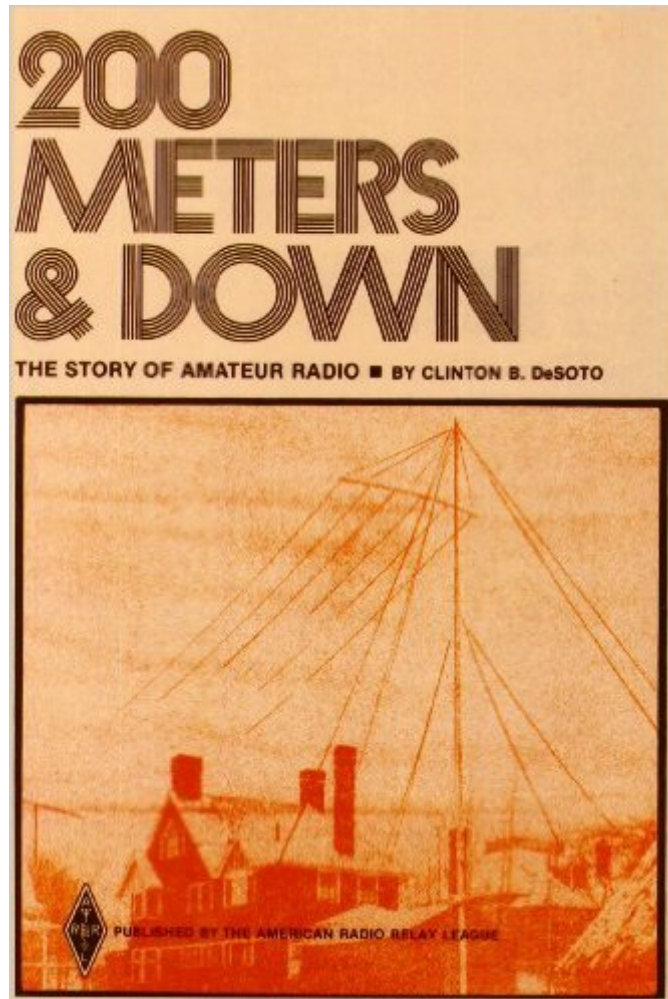


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# 200 Meters & Down: The Story Of Amateur Radio



## Synopsis

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

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

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