"MUSEUM SPARKS"

A QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS MUSEUM

DECEMBER 2021 VOLUME 5 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 be posted on the AWA web site at www.antiquewireless.org for convenient referral.

Hi Everyone,

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST TRANS-ATLANTIC RADIO TRANSMISSION OF A MESSAGE BY AMATEUR RADIO - DECEMBER 11, 1921

On a cold winter night on December 11, 1921, members of the Radio Club of America were able to send the first amateur radio message from a small shack in Greenwich, CT to be received by American Paul Godley in Ardrossan, Scotland. This transatlantic test proved the value of shorter wavelengths – long considered worthless to long distance communications and through their success ushered in the age of global shortwave radio communications.

The Antique Wireless Association, in association with the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut in Windsor, CT, the Radio Club of America, the American Radio Relay League, and the Radio Society of Great Britain, will participate in the 100th Anniversary special events to be held Saturday, December 11, 2021.

For the 75th anniversary celebration of the 1BCG accomplishment in 1996, AWA members Bob and Mike Raide constructed a replica of the 1921 transmitter. For this 100th celebration, AWA Museum Staff has restored the replica. AWA will place the replica transmitter on display at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT Saturday morning and early afternoon, December 11, 2021.

The Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut in Windsor CT has graciously offered to host AWA operation of the replica transmitter during the evening of December 11th. AWA sincerely appreciates the support and commitment of the VRCMCT Museum and Museum Staff to make this 100th anniversary celebration use of the AWA replica transmitter possible.

In the afternoon, the AWA replica will be moved to an operating location at VRCMCT for transmission of the original 1921 message beginning at sunset and throughout that evening. The transmitter will be operating as W2AN/1BCG on 1.820 MHz, plus or minus, using CW. Members of the RSGB in Ardrossan will be listening for those signals with the goal of replicating the 1921 successful transatlantic reception using a 1921 designed transmitter. The 1921 message was sent one-way. Acknowledgment of Paul Godley's reception of 1BCG's massage was sent back to the US via telegraph to Wales and the Marconi high power radio transmitter in Wales.

Any station receiving the 100th centennial message sent by W2AN/1BCG can receive a 100th 1BCG Anniversary Certificate emailed from AWA by emailing their report to 1BCG@AntiqueWireless.org.

For further details on the operating schedule and the historic accomplishment in 1921, please visit the AWA special event website at http://www.1BCG.org/1BCG

WHAT IS NEW AT THE MUSEUM?:

MUSEUM EXHIBITS:

Thomas Peterson Jr. Exhibit:

Tom Peterson served for 22 years on the AWA Board of Trustees and 17 years as AWA Director. Under Tom's leadership AWA has achieved international recognition as a premier communications historical organization with a world-class museum. Tom led the way to develop the Thomas Peterson AWA Campus which includes 4 buildings on five acres. Tom's leadership and support made that possible. Tom Peterson passed away in February 2021. He was a gentle man, inquisitive, quick to laugh, and brilliant.

The Peterson family generously donated some of Tom's collection in order to create a memorial exhibit in honor of Tom.

MUSEUM HAM SHACK ADDITION:

We are currently awaiting the issuance of the building permit.

ANNUAL AWA CONFERENCE:

The 2022 AWA Annual Conference will be held October 4 – 8, 2022 at the RIT Inn. The dual themes of the 2022 Conference will be "100 Years of Car Radios" and "Evolution of Audio". It is not too early to put those dates on your calendar.

"*AWA Shares*' - AWA MONTHLY MEETINGS ON ZOOM:

AWA will present monthly Zoom meetings/presentations on the third Wednesday of the month at 8 pm Eastern time on a wide variety of topics. The one hour meetings will be open to all and are FREE! After each "AWA Shares", a recording of the presentation will be posted on the AWA YouTube Channel.

The *"AWA Shares"* Zoom calls are free and open to all. Participants on the calls must register for each session so that we may be certain we have sufficient Zoom capacity. Registration details will be posted on the AWA Website as available at https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/awa-shares/.

