

Society for the Preservation of Antique Radio in Canada

May 2006 Newsletter of the SPARC Vintage Radio Museum

Welcome -

to the latest edition of the SPARC newsletter under its new editor. It is hoped to make this mini-newsletter a more frequent visitor to your mailbox. Many activities are moving forward at SPARC and the need for getting this information out to our members is becoming too important.

I will be looking for articles of general interest as well as the technical so if you have a story in hand, or suggestions for same, send them along to winter@dccnet.com. Please begin the subject line with "SPARC", so I may separate the grain from the chaff more easily. If you do not have access to e-mail, items may be posted to -

**Bruce Winter,
SPARC Newsletter Editor,
4757 London Green Place,
Delta, BC, V4K 4X1**

Next issue closing : August 15th

FACILITY NEWS

Several members are actively looking at relocating to another building on the Riverview grounds. Discussion is at a very early stage with the British Columbia Buildings Corporation (our landlord) and lease terms, cost of relocating, and on-going maintenance needs to be worked out. A building known as Cottage #3, and shared occupancy in the Centrelawn Building, are options. Other possibilities for extra space, at reasonable cost, continue to be discussed.

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- 2** New members, Groups & News
- 3** Red Letter Day - by Henry Poegal
- 4** Renewal information & people

June 4th

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

11:00am

Status of current projects and initiatives will be reviewed and discussed. All members are welcome.

June 11th

OPEN HOUSE

11:00am to 3:00pm

Light refreshments will be available

Special Thank You and Honorary Membership presentation for Bruce Russell. Bruce has served as our Vice-President and Treasurer for many years. His office has provided both legal, book keeping, and secretarial services at no cost to the Society. The Russells will be moving from the green of BC to dusty pastures in Alberta. Bruce is one of the founding group that created the society and museum over 10 years ago and could be found at the museum on most Sundays working on the displays and in the restoration area. Bruce will still maintain an active interest in SPARC. Our good wishes are extended to his wife Eileen and his office secretary Karen. Bruce holds the amateur radio call sign of VE7HII and will be working the SPARC amateur station when not out mending fences. Good luck Bruce !

July 8th & 9th

SPARC REMOTE BROADCAST

Live from "Fair in the Square", Place des Arts, Maillardville area of Coquitlam. We will be doing a remote broadcast to our radios at the museum.

MEMBERSHIPS

Is your membership up to date ? If not and you find your membership is past due, please note a special message from the SPARC Collections Team Leader, on page 4.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2005 – WELCOME !

MARC ALFONSO;	JACK ARMOUR;
KEN AU;	RAY BONENFANT;
GENE & JUDY BONNY;	HEARLY CHARLESWORTH;
ELIZABETH CLARKE;	ROB CORRA;
TONY DIMECH;	GIL GILMORE;
PETER HASKELL;	DON JACKSON;
JOSEPH KLOC;	GREGORY KOVACS;
WALTER LO;	JOHN LOWDEN;
BEN LUCAS;	J. BRUCE MACDONALD;
BARRIE OLIVER;	NIGEL SMITH-GANDER;
DARCY SOLES;	SCOTT STANLEY;
GERALD STEEVES;	TOM STEVENS;
TERRY WIKENE	

Special Interest Groups –

Elaine LaFontaine / History & Publicity
Blair Yochim / Artifact Cataloging
Paul Johnson / Public Displays & Repairs
Dave Osborn / Site management
Jack Watson / Broadcast & recordings
Fred Carey / Amateur
Bruce Winter / Television & Newsheet
Bruce Russell / Displays & Restorations
Bill Chase / Chassis Restoration & Repairs
Bruce MacMillan / Military & Marine
Jurgen Peterat / Vintage Audio
Mel Porritt / Item valuation & collection
Gary Jones / Maintenance & Repairs

The next special interest discussion will be
Sunday, June 4th 2006 in the museum, at 11:00 am.
Members wishing to get involved are always welcome.

BROADCAST NEWS -

Fred Carey and Peter Trill have made a recent scoop of studio equipment from CBC Radio One, Vancouver. More details will appear on our website and in the next newsletter.

“Please explain the problem to me slowly, as I do not understand things quickly” - Albert Einstein

RECENT TOUR GROUPS & PRESENTATIONS

VINTAGE TRUCK SOCIETY

CUB PACK GROUP – PORT MOODY

PORT COQUITLAM HERITAGE SOCIETY - MUSIC AND INFORMATION ABOUT SPARC PRESENTED BY PAUL JOHNSON AND JACK WATSON TO 20 PEOPLE AT THE HERITAGE SOCIETY MUSEUM.

Paul and Jack have contributed many hours of their time over the years to promote awareness SPARC to the general public. They're usually at the museum every Sunday.

RECENT DONATIONS

EMPIRE OF THE AIR [VIDEO] – JOHN WICKS

CLASSIC COMMERCIALS [VIDEO] - HENRY DAHL

CJAV – PORT ALBERNI

NAGRA III PORTABLE TAPE RECORDER

AMPEX AG-600 & REVOX A 77 TAPE RECORDERS

McCURDY & RCA STUDIO BOARDS

TURNTABLE, SPEAKERS, AMPLIFIERS, CART MACHINES

RCA 1000 WATT AM TRANSMITTER &

RELATED RACK OF EQUIPMENT

CJAV AM HAS MOVED TO 93.3 MHZ FM. SINCE 1946 IT HAD OCCUPIED 1240 KHZ., PORT ALBERNI'S ONLY LOCAL STATION.

THE SPARC MUSEUM BROADCASTS IN-HOUSE ON 1240 KHZ !

