MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: NEW BUSINESS
DAVE TESSITORE, K1DT

In the past 18 months, the P.R.A. has gained 13 new members, had 4 inactive members return, and another handful who have expressed some interest in joining. Considering we are a small organization these numbers are phenomenal.

Clubs like the P.R.A. depend on their membership for guidance and purpose. The goal is to use the sum of the parts to provide those things one cannot accomplish individually.

In the case of the P.R.A., those “parts” are you our members, your ideas, your skills and talents, your questions, your support, and your participation.

We currently strive to provide education, mentoring, superior radio equipment for the club, remote radio stations for members’ use, “radiosport” team events and of course, camaraderie.

As President I merely assist with the management of the corporation, assure our Constitution and By-laws are adhered to. Yes, it is important that the roof does not leak, and the electric bill is paid, but the P.R.A. is much more than a building and a checkbook. This is Your Club, and it is the voice of each member which drives our advancement. Whether a member for 6 weeks or 60 years, you each have input into the future of this organization.

One of the most important segments of our monthly business meetings is New Business. It is a bellwether of the health of our Club. No New Business indicates no progress, no new ideas, no advancements. For the P.R.A. to prosper we need lots of New Business; fresh ideas, and challenges to the norm. Please participate, agree, disagree, suggest, question, assist, and critique. This is how we will grow, this is how we will better serve all our members, and this is how we will prosper.

Throughout our 102 years, the P.R.A. has succeeded due to new members with new ideas. We have always encouraged our younger members to be involved, hold office, and embraced their new ideas. Let us keep this tradition going for another 100 years!
In 1959, 12-year-old Frank Donovan, not yet licensed, joined the P.R.A. for a memorable Field Day, spending most of his time in the CW tent. The phone station ran a KWM-1, the first ever SSB transceiver driving a home-brew quad. On CW, W1OP/1 ran a Viking II transmitter and an NC-300 receiver. The antenna was a Lazy H strung between a tree and the boom of a sign truck the club had borrowed for the weekend. Frank said “by the end of that Field Day my code speed was pretty good”.

A week or so later, in July 1959, Frank received his first license, KN1LPL. By the following November Frank participated in his first Sweepstakes, his first real contest. There would be many more until, few years later in 1964, at the age of 17, he took an unexpected 1st place, low power, in the ARRL CW DX contest.

Frank climbed to mount beams and hang dipoles. The W1OP/1 1968 Field Day entry finished first place in the 4A category, the one and only time that W1OP finished in the coveted number one position.

After earning a EE from URI, Frank went into the Air Force and ultimately settled in Maryland where he slowly began to build his own contest station, now Multi-multi-superstation W3LPL in Glenwood Md.

Over the years Frank reckons W3LPL has worked over 1 million stations. To date, he has over 50 first place finishes in the CQ WW DX and the ARRL DX Contests. Frank was elected to the CQ Contesting Hall of Fame in May 1999.

Although renowned as a contesteer, technical innovation and the desire to try something new has kept him engaged. A strong advocate of radio clubs, he explained in a 2016 interview “That’s how I got my start ... where I took my Novice test”. “Clubs are an enormous opportunity for growth and learning from the experiences of other hams”. Early on, his interest in technical matters soon found him teaching licensing classes early on at the PRA. “Exposure to ham radio, engineers in the hobby, and members of the W1OP club led me to pursue an engineering degree” and ultimately a career in communication systems engineering.

Even as he conducted license classes as a young
Dr. Rick Rosen, K1DS, joined the P.R.A. in the late 70s after moving to Providence to practice Pediatrics. With his interest in weak signal communication at 50 MHz and above, he led P.R.A.’s VHF/UHF and Microwave efforts for 20 years. Rick received his first license in the Spring of 1959 as WV2ITR in the Bronx, NY. He quickly became WA2ITR and later, WA1WGD during his residency in Boston. He acquired his current call, K1DS in 1977.

