



# P.R.A. NEWS

## W1OP—W1OP/R



Volume IV, No. 3

April, 1997

Editor: K1DS

### Around the Shack

By N1BBM The trouble started when the log periodic antenna wouldn't load up as usual for the start of the ARRL DX contest. The feedline was checked from end-to-end and seemed to be all right, but the impedance of the antenna had changed, and the search was on with binoculars to find what possible damage might have been done by the winter storms and winds. Funny though, it seemed to load on 80 meters. Although the problem was not easily spotted, the March winds helped find the culprit, a broken Lexan support insulator for the largest dipole element, and a cracked U-bolt that held the element in place. As if that wasn't bad enough, the timing with the winter weather caused some delays in getting to the rescue of the broken parts. W1IUX, and his assistants, N1BBM and K1DT were successful in removing the repeater antenna from atop the mast, loosening a guy, two main retainer bolts, and then using a winch to tilt the log so that the problem element could be assessed and the damaged parts repaired. An exciting video of the whole operation was taken by N1BBM, and the errant element provided some surprises, as it first tilted right, then left and then jumped up again to the right, as the boom was pulled from a horizontal to a vertical position. Luckily, it stayed within the frame of the boom, and

## PRA-ARRL Affiliation 75th Anniversary Celebration Banquet a Huge Success

By W1UWU The 75th Anniversary of the PRA's affiliation with the ARRL was celebrated with a large and congenial group of members and spouses, and a host of League officials. After almost a year of planning, this sumptuous banquet celebration, held at the Airport Radisson was a fantastic success, bringing new and old members together for an evening of memories, fine food and festivity. Seventy people enjoyed the evening, which started with a reception and display of club and antique radio memorabilia. There was a table set aside for display of the proclamations from Rhode Island Senator John Chafee, Rhode Island Representative Patrick Kennedy, Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond and Providence Mayor Vincent Cianci. Awards and certificates provided

backdrop for the many door prizes. A vintage HRO receiver was the centerpiece on the next table, along with its bank of plug-in coils, and flanked by a collection of telegraph keys. A live demonstration of our club's ATV capabilities was on view, as well as our original certificate of affiliation with the ARRL, dated December 9, 1921. The last display table had a collection of photos, antique radio journals and QST magazines, that provided plenty of substance for reminiscence.

The sign-in table had a guest register, gold and ceramic PRA lapel pins as favors, and a set of roses for each of the women (cont'd on P2)



PRA President Dave Smith, W1UWU (right) accepts 75th Anniversary of Affiliation Certificate from (L to R) ARRL NE Vice Director Don Haney, KA1T, ARRL Executive VP, David Sumner, K1ZZ and RI SCM, Rick Fairweather, K1KYI

in attendance. At eight o'clock the dinner buffet was started, and a plentiful dinner that included salads, breads, and a combination of fish, chicken and beef entrees, complete with all the trimmings was available. A dessert buffet followed the dinner, along with coffee and tea service. Our formal program started after the dinner was complete, with a welcome by Dave Smith, WA1UWU, the club president. He introduced our guests of honor, starting with David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Executive Vice President of the American Radio Relay League. Mr. Sumner gave his greetings, and proceeded to read an article from the archives of the ARRL, dating back to 1922 that mentioned the PRA. It seemed that there was a radio amateur, whose name got in the local RI press for a method that he had devised to eavesdrop on phone conversations, using some sort of an inductive antenna. The League officials were concerned about the bad name that this might engender for the hobby, and implored a member of the PRA to contact this errant ham and have him mend his ways. Next, Don Haney, KA1T, the Vice Director of the ARRL, New England Division was introduced, and gave his greetings and congratulations, and also those of Tom Frenaye, K1KI, the ARRL, New England Director, who was unable to be at the celebration. Don searched the QST back issues to deliver a few highlights of PRA notice and history. Rick Fairweather, K1KYI, the ARRL Section Manager of Rhode Island was next to give his salutations and fond memories of his visits to the PRA at Beavertail on Field Day. The three League officials then presented our president with a large framed certificate, commemorating our 75 years of affiliation with the ARRL. "It is the Clubs," said David Sumner, "that make up the essence of the American Radio League." And the Providence Radio Association is one fine example. Each of

the officials was presented with a deluxe Quill pen desk set with a gold base and PRA logo set in the center, as a memento of the club and this event.

