



# Wisconsin Antique Radio Club

## Newsletter

February 2008



### *Officers:*

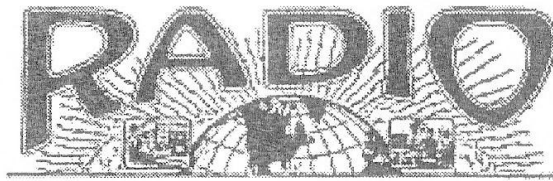
President – Bill Engaas  
Vice President – Terry Hanney  
Treasurer – Jim Gettelmann  
Secretary – Ralph Larsen  
Editor/Publisher – Ben Bensaid  
  
Web Site – Nick Tillich

### *Board Members:*

Steve Lange  
Dennis Schrank  
Jim Choroszy

Landmark Owner: Joe Halser

# 2008 Swap Meets!



Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7 AM to 11 AM  
(All Meets)

Location: The Landmark 1850  
5917 S. Howell Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI  
(Near Airport)

Questions? Call or E-Mail:  
Bill Engaas [REDACTED]

## Become a Member!

Membership Dues for 2008 will be \$15.00.

Selling at Swap Meets:

\$7.00 for members - \$10.00 for non-members.

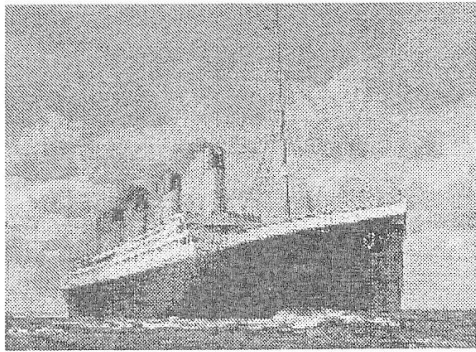
**We want to hear  
from you!**

Have Photos, Ideas,  
Tips you would like to  
share with other  
Antique Radio buffs?  
Contact Ben Bensaïd

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



# RMS Titanic - Radio Legacy



At the time of her launch, the Titanic represented the epitome of technological achievement. The sinking of the Titanic has been compared to the Challenger explosion. The value of wireless communication at

sea was dramatically demonstrated by the Titanic disaster in April 1912. Large ships were now being fitted with wireless sets and at least one operator was included among the crew. Titanic had two operators and the latest and most powerful equipment from the Marconi company. After she struck an iceberg and was holed below the water and sinking, the operators were able to send out distress calls to nearby ships and to receive word of their plans to assist. Marconi was celebrated as the saviour of the 700 people who were rescued from Titanic. In the aftermath of the Titanic tragedy, there was a flood of coverage by the press, and a series of investigations by the British and the U.S. governments. This resulted in the passage of the Federal Radio Act of 1912, which marked the first involvement in the regulation of radio by the United States government. Among other things, the act provided for the licensure of radio operators, the requirement for a separate frequency for distress calls, absolute priority for distress calls and for 24 hour radio service for ships at sea.

*"Have I done the world good, or have I added a menace?"*



Guglielmo Marconi  
(Radio Inventor)

# Radio Trivia

1. Who was the German physicist that discovered radio waves in 1888. *(Heinrich Hertz)*
2. The Audion Tube was a vacuum tube that amplified signals. Who invented it in 1906? *(Lee de Forest)*
3. Victor Hugo Emerson, creator of "Emerson" radios was once employed by which famous inventor? *(Thomas Edison)*
4. Civilian radio activities were suspended during which war, as the radio industry was taken over by the government. *(World War I)*
5. What is the abbreviation 'AM' ? *(Amplitude Modulation.)*
6. What topic was discussed on the first commercial radio broadcast? *(The Election Results of 1920)*
7. Which show began with the question: 'Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men'? *(The Shadow)*
8. What do the call letters WTMJ stand for? *(The Milwaukee Journal)*
9. Frank Angelo D'Andrea (born 1888, Bronx, NY) was the creator of what popular antique radio? *(The FADA)*
10. What was the name of RCA's dog who "hears his master's voice"? *(Nipper)*

**RADIO**



## *Lee de Forest: "Father of Radio"*

Lee de Forest was one of the most important of the inventors of radio and electronic technology, a formally educated scientist whose inventions touch every life. He is most known for his pioneering work with the vacuum tube, first as a detector of radio waves, then as an amplifier for long distance telephone calls, and finally as the major technology of the radio transmitter, still in use today.



