

The RARA RAG

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VOL. 36

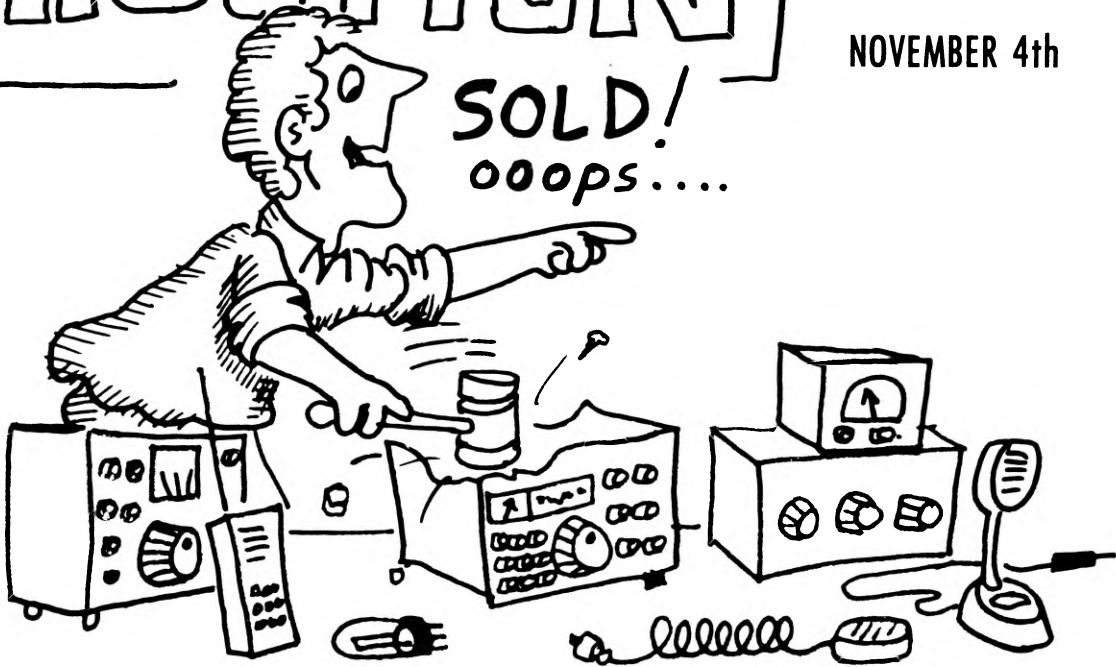
NOVEMBER 1983

NO. 3

AUCTION

NOVEMBER 4th

SOLD!
ooops....



N2DZS and K2KGE clowning around at Camp Good Days and Special Times.

RaRa AUCTION AT POLICE AND FIRE ACADEMY NOVEMBER 4th

Well, its that time of year again – the first freezing rain of the year always seems to fall on the night of the Auction. Will this year be any different?

Divide your excess equipment into the *goodies* and the junk, leave the junk at your curbside and bring all the goodies to the Police and Fire Academy on Scottsville Road (next to the Burger King) on Friday, November 4th. Doors will be open at 7 p.m. and the auction will start promptly at 8 p.m.

The auction is open to all RaRa members and a guest. Sellers will pay 10% of the sale price to the club. Club membership may be obtained at the door.

All items must be marked with the seller's name, a brief description of the item and its condition, a starting bid, and whether or not the auctioneer can *Chinese* auction the item down from that starting bid if there are no bidders. Tags will be available at the auction for marking the items.

WHAT IS A CHINESE AUCTION?

When a minimum bid on an item is not met with enthusiasm there are two choices for the seller. Either take the item home, or take a chance that it can be sold at a lower bid. This second choice is what is known as a *Chinese* auction.

The auctioneer starts at some price, usually the minimum bid marked on the item, and starts going *down* in price. The *first* person to bid that price has bought the item. If *two or more* people bid simultaneously, then the auctioneer starts the bidding *up* again as in a normal auction until someone buys it. Simple, huh?

RRRA FM CLINIC NOVEMBER 18th

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, Inc. will hold its annual FM clinic at the Pittsford Town Hall, 8 p.m., on Friday, November 18. Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, RRRRA Technical Director will head-up the committee offering their services to check-out and perform *minor* tuning and adjustment on FM transceivers. *No basket-cases please!*

Due to technical and scheduling problems, the Fuzz-Buzz system has not yet been re-instated. We hope to have the sytem back up by mid-November at the latest.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT AUCTION

by Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ

The following hints, gathered through experience by attending many ham radio auctions should help you get a fair price for the items you put on the block. To be successful at auction, however, you must be willing to take a chance. Hams do not come to an auction expecting to pay list price for a piece of unknown equipment. A ham must be made to believe that he is getting a bargain.