VOLUNTEER NEWS -

Barb Boman is progressing through our displays and identifying the artifacts with cards in a standardized format so visitors will know what they are looking at.

Fred Nielsen has made a quantity of wood card holders for display of the cards Barb printed.

Jack Watson has produced a number of programs of vintage recordings. These will be broadcast by the American Museum of Electricity and Radio on KMRE – FM, Bellingham, Washington. Their station is on 102.3 MHz – visit www.americanradiomuseum.org for the broadcast schedule. The low power and antenna location preclude reception in the Vancouver area, but it is available as streamed audio from their website.

Elizabeth Clarke has cataloged and sorted all Heathkit manuals. An index is now located with the manuals. Members assistance is requested to keep them in order.

THE RED-LETTER DAY – Part One

By Henry C. Poegal

We were a family of four when it happened, two little boys and mother and father. We lived in a home on a homestead on the prairie. Perhaps the greatest, most exciting event in our lives was the arrival of the first "Radio" in our home. It was our red-letter day.

I had seen a radio some three years before, when we went to Doctor Nesbitt's house, half way along the road to Tompkins. I had been intrigued by the little black box with the two pretty and mysterious glass bulbs sticking up on its top. However, when the lady doctor had finished vaccinating me for Small-pox, and had tried to work the thing, it had produced no sounds. I tore my eyes away from it with stab of disappointment in my five-year old heart.

I had heard a radio about a year later, in 1926 or early 1927. This time the little black box had four little glass jars on top. I learned later that it was a "Westinghouse" – a Radiola III-A with amplifier. Still later in 1927 we went to visit two bachelor neighbors for the express purpose of listening to their new radio. It was a five tube "Arcadia", and quite different from the Westinghouse. The black box had graduated into a cabinet of polished brown wood. The tubes were concealed inside, and the tuning knobs, (a whole forest of them) were now on the front. A row of three large ones, across the middle of the sloping front, were for tuning in to the stations. Each knob had a pointer on it. Each had to be tuned separately. At the conclusion of each tuning operation, a voice (or music) would come out of the black spiraled trumpet called the "loud-speaker". In each case it would only last about a minute. It either faded away, or became just a jumble of mixed up sounds. The slow, triple tuning operation was repeated so many times, and the four grown ups talked so much about things we could not understand, that to us kids, the outing could only be considered a total failure.

Our red-letter day almost came off in November 1927. A certain manufacturer named F. A. D. Adams had put together his four initials to form a name for his radio. He called it the "Fada". This was to have been our first radio. We had ordered it by mail, and father wended his way to Nadeauville Post Office early in the afternoon. He wanted to be in good time to meet the 'Mail Stage' from Tompkins, and to take delivery of his precious shipment. Back at home we all waited. Mother trimmed and polished the two kerosene lamps especially well. Darkness fell - then supper time - then 9:00 P.M. Bedtime for brother and me, and still no radio. It transpired that father came home with a letter telling us that, due to a flood of orders, they could not send us a radio at that time. Weeks later they cancelled the order altogether.

In the early months of 1928 father re-considered the matter. He decided to buy a super-new 1928 spring model. In their spring catalog, MacLeods of Winnipeg listed a new improved model of the "King" radio. The "Baronet" model superseded the "Crusader" model of 1927. Really de-luxe, it featured six UX-201-A tubes, and a lighted dial of the Kasch-Vernier type. The three main condensers were tuned all together by turning a single knob. The set, plus a pair of headphones, all batteries, antenna, lightning-arrestor, and all wires were priced at \$95.00. A loud-speaker of the horn type, called the "Trimm" home speaker, was supplied at an additional cost of \$13.00. Into the bargain they threw in a high-quality six-volt "A" battery of the "Willard" make, rather than the usual cheaper brand. The order was written and mailed away. TO BE CONTINUED....

This story was submitted to SPARC in May of 1997, after Mr. Poegal had visited the museum with Paul Johnson. The town of Tompkins, Saskatchewan is located on the 401 Highway, about 100 km's West of Swift Current. Part 2 will continue in the next issue.



Collections Team Leader

AN URGENT REMINDER for our readers to ensure they are keeping their membership fees up to date. It's more than paying the rent and supporting our other expenses, it's also your commitment to the continuing existence of the SPARC Museum, playing a role in preserving our early radio and technology heritage. Now --- scrutinize your address label on this newsletter. If 2006 appears, then thank you for your support. If 2005 appears, then oops... you missed out sometime after February --- catch up now! If 2004 or earlier appears, then we've been especially kind. However the collections team will not allow this to go on much longer !!!

SPARC Membership
c/o Paul Johnson,
7720 Cheviot Place,
Richmond, BC, V7C 3S6, Canada

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Currently, membership is \$15 (or \$20 family), which may be submitted to Paul Johnson, membership secretary, at the return address below. A membership fee increase has been discussed in support of future plans. A large supportive membership goes a long way in our discussions with government concerning the future plans of SPARC.

-MP

The *S.P.A.R.C. Newsletter* is published by The Society For the Preservation of Antique Radio in Canada, for all interested in preserving the heritage of early vintage radio. S.P.A.R.C. is a registered charity under the laws of the Province of British Columbia and member of the BC Museums Association.

Peter Trill / President
Paul Johnson / Vice President - Membership
Bruce Russell / Vice President - Treasurer
Jurgen Peterat / Director - Secretary
Fred Carey / Director
John Wicks / Director

Museum Hours :
Sundays 10:00am to 4:00pm

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web : 3.telus.net/radiomuseum

