



ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

"MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

JUNE 2019 VOLUME 3 NO. 2

"**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 for convenient referral.

I hope everyone has had a great Fourth of July. It was our daughter's birthday and yes, she is a firecracker.

AWA 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION:

The 2019 Annual Convention will be held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center on August 13 to 17, 2019. The dual themes for this year's convention will be "Evolution of the Loudspeaker" and "Audio Brands". There will be about 17 presentations covering those themes and 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. The convention concludes on Saturday morning with a large auction. Information is available on the AWA web site at www.antiquewireless.org. The information will be updated periodically as schedules are developed and refined.

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 and multiple working ham radio stations.

Our goal is to raise \$165,100. We currently stand at just over \$93,000. 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.

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 Director@AntiqueWireless.org.

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS:

[“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 May 15, the local Irish music band Almost Irish presented a fun evening to an enthusiastic audience. It was a great evening.



The schedule of presentations for the remainder of 2019 is:

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.

LEARN IT, BUILD IT, FIX IT SERIES:

The Antique Wireless Museum has launched a new workshop in its Learn It Build It Fix It series. Attendees will build their own vacuum-tube amplifier for guitar, bass or keyboard. The amp design is based on the popular Fender Champ 5F2A, which includes a 12AX7 preamp tube and a 6V6 power tube. Why take on a kit or project like this alone when you can learn the ins and outs from an expert instructor?

The amp-building workshop will be held at the Antique Wireless Museum in Bloomfield and will occur on consecutive Saturdays, with dates to be determined. The cost will be between \$400-\$700 depending on the attendee's desire for optional hardware. The amp will follow you home and can last a lifetime. The cost is on the higher side because the Mojotone kits are rather expensive and employ quality components. The instructor is unpaid. For reference, a new Fender Champ costs \$1,000 with no optional hardware!

If you or someone you know has interest, please send an email to Dean Faklis at education.awam@gmail.com. These workshops make great gifts and also offer an opportunity for a family member or friend to learn new skills by joining the class as well. Class size will be between 3-6. Participation in the class is a golden opportunity to learn about audio amps and build an heirloom.

RADIO FAB LAB – MINI SERIES 2019:

A series of six, two hour, Radio Fab Lab Classes for Home-Schooled Middle School students will be offered this fall. These are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) related classes presented by AWA Staff Members. The classes will be offered in two sets of three workshops each. The classes will be held from 9 to 11 am on:

SEP 19, OCT 3, OCT 17 (Introduction to Electronics, Introduction to Amateur Radio, and Tool Time)

OCT 24, NOV 7, NOV 21 (Waves – Electricity and Magnetism, Radio Transmitter, Photon Communicator)

The six session series will be offered by AWA to student groups of about 15 students 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 have a student that would like to participate in these educational and challenging classes, please contact Dean Faklis at education.awam@gmail.com for more information.

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 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 if a major holiday falls on a Tuesday or Saturday 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

Director@AntiqueWireless.org