

AMRE Launches Newly Remodeled Space With Live Radio Series



Musical group Captain Seahorse performed the best in Klezmer-Christmas music for the Museum's December 22nd live KMRE 102.3 FM Broadcast.

See You On The Radio!

On Saturday, October 28th, the Museum opened its doors to the public for a Halloween performance of YOUNG DRACULA, another in a string of successful live radio broadcasts performed by the Midnight Mystery Players. Only this time, the performance space itself was part of the show. "It's unbelievable what you've done with these walls!" exclaimed Museum member Andrew Jackson. "I've been here for three shows, but nothing prepared by for this." Hundreds of surprised visitors entered the newly remodeled, 3500 square foot event space which boasts expansive hardwood floors and a 1800 square foot loft area. "It's been a wonder to see this space evolve," marvels founder Jonathan Winter. "Restoring the original brick and using the space for Museum and other community events makes sense."

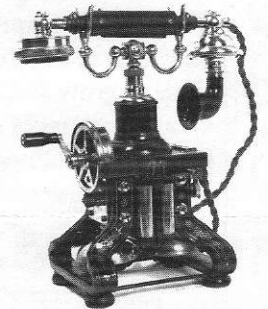
The Museum has hosted a wide variety of successful events in the performance space, including AMRE's annual Halloween and Hanukkah/Christmas

productions performed and broadcast live on KMRE-LP, 102.3 FM, the Museum's own independent radio station.

"It was a thrill to play here," remarks Isaac Weiser, member of the band Captain Seahorse, who performed a dazzling set of klezmer and Christmas classics for the December 22nd event. "John Jenkins was gracious enough to let us use some of the Museum's vintage microphones for our performance. It made the experience even more special knowing we were performing with artifacts from radio's Golden Age."

In addition to the Museum's own live radio broadcasts, a variety of organizations have successfully retained the space for performances, lectures, concerts and events including the Bellingham Electronic Arts Festival, a four day event featuring over 20 contemporary musical and visual performances. "It was inspiring having the Electronic Arts Festival presented in a world-class electricity museum," remarked Dr. Bruce Hamilton, Assistant Professor of Music at Western Washington University and BEAF organizer. "To see and hear so many cutting-edge performances literally surrounded with artifacts from the dawn of the Electrical Age was truly inspiring."

Upcoming events include the Village Books *Chuckanut Radio Hour*, a new variety show featuring authors, musicians and other performers. The first of these shows includes an interview with Erik Larson, author of *Thunderstruck*, the fascinating true story of the creator of radio (Guglielmo Marconi),



The Eiffel Tower Telephone, 1895 is one of new acquisitions in our telephone collection—and currently on display—including the first dial telephone ever produced, featured in our Trivia Question on Page 4.

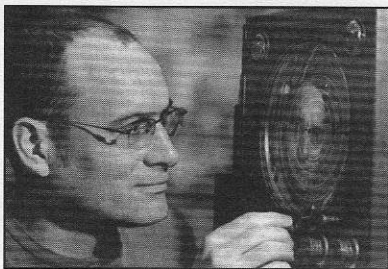
alongside that of the man who has gone down in history as being the first criminal to be captured with the aid of wireless communication. "The radio station is developing into something to be really proud of," remarks local producer Phil Printz. "Productions like these really help bring the Museum to an even wider audience."

On Saturday, February 10th, Museum members should stay tuned for a special Midnight Mystery Players live Valentine's performance of *My Favorite Wife*. Audience members are invited to send special Valentine messages to loved ones over the air during the show. Experience what it's like to participate in a live radio production, broadcast from one of the finest radio and electricity museums in the world. ✎

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Edited by TJ Granack



Frank Ordway

2007 is going to be a year of milestones for the American Museum of Radio & Electricity. The new public programs we launched in late 2006 will continue to grow and we will increase the quality of the visitor experience with new displays,

Message from the Executive Director

interactive exhibits and interpretive materials.

