

The Robertson County Amateur Radio Club

June 2013

Volume 1, Issue 2



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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Club meetings are the first Thursday of every month
- ◆ Net every Friday @ 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Taste of Country is June 8, 2013
- ◆ Field Day is June 22-23, 2013
- ◆ Tell us what you want to see!

Skywarn Basic Severe Weather Spotter Training



Angela Lese—Science and Operations Officer - Meteorologist at National Weather Service Nashville

The March 28th club meeting hosted a Sky Warn Class at the Robertson County Senior Center, arranged by Bill Jones N4LB with the Weather Service.

The training consisted of:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

Twitter Weather Sources

@NashSevereWx @RuthSevereWx @WilsonSevereWx
@SumnerSevereWx @RobCoSevereWx @MaurySevereWx
@MaconSevereWx @DicksonSevereWx

Continuous updates on all weather, especially severe and winter weather

Work directly with NWS to gather your reports

Quick and easy severe weather reporting!

When tweeting, use #Spotter



WSIX and the 638 Building Museum

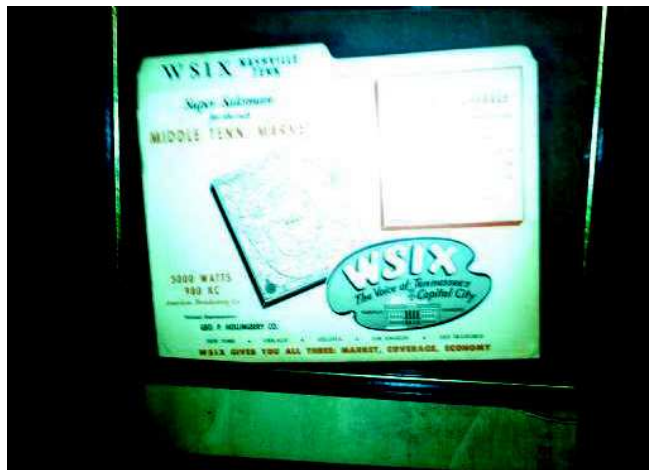
On Thursday, March 7, after the club meeting, Edison Guthrie KA4AIB took the club on a tour of the 638 building, the original home of WSIX radio, was owned by his grandfather Jack Draughon and Jack's brother Louis Draughon. Edison unlocked the door and took us in the downstairs of the building, which had been remodeled, and the walls have been beautifully covered with photographs of the history of the Draughon brothers, done by Mrs. Jackie Guthrie.

Then we were lead up the stairs to where WSIX radio station was located. Edison explained that the area upstairs, except for a good cleaning of the floors, walls and ceiling, was unchanged, and looked the same as it did

in the 1920's. This area is now a museum with home radios, speakers, and office furniture from the time period of the radio station. The club members spent about an hour looking over all of these unique items and talking with Mrs. Guthrie when we came back downstairs The club members would like to thank the Guthries for taking us on this tour. More information on the history of the Draughon brothers and WSIX radio was given out by Bill Jones N4LB.



WSIX Museum - 638 Building



CERTS Presentation

April 4, 2013 – Jeremy Sisk, Fire Marshal from the White House Fire Department, came to the RCARC monthly meeting and gave a presentation on CERTS, Community Emergency Response Teams. There were 22 members present.

Jeremy showed a film about a night club fire where 100 people perished due to the exits being blocked and the building being filled to over-capacity.

The White House Fire Department will be teaching CERTS classes at a later date; the cost of a twenty hour class will be \$40.



The History of WSIX - by Bill Jones N4LB

Brothers Louis and Jack Draughon traded five barrels of oil for a 100-watt transmitter in 1927 and began broadcasting from the second floor of their auto service building in downtown Springfield, TN, as WSIX, until 1936, when they moved the station to Nashville. In 1948, they launched WSIX-FM, but it proved unprofitable and was signed off in 1953. Its tower in Brentwood was then used for their new venture, WSIX-TV. Upon Jack's death in 1951, Louis took over operation of WSIX. The FM was re-launched in 1961 and Louis sold WSIX-AM/FM/TV to General Electric Broadcasting in 1966. He was a founding member of both the National Association of Broadcasters and the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. WSIX first went on the air at 638 Tire Service Co. on January 7, 1927.

