



This month we take an abbreviated look at the **History of Amateur Radio**. Maybe we have to understand where we came from to see where we are going. Today we look at **Part 1**.

900 BC – The Greeks notice that when the fossilized remains of tree resin are rubbed with other materials, it becomes charged with an unknown force that has the power to attract objects such as dried leaves, feathers, bits of cloth, or other lightweight materials. The Greeks call it *amber electron*. The word *electric* is derived from it as *to have the ability to attract other objects*.

1500-1800 – Early discoveries of electricity and magnetism can be found in the annals of history. Names such as Gilbert, Von Guericke, Volta, Oersted, Wheatstone, Cooke, Faraday, Ampere, Ohm, and Davy, all contribute to the ultimate development of wireless.

1831 – Early pioneers and inventors include Maxwell, Marconi, Loomis, Edison, Henry, Hertz and others, all lay the foundation of wireless.

1835 - Samuel F. B. Morse formulates the elements of Morse code, an electronic alphabet that can carry messages.

1883 – Edison invents the incandescent lamp, then the vacuum tube.

1887 – Heinrich Hertz generates and detects electromagnetic waves across the length of his laboratory in Germany on a wavelength of approximately one meter.

1899 – Marconi establishes the first commercial wireless communication across the English Channel.

1901 – Marconi transmits 2100 miles across the Atlantic Ocean.

1906 – Lee DeForest adds a third electrode to the diode tube and made the triode, which could amplify weak radio signals.

1910 – 488 merchant vessels and yachts are active on wireless in the USA.

1912 – The *RMS Titanic* hits an iceberg and new international radios laws are put into place.

1913 – International radio call letter policies are organized. The first Amateur Radio licenses are issued.

1914 – The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is founded to organize the activities. The term relay described the new

capability of amateur operators to “relay” messages across the US. In one test in 1917, a message is relayed from New York to California in 45 minutes.

1916 – 5000 US amateurs are licensed and 150,000 receivers are in use.

1921 – In January, a group of California amateurs publish the first amateur radio magazine, the *Pacific Radio News* (see graphic). ⚙



Credit to: <http://www.astrosurf.com/luxorion/qsl-ham-history6.htm>
and <http://www.ac6v.com/history.htm>

W7SYC – For more information about the Seattle Yacht Club Amateur Radio Committee or getting an amateur radio license, contact Dan Withers, dwithers@rodaxwireless.com or call (206) 947-2303.



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