



An Outline History of the Society of Wireless Pioneers

1968 - February

Bill Breniman and 44 others meet to form organization of professional wireless/ radio operators. R. H. Johnstone is named its first President.

1968 - October

Richard H. "Dick" Johnstone, K6FQ, inaugurates first SOWP amateur radio net. He became a Silent Key October 9, 1972..

1970 - 1971 Frank Geisel [FG] is Society's second President.

1972 - 1976 Eben K. Cady [EB] serves as our third President.

1975 - May

Bill Breniman receives award as SOWP founder and editor/publisher from DeForest Pioneers, Inc. Later in 1975 a similar award is presented to Mr. Breniman by the Antique Wireless Association.

1976 - June

SOWP Articles of Incorporation are approved by State of California.

1976 - 1980 Founder Bill Breniman [CX] is 4th SOWP President.

1977 - Spring

First issue of SPARKS JOURNAL is released, edited and published by Bill Breniman. who has also become SOWP Executive Secretary.

1981 - 1984 Judge James H. Brown is 5th SOWP President.

1984 - November

Bill Breniman receives the Ralph Batcher Award from the Radio Club of America, New York, NY for preserving history of radio and electronic communications.

1985 - 1988 Donald K. DeNeuf is 6th SOWP President. He became a Silent Key July 24, 1988 succeeded by William C. Willmot.

1987 - December

Bill Breniman resigns as Executive Secretary at 86, succeeded by Paul N. Dane. SOWP headquarters are moved to 146 Coleen St., Livermore, CA 94550 USA.

1989 - March

First issue of newsletter, The World Wireless *Beacon*, is published..

1990 - December

Mr. Dane becomes SOWP President upon resignation of Mr. Willmot. Bill Breniman continues as Chairman, SOWP Board of Governors and President Emeritus.

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1992 - July

Ballots distributed to members to amend SOWP Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws.

1992 - November

State of California issues new Charter to SOWP, based on membership approval of amendments.

1993 - January 1

Waldo T. Boyd, 2958-P, K6DZY, becomes Executive Secretary, taking over from Paul N. Dane. SOWP Headquarters relocated to Geyserville, CA.

1993 - August 1

U.S. Coast Guard ceases monitoring of 500 kHz at all its shore stations (CAMSPAC/NMC; CAMSLANT/NMN, Boston, MA/NMF, NIK).

1993 - November

Full Non-Profit [501(c)(3)] status granted to SOWP by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

1994 - July

John J. Kelleher, 2581-P, W4ZC, is appointed SOWP President by Paul N. Dane, 2195-V, W6WOW, who retires.

1995 - April

U. S. Coast Guard ends all HFCW service. Ceremony is held at CAMSLANT/NMN, Chesapeake, VA. SOWP member Joseph Gardner, Ph.D., 5068-M, K7CI, a former CG radio operator, is keynote speaker. SOWP President Kelleher is among several hundred guests.

1996 - January

John Kelleher begins regular term as SOWP President following a membership vote. Ben Russell, 1853-V, N6SL, becomes SOWP Senior Vice President.

1996 - March

SOWP opens an Internet Web Site, with Dr. Joe Gardner, Fairmont, WV in charge at (<http://access.mountain.net/~carto/sowp001.htm>).

1997 - March

SOWP publishes book, *The Wireless Almanac*, by Fred Rosebury, 1570-SGP, KA1GEN. Fred is 96 years young.

1997 - April

Musical play *TITANIC* opens on Broadway, New York City, in the 85th year since the British White Star liner sank in the North Atlantic on April 14-15, 1912.

1998 - February

The Society of Wireless Pioneers, Inc. marks 30th Anniversary of its beginning.