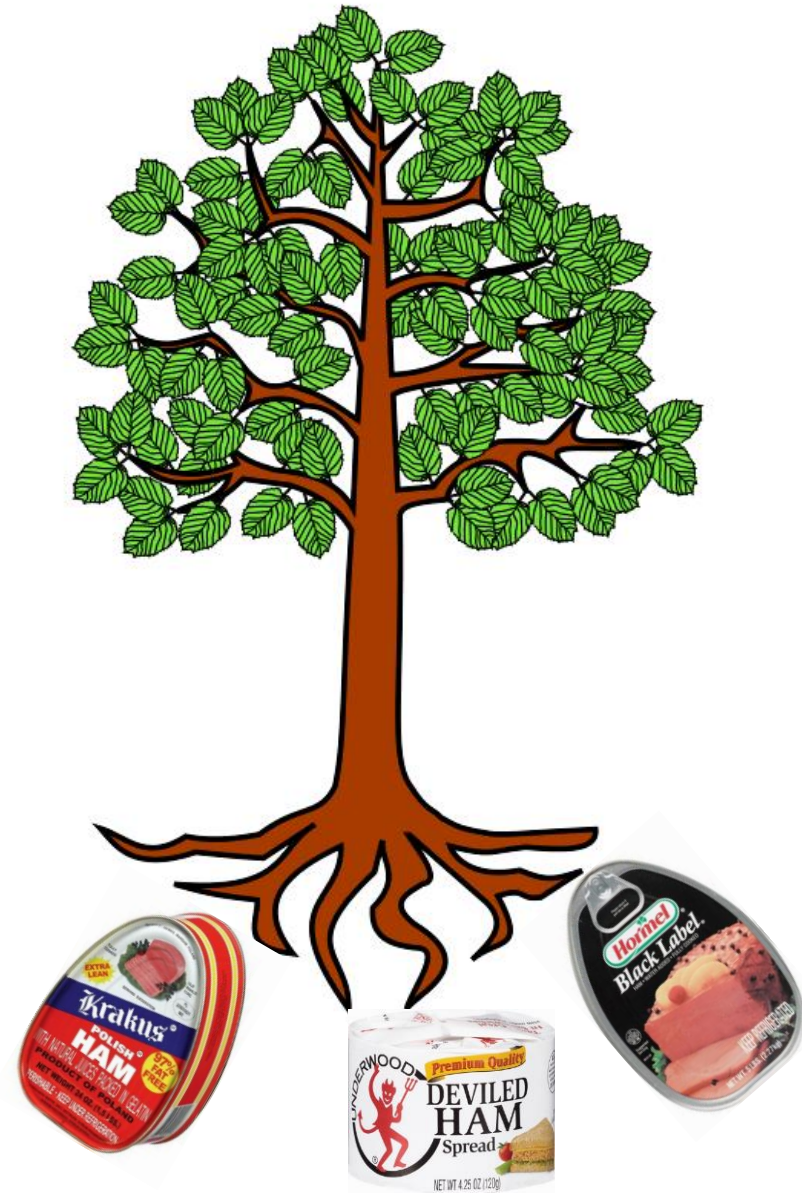


Finding your ham roots

A history of amateur radio call signs & tracing the history of your own call sign

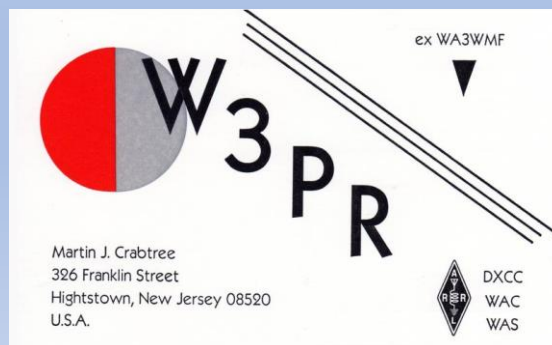
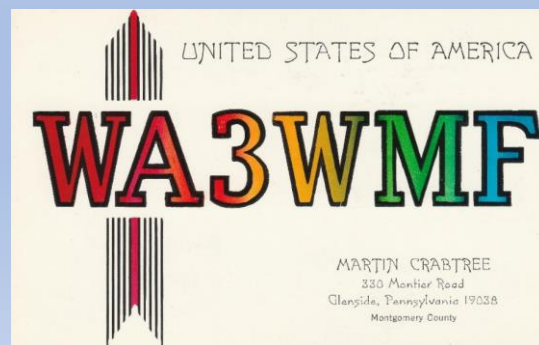
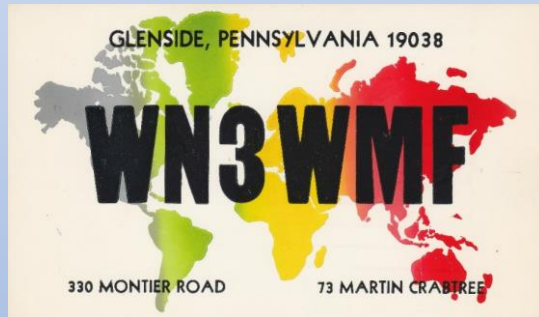
Martin Crabtree – W3PR



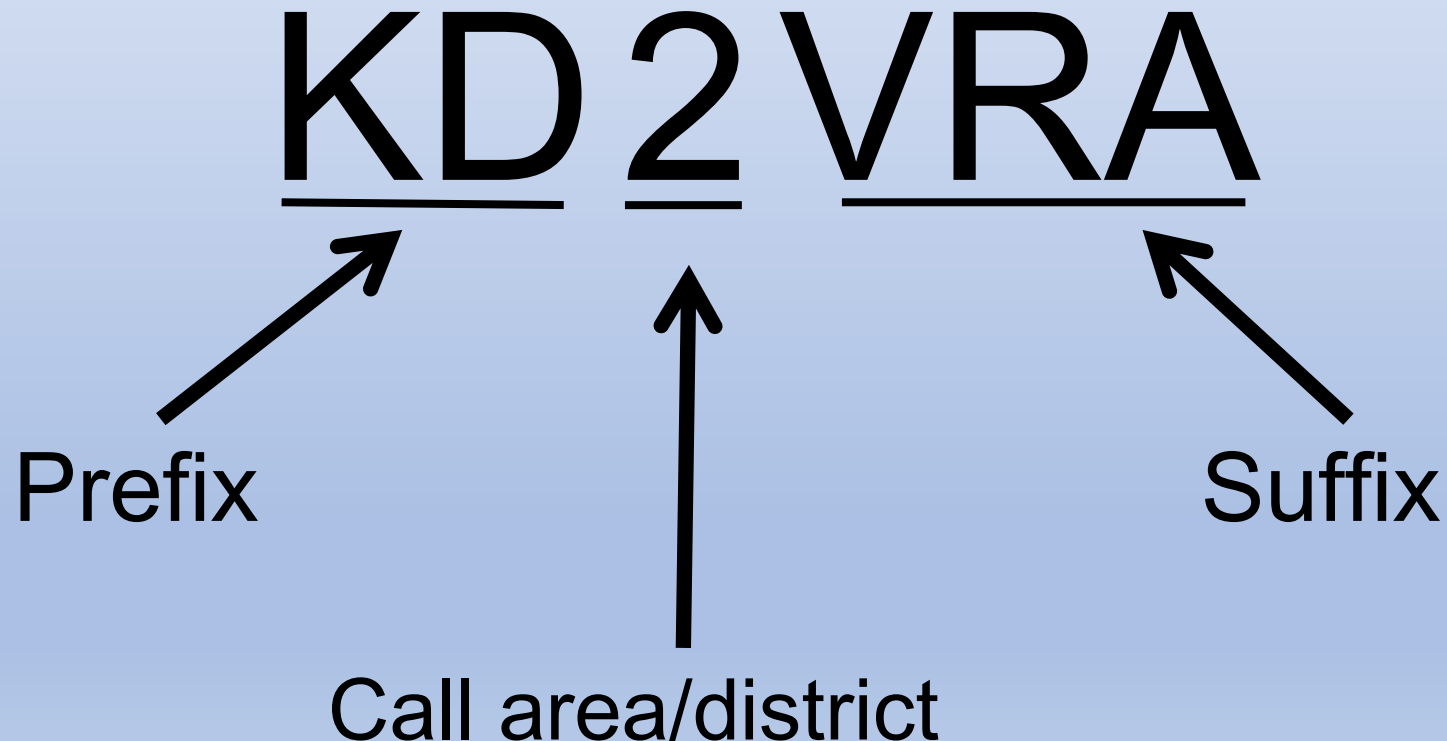


Finding you ham roots

- Call sign terminology
- History of call signs in the U.S.
- Tracing the history of your call sign
 - Callbooks
 - FCC ULS
- Looking at the history of some call signs & a call sign quiz



