

* NOTE: BY-LAWS REQUIRE INITIATION FEE & DUES \$5.00 FOR FIRST CALENDAR YEAR. MAKE OUT/MAIL TO WIRELESS PIONEERS.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & HISTORY SHEET

***** SOCIETY OF WIRELESS PIONEERS *****

P. O. Box 530 Santa Rosa, Cal. 95402 USA

I hereby apply for "LIFE" membership in the SOCIETY OF WIRELESS PIONEERS and certify that I meet requirements for classification marked below, by having held a valid government radio-telegrapher's license unless employment antedates license requirements. I certify that I have earned my living during this period as a wireless or radio operator assigned to a ship or shore station open to commercial "PG" traffic. (Operators with military experience are eligible if they have served at installations handling "PG" traffic without license requirement if they can document). I agree to furnish records to substantiate if required by the Membership Committee. I agree to keep my address current on the Society records and acknowledge failure to do so as sufficient grounds to drop me from membership.

Signed Date

SPARK GAP PIONEER
(Service prior 1915)

PIONEER
(Svc. 1915 to 1925)
(Inclusive)



VETERAN
Svc. 1926-35 Incl.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE
(Svc. AFTER 1935)

LEAVE BLANK
NO. 331-P
DATE 3/20/69
\$ 7.00
CARD
POC# 324
FG 3/20/69

HISTORY SHEET

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

WAHLSTROM, Robert D. Bob AW Gladys
Family Name Given Name Initial Nickname Sine Wife
Street or P.O. Number Glen Ellyn Ill. 60137 (312) 469-1837
City State Zip Tph: A/C & No.

DATE OF FIRST LICENSE June 10, 1921.

DATE ASSIGNED FIRST SHIP June 8, 1922

NO. 23277 CLASS First

NAME OF SHIP SS. Tionesta

SIGNED BY Herbert Hoover/Chas Kolster
/COS?

CALL LETTERS "WCB" Great Lakes CO. Transit Corp

Navy or military assignment where "PG" traffic handled (Attach documentation)

SHIP OR SHORE STATION/S WHERE YOU HAVE SERVED:

FROM	TO	NAME SHIP/SHORE STN.	FROM	TO	NAME SHIP/SHORE STN.
6/22	9/22	SS Tionesta "WCB"			
6/23	9/23	SS South American "WEO"			
6/24	9/24	" " " "			
6/25	7/25	" " " "			

(Resigned from RCA in good standing June 27, 1925 to accept employment with Western Union Telegraph Co.)
(Additional - use reverse side.)

AMATEUR ACTIVITIES

FIRST CALL 9RC DATE 1921 PRESENT CALL W9RB WORK FREQUENCIES 20/40

RADIO ORGANIZATION YOU BELONG TO: ARRL QCWA "Old Goats" meter

MEMBER "CQD"ers CLUB ? (Those who have sent CQD or SOS and/or abandoned ship)

NAME SHIP _____ DATE SOS _____ (Circumstances on reverse side)

WILL YOU SERVE AS OFFICER OR DIRECTOR ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS IF NOMINATED ?

(Please use reverse side or additional 8 1/2 x 11" sheet/s for additional biographical data. We may use in future issues of "PORT O' CALL" et cetera).

(Feb) 3/2/69 #331-P
RC #3 comp by Danner

Society of Wireless Pioneers - California Historical Radio Society



(Supplementing application of R. D. Wahlstrom:)

#328-P

Rec'd my first coml license June 1921 and went to the Chicago office of Marconi/~~RCA~~ ^{company} of America, located on old South Water Street (now Wacker Drive) and made application to Mr Dent (?) who was then Supt. He said nothing open, as many ships laid up account depression of 1921 (later known as a recession) but he said if I wanted to stay around the office and help him I would have preference if there should be an opening. He was quick to add that of course there would be no pay until I was assigned to a ship.

I planned to enter the University of Illinois in the fall, and having no other prospects for a summer job, I accepted his offer to "hang around and help without pay." I soon found that he was inventorying a collection of dirty old equipment in the back room, preparatory to a transfer to RCA which was ~~then~~ ^{then} taking over the Marconi offices. He needed me to lift the heavy equipment and clean off the dust, so we could find the nameplates. There were old rotary spark gaps; even some old Leyden jar condensers.

After several weeks, he announced that he ^{would} ~~would~~ have to make a trip out of the city, and I would be left in charge of the office, still without pay. He said if anyone came in looking for a job, tell him there weren't any but take his name and address. After three days he returned. Later I learned from one of the operators that our Supt had an emergency call from one of his ships when the operator was taken to the hospital, and instead of giving me the assignment, he had taken it himself, probably drawing the operator's pay as well as his superintendent's pay. Thereupon Marconi and I parted company.

Next season (1922) RCA had taken over, and I got a berth as Junior Operator on SS Tionesta, making a 10-day round trip cruises between Buffalo and Duluth. The pay was \$55 per month (Senior Opr got \$60 per month) but I was told I would have to provide my own transportation from Chicago to Cleveland where the "Tionesta" had wintered. We worked "six on and six off" to maintain a continuous watch with two operators. The transmitter had a rotary gap left over from Marconi and the receiver the usual chunk of carborundum. We of course carried our pet piece of galena, with a cat-whisker mounting instead of the pressure probe used on the carborundum.

For the next three seasons I worked SS South American and SS North American ("WBO & "WEN") making cruises from Chicago to Buffalo and Chicago to Duluth. In 1924 RCA installed a broadcast receiver so we could pipe radio music into the main saloon, and it was converted to 600 meters when the passengers lost interest in the music. In 1925 we got the first vacuum tube transmitters used on passenger ships on the Lakes and set out to see if we could maintain either ICW or fone QSO between the two sister ships during the cruise. By this time I had graduated from the university and RCA offered me a job at the Riverhead receiving station on Long Island, but I resigned for a better job with Western Union. Retired from W.U. last year and am now working part-time (as much as social security permits) as the Chicago area representative of Tropical Radio Telegraph Co. We expect to have a sales meeting at ~~KXAN~~ Ft. Lauderdale next month and will visit the TRT station "WAX" which I am sure is remembered by all your members who ever worked along the east coast.

(PS-Am building Heathkit SB-101 so eventually expect to have W9RB on the air with SSB as well as CW)

(PPS-Met my wife when she was a passenger on "South American" and came to the radio cabin to send a message. We were married two years later, and have been happily married for over 40 years. Our son is with RCA, working on aerospace systems at Burlington, Mass.)

R. D. Wahlstrom