Sidebands

The Newsletter of the EAST GREENBUSH AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

www.egara.club

November 2020

EGARA Files for 501c3 Non-Proft Status

EGARA has officially filed with the Internal Revenue Service to be designated as a 501c3 non-profit organization. Although the club has officially been recognized by New York State as a non-profit corporation since 2004, it had never sought IRS non-profit status before.

The decision to file was in response to a request by Channel 6 that the club secure IRS non-profit recognition as part of the plan to locate the club's proposed 220mhz repeater at the old analog transmitter site of Channel 6 in the Helderberg Mountains in New Scotland. The designation will allow the station's parent company, Sinclair Broadcasting, to deduct the fair market rental value associated with the repeater once it's installed.

"Becoming a 501c3 offers the club many benefits," said Club President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ. "One of the biggest is that any donations made to the club -- whether it's equipment or direct financial support -- will qualify for a tax deduction for those who make the donation."

Because EGARA's financial resources are relatively small, it was able to use IRS form 1023-EZ, a simplified version of the regular form that must be filed. Generally, IRS approval is reported to be approximately one month. As part of the process, the club was also required to obtain an Employer Identification Number -- or EIN -- even though it has no paid employees. As part of the 501c3 requirements, the club will also have to file a 990 form that summarizes its finances. However, because its financial resources are limited, an abbreviated "postcard" form is all that is used.

In This Issue

There's Still Time to Order!

The official EGARA embroidered baseball cap can still be yours... but order soon because time is running out! This classic Hunter Green cap is adjustable to fit everyone!

Best of all, this custom cap is just $15, with $5 of your purchase going to the club treasury! To order send an email to W2RBJ@outlook.com.

Next Membership Meeting - November 11, 2020 - via 147.270 Repeater @ 7 pm

Please Support Our EGARA 2021 Hamfest Sponsors

When Will In-Person Meetings Happen Again?

The question is one that everyone wants to know: when does the club expect to return to holding in-person monthly meetings? The answer is -- hopefully in January. The club's last meeting was in February, after which they were suspended as a safeguard because of the current coronaviirus pandemic.

Club officials have been in regular contact with leaders of the East Greenbush Masonic Lodge to ask when the building will be re-opened to meetings. Through the end of this year, the lodge has rented the building's first floor to a private retail concern. However, it's expected the space will be available after the New Year.

Of course, in-person meetings will still be subject to any local or state safety mandates that may be in place because of the pandemic, including limits on the size of group meetings. Some club members may also choose not to attend for personal health reasons.

When in-person meetings resume, several health and safety measures will be put in place. These will include mandatory face masks, temperature checks for fever, and social distancing while in the building. In addition, seating will be set up at least six feet apart. The club has secured Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) that includes face masks and hand sanitizer.

"The safety of our members is our top priority," said EGARA Board member Russ Greenman, WB2LXC. "We will follow all of the required precautions to ensure everyone's health and safety to the best of our ability."

Radio Broadcasting Becomes a Reality: Nov. 2, 1920

Here's how KDKA became the medium's standard bearer 100 years ago

By James E. O'Neal

Prior to the advent of radio broadcasting, this was a common scene in U.S. cities and towns, with citizens flocking to newspaper offices for updates on breaking news events. The crowd in this early-1920s photo (right) is following baseball's World Series event via scores posed on a second-floor chalkboard by a Texarkana, Arkansas/Texas daily. (Nearly a decade would pass before the city got its first radio station, KCMC.)"

By the end of the 20th century's second decade, three key elements were in place to fuel radio broadcasting: resonant circuitry, a practical means for generating a carrier wave, and methodology for impressing speech and music on that carrier. These waited only for someone to combine them in an effective way.

A number of individuals — most notably Reginald Fessenden, Lee de Forest and Charles Herrold — had made varying attempts at broadcasting. But none took root.

There was little effort to stimulate interest among the public. Early transmissions of speech and music were directed to radio amateurs. There also was little or no notification of how to "listen in." Nor were there regular operating schedules, nor readily available receivers for the general public. Radio sets were marketed to commercial enterprises, the military and radio amateurs.

U.S. involvement in "the Great War" further put the brakes on broadcasting, with a government edict mandating the dismantling of virtually all privately owned radio stations and apparatus in an effort to thwart possible enemy espionage involving radio.