Call sign terminology



Call sign structure

Call signs are referred to by the number of letters before and after the call area number:

- 1 X 2 - W2ZQ
- 1 X 3 - K2AFO
- 2 X 1 - NJ3U
- 2 X 2 - AB2VG
- 2 X 3 - KD2OTG

W2ZQ WA3DX AA2F WA2TMF AB2IO W3TEC AB2VG W3PR AC2RY KD2OTG AD2TR W2SRH KD2MXH
K2AFO KC2MTO W2JIL KD2FDT W2JEJ KC3BHD NJ3U K2GW KD2PIA K2PCG N3DD KC2VDL KC1JGT
N2GJ K2VPX N2JOY KB2GBQ K3EA K2WLD KC2PQC KC2TGM AB2DB WE1X KD2KEM KD2NVP AB2RC
KB2KBZ WB2ZUB KD2NXE AF4NC WA3NEQ KD2FIH WA3ZST K2AAR N2CAU KC3LXC N2HUN KD2OZV
WA2FGD K2MJD W2JMZ KC2VDM KD2Q K2NJH KD2OZX W2HRO KC2OXO KD2PHX KC2NSY KD2PIB
K2QM KD2QFA KC2ISY W2GEZ K2RIX KC2CKI W1PAM N2MPM KB2RMS NW3T KB2FA KA2EOB N2PJU
W2ZQ W2ZQ
N3DD K3DQZ
NJ3U W3ZET
K3EA W1AW
K2WLD W1BB
WA3RCA K3CR

Ham Call Sign History

W2ZQ WA3DX AA2F WA2TMF AB2IO W3TEC AB2VG W3PR AC2RY KD2OTG AD2TR W2SRH KD2MXH
K2AFO KC2MTO W2JIL KD2FDT W2JEJ KC3BHD NJ3U K2GW KD2PIA K2PCG N3DD KC2VDL KC1JGT
N2GJ K2VPX N2JOY KB2GBQ K3EA K2WLD KC2PQC KC2TGM AB2DB WE1X KD2KEM KD2NVP AB2RC
KB2KBZ WB2ZUB KD2NXE AF4NC WA3NEQ KD2FIH WA3ZST K2AAR N2CAU KC3LXC N2HUN KD2OZV
WA2FGD K2MJD W2JMZ KC2VDM KD2Q K2NJH KD2OZX W2HRO KC2OXO KD2PHX KC2NSY KD2PIB
K2QM KD2QFA KC2ISY W2GEZ K2RIX KC2CKI W1PAM N2MPM KB2RMS NW3T KB2FA KA2EOB N2PJU

Before there was radio...

- There was the telegraph
- Along telegraph lines, each telegraph station either picked or was given an identifier (aka call sign), often one or two letters.
- This way, telegraphers along the line knew who each message was directed to.
- In the earliest days of radio, a similar practice of using call signs quickly developed.

Radio begins, call signs aren't far behind

- Both amateur and commercial stations quickly started using some form of call signs.
- Lacking any regulations, early call signs were just “made up” by the individual or company
- Most call signs consisted of 2 or 3 letters, a few using a single letter. Numbers weren't used.
- With the limited range of early stations, multiple stations with the same call wasn't a problem.

Time for a question

In what year was the first list of amateur call signs published?

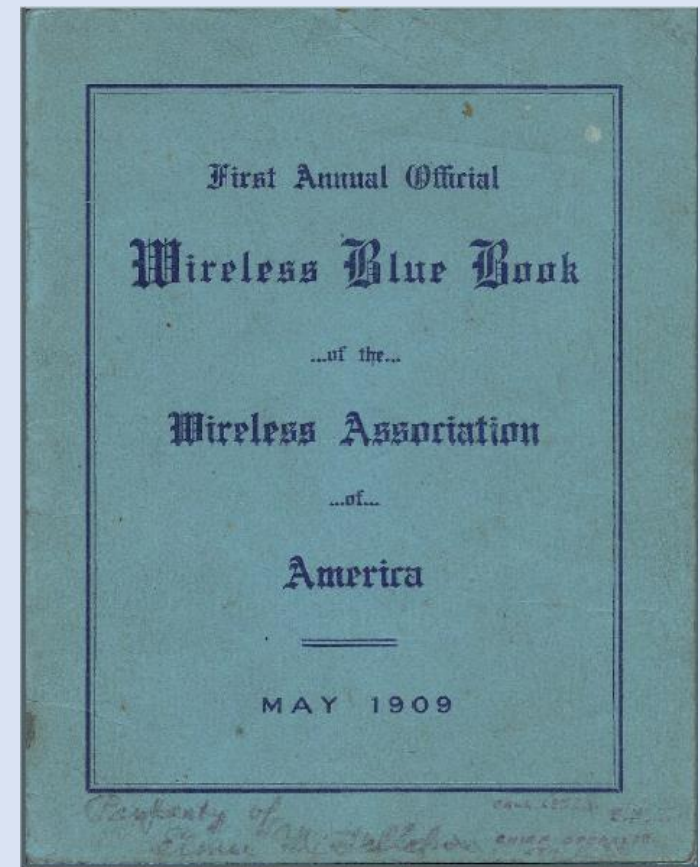
The first ham call signs

- The first list of ham stations appeared in the July, 1908 issue of *Modern Electrics*.
- 10 ham stations were listed.

| <u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u> | <u>CALL</u> |
|--|-------------|
| 1--A. C. Austin, Jr., Hasbrouck Hts, N. J. | AU |
| 2--Otto E. Curtis, Rochester, N. Y. | Q |
| 3--M. D. Douglas, Hasbrouck Hts, N. J. | MD |
| 4--Harry Gross, Hackensack, N. J. | HG |
| 5--Albert Higson, Jersey City, N. J. | AH |
| 6--Harold E. Peck, Providence, R. I. | PE |
| 7--J. Peters, Jr., Florissant, Mo. | PI |
| 8--L. S. Stevens, Marlboro, Mass. | LS |
| 9--Newell A. Thompson, Brookline, Mass. | KN |
| 10--Earl Vogel, Ashton, Ill. | AN |

By 1909, call signs were in regular use

- Directories of call signs began to be published including both commercial and amateur stations
- The U.S. Navy, commercial shipping companies, and wireless telegraph companies were early call sign users
- Amateurs continued to use their own made up call signs



1912 – Licensing begins

- With the Radio Act of 1912, the Department of Commerce began issuing amateur radio licenses and call signs beginning in mid-December 1912.
- The 48 states were broken up into 9 call areas.
- Each call sign began with the area number followed by 2 letters.

American Radio Relay League Station 1AW
Hiram Percy Maxim, Owner 276 No. Whitney Street, Hartford, Conn.
Radio 9 DCT
Your ew signals were worked here on 11-11 at about
6.50 A.M. E.S.T.
P.M. on Tuska three-circuit tuner and two stages audio amplification, Baldwin phones.
Audibility QSB
Remarks: you were calling another 7.
Would like report on 1AW's signals if you hear them. Best 73's.
Hiram Percy Maxim Operator

Wave-length 176
QRM Bad
QRN Some
QSS Some
Weather Cloudy
Tone Good
Wave

1AW

Radio 9 DCT, on 11-11,
You were R 17
hr. in **CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.**
Xmitter hr is one 250 watt with 3000 V. on it's plate, and pushing 3.9 amps into a vertical cage
9MT
73's de
H. G. ENDE, "HG"
3815 N. Marshfield Ave.
QSB Good
QSS
QSSS
QTC

Two letter calls run out quickly

- The commerce department figured that two letters “would probably suffice... for some time to come”.
- By 1914, 2 letter calls were running out. The department began issuing 3 letter call signs.

169 E. 24 Street
Radio *688* Ur CW Sigs *Wked* Hr. *11:45* at *11:40* M. C.S.T.
QRK R. *5* QSB *De* QRM *after* QRN *sum* QSS *nil*

Tran. *50W*
Coup Hart *550*
CRAC

9BGO

Rec.
Reinartz
R.E.L.
Coils
es 2 steps

Aerial: Semi-Vertical Cage, 40 ft. high and 35 ft. long
Remark *Vy Ed to W. B. ex. Old H. K. to C. M. A.*
Pse QSL OM. QRK? *Best* CLEMENTE CARDUCCI, Opf.
735

1421 Vista St. Hollywood, Calif.

Radio *7EFK*

Ur..... Sigs wkd hrd Hr..... At..... M.P.S.T.

