

# VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #72

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2013



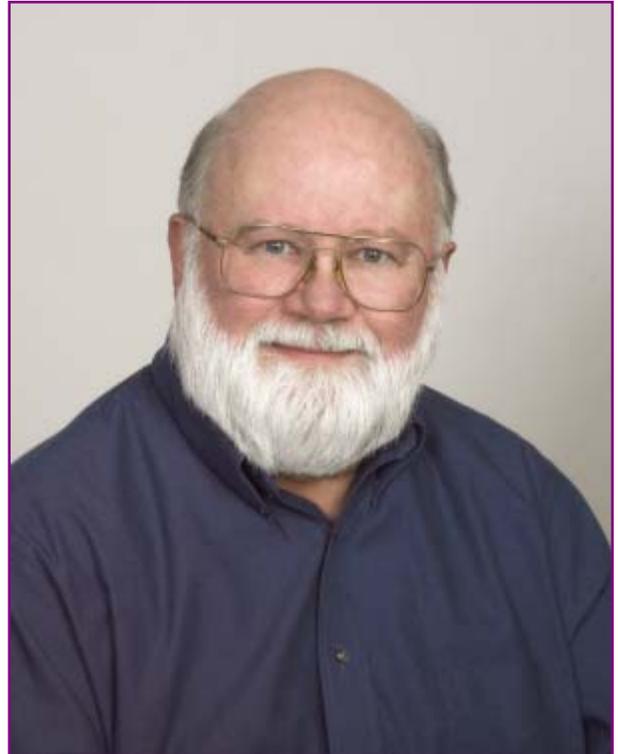
## VWOA AWARDS LUNCHEON 2013

was celebrated Sunday, June 9, 2013 at:

DON PEPE RESTAURANT  
844 Mc Carter Highway  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Our Guest Speaker was John Dilks K2TQN, who is a Historian in the field of Radio. During the late summer of 1999 he was contacted by ARRL and asked if he would like to write a radio column about vintage ham radio. He jumped at the chance. Starting with the January 2000 issue, the Old Radio column began. This column has evolved into a radio history column as well as featuring vintage ham radios and stations.

After retirement from Lucent Technologies, he joined the staff at the Egg Harbor Township Middle School, a large 1200 student school. There he was the Distance Learning Coordinator, School Webmaster, Computer Support person, and provided Technology Support for the teachers. He also ran an open



## John Dilks K2TQN, Historian

computer lab equipped with 33 computers, which was busy all day long. The schedule kept him occupied, and he loves working with this age group.

He has been able to introduce ham radio there and has set up a ham radio station. He has also introduced the students to Spark Transmitters with live demonstrations. This is coordinated with social studies classes learning about the sinking of the Titanic. He also brought the students up to date by showing various advances in radio technology, right up to cell phones.

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John Dilks presentation on June 9, 2013 showed many photographs of Ed Raser W2ZI and John spoke about the personal history of Ed Raser, W2ZI, Wireless Pioneer as follows:

Ed Raser began experimenting with coherer detecting devices as early as 1908. At the age of nine, Ed joined up the next year with Hugo Gernsback's Wireless Association of America. By 1910 he had worked a distance of ten miles with a quarter-inch spark coil, homemade tuner, a piece of silicon mineral, and a 75-ohm telephone receiver. The call letters were then "RE", his initials in reverse.

After the Radio Law of 1912, he made his appearance at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and took the examination for a First Grade license. He recalled that the license was signed by a Lt. S. S. Payne, USN, as the Navy was the only government agency authorized to conduct examinations at that time. His brand new call letters were then 3NG. By 1915 he was working stations 400 miles away with a 1/2 KW Packard transformer and homemade rotary gap, using only a galena mineral detector, loose coupler and Brandies phones for receiving.

The impending war in Europe put an end to his experimenting. So not to be completely frustrated, he enlisted in Navy as a wireless operator, and served a three-year hitch aboard various ships and at shore stations.

During this period, while serving on detached duty at the Cape May Naval Air Station, he installed and test hopped the first E. J. Simon 1/4 KW, 500 cycle spark sets ever to go aloft in an airplane, and using long trailing wire antenna.

Ed received his First Grade Radiotelegraph license before War I. After his Navy service he continued as a commercial wireless operator at both land and shipboard stations. In 1919 he was operator aboard the coaster SS Lake Strabo, KEBR, on runs between New England and Gulf ports. In 1920 he transferred to the new collier SS Ethan Allen, KUJQ, which carried a 2 KW Federal arc set. On its maiden voyage to Balboa and Chile he maintained contact over most of the trip with Charleston Navy Yard, NAO, and Colon, Panama, NAX. There being few stations along the way able to receive the Ethan Allen's arc signals. During his maritime days he worked for such early operating companies as Kilbourne and Clark, Marconi Co., and Tropical Radio Telegraph Co.