But the war also indirectly advanced radio broadcasting. The government lifted patent restrictions on various communication technologies including the vacuum tube, which allowed multiple companies to manufacture radio gear for the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Also, large numbers of young men received Signal Corps training in radio, providing a talent pool that would help fuel broadcasting's launch.

Westinghouse and Conrad

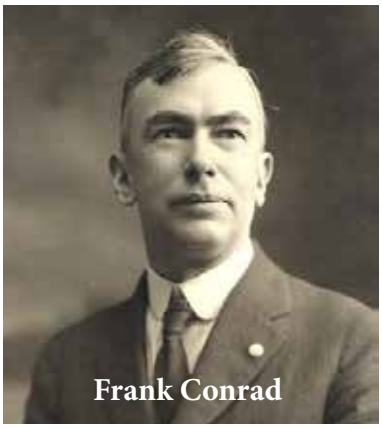
With the end of the war in late 1918 and a "reconversion" to a pre-war way of life, there was another key development in the road to broadcasting, an unintentional one involving a Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. self-taught radio engineer and a farsighted senior official at that company.

Westinghouse had been producing radio gear for the U.S. military; with the armistice, this foray into a new field and its lucrative revenue stream abruptly ended. The company still desired to retain a footprint in the radio sector, and started exploring another frontier that was opening up: international radio communications. This stemmed from the government's decision not to allow foreign corporations such as Marconi to exert a virtual monopoly in this area of radio, as had been the case before the war. While that chapter in radio history is too involved to relate in detail here, it resulted in the creation of the Radio Corporation of America.

RCA, along with General Electric, a large player in radio communications, wound up controlling most of the valuable radio patents. Westinghouse also attempted to enter into international radio communications, joining with the International Radio Telegraph Co., successor to Reginald Fessenden's National Electric Signaling Company, in an attempt to secure a place in this field. The initiative failed due to postwar agreements in place by others including Marconi, Telefunken, and RCA, the new kid on the block. This failure, coupled with the end of lucrative wartime contracts for tubes and radio apparatus, appeared to close the doors on Westinghouse's future in radio. - continued on page 4 -

100 Years Ago -- Radio Broadcasting Becomes a Reality...

In the book "The Continuous Wave: Technology and American Radio, 1900–1932," Hugh Aitken wrote that "Westinghouse, barred from international radio by the cross-licensing agreements, seemed to have few options left; the sensible course of action was surely to call it quits as far as radio was concerned."


Frank Conrad

Such corporate goings-on were way above the pay grade of Frank Conrad. He had helped his company develop military radio gear, and he continued to experiment with radio on his own time through his amateur radio station. Conrad joined with many other pre-war "hams" in taking to the airwaves. However, he enjoyed an advantage not available to most of his fellow amateur operators: ready access to Westinghouse vacuum tubes.

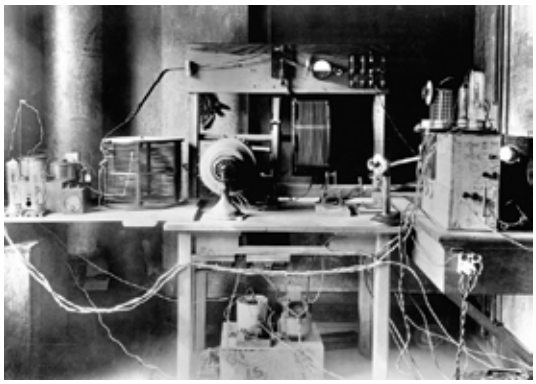
This allowed Conrad to cobble up a radiotelephone transmitter based on Raymond Heising's "constant current" modulation system.

Tinkerer that he was, Conrad wished to monitor the performance of his station and appropriated the family phonograph as a source of audio while he stepped away to do listening tests.

Other "hams" heard the music and encouraged Conrad to provide more such "entertainment," often requesting specific records. He soon tired of responding to individual requests and decided instead to air a "concert" on a regular basis. A local music store even began contributing new records in exchange for on-air "plugs."

By the fall of 1919, Conrad's broadcasts were attracting an estimated audience of some 400 to 500. An area newspaper took interest in the activity, and a Pittsburgh department store began marketing inexpensive receivers to those wishing to enjoy Conrad's music programs. Westinghouse's vice president, Harry P. Davis took notice of the attention being generated by Conrad's "wireless musicales," realizing that an interest in radio might exist outside of hobbyists and commercial message handlers.

