**THE VERY FIRST AMATEUR RADIONS**

George Chliyants (UY5XE)

In early years (1905-1913) amateur radio station (ARS) callsigns were picked at random as their owners pleased. The first callsigns were consisted of either one character or combination of several characters (two or three), normally the callisigns identified their holders (name, surname or combinations of that, QTH or just symbolic selection of characters significant only to themselves).

It worth to be mentioned that market promptly responded to the appearance of ARS. American magazine "Scientific American" [1905, Nov.25 - p.427] under head-line "WIRELESS TELEGRAPH", published announcement of company ELECTRO IMPORTING Co. from New York which says: "On sale telegraph radio station kits ("spark" coil and keyer, coherent detector, wires for antenna, dry batteries, drawings and manual)" The offered design prooved communication range up to one mile (1,6 km).

In January 1909 eighty eight amateurs from USA (eighty six individual callsigns and two so called "family" callsigns) and three "club" ARS became members of ""Wireless Association of America" (member list of which had been published on May 1'1909 in "Wireless Blue Book").

To be registered every one required to state following specification of their "spark" transmitter: wave length (varied between 35 to 950 m) and achieved length of "spark arc" which varied from QRP (for example 0,25" for "MD") to quite cool for that time QRO (for example. 12" with "CP" and 14" "CRM".)

Since November 13'1912 for the common convenience the band was significantly narrowed to the 150-200 m.

Here is the list of callsigns published in Wireless Blue Book in 1909.