Ed Raser lived and worked a long life with radio. He became one of the first historians and knew and communicated by letter, and on the air, gathering radio history from many other pioneers. He was a founder of the Antique Wireless Association and had a large wireless museum at his home, one of the first. His collection lives on at other museums today. Honorary VWOA Member Ethel Johnson shared her memories of her association with Ed Raser

WVOA President Alan Ehrlich made a WVOA Historic Preservations Award Plaque presentation to John Dilks K2TQN for graciously agreeing to be the main speaker at the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual WVOA Awards Luncheon.



John H. Dilks K2TQN

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As part of the 88<sup>th</sup> WVOA Awards Luncheon WVOA Director Miles Desmond MacMahon PhD gave a talk and slide photo presentation on the Origins and New Rededication of the Battery Park WVOA Wireless Memorial Monument and it was presented as follows:

One aerial photo shows the Wireless Monument in Battery Park as it once fit into the Manhattan scene.



The Wireless Operators Memorial was dedicated in on May 12, 1915.

It was originally proposed in 1912 as a tribute to Jack Phillips, the wireless operator who was lost in the sinking of RMS Titanic.

It was financed by members and companies of the Maritime Industry and especially by the individual contributions of radio operators who wanted to support recognition of a hero of their profession. In the years between 1912 and 1915, nine other operators were identified as having behaved heroically as they gave their lives in summoning aid to their sinking ships. Their names and the details of their loss were also carved into the stone of the memorial. The building of the monument focused the attention of the radio operators who sailed on the seas of the world. During the fund raising and publicity about the installation of the memorial, a bond came to be developed among those who were members of the unofficial fraternity of the key and the code.

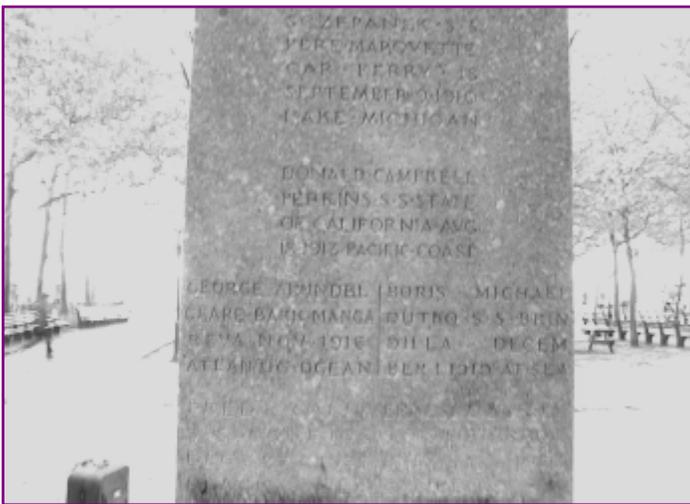
It was this sense of community that led to the formation of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association in 1925.

Shortly after the dedication the official photographer of the City took a photograph that showed the monument in front of the New York Barge Office.



This photo was recently found in the City Archives.

There were also newspaper accounts of the planning and erection of the monument. One of these was an article in the Brooklyn Eagle which included a sketch. Willa Cather, a leading author of the day, was touched by a visit to the memorial and wrote a magazine piece that described the circumstances of each of the ten losses. A photo of the monument accompanied the stories but the state of photo reproduction rendered it crude and difficult to interpret. However, it is clear that the names were originally carved directly into the stone.



When carved names completely filled the front of the stone, Stephen F. Szczepanek (Wireless Operator on the Pere Marquette # 18) became the first name to be engraved on the back. Each name, as you can see took a lot of space. Jack Phillips Radio Officer of the RMS Titanic gave his life on April 15, 1912 and was the first name initially carved, but was put second when, sometime about 1930, names on the monument, including six on the back were engraved on bronze plaques and attached to a sheet that was installed by covering over the original front names. You can see this in the badly focused photo with Lee DeForest.



Newer plaques were installed on the sides and on the lower back. Radio Officer Steven F. Szczepanek and the five other carved names were never covered and thus appear twice on

the monument. At a later time, perhaps, because of weathering, the large front plate was replaced by a single plaque with the names directly engraved in the metal. This can be seen if you compare the front shown with Lee DeForest and then with the modern photos of the Wireless Monument.