Here's how he recalled it for the 1930 book "American Beginnings":


Conrad's amateur station in September 1920 issue of QST magazine

We watched this activity and the activity of various others who were experimenting with radiotelephony very closely. Soon came the idea which led to the initiation of a regular broadcast service. An advertisement of a local department store in a Pittsburgh newspaper calling attention to a stock of radio receivers which could be used to hear the programs sent out by Dr. Conrad led me to the conviction that efforts then being directed to develop radiotelephony as a confidential means of communication were wrong, and that this field instead offered one of widespread commercial publicity.

Right in our grasp, therefore, we had the service we had been groping for. A little study developed the great possibilities. We became convinced that we had in our hands the instrument that would be the greatest and most direct means of mass communication and mass education that had ever appeared.

The natural fascination of its mystery, coupled with the ability to annihilate distance, would attract interest and open many avenues of application. It offered the possibilities of service that could be rendered without favor and without direct cost to millions.

Conrad's amateur station was highlighted in the September 1920 issue of QST magazine two months prior to KDKA's "big broadcast." The microphone — a candlestick telephone "transmitter" — and other components of his radiotelephone transmitter are visible in the picture above.

Davis encouraged Conrad to continue his experimentation on company time, with the installation of a 100-Watt transmitting station at Westinghouse's East Pittsburgh plant. He also made sure that the station received its share of publicity, and began to plan an event to call even more attention to the radio experimentation, one that would forever place Westinghouse and Pittsburgh in the history books as the launch point for radio broadcasting: live reporting of the 1920 presidential election.

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On the Beam
News & Notes

November 14: Nationwide Red Cross Emergency Communications Drill, Joint Exercise with ARES

The Nationwide Red Cross Emergency Communications Fall Drill is a joint exercise with ARES set for November 14, an evolution of the highly successful Spring Drill that had hundreds of participants from some 40 states and Puerto Rico.

The Fall Drill will be a Winlink-specific event with the following goals: (1) pass traditional Red Cross (ARC) forms from as many states and as many radio amateurs as possible to one of six Divisional Clearinghouses, and (2) bring as many radio operators as possible up to a "basic" level of Winlink proficiency. To prepare, there is a twelve-week series of Winlink Workshops held each Thursday at 0100Z on Zoom. Join the SEC-ARES group for announcements and discussions. Include your name and call sign when registering on SEC-ARES.

Winlink Proficiency Goals have been written, a Winlink Technical Support Team has been formed, and Metrics for Drill Success have been developed. The proficiency goals are established as a training guideline and references online training resources. Many hams new to Winlink should find these resources helpful.

Over 300 radio amateurs have signed up for the event and more than a hundred were on a Briefing Call on October 5th. There will be one other Briefing Call, in early November. This event is open to all radio amateurs; if interested in more information, contact Mike Walters, W8ZY, at ***w8zy@na1ra.net*** for ARES-related questions or Wayne Robertson, K4WK, at ***wayne.robertson@redcross.org*** for Red Cross-related topics.

FCC Headquarters Relocates

FCC Headquarters has moved. The new address is 45 L St. NE, Washington, DC 20554. The change is effective immediately. The FCC announced plans to move last spring, but the transition was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCC, like many federal agencies, has its own ZIP code, so there will be no disruption in mail delivery sent by USPS to the former address. The FCC still prohibits the delivery of hand-carried documents, and all COVID-19 restrictions or instructions regarding access to FCC facilities remain in place at the new location.

"The FCC continues to balance its efforts to be accessible to the public with the need for heightened security and health and safety measures and encourages the use of the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to facilitate the filing of applications and other documents when possible," the FCC said in an October 15 Public Notice.

The new FCC seal

Due to the pandemic, the move was accomplished by professional movers without the presence of any employees, all of whom had been working from home. An attempt was made during the summer to let employees back into headquarters for a day to pack up their offices and remove personal belongings, but that plan had to be scrapped after several employees tested positive for COVID-19.

Most FCC staff continue to work from home and are not expected to be physically present in their new offices before next June.

In anticipation of the planned move, the FCC last spring also announced the adoption of a new FCC seal. The redesign is the product of an agency-wide contest that solicited proposals from employees and contractors.

