



NEW YEAR GREETING FOR 2009

IN THIS MARCONIGRAM

[Jack Binns First Rescue by Wireless on the Open Sea](#)

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[CMMC Sixth Annual Meeting](#)

FEATURED ON OUR WEBSITE



Dear CMMC Member

As president of CMMC I welcome everyone to the first Marconigram of 2009 with the good news that soon the Town of Chatham will begin exterior restoration of the 1914 Marconi Operations Building, pictured here. The Town is using Chatham preservation funds to return the building to its original footprint after the removal of the wooden, 1945 Navy wing. The CMMC Board is working hard to complete its lease agreement with the Town in time for a vote at Town Meeting in May. Upon final agreement of the lease, the first phase of interior renovation gets underway by making the improvements needed to meet code so the building can be opened to the public in 2010. In the second and third phases, CMMC will complete the renovation of the interior and add a new education wing.

Chuck Bartlett
President, CMMC



Chatham Radio WCC: The Untold Story

Go to CMMC website to view a 3-minute preview of the award winning film produced by the CMMC and narrated by Walter Cronkite.

Jack Binns and the First Rescue by Wireless on the Open Sea

On January 23rd, 1909, the White Star ocean liner, RMS Republic, sank off the south coast of Nantucket. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of this historic event, Virginia Lovelace, the oldest granddaughter of Jack Binns will give a talk, open to the public, on January 24th, 2009 at 1pm in the Salt Pond Visitor Center at the National Seashore in Eastham, MA. The talk will describe "Jack Binns and the First Rescue by Wireless on the Open Sea."

The RMS Republic was a flagship of White Star Lines and was at that time the largest passenger ship ever to be lost. While this historic event has been greatly overshadowed by the Titanic disaster, it marked the very first rescue at sea as the result of wireless radio. After the SS Florida slammed into the side of the Republic (radio call sign MKC) in the midst of dense fog, it was Marconi radio operator Jack Binns who sent out the distress call "CQD! CQD! Here is MKC! Shipwrecked!" CQD was the precursor to the SOS distress call that was adopted at the time of the Titanic three years later. Eventually, he was able to talk the RMS Baltic to the ship's side and all the 1,500 surviving passengers and crew were transferred to safety. A Marconi built ship-to-shore radio station, similar to our larger station that Marconi would build in Chatham in 1914, played a vital role communications role in this rescue.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

[Join](#) the CMMC!
We have a membership
level for you:

Student **\$10**
Adult **\$25**
Family **\$40**
Supporting **\$100**
Patron **\$250**
Benefactor **\$500**

The CMMC is a 501(C) (3)
organization approved by the
IRS.
Leonard Magnusson, Treasurer

**Don't miss an
update!**

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However, this successful rescue was not without some controversy. An inquiry into the collision was never held. Was this because the Republic was carrying a valuable top secret cargo? And did this lack of inquiry lull the public into thinking that wireless would ensure rapid rescues at sea? As fate would have it, when the Titanic was sending out its distress calls regulations still did not require each ship to have two radio operators on board. The SS Californian was only several miles away from the Titanic, but its sole radio operator felt sleepy and had gone to bed.

Virginia Lovelace's may shed some more light on the consequences of the loss of the Republic.
- Bob Moss

Background information from several websites:

<http://www.rms-republic.com/index1.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/caco/parknews/cape-cod-national-seashore-to-commemorate-100th-anniversary-of-the-first-marconi-distress-message.htm>



Cape Cod National Seashore KM1CC Activities

Please share these dates with your radio club members- operators are always welcome and encouraged to participate in KM1CC activities.

Sat. Jan 17 from 8:30 AM-4 PM - KM1CC will operate at the Coast Guard Building, Eastham to commemorate the anniversary of the first transatlantic message sent from the South Wellfleet site to Great Britain on January 18, 1903. HF

Sun. Jan 18- KM1CC will operate at the Coast Guard Station, Eastham if we get a CW operator to volunteer for at least 4 hours.

Friday, January 23 8 AM start. One-time special messages will be sent in the presence of Jack Binns' family. January 23, 2009 is the 100th anniversary of the "CQD CQD CQD here is MKC MKC Shipwrecked," message sent by Jack Binns. Information on how to connect and the significance of this message can be found at www.chathammarconi.org.

Saturday, January 24 1PM. Salt Pond Visitor Center, Eastham. Dr. Virginia Utermohlen Lovelace, Jack Binns' oldest grandchild, will give a program at the visitor center.

**CMMC Annual Meeting Featured Speaker Dr.
Lanzo Outlines Role of CMMC Partnership with**

Chatham Schools.



At the Sixth Annual Meeting of CMMC on November 15th, our keynote speaker was Mary Ann Lanzo, Superintendant of Chatham Public Schools. The theme of her talk centered on the mission of “educating our students for the future, not the past.” She recognized the role which Barbara Waters, CMMC Director of Education, has played in our schools as well as the popular “What Is Wireless” presentation from the Museum Of Science in Boston that CMMC brought

to the Chatham Middle School last April.

Dr. Lanzo stated that there is an urgent need to emphasize the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, collectively known as STEM education. In much the same way that Marconi approached his inventions, adapting and progressing through trial and error toward a goal of creating a global network of communication, she believes CMMC has the potential to foster development of future inventors and communicators. However, according to Dr. Lanzo, there is an urgent need for teachers nationally to be better prepared for science education at the middle school level. Furthermore, quoting a 2008 report by the Congressional Research Service, 15-year olds in the United States ranked only 28th in Math literacy and 24th in Science literacy on a global scale.

Fortunately, the situation in Massachusetts is not quite as dire. Bachelor’s degrees in STEM constitute 20% of all degrees awarded by public and private colleges. The Massachusetts Department of Education and Governor Patrick have called for a STEM initiative and partnerships are being formed, some with the Museum of Science, to mentor teachers.

Dr. Lanzo concluded her address by thanking CMMC for contributing to this STEM initiative by bringing the What Is Wireless exhibition to Chatham Middle School last year. Indeed, she believes CMMC’s membership represents a high number of engineers who can enhance Chatham’s STEM curriculum by mentoring students and assist in the professional development of teachers.

It should be noted that efforts are currently underway at CMMC to bring a second Museum of Science exhibit on magnetism to the Chatham Middle School in the spring.

- Bob Moss