

Radio Museums in North America

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While many famous museums such as the Smithsonian Institution have impressive displays of radio-related equipment of rare and historic significance, there are many smaller, mostly private, museums all over the U.S. and Canada that feature extensive displays of radios. Here, you'll see thousands of exquisite radios that have been lovingly restored, mostly by volunteers. Many museums charge no admission and those that do are usually under \$10. Museum hours are somewhat erratic and, in many cases, it is a good idea to call ahead or check their web site for updates on public hours.

Some museums have "hands-on" displays, with many offering operating positions for licensed amateur operators, so don't forget to bring your license if you decide to include one of these museums in your summer vacation. Some, such as Antique Wireless Association in Apalachin, New York, have swap meets, flea markets or auctions that take place at the museum. Radio fans can purchase old radios with the proceeds of sales given to the museum. Check the website for details of such sales or auctions.

The current economy has not been good to many private museums; some have had to close their doors. If you do visit, give generously at the "donations" box. If you have such a museum near you, consider donating your time and talent to increasing its chances of survival. If you have excess equipment, consider making a donation to a museum near you; most qualify as tax-deductible institutions.

The following list of radio museums is by no means complete. All details were current as of this writing but, before you plan your trip, check out the web sites associated with the museum. If a museum has been left out, let us know and it will be added to the list.

Alabama Historical Radio Society
Museum located in the Alabama Power Building
600 North 18th Street
Birmingham, Alabama
www.alabahistoricalradiosociety.org

American Museum of Radio and Electricity
1312 Bay Street
Bellingham, Washington (360-738-3886)
Open Wednesday through Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM; Sunday Noon - 4 PM. Admission: \$5/adult; \$2/children (aged 12 and under). Has its own low-power radio station KMRE 102.3 FM
<http://amre.us>



Antique Wireless Association Museum
2 Walnut Place
Apalachin, New York (585-657-6260)
Open May through September Saturdays 2 - 4 PM; Sundays 2 - 5 PM (closed July 4/5th and September 5/6th). Admission is free. Hosts AWA Bruce Kelly HF Net MWF at 9:30 AM ET on 3.837 MHz SSB. Publishes the quarterly AWA Journal, a well produced and authoritative quarterly magazine on all aspects of radio history.
www.antiquewireless.org/index.htm

Arizona's Radio and Television Museum (House of Broadcasting)
7150 East 5th Street
Scottsdale, Arizona (602-944-1997)
Summer Hours: Open 11 AM - 5 PM Monday through Saturday except holidays, closed Sundays. Admission is free.
www.houseofbroadcasting.com

California Historical Radio Society
Bay Area Radio Museum
KRE-AM 1400 Berkeley, California.
This is a work in progress that has suffered from the effects of the current economy. Full details are on their web site.
www.californiahistoricalradio.com/index.html

Children's Museum of History, Living History, Science and Technology
311 Main Street
Utica, New York (315-724-6129)
Operates WCML-AM in radio museum on the third floor.
Open Monday, Thursday and Saturday 9:30 AM - 2 PM. Admission is \$9/adults; \$7/children ages 2-17; \$8/seniors.
www.museum4kids.net/WCML_radio_rm.htm

Hammond Museum of Radio
595 Southgate Road
Guelph, Ontario Canada (519-822-2441 ext 590)
Open normal business hours Monday through Friday and weekends by request. Operates VE3HC memorial station.
www.hammondmuseumofradio.org

Museum of Broadcasting
3517 Raleigh Avenue
St. Louis Park, Minnesota (952-926-8198)
Open Wednesday through Friday 10 AM - 6 PM and Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM. Closed Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and holidays. Admission is \$6/adults, \$5/students and seniors. Exhibits include a 1912 spark gap transmitter; 1960s-era radio studio and extensive radio collection.
www.pavekmuseum.org

Museum of Radio and Technology
1640 Florence Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia ((304-525-8890)
Open from 10 AM - 4 PM on Saturdays and 1 - 4 PM on Sundays and 10 - 4 PM most Fridays from mid-April through October. No charge for admission but there is a conveniently placed donation box. Has amateur radio station WV8MRT.
<http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/MRT/index.htm>

National Electronics Museum (History of the Nation's Defense Electronics)
1745 West Nursery Road
Linthicum, Maryland (410-765-0230)
Open 9 AM - 3PM Monday through Friday; 10 AM - 2PM Saturdays. No admission charge; free parking.
<http://nationalelectronicmuseum.org/index.shtml>

New Jersey Radio Museum
A work in progress. If you live in the Dover, New Jersey area and want to aid in the building of a radio museum, go to this web site and learn more:
www.njrm.org/main.php?home

Pikes Peak Radio and Electronics Museum
6735 Earl Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado (719-550-5810)
Open 10 AM - 5 PM Monday through Friday. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.
www.pikespeakradiomuseum.com



Radio and Television Museum of Bowie, Maryland
2608 Mitchellville Road
Bowie, Maryland (301-390-1020)
Open Friday 10 AM - 5 PM and Saturday & Sunday 1 - 5 PM.
www.radiohistory.org/index.html

Society for the Preservation of Antique Radio in Canada
Kerria Drive Riverview Hospital
Coquitlam, British Columbia (604-777-1885)
Open most Sundays 10 AM - 4 PM. Repairs old radios and makes their bench available to those wanting to repair their own sets.
www3.telus.net/radiomuseum/index.html

Southern Appalachian Radio Museum
Asheville, North Carolina,
Open Fridays from 1-3 PM. On the campus of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, Admission: \$5/person, children under 13 free.
www.saradiomuseum.org

Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut
115 Pierson Lane
Windsor, Connecticut (860-683-2903)
Open Thursday through Friday 10 AM - 3 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM, Sunday 1 PM - 4 PM Admission: \$7/adult; \$6/Seniors (60 years +); \$5/Students; Children under 5 free. Has amateur radio station W1VCM available to licensed hams under W1VCM supervision.
www.vrcmct.org/index.html

Western Historic Radio Museum
Parish House, 109 South F Street
Virginia City, Nevada,
Open May through October from 1-5 PM. Admission: \$5/adult; \$2/children (under 15). Extensive displays of all manner of broadcast and amateur radio gear specializing in western U.S.-related radio.
www.radioblvd.com