EGARA Roundtable October Meeting Minutes

EGARA held two virtual meetings during October, the first serving as the club's regular monthly meeting and the second as the Roundtable meeting that is held the fourth Wednesday of the month. Items that were discussed included:

- President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, provided an update on the status of the Masonic Lodge for meetings. The lodge has been rented to a retail business for ten weeks until the end of the year and will be unavailable. In-person meetings will hopefully begin again in January;
- EGARA has applied for official 501C3 status from the IRS. This is due in part to a requirement by Channel 6 prior to the installation of the club's 220mhz repeater at their site;
- Treasurer Don Mayott, KB2CDX, provided an update on club finances and said they remain in good order. He also thanked those members who have already paid their 2021 dues;
- ARRL Hudson Division Director Ria Jairam provided a presentation during the club's regular monthly meeting via Zoom. She provided both an update on ARRL activities, as well as an overview of Software Defined Radios (SDR).
- Several members have ordered EGARA club caps. President Jackson said orders are still being taken and can be placed by sending him an email at W2RBJ@outlook.com.

Thanks for Your Support!

EGARA recognizes with grateful appreciation the following members who have paid their 2021 dues!

- Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR
- Tim Antonacci, WA2WDX
- Shelly Perry, WB2DGE
- John Maddalla, WB2HTZ
- Joseph Jeavons, KD2DKR
- Stephen Lohnes, KD2RJZ
- Pete Sochocki, NY2V
- Steve Sconfienza, NC2S
- Andy Sullivan, KC2WWJ

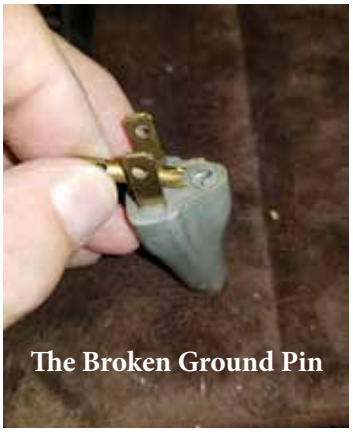
Online payment is quick, easy and safe!

Just visit:

https://www.egara.club/pay-dues

GROUNDING SAFETY TIP

By Steve VanSickle, WB2HPR



The Broken Ground Pin

Repaired with New Plug

While performing routine maintenance on my VHF 6 meter station, I was surprised to see that I had a potential safety issue with the equipment.

The maintenance involved removal of several large and heavy modules from an equipment rack. Each item receives its power from an integral power strip mounted in the rack. Before I began my work, I unplugged the strip power cord from the wall socket.

The maintenance required several days "on the work bench" -- and with everything in order and tested, it was time to reinstall the equipment and perform a live on-the-air test. With all my gear securely bolted back into the rack, I began to plug the main A/C plug back into the wall – then I noticed something strange.

Protruding from the ground contact of the wall socket was a shiny brass cylinder! It was the ground connector from the molded cord of the power strip! I looked at the contact end of the power cord plug, and there was an empty hole – the ground pin (connector) of the A/C plug had broken off and was now lodged in the wall socket. I shut off the circuit breaker for that circuit, and extracted the broken contact from the wall receptacle. Next, I made a trip to the local hardware store and purchased a replacement plug and installed it on the end of the power strip cord.

The resulting tests were uneventful and the VHF station is now back in service --with the A/C supply and cabinet *grounded*. If I had not serviced this equipment, I would never have known that the equipment was not grounded to the A/C supply ground.

I think about the many A/C powered devices we all use on a daily basis and have to wonder how many of them have broken or missing ground connections. Something to think about and be on the lookout for. Keep safety first!

What Makes Electrical Shock So Dangerous?

An electric shock is a sudden violent response to electrical current flow through any part of a person's body. Even minor shock injuries can result in life-altering and debilitating symptoms. These can include long-term injuries with both neurological, psychological and physical effects .

It is the current—not voltage—that kills. Many factors contribute to the amount of current that enters the body, which is why a lower voltage does not indicate safety. More than 99 % of the body's resistance to the flow of electrical current is at the skin. The skin's resistance becomes far less protective against electrical currents when there is a breakdown of skin at 500 volts or higher; the skin is damaged through way of cuts, abrasions, or burns; it is immersed in water; or there is a rapid application of voltage to an area of the skin.

The human body, which is composed mainly of water, has a very low internal body resistance, between approximately 300 Ω and 500 Ω. The skin has a much higher resistance. The dryer the skin is, the higher its resistance will be. There are many factors that may cause a person to have a lower body resistance. A person with sweaty hands, for example, will have a lower body resistance and can be electrocuted at a lower voltage than what would otherwise be nonlethal. Abrasions on the hand allow the current to bypass the skin resistance.