One of the areas that has me most excited is our focus on Education in 2007. Working in partnership with Western Washington University, Bellingham Public Schools and local PTAs, we will bring a robust Science Education program to our community. Many studies indicate that interest and proficiency in science is established at a young age. That is why we will have a particu-

lar focus on programs for Kindergarten through 6th grade. We will offer assemblies for local schools, workshops and special focus tours in addition to our ongoing Science Saturday programming.

Many of the artifacts in our Museum were created to further human understanding of the world. It is the vision of the curators that the Museum's collection continue in that role. Imagine the power of a child using pieces built by great inventors like Marconi, holding the devices that changed the world in their hands. What could be more inspirational to a young scientist? *✍*

ICOM Delivers HAM Heaven to Museum and Radio Club

ICOM, the world leader in radio and wireless equipment, has generously donated an ICOM 7800 Transceiver to the Museum. "It doesn't get any better than this," remarks AMRE instructor and HAM radio enthusiast Scott Wenger. "It's amazing to see something so up to date and technically advanced—it just goes to show how far we've come."

The 7800 is ICOM's flagship transceiver. "This is an anchor," laughs Jonathan Winter, founder and president of the Museum.

"There isn't a better radio anywhere in the world." Wenger agrees: "These transceivers are really individually constructed computers with some excellent RF circuitry attached. There are many features incorporated into the unit that are not normally available to the general public. It's a beautiful machine."

The ICOM 7800 embodies the best in digital technology, with, among other things, a TFT display that is superb and must be seen to be believed. "At first sight, it was hard to take my eyes off the analogue meter on the display—it was that real," says Winter. "This state-of-the-



Christmas came right on time for AMRE Instructor Scott Wenger seen above searching the airwaves with our new top-of-the-line ICOM 7800 transceiver.

art transceiver offers people a glimpse into the future of radio and what radio is becoming."

The Museum has over 20 transceivers, all rare, many one-of-a-kind. They represent the best analog equipment ever produced.

We've got all this incredible vintage radio equipment to teach with here at the Museum," says curator Winter. "It's always been great to give kids the chance to actually operate and learn from the artifacts in the Museum's collection. Now that we've got the ICOM 7800 we can bring kids in touch with cutting-edge radio technology as well at that of the past." *✍*

Science Saturdays

Science Everyone Should Know!

Every Saturday at 1 p.m. the American Museum of Radio and Electricity offers one of our fascinating introductory hands-on science workshops.

Science Saturday topics include the Shocking World of Static Electricity, the Mysteries of Magnetism, Resonance & Sound Waves, Motors & Generators, How to Think Like a Scientist, Great Inventors & Their Inventions and much more!

Recreate the great experiments and discoveries that make our modern world possible. See us at 360.738.3886 or www.amre.us *✍*



Educator Carl Nemeth demonstrates the curious nature of sparks in the Museum's Static Electricity Learning Center. The SELC features six hands-on stations where electricity can be produced, stored, measured and discharged!

The Right Chemistry

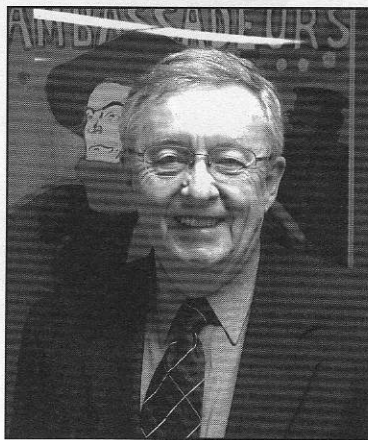
Arlan Norman remembers the first time he saw the American Museum of Radio and Electricity. “My wife Diane and I had just moved to Bellingham,” said Norman, who recently joined AMRE’s Board of Directors. “We were walking downtown when I saw the Museum. I only had a few minutes but immediately knew I’d stumbled upon something special. I remember thinking it would be a great place to take our kids when they came to visit.”