Many WVOA Members saw and heard this piece of history on the Wireless Monument for the first time at this WVOA Luncheon.

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WVOA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard T. Kenney started the next portion of the WVOA Luncheon with the introduction of Ray Maurstad daughter, Deborah. He provided us with a review of the Introduction he gave last year when Ray was awarded the Marconi Memorial Medal of Achievement as follows:

***Raymond B. Maurstad W3HUV***

***04/04/28 Born in St.Paul, MN 1943 Box-car run-away. Electrician's Helper Puget Sound Navy Yard at Bremerton WA. Met Maid Marion at U.S.O. teen-hop dance.***

***1944-45 U.S. Maritime Service training; Catalina Island boot camp and Gallups Island Radio Training School, Boston Harbor MA.***

***1945 Chief R/O (age 17) Liberty Ship (SS David Lubin) in convoy invasion of Okinawa.***

***1945 On SS North Sea, Passengers Seattle, Ketchikan, Juneau, Sitka***

***1946 On SS Typhoon, returning troops from Philippines to U.S.***

***1946 A.A.C.S. On Wake Island Pan Am Radio Op Call letters NCL5.***

***1947 Northwest Airlines Radio Opr. Mpls/StPaul and Grand Forks, ND.***

***1947-49 Ships in Atlantic and Caribbean as R/O.***

***1948 Cable Clerk Western Union St.Paul MN/Married Maid Marion.***

***1949-50 In Korea U.S.Govt mission with Marion. Caught in invasion by N.Korea; as ham HLICE sent first alert to Gen.MacArthur in Daichi Building Tokyo. Marion evacuated. Murray born in Tokyo.***

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*1951-57 Ships in Atlantic & Caribbean as R/O. 3 years sailing to/from Africa.Crocodile Safari. Gorongoza Safari.*

*On July 25, 1956 I was the first Radio Officer to respond to the S.S. Andrea Doria and M.V. Stockholm in collision; 4th rescue ship alongside Doria. (Tanker SS Robert E. Hopkins)*

*Deborah born in Brooklyn NY. Mitchell born in East Meadow L.I. NY 1957-60 Transmitter tech, Press Wireless L.I. NY.*

*1960 Transmitter tech KOOL/CBS TV Ch10. Phoenix AZ. Disk Jockey at KBUZ Radio Mesa, AZ.*

*1960-1989 RemRand Univac,Sperry Univac,Sperry,Sperry Univac, UNISYS.*

*1960 Founder: Amateur Radio Club, Gillette Hospital for Crippled Children.*

*1963 Univ of MN 3 yrs Engrg night school.*

*Matthew born in Mpls.1963*

*1989-1996 Ships in Pacific and Gulf/East Coast as Radio Officer for Texaco and Sabine Transportation.*

*1996 Retired at age 68.*

*Four grand-daughters, two grand-sons and three great grand-sons. Operate CW,SB I am on 7026khz/cw every morning at 0500 thru 0645. I also monitor 14300/usb Maritime Mobile net from time to time.*

*W3HUV is ex: HL1CE, W2JNA, EL0C, ZD4CE, 9G1CE, W0BNM, Also portable OQ in the Belgian Congo (1957)*

*Wanna chat ? Love to ragchew ! Drop me an E-Mail to schedule.*

*The book: "SOS KOREA 1950" has finally been published (Dec. 2002). The book is available from the author, W3HUV, by sending your check or money order for USD \$20 to R. B. Maurstad 12082 Goldenrod St NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448. You will be sent an autographed book via Priority Mail. EMail raymaur@peoplepc.com Rev: W3HUV - July 16, 2005 “*

WVOA guest Deborah, accompanied with her Husband, gave a passionate and heart warming talk on her formative years of interfacing with her Dad during the time he was plying the oceans of the world with short intervals of family renewals during that time. The prepared Agenda of daughter Deborah was as follows:

- Introduction
- Growing up with a Ham Dad
- Dad's accomplishments
- His Final Thank You

A loving, sincere tribute from a proud Daughter to a departed Father was enjoyed by all attending the luncheon.

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The WVOA radio club participated in the 2013 Museum Ships Special Event Weekend held June 1st and 2nd. They set up Alan Ehrlich's Yaesu FT-990, an HF 100 watt rig on the Lightship AMBROSE which is docked at the South Street Seaport Museum on the East River in New York City. We used our WVOA memorial call sign W2AQ.

