



## CROSSTALK

### P R O G R A M

Bill Backman, our Program Chairman, has secured for our February meeting a very fb film showing the physical concept applied to the "Optical Maser." Being intrigued with words and wanting to know what certain words meant, I looked up the word "Maser" - definition (microwave amplification by stimulated emission of radiation). An electronic device that absorbs microwaves, infrared rays etc., as in a crystal, amplifies them and emits them in a narrow, very intense beam. I am sure that there are several members in our club who are unfamiliar with "Masers" or "Lasers" and here is your chance to learn about a unique and modern technique.

Your club is constantly trying to bring you abreast with modern Electronic Technology thereby offering you a very cheap education for the price of your membership to the G.C.A.R.C. Please take advantage of these programs, as a lot of time is consumed for your benefit bringing them to you. Be one of the members, who brings a visitor, to show your appreciation for the work put forth by your fellow members.

DR. MAHLON LOOMIS  
1826 - 1886  
Dentist & Inventor

Dr. Mahlon Loomis, born in Oppenheim, New York in 1826, was a practicing dentist in Washington, D. C. when he invented wireless in 1864, first demonstrated his system in 1869, obtained a U.S. Patent in 1872 and was granted a charter of incorporation for the Loomis Aerial Telegraph Co., in 1873. The Congress of the U.S. approved the incorporation application and it was signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant.

His 1866 experiments were conducted between two mountain tops, 18 miles apart in the Blue Ridge Mountains in the State of Virginia. His transmitting and receiving aeriels were supported by means of kites and were 600 feet in the air. The sending end of the system was powered by means of atmospheric charges and a signal was originated by means of discharging the sky wire to a ground connection. His receiver was equipped with an 'indicator', a form of galvanometer, to indicate the reception of the signal.

Following his demonstration, Loomis petitioned Congress for a grant of \$50,000 so as to continue and expand his work. After many months of debate and testimony, during which the 'Black Friday' financial panic occurred, this petition was indefinitely postponed. Other attempts to raise some working capital were defeated by two additional catastrophes, the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and the financial ruin to prospective backers of The Loomis. Loomis continued his experiments and his demonstrations relying on the earnings of his dental practice and an occasional lecture engagement before scientific bodies as a means of continuing his work.

In addition to his wireless invention, Dr. Loomis also distinguished himself in his profession of Dentistry in 1854 he had invented a denture, made of KAOLIN, and secured patents on this in the U.S., England and France. In addition, he patented three devices in other fields.

Dr. Loomis, his dental business neglected because of his preoccupation with his wireless work, and unable to secure financial help, left Washington and went to live with his brother George, in Terra Alta, West Virginia, where after conducting some additional wireless experiments, he died in 1886 and is buried in Terra Alta next to his brother.

In the field of Wireless, Mahlon Loomis achieved the following first:

1. First patent for a system of wireless.
2. First demonstration of wireless signaling.
3. First in history to employ 'spark' signaling.
4. First to employ a kite for antenna support.
5. First in history to employ a vertical antenna and ground.
6. First to employ balloons for antenna support.
7. First to specify an 'indicator' in his receiving system (now called "detector").
8. First to determine the value of standard electrical current his sending and receiving system (now called "grounded").

This dentist-inventor, Dr. Mahlon Loomis, is almost completely unknown in his own country and has been shamefully neglected by his nation and history. Other nations have gone to great lengths to secure for their champions the honor of being the originator of wireless. The USSR is the most vociferous in proclaiming their Alexander Popov as the "Inventor of Radio" and has published several books in Russian and English, to further their claim. To the general public, there is, of course, no other "inventor" of wireless but Marconi. Dr. Loomis' work was well under way in 1864, some 30 years prior to that of Popov or Marconi and, in fact, about 10 years before Marconi was born.

As has been mentioned, it is regrettable that the pioneering work of Mahlon Loomis has never been recognized to any extent by either the public or national government. Other than one or two roadside plaques, there has been no memorial erected in his honor. Only a very few historians of early wireless are at all familiar with his work.