1. Avoid putting a minimum bid on anything. They tend to turn people off. If you feel compelled to state a minimum, either make it the rock-bottom lowest you will consider, or else make it higher and be prepared to "*Chinese*" it. A Chinese auction is one in which the auctioneer starts going *down* in price by some increment and the first person to bid on it buys it. If two or more people bid at the same time, the auctioneer will start to bid it up again.

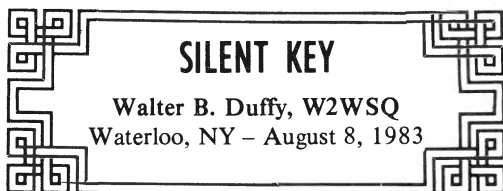
2. Avoid bringing large boxes of non-descript junk. "Junk" usually gets a good price at auction, but only when it looks attractive and the price is right. Pick out some of the better-looking "*treasures*" from your junk box, clean them up and throw the rest out. You may be pleasantly surprised.

3. Don't sell an item before it is put up for auction. If one person is interested, chances are that several more are interested also. You may sell your item at the minimum when it could have been bid up to several times that amount.

4. Make sure that your item is well-marked with the description, condition, your name and call sign and any other information that will help the auctioneer get top dollar for it.

FCC APPROVES 10-YEAR AMATEUR LICENSE TERM

At their October 7th meeting, the FCC approved a report and order making the term of an Amateur license 10 years instead of the present 5. This longer term will apply to all new and renewed licenses as of the effective date (yet to be announced as of this writing usually 60 days after the rules are published in the federal register).



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INCORPORATED

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VOL. 36 NOVEMBER 1983 NO. 3

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NOVEMBER RAG CALENDAR

- 4 - December *Rag* deadline to K2RJ
- 4 - Annual RaRa Auction, 8 p.m., Rochester Police and Fire Academy, Scottsville Road (next to Burger King)
- 9 - RaRa Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m., QTH of KA2NBK
- 11 - VHF Group meeting, 8 p.m., Monroe County Social Services Building, 111 Westfall Road
- 15 - RDXA meeting, 8:15 p.m., Colonial Hotel, 1127 Empire Boulevard
- 16 - Kodak Park ARC meeting, 12 p.m., WB2WXQ Club Station meeting room
- 18 - RRRR meeting, *FM Clinic*, 8 p.m., Pittsford Town Hall
- 25 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

DWIGHT HILL RESIGNS AS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

He Will Remain as Contributing Editor

Due to personal reasons, Dwight Hill, K2KWK, has resigned as Associate Editor of the *Rag* effective this month. He will remain on the *Rag* staff as a Contributing Editor, however.

This means that until further notice all *Rag* articles should be sent to Editor Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, either at the club post office box address or his home address listed in the masthead on page 2. Please do not send any *Rag* articles to Dwight.

This also means that we now have an opening on the *Rag* staff for an Associate Editor whose job it is to "beat the bushes" for news of the various local clubs and to get the information by deadline, as well as to write articles or editorials. The pay is poor and the hours are rotten, but we have a lot of fun, so if you may be interested, contact K2RJ.

L.A.R.S. ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 9th

by WA2MYG

The Livingston Amateur Repeater Society will hold its annual meeting at the Big Tree Inn, Geneseo, New York at 8:00 p.m., November 9, 1983. Come at 7:15 p.m. if you wish to eat or have cocktails. L.A.R.S. sponsors the 164.16/76 WA2DHB/R repeater located at the south end of Hemlock Lake in Livingston County.

COP'S CORNER

by Howie Davies, N2CUN, RPD

Home Security Continued

Doors: Most burglars enter a residence the same way as you do – through the door. *Replace all exterior hollow-core doors with solid-core ones.* Some burglars have been known to gain entry through a hollow-core door in less than five seconds with one well-placed kick. *Check door locks.* Deadbolt locks with a one-inch throw offer the best protection. Since they are much tougher to force open quickly, a burglar often will leave in search of an easier score. *Install bar-track locks on patio doors.* This device prevents a person from lifting out the door from the outside.

Windows: Make sure that all first-floor windows, as well as those accessible from the roof, have sash locks. Windows with air conditioners should have the units secured to the frames with metal straps so windows can't be raised from the outside. *If basement windows are never opened, consider nailing them shut.* Otherwise, protect them with heavy wire mesh (breaking glass is not easily heard upstairs).

Lighting: Many burglaries happen at night. Outside perimeter lighting takes away the burglar's cloak of darkness. *Install four low-wattage bulbs under the eaves at each corner of the house to automatically turn on at a certain time or to be switched on manually.* Plug various lamps into electric timers so lights regularly go on in different rooms at different times to give the impression that the home is occupied.

Next month some ideas on Neighborhood Watch.

73, 96 more paydays!

"THEY" DID IT AGAIN

Ever wonder who "*THEY*" are? "*THEY*" is the group of dedicated members who do the jobs that make the organization function.