The call belonged to our late VWOA Director and FCC Chief Engineer of the New York District, Henry Paulson. We used one of the boats wire antennas and made many contacts including the club station on the USS WISCONSIN in Norfolk, VA. Band conditions on 20 and 17 meters weren't the greatest but we did make a contact in Bermuda.

Over 100 museum ships had registered to take part. Check out the web site Museum Ships Weekend Event for more info, [www.nj2bb.org/museum/](http://www.nj2bb.org/museum/) . A short list includes 4 Liberty ships, 2 Victory ships, 3 Lightships, 2 LST's and military museums including Frigates, Destroyers, Battleships, Cruisers and 4 Aircraft Carriers. 26 Submarines are listed from US and Foreign countries including Russia, Italy, Germany, Sweden, France and Canada and one Zeppelin Airship Museum in Tonder, Denmark.



The picture shows our **President Alan Ehrlich WA2GDQ** in the AMBROSE radio shack.

His personal ham rig had to be hand carried onboard.

We don't own our own station. We are however OPEN to a tax deductible donation of a suitable ham transceiver by a VWOA Member, for use on the AMBROSE. It would be available of course, for operating by our membership. Contact our Treasurer, Mike Shaw, for recommendations and details at [k2lre@aol.com](mailto:k2lre@aol.com) .

----- Original Message -----

From: [museum](mailto:museum@nj2bb.org)

To: Alan Ehrlich

Sent: Sunday, June 09, 2013 3:38 PM

Subject: Ship Certificate for AMBROSE

Hi Alan,

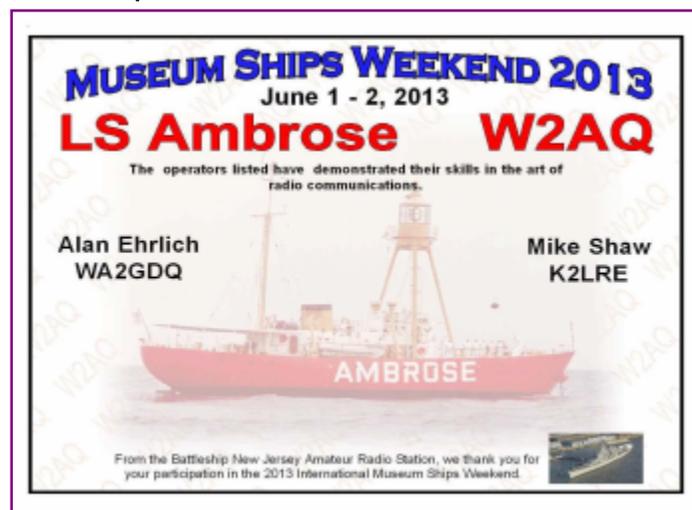
Attached is the ship participation certificate for the LS Ambrose.

Hope to have you back on the air next year.

73

Margaret KB2BRR

Battleship NJ Team



## *WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER*

Governors Island Building Is Blown Up By 250 Pounds of Explosives on June 9, 2013

Governors Island's Building 877, once an apartment complex for the families of Coast Guard officers who lived on the former military base, was blown up early Sunday morning to make way for 38 acres of the Island's new park and sports fields, officials said Tuesday.

The pile of concrete which will amount to about 25 feet of debris will be recycled back into the overhauled grounds,

"When you're playing softball on these fields, enjoying the new outdoor space on this spot, the building will still, in a way, be here" a New York City Official remarked.

Governors Island was used by the VWOA as a very well attended meeting place of the VWOA Annual Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting for many years before it was closed down by the Federal Government.



ROSE & JOHN DZIEKAN and JOLANDA KINTZER



JOHN CHOOLJIAN & VALENTINA SIDERNKO



JOHN FAUSKE & CAPTAIN OLAV AUNE



LIV AUNE, HENNY FAUSKE & DONNA KENNEY



J. MICHAEL SHAW reads the financial report



MASTER OF CEREMONIES RICHARD T. KENNEY INTRODUCED DEBORAH MAURSTAD TO VWOA as well as reminding 2013 VWOA attendees of the 2012 Award of the Marconi Memorial Medal of Achievement given to Raymond Maurstad



DEB MAURSTAD & HUSBAND



REV. DOUGLAS S. STIVISON gives the VWOA INVOCATION

We at the VWOA Newsletter would like to hear from you and try to pass along to the rest of the VWOA Members stories of events that you have experienced and that you feel the rest of the membership would enjoy hearing about. Send us a picture or two and we will try to include it in one of our Email Newsletters

We would prefer to hear from you by Email at:

[ftcassidy@optonline.net](mailto:ftcassidy@optonline.net)

or

[wenben@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wenben@nyc.rr.com)