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Who didn't invent the radio?

It has fallen to me, and my over sized orifice, to deliver a presentation on the origins of radio. Initially I approached this with a certain amount of smugness. I felt certain that I knew the answer to this. Every schoolboy that has been paying attention in Science class will tell you that it was Guillermo Marconi who invented the radio. After all didn't he receive a Noble Prize in Physics in 1909 for its invention? But as I dig into this subject, I begin to have doubts.

There seems to be certain inventions that spring right out of the ground and suddenly dozens of people lay claim to their invention, in some respects, radio was like that. I'm willing to bet that there were Neanderthal men who dreamed of communicating over vast distances, but lacked a Radio Shack store where they could get the needed parts to fulfill their dreams. After all, radio is such a simple thing; even a caveman could do it, or so some would have it. You might think that I'm being flippant, but when you start investigating all of the people who MIGHT have invented the radio, the list becomes unbelievably long.

(continued next page)

UPCOMING Events for May 2025

- ◆ RARC Sunday Night 2 Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for May are:

May 4, 2025	Jon KD9WPD
May 11, 2025	Mark KB9OFK
May 18, 2025	David KD9EPN
May 25, 2025	Wayne K0WLO
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **May 6**...Monthly meeting at UU La Crosse, 401 West Ave
- ◆ **May 10**...Hams in the Park
- ◆ **May 20**...Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

Who didn't invent the radio? (continued)

Quite seriously, if all of those august doctors, dentists, mathematicians, physicists, engineers, electricians, mechanics, and plumbers who have had a hand in the invention of radio in a theoretical way, the result is down right encyclopedic. There are names that we all have heard, like Volta, Hertz, Faraday, DeForest, etc. The list goes on. If, however, we eliminate the Neanderthals as being purely speculative in their bid for the invention of the radio, then we must also eliminate those individuals who, although they did contribute to the foundation science that led to the first radio, cannot be, truthfully, awarded the title of "Inventor of the Radio." I say this, not to belittle their efforts, oh no, I say this because now days in order to patent some thing, one needs to make detailed working drawings and even a working model of the device in order to be granted a patent. This wasn't always the case.

There was a time when all that was needed to patent something was a technical description of a device or process and a patent would be granted by the patent office. Thus a number of individuals in the past were granted patents that were so broad in their description of the device or process that they were attempting to patent that they could easily overlap many devices or processes not even dreamed of by the inventor applying for that patent. This

made lots of work for patent attorneys and often times made historical records very muddy indeed.

Whether it was the intent of those seeking a patent to encompass areas beyond the scope of their intended invention to lay claim to the rights to ideas that others had previously had but hadn't patented, or if this was merely an instance of the inventor not really sure of where his idea would lead him and wanting to cover his bases in advance of the competition is another point of conjecture.

If we use the evidence from the patent records, and we eliminate the somewhat spurious tangential claims of some of the claimants, the list narrows considerably. Even then, there are a lot of grey areas, which could be fish or fowl depending on one's point of view. It becomes a nationalistic competition to some extent, and a personality contest as well. One thing is certain; the answer to this quarry is far from obvious. In fact, it may not be able to be solved at all, as too much time and distance has taken place since the inception of the idea of "wireless telegraphy." Perhaps like many things in life, we are forced to accept our conclusions based on faith alone.

73 Carl kc9hds



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings all well here is the end of April and here we are into May and there are some good things coming starting with our next program night meeting I had made arrangements with Don Wilbanks AE5DW from Amateur Radio News-line to be our guest speaker via Zoom if you know of anyone that would be interested in joining in the meeting please invite them it would be great to have a good turnout both in person and on Zoom and this morning I just received an email from Don that he is good to go and will join us at 7:00 on Zoom.

We are planning a Hams in the park May 10th at the Upper Hixom Pump Track behind the National Weather

Service office up on the bluff in June on June 21st.

We have our Swap-fest at the Onalaska American Legion Hall and of course June 28 and 29th we have Field Day we will be at E2852 County Road OK in Chaseburg, WI.

Our Club Picnic will be July 15th we have Shelter number 2 at Veterans Memorial Park in West Salem so it's great to see some good events coming up for the Club I hope to see everyone at the next club meeting either in person or on Zoom until then 73

David Peters KB9EWG





RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST

JUNE 21, 2025

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM



- Door Prizes
- Flea Market
- Buy—Sell—Trade
- Food Vendor
- Handicap Accessible
- Talk in 146.97



VE Test Session at 9:00 AM



Advanced Table Reserve And Entrance Form

Entrance Fee _____ x \$5.00 = _____

Table Reserve _____ x \$10.00 = _____ [Does not include Entrance Fee]

Limited electrical hook-up available on a 1st come 1st serve. Indicate here if you are requesting electrical hook-up (Checking box does not guarantee availability of an electrical receptacle)

Advanced form will be held at the entrance table for you. No pre-fest mailings.

Mail form and fee to:
RARC
Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

Name _____ Call _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Nuggets

Save the date

Saturday, June 21, 2025: Swapfest

Saturday, June 28 to Sunday June 29: Field Day



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



Wanted: Articles for The Key

Please submit your Article by the 26th of the month and include "The Key" in the subject line.

Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net. Please Include "The Key" in the subject line.

Looking for items for this space

CLUB INFORMATION



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 621

Onalaska, WI 54650

- * The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club by the 28th of each month. The newsletter focuses on news, announcements and activities of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. It may also consist of news and information of interest to the Amateur Radio community as a whole. Guest editorials and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome. Contribution articles should be submitted NLT the 26th of the month. Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Scott Cross KB3MKD@arrl.net. Please include the word "Key" in the subject line of your submission.
- * The Riverland Amateur Radio Club maintains a website at rarc.qth.com. More information about the club can be found there as well as past copies of The Key.
- * RARC also maintains a Facebook page where members add information and share their Amateur Radio adventures. Please friend us at Riverland Amateur Radio Club—RARC.
- * RARC maintains a repeater that is located on the WXOW television tower above La Cresent, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.
- * RARC holds a weekly 2meter net on Sundays at 8:00 PM on the 146.970 repeater.
- * Trustee Meeting is held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Las Margaritas at 5:30 PM, all club members are welcome.
- * Program evening is held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM, elmer session at 6:30 PM at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 401 West Avenue in La Crosse.
- * Weekly "Breakfast Club" Ragchew on the 146.970 repeater on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Stop by to say "hi".

Below are listed your RARC 2025 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email... kb9ewg@gmail.com

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