Although there had always been some interest in VHF before and after WWII and well into the ‘50s, Rick essentially re-introduced VHF/UHF contesting to the P.R.A. and was instrumental in establishing a VHF/UHF capability at W1OP. Over the course of his tenure in RI, Rick assembled one of the first rover stations in the region with rigs and antennas for 50 through 1296, and eventually 10GHz, packed into a station wagon. He and Bob, N1BAQ, put a 10 GHz, 100mW rig together and with a 2’ dish worked Mt Wachusett from a fire tower in the north of the state. Beginning in 1992, Rick led the first of three successful club DXpeditions to W1IUP’s summer cottage on Block Island for the June VHF contest where many members were introduced to coastal tropo and 6m sporadic E propagation for the first time. Rick was also the AMSAT Coordinator for RI. Using the OSCAR 7 and 8 satellites on 144/432 up/down links, he obtained Satellite-WAS. By returning some UHF tuners he found by chance for practically nothing at a hamfest, he was able to receive Mal, W1SGA’s ATV signal. This eventually led the club to assembling its own ATV repeater station at W1OP/R. Rick also served as Secretary of the P.R.A. and edited its newsletter.

Rick was also instrumental in the restoration of the Collins Log Periodic Dipole Antenna, especially in obtaining necessary materials such as the beryllium copper strapping that connects the elements to the feedline and facilitating the fabrication of a fixture linking the rotor universal shaft to the motor and chain drive.

No stranger to the lower bands, Rick frequently participated in many of the P.R.A.’s HF contests, such as the ‘phone SS, where KiPLX ensured that W1OP supplied a sought-after RI QSO; and, of course, Rick was an important contributor to the annual P.R.A. Field Day effort at Beavertail.

In 1997, Rick assumed a new position as Regional Quality Medical Director for Aetna in the Philadelphia area where he became active with the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club, W3CCX, the “Packrats”, where he edited “Cheesebits”, the club newsletter, and eventually he became the club’s President. He currently resides in Boynton Beach, Florida where he maintains a 144/432 MHz satellite station and runs EME with single Yagi and 1296 MHz, 2.4m foldable dish. He’s an active member of the Boca Raton ARA. There are indications he may return to “roving” in the near future.

RICHARD “RICK” ROSEN—K1DS
ON THE AIR: WORKING ALL STATES—MOBILE
VIC FARMER, NE1Y

In 1976 several W1OP members got involved with the Bicentennial Worked All States net. Shortly after in 1977, the 3905 Century Club was formed with our own W1GS as one of its charter members. The 3905 Century Club provides organized nets for amateurs pursuing WAS, DX, and other similar operating challenges. A popular net is the Worked All States Net, but participation from several states could be poor unless a mobile station showed up.

In past years NE1Y has tested a variety of temporary mobile installations including boats, cars, and even boat trailers where the mast of the boat sitting horizontally was used for an antenna. The mobile setup shown was used to see what action could be raised from south Florida and consisted of an ICOM 7300, Hercules II amplifier, and a tuner. Running an antenna off a trailer hitch next to the side of the back hatch, required the use of a hefty tuner. When testing mobile rigs, we don’t like to bolt everything down, but still need things fixed in place which parachute cord does nicely. Finally, two 12-volt batteries were tied in parallel to the Ford Escape’s car battery.

From Lowdermilk Park in Naples, Florida; https://www.naplesgov.com/parksrec/page/lowdermilk-park we worked several states. The Park is on the west coast of Florida and faces the Gulf. For simple WAS exchanges the system was quite effective, working 37 states mobile. A similar setup was also used on a couple occasions from Hawaii with 42 states worked mobile. For the Hawaii operation, an IC706 with the Hercules II amplifier was used.

We find that testing using participation from the WAS Net is an ideal way to see how well an experimental setup operates. Many members on the net will automatically work stations identifying with “/M” that they have not worked before.

Want to learn more about the 3905 Century Club or the ARRL Worked All States Award?

http://www.3905ccn.com/  http://www.arrl.org/was
On June 26th and 27th, the Providence Radio Association participated in the ARRL annual Field Day operating event. We operated class 3D from the PRA club house atop Neautaconkanut Hill. A great turnout for the event permitted us to have enough operators to have three stations running for the entire 24 hour event. We were honored with appearances from Frank Donovan, W3LPL, and Rick Rosen, K1DS.

K1DT, W1GS, N1DM, and KQ6UP operated the CW station from Studio B using the Yaesu FT1000 Mark V into the 80 meter doublet for a grand total of 1047 contacts.

K1DS, KZ1K, W1AXB, and W1ER operated the SSB station using the FT1000 in Studio A into the log periodic for a grand total of 1044 contacts.

KA3WLV operated the FT8 station using the ICOM 7300 on 6 meters into the 6 meter Yagi. This was Bob’s first Field Day with the club and had the opportunity to witness the fast paced action along with the ups and downs as traffic came and went and as we fought the unexpected emergencies.

KZ1K raised concerns on Saturday afternoon that he was having difficulty hearing the SSB stations on 20 meters, but late on Sunday morning he switched over to 15 meters and became a machine cranking out contacts at a peak rate of 140 plus contacts per hour. Fantastic job!

Final results are tallied on the next page.

SAY CHEEEESE!

A healthy helping of stinky cheese has become a staple of the P.R.A. Field Day diet. In 2016 we conducted a battle of the nations by taste testing Blue Cheese from four countries. The winner was a tie but the loser was clear. The loser is spared the embarrassment.

This year we had healthy servings of Blue Stilton, English Cheddar, and Cotswald Double Gloucester. While there was no competition, the Blue Stilton was clearly the winner because there was not a speck remaining. The pile of English Cheddar also had a sizeable dent. We had a fair amount of Cotswald remaining which suggests to me that people don’t like their cheese being fouled with spices.

What will we do for Field Day 2022? We will have to wait and see, but a larger quantity of Blue Stilton comes highly recommended.
**W1OP 2021 Field Day Results**

- **CW QSO’s**: 1047 x 2 = 2094
- **DIGITAL QSO’s**: 54 x 2 = 108
- **PHONE QSO’s**: 1044 x 1 = 1044
- **TOTAL QSO POINTS**: 3246
- **POWER MULTIPLIER**: x 2 = 6492
- **EXTRA POINTS**: 450
- **TOTAL SCORE**: 6942

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Many thanks to the following members for their participation this year:

- AC1IJ, Dan Harrington
- K1DS, Rick Rosen, traveled in from PA
- K1DT, Dave Tessitore
- K1MD, Richard San Antonio
- KB1EFR, Larry Basile
- KZ1K, John Winman
- N1BBM, Gil Brown
- N1RHS, Paul Gosselin
- N1DM, Domenic Mallozzi
- NE1Y, Vic Farmer
- W1AXB, Matt Paine
- W1ER, Tom Greenwood
- W1EYH, Frank DePetrillo
- W1GS, John Good
- W1IUP, Tom DePetrillo
- W1OSP, Bob VanHerpe
- W1PRA, Paul DePetrillo
- WA1FOS, Ron Cameron
- WA1WEF, Jack Butler
- WA2TNX, Jim Meltzer
- KA3WLV, Bob Simoneau
- W3LPL, Frank Donovan, in from MD

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A giant thank you to all the Friends of the PRA who joined us for this event:

- KB1KVD, Jason Legrow, VP, New England Spectrum Management Council
- KB1WWU, Olivia Davis, future XYL of KB1KVD
- 1st Harmonic of KB1WWU
- KC1NDE, Nicholas “Junior” Harrington, grandson of member AC1IJ
- KC1OPN, Dan Foley, prospective member
- Meg Wilson, Graduate Student at Brown University
- KQ6UP, Chris Maness, visiting from San Bernardino, CA CW OP
- Dan Sarkis, Nephew of KQ6UP, Scouting Radio Merit Badge
- Nathan Sarkis, Nephew of KQ6UP, Scouting Radio Merit Badge
HAPPENINGS:

Congratulations to Bob Simoneau; KA3WLV who was sworn in as a new member of the association on March 9, 2021 with further congratulations for passing his General exam in June. Way to go, Bob!

Congratulations to Don Stanford, KV4DN who was sworn in as a new member of the association on June 8, 2021

Congratulations to Andy Goldman; KD2TVP who was sworn in as a new member of the association on July 13, 2021

Have you evaluated your station for RF exposure? The ARRL now has an online calculator to determine the safe distance between your antennas and people in proximity to them. Calculations are conducted for exposure in “occupational” or “controlled” environments and for the general population in “uncontrolled” environments. Visit the ARRL’s online calculator at: [http://arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator](http://arrl.org/rf-exposure-calculator)

There will be a free Technician Class course on ZOOM beginning Thursday, September 9 and running for 7 sessions. Sessions will start at 6:30 and run 3 hours. No charge. Classes are sponsored by the National Electronics Museum and have been held for years. Please publicize this with anyone you know whom you think would be interested. Sign up by email to roland.anders@comcast.net.

HISTORY: ASTATIC D-104

Those of you with keen eyes and old enough to remember, may have noticed the D-104 microphone faint in the background on the first page. The lollipop shaped design with its silver finish was also called the Silver Eagle or the Golden Eagle with a gold finish and were popular amongst ham radio and citizen band radio operators.

Developed by C.M. Chorpening, W8WR (later W8MJM), and F.H. Woodworth, W8AHW, the pair were two ham radio operators who needed a static-free microphone for their transmitters. Starting in 1931, they worked with local engineers to develop their first crystal radio microphone. Having overcome the problem of static—hence the name “Astatic”, Chorpening and Woodworth went on to incorporate the Astatic Corporation in 1933, and develop a line of innovative crystal mics, phonograph pickups and recording heads. Astatic also made significant contributions to the allied effort in World War II with an underwater sound detection hydrophone and static-discharger for Army and Navy aircraft.

Production of the D-104 lasted almost seven decades but ceased production in 2001.
CALENDAR:

Enigma Machines and Alan Turing by W1IUP
31 August 2021  Tuesday Evening Technical Talk
Our own Tom Depetrillo will provide us with a great historical talk about the German cypher machines and Alan Turing’s genius to break them.

Olneyville NY System Dinner
7 Sept. 2021 2300Z  18 Plainfield Street, Providence, RI
Join us for hot wiener, fries, and coffee milk. And remember, if you put ketchup on your hot wiener, you will go straight to hot wiener hell!

ARRL New England Convention  http://hamxposition.org
10-12 Sept. 2021  Best Western Royal Plaza, Marlborough, MA
Please don’t miss this event. Great vendor and expert presentations, a flea, and recognition of the PRA’s 100 year affiliation with the ARRL

Introduction to DMR by N1DM
28 Sept. 2021  Tuesday Evening Technical Talk
A popular talk by Dom Mallozzi who will help to remove some of the mystery behind this increasingly popular operating mode

Nearfest XXX  http://near-fest.com
15—16 Oct. 2021  Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, NH
Join us along the Boulevard of Broken Dreams for this semi-annual pilgrimage of amateur radio in New England. This cannot be missed!

Making N3FJP ACL & LoTW Play by W1ER
26 October 2021  Tuesday Evening Club Technical Talk
Amateur Contact Log is a great tool for your logging needs. Submitting that data to Logbook of the World can be a challenge until you know how to tame the beast.

Centennial Dinner
7 December 2021  Location to be announced
Invite past PRA Members, League officials, presentation or guest speaker and a raffle. Video Presentation. Guests invited.

ARRL HQ Visit
9 December 2021  Newington, CT
Visit ARRL HQ and operate W1AW. League will help promote this as a special event.
The Providence Radio Association (P.R.A.) started in 1919 in the Elmwood section of Providence, RI by a group of 8 young men who were itching to get back on the air after World War 1. Amateurs had been off the air since the beginning of World War I and in that period all amateur licenses had expired. It was not until November 1919 that hams got back on the air.

By September 1920 the group became more organized and were referred to as the Elmwood Radio Association and were meeting weekly at members’ homes to discuss radio and help each other.

By 1921 there were close to 70 members. Requiring larger quarters, the Club moved to the Providence YMCA and changed the name to the current Providence Radio Association to reflect their desire to be more than a neighborhood organization.

In October 1921 the 2-year-old PRA filed a “Resolution of Affiliation” with the American Radio Relay League, with Lew Bellem, 1BES as president and Lew Leighton, 1ETD as secretary signing for the club. This resolution was approved by the ARRL on November 19, 1921. An ARRL club charter of affiliation was issued and signed by President Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW on December 9, 1921.

The P.R.A. continues to meet weekly. It is the earliest surviving ham club in Rhode Island and one of the oldest in the Nation.

This is Your newsletter. Forward your items of interest, short articles, and photos to W1ER@ARRL.NET We will make every effort to include your submission.

73 AND SEE YOU IN DECEMBER

MYSTERY
Have you found the hidden message? If you did, let us know. We’ll show you in the December issue where it is hiding.