Our secretary, John Good, W1GS, was next on the program with an oral history of the PRA. He talked about the communications service that the club provided during the Hurricane of '38, and the floods of the mid 50's. He honored many of the long-time club members who were 'Elmers' to many a fledgling ham, helping them get their code down, and exams passed, and helping them get on the air and honing their electronics and communications skills. Several of heard his voice crack, as he recalled the things that made the PRA great over the years, a sense of brotherhood, camaraderie and readiness to help a radio newcomer and each other.

A slide show of "The PRA Today" enlightened all attendees who haven't been to the clubhouse on Neutaconkanut Hill, with a guided tour of the antennas, the clubhouse and operating positions and equipment. A few slides of our trip to the Dayton Hamfest, and our Field Day at Beavertail rounded out the presentation. A letter sent by Bob Raymond, W1ZKA/6 was read to the audience, with reminiscences of his PRA membership in the 1950's.

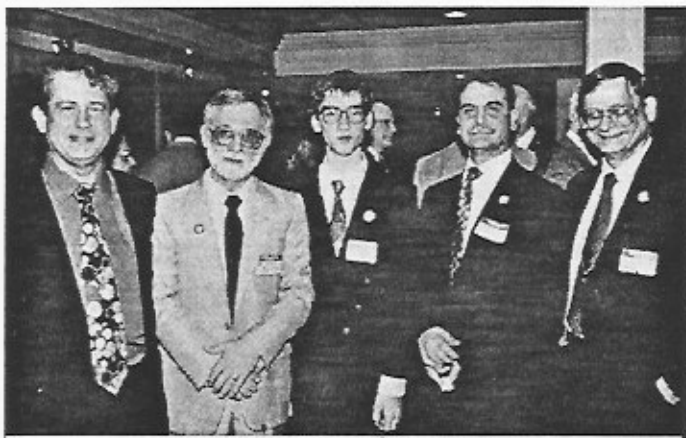
Member recognition included a handsome custom made certificate signed by each of the club officers. Each of the club members and the honored guests received a certificate commemorating their attendance at this event. A special award was made possible by the generosity of member Al Van Herpe, W1CPC, who donated a custom made wooden cabinet and dart board and dart set, which was given to Tom DePettrillo, W1IUP, for his generous support of the PRA and for this event. Finally we closed with a drawing for the door prizes that all were waiting for. Winners could have their choice of prizes, and among the first to go was a mini frequency counter, a handheld scanner, and a gift certificate for dinner at the Grist Mill. A dozen

more deluxe Quill pen desk sets with gold base and PRA logo were also very popular. Several hams paused over the 100 feet of RG-213 coax, that was finally claimed, while others chose a digital world clock and a station 12/24 hr. clock.

We were delighted to have newcomers and emeritus members alike on this festive evening. Champion contester, and previous PRA member Frank Donovan, W3LPL travelled to Rhode Island from his home in Maryland for the weekend with his lovely wife for the event. In addition to those mentioned above, in attendance were: Paul Depetrillo, N1HCK, Frank DePettrillo, W1EYH, Fred "Bud" Cooney, K1RKJ and Ann Moneta, Mr. and Mrs. Al Van Herpe, W1CPC, Skip Youngberg, K1NKR, Leon Rosen, N1XKT, Armand DeFusco, W1WKO, Peter DeQuattro, W1VDI, Albino Conte, WB1FLX, Jack Titterington, W1EOF, Ansel "Ash" Cleinman, W1BGM, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Cameron, WA1FOS, Mark Titterington, WA1PWA, Chris Rao, N1XZY, Linda Sumner, KA1ZD, Mr. and Mrs. Domenic Mallozi, N1DM, Mr. and Mrs. John Winman, KZ1K, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Brown, N1BBM, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas DePettrillo, W1IUP, Mr. and Mrs. Larry DePettrillo, N1QGO, Paolo DePettrillo, N1QGN, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rothman, W1TQW, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Chapman, KB1PS, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mancini, K1HGC, Al Pacheco, WA1IIN, Dennis McCormack, K1PLX, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Rosen, K1DS, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Egan, N1BAQ, Neville Bedford, N1JDA, Rodney Adams, N1ERJ, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dwyer, W1OTE, Howie Bromberg, K1VSJ, Paul Gosselin, N1RHS, Dave Tessitore, K1DT, Jack Youngberg, Mr. and Mrs. George Jakobsche, WA1NLL, and Richard Suls, KB1BKF.

