



# Young Ladies' Radio League



ARRL Affiliated

# YLRL Young Ladies Radio League

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# YLRL—Who Are They?



- ▶ Organized in 1939, YLRL is a nonprofit organization of Women Amateur Radio Licensees.
- ▶ International in scope
- ▶ Membership: approximately 1100, about 200 of which are DX YLs.
- ▶ The Original Founding Mothers of YLRL are:

Lida, W1GQT	Marjorie, W7GXI, SK	Jean, W5HYF, SK
Enid, KH6IHW	Ethel, K4LMB, SK	Lenore, W6NAZ, SK
Jean, W9NLW	Genevieve, W6RGX, SK	Mary, W8SMM, SK
Anita, W8TAY, SK	Loretta, exW0UA, SK	Carol, W6WSV, SK
	Ethel, VE2HI, SK	

This is the advertisement in QST  
that started it all - May 1939 Issue

Dear YL:—

That border is the nearest thing to a pair of lace gimmicks that our printer has — and we had to catch your eye *some* way!

Goodness knows — and *you* won't tell — how many of you YL key-twitchers there are — but we figure there's a lot of you who should read TWO HUNDRED METERS AND DOWN: The Story of Amateur Radio. Why? Read on.

Herbert Hoover says in the dedicatory preface to this book by a m-n on the Hq staff: "Their art has added to the joy of life to literally hundreds of thousands of m-n, *women*, b--s and *girls* over the whole nation . . ." so you can see how important you are in the amateur group. But after that — when you really get into the book — there's hardly one, measly, little, parenthetical mention of your existence!

TWO HUNDRED METERS AND DOWN, simply *reeks* of MAN-power! It tells what *men* did what, and when and how, to make ham radio what it was, is, and will be. Men, men, men!

Of course, dear YL, the trouble is that it tells the story *well*. The darn woman-ignorner who did this thing can *write*. It's downright *convincing*. And it's an interesting, entertaining, *fascinating* story. Send a dollar and ask for TWO HUNDRED METERS AND DOWN. Direct epithets and money to the —

Yours with 88,

**A. R. R. L.**

West Hartford, Conn.

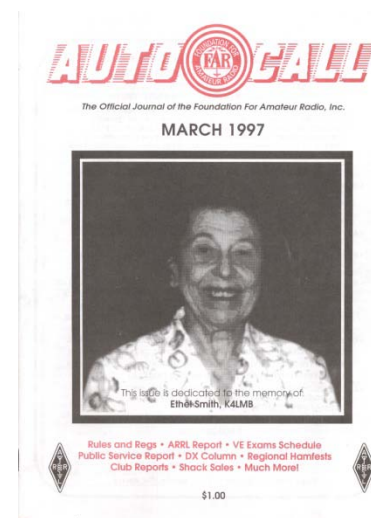


# History



## ▶ Beginnings

- An ad in QST wondered how many women “key twitchers” there were
- Ethel Smith, W7FWB, later, K4LMB, wrote a letter to the editor asking YL’s to respond to her if they were “key twitchers”
- She also wrote, “Maybe we should start a YLRL”
- 12 YL’s responded
- The YLRL started: October 1939



# History



## ▶ Beginnings

- Enid Carter, W9NBX, later, W6UFX, drew up a constitution
- Dues were \$.25 a year
- District chairmen were appointed for each call area
- First monthly bulletin: November 1939
- YL Harmonics name chosen for monthly bulletin
- April 1940, 2 new members from Alaska and England
- October 1940, YL Harmonics 15 pages long!

# History



## ▶ Beginnings

- YL nets on 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10m
- Colors of dark blue and silver chosen by Ethel Smith, K4LMB (ex-W7FWB)
- Signature “33” now originated by Clara, W8KYR, later W2RUF
- Original meaning of “33”: Love, sealed with friendship between one YL and another YL

# History



## ▶ Beginnings

- May 1940, “YL” now used for all *licensed* female operators
- June 1940, first local YL Chapter in Cleveland, Ohio
- More local chapters formed
- Pearl Harbor! No ham radio for the duration of the war
- YL Harmonics kept going



# History



## ▶ Beginnings

- Nov./Dec. 1942—over 300 members
- Third anniversary—Harmonics 13 pages long
  - One page of job opportunities for YL's in CAA, Navy Signal Corp, M.I.T., in WAAC and WAVES



# Conventions



- ▶ First International Convention 1955: Santa Monica, California
- ▶ Format: business meeting, YL lunch, YL-OM banquet at night, installation of new officers
- ▶ Gifts of copper bracelets with YLRL insignia compliments of Los Angeles YLRL
- ▶ OM's took tour of Collins Burbank Factory and NBC Studios while YL's had the business meeting

# Conventions



- ▶ Second Convention: Chicago, IL, 1957
- ▶ Third Convention: Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1960
- ▶ Fourth Convention: Columbus, Ohio, 1964, YLRL's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



# Conventions



- Conventions every 3–4 years: Denver, CO; Long Beach, CA; Houston, TX; Philadelphia, PA, (40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); Crystal City, VA...
- Conventions I've attended:
  - 1999 – Longbeach, on the Queen Mary (60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of YLRL)
  - 2002 – Cleveland
  - 2005 – Denver
  - 2008 – Huntsville
- Next convention– July 2011 in Boston, MA



# YL-Harmonics



- ▶ YL Harmonics is the YLRL bi-monthly publication
- ▶ \$15 a year dues includes a subscription to the YL Harmonics
- ▶ Each issue contains news from each of the 10 U.S. districts, Alaska, Canada, and DX countries
- ▶ There is also a Youth Column written by a youth member, a contest page, scholarship information, and other pertinent YL-ham information

# YLRL Scholarships



- ▶ College scholarships established in memory of Silent Keys
  - Ethel Smith, K4LMB
  - Mary Lou Brown, NM7N
- ▶ Awarded every year to YL's.
- ▶ Marte Wessel, KOEPE, accepts donations and manages fund

# Contests



- ▶ YL/OM Contest in Feb – SSB/CW/Digital
- ▶ DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest
  - Oct – SSB/CW/Digital
- ▶ YL Yearly Contests
  - YL Birthday Contest for 2010
  - Contest runs from Jan to Dec
- ▶ Other YL Contests
  - C.L.A.R.A.–Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association, in March
  - A.L.A.R.A.–Australian Ladies Amateur Radio Association always last full weekend of August

# Nets



- ▶ Thursday Night SSB net at 0100 UTC on 20m and 0130 UTC 40m
- ▶ YL Tangle Net, Thurs., 1800 UTC on 14.298 MHz
- ▶ YL Roses Net, Mon., 1800 UTC on 28.433 MHz
- ▶ YL Open House, Wed., 1900 UTC (1800 spring and summer) on 14.288 MHz
- ▶ Local YL Net? NONE! Let's start one!

# QRV – I Am Ready



- ▶ Joining YLRL – applications available today and online at the YLRL website
- ▶ YLRL website:
  - [www.ylrl.org](http://www.ylrl.org)
  - Currently being upgraded (many pages are “under construction” currently)
- ▶ Form a local net? Let’s talk!
- ▶ Participate in YLRL national/international nets and contests



# QRV – I Am Ready



▶ Questions?

# QRV – I Am Ready



“33”