



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## Columbia University Amateur Radio Club records8703926

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Summary .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I: CU Amateur Radio Club records .....	6

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Columbia University. Amateur Radio Club
<b>Title:</b>	Columbia University Amateur Radio Club records
<b>ID:</b>	8703926
<b>ID:</b>	UA#0173
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1920s-2000s
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 linear feet 3 record cartons
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Columbia University Amateur Radio Club records; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Historical Note

---

The first records of an amateur radio station at Columbia indicate that in 1906, there was a high-power, spark-gap transmitter in the basement of Havemeyer Hall. Under the leadership of Michael Pupin and later Edwin Armstrong, the Columbia University Experimental Wireless Station was the first of its kind at an American University. It was granted early recognition by the government as "Experimental Station, Manhattan Island" and was licensed to transmit using the identifier "XM." The Radio Club was formally organized in 1920 and by 1931, received its FCC operating license for call signal W2AEE. The station was then located in the old Engineering Building (now Mathematics) and had a radio "shack" on the seventh floor. The Club moved to Mudd in the 1960s. To this day, they have a radio room or shack next to the elevator on the 14th floor and antennae atop the highest roof of Mudd.

The Radio Club was part of the United States Civil Defense Radio Network and would participate in emergency drills. They received the General Electric's Edison Amateur Radio

Award in 1955 for their distinguished service during a busy hurricane season. The Club helped the Chess Club play over-the-radio matches against Yale and would provide running coverage of the crew races on the Harlem River for the benefit of the spectators.

On October 5, 1957 when the Soviet Union launched the first manmade satellite Sputnik, two "hams" on the seventh floor of the Engineering Building manned the club's receivers and a tape recorder. The Club became the first amateur station in the East to pick up the beep signals from the satellite. The United States Office of Naval Research in Washington requested W2AEE to send the station's recordings to the Pentagon.

The Club offerd code (international Morse code) and theory classes to help those interested in passing the FCC license exams and also offered hands-on workshops or construction labs. In 1977, the Club even trained University President William J. McGill to become a licensed radio operator. McGill had built a short-wave receiver from a kit at the President's House and one of the first signals he heard was the W2AEE signal. He met with the club members in person and they helped him with his equipment and encouraged him to get his license.

In 2018, the Club managed to contact the International Space Station. To learn more about the Club and its history, please visit <https://www.w2aee.columbia.edu/>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Summary

---

This collection consists of the membership lists, constitution, certificates, publicity materials, licensing records, awards and log books of the C.U. Amateur Radio Club (W2AEE). The collection includes U.S. and international QSL cards, confirming two-way radio contact between stations, which are organized by state and by country.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### **Revision Description**

Finding aid published (JR) 2022-12-09

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Accruals**

No additions are expected.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2010.2011.M165: Source of acquisition--Alan Crosswell, CUIT. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--6/7/2011.

### **Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Joanna Rios in December 2022.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

Additional materials about radio and wireless technology at Columbia can be found in the [Michael Idvorsky Pupin papers](#) and the [Edwin H. Armstrong papers](#).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Student activities
  - College students
  - Columbia University. Amateur Radio Club
  - Columbia University -- Students
- 

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series I: CU Amateur Radio Club records, 1920s-2000s

Title/Description	Instances	
10-X International Net, Inc., 1977	box 1	folder 1
American Radio Relay League (ARRL), 1970s	box 1	folder 2
Antenna History, 1970s	box 1	folder 3
Awards and Certificates, 1948-1967	box 1	folder 4
Awards and Certificates, 1977-1994	box 1	folder 5
Budget Requests, 1970-1992	box 1	folder 6
Call Sign Directories, 1990s	box 1	folder 7
Certificate of Successful Completion of Novice Examination (blanks), 1990s	box 1	folder 8
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
FCC Element 1A and Element 2		
Club Records ("Old"), 1970s-1980s	box 1	folder 9
Club Records ("General Files"), 1992-1993		

	box 1	folder 10
Constitution, 1954-1956	box 1	folder 11
Constitution, 1990s	box 1	folder 12
Contest - WAE, 1978	box 1	folder 13
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
European DX Contest		
Contest - World Wide DX Contest, 1980	box 1	folder 14
Contest - Other, 1978	box 1	folder 15
Diskette, 1990s	box 1	folder 16
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Membership records and useful HAM programs (Macintosh)		
FCC Correspondence, 1970	box 1	folder 17
Feder, Y.A., 1995	box 1	folder 18
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Correspondence, includes copies of Club history documents from the 1950s		
Foreign Radio Amateur Callbook Magazine, 1971-1973	box 2	
Foreign Radio Amateur Callbook Magazine, 1978	box 3	
Information Sheets and Flyers, 1976-1989	box 1	folder 19
Key Sign-Out Sheets, 1977-1993	box 1	folder 20
Licenses, 1980-1985	box 1	folder 21
Licenses, 1986-2000	box 1	folder 22
Licensing Class, 1984-1985	box 1	folder 23
Logs		
1961-1962	box 1	folder 24
1962-1964	box 1	folder 25
1964-1966	box 1	folder 26
1964-1967	box 1	folder 27-28
<u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders		
1970-1971	box 1	folder 29
1974-1976	box 1	folder 30
1976-1979	box 1	folder 31

1978	box 1	folder 32
1979	box 1	folder 33
1980	box 1	folder 34
1981	box 1	folder 35
1982-1983	box 1	folder 36
1985-1991	box 1	folder 37
1992-2003	box 1	folder 38
ARRL Sweepstakes, 1977-1978	box 1	folder 56
Field Day, 1970s	box 1	folder 39
International, 1970s	box 1	folder 40
Norman's Cay Bahamas, 1979 March	box 1	folder 41
Membership Lists, 1980s-1990s	box 1	folder 42
Membership Records, 1992	box 1	folder 43
Mueller, Wayne, 1978-1980	box 1	folder 44
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Club President		
Newsletters, 1976-1978	box 1	folder 45
Office of Public Information Story Idea, 1977	box 1	folder 46
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
President William J. McGill trains with the Club to become an amateur radio operator		
Photographs, undated	box 1	folder 47
Polity Rules, 1980-1992	box 1	folder 48
Pulse Newsletter, 1963 December 12	box 1	folder 49
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Includes article "Dunning Celebrates Radio Club Expansion"		
QSL Cards for W2AEE, undated	box 1	folder 50
QSL Cards Received, 1920s-1990s		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
The QSL cards or confirmation cards make up the bulk of this collection. The cards are organized, for the most part, geographically: one large set of contact cards with stations in the US and a second set for		



international stations. The cards are mostly from the late 1950s and early 1960s, but there are cards from late 1970s and 1990s interfiled. There is a small set of "older" cards from the 1920s in Box 3 Item 3.

United States		
Alabama to New Jersey	box 2	item 1
New Jersey to Ohio	box 2	item 2
Oklahoma to Wyoming	box 2	item 3
Various, 1979	box 2	item 4
International		
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
Organized alphabetically by country codes.		
#s, A-O	box 3	item 1
O-Z	box 3	item 2
Canada, Unsorted, and 1920s Cards	box 3	item 3
Radiogram (blanks), 1990s	box 1	folder 51
Request for additional appropriation, 1977	box 1	folder 52
Security, 1988-1992	box 1	folder 53
Stencils and Posters, 1990s	box 1	folder 54
Student Government Polices, 1990s	box 1	folder 55
Technical Drawings ("Ancient"), 1950s	box 1	folder 57
Traffic Sheets, 1978-1979	box 1	folder 58
W2AEE News, 1992 March	box 1	folder 59

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)