Aud..... QSB..... QSS..... QRM.....

Receiver: Low Loss..... Ckt es..... Step

Transmitter:..... watts in..... Ckt Rad.....

Remarks *Willa Jo, Saw me at 4:10 PM. Since a fine gang
here. We were in today. A fine 9.5. I think I saw
Hallen at 4:11. Saw in the world with plane too.*

GLD to QSR *Saw Tom trying this am. Best 73's*

PSE QSL QRK? *Best 73's to all Hal Olson
9066*

R. W. Love.

The 9 call areas

- Ham licenses in the continental U.S. were broken into 9 call areas until after WWII.
- The “2” call area, at this time, consisted of:
 - Eastern New York
 - The counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, and Union in New Jersey
- The “3” call area consisted of:
 - The rest of New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington DC, & Virginia
- If you moved to a different call area, you were issued a new call sign corresponding to your new area number.

The 9 call area map from 1939



Some calls were not available

- Calls with X, Y, and Z as the first letter in the suffix were reserved:
 - X for experimental stations
 - Y for technical/training school stations
 - Z for “special” amateur stations.
- What made a station “special” was never clearly stated in the regulations.
- For a time, special station call signs were issued to hams who were especially skilled in radio.
- These stations were allowed to operate in the more desirable portions of the radio spectrum above 200 meters. Few “Z” calls were issued.

Other calls that weren't available

- Along with the X, Y, and Z calls, some other calls were not available as well.
- For example, calls were not available when they contained:
 - Q-signals i.e. 3QSB
 - “objectionable” letter combinations
 - SOS
 - Other internationally used letter combinations

The rules around
“objectionable” call signs have
relaxed over the years.

W2SEX



USA

AMATEUR RADIO ASSN OF TONAWANDAS INC

PO BOX 430

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

USA

QSL: DIRECT VIA P.O. BOX, ARRL INCOMING & 3905CCN BUREAUS, LOTW

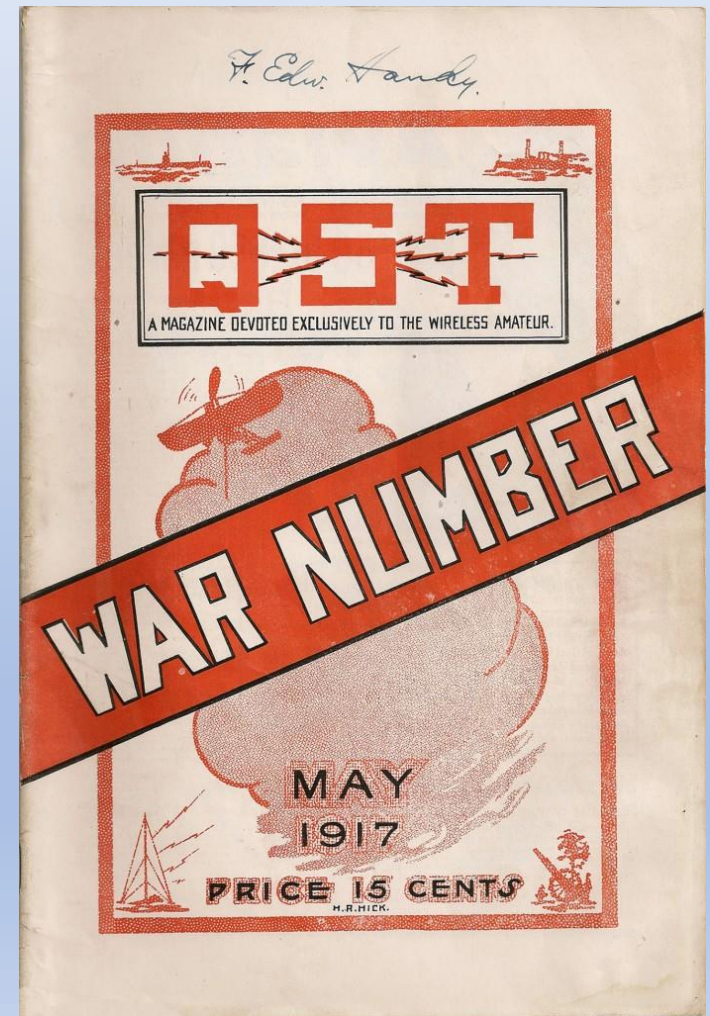
Email: Use mouse to view..

April 1917, the U.S enters WWI

Amateur radio was shut down.

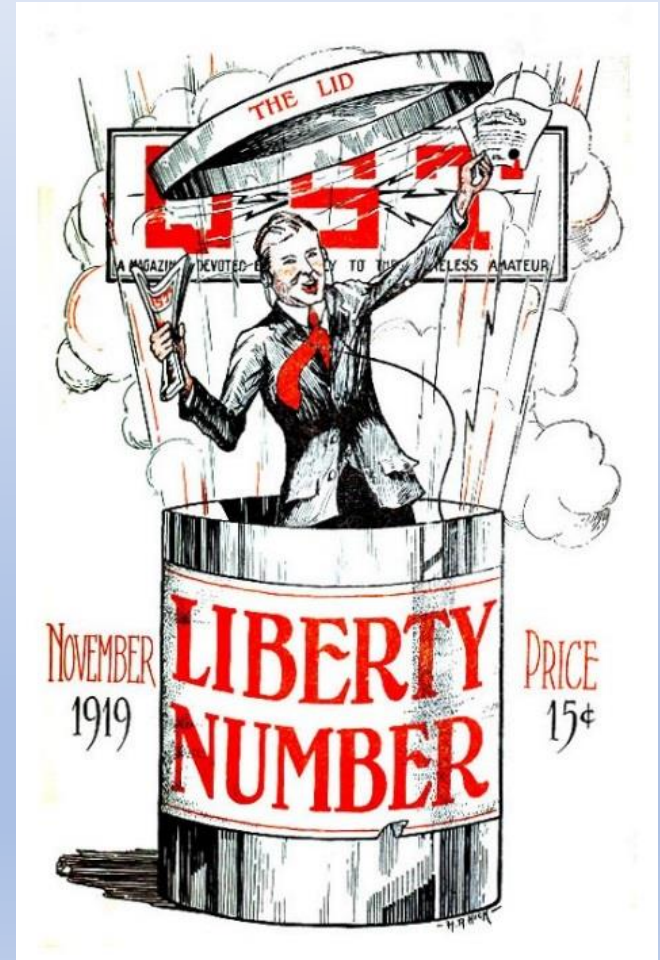
Hams were ordered to dismantle their stations.

All ham licenses and call signs were terminated.



Starting over after the war

- With the Armistice in November 1918, it wasn't clear if ham radio would return... especially if the Navy had anything to say about it.
- In the fall of 1919, the word came out, hams could go back on the air!



Starting up after the war

- With the reactivation of amateur radio, all hams had to obtain a license all over again.
- As all call signs had been cancelled, hams would be issued new call signs.
- All of the old pre-war call signs were going to be reissued.
- This brings up the question of “desirable” call signs...

Desirable call signs

- Hams have been wanting specific call signs since the pre-license days (when they made them up).
- The earliest call signs (1 X 2 call signs starting with “W”) are still very desirable today like W2ZQ.
- It’s like having a license plate with a low number.
- Short call signs (both 1 X 2 and 2 X 1) are desired by others like contesters and DXers.
- Others like having their initials, name, or something else in their call sign like K2AFO, N3DD, K2GW, N2JOY, W2SRH, and AD2TR.

Getting that desired call sign

The Stew Perry story

- A 15 year old Stew Perry decided to be first in line to obtain call 1AA when licensing restarted in late 1919.
- Even after getting up at 4AM to be first in line, he found others were ahead of him.
- Stew would become 1BB
- Later as W1BB, Stew would become known as Mr. 160, a champion of the 160 meter band and holder of 160 meter DXCC #1.

Stew Perry, W1BB
73 Magazine (June 1977)



Adding a prefix

- Advancements in radio technology made it clear that the call sign scheme was not practical.
 - Was 3AL from Pennsylvania or Canada?
- In 1923, the ARRL proposed a voluntary system of “International Intermediates” to be added as a prefix to one’s call sign.
- In the US, the (lower case) letter u was used: u 3PR
 - Others included c (Canada), p (Portugal), and z (New Zealand)
- It wasn’t long before 2 letters were used also:
 - bz (Brazil), ch (Chile), hu (Hawaiian Islands)

For example...