*Note: Listed below is in alphabetical order for conviniance:*

**AH** - Albert Higson (Jersej City, N.J.)

**ALW** - Allen Lee Whitman (Cambridge, Mass.)

**APT** - A.W.Pratt (Noroton, Conn.)

**ARM** - B.Frank Rittethause (N.Woodbury, N.J.)

**AN** - Earl Vogel (Ashton, Ill.)

**AU** - A.C.Austin, Jr. (Hasbrouk Heights, N.J.)

**BCT** - H.Bassett и J.R. Carry (Shorthills, N.J.) *["Family" ARS]*

**BO**  - Ben Orr (Dallas, Texas)

**BP** - E.B. Peters (Providence, R.I.)

**BW** - Bowdon Washington (New York)

**CES** - Chas E. Spinney (Sanford, Me.)

**CJM** - Chas.J. Meyers (Albany, N.Y.)

**CM** - C.R. Myers (Westwood, N.J.)

**CP** - Dr. Carro Y.Fink (Fernandina, Fla.)

**CR**  - Cromwell Gibbons (Jacksonville, Fla.)

**CRM** - C. Raymond Miller (Baldwinsville, N.Y.)

**CV**  - S. Conradi Vance (Los Ahgeles, Cal.)

**DK** - John D. Kattenborn, Jr. (New York)

**DM** - David Marcu (St.Louis, Mo)

**EET** - Edward T. Eastman (West Rochester, N.Y.)

**EI**  - Iack Steurer (New York)

**EL** - George Smith (New York)

**EMC** - Earle L.M. Coolidge (Everett, Mass.)

**ERW** - Edwin R. Willard (Chicago, Ill.)

**ETJ** - Edwin Justin (Bloomsburg, Pa.)

**EZM** - Ray Newby (San Jose, Cal.)

**FBZ** - W.N.Broz (Cape May, N.J.)

**FC** - Fred Stiefel (New York)

**FMX** - Frank McGram (Jersej City, N.J.)

**FN** - Coke Flanagan (Montclair, N.J.)

**FPS** - F.R. Breck (Bayonne, N.J.)

**FRM** - Alvah Rittenhause (Philadelphia, Pa.)

**FWM** - Frederick Wommer (Minneapolis, Minn.)

**GBA** - Geo.Burrell (Avon, Ohio)

**GFT** - Geo и Fred Taylor (Susanville, Cal.) *[“Family" ARS]*

**GHN** - G.H.Nixon (Hackettstown, N.J.)

**GSW** - G.S.Vernam (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

**H**  - "Rochester Wireless Teleg. Co." (Rochester, N.Y.) *["Club" ARS]*

**HAM** - Earl C. Hawkins (Minneapolis, Minn.)

**HBM** - Harry Butz (Mazomaine, Wis.)

**HC** - Jas McNair, Jr. (Lakewood, N.J.)

**HG**  - Harry Gross (Hackensuck, N.J.)

**HNM** - Thos. Appleby (West Philadelphia, Pa.)

**HS**  - H.E. Sumner (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

**HY** - J.B. Hyatt (Vernon, O.)

**J**  - Ralph Jeffecs (Rochester, N.Y.)

**JAM** - J.A. Mariotti (Seatle, Wash.)

**JWM** - J. Winne, Jr. (New York)

**KN** - Newell A. Thompson (Brookline, Mass.)

**KNM** - H.M.Alwater (Kentfield, Cal.)

**KR** - Kendall Buchneii (Arlington, Mass.)

KSM - Karl T.Spark (S.Butte, Mont.)

**LS** - L.S. Stevens (Marlboro, Mass.)

**MB** - Melvin M. Bonham (Covina, Cal.)

**MD** - M.D. Douglas (Hasbrouk Heights, N.J.)

**MJ** - "Ozone Wireless Co." (San Francisco, Cal.) *["Club" ARS]*

**MG** - Melvin Getchell (West Medfort, Mass.)

**MM**  - Maxwell P.Hellman (New York)

**MPM** - Meade N. Powell (St.Louis, Mo.)

**MWX** - Max Wells (Riverside, Cal.)

**MZR** - Alpha M. Koester (North Powder, Ore.)

**NB** - "St.George's School" (Newport, R.I.) *["Club" ARS]*

**NT**  - Neat M.Tate (Vacaville, Cal.)

**O**  - Otto E. Cuttis (Rochester, N.Y.)

**PE**  - Harold E. Peck (Providence, R.I.)

**PI**  - J. Peters, Jr. (Florissant, Mo.)

**PJH** - Paul J. Hackett (Walla Walla, Wash.)

**POM** - E.D. Poster (Lewinstown, Mont.)

**PP** - Don G. Burside (Pt.Pleasant, W.Va.)

**PS** - A.K. Braman (Newport, R.I.)

**PW** - Philip Wood (Arlington, Mass.)

**RBM** - R.S. Burtt (North Pateson, N.J.)

**RDM** - Ralf Damon (Whitman, Mass.)

**RPW** - R.P. Wilson (Metuchen, N.J.)

**RS**  - L. Spangenberg (Paterson, N.J.)

**RWM** - John Josep Rodrick Veary (Boston, Mass.)

**S4** - J. Clayton Randall (Albany, N.Y.)

**SI**  - V.S.I vey (Lenoir, N.J.)

**SIM** - Thos.I.P. Shannon (Los Ahgeles, Cal.)

**SWC** - S.W. Case (Marcellus, N.Y.)

**SX** - J.O. Smith (New York)

**TT** - Fred Klingenschmidt (New York)

**TX** - Frank E. Daubenbiss (Capitola, Cal.)

**WEM** - Walter E. Haaren (New York)

**WWN** - William Wilson (New York)

**WZ** - W. Zimmerman (Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.)

**XL** - Louis Bonsib (Vincennes, Ind.)

**ZL** - Eric Leavens (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

As of 1 June 1910 listed were 480 callsigns, and for the 1 July 1913. - 1400.

It shall be noted that in the other countries at the less or more same time similar kind of callsigns could be found:   
Ireland - DNX (J.M.C.Dennis [1865-1945], later - EI2B), England - GYX (Philip R.Cursey, later - G5AT) and HRH (Prince Philip) and in Argentina - EDN (Don Ramon).

Some times callsign holders included: letters X or E (pointed to experimental nature of the callsigns) "e**X**periment", "**E**xperiment"), or – R ("**R**adio"), or - T ("**T**ransmitter").

Source:

1. W.F.Korner (DL1CU). "Geschichte des Amateurfunks (1909-1963)" [FT-Verlag Rojahn+Kraft, Hamburg , 1992 - 240 p.].

2. Георгий Члиянц (UY5XE). "Первые из первых ЛРС" ["QRZ.ru - http://www.qrz.ru/articles/detail.phtml?id=273].

3. "Первая радиостанция для беспроводной связи" ["Радио", #1/2006 - с. 40].

*Translation TNX UT4UT*