Special thanks is due to all those who came, and have been members and supporters of the Providence Radio Association. The Board of Directors of 1996 and 1997, and the club officers made this 75th anniversary event possible. Special support was given by Tom DePettrillo, W1IUP, and a special prize donation from Al VanHerpe, W1CPC. (continued on page 3)

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Tutta Bella al famiglia DePetrillo



N1RHS and N1XZY discuss ATV and computing.



N1BAQ and XYL Lynn meet with W1VDI.



K1DT, and K1RKJ and XLY, and W1EOF reminisce.



KZ1K, N1BBM and several wives at the sign-in table.



K1KYI, WA1UWU, KA1T and K1ZZ, our leadership.



WA1PWA, N1DM and XYL, and K1DS's XYL share spirits.



KB1BKF, N1JDA and N1XKT celebrate.

(SHACK, continued from page 1) be secured into a position for repair in the next few weeks. Concerns have been raised about the access to the connector straps from the feed to the element, and the ability to be able to silver solder them after the mechanical repairs have been made, but it appears that there are always solutions for these vexing problems.

While the element mount is being repaired, additional parts will be replaced to insure the long and stable life of the antenna. The feedline connector reducers will be reworked to make the weatherproofing even more resistant to moisture.

Chris Rao, N1XZY, our newest club member installed a new 486 motherboard in the PC, along with another 8 meg of RAM. This may help speed operations along, and make multitasking a bit easier. The computer still needs to be RFI-proof.

The ATV repeater project is at a bit of a standstill, after the installation of a 'scope in the rack. Pictures were received from the club to the indoor setup at the Airport Radisson at the Anniversary Banquet.

(BANQUET, cont'd from page 2)

The antique radio displays were made possible thanks to the work of K1DT, old radio publications by Larry DePetrillo, N1QGO, ATV demo by Paul Gosselin, N1RHS. Club memorabilia, and reframed certificate of affiliation by John Good, W1GS, program design and printing, Gil Brown, N1BBM and host and financial manager, John Winman, KZ1K. Special gold Quill desk pen sets were donated by Neville Bedford, N1JDA.

### Club Calendar

Tues, May 13, 1997  
Business Meeting 8PM

Tues, June 10, 1997  
Business Meeting 8PM

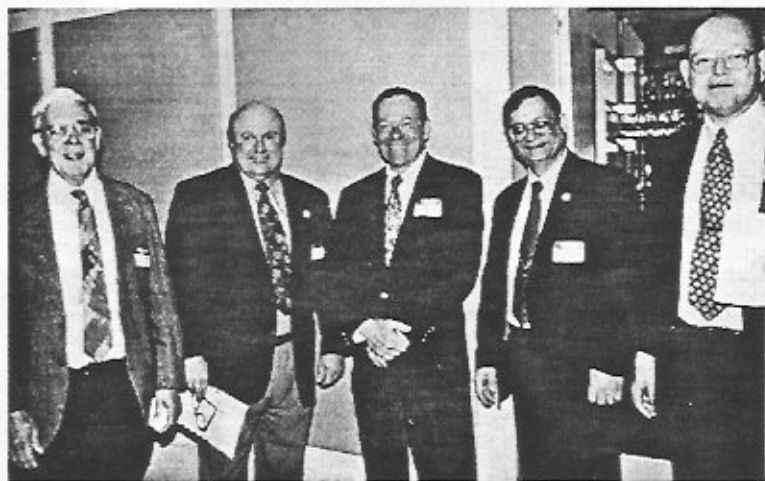
Sat/Sun, June 14-15, 1997  
VHF QSO Party

Sat/Sun, June 28-29, 1997  
Field Day

## Pictures from our Anniversary Banquet



K1PLX, Dennis McCormack, W3LPL, Frank Donovan and XYL chat with K1VSJ, Howie Bromberg.



WA1IIN, WA1UWU, Dave Smith, W1TQW, Bob Rothman, W1EYH, Frank DePetrillo and N1ERJ, Rodney Adams gather at the bar.



W1OTE, Jack Dwyer and XYL, N1HCK, Paul DePetrillo, and W1GS, John Good share good times.

## 75th Anniversary of PRA-ARRL Affiliation



Above: Attendees enjoyed a hearty buffet dinner.

Below: A letter from Bob Raymond, W1ZKA/6

Friday, March 21, 1997

To the Members of the Providence Radio Association,

Greetings from 6-Land and congratulations on 75 years of operation.

As I can't be with you this evening, permit me to reminisce for a moment. I was a member of PRA from 1952 to 1956.

The radio portion of my childhood memories in Providence are filled with PRA activities and the wonderful members who made it possible. I fondly remember the meetings in the old fire station on Reservoir Ave and some of the long winded station reports from the older members. We kids' wanted to get back on 2 meter AM. And of course there were the field days at the QD center in Scituate. What a QTH! The Old Timers would talk about intercepting radio transmissions from Rommel's German tanks in Africa during World War II.

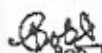
My first 6AG7 80 meter CW rig was bench tested and fired up by Bob Rothman, W1TQW (Two Quarts of Whiskey). Mal Bromberg, W1SGA (Sour Green Apples) spent hours of trouble shooting and fixing cold solder joints on many of my projects. And I remember the hours of operating at the QTH of Walt Hanson, W1KKR (King King Radio) when he had the first of the new Collins SSB equipment. It is a wonder their wives didn't declare me persona non grata.

Of course my main memories revolve around my friendship with Chuck Ashworth, W1BIS (Big Indian Squaw), dreaming and talking about when we grew up we would have the latest in receivers, transmitters, amps and antenna systems. Stringing long wires to neighbors' houses and trips to the FCC office at the Customhouse in Boston to upgrade our licenses really stand out as wonderful times. All this and more while attempting to survive old Classical HS.

To this day I am thankful there was a PRA while growing up but more importantly, thankful for all those members that helped point my activities in a positive direction. To those of you that are in attendance tonight, my heartfelt thanks.

Thanks for letting me ramble a bit. Have a wonderful evening. I look forward to working W1OP at Beavertail Point for many Field Days to come.

Best 73s to all,

  
Bob Raymond  
W1ZKA/6



David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive Vice President addresses the group.



N1BBM and W1OTE have things figured out.



W1ANNL and W1EYH recall the 'good old days'.



K1DT and KA1T in a moment of levity.



The Club Awards and door prizes.



Original PRA-ARRL Affiliation Certificate and memorabilia.



The 1st and 2nd issues of QST, and Building Dedication.



Citations from the Governor, Mayor, Senator and Congressmen.

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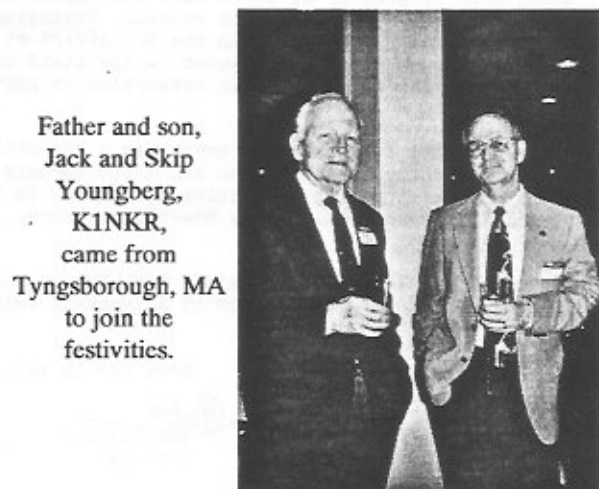
K1ZZ receives a PRA Quill pen from WA1UWU.



K1PLX and WA1FOS in an eyeball QSO.



WB1FLX and K1BGM review the program



Father and son, Jack and Skip Youngberg, K1NKR, came from Tyngsborough, MA to join the festivities.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 4, 1997

Warm greetings to all those celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Providence Radio Association's affiliation with the American Radio Relay League.

In the past century, the medium of radio has changed the way we live and the way we view our world, and amateur radio operators have played a vital role in this communications phenomenon. Linking people all across the globe, sharing knowledge and technological expertise, connecting computers via radio equipment, ham radio operators have helped to make our world a true global village. But even more important, they have provided a crucial lifeline of relief in times of disaster and hardship, ensuring that hope and help are on the way to those most in need.

I am pleased to commend all of those who have helped to make the Providence Radio Association such a valuable member of the American Radio Relay League. Best wishes for a memorable anniversary and every future success.

*Bill Clinton*



N1DM and K1DT share the joy of "real radios that glow in the dark."



The display table included a converted ARC-5, The HA-1 electronic keyer, an HRO and its bank of coils, a Collins KWM1 and antique keys.

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Above: N1RHS directs the beam to receive our ATV signals from the clubhouse repeater.