5VA
RADIO URCW SIGS WKD Hr. Abt. 330 A.M. E.S. Time 4/24. 1927
AUD R-5 QSB DC QSS QRN QRM Always QRK F.B.
TRANSMITTER
7.5 WATT
CH. CKT
100 W. Input
Antenna NPOOR HERTZ
Long 25 ft.
High 30 ft.
REMARKS: TX on fr QSR at 250 m2
GPR: DX WKD on 21
EQ-EF-ND-NC- all USA
PUB. BY THE RETRO PRESS, 100 W. 40TH ST., N.Y.

PORTABLE
U-2APA
T.W. CHISHOLM
PARK RIDGE N.Y.

RECEIVER
Tuner Schell
AMP. 1 step
QSR Always
PSE QSL
VY-73 S

ORS
Radio 3PP 1170 W 4th STREET WILLIAMSPORT, PA.
UR SIGS Wrk Hr 7026 1925
QQR R 6 WX QSS QSB QPN QRM QSC fl.
20 complex MTR HR
UV 211 ES 103
L. C. Hartley Ch
1100 Volts
445 Millis
42 Jars
8-BIN'S Al Es Lead
Aerial 50 ft Long 70
Ctpse 10 hi. Long 60
R. C. C. All junk Hr subject to change wid out notice.
Spark Forever! "LM" at 8WH Es President
E. L. MANEVAL
Along The Susquehanna Trail

U-8ETI
Ye Ole Style Audiotron
Made Oct. 11, 1911
Baldy Fones
Home Made Wave Meter
1st Grade Ham License
I. A. R. U. R. U.?

2711 Espy Avenue, Dormont, Pittsburgh, Pa.
RADIO INTERVIEW. Your card rec'd. Many thanks.
UR SIGS WORKED HERE AT EST AUD.
RECEIVER: LOW LOSS (that's what they all say) AND 1 STAGE A.F.A.
TRANSMITTER: 50 WATT 100 VOLT M.G. ANTENNA CURRENT 1.1 AM
OUR DX: FRANCE, ENGLAND, HOLLAND, SPAIN, BELGIUM, MEXICO,
SOUTH AMERICA, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, CHINA, ETC.
REMARKS: WE SUMMIT SPECIALLY YOUR REPORT OF OUR
SIGNALS, ON WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TO RECEIVE SUCH
REPORTS. I ENGLISH MESSAGES SURE DO US VERY
Nice little card you have there! W. H. ALEXANDER
Let's see one of 'em OM. A. L. ALEXANDER
IN QSL'ING. MANY THANKS. G-84Y VERY GOOD
Washington and Jefferson College is our Alma Mater. ZEN.

U-8UQ

BOX 164 WESTON, MO., U. S. A.
Radio 90TWR CW SIGS WKD Hr 10-5 At 7:47 P.M. CST
N
U
9AYK
Trans. 210-24W. Inpt Rec. Reinartz-1 Step
Remarks: Gid 050 es hpr hr
Pse QSL u often Vy 73 E. CROCKETT, Jr.

Some used "n" for North America

Standardizing the prefixes

- The 1927 ITU Conference set the standard prefix letters throughout the world.
- The United States was given K, N, and W*.
- Hams in the U.S. added the letter W as a prefix to their existing call.
 - 3PR became W3PR
- Through the 1920s the Dept. of Commerce, and later the Federal Radio Commission (FRC) would routinely reissue unused 1 X 2 call signs and new 1 X 3 calls.
- By the early/mid 30s, 1 X 2 calls were no longer being reissued.

* The “A” prefix was not issued at this time

Pre-WWII K prefixes

- Before WWII, K call signs were used for U.S. possessions outside of the 48 states.
- The call number used was closest call area in the 48 states.
- K4 – Puerto Rico
- K5 – Panama Canal Zone
- K6 – Hawaii
- K7 - Alaska



The 1930's

- Before the early 1930s, call signs were issued by the 9 district offices.
- Going to the district office with a box of cigars or candy a 1 X 2 call might be obtained.
- By the mid-1930s all call signs were being issued from Washington, DC with just 1 X 3 calls being issued.
- As early as 1935, discussions of who and how should 1 X 2 calls be reissued had begun.*

*“Two Letter Calls”, *R/9*, July 1935, p.61

Into the 1940's

- By the early 1940s, the largest call areas (6 and 9) were running out of 1 X 3 calls.
- During WWII, the FCC continued issuing ham call signs even though ham radio had been shutdown for the duration.
- Towards the end of WWII, the ARRL proposed adding a 10th call area, the FCC agreed.

Rearranging the call areas

- Rearranging the call areas and adding a 10th was expected to ease the pressure on 1 X 3 call signs available.
- Beginning in 1946, the 10 areas we know were put into place.
- With the new call areas, states were no longer split between two call areas.

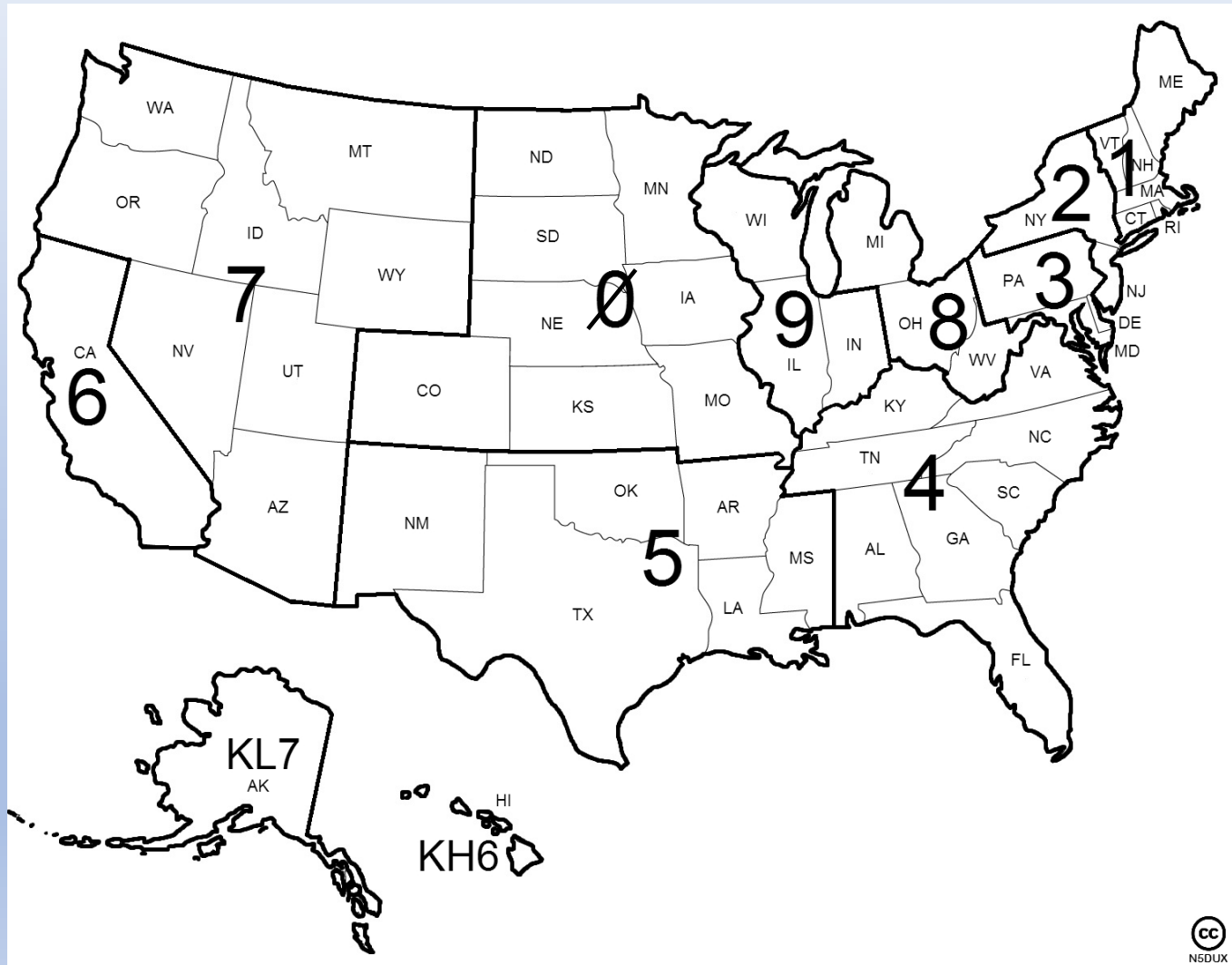
Adding the Ø call signs

- When hams in the new Ø or reassigned call area renewed their license or moved into the area, they were issued a new call sign indicating the new call area number.
- Whenever possible, the FCC used the same suffix for people whose call area changed.

