



ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

"MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

MARCH 2020 VOLUME 4 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 for convenient referral.

Hi Everyone,

I hope this finds everyone well, but probably bored. Being confined to the house is not easy, but we will get past this awful virus.

COVID-19 VIRUS:

The Museum has been closed and Museum Staff has been asked to remain home until authorities tell us that is OK to resume operations. With the COVID-19 threat in mind, the After Hours at the Museum presentation for March 18th was cancelled. The next After Hours presentation scheduled for May 20th is also cancelled. The Learn It, Build It, Fix It classes for adults scheduled to begin April 25th have been postponed and will be rescheduled. AWA has also cancelled the AWA Spring Meet scheduled for May 2nd. That was always a fun day as the start of the spring/summer/fall activities. I will miss renewing my AWA friendships that day.

At this point, the Annual AWA Conference scheduled for August 11 – 15, 2020 has not been cancelled. However, we are monitoring the situation very closely. That is another very special event and I would miss it. But, an abundance of caution must be taken into our decisions in this time of uncertainty. Safety of the public, our AWA members, and our Museum Staff is and will always be of paramount importance.

AWA LEADERSHIP CHANGES:

In December 2019, Bruce Roloson asked to step down as Deputy Director. Reluctantly, I accepted his resignation. Bruce has held every leadership position there is at AWA and has been a shining light of calm and thoughtful leadership for many years. He has earned the right to return to those activities at AWA he loves – Curator Emeritus, museum exhibit design, historical research, just to mention a few. Thankfully, he is not going away and has offered to be available to share his talents. I want to thank Bruce on behalf of AWA and myself personally for his talented leadership and especially his friendship for over 40 years.

I am very pleased to announce that Mark Erdle AE2EA has been elected as a Deputy Director by the AWA Board. Mark brings a wealth of leadership, organization, and technical skills to the AWA Leadership Team. I look forward to working with Mark.

I am also very pleased to announce that Joseph Fell III W3GMS has been elected to the AWA Board of Trustees. We welcome Joe to the Board. He brings an enthusiasm for AWA, especially for AWA amateur radio activities, and great managerial experience to the Board.

AWA HAS A NEW WEBSITE:

Through the heroic efforts of AWA's webmaster Richard Neidich and many other contributors you may now enjoy the new AWA Web Site. The URL remains www.AntiqueWireless.org. The new site has many new features for you to explore. When you get a chance, take it for a test drive and enjoy! And, THANKS RICHARD!

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES:

Radio Fab Lab – STEM Classes

We have just completed two classes of Radio Fab Lab ("RFL") with 13 students in each class. One class on Tuesday mornings was for middle school home schooled students. The other class on Saturday mornings was open to all students. The six classes covered learning about basic electronics; telegraph and an introduction to Morse code; Tool Time – an introduction to the use of many different tools; catching the waves – an introduction to the amazing properties of waves; an introduction to transistors and making a crystal controlled transmitter; and building a photon transmitter and receiver. Since we began offering RFL classes in 2017 we have had 82 students attend.

The feedback for these classes has been very positive and Museum Staff has had a wonderful time with the youngsters – I know I did helping the youngsters with their projects and I even got to teach one of the courses. This is an important educational outreach for AWA. I am very appreciative of the support from Museum Staff. Thanks to Dean Faklis for organizing, planning, and

leading 3 of the RFL sessions. Thanks also to our other instructors Bill Hopkins, Ed Gable, and Mike Migliaccio for leading sessions. Thanks also to the Museum Staff members including Ed Gable, Tom Bavis, Mike Migliaccio, Joe Stoltz, Lynn Bisha, Rich Place, Bill Hopkins and Ed Borghi who came to the classes to assist the students (our “Elmers” to use an amateur radio term).

Radio Fab Lab is another way AWA can share its wealth of knowledge and help “spark” youngster’s interest in science, engineering, technology and mathematics. If you know of a student that might be interested in these classes, contact me at Director@AntiqueWireless.org. Information is also posted on our web site at www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/educational-classes/.