The skin acts similar to a capacitor—it allows more current to flow when a voltage rapidly changes. If a person's hand is holding a metal tool that suddenly touches a voltage source, the rapidly changing voltage will be applied to the person's palms and fingers. If this happens, the current amplitude within the body will be significantly higher than would otherwise occur. Above 500 V, high resistance in the outer layer of the skin breaks down, which greatly lowers the body's resistance to current and thus increases the flow of current. What's important here is that areas of skin breakdown are sometimes pinhead-sized wounds that can be easily overlooked. These tiny openings can enable a large amount of current to enter the body. This current typically results in deep tissue injury to muscles, nerves, and other structures. This is one reason why there is often significant deep tissue injury and little in the way of skin burns with high-voltage injuries.

The History of Ham Radio: Strays—The Twenties

Chris Codella, W2PA, author, John Pelham, W1JA, editor, Phil Johnson, W2SQ, editor

(Editor's note: By special arrangement with the authors, Sidebands is pleased to present this multi-part series on the history of ham radio. Subsequent chapters will be published in future monthly editions of the newsletter)

As 1920 began, ARRL members were asked to send their ideas for a symbol to represent the organization. After many submitted designs were considered, an official ARRL emblem was adopted by the board of directors and announced in July – the well known diamond framing an elemental radio circuit, still in use today.

"We all know that our Emblem must be chaste in design and color, distinctive and symbolic of our work. These qualities, we feel, are well represented in this insignia," wrote K.B. Warner, 1BHW. It would be used for all manner of League business, but its immediate purpose was as a lapel pin to be worn at gatherings. "Now we will know each other. As quickly as we can get these distributed they will become the sign of a Hail-Fellow-Well-Met in amateur radio—a Brother A.R.R.L. man," he added. Later in the issue, an ad appeared for "The 'Sine' of the Fraternity," an emblem in "extra-heavy rolled gold and black enamel" on a pin or lapel mount, for $1.50 postpaid.

Not quite one year after the reopening, ham radio was fully revived and bracing for growth. QST grew to reach 100 pages in September 1920, a size not seen for almost three and a half years. The Calls Heard section expanded to two and a half pages.

As the postwar influx of new hams accelerated, Maxim wrote about embracing beginners. Maxim's appreciation for mentoring is probably one of the reasons for QST beginning a new column, "The Junior Operator," conducted by Guy Entwhistle, meant to help newcomers get started in amateur radio.

A late starter himself, he had only begun learning about radio ten years earlier, already in his forties, and it was the help of more experienced operators who got him going. Most amateurs were beginners back then and amateur radio was much simpler too—an aerial, water pipe ground, loose coupler, and crystal for a receiver; and spark coil, fixed gap, and photographic plate condenser for a transmitter. Maxim was becoming concerned that because the average station had become so much more complex there was a growing gap between the experienced hams and the beginners. "A sort of aristocracy is built up, and this is not a healthy condition," he wrote. And he believed it was also in the best interest of the established, experienced operators to encourage beginners to get involved. As a practical matter, "there is only one air and we must all use it in common," he noted. "The experienced amateur cannot work if the inexperienced amateur is not willing to co-operate, just as the inexperienced cannot function without the co-operation of the experienced."

From the start, Maxim's constant interest had been in traffic handling. He still believed that it was the main draw in amateur radio, and without it interest would wane. If all activity were just conversation, conditions on the air would be "intolerable" because of interference. Traffic handling "possesses a charm and a pull which is never ending," he wrote. Although a visionary, he failed at this point to envision the rich variety of amateur radio activities yet to come.

Two Firsts in the Sixth

Maxim traveled to California in late summer to attend the 1920 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco. While there he also addressed a meeting of the San Francisco Radio Club, never before having visited an amateur radio organization on the West Coast.

"For the first time in our history the Atlantic sat down at the same table with the Pacific and each was able to see the kind of man the other was," wrote Warner. "For years we have read of each other but had never seen what the other fellow looked and acted like. We understand Mr. Maxim listened in at Brother McGown's station. We envy him the privilege of hearing a "six" call. It and the seven have never entered these ears of ours thus far."

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History of Amateur Radio...

One difference Maxim noted from East Coast clubs was that the West Coasters charged dues, paid to rent meeting space and generally "do things properly," in his view. He encouraged adopting their practices more widely. Maxim's trip was viewed as contributing to nationwide bonds between amateurs, as were visits by Traffic Manager J. O. Smith to the South, Southwest, and Midwest.