W8ABC (in Buffalo, NY) ⇒ W2ABC

W9DEW (in N.D.) ⇒ WØDEW

The current call areas



What became
of all those old
1 X 2 calls?



The FCC starts issuing 1 X 2 calls again

Starting in 1946 hams who could show that they once held a 1 X 2 call could request a 1 X 2 call.

- Hams were not given a choice in the call they received.
- Though X call signs were still reserved, the FCC made Y and Z call signs available.
- If all of the W 1 X 2 calls in your district were taken, K 1 X 2 calls started being issued.

The start of “K” call signs

- Even with the addition of a 10th call area, the 9th area quickly ran out of 1 X 3 “W”.
- The first 1 X 3 “K” call signs were issued with K9AAA in 1947.
- Previously 1 X 3 K calls were used in US possessions like Hawaii (K6) and Alaska (K7).
- A second prefix letter was added so that all of the 1 X 3 K calls could be used in the states.

K6ABC \Rightarrow KH6ABC

1950s: Adding novice calls

- The FCC began issuing 2 X 3 call signs with the new novice licenses in 1951.
- To denote a novice, the letter N was added as the second letter in the prefix.
- Upon upgrading, the N was dropped giving the ham a 1 X 3 call sign.

WN3WSS \Rightarrow W3WSS

KN2WSS \Rightarrow K2WSS

Running out of K call signs

- By the end of the 50s K calls were running out.
- Beginning in the 2nd district, novices were issued a 2 X 3 “WV” call sign: WV2TMF
- Upon upgrading, the WV would change to WA
WV2TMF \Rightarrow WA2TMF
- When the WA calls began to run out in the early 60s, the FCC reverted back to using the WN prefix for novices which changed to WB (or WA in some call areas) upon upgrading.

...and those 1 X 2 calls?

- Since 1946, hams who once held a 1 X 2 call could request a 1 X 2 call.
- With the start of incentive licensing in 1968, any Extra Class ham who could show that they had been licensed at least 25 years before could request and receive a 1 X 2 call sign.
- Most could not request a specific 1 X 2 call.
- If you knew the right people, you might be able to request and receive a specific call.

1977: Vanity calls become available

- Starting in 1977, Extra Class hams could request the suffix for a 1 X 2 call sign.
- 1 X 2 N call signs became available, N3DD
- 1 X 2 calls starting with X in the suffix became available, W2XA
- 2 X 2 A call signs became available, AB2VG
- Vanity calls were only available to Extras.
- The 25 year requirement was phased out. By 1978, any Extra Class ham could request a vanity call... for now.

More call sign formats in the 70s

- With the rise of repeaters in the 70s, repeaters were issued their own 2 X 3 WR call sign: WR2ARC
- When upgrading, novices would be given unused WA or WB suffixes, whatever was available, all 2 X 3 calls
 - Eventually the FCC stopped this practice and began issuing WD calls: WD4RUH
- Due to significant funding and staffing cuts at the FCC in 1978, major changes to the structure of call signs came about.
- These changes brought about the basic call sign structure we have today.

1978/79, more big changes

- A staffing and funding crunch at the FCC brought about changes to ham call signs.
- Hams could keep their call sign, even when moving to a different call area.
- Call signs for repeaters were phased out.
- Separate novice calls were abolished.
- The block system of call signs was put into place.

The block system

- The block system (still in use today) was designed to make call sign assignments easier for the FCC.
- Each license level is given its own call sign format or block.
- Initially, the level of your first license determined the format of your call.
- When upgrading, a ham had two call sign choices:
 1. Keep your existing call sign.
 2. Obtain a new call sign in the format for your upgraded license level, sequentially issued by the FCC.

The block system, then

Class A – Extras, 1 X 2, 2 X 1, and 2 X 2 A calls

Class B – Advanced, Other 2 X 2 calls

Class C – General & Technician, 1 X 3 calls

Class D – Novices, 2 X 3 calls, these started out all as KA calls

Class E - WC, WK, WM, and WT prefix call signs for club, military, temporary, and RACES stations.

Class E has been phased out

The block system, today

Class A – Extras, 1 X 2, 2 X 1, and 2 X 2 A calls

Class B – Advanced, K, N, W 2 X 2 calls

Class C – General, Technician, & Technician Plus
K, N, W 1 X 3 calls

Class D – Novice, Club, and Military Recreation
Station K, W 2 X 3 calls

Everyone is sequentially issued a 2 X 3 call sign
when first licensed.

1978: No more vanity call signs

- All vanity calls for Extras were abolished to reduce the FCC's workload.
- Also because of two court cases involving the FCC and vanity calls.
 1. Summer 1976: An FCC employee was convicted of taking bribes for issuing vanity call signs.
 2. October 1977: An FCC official used his position and influence to obtain a vanity call sign.

FCC probes illegal award of ham radio call letters

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission is starting an investigation into how some amateur radio operators — including possibly one of the FCC's own high-ranking officials — may have improperly

Nation

But what about vanity call signs?



When did they become
available again?

Vanity call sign timeline

- Late 1980s: Dismayed that Extra Class hams could no longer request a specific call sign, Jim Wills, N5HCT petitioned the FCC to reinstate the program. The FCC ignored his request.
- 1990: Wills writes his congressional representative proposing that hams pay the FCC a fee to obtain a chosen call sign.

Vanity call sign timeline

- 1991: Wills' representative writes back saying, if such a fee could pay for the cost of processing the request, congress might be able to make the legislative changes to make it happen.
- 1992: The House Telecommunications Committee Chair asks the FCC to develop a plan for hams to pay a fee for a specific call sign that would cover the processing costs.

Vanity call sign timeline

- 1992/93: As part of a deficit reduction plan, the FCC is required to develop fees to cover the annual costs of many of its operations.
- 1993: President Clinton signs the bill that begins the FCC's collection of these fees.
- Buried in the list of fees in this bill is a line for "Amateur vanity call signs".
- Both the FCC and the ARRL are surprised to see this.

Vanity call sign timeline

- 1994-1996: The FCC and the ARRL set out to figure out how a vanity call sign program would be run.
- A phased in approach for vanity call signs was taken.
- The first vanity call sign applications were accepted on May 31, 1996.
- Today all hams may request specific call signs... if the are available and they have the proper license level.

Tracing the history of your own call sign



Who held your call sign before?

- For those of us who have obtained or will obtain a vanity call sign, chances are good that others have previously held the same call.
- This is especially true for the oldest (and coveted by some) 1 X 2 W call signs like W2ZQ.
- Just like tracing your family's genealogy, you can trace your call sign's history using available historical records.

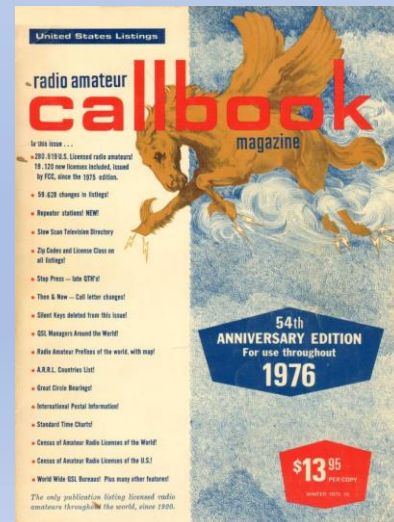
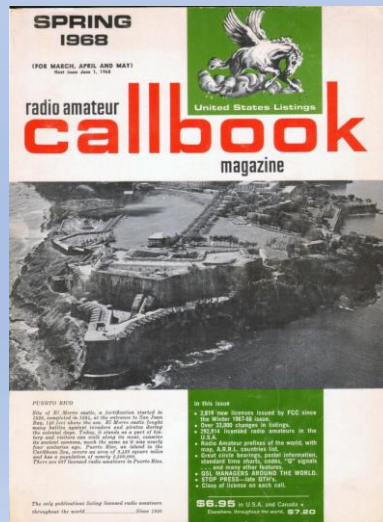
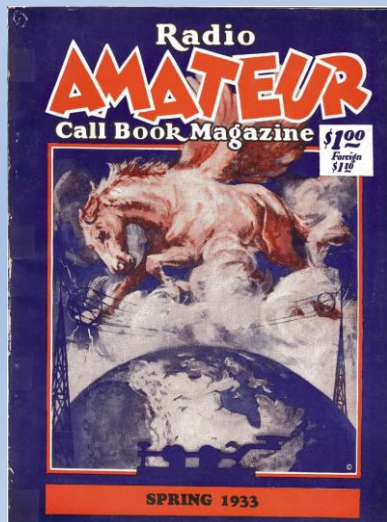
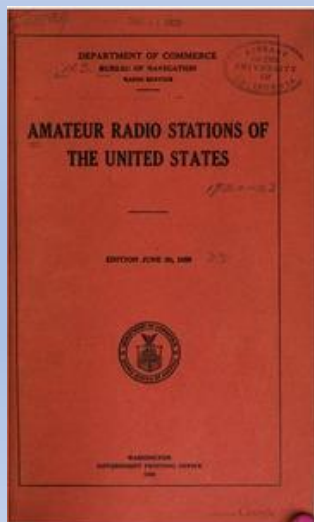
Callbooks

