



# ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

## "MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

SEPTEMBER 2019 VOLUME 3 NO. 3

"**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 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION:

The 2019 Annual Convention was held at the RIT Inn and Conference Center on August 13 to 17, 2019. There were 17 presentations covering the convention themes and every area of communications history. The attendance was about 160 this year. The convention concluded on Saturday morning with a large auction.

### WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

#### NEW SPECIAL INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM:

The Antique Wireless Museum has produced a Special Exhibit, "The Science of Measurement" to highlight the way scientific measurements are now understood worldwide. The exhibit runs from October 2019 to May 2020, and may be seen and experienced in the area next to the Voice of America Exhibit at the Museum.

The exhibit is interactive. Visitors young and older are invited to watch, as light pulses are sent through a very long fiber optic cable, then measured in real time to calculate the speed of light. They can also test how accurate – or inaccurate – the human eye is when assessing the brightness of an LED light, compared to a reliable electrical standard. Another exhibit demonstrates, with the visitor's help, how the science of measurement is essential for manufacturing products and maintaining accuracy, no matter where they are made in the world.

The Special Exhibit commemorates the announcement to the world on Metrology Day, May 20, 2019, of the International Standard Base Units (SI) that now correspond to a coherent system of measurements. These seven SI base units are invariant constants in nature and are now defined in scientific, mathematical terms. For example, the meter is no longer dependent on a physical prototype artifact. It is now redefined using the speed of light and the second. The Seven SI base units are: the second (based on the frequency of caesium-133); the kilogram; the meter, the Ampere (electrical current value), Kelvin (the temperature scale); the mole (unit amount of substance); and the candela (luminous intensity in a given direction).

#### **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 \$114,000. 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](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!*

Our first Junior Historian candidate begins his training on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for students to gain presentation experience and enjoy the rich history exhibited by the Museum. Contact me if you know of a candidate for the Junior Historian Program at [Director@AntiqueWireless.org](mailto: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 July 17<sup>th</sup>, a fascinated audience enjoyed an informative and hilarious presentation by Will Ouweleen, Vintner, Eagle Crest Vineyards. Will explained the history of “Wine Making in the Finger Lakes”, what make Finger Lakes wine so very special, why they are gaining world recognition, and Will also held a wine tasting. He could easily be a standup comedian.



On September 20, a large audience enjoyed an informative presentation by Ed Gable, Curator Emeritus, on the “History of WHAM”. WHAM went on the air July 11, 1922 and is the oldest surviving radio station in Rochester. Ed is a wonderful story teller. What a great evening.



The last presentation of the 2019 series will be held Wednesday night, November 20<sup>th</sup>, "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 admission ticket.

#### RADIO FAB LAB - 2019:

Radio Fab Lab is a series of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related classes for youngsters age 9 to 16.

The Museum is currently part way through a series of classes on Thursday mornings for home school students.



The home school series will be offered again in January/February on Tuesday mornings. If you know of a student who would like to attend the classes, send an email to Bob at [Education.AWAM@gmail.com](mailto:Education.AWAM@gmail.com). Information is posted on our web site at [www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org).

## **RADIO FAB LAB – 2019:**

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

OCT 12, OCT 19, OCT 26 (Introduction to Electronics, Telegraph and Code Practice Oscillator Project, and Tool Time)

NOV 2, NOV 9, NOV 16 (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 Bob at [education.awam@gmail.com](mailto:education.awam@gmail.com) for more information.

## **RADIO FAB LAB – 2020:**

The same series of six, two hour, Radio Fab Lab Classes will be offered on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in January and February. If you have a student that would like to participate in these educational and challenging classes, please contact Bob at [education.awam@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 if a major holiday falls on a Tuesday or Saturday so our volunteers can enjoy the holidays with their families.

**AWA MEMBERSHIPS:**

Don't forget, as a Member of AWA, your admission to the Museum is always free. Your support as members is important to AWA. If you have friends or relatives that would appreciate and support the educational opportunities offered by the Museum, please make them aware that there are many membership options offered beginning at only \$20 per year. See the AWA web site at <http://www.antiquewireless.org/membership-class-choices.html> for details.

**Bob Hobday**

**Director**

**585-314-7310**

**Director@AntiqueWireless.org**