The first book devoted to the Life and accomplishments of Dr. Mahlon Loomis is based on official records of Congress, the U.S. Patent Office, the personal notes and sketches of Dr. Loomis, and a large amount of research into such sources as old newspapers, and magazine accounts of his work. In addition, the writer's were fortunate in locating and securing the cooperation of a number of relatives and descendants of Loomis. Testimony to the validity of Loomis' work was located in the writings of some of the early wireless experts. In all cases, reference is made to the sources of all quoted material. The name of the book "Mahlon Loomis -- Birth of Wireless." The co-authors of this book Commander Thomas Appleby, USNR (retired) of Washington, D.C. and George M. Applegate of Oxford, N.J., formerly of the Bell System and Bell Telephone Laboratories, are both veteran radio men with an aggregate of some 117 years of experience in almost every phase of the art. They are also historians of early wireless, and each has written a number of articles in this field.

One of the chief reasons for their undertaking the preparation of this book was to lay to rest some of the misinformation which has appeared in past accounts and to establish once and for all, a body of authentic information which will serve as reference material for future historians.

For information on this book, write to:

Mahlon Loomis SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION  
P.O. Box 6312  
Washington, D. C. 20015

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Lost - One Golden Hour, Studged with 60 Diamond Minutes -  
No Reward, Lost Forever

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Scuttle Butt!

By: WA2NPD

1. K2JKA & WB2NNB both are now Amateur Extras - FB heard that WA4BMC is also studying for her Extra.
  2. WA2NPD - Finally made the big move to SSB, purchasing Ed Stetser's Apache & SB-10.
  3. W2YNR now back to part time work after a lengthy illness. vy fb.
  4. Heard that WB2YLL had a bout with illness sometime back. Hope your OK now, Will.
  5. W2CKX is on vacation. All the way down in W4 land.
  6. WN2BVW finally has his DX-60 on the air after a lengthy bout with his DX-60's illness.
  7. The club's 6 meter beam (mounted atop the club house roof) and WB2WKV's Gooney Box gave a 5 by 40 over 9 DB on the state police monitor down below. The club's 6 meter station is now QRT (W2KE sez he told us so! and so he did too!!!).
  8. W2SUA is also on the mend after a well publicized illness. Hi
  9. W2PLD worked and has QSL from Ti-2NA at San Jose, Costa Rica with 3 watts on 6 meter phones
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Thanks

My thanks to the various members who contributed toward this paper this month. We still have a lot more to hear from and it is only with your cooperation that we are able to make this the paper you want it to be.

W2PLD

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### TRAFFIC NET OPERATING

The New Jersey Emergency Phone & Traffic Net. meets at 3928 Mhz for the purpose of passing traffic in and out of the state and where third party traffic is permissible. The net opens at 23:00 GMT.

To have the net at maximum efficiency at all times, and to set a good example for other operators listening to our net, and to help our new members, please consider the following suggestions when the net is in session:

1. Stick to authorized phonetics (ICAO phonetics or Mers.)
2. Don't be too quick on the trigger. Wait a few seconds to prevent dual transmissions.
3. Do not recognize breakers when traffic is moving. NBS's should recognize breakers after traffic is cleared. This keeps the net clear.
4. Do not 'group count' on the air. It's not business-like.
5. Do not accept traffic when the routine looks ridiculous.
6. Do not waste time answering outside breakers for unimportant informals, etc. Recognize them after traffic is passed.
7. When the net is loaded, do not have too many call-ups, as members have to wait unnecessarily long to pass their traffic.
8. Do not sign your call letters every single transmission - Just say "over".
9. Keep transmissions short. The other guy is waiting.
10. Don't complain about interference; we can do very little about it.
11. Do not use phonetics on common words. Use phonetics only when there is a possibility of misunderstanding.
12. Unless you have emergency traffic, do not interrupt NBS with Break. It's poor practice and annoying.
13. The Net Manager has priority to break the net at all times, at his discretion, for reasons of correcting poor procedure, giving instructions, or for any other net business.
14. Do not use phrases like "Rodger, Dodger", etc. It isn't business-like.
15. Use the "pro" word "over". Don't say "BY" or "Standing By".
16. Don't accept traffic unless the message is complete in form. It must have a preamble or heading; a complete address and a signature.
17. Designate the destination of traffic on the first call-up.
18. When you are NCS, you have COMPLETE authority on the routing of traffic, and the handling of the net. Do not ask the other station his preference, as you are in charge.
19. The decision of NCS is final; he is running the show.
20. When checking in late, and you have to tune up, PLEASE do so a few Hzs to one side, then slide in on frequency with the final turned OFF. This avoids interference to the net operation.