On Saturday, October 8th, eight "*THEYS*" showed up to clean up the club station and make much needed antenna repairs. Thanks to them the rotor now turns 360 degrees, a new balun is in place on the 80/40 meter dipole and the console for the UHF position is completed.

These are the "*THEYS*" who gave a Saturday morning of their time so all the club members can enjoy the club station: K2MP, N2EH, K2UW, WA2UGE, WA2CER, WB2ZJY, WB2MDC, and N2DPF.

Next time you hear a request for a work party, why not be a "*THEY*" and not one who asks "Did "*THEY*" get the antennas fixed yet?" The club station is there for all to use, lets help keep up to date.

FOR SALE – Base Station (CB) - Cobra 139XLR 40-Ch with USB and LSB. Beam antenna with rotor, plus a scanner. \$230 or best offer. Dave, KA2RDP, 594-9577 after 5 p.m.

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TOWER HEARING NOTICE

Alan Gronsenhauser, KM2P, is applying for a zoning variance in the town of Brighton to erect a 70-foot antenna tower at 1424 Westfall Road. The public hearing is scheduled for 8 p.m. on November 2nd at the Brighton Town Hall on Elmwood Avenue. All interested Hams are invited to attend and support his application. Questions may be directed to Mike Rice, KB2SG, at 454-6000.

QSL'S AVAILABLE AT RaRa AUCTION

If you haven't yet picked-up your QSL cards, Bill Theil, K2KGE, will have them at the auction. So please look him up and pick them up.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Bill Theil, K2KGE

Since its beginnings, amateur radio has been a haven and breeding ground for experimentation. The earliest amateurs built all their own equipment (there being no Japanese people at that time) and tried all kinds of things. Although we are long past the stage of completely home-brew, the experimenter mentality thankfully still is a big part of the amateur operator psyche. Trying new things just to "see if it will work" is an attitude that many of us share.

The latest exercise in experimenting on a sophisticated scale is of course Dr. Garriot's upcoming 2 meter tests on STS-9. Anyone who has a 2 meter FM rig ought to at least listen to W5LFL just to "see if it will work". Those who do hear him will be rewarded with the unique pleasure of being in on a first.

Closer to home, the Rochester VHF Group over the years has designed and built many different pieces of equipment. The objective here has been to get people into operating VHF by making the hardware available at the cost of parts. Through group effort in quantity parts procurement and in construction they have succeeded very well in making VHF do-able and affordable. For many years the "Rochester" converter was the one in the ARRL Handbook; this year the group will close out its transverter project and will have put nearly 200 transverters in the hands of local amateurs.

Out on the West Coast another group of amateurs has put together a non-profit corporation for the purpose of education and distribution of parts at cost in the field of photovoltaics. Known as SPECS (Solar Powered Emergency Communications Systems) this is a group of volunteers (no one is paid) who promote the use of solar and other alternate electrical energy sources. This will be an up and coming area for experimentation in the years to come and these amateurs are right in there doing it to "see if it will work" (See articles in October and November 1982 *QST*).

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP; FIELD TRIP TO RADIONICS

On November 11th, the group will travel to 920 Holt Road, Webster, NY. The program is presented by Fred Cupp, W2DUC, who will give a lecture and demonstration of *Speech Digitizers*. The meeting will start at 8:00 p.m. Anyone needing directions can ask on the 28/88 repeater. The 1984 contest chairman for the VHF Sweepstakes is Ron Lawson.

RED CROSS NEWS

by Dave Stark, N2CSB

The Rochester-Monroe County Chapter of the American Red Cross has established Explorer Post 552 as an auxiliary to the Disaster Action Team. Post 552 meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 50 Prince Street starting at 7:00 p.m. We have had three meetings as of this writing and have begun to study standard first aid and some disaster services courses.

Since I am one of the three Post Advisors, the Explorers will be learning about disaster communications involving Amateur Radio as well as the Red Cross 47.72 MHz. radio system. Maybe we can recruit some new blood for the next Novice Class! In fact, one of the other advisors is now interested in getting a ham ticket.

For further information on how young people ages 14-18 can join Post 552, or on how adults can join the Disaster Action Team, call Jim Greanier at 275-9800 ext 259. If you call after November 19th, the Red Cross will have a new phone number: 461-9800.

By the time you read this, SET '83 will be history. Red Cross officials were very impressed last year by the Amateurs who operated the 2-meter equipment at the chapter house. They appreciated the time taken by the operators to explain Amateur Radio to the Red Cross volunteers who came to observe. This year the Red Cross has invited the volunteers to observe again.

FLASH:

STS-9 DELAYED UNTIL
NOVEMBER 28.

ESTATE SALE - The following items are from the estate of a deceased amateur; all are in good condition.

ICