market Vendor Pass is an additional \$7

Members and the general public are welcome to attend.

## **AWA 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION:**

The 2019 Annual Convention will be held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center on August 13 to 17, 2019. There will be about 17 presentations covering every area of communications history. Enjoy shopping for that special buy in the Flea Market and in the Book Fair. The Old Equipment Contest will offer rare historical insights in the exhibits. Information is available on the AWA web site. The information will be updated as schedules are developed.

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

### **AWA'S EXPANSION OF THE MUSEUM BUILDING:**

Phase III proposes to build a 1920 square foot addition on the east side of the Museum building to house amateur radio exhibits, multiple working ham radio stations, and office/working space for the Registrar's volunteer group.

The proposed development will provide:

- A major new exhibit hall dedicated to amateur radio for the touring museum visitors.
  - The exhibit space will feature fully functional equipment from significant decades of amateur radio as well as static displays.
  - Our plan is to create multiple operating ham stations to be made available to licensed amateurs such as is done at ARRL's W1AW.
  - Museum Technical Staff is already at work restoring equipment to be used.
- Space to put James Millen's W1HRX 1930's AM station back on the air after a long hiatus.
- Although available as a major new exhibit for visitors, the new ham shack will have its own rest room and could be used for events/meetings/classes after hours without the Museum being open.
- Space for the Registrar's volunteers to process the many donations received each week. Currently, that volunteer group does not have enough space available in their location in the back of the Museum building to work efficiently.
  - As an additional bonus, transfer of the Registrar's operation to the new addition will make additional exhibit space available in the Museum.

Our goal is to raise \$165,100. We currently stand at about \$90,000 over half of our goal. Your generous donation will help us achieve our Phase III goal! You may donate by going to the AWA web site at [www.antiquewireless.org/Donate](http://www.antiquewireless.org/Donate).

## **AWA ANNOUNCES A JUNIOR HISTORIAN PROGRAM:**

### **PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM:**

To provide students with the opportunity to enhance their learning, presentational and interpersonal skills by providing historian training at the Antique Wireless Museum.

## **ROLE OF THE MUSEUM HISTORIANS:**

The role of a volunteer historian is to “tell the stories” behind the artifacts on exhibit as they guide visitors through the Museum. “Telling the stories” requires learning the histories and facts and developing an interesting, cohesive, educational, and entertaining interpretation of the exhibit.

## **JUNIOR HISTORIAN PROGRAM - HOW IT’S DONE:**

- Each student would agree to volunteer for a minimum of five Saturday afternoons at the Museum (1 pm to 5 pm) or 20 hours. During summer months, volunteer hours could be 10 am to 3 pm on Tuesdays.
- They would take several museum tours, shadowing the tour(s) given to visitors by senior historians.
- Each student would choose one or two exhibits as their focus and develop their own “stories” and presentations.
- Once a student is comfortable with their presentation(s), they would present it to a senior historian for feedback and coaching. As appropriate, the senior historian would ask or share typical visitor questions in anticipation of doing actual tours.
- Once satisfied and comfortable, they would then accompany a senior historian on visitor tours presenting their chosen exhibit’s story. The senior historian would be available to answer visitor questions if the student is not able to answer the questions.
- If the student chooses to volunteer for longer periods of time, they would have the opportunity to add additional exhibits and perhaps progress to a full historian status. *We would welcome and encourage them to do that!*

Contact me if you have a candidate for the Junior Historian Program at [N2EVG@ARRL.net](mailto:N2EVG@ARRL.net).

## **MUSEUM HAPPENINGS:**

### **RADIO FAB LAB – MINI SERIES 2019:**

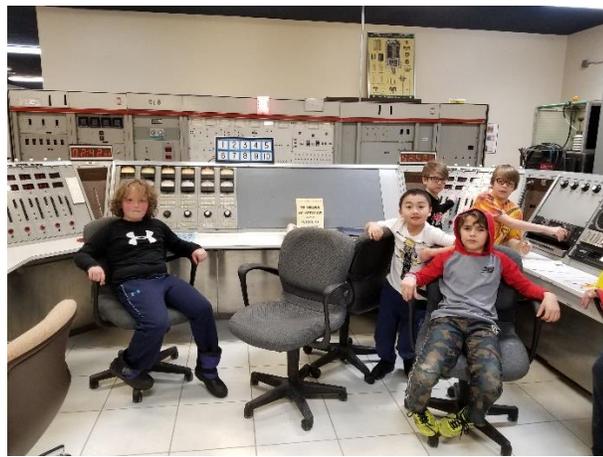
A series of four, two hour, Radio Fab Lab Classes for Home-Schooled Middle School students is just concluding for 20 students. These are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) related classes presented by AWA Staff Members. To date, the students have studied LED lights and have constructed a photon communicator using LEDs, studied transistors and constructed a transistor crystal controlled transmitter, learned about amateur radio and constructed a two-meter antenna and the last session will be Tool Time, an introduction to tools and how to start to make your own electronic projects.

There are six sessions offered by AWA to student groups of 15 to 20 students each at the Antique Wireless Museum. The cost is \$20 per class. Tool Time is free if taken with 3 or more of the other classes. If you want to organize a class series of 4 to 6 classes for 15 to 20 students, please contact me at [N2EVG@ARRL.net](mailto:N2EVG@ARRL.net).



**HONEOYE FALLS – LIMA and BLOOMFIELD STUDENTS TOUR THE MUSEUM:**

Recently, we had 150 HFL 4<sup>th</sup> grade students tour the Museum and next week 65 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Bloomfield will visit. We always look forward to have the students come visit. They bring such energy and inquisitive minds.





**“AFTER HOURS AT THE MUSEUM” – A SERIES OF BIMONTHLY PRESENTATIONS:**

**After Hours at the Museum** are 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.

On January 16, Chris Lynn, Genesee Country Village Museum, provided a fascinating story of the Lowe Civil War Balloon and Observation Post. This is a little known effort by the Union Army to use hydrogen filled balloons as observation posts during the war. Imagine the courage of the men who rose hundreds of feet in the air hanging below a highly flammable hydrogen filled balloon while the rebels sought to shoot the balloon down. The balloonists dragged a telegraph line up with them to communicate their observations. It was a fascinating story told by a real professional story teller.

On March 20, the West Bloomfield Congregational Players presented a live radio show to a sold-out audience. “Cornball Capers” has been presented at the West Bloomfield Congregational Church theater style since the 1970s, but at AWA it was presented as a “live radio” with over an hour on jokes and live music for the first time. The audience had a great evening.

The next After Hours at the Museum will be live Irish music by the popular local band Almost Irish.

The schedule of presentations for 2019 is:

- January 16     **“Civil War Balloon and Observation Post” – by Chris Lynn, Genesee Country Village Museum**
- March 20     **“Live Old Time Radio Show and Music” – by the West Bloomfield Congregational Church Bloomfield Home Companion Players**
- May 15       **“A Night of Irish Music” – by Almost Irish, a popular local Irish band**

July 17 "Finger Lakes Wine Industry and a Wine Tasting" - by Will Ouweleen, Eagle Crest Vineyards

September 18 "History of WHAM Radio" – by Ed Gable, AWA Curator Emeritus

November 20 "Tourism in the Finger Lakes" – by Valerie Knoblauch, President, and CEO, Finger Lakes Visitor Connection

This series has been great fun, educational, and entertaining. The programs are held in the Museum on Wednesday nights beginning at 7:30 pm. The Museum opens at 7 pm for visitors to enjoy the Museum. Light refreshments will be served. Adult admission is \$10 including admission to the Museum, but as a member of the Museum, you will receive a 50% discount on your program ticket.

**MAKE PRESERVATION OF COMMUNICATIONS HISTORY YOUR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS:**

Can you help make a difference in a child's future – spark their interest in science and technology? Can you make a senior's trip down memory lane a highlight of their day? Yes, you can through a thoughtful gift to AWA.

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.

**VOLUNTEER 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 historians for Tuesday and Saturday Museum open 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. Historians 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 or Saturday 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](http://www.antiquewireless.org) or the AWA Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/antiquewirelessmuseum](http://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

Director

585-314-7310

N2EVG@ARRL.net