The "six" in the call sign came from the "638" address of the Tire Service Store. The letters stood for "Where Service Is Excellent." There were the "Big Three" stations who went on the air in the 1920's, WSM in 1925, WLAC in 1926, and WSIX in 1927. News reports became very prominent during the 1940's due to the war in Europe. Jack Wolever and Jim Kent were the reporters at WSIX. At night people all gathered around their radios to hear the news. No new stations came to Nashville until the late 1940's. Don McNeill's Breakfast Club was a popular program on WSIX in the 40's and 50's. Also local singers filled the time on the station. During this period of time WSIX and others had a "field test car" which was an outfitted truck for listening so as to improve coverage.

The Draughon brothers continued to operate the station in Springfield until 1936 when they decided to move it to Nashville. Their first studios were in the Andrew Jackson Hotel. In 1937, the station increased its power to 250 watts. In 1940, the station moved again, this time to the Nashville Bank and Trust Building on Union Street. It remained there until 1961 when it moved to new studios built for it and the company's FM and television stations on Murfreesboro Road in Nashville.

WSIX-FM had been started in 1948, making it one of Nashville's earliest FM's. The TV station had gone on the air in 1953 in studios near Brentwood just off of Old Hickory Blvd. (the tower is still located there). The first person shown on what was then Channel 8 was then Governor Frank Clement.

Well known singer and Nashville native Pat Boone's father was the contractor who built the new WSIX studios on Murfreesboro Rd., completed in late 1961. The television station moved there in the summer of 1962.

The AM station experimented with a number of formats over the years, with the most popular proving to be "Metropolitan Country" in the 1970's. Morning personality Gerry House has enjoyed top ratings at the station for more than twenty years, first at the AM and later at WSIX-FM.

Jim Kent started with the station in 1942 at the age of 18, and remained with the station for 42 years. In the 1950's the station was playing "middle-of-the-road" music, soft pop hits, and Ken Bramming's smooth, rich voice introduced the songs to listeners.

In the early days each station in Nashville of the big three had network affiliation: WSM (NBC), WLAC (CBS), and WSIX (ABC). Other independent stations that came along in the late 50's such as WNAH, WKDA, WMAK, and WSOK (WVOL) brought in more music programming by playing records since they didn't have that much local talent available to fill up a day. WNAH was the church-related programs such as talk and gospel music. WENO became Nashville's first full-time country music station. WSIX came back with sports talk in the late 50's and early 60's with Larry Munson.

Frosty Morn bacon was one of the most heard commercials in Nashville in the 1950's. You could hear kids and adults alike singing the famous jingle all over the area.

The History of WSIX (continued)

Ralph Emery was one of the famous DJ's that worked at WSIX and other stations in Nashville. Noel Ball was another famous personality of the time and was even a song writer with the hit, "Oh, Julie" in 1958. His famous saying on WSIX was, "*This is the Ball ... we bounce.*"

WKRN-TV began operation on Sunday, November 29, 1953 at 1:00 p.m., as only the second television station in Nashville. The station's call letters and channel number were WSIX-TV Channel 8. It was a CBS affiliate with supplemental affiliations with American Broadcasting Company and the DuMont Television Network. In late 1954, it became a full time ABC affiliate and continues that affiliation today.

The television station's first studio was located at its transmitter on Old Hickory Boulevard in the outskirts of Nashville, referred to as "The Hill." The station's business office, along with WSIX Radio were on the 14th floor of the Nashville Bank & Trust Building in downtown Nashville.

The tower used was the one previously occupied by WSIX-FM radio. The FM station had operated from 1948 until it went off the air in 1953. The FM operation had been unprofitable, and television was expected to be a better use of the facility. The initial operation was with a power of 109 KW at a height of 247 feet above ground, 1365 feet above sea level. In December 1955, WSIX-TV began operation at 178 KW with a 12 bay bat-wing antenna and with a new tower. The new tower put the station antenna at 2049 feet above sea level. In October 1957 WSIX-TV applied for a power increase to 316 KW using the existing antenna facility.

In 1961, WSIX-TV, WSIX-AM & FM (now back on the air) moved to 40 acres of prime industrial land on Murfreesboro Road in Nashville, the same location where WKRN-TV operates today. Archie Boone, father of entertainer Pat Boone, was the contractor hired to build the facility. The state of the art facility was competitive with studios in New York and Los Angeles and became the hub of television production in the central region of the country.