While in California, Maxim also addressed the "wireless world of the western United States" on the air via Lee De Forest's one-kilowatt station in San Francisco on 3 July. Lieutenant Ellery W. Stone, USNRF, had given a lecture on vacuum tubes via the same transmitter a couple of weeks earlier on 23 June. It was thought to be the first technical lecture ever delivered by radiotelephone.

Another Navy Skirmish

The US Navy was pressing for control of the airwaves again in late 1920. Their attempt at radio legislation was an inactive bill in the Senate's Radio Subcommittee of the Committee on Naval Affairs, which QST condemned as "un-American to the core" in many provisions and one that did not assure amateurs of continued permission to operate. Thought to be obsolete because of a pending international convention, there was nonetheless renewed fear that it might be revived and rushed through the short congressional session starting on 6 December. The bill proposed establishing a "National Radio Commission" with authority to regulate the operation of all eight classes of stations, including several kinds of amateur stations. But it made "no provisions for hearing the claims of interested classes of stations, and throughout is amazingly autocratic and contrary to the principles of American government," according to the editorial.

QST—presumably with Warner as editor—speculated that naval officers who had drafted most of the bill had, "acquired the 'imperialistic' views of Europe on matters affecting communication." The proposed commission would have representatives from the Departments of the Navy, War, Commerce and Post Office, but its secretary would be a naval officer appointed by the Secretary of the Navy, thus essentially giving the Navy complete control of radio. The commission would have the power to deny a license to any applicant for only vaguely defined reasons. It could, for example, "announce that the amateur wave length should be two meters, the power one watt, the decrement .0001," and be within the law. "The un-American qualities of this bill reach a state of absolutely unqualified despotism," decried Warner, and urged members to implore their representatives to oppose to it.

Call Confusion

Operating procedures were in flux in the early 1920s. For example, there were as yet no national prefixes. This naturally caused confusion between Canadian and US call signs – duplicates were unavoidable. So for a while the ARRL adopted a different prosign or signal to be used between various combinations of call signs. US working US would use DE as usual. US working Canada would use AA, Canada working US will use V and Canada working Canada would use OE. We can imagine what this must have sounded like. With only two countries to contend with, it was just the beginning.

T.O.M. Meets Maxim?

The Old Man defined SOL as "sure out of luck," which is what you were if you missed the ARRL Midwest Convention in St. Louis in December, where he met many well known hams for the first time. "That's the funny thing about these Radio Conventions," he wrote, adding that "You get to know folks intimately in five minutes time." He described seeing HPM by surprise when,

… the crazy elevator behind me exploded again, and another bunch was disgorged into the room. I gasped for air when I realized that the gray-haired middle-aged man who came out first was no other than our President, Mr. Hiram Percy Maxim. By the Great Horn Spoon! Right here in the same room! Had known him for years and years, it seemed like. I had written him no end. The Old Chief, himself! Say boys, it was just the greatest feeling that came over me that I have had in many a long year. It just grips you.

At one point, somebody wheeled in a big crate supposedly containing a "static eliminator." As HPM uncovered it, out burst a "young lady dressed for anything but winter weather."

The roaring twenties had begun.

Radio Broadcasting Beginnings...

"The Big Broadcast"

Davis made arrangements with the Pittsburgh Post to deliver election eve ballot counts via telephone to the combination transmitter room/studio and tapped Leo Rosenberg from the company's publicity department to do the on-air announcing.

Donald Little, who had worked with Conrad in designing and constructing the KDKA transmitter, was designated as the station's "chief engineer," and William Thomas, who possessed the necessary commercial radio license, was assigned as transmitter operator. To ensure that the big event would not be spoiled by a transmitter failure at the company site, Conrad kept his ham transmitter on "hot standby" in case the KDKA rig failed.

Little described the Nov. 2, 1920 scene 35 years later in a story in American Heritage magazine: "The first program, which ran from about 8 p.m. to some time after midnight, consisted only of the election returns repeated into our microphone by Rosenberg from what he heard by phone from the Post downtown, interspersed with recorded music."

KDKA takes to the air on the evening of Nov. 2, 1920 with election return reporting interspersed with recorded music. Announcer Leo Rosenberg is second from right in this Westinghouse publicity photo of the broadcast. R. S. McClelland on stool served as a "standby." Also shown are William Thomas, the licensed transmitter operator, and John Frazier, the telephone line "operator."