- Directories of amateur radio call signs date back to before government issued calls (1909).
- Beginning in 1913 (up to 1931), the Federal Government published lists of call signs and their “owners”, including hams.
- Later, commercial enterprises published these directories for hams, known as Callbooks.
- First published quarterly and later annually, the callbook was printed until 1997*.

*No Callbooks were published from 1942-1945

More on Callbooks

- Callbooks are much like a phonebook, everyone is listed by their call sign
- Luckily old callbooks have been digitized
- A run of Callbooks are available from the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/callbook>



Let's look at the history of W2ZQ

Time for a quiz!

- The DVRA was established in what year?
1930
- In 1930, what call area would the first DVRA call sign be in?
- If you said 3rd, you are right.



The DVRA first appeared in 1932

W3AQ—Delaware Valley Radio Assn., S. S. Kale & F. J. Wolff, RFD 2, Yardley Rd., Morrisville, Pa.

By 1939, the DVRA even paid for a larger listing

W3APU—Wm. C. Parrish, 250 Center, Manassas, Va.
W3APX—G.H. Neth, 8 S. Fairview Av., Upper Darby, Pa.

W3AQ — DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION, Ed. G. Raser, 46 Marion St., Trenton, N. J.

W3AQB—Roy Myers, Walnut Av., Oreland, Pa.
W3AQE—Donald Kinnier, 2326 78th Av., Phila., Pa.
W3AQI—James N. Reese Jr., 254 N. Wilton St., Phila-

The changes in call areas gave us W2ZQ

W2ZQ—Delaware Valley R. Assn., 128 N. Warren, Trenton, N.J.

First listing of W2ZQ from the 1947 callbook. W2AQ was already taken.
At least the FCC let us keep the Q

Q: How many people held W2ZQ previously?

A: None! The DVRA is the first and only holder of W2ZQ

Why? Remember that the X , Y, and Z calls were originally held back. The FCC started issuing Y and Z calls in 1946 with the changes in call areas.


What about call signs after 1997?

Luckily, the FCC's Uniform
Licensing System (ULS)
has more recent info




Use the Archive search in the ULS

- The FCC's Uniform Licensing System (ULS) contains info on call signs from the 1990s to present.



Federal Communications Commission

FCC Home | Search | Updates | E-Filing | Initiatives | For Consumers | Find People



Universal Licensing Archive System

FCC > WTB > ULS > Online Systems > Archive License Search

FCC Site Map

ULS License Archive

Search Results

[New Search](#) [Refine Search](#) [Printable Page](#)

Specified Search

Call Sign = **w2zq**

Exact Matches

Matches 1- 7 (of 7)

TP= Termination Pending

L= Lease

Page 1

| Call Sign/Lease ID | Name | FRN | Radio Service | Status | Version | Last Action Date |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------|--------|---------|------------------|
| 1 W2ZQ | DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION INC | | HA | Active | Archive | 07/30/1998 |
| 2 W2ZQ | DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION INC | 0010742310 | HA | Active | Archive | 04/14/2004 |
| 3 W2ZQ | DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION INC | 0010742310 | HA | Active | Archive | 03/18/2008 |
| 4 W2ZQ | DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION INC | 0010742310 | HA | Active | Archive | 06/10/2008 |
| 5 W2ZQ | DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION INC | 0010742310 | HA | Active | Archive | 09/30/2013 |
| 6 W2ZQ | DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION INC | 0010742310 | HA | Active | Archive | 03/13/2017 |
| 7 W2ZQ | DELAWARE VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION INC | 0010742310 | HA | Active | Current | 05/03/2018 |
| Call Sign/Lease ID | Name | FRN | Radio Service | Status | Version | Last Action Date |

Page 1

Let's look at some other calls

Which call should we pick?

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| <u>W1AW</u> | <u>K2AFO</u> |
| <u>N3DD</u> | <u>K3EA</u> |
| <u>K2GW</u> | <u>N2JOY</u> |
| <u>K2PCG</u> | <u>WA2TMF</u> |
| <u>NJ3U</u> | <u>AB2VG</u> |
| <u>K2VPX</u> | <u>K2WLD</u> |

K2VPX

Is Mike the first to hold [K2VPX](#)?

Yup, first showing up in the 1957 Callbook.

82 KN2VPX

KN2VPX Michael E. Rauch, 99-31-64th Avenue, Forest Hills, N. Y.

Mike became K2VPX the following year

W2VPX ARTHUR D. ATWATER, 202 BOROUGHS DR, SNYDER 20 N Y
K2VPX MICHAEL E. RAUCH, 99-31-64TH AV, FOREST HILLS N Y
W2VPX CORNELIUS AULETTO, RD 2, HUNTINGTON STATION, N Y


[Let's look at another call](#)

N3DD

Is Dom the first to hold N3DD?

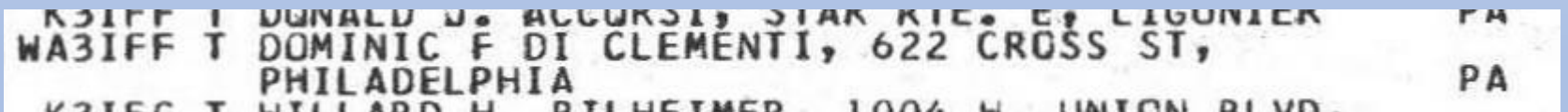
Yup!

From the 1978 Callbook, the first time N3DD ever appeared:



A scan of a 1978 Callbook listing. The text is partially obscured by a black bar at the top. The visible text reads: "N3DD E Dominic F Di Clementi, 622 Cross St, Philadelphia".

Dom first appeared in the 1968 Callbook as WA3IFF



A scan of a 1968 Callbook listing. The text is partially obscured by a black bar at the top. The visible text reads: "WA3IFF T DOMINIC F DI CLEMENTI, 622 CROSS ST, PHILADELPHIA".

[Let's look at another call](#)

K3EA

Is Greg the first to hold K3EA?

Yup.

From the 1979 Callbook:

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|--|----|-------|
| ABCE | E | Gene C Warner Jr, 3305 Kingston Rd, YORK | PA | 17402 |
| K3EA | E | Gregory A Mauro, 120 Sunrise Blvd, Elizabethtown | PA | 17022 |
| N3EA | E | Joseph M Hertzberg, 12 Landover Rd, Bryn Mawr | PA | 19010 |

Greg first appeared in the Callbook a year earlier as WB3EJC.

| | | | | |
|--------|---|--|----|-------|
| WB3EJC | A | Gregory A Mauro, 120 Sunrise Blvd, Elizabethtown | PA | 17022 |
| WB3EJC | A | Richard D Slater Jr, 2502 Cherry Ln, Exeter | PA | 15600 |

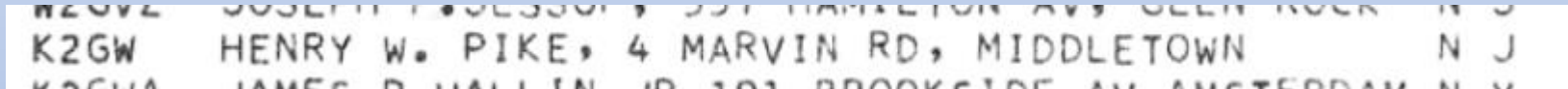
[Let's look at another call](#)

K2GW

Is Gary the first to hold K2GW?

Nope.

K2GW first appeared in the 1958 Callbook. The call sign was held until 2001.



