



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

Bob Carpenter

1930 – 2016

Bob Carpenter, W3OTC, a Washington DC engineer and Broadcast Pioneer, passed away on January 8th after a brief illness. He was 85.



**Robert Johnson Carpenter
July 30, 1930 – January 8, 2016**

Bob Carpenter was a hometown boy, born in Washington, DC on July 30, 1930 to Byron H and Margaret Carpenter, and lived there most of his life.

Bob got a BSEE from the University of Maryland in 1951, before joining the US Air Force and serving at the Cambridge, MA research lab and then the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Baltimore, MD.

In 1955, Bob joined the National Bureau of Standards Radio Propagation Research dept in Boulder, Co, staying with NBS, later NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) until he retired in 1992, working on Lab and Computer Instrumentation. After retirement he continued at NIST as a volunteer.

But it was something in late 1961 that brought Bob into Broadcasting. [Bob designed and built WHFS](#) (Washington's Hi-Fi Stereo station), 102.3 MHz the first stereo FM station in Washington, DC. As with many pioneer FM stations, it was tough going and Bob and his partner sold out in 1963.

Radio, and later computers, were interests that Bob pursued both while working and in retirement. Amateur licensed as W3OTC, Bob also volunteered his time to amateur groups, especially the Amateur Radio Satellite Corporation (AMSAT). Additionally, he would take the time to guide DC visitors to local stations like WTOP and XM Satellite Radio.

Bob was preceded in death by most of his immediate family, including wife Angela Carpenter, but is survived and remembered by many nieces and nephews, great-, and great-great nieces and nephews. Those wishing to honor Bob may donate to the Amateur Radio Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), the American Radio Relay League, or to benefit science or engineering education for youth.

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