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES:

LEARN IT, BUILD IT, FIX IT CLASSES:

The Learn It, Build It, Fix it Class ("LIBIFI") is a multiple series of classes for adults on various electronic subjects. These classes have been developed and taught by Dave Minchella, KE2GE, a local expert in electronic design and repair.

The next LIBIFI series "Basic Radio Repair 101 will begin Saturday, March 5th. Registration is now open. Details about the course and the registration form may be found on the AWA website at https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/learn-build-fix-classes/.

RADIO FAB LAB CLASSES:

Due to the restrictions on schools caused by COVID-19, students have had to make many adjustments in their studies and schedules. This has been a very difficult time for students. As a result, Museum has decided to postpone the Radio Fab Lab classes until sometime later in 2022.

AWA ON EBAY:

With the constant generous influx of donations of equipment to the Museum, there are sometimes duplicates to what we have or surplus to what we have or need. These gifted items are not part of the Museum's permanent collection. As deemed duplicates or surplus, AWA lists these items on eBay to relieve storage requirements and to make them available to members and collectors who can use them. These items are listed on eBay at https://www.ebay.com/usr/awa_surplus_sales and https://www.ebay.com/usr/awa_museum_store.

LET'S GROW AWA MEMBERSHIPS:

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

If You Believe in AWA… Accept the Challenge!

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 December 31, 2021.

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!

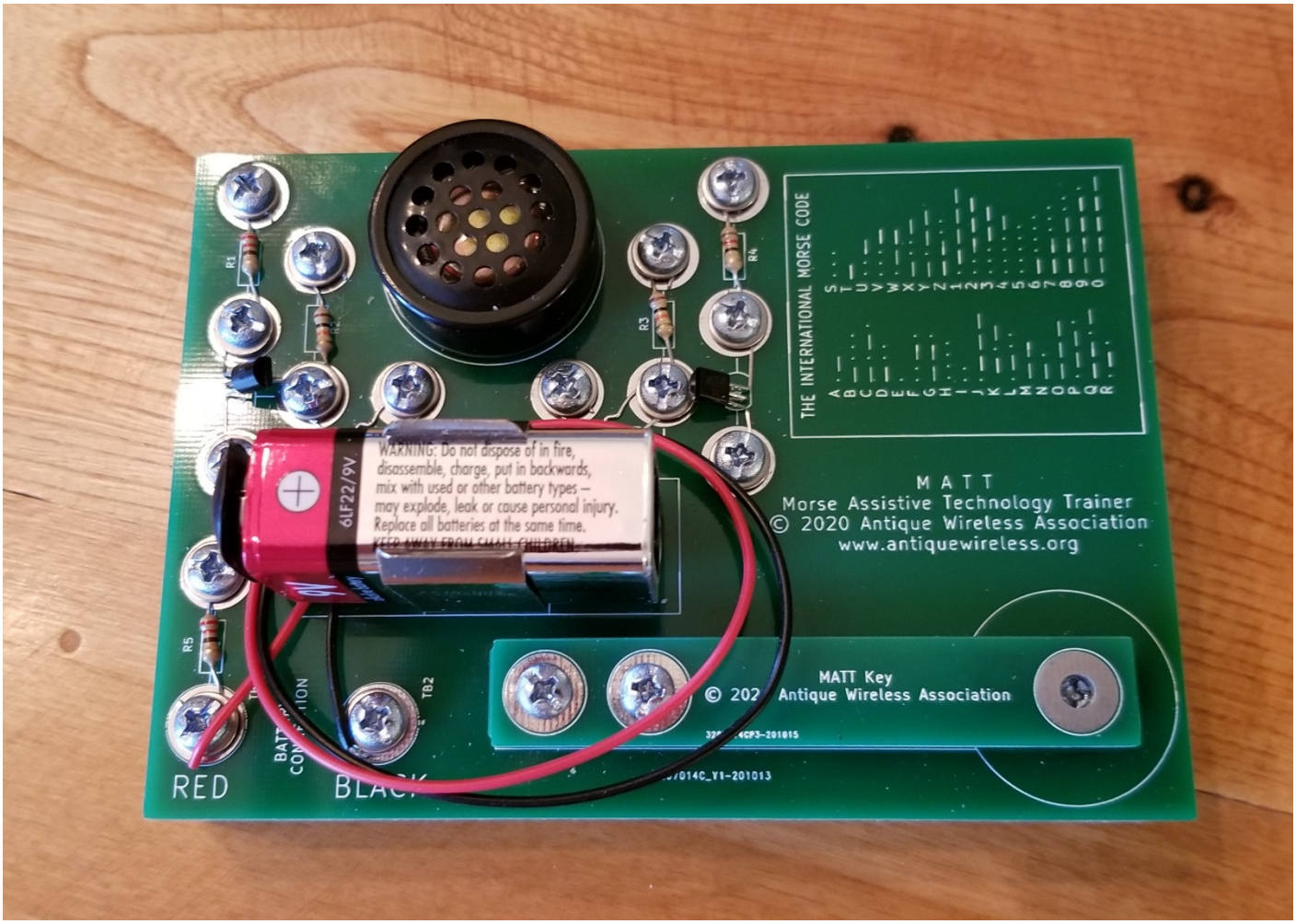
AWA PROJECT PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS AVAILABLE:

AWA Museum Technical Staff (AKA "The Skunk Works") has produced some very high quality Printed Circuit Boards ("PCBs") and the bare PCBs are for sale. These are bare PCBs only and no other components are included. They come with a suggested parts list to allow you to complete the project.

These bare PCB's are now available at https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/purchase-pcb-items/ :

- **PCB 1: Regulated Variable Power Supply High Voltage @ $16.50 postpaid US**
- **PCB 2: AM Broadcast Transmitter @ $20 postpaid US**
- **PCB 3: "Signal Sniffer", AF & RF Signal Tracer @ $16 postpaid US**
- **PCB 4: Capacitor DC Leakage Tester @ $25 postpaid US**
- **PCB 5: Universal Battery Eliminator (to provide power to operate battery set radios) @ $38 postpaid US**
- **PCB 6: The "AM Slider" is a low cost, synthesized signal source designed specifically for AWA's Low Power AM Transmitter @ $18 postpaid US**
- **PCB 7: The '48 Special is a tube guitar amplifier inspired by the Fender Champion 5C1 built between 1948-1952 @ $30 postpaid US**
- **PCB 8: a tube-based, universal classic moving magnet phono preamplifier @ $30 postpaid US**

In addition, AWA also offers a Morse Adaptive Technology Trainer or "MATT" which is a complete kit to build a code practice oscillator to learn and practice Morse Code. This kid-friendly kit can be completed without soldering (a 9 volt battery is not included). Kids love it! It would make a great gift for a youngster 8 to 14. It is available for $16 postpaid US at https://www.antiquewireless.org/homepage/purchase-kit-items/



THE ANTIQUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER'S FORUM:

This member's forum is open to AWA members only. Members may apply to join the group by emailing Mark Erdle at Mark@AntiqueWireless.org. You can also register on line at https://groups.io/g/Wireless-History.

AWA WEB SITES 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

1BCG Site: www.1BCG.org

AWA YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX55peBhzeX1qps_VYXdLBA

AWA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/antiquewirelessmuseum

AWA Twitter handle is @antiquewireless

AWA Instagram name is @antiquewirelessmuseum

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

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 to conduct Museum tours. You do not need to be an engineer or a historian. We will train you and what a great way to learn all about the history of 200 years of communications technology. In addition, the Museum Staff works at the Museum on Tuesdays doing a wide variety of work. If you would like to come out and volunteer at AWA, we can always use your help.

Currently we are looking for help in several skill fields:

- **Grant Writer: If you have experience in grant writing.**
- **Education Outreach: We are looking for experienced teachers to help develop and teach our Radio Fab Lab and other educational outreach classes**
- **Volunteer Coordinator: We are looking someone with experience in the development and coordination of volunteers.**

If you would like to help AWA, please call me. My cell phone number is 585-314-7310 or call the Museum at 585-257-5119 and leave a voice mail message. Volunteering at AWA is fun and very rewarding.

Keep safe my friends.

Bob Hobday

President

585-314-7310

President@AntiqueWireless.org