Radio Fab Lab Classes Graduation photographs:

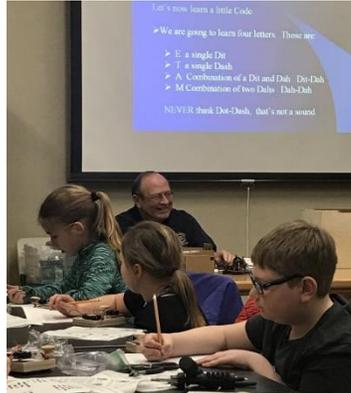


BLOOMFIELD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COLLABORATION:

The AWA helped 4th grade classes at the Bloomfield (NY) Central School District understand the concepts of and uses for "Waves". On Monday, February 24th, I went to the Bloomfield primary school and presented a 45 minute talk on “waves” in each of the three fourth grade classes. On the next day, each of the three classes were bused to the Antique Wireless Museum where students built and operated Morse Code practice oscillators (CPOs) to learn how waves can transmit information over long distances. To introduce them to Morse Code, Ed Gable, Curator Emeritus, taught them four letters of Morse Code. And, the excited youngsters got to take their CPOs home with them. "Waves and Information" is part of the NY State Education Department's science learning standards.

Andrew Doell, Superintendent of the Bloomfield Central School District, wrote “This was a TERRIFIC program and our kids loved it! You could hear the kids using their oscillators as they got on the buses. Thank you for coordinating this opportunity for our students, it was fantastic!”

Thanks to Ed Gable, Ed Borghi, Rich Place and Tom Bavis for helping the youngsters build their CPO kits.



BRIGHTON "FESTIVAL OF IDEAS":

On Saturday, March 7th, Lynn Bisha, Ned Asam and I participated in the Brighton Festival of Ideas. We had three groups of 10 students each. In 50 minutes, we had them build a simple LED code practice oscillator and send their name in Morse Code, introduced them to amateur radio and performed a "fox hunt" for a hidden transmitter, talked about "waves", and demonstrated a software defined radio (SDR). It was a busy 50 minutes and the youngsters were great.

THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM BECOMES A MOVIE SET:

In January, the Antique Wireless Museum's Titanic Wireless Room Exhibit became the movie set for PMI Films of Pittsburgh, PA for a segment of their feature film "Unsinkable". PMI's film is set to be released to movie theaters later this year. Because of the exhibit's historically accurate likeness to the Titanic's wireless room, PMI chose the Museum to film segments of their movie. The filmed segments depict Titanic's senior wireless operator Jack Phillips frantically sending out "CQD CQD SOS Titanic position 41.44N 50.24W Require immediate assistance Come at once We struck an iceberg Sinking". Also, segments were filmed depicting the wireless messages to and from the ships rushing to Titanic's rescue. "CDQ" was the distress call used before the distress call we know today "SOS" became the universally accepted. The Titanic sinking occurred during the transition period so both "CQD" and "SOS" were used by Titanic in their desperately sent messages for help for the sinking ship.

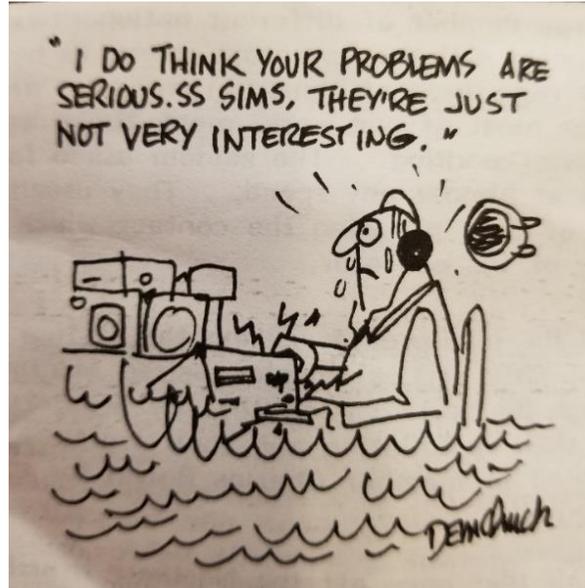
PMI Films' "Unsinkable" producer Brian Hartman said "Our film is not so much about the sinking as it is more about the aftermath and the effect on humanity that unfolded and the effect it had on everyday life. It is a very different film from prior films about the sinking."