I hope this will help you get your feet wet in the traffic handling in this state.

William Frambes NCS, N.J. POH.

QSL

A new and novel idea, for a meeting room, will be installed by the GCARC. A wall board is being installed upon which each and every member's personal QSL will be on display. Won't you come up and place it on the wall yourself? We have approximately 55 members. Wouldn't this make a wonderful membership display for visitors to our club? You may recognize a call that you worked or heard on the air not knowing the owner to be a fellow member of yours. So we WANT YOUR QSL AND SEE THAT WE HAVE IT. Your cooperation will make this very effective.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The club is giving out nice door prizes for any member's name who happens to be drawn out during his attendance at a meeting. Many useful articles are yours for the choosing. The lucky winner for the January meeting was your editor, Wally Martin W2PLD. I think they were breaking me in right so that I would get out a good paper for you.

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COME ON OUT

We need your attendance but don't want to harp on it all the time. Make yourself a monthly attendant and enjoy the fellowship with Club Members.

NEW MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that WN2BUL, Robert Kostic of Corkery Lane, Williamstown, N. J. is our latest new Associate Member of the Club.

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The following members have been assigned the various departments to report upon for our paper. Bill Bachman - Program; Doug Gehring - Skuttlebutt; Woody Franz - Technical; and Della Parker - Membership. This is only half of what we need -- four more reporters should round out our staff. The departments still open are DX and Operating, Director's Report; Nets and Contests; Correspondences and Exchange. Remember when you are serving on this staff, you are contributing towards the advancement of your club. You are an integral part and the means of helping to hold our Club together. Don't be bashful. Come forth and offer your services they will be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work for all.



Pet Peeve Dent.

When I was a small boy, I was taught that it was very impolite and highly discourteous to walk away from someone or a group of friends when they were conversing with you -- unless you properly excused yourself. Much to my consternation, in recent months, I have observed some of our club members walking out of our club meetings and during programs without a single word of courtesy proclaimed by them! Needless to say such actions are singularly disturbing to the club president, presiding over the meeting and exceptionally rude and mortifying to a speaker (often invited from outside the club) presenting a program. It hardly bears mentioning that such rudeness can hardly bring credit or do service to our club, particularly when attributes such as service and credit seem hard to come during recent club history.

Now the rebuttal to this will reverberate to the tune that "why should I have to sit through these dull, monotonous, non-stimulating proceedings, or, why should I continue to warm this chair seat with my posterior when the speaker and topic are from no-where?" "After all, I am a dues-paying member and this still is a free country and my time can best be utilized elsewhere." Granted, club business meetings, regardless of whether the club is G.C.A.R.C., Rotary, Lions, Masons, etc. are traditionally a necessary evil in many respects. I don't recall ever sitting through a business meeting anywhere at any time where at some time or other during the proceedings, my head didn't nod a bit. Granted, no one can ever be completely satisfied by a speaker or the subject. What's one man's meat, is another's poison etc. But, the point of this traffic is not to debate the merits or shortcomings of business meetings and programs. Our mission here is simply to remind some of you of the lessons in courtesy and etiquette that you presumably learned at an earlier age. If you feel you must leave during the business meeting, simply raise your hand and explaining to the president that you feel ill, or a previous engagement cannot wait etc. would certainly suffice. The same sort of procedure could be directed towards a speaker during a program accompanied by an adequate apology. Certainly, such action would hardly be necessary in a meeting where the audience numbers 500 or 1000 people, but in a small group such as ours, a single body leaving the room is rather conspicuous. Besides, ours is a closer knit group than say the town meeting of the air, etc.

Traditionally, Hams are characterized as usually being bright, self-reliant, gregarious, and individualistic. Let's make sure we don't tack-on rudeness to our epithet.

de WA2NFD

Editor's Note: Many of us have been guilty of the things pointed out in Doug's editorial, probably without being aware of it. Let's see if we can prevent by this article and improve our conduct. These are the type articles we want you members to hand in to the paper. See how interesting they are to you and by the way, which yours would be to them!