



Radio Club of America annual banquet

Andy Rooney of the CBS News program '60 Minutes' will deliver the keynote speech at the 98th Anniversary Annual Awards Banquet of the Radio Club of America on Nov. 16, 2007. Walter Cronkite, former anchor of 'CBS Evening News,' and John S. Belrose, Ph.D., emeritus researcher at the Communications Research Center Canada, each will be presented with the Armstrong Medal.

(LITTLETON, Colo.—Aug. 21, 2007) At the Radio Club of America's Nov. 16, 2007 banquet, Andy Rooney will deliver the keynote speech, and Walter Cronkite and John S. Belrose, Ph.D., each will receive the Club's foremost achievement award, the Armstrong Medal. The banquet, conducted at the New York Athletic Club in New York City, marks RCA's 98th anniversary.

Since 1978, Rooney has delivered more than 800 essays on the CBS TV network's Sunday evening news magazine program, "60 Minutes." He joined CBS in 1949 as a writer for "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts." He also wrote for CBS News public-affairs broadcasts. In the 1960s, as a writer and producer, he collaborated with CBS News Correspondent Harry Reasoner on CBS News specials. He was a producer for Reasoner during the first few seasons of "60 Minutes."

Rooney has written a national newspaper column for Tribune Media Services since 1979. Among the 14 books he has written, the most recent is "Years of Minutes," published in 2003 by Perseus Books.

Rooney has won three Emmy Awards, a Lifetime Achievement Emmy and a Peabody Award. In the fall, Rooney will begin his 30th season on "60 Minutes."

Walter Cronkite

Cronkite is best known as the anchor of the "CBS Evening News" program from 1962 to 1981.

Among his other interests, Cronkite is a radio amateur. He said that although amateur radio has been around for 100 years, it is not out of date. "Many of you know I'm a sailor. I really enjoy being on the sea,

with the wind at my back, under way, under sail. What most of you don't know is that I'm a radio ham, too. My call is KB2GSD. And you can bet that when I'm on the ocean, even if the GPS, the radar and the ship-to-shore fail, I've still got my ham radio station. It really is the best back-up communications system in the world," he said.

Cronkite was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1916. He first worked in radio as an announcer for WKY in Oklahoma City. He later worked as a sports announcer for KCMO in Kansas City, Missouri. While in Kansas City in 1937, he went to work for United Press International (UPI). The news agency sent him to cover World War II, and he distinguished himself as a reporter in North Africa and Europe.

In 1950, Edward R. Murrow recruited him to work at CBS News. He anchored the network's coverage of national political party conventions beginning in 1952, and from 1953 to 1957, he hosted the CBS program, "You Are There."

On April 16, 1962, he succeeded Douglas Edwards as the anchor of the "CBS Evening News" and continued in that role until March 6, 1981.

After leaving the evening news broadcast, Cronkite was seen and heard occasionally as a special correspondent for CBS, CNN and NPR. From 1987 to 1992, Cronkite filled his last role for CBS News: "Walter Cronkite's 20th Century," a 90-second radio segment for CBS Radio. A production company he co-founded in 1993, the Cronkite Ward Company, produced documentaries for the Discovery Channel, PBS and other networks. In 2004, he wrote a weekly syndicated newspaper column that appeared in 186 newspapers.

For many years, Cronkite hosted the annual Vienna New Year's Concert on PBS and the Kennedy Center Honors.

Cronkite is the recipient of a Peabody Award, the William White Award for Journalistic Merit, an Emmy Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the George Polk Journalism Award, and a Gold Medal from the International Radio and Television Society. His autobiography, "A Reporter's Life," was published in 1996.

John S. “Jack” Belrose, Ph.D.

Belrose is one of RCA's most distinguished members. He received BAsC and MASc degrees in electrical engineering from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. He joined the Radio Propagation Laboratory of the Defence Research Board, in Ottawa, Ontario in 1951. He received his PhD Cantab degree from the University of Cambridge in radio physics in 1958. From 1957 to 1998 he was with the Communications Research Centre Canada (formerly Defence Research Telecommunications Establishment).

When he retired, he was director of the Radio Sciences Branch. In honor of a 50-year career in radioscience, he has the status of an emeritus researcher at CRCC.

Belrose was deputy chairman and then chairman of the AGARD (Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development) Electromagnetic Propagation Panel from 1979-83. He was a special rapporteur for ITU-Radiocommunications Study Group 3 concerned with LF and VLF Propagation, and in this capacity authored two major reports concerned with propagation in these frequency bands.

Since 1981, he has been a technical advisor to ARRL in the areas of radio communications technology, antennas and propagation. Belrose is a life member of the Antique Wireless Association and the Quarter Century Wireless Association and a life senior member of IEEE (Antennas and Propagation Society). He has been a licensed radio amateur since 1947 -- present call sign VE2CV, ex-VE7QH, ex-VE3BLW.

He is the author or co-author of more than 150 papers, articles, and technical correspondence letters written relevant to the fields of radio communications, radio science, antennas and propagation; author of two chapters in a Prentice-Hall book *Physics of the Earth's Upper Atmosphere*; author of a chapter in an IEEE 1983 publication *The Handbook on Antenna Design*; lecturer, AGARD Lecture Series and director for four published lectures; author of five papers concerned with the history of wireless and a chapter of *History of Wireless* published in 2006 by John Wylie & Sons.

In recent years, Belrose said, "I have been concerned with research in the field of computational electromagnetics (antenna problems).

"Since 1992, researching the history of radio, I have written a number of papers promoting the recognition of the contributions of Canadian born Reginald Aubrey Fessenden (1866-1932) to the development of radio," he said.

Banquet

RCA's banquet will be held at the New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019. The banquet is open to members, non-members and guests. For reservations, contact RCA's headquarters: Radio Club of America, PO Box 621074, Littleton, CO 80162; tel. 303-948-4921.

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About the Armstrong Medal:

The Armstrong Medal was established in 1935 as the Radio Club of America's first award, and it remains the foremost honor that the Club conveys. In the 40 times that the medal has been awarded, it always was given to members. RCA is making an exception this year in presenting the medal to Walter Cronkite. The medal is given in recognition of an important contribution to radio art and science.

Maj. Edwin H. Armstrong, for whom the medal is named, served RCA as its president from 1916 to 1921, and he continued to serve for 20 years or more as a director. Armstrong was devoted to RCA, and he has many admirers among Club members to this day.

Armstrong is known in particular for four patented inventions: the regenerative receiver, the superregenerative receiver, the superheterodyne receiver and frequency modulation. The last two continue to underpin modern radio communications, wireless telecom and broadcasting. The four inventions are named in concentric lettering near the edge on the medal's face.

About RCA:

The Radio Club of America is the world's oldest radio communications society, founded in 1909 in New York City to promote cooperation among those interested in the advancement and scientific study of radio communications. Formed by a small group of dedicated radio amateurs and experimenters nearly a century ago, the Radio Club of America counted among its early members the best in the radio communications industry: Maj. Edwin H. Armstrong, David Sarnoff, Louis Hazeltine, John V. L. Hogan, Paul Godley and Allen B. DuMont, to name just a few -- these pioneers shaped the industry. Today the RCA is composed of modern pioneers, advancing the field of radio communications. Members also join the RCA to network with other industry professionals, raise money for scholarships and to record radio communications history so that future pioneers may continue to build on the Club's strong foundational cornerstone. For more information, please visit <http://www.radioclubofamerica.org>.

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Editors: Photographs of Andy Rooney; John S. Belrose, Ph.D.; and the Armstrong Medal are available upon request. Contact Don Bishop at 913-322-4569; dbishop@usa.com.

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