During his lifetime, Lee de Forest received over 180 patents. But de Forest is most known for his contributions and improvements to the basic invention of all radio and television, the vacuum tube.

His first job was with the Western Electric Company in Chicago, where, beginning in the dynamo department, he worked his way up to the telephone section and then to the experimental laboratory. While working after-hours on his own, he developed an electrolytic detector of Hertzian waves.

Throughout De Forest's lifetime both scientists and patent attorneys hotly contested the originality of his more important inventions. In time, realizing that he could not succeed in business or manufacturing, he reluctantly sold his patents to major communications firms for commercial development. Some of the most important of these sales were made at very low prices to the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, which used the Audion as an essential amplification component for long-distance repeater circuit's patents.

*This text has been compiled from the biographies of De Forest*

# YOU'RE THERE WITH A CROSLLEY

Dismayed with the \$130 price tag for the radio receiver he promised to buy for his son's birthday Crosley decided to make his own. Upon successfully building a working set for only \$35, Crosley was quick to spot the mass market potential.

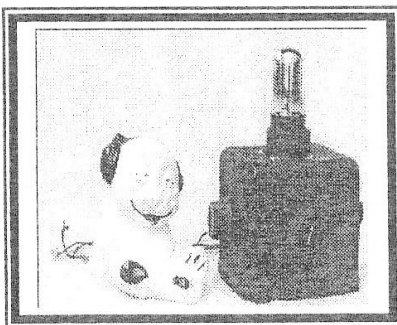


It was a simple idea - design a fully functioning radio, meticulously craft each unit with obsessive detail and precise accuracy, and of course add a measure of consideration for the wallet.

In 1920 Powel Crosley founded the company that pioneered radio broadcasting and mass market manufacturing around the world.

This simple idea led Crosley Radio to become the world's largest radio manufacturer while Powel Crosley became known as 'The Henry Ford of Radio.' His relentless fascination with mechanical devices, coupled with his intense desire for success, sent Crosley's career soaring.

Powel Crosley is most well-know for the production of mass market radios, and the creation of WLW - 'The Nation's Station' and the 500,000 watt tower he constructed that transmitted FDR's Fireside Chats - incidentally, whose signals were reported to have been heard as far away as Australia! By the mid 1900's he presided over a star-studded radio empire that featured such stars such as Rosemary Clooney, Red Skelton, Jack Benny and more.



In 1925, the Crosley Radio Corporation introduced a small 1-tube regenerative radio called the **Crosley Pup** that sold for \$9.75. This redesign of the Crosley Model 50, crammed into a small metal cabinet, became an overnight success due to its low price and very clever advertising campaign.

*This article has been compiled from the biographies of Crosley*

# Upcoming Events!

## ARCI – Antique Radio Club of Illinois



4/20/08 7AM-11AM Indoor Swap Meet

American Legion Hall 570 S. Gary Ave.

Carol Stream, IL 60188

6/8/08 DuPage County Fairgrounds 7AM

7/31-8/2/08 Willowbrook Holiday Inn 7PM-1PM

[www.antique-radios.org](http://www.antique-radios.org)

## Antique Radio Club – Michigan

4/26/08 Spring Swap Meet

Midland, MI

7/10-7/12/08 Extravaganza

Lansing, MI

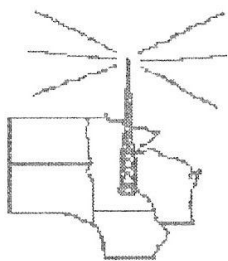


[www.michiganantiqueradio.org](http://www.michiganantiqueradio.org)

## NARC – Northland Antique Radio Club

2/3/08 Workshop and Outdoor  
Mini-Swap Meet

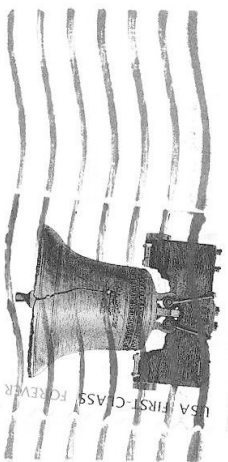
6/6-6/7/08 Radio Daze 2008



[www.geocities.com/northland.geo](http://www.geocities.com/northland.geo)

# ARC-WI

## Antique Radio Club-Wisconsin



**2008  
Swap Meet Dates  
Inside!**

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[REDACTED]  
Appleton, WI 54911

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