Louis Draughon sold WSIX-TV and the two radio stations to General Electric Broadcasting on May 19, 1966. On December 11, 1973 at 9:00 p.m. WSIX-TV (Channel 8) exchanged channels with WDCN-TV (Channel 2), the PBS affiliate in Nashville. When this exchange was made, WSIX-TV started operating as WNGE (W-Nashville-General-Electric) Channel 2. This was with a new, stacked Channel 2 and Channel 8 antennas atop a new tower. This was only the third exchange in the history of commercial television in the United States. A two-minute video tape, featuring Robert Young of the Marcus Welby series, Big Bird of Sesame Street, and The Electric Company's Easy Reader aired introducing the switch.

WNGE-TV changed ownership from General Electric Broadcasting to Knight-Ridder Broadcasting on November 28, 1983. WSIX radio stations were sold to Sky Communications of New York. Knight-Ridder changed the call letters to WKRN-TV (W-Knight-Ridder-Nashville). Young Broadcasting, Inc. acquired WKRN-TV from Knight Ridder Broadcasting on July 1, 1989 and is the current owner.

Network programming in the early years included a variety of programs such as I Love Lucy, Jackie Gleason, Ed Sullivan, 77 Sunset Strip, Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet, The Betty White Show, The Cisco Kid, the Donna Reed Show, and many more.

Historically, WKRN has always been committed to regional news coverage. In the early 1960's it became the first station in Nashville to air a 5:00 p.m. newscast. In 1998, the station's weather coverage of the tornado that ripped through downtown Nashville was seen around the world on CNN. News personalities such as Jackie Joyner and Hudley Crockett paved the road to news excellence that continues today. The station has been recognized for its news coverage with numerous awards and honors including MidSouth Emmy's, Peabody Awards, Edward R. Murrow Awards, and many more.

PO Box 909
Springfield, TN 37172-0909

Club meetings are held on the first Thursday night of each month at the Senior Center located at 601 Locust Street, Springfield, TN. The new time for the meeting is 7:00pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

We're on the web:

<http://www.robertsoncountyarac.org/>

And on Facebook:

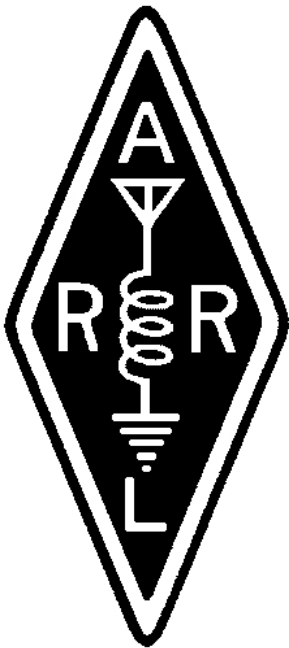
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Robertson-County-Amateur-Radio->

SUGGESTIONS?

We're still learning about newsletters, and we'd like to hear what you think and what you'd like to see. Send your comments, thoughts, news, and/or pictures to Cherilyn.White@gmail.com. Please help us make this the best newsletter the RCARC has ever seen!



Other Nets of Interest



The Bible net on weekdays, Monday thru Friday, on 147.015.

The Nashville / Davidson County Traffic net on Sundays at 9:00 p.m. on 146.67.

The Nashville / Davidson Co. ARES net at 7:00 p.m. on Mondays on the 442.750 (T 100).

The Nashville Amateur Radio Club information net on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.015.

The MTEARS net in at 8:00 p.m. on Mondays on 442.800 (tone 107.2).

The Short Mountain Repeater has 3 nets during the week. All of the nets are on 146.910:

- The Old Codgers' Net – 8:00 p.m. Mondays – A net just for fun; the purpose of this net is share absolutely, completely useless information.
- Info Net – 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays
- Traders Net - 8:00 p.m. Thursdays

The Rutherford County Heart of Tennessee ARES / Skywarn net on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. local time; the frequency is 145.230 (114.8 tone) / 145.370 (no tone) (linked).

The Sumner ARES Net on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Repeaters 145.390 & 147.240MHz tone 114.8 and 443.300, 444.000, & 444.350MHz tone 107.2.

73's from Randy White KJ4TFU and Cherie White KK4BKJ