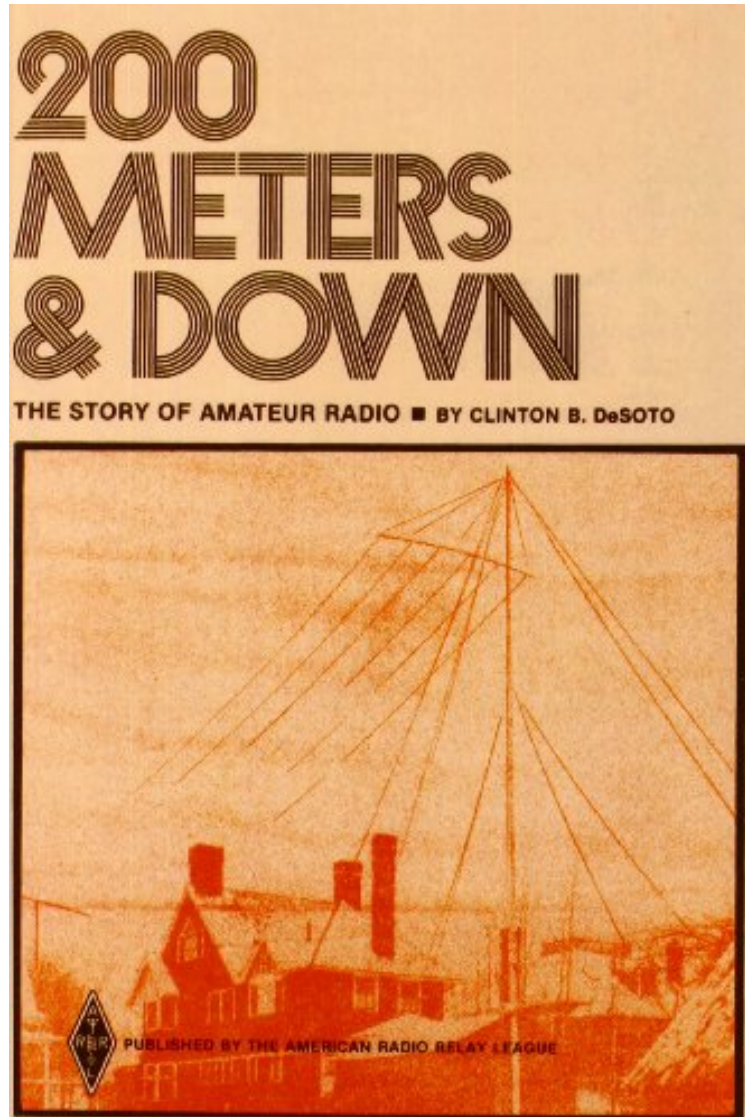


[Download free pdf] 200 Meters Down: The Story of Amateur Radio

200 Meters Down: The Story of Amateur Radio

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Clinton Desoto, Clinton B. Desoto : 200 Meters Down: The Story of Amateur Radio before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 200 Meters Down: The Story of Amateur Radio:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A classic history of early amateur radio By Eusebius This book was first published in 1936 and is a complete and good history of the very early years of amateur or "ham" radio in the United States. It starts around 1900, the dawn of radio communication and experimentation, and covers all the significant events up to the mid 1930s. Back in those very early days there was real chaos on the radio frequencies and a lot of competition for space. Since the government had an intense interest in maritime safety and communication by

wireless, in 1908 the Department of the Navy was given oversight of radio regulation. They started to formalize wireless communication and issued "Certificates of Skill in Radio Communication" and most of these went to radio experimenters or "amateurs." It did little to relieve the noisy competition for space on the air, but probably kept a few of the more uninformed hobbyists from broadcasting. DeSoto gives a good account of the founding of the American Radio Relay League by Hiram Percy Maxim just before World War I and the development of the spark versus CW controversy (spark was a crude Morse code transmission method that used a LOT of radio bandwidth while CW - Continuous Wave - transmissions were cleaner, used less space, and were more suited to efficient communications - CW is still used today). He even covers one enduring story that illustrates the inventiveness of radio hams - back in the 1920s a young ham built every component in his ham station from scratch; he used magnets and wire to build headphones all the way to using discarded light bulbs and test tubes and tungsten wire to make radio tubes. I'm not sure how true this story is (I first heard it years ago) and I've never seen any cites for it, but it's probably close to the truth and really is a good illustration of the ingenuity of these early experimenters. Eventually more regulation was needed to rein in the wild-west atmosphere of the conflict between amateur and professional broadcasting and regulations were adopted that "banished" amateur radio experimenters away from the commercial broadcasters to frequencies from 200 meters and down. These frequencies were considered to be barren and useless - but amateur experimentation and innovation proved them to be ideal for long range radio transmission. Amateur or ham radio operators began experimenting with long range radio and pretty soon were regularly contacting other hams over the Atlantic in Europe. It didn't take long after that before more regulation started to narrow the bands that hams could use. Eventually, the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) was established to regulate ham radio operations around the world and specific frequency bands were allocated for exclusive amateur use for all the signatory countries. This book is a classic in amateur radio and it is, as far as I can tell, the only comprehensive history of the early days of American amateur radio. It is well written and engaging even though there are one or two dry spots where he lists a lot of the stations that were involved with transoceanic experiments. It's a good read if you are a ham radio operator or have an interest in the early days of amateur radio communications.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Disappointed. By Rich Good information that cant be found anywhere else. I believe it to be accurate but very boring and dry read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beginning History of United States Radio Operators By George Excellent history of Amateur Radio in The United States and as, Amateur Radio began as an emergency resource in the U.S. and also towards the World. Additional information of the first World Radio Congress as other countries recognized and organized for Licensed Radio Operators.

Chronicles the exciting evolution of Amateur Radio from the pioneers who perfected the wireless art through the technical advances of the mid-1930s.