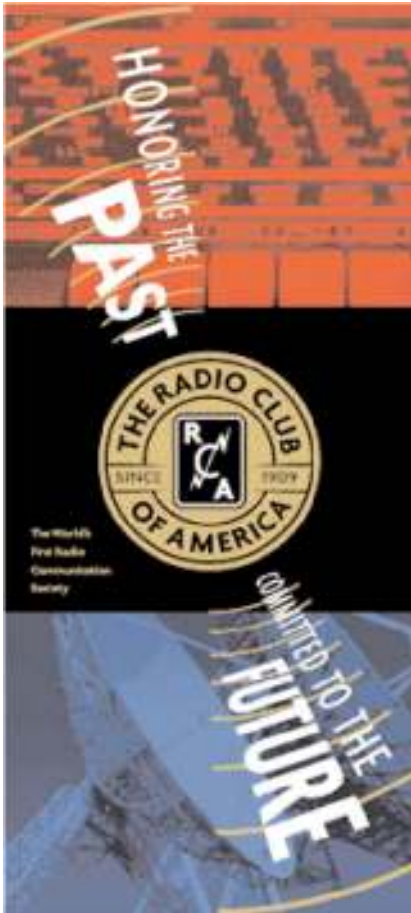




May Online



Welcome to the **Radio Club of America e-newsletter**. Besides bringing you news, updates and other interesting information, the Club believes this will become a community-building vehicle for you and other Club members that you can pass on to others.

Radio Club of America - 1st Annual Texas Event

The first annual Radio Club of America "Texas Event" was held April 17 in Waco, in conjunction with the annual Texas APCO Conference. The Texas APCO board and its officers were supportive of all of the Radio Club activities at their conference.

The Radio Club was asked to assist with technical sessions at the Texas APCO annual conference. The Texas APCO chapter has lost many of its technical members over the past several years, so the Radio Club and several of its Texas members assisted in providing technical sessions at the conference as well as promoting the event to the state's technical public-safety community in Texas. As a group, we were successful in bringing numerous technical people to the Texas APCO conference.

Our goals for the Texas Event were to promote the Radio Club of America, to increase our membership and to raise funds for scholarships. We believe we were successful in all three categories. Texas APCO gave the Radio Club booth space at no cost. We were also provided with space for our dinner at no cost plus a check for \$100 to be applied to the Radio Club Scholarship Fund. Texas APCO has promised it will be even more next year.

We were fortunate this year to have committee assistance from Nancy Smith and Joe Hanna. We, of course, could not have made it happen without the help of Karen Clark and Mercy Contreras, although the individual who did all of the work and planning was Karen Hollingsworth. We were able to get committee commitments from a few others for next year's event, including that of Liz Maxfield and Alan Leffler, who both live in Austin, Texas.

The sponsors for this year's event were Raytheon JPS, DH Marketing, Biby Publishing, Mission Critical Communications, Bickford Vehicles, Entrée Wireless, Specialty Tower Lighting and The Hunt Group. As a result of the success of this year's event, we already have commitments for sponsors for next year's event.

As a result of all of this, the Texas APCO board has requested the Radio Club of America continue to be a part of its annual conference. We will continue to be of assistance with technical sessions and in promoting the event to the technical public-safety community in Texas. We will also continue with our RCA Texas Dinner at the annual Texas conference.

We also have been asked to consider providing a "Technical Symposium" prior to the annual RCA Texas Event Dinner, and we've set a goal for next year of doubling the attendance as well as the proceeds. We would have had 50 individuals at this year's dinner, had it not been for the weather on the East Coast and a last-minute meeting of a state agency.

Texas APCO has, and will continue to promote the Radio Club on its Web site as well as in its newsletters. It's also asked that we provide a flyer on our Texas Event for their booth at the International APCO in Baltimore this August.

There have no formal announcements for the 2008 event; however, we believe it will be in April in San Antonio.