The Normans moved to Bellingham in the fall of 2003, after living in Boulder, Colorado, where he was the Associate Dean of Natural Sciences at the University of Colorado. “I’m a chemist, and had been in their chemistry department for 30 years—and for 4 of them as the Chair,” said Norman. “But the opportunity to come to Bellingham and work with the University at a time when they were creating a new College of Sciences and Technology was too good to pass up. Everything came together and we decided the move was right.”

A year after his first visit, Norman returned with a coworker who thought it would be a good idea to get better acquainted with the Museum. Soon after, he met AMRE board member Diane Kamionka.

“It was immediately apparent to me that Arlan was an innovative and collaborative individual with a passion for science and education,” Kamionka recalls. “He understood and appreciated not only the value of the Museum and its collection from an historic perspective, but also its value to stimulate inspiration and learning, and to provide enjoyment.”

The recently announced partnership between WWU and the Museum opens up a wealth of opportunities for both organizations. “Arlan’s ideas for programs that



Dr. Arlan Norman

Board Profile Arlan Norman

build upon the partnership between the Museum and Western Washington University will develop into a striking resource for the region and the State,” says Kamionka.

Norman has been interested in radios and electricity since he was a kid growing up on a farm in North Dakota. “My first radio was a two dollar crystal radio kit I put together myself,” he remembers. “It was always amazing to me that it worked.” He worked his way up to building a portable Heath Kit radio and stereo system. “The first radio I built had tubes, then the next one had transistors. After that, I built a transistor-based stereo system. You learn a lot doing those kinds of things,” says Norman. “In at least two cases the radios I built didn’t work the first time I plugged them in. I had to go back and go through every step again to find the mistake. That experience and sense of accomplishment is with me and still shapes the way I approach most projects and problems.”

As a boy, Norman experimented with magnetism and spent a lot of time perfecting a variety of small motors and devices. Electricity has been a great interest of mine most of my life.” Although he chose a career in chemistry, electricity and radio still intrigue him.

“I’m particularly interested in some of the older radios,” says

Norman. “It’s too bad there aren’t opportunities for kids to build radio kits the way they used to. It used to be very common to build your own radio. Technology today is so much more advanced than when I was a kid. Yet people today understand the principles of radio and electricity less than ever before. Why? I think a big reason is they can’t take anything apart. They can’t see how anything works. It’s just something with knobs and buttons. You don’t fix things today, you throw them out and get new ones.”

Norman feels the Museum has great potential to be a force in science education. “Delivering a variety of educational experiences to the community is a great place to start,” he says. “The Museum is already doing that with the Saturday Science Workshops and contacts with area schools.”

Recently, Western Washington University’s College of Sciences and Technology started its new *Wizards at Western Program* as part of Western’s community outreach program, a collection of entertaining presentations built around science, math and technology. “What I realize every time we do one of these presentations is that there is considerable interest in the community for hands-on science education. It would be good to have one of these science programs at AMRE,” says Norman. “Especially if we can use the collection for demonstrations. Many of the things in this Museum can be found no where else, aside perhaps from the Smithsonian. There’s a real opportunity to do some unique things.”

Norman would also like to see the university’s student teachers take advantage of AMRE’s collection by interning at the Museum. “If they’re going to become science teachers at any level, the opportunity to experience some of these pieces of equipment that they have only heard about is fantastic. And when they become teachers, they’ll remember the Museum is where you go to get the resources you need.”

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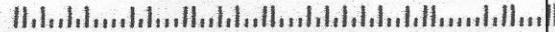
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The American Museum of Radio and Electricity Annual Fund Donors

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*11 digit
Potbelly Dial
Candlestick
Strowger
1905*

Above is the first dial telephone ever produced. The creator, Almon Strowger, had a particularly unusual profession for an inventor. For the unexpected answer visit

www.amre.us

Where Discovery Sparks Imagination

The American Museum of Radio and Electricity is dedicated to the preservation of important artifacts from the dawn of electricity through broadcast radio's Golden Age. Recognizing that these artifacts and the stories behind them have immense cultural, historic, aesthetic, and scientific importance, the Museum displays thousands of objects in a series of exciting, interactive exhibits designed to entertain and educate people of all ages.

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