Hartman said "This is a passion piece in which I have collaborated with my son Cody. We wrote the screenplay together and Cody is the film's Director."

It was a very long day (6:30 am to 6:30 pm), but what a fascinating and rewarding experience. We enjoyed PMI's professionalism and their commitment to historical accuracy. I can't wait to see the final movie in theaters.

To date, PMI has used film locations in New York, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and guess where - now East Bloomfield.

SOME WIRELESS HUMOR:



LET'S GROW AWA MEMBERSHIPS:

Let's Grow AWA Together! And, Have Some Fun!

If You Believe in AWA... Accept the Challenge!

**And the AWA Member who buys the most dollar amount of gift memberships
will win \$50 to spend at the Museum Store!**

The challenge is to help introduce 200 new members to AWA.

- 🎁 Thoughtful gift for a friend, that's heard about AWA from you.**
- 🎁 Encouraging gift for your friend to share the fun, fellowship and learning offered by AWA.**
- 🎁 A fun gift to spark their interest in communication history.**
- 🎁 A meaningful gift for a young person to spark their interest in electronics and technology.**

If you believe in AWA.....Give a gift...or two...or more! As a current AWA member, you may purchase as many gift memberships as you like. Gift recipients must not have held AWA membership during the past three years. Gift rates are good for their first year of membership only. Offer expires October 1, 2020.

You may choose from two different types of gifts, both good for the new member's first year of membership (you may order as many of each type as you would like):

- \$30 – new member receives four quarterly AWA Journals and one annual AWA Review mailed to their home
- \$20 – new member has read only, on-line access to the four quarterly AWA Journals and annual AWA Review

Please enter my order for _____ gifts at \$30 each and for _____ gifts at \$20 each. My check or payment information for a total of \$_____ is enclosed

To order: You may order online at <https://antiquewireless.org/homepage/gift-memberships/> or you can email this form when complete to Dean@AntiqueWireless.org. AWA accepts PayPal at WM3D@ARRL.net. For mail-in orders, please complete this form, enclose your check or credit card information and send to: AWA Gift Memberships, PO Box 421, Bloomfield, New York 14469.

Be sure to include your name and address. AWA will send a gift card, welcoming letter and new member information to each gift recipient. Questions? Email Dean@AntiqueWireless.org

YOUR Name: _____

YOUR Address: _____

YOUR Phone Number: _____

YOUR Email: _____

Payment by:

_____ PayPal to WM3D@ARRL.net

_____ Check enclosed payable to Antique Wireless Association

_____ Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

RECIPIENTS Name: _____

RECIPIENTS Address: _____

RECIPIENTS Phone Number (if known): _____

RECIPIENTS Email Address (if known): _____

Type of Gift Membership: \$30 _____ or \$20 _____ to be applied to a one-year membership for this recipient.

Please list additional recipient's gifts on a separate sheet. THANK YOU!

AWA WEB SITE and SOCIAL MEDIA:

For ongoing contact information, membership applications, news, announcements, program schedules, AWA history, and lots of useful links to other radio sites, please visit

Web Site: www.antiquewireless.org

AWA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/antiquewirelessmuseum

AWA Staff is working to enlarge our reach on social media thanks to efforts of Criss Onan, Mark Erdle and Mike Migliaccio.

AWA Twitter handle is @antiquewireless

AWA Instagram name is @antiquewirelessmuseum

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.

UNTIL NEXT TIME:

Everyone please be careful and stay well. COVID-19 is serious and needs to be treated as though it is serious. But, this too will pass. And, it will pass more quickly if we all adhere to the medical recommendations.

Bob Hobday

Director

585-314-7310

Director@AntiqueWireless.org