--Carroll Hollingsworth, director, The Radio Club of America

Taliban Targets Afghan Cellular Provider

Reports from Afghanistan say GSM carrier Roshan has been threatened by the Taliban regarding its alleged ties with U.S. and Afghan officials, and their joint war on terror.

"In the past, the Taliban forbade kite-flying, and women were not allowed to participate in public at all," said CEO Karim Khoja during a keynote address at the annual Radio Club of America Awards Banquet in New York City last November (www.radioclubofamerica.org). Roshan, which reported more than a million subscribers in November 2006, covers 160 major towns and cities in 33 provinces in Afghanistan. At the time, it had 800 employees, with 23 percent made up of women, a giant leap in a Moslem country.

While never tipping his hand politically, Khoja added his carrier (whose name means "light" and "hope" in Pashto and Dari, Afghanistan's two main languages) has won "best marketing" and "best brand" awards for the Middle East and Africa from the GSM Association.

The Taliban reportedly said it will destroy Roshan's towers, charging the carrier with providing U.S. and Afghan military forces with Taliban phone numbers, which then are blocked and/or used to locate Taliban fighters. The carrier has 20 days to stop its alleged collaboration or the towers will come down.

So far, Roshan (one of the country's three wireless carriers) has kept mum on these threats, with nothing appearing in the press or on its Web site, and U.S. military officials say they have no "special relationship" with Roshan, other than be commercial wireless subscribers. While the U.S. military has a number of ways to communication if the Taliban makes good on its threat, the Taliban loses because it will be left only with satellite phones, which are much bulkier and also can be intercepted.

APCO Recognizes Proctor At April Dinner

Steve Proctor (F), executive director for the Utah Communications Agency Network (UCAN), was given the 2007 Leadership in Advocacy Award by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International at its Third Annual Public Safety Communications Leadership in Policy Awards Dinner at the Park Hyatt in Washington, D.C., April 19.

Proctor is a 37-year veteran of public-safety communications serving in many capacities. UCAN is a cooperative of state and local government agencies that have partnered to

construct and maintain a wide area communications system covering 12 counties in Utah. The system supports public-safety communications for more than 125 agencies and 30 E911 dispatch centers. It also provided RF communications for its public-safety agencies and the 2002 Olympic and Para-Olympic Winter Games; during this three week time frame the system processed over 10 million calls.

He also is active in national issues, serving as APCO National President from 1994-95. He is a member of the SAFECOM Executive Committee, which is raising the awareness of interoperability requirements nationwide, and he has served on many committees and groups concerned with spectrum allocation and interoperability for public-safety agencies. Proctor has long been a champion of public-safety communications and interoperability, and he continues to support and foster any activities that promote that cause.

Others receiving awards at the April dinner included Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), who was given the Leadership in Legislative Service Award; FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps, who received the Leadership in Advancing Communications Policy Award; and James M. Assey Jr., Democratic senior counsel for communications and media issues on the Senate Commerce Committee, who was given a Special Recognition Award.

Harris, Cooper Cited For GreatCall Achievement

Arlene Harris (F), CEO of cellular handset and service provider GreatCall, and co-founder and cellphone pioneer Marty Cooper (F), vice president of the Radio Club of America, are the proud owners of an "Andrew Seybold Choice Award" for "Best New Company," given at an invitation-only dinner at CTIA Wireless 2007 last April in Orlando.

GreatCall offers Jitterbug phones with user-friendly, 24/7 operator service for a uniquely simplified cellphone experience. GreatCall's vision is to connect people with family and friends when they are away from home by providing a simple phone and personalized services that work the way they want them to. The company's support and systems are centered on simplicity, personalization and an emphasis on convenience and comfort.