A scan of a 1958 radio callbook page. The entry for K2GW is visible, listing the owner as HENRY W. PIKE, 4 MARVIN RD, MIDDLETOWN, N J. The text is slightly blurry and partially obscured by other entries.

| Call Sign | Owner Name | Address | City | State |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|------------|-------|
| K2GW | HENRY W. PIKE | 4 MARVIN RD | MIDDLETOWN | N J |

In 2001, Gary became the second person to hold K2GW.

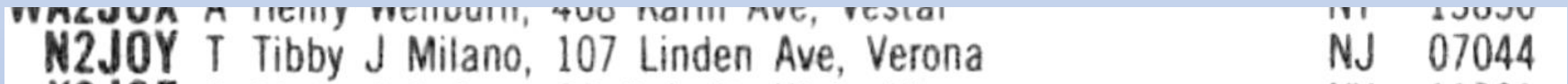
[Let's look at another call](#)

N2JOY

Is Joy the first to hold N2JOY?

Nope.

N2JOY was first issued sequentially, first appearing in 1990.
The call was held until 1992.



WAZOJA A Henry Weinburn, 400 North Ave, West
N2JOY T Tibby J Milano, 107 Linden Ave, Verona NJ 07044

N2JOY was next held by another person, as a vanity call, from 2005-2017.

Joy is the third person to hold N2JOY starting in August 2018.

[Let's look at another call](#)

K2PCG

Is Tullio the first to hold K2PCG?

Nope.

K2PCG first showed up in the 1956 Callbook.

K2PCG Phillip L. Gural, 191 Hillside Avenue, Livingston, N. J.

The call sign was held from 1956-1968.

Was Tullio next?

K2PCG

Yes! 40 years later, in 2018, K2PCG was issued to Tullio.

Vanity License - K2PCG - Dellaquila, Tullio L

[New Search](#) [Refine Search](#) [Return to Results](#) [Printable Page](#) [Reference Copy](#)

| MAIN | | ADMIN | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Call Sign | K2PCG (Vanity) | Radio Service | HV - Vanity |
| Status | Active | Auth Type | Regular |
| Version | Current | | |
| Dates | | | |
| Grant | 04/03/2018 | Expiration | 04/03/2028 |
| Effective | 04/03/2018 | Cancellation | |
| Last Action | 04/03/2018 | | |
| Licensee Information | | | |
| FRN | 0027112689 | Type | Individual |
| Licensee ID | L02158422 | SGIN | 000 |
| Licensee Name | | | |
| Dellaquila, Tullio L | | | |

[Let's look at another call](#)

WA2TMF

Is Cliff the first to hold WA2TMF (as he claims)?

Yup.

Cliff's first appearance in a Callbook from 1979.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| WA2TMF A Albert J Young, 40 Appleman Rd, Corner 30 | NY 11375 |
| WA2TMF A Clifford L Green, 108-07 65th Rd, Forest Hills | NY 11375 |
| WD2TMF A William L Dwyer, 45 Mill St, Port Jervis | NY 13854 |

However...

WA2TMF

Two other novices would have become [WA2TMF](#).
It's just that they never upgraded their license.

From the 1961 Callbook

WV2TMF ARTHUR R. LA FRANCE, ST JOSEPHS SEM, ONCHIOTA N Y
W3TMF NORMAN C. KEEFE, 100 DELMAR BLVD, ONDAROSE N Y

From the 1972 Callbook

WN2TMF N David B Drake, Box 49, Newfield 14867 NY
W3TMF A Norman C. Keefe, 100 Delmar Blvd, Ondarose 13820 NY

[Let's look at another call](#)

NJ3U

Is Rory the first to hold NJ3U?

Nope.

NJ3U was issued sequentially, first appearing in the 1988 Callbook.

276 NJ3U **RADIO AMATEUR** **CALLBOOK 1988**

NJ3U E Richard S Penc, 8741 Contee Rd 304, Laurel

MD 20708

Was Rory next to hold NJ3U?

NJ3U

Yup. The previous owner only held the call for a year. Rory was issued NJ3U in 2012.

ULS License Archive

Vanity License - NJ3U - Shaffer, Rory D

[New Search](#) [Refine Search](#) [Return to Results](#) [Printable Page](#) [Reference Copy](#)

| MAIN | | ADMIN | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Call Sign | NJ3U (Vanity) | Radio Service | HV - Vanity |
| Status | Active | Auth Type | Regular |
| Version | Current | | |
| Dates | | | |
| Grant | 04/17/2012 | Expiration | 04/17/2022 |
| Effective | 04/17/2012 | Cancellation | |
| Last Action | 04/17/2012 | | |
| Licensee Information | | | |
| FRN | 0018457655 | Type | Individual |
| Licensee ID | L01461921 | SGIN | 000 |
| Licensee Name | | | |
| Shaffer, Rory D | | | |
| | | | |

[Let's look at another call](#)

AB2VG

Is Hy the first to hold AB2VG?

Yup

Hy was issued AB2VG sequentially in 2005

Amateur License - AB2VG - Gold, Chaim S

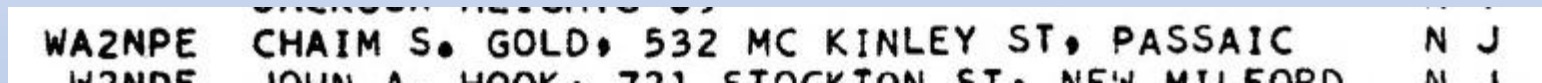
[New Search](#) [Refine Search](#) [Return to Results](#) [Printable Page](#) [Reference Copy](#)

| MAIN | | ADMIN | |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Call Sign | AB2VG | Radio Service | HA - Amateur |
| Status | Active | Auth Type | Regular |
| Version | Archive | | |
| Dates | | | |
| Grant | 11/29/2005 | Expiration | 11/29/2015 |
| Effective | 04/28/2006 | Cancellation | |
| Last Action | 04/28/2006 | | |
| | | | |
| Licensee Information | | | |
| FRN | 0014329676 | Type | Individual |
| Licensee ID | L01088964 | SGIN | 000 |
| Licensee Name | | | |
| Gold, Chaim S | | | |
| | | | |

But wait, there's more!

AB2VG

Hy also appeared in the callbooks from 1960 to 1970 as WA2NPE



| | | |
|--------|--|-----|
| WA2NPE | CHAIM S. GOLD, 532 MC KINLEY ST, PASSAIC | N J |
| WA2NPE | JOHN A. HOOK, 731 STOCKTON ST, NEW MILFORD | N J |

Hy's first entry in the Callbook from 1960

[Let's look at another call](#)

K2WLD

Is Jack the first to hold K2WLD?

Surprisingly, the answer is yes!

ULS License Archive
Vanity License - K2WLD - Tatar, John E
[New Search](#) [Refine Search](#) [Return to Results](#) [Printable Page](#) [Reference Copy](#)

| MAIN | | ADMIN | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Call Sign | K2WLD (Vanity) | Radio Service | HV - Vanity |
| Status | Active | Auth Type | Regular |
| Version | Current | | |
| Dates | | | |
| Grant | 08/01/2017 | Expiration | 08/01/2027 |
| Effective | 08/01/2017 | Cancellation | |
| Last Action | 08/01/2017 | | |
| Licensee Information | | | |
| FRN | 0024824351 | Type | Individual |
| Licensee ID | L01964665 | SGIN | 000 |
| Licensee Name | | | |
| Tatar, John E | | | |

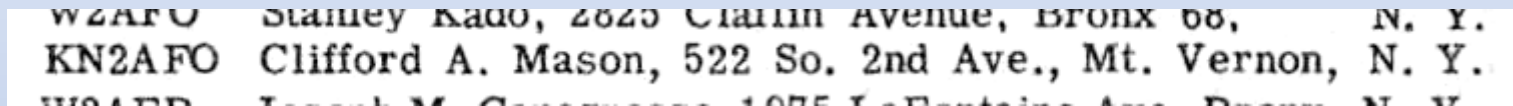
How come? In the 50s the FCC was issuing 1 X 3 K calls with a W starting the prefix to just military based club stations. K2WLD was never used then allowing Jack to be the first holder of K2WLD

[Let's look at another call](#)

K2AFO

Is Andrew the first to hold K2AFO?