"Perfect Storm" for Radio

This seminal "broadcast" was a success in every sense.

There were no reported technical glitches, with election returns flowing smoothly from the newspaper to the East Pittsburgh "broadcast center." Rosenberg was not prone to "mike fright," and professionally and unfalteringly delivered the election news. And those who "listened in" that night let Westinghouse know about it. As observed by Little: "The company received quite a lot of mail on this broadcast."

This response came not only from radio amateurs who shared headphones with neighbors, but also from an election-eve "listening in" party organized by another Westinghouse employee, Lewis Warrington Chubb, who'd been placed in charge of radio engineering. Again from the American Heritage article 35 years later:

"Our election night broadcast was also picked up by a receiver and a loud-speaker which Mr. Chubb … and I installed at the Edgewood Club — this was in Edgewood, just outside of Pittsburgh. The club had an auditorium and a good many of the club members congregated there on the evening of November 2, as it was pre-advertised that they would get election returns. From time to time during the evening Mr. Chubb phoned us comments on how the program sounded and I recall he told us once that the audience preferred less music and more election returns."

Seizing the Moment

In order to gain a better insight into what made Davis' decision for this launch timely and successful, it's instructive to recall that the past decade had not been an especially good time for most, with major and minor tragedies punctuating the entire decade — the sinking of the Titanic, the world war and a global influenza pandemic. The real "capper" came in late 1919 with the Volstead Act, making it illegal even for Americans to drown their sorrows in strong drink. Clearly, something was needed to help lift people out of this gloom, tragedy and misery.

That something proved to be radio.

- **Further Reading:**

- Aitken, Hugh G.J., "The Continuous Wave: Technology and American Radio, 1900–1932;" Princeton University Press, 1985
- Douglas, Susan, "Inventing American Broadcasting 1899–1922;" The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987
- Christopher H. Sterling, John Michael Kittross,"Stay Tuned: A History of American Broadcasting," Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers, Mahwah, N.J., 2002

EGARA Resuming VE Test Sessions for Members

FCC exam sessions held by the club -- suspended since last Spring because of the pandemic -- are being resumed on a limited basis exclusively for members of the club who want to upgrade their existing license. Each exam session must be requested by the member who wants to be tested and will be scheduled at a time convenient for both the applicant and the examiners. The location for the test site will be also determined.

"While we are not yet prepared to hold open sessions for the public, we want to accommodate club members who need testing so they can upgrade their tickets," said Club President Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, who is also a VE examiner. "We will also strictly observe health and safety precautions, including the use of masks, social distancing and temperature checks. At some point, we hope to resume public exams when deemed safe."

EGARA members may request a test session by emailing: W2RBJ@outlok.com with "exam request" in the subject line.

For non-members, FCC sessions are once again being given by the Capital Area Radio Enthusiasts (CARES) at the Shaker Road Fire Department, 550 Albany Shaker Rd. in Loudonville. Its next exam session is set for December 13th at 12 pm. For information, contact: Glenn Cooper at (518) 482-5584 or by Email at: wb2fod@arrl.net.

While FCC Plans to Delete 3.5 GHz Band, Canadian Privileges Will Remain

Although the FCC has announced plans to delete the secondary amateur radio 3.3 - 3.5 GHz allocation, that amateur allocation will remain in place right across the northern US border. Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) said this week that the FCC action has raised concerns among Canadian amateurs.

"This FCC action does not directly affect Canadian amateurs, who continue to have a secondary allocation on this band," RAC stressed.

As RAC explained in a bulletin, Canadian regulator ISED published Gazette Notice SLPB-001-19: Decision on Revisions to the 3500 MHz Band to Accommodate Flexible Use and Preliminary Decisions on Changes to the 3800 MHz Band.

"In that document, ISED announced changes to the primary allocations to the Radiolocation, Fixed, and Mobile services at 3450 - 3500 MHz, removing Radiolocation, maintaining the Fixed services (used primarily for rural Internet), and adding Mobile to 3450 - 3475 MHz, in line with its policy objective to 'foster innovation, investment, and the evolution of wireless networks by enabling the development and adoption of 5G technologies.'" RAC said this was the latest step in realigning allocations in the band that began with changes announced in December 2014. "At that time, as in the June 2019 announcement, the secondary allocation to amateur radio was not changed," RAC noted.