"In a field of formidable innovations and top-notch companies, we're honored that the Andrew Seybold team recognizes our contribution in bringing simplicity and ease-of-use to wireless consumers," said Harris at the ceremony. "Complex devices - so prevalent today - leave many people with 'function fatigue,' inhibiting a large segment of the population from enjoying the safety and convenience that cell phones can offer. Jitterbug is a positive alternative: a simple, straightforward mobile experience that allows customers to adopt at their own pace."

Other Andrew Seybold Choice Award recipients were Disney Mobile for "Disney Mobile" and Verizon Wireless for "Field Force Manager."

"Each of this year's award winners has made significant progress in simplifying the user experience, which is critical to expansion in the wireless industry," said Seybold. "The winning companies have developed and earned an edge that helps them attract and retain customers in this competitive industry; innovation is what keeps them ahead, and it is what drives continued progress from firms throughout the wireless sector."

A LOOK AT THE FRISBIE MUSEUM

Ron Frisbie (F) has rare Marconi wireless communications apparatus as part of a collection he displays in a museum at his home in Akron, Pa. I telephoned Ron to speak with him about the museum, and I learned that he opened it more than 10 years ago. He specializes in early wireless and battery sets. So far as I know, Ron's museum is mostly unknown to other Club members. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to let you in on what seems to be a little bit of a secret. At least, I didn't find published information about the museum anywhere I looked on the web.

Ron has been an RCA member since 1988, and he was elevated to Fellow in 1995. He received the Ralph Batcher Memorial Award in 2006. Ron is vice president of the [Antique Wireless Association](#).



Let's have a look at the Frisbie Museum, owned and operated by RCA member Ronald E. Frisbie in Akron, Pennsylvania. Ron opened the museum in 1993.

Ron has been involved in the telephone business for 60 years. He still is a member of the board of directors at the telephone company from which he retired in 1992, and he serves on three of its committees. He told me he serves on two advisory boards at a nearby university, too. In service to a scholarship fund, he administers a program that draws as many as 300 applications annually that he has to evaluate. Ron also plays in a Glenn Miller-style band. The band played two engagements the Friday and Saturday before I had my longest talk with him about his museum.

Moreover, Ron is involved with antique cars, and as he likes to put it, he has grandchildren nearby, and "there's always a bicycle that needs fixing."

On top of this, his museum has a steady parade of visitors, from individuals to school groups.

I'm telling you this so you'll understand why I'm not including more photos of the museum. Ron doesn't have time to take many photos. He took a few snapshots, and I thank him for it. I'm including several photos Ron sent, a picture of [Al Grebe](#) that was taken when he visited the museum, and photos that Max de Henseler sent me. That's the best we can do until perhaps *you* visit the museum and take some pictures to send me.



Flags of Italy, United Kingdom and United States—countries where Guglielmo Marconi worked—welcome visitors.

Alfred H. Grebe Jr., an RCA member since 1953 who lives in Richmond, Virginia, visited Ron's museum, and I talked with him about it. "It's very nice, a two-story affair, built in his back yard especially as a radio antique museum," Al said.

Al's father was in the radio manufacturing business. The Radio Club gives an award named the Alfred H. Grebe Memorial Award in recognition of excellence in manufacturing. Al said that Ron has several Grebe radios in his museum.



**Alfred H. Grebe Jr., admiring
Ron Frisbie's rare Grebe
Radio model CR-10.**

Referring to the photo above, Ron said, "This is a very rare Grebe CR-10 receiver made in 1922. It resembles a phonograph and did not sell very well because the public wanted a radio that did not look like an old phonograph. Notice the cut-out grille work that says 'Grebe Radio'."

Al has visited Ron's museum, and he added: "The last time I visited, I loaned Ron my father's diary from his sea voyage to the Far East in 1912 as a wireless operator. Ron doesn't keep it on display all the time; he keeps it in a fireproof safe and displays it under glass on special occasions."

I asked Al what impressed him about Ron's museum. "It's very well organized. It's a fantastic thing for a man to do on his own. It must have cost a few dollars to have that museum built. He had run out of room for everything he was collecting, and he decided he had better get rid of it or build a museum for it," Al said.

