



A Centennial Celebration of Marconi & RCA Wireless Radio in West Marin, 1914–2014

All events are open to the public and free unless otherwise noted

Radio has played a significant role in the history of West Marin since Marconi built the first wireless stations at Bolinas and Marshall in 1914. Discover the ways the West Marin community is planning to celebrate this history and the legacy that continues to make radio part of our lives, past and present.

Marconi & RCA Centennial and KWMR 15th Anniversary Exhibits

April 5–30, Opening Reception April 5, 2–4pm

Visit this exhibit for an introduction to 100 years of local radio history, from the first transmission across the Pacific to contemporary community radio.
Toby's Feed Barn Art Gallery, 11250 Hwy 1, Point Reyes Station, www.tobysfeedbarn.com, 415-663-1223

PAPER WORK: Signals and Signs, An Installation by Joan Grubin

April 5–June 13, 9 am–5 pm Monday-Friday, or by appointment, Open House Saturday, April 5, 3–5pm

New York artist Joan Grubin's large-format paper and tape installation is a visual manifestation of dots and dashes, specifically designed for The New School, Commonweal Gallery space. Inspired by the Commonweal mission and informed by its facility's history as a Marconi/RCA radio station, the work deploys a visual vocabulary that suggests a system of technology, circuitry, and energy harnessed to fling signals out into the void, in hopes that someone somewhere will receive the messages.

Commonweal Gallery, 451 Mesa Road, Bolinas, <http://tns.commonweal.org/events>, 415-868-0970

International Marconi Day

April 26, 10 am–4 pm

Each year the Cornish Amateur Radio Club organizes International Marconi Day (IMD), an on-the-air event to celebrate the birthday of Guglielmo Marconi, born April 25, 1874. K6KPH will set up their own receive site in the Chief Engineer's Cottage using vintage receiving equipment. With both transmit and receive sites at historic Marconi locations, K6KPH will be one of the most authentic Award Stations participating in IMD.

Marconi Conference Center State Historic Park—McCargo Hall, 18500 California Hwy 1, Marshall, www.marconiconference.org, 415-663-9020

Ship to Shore: Learning Morse Code

April 14–October 1

Kids and adults alike can take their turn at the Morse key station tapping out dots and dashes and translating code onto Marconigrams and earn their junior operator badges.

Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore, www.nps.gov/pore, 415-464-5100 x2 x5

Bolinas Museum Exhibitions

June 7–August 17, Fridays 1–5pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12–5pm, or by appointment

48 Wharf Road, Bolinas, www.bolinasmuseum.org, 415-868-0330

Exhibition Previews and Public Reception

June 7, 2–5 pm, Co-hosted by Point Reyes National Seashore Association

Join us for intimate and informative previews with the artists and curators before the 2 pm public reception celebrating the opening of four new exhibitions inspired by the history of wireless radio in West Marin.

Wireless Giant of the Pacific: 100 Years of Maritime Radio in West Marin

Main Gallery. Curated by Carola DeRooy, Archivist, Point Reyes National Seashore

Guglielmo Marconi (1874–1937), inventor of wireless radio, constructed powerful Pacific coast stations in Bolinas and Marshall in 1914 to connect his round-the-world services across the Pacific. After WWI the Radio Corporation of America obtained the sites and commercial maritime radio services continued until 1997. Today the historic stations are part of Point Reyes National Seashore partnering with the Maritime Radio Historical Society to keep the legacy alive. This exhibition presents a 100-year look at the development of wireless radio technology still widely used today and highlights historic events that transpired at the Marshall, Point Reyes, and Bolinas stations.

Code Humpback: An Installation by Charles Lindsay

Photography Gallery. New York artist and first Artist in Residence at Palo Alto's SETI Institute (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Charles Lindsay presents a multi-media installation commissioned by the Bolinas Museum in honor of the Marconi Centennial. Composed of sound, video, and sculptural elements Code Humpback explores encrypted languages and forms of communication inspired by Morse code transmissions originating from the Bolinas Marconi/RCA station and recent inter-species communications discoveries lead by SETI Institute scientist Laurance Doyle.

Swept/Up: New Work by Wayne Campbell

Coastal Marin Artists Gallery. Bolinas sculptor Wayne Campbell will create new work inspired by personal history and hand-built hidden wireless radios developed by American prisoners of war in order to connect with the outside world.

The Influence of Marconi & RCA in Local Communities

History Room. Curated by Elia Haworth

The Marconi station installation in 1914 and the arrival of RCA in 1919—and later expansion in 1939—had a profound impact on the communities of Coastal Marin. This exhibit will share personal stories of families and individuals whose lives were entwined with these companies.