"As the 5G rollout advances, maintaining compliance with the 'no interference, no protection' requirement for secondary services is likely to impose increasingly severe restrictions on the ability of amateurs to use this band, even as the secondary allocation to the Amateur Service remains in place [in Canada]," RAC pointed out.

World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) will include an agenda item to consider worldwide allocations to mobile Internet services in several bands, among them 3.3 - 3.4 GHz and 10.0 - 10.5 GHz. The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has announced its intention to vigorously defend amateur interests in both bands at WRC-23, "and RAC representatives in Canadian working groups preparing the Canadian positions for WRC agenda items will be doing likewise," RAC said. -- Thanks to Radio Amateurs of Canada

CALENDAR

November 11, 2020 - 7 pm - Monthly club meeting over 147.270 club repeater.

November 25, 2020 - 7 pm - EGARA Roundtable on 147.270 repeater

Pro Tip: RST Reporting in a Nutshell

An RST report is a report from a receiving station on the quality and strength of the transmitted signal. Using shorthand in the form of numbers to represent the tone of a CW signal or voice transmission of a transmitting station's signal at the receiving station's location (QTH).

Here is what it means:

R - Readability - Understanding what is said and how well. On a scale of 1 to 5, the readability of your signal with a "5" being perfect with no difficulty. In other words the ability of the other operator to understand what you are saying. A "1" is unreadable....a "5" is perfectly readable.

S - Strength - On a scale of 1 to 9, indicates how strong your stations signal is. A "1" is a very faint signal. A "9" is an extremely strong signal.

T - Used for Morse Code signal reports. Indicates on a scale of 1 to 9 the quality of the tone of the Morse Code "dits and dahs". From a "60 cycle harsh tone" a (1).... To a "very pure tone", a (9).

Example #1 A CW REPORT: If you got a report of "599" on CW, it means the following: The five means your signal is very easy to understand with absolutely no difficulty. The first nine means your signal registers a very strong reading on your S meter, usually 3/4 scale or more. The second nine means your CW tone has a nice pure clear tone or sound.

Example #2 A VOICE REPORT: If you get a 5 5 (sometimes said 5 by 5)....Your signal is perfectly readable with a fairly good signal strength.

For Sale

- **Arrow Model 52-S4** - 4-Element 6 Meter Yagi antenna in good condition. $75.00
  Contact Steve at: svansick@nycap.rr.com

- **IFR-1100S Service Monitor. With Spectrum Analyzer and Oscilloscope.** Tested, Preventive Maintenance and Calibrated ($895) last year. AM - FM, CTCSS Generator, In very good condition. 900.00 or reasonable offer.
- **Military Watt Meter AN/URM-120 B/U 2 to 1000 MHZ** Complete and with Carrying Case. In excellent condition. Never abused or used on the road. Great Shack / Bench Watt Meter. $100.00 or reasonable offer.
- **Yaesu FT-2900 Programing Software by RT Systems** Cable included. Registered, includes password. $35.00
  Contact John WB2HZT at: Radiowizzz@aol.com

- **Yaesu FT2DR/DE** Digital Transceiver with Original box and parts. Added accessories: Diamond SRH77CZ antenna, Yaesu MH-34 Microphone, Yaesu SDD-13 charger (for mobile) $ $375.00 offers considered. Excellent condition. Sells new for $419 without extra's.
- **Yaesu FT-8800** Dual Band (2M/70CM) analog Transceiver. $100.00
- **Alinco DJ-596** Dual Band (2M/70cm) analog Transceiver with MFJ-1715 antenna, optional Battery Case (AA batteries), with Chargers including mobile. Rechargeable battery is NG. $30.00
- **Cisco Linksys Router EA6300** $25.00
- **Cisco Linksys Router EA3500** $20.00
  Contact Fred, AJ4CN at: aj4cn@twc.com

- **Connect systems CS 750 DMR radio. Speaker mike, Car charger, AC charger, USB cable, $100.**
  Contact Ridge, KB2HWL at kb2hwl@nycap.rr.com

Gear to Sell, Swap or Buy?
Send your listing to W2RBJ@Outlook.com

The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association

Organized in 1998, by Bert Bruins, N2FPJ, (SK) and Chris Linck, N2NEH, the East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL affiliate, is committed to providing emergency services, educational programs, and operating resources to amateur radio operators and residents of the Capital Region of New York State. The club station is W2EGB. The club also has several VHF and UHF repeaters open to club members and the public.