Now let's hear from Ron himself. Here is some of a conversation I had with him last year. Ron was generous with his time twice, first for the interview, and second to review my transcript and make extensive handwritten notations. Nevertheless, the responsibility for

any errors is mine, not Ron's, and not the Club's.



Ronald E. Frisbie

What is your earliest memory involving radio?

I was born in 1922. At age 3, I remember my father building a one-tube radio set. He put the earphones on my ears and wanted me to listen to the music. In 1931 at age 9, I built my own one-tube radio. I experienced the same thrill that my father had back in 1925 when I picked up WOWO in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

What part of radio interests you?

I was always interested in the technical aspects of radio -- building them, repairing them and listening to shortwave. In 1942, after nearly completing two years of college, I enlisted in the Army. I agreed to have all my radio gear taken to the attic because my grandmother was coming to live with us and would take over my bedroom. When I returned home in 1946, not only was grandmother gone, but my radios were gone as well because my folks had decided to clean out the attic.

Where did you start work?

For a short time after returning home from WWII, I had my own garage where I did engine overhauling. Besides radio, I had always liked old cars. At age 13, I purchased a 1928 Model T Ford for \$4. This interest continues even today, with a 1928 Model A and a '59 TR3 and parallels my interest in radio.

In 1947, I started working for a telephone company in the Scranton area of Pennsylvania. In 1953, I was employed by the Denver and Ephrata Telephone Company (D&E) in a management position. In 1973 I was

named vice president of operations, and in 1992 I retired as vice president, secretary, treasurer and assistant of the president.

I have been a director since 1983 and continue to serve on the board as a member of the Audit Committee, the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Strategic Planning and Review Committee. During the 59 years association with telephony, my proudest moment occurred on Aug. 1, 1998, when I was inducted into "Pennsylvania's Telephone Hall of Fame."

How did you start collecting radios?

We live in the flea market capital of the USA, and on a Sunday afternoon in December 1979, my wife Jan and I were visiting one of the larger flea markets near home when she asked, "Ron, what do you want for Christmas?" At the same time, I spotted a 1925, 5-tube, battery-operated radio like I had back in the late 1930s. In a second, all of my interest in radio returned, and the rest is history.



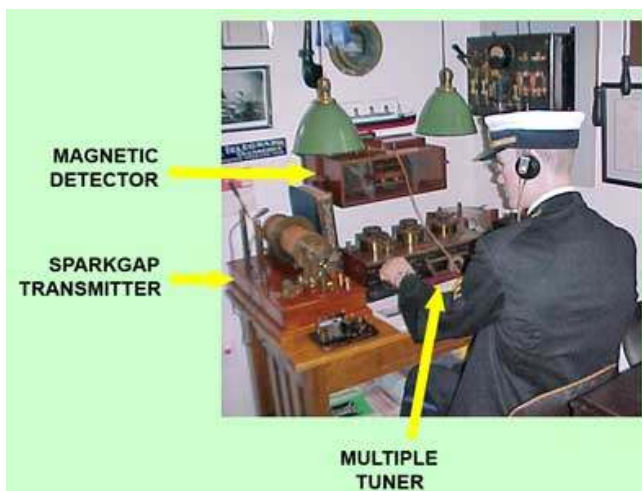
Jan Frisbie

Each Sunday thereafter would find me at 4 a.m. with a flashlight in hand, looking for radios at every flea market in the area. This went on until I had accumulated 2,000 sets. Many of the more valuable and rarer sets were purchased from collectors who were more interested in the money they could make by selling their prized possessions.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this great hobby is the many friendships that have been made through association: the late [Mel Comer](#), who convinced me that I should collect only the finest and the very early wireless equipment; [Dr. Max de Henseler](#) (RCA), who introduced me to Marconi's daughter Gioia Marconi Braga; James Kreuzer (RCA), a world renowned Marconi authority who made it possible for me to find much of my Marconi equipment; the late Bruce Kelley (RCA), founder of the [Antique Wireless Association](#) (AWA); the late Dr. Ralph Muchow (RCA); and Al Grebe Jr., son of the late Alfred H. Grebe, who manufactured some of the first radios ever made.

When did you build your museum?

Jan and I built most of the building by ourselves. It was her idea because the radios had taken over every room in our home. We started it in 1991 and completed it in 1992.



These examples of Marconi apparatus were manufactured in England, including the 1906 magnetic detector, the 1906 sparkgap transmitter and the 1907 multiple tuner. Notice the port hole with the iceberg above the 'maggie.'

One corner of my museum is set up like the radio room of the *RMS Titanic*. A mannequin is seated at a desk, dressed like a Marconi wireless operator with his right hand on a key. This display of course is the main attraction in the museum and is the reason we have had visitors from all over the United States and several from Europe and even Japan.

Where do you keep the rest of the radios?

Until recently I had more than 500 stored in a warehouse for about 10 years. I was notified I had to vacate within 30 days. As a result, I found someone who would purchase the whole lot. Besides these, there are about 40 in our attic, 200 in our recreation room, 30 in our son's garage, and about another 100 in a storage area about a mile away.

When do you open your museum?

It's open usually by appointment or by a knock on the door. We have many school groups, service clubs and dignitaries that visit all year long.



What is it like, operating a small museum?

Sometimes my wife gets a little frustrated because we'll be having dinner, and someone knocks on the door to see the museum. Or maybe we'll have something planned for a weekend, and I say I can't go because a group is coming through. I drop whatever I'm doing to accommodate those who want to see the museum.

It's only 24 feet by 22 feet, two stories. I have a son who is an architect, and he designed the layout of the shelves. Everyone says it's marvelous, and he deserves the credit for the layout.



This 1928 scanning disc TV receiver and an original Felix the cat were used by NBC in 1928 to demonstrate TV reception. The cat was placed on a phonograph turntable and rotated to show motion. The receiver's front panel has been removed to show the scanning disc.

What's in your collection?

I have a mix of old and new radios. Most of the radios are older than 1924, but there are a few that date in the 1940s. The collection includes the following: 19 Atwater Kent breadboards, Amrads, Adams-Morgan, A-C Dayton, American Bosch, Arborphone, Bremer-Tully, Browning-Drake, Brunswick, Case, Chelsea, Chicago Lab, Clapp-Eastham, Colonial, Cotocoil, Crosley, Cutting & Washington, Dayfan, de Forest, Eagle, Echophone, Emerson, Erla, Eveready, Fada, Farnsworth, Federal, Freed-Eisemann, Freshman, General Electric, Garod, General Radio, Gilfilan, Grebe, Grunow, Hazeltine, homebrews, Kellogg, Kennedy, King, Kolster, Magnavox, Majestic, Michigan, Mohawk, Montgomery Ward, Murad, Murdock, Paragon, Pennsylvania Wireless, Philco, Reiss, RCA, Radak, Radio Shop, Splitdorf, Stromberg Carlson, Thermodyne, Thompson, Tri-City, Tuska, Valley Tone, Ware, Western Coil, Westinghouse, Workrite and Zenith.

Most of my interest lies with the very early radios. The Marconi set is 100 years old. It was made in London in 1907. Most of the radios in the display for the *Titanic* were made in 1906 or 1907.



Ron Frisbie, left, and Max de Henseler's wife Renate, right, with Gioia Marconi Braga, the younger daughter of Guglielmo Marconi and his first wife, Beatrice O'Brien Marconi. Max took this photo around 1985 in front of the United Nations in New York. Behind the three is the 'knotted gun sculpture' titled 'Non-violence.' Made by Carl Fredrik Reuterswaerd, the sculpture was given to the UN by Luxembourg.

-Article researched and submitted by Don Bishop, Contributor