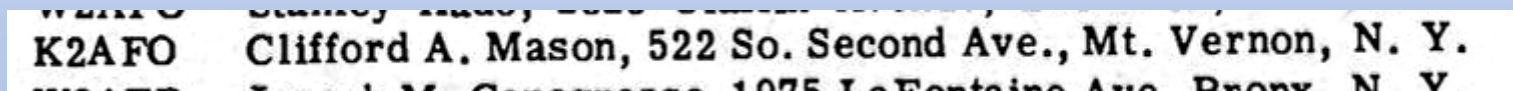
Nope.



W2AFO Stanley Kado, 2825 Clarin Avenue, Bronx 68, N. Y.
KN2AFO Clifford A. Mason, 522 So. 2nd Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
W2AFO Joseph M. Greenberg, 1075 LeFortune Ave, Bronx, N. Y.

KN2AFO first showed up in 1952...

...and became K2AFO the following year.



K2AFO Clifford A. Mason, 522 So. Second Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
W2AFO Joseph M. Greenberg, 1075 LeFortune Ave, Bronx, N. Y.

In 1967, K2AFO no longer appeared in the callbooks.

Andrew is the second to hold K2AFO in 2018.

[Let's look at another call](#)

W1AW

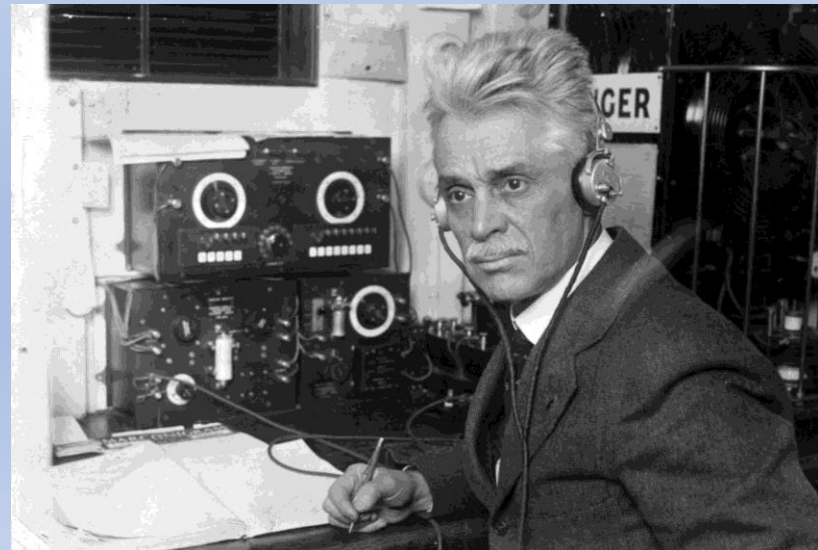
- Perhaps one of the best known calls.
- Certainly one of the oldest calls.
- W1AW first appears as the ARRL's call sign in 1937.

**W1AW—(WLMK, exW1MK, W1INF)
A. R. R. L., F. E. HANDY
(W1BDI), 38 LaSalle Rd., West
Hartford, Conn.**

- Does anyone know who held W1AW before this?

W1AW

- W1AW was previously held by the ARRL's co-founder, Hiram Percy Maxim (1869-1936).
- Maxim received the call 1AW when licensing returned after WWI.
- He held 1WH in 1914.



What about the W1MK & W1INF calls?

**W1AW—(WLMK, exW1MK, W1INF)
A. R. R. L., F. E. HANDY
(W1BDI), 38 LaSalle Rd., West
Hartford, Conn.**

W1MK & W1INF

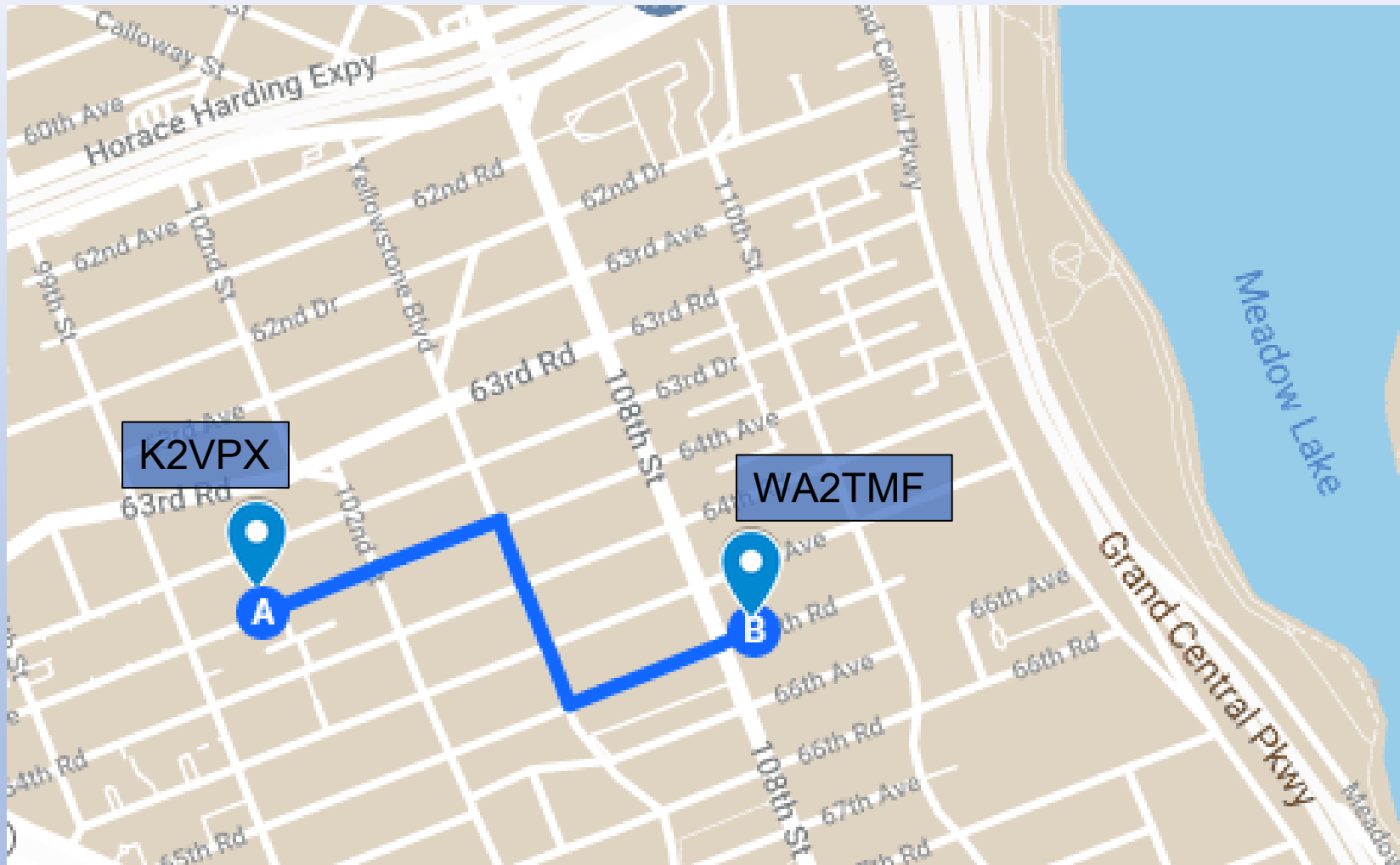
- W1MK was the first call held by the ARRL.
- It first shows up as the ARRL's station in 1925.

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| 1MK | American Radio Relay League. | 1711 Park St., Hartford, Conn. | 20 |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|

- In 1925, the ARRL's station ran 20 watts.
- W1INF shows up in 1935 as the ARRL Hq. staff club station.

[Let's look at another call](#)

Bet you didn't know...



Mike and Cliff once lived 6 blocks apart!

[Let's look at another call](#)

Finally the holders of W3PR*

1. Clarence LeRoy Hahn (machinist): 1913-1914
2. E. Frank Ramsay (warehouse clerk): 1915
3. Russell Hamburg (bookkeeper): 1916
4. James M. Bott (student): 1920-1921
5. Wilmer L. Fox (messenger, Dept. of Commerce): 1923-1926
6. Merrill D. Beam (radio engineer): 1927-1931
7. Charles F. Horne, Jr. (Naval Academy instructor): 1933-1935
8. C. F. Horne (U.S. Navy, Norfolk, Va.): 1938-1941
9. James M. Bott (owner, Bott's Radio & Music Shop): 1947-1975
10. Giles M. Crabtree (electrical engineer): 1977-2014
11. Martin J. Crabtree (librarian): 2015-present

*Occupation info from traditional genealogical sources

Thanks for your time & attention

73

Martin – W3PR, XI (the 11th holder of the call)