Artist Charles Lindsay in Conversation with Astronomer Laurance Doyle

June 14, 4 pm, Moderated by Eric McDougall, \$5 suggested donation

Join SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Artist in Residence Charles Lindsay and SETI astronomer and information theory expert Laurance Doyle for a thought-provoking discussion about the possibilities of interspecies communications, recent advancements in the field related to humpback whale song, and the philosophical debate regarding the existence of sentient beings beyond planet Earth. Both Charles and Laurance are based at Palo Alto's SETI Institute, which, until recently, was directed by Jill Tarter, the 2009 recipient of the TED Prize, whose wish is to "empower Earthlings everywhere to become active participants in the ultimate search for cosmic company."

Bolinas Community Center, 14 Wharf Circle, Bolinas, www.bolinasmuseum.org, 415-868-0330

Night of Nights: Commemorative Broadcast and Open House

July 12, 3 pm–midnight

Historic coast radio station KPH, built by RCA in 1929 on the Point Reyes Peninsula, returns to the air for the annual commemorative broadcast marking the last commercial message sent by Morse code at 5 pm (PDT) in 1999. The Maritime Radio Historical Society's own KSM carries on the tradition of Morse code operations along with KPH and KFS, welcoming licensed operators to pound the key and the public to observe as they work ships and other contacts through the magic of Morse. The station will be open to visitors beginning at 3 pm and transmissions are expected to continue until at least midnight.

The station is located at 17400 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and is on the route to the Point Reyes lighthouse.

Watch for a cypress-lined driveway on the right about a mile past the entry to Coast Guard station NMC. For more information go to www.radiomarine.org

Marconi Author Calvin Trowbridge Jr. Book Talk and Reception

July 13, 2–5pm

Meet the author of *Marconi: Father of Wireless, Grandfather of Radio, Great-Grandfather of the Cell Phone, The Story of the Race to Control Long-Distance Wireless*. He will speak about Marconi's empire building, the competition and patent wars, and the fast pace of invention and technology change as the potential for radio became understood in the early 20th century. Books will be available. Enjoy a chat with the author and complimentary refreshments.

Red Barn Classroom, Bear Valley, Point Reyes National Seashore, www.nps.gov/pore, 415-464-5125

Historic Walking Tour: Explore The Bolinas Marconi/RCA Station and Grounds

August 2, 10 am, Bolinas Museum, \$20 Members / \$25 Non-Members, Reservations Required. Space is limited.

Call 415-868-0330 to reserve your space today!

Avid maritime radio historian Richard Dillman and fellow radio operators will make history and technology come alive as we walk the site of the Bolinas Marconi/RCA station. This transmitting station, originally built by Marconi in 1914, played an important role in communication history. The station provided trans-oceanic communication between continents until 1973 and ship-to-shore Morse code service through 1997. You will see the historic buildings, including the restored hotel, cottages, and original power house, the antenna fields, and tour the transmitter gallery and control room, the heart of the operations today.

451 Mesa Road, Bolinas, Grounds and Building 2A

KPH Maritime Radio: The Heartbeat of the Pacific Basin

August 16, 10 am–3 pm, Point Reyes National Seashore Association, \$5 Members / \$10 non-members,

Register today at 415-663-1200 or online at www.ptreyes.org

Radio historian Bill Ruck will present an illustrated talk and an afternoon tour of the historic RCA building. See the control room with Morse operators in action at the Point Reyes radio station. Learn about the amazing history of KPH that started out at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco before the 1906 earthquake, played a significant role during WWII and the Vietnam War, and was the call sign for the most powerful station on the coast—recognized by ship operators around the world—until 1999, when satellite communications replaced Morse code.

Red Barn Classroom, Bear Valley, Point Reyes National Seashore

Radio Personalities of Wireless West Marin

August 1–November 30, Opening Reception - August 9, 1–4 pm

Discover the fascinating stories of the men and women who were part of the RCA family. Look into the lives of riggers, telegraphers, engineers, and station workers through oral histories, memorabilia and photographs that reveal the joys and struggles of working for the communications giant.

Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History, 15 Park Ave, Inverness, www.jackmasonmuseum.org, 415-669-1099

Centennial Banquet

September 19, 5 pm

Tickets to this fundraiser are available online through the Maritime Radio Historical Society at www.radiomarine.org

Hotel rooms may be reserved at the Marconi Conference Center by phone 415-663-9020

The banquet will be held in the renovated powerhouse at the original Marconi receiving station site on the scenic east shore of Tomales Bay. Mingle for drinks on the terrace overlooking the bay and then enjoy a banquet in the historic atmosphere to celebrate the first trans-Pacific wireless transmission across the Pacific to Hawaii in September of 1914. The event is a fundraiser for the Maritime Radio Historical Society. The benefit supports their ongoing efforts in partnership with the National Park Service to preserve and restore the historic equipment and operations at the radio sites and make them available for public tours and education. President of the Maritime Radio Historical Society, Richard Dillman will be the featured speaker along with a surprise guest.

Marconi Conference Center, Buck Hall, 18500 California Hwy 1, Marshall, 415-663-9020

Stay tuned to KWMR 90.5 in Point Reyes and 89.9 in Bolinas, or online at kwmr.org for more details about upcoming events, interviews, and programming celebrating 100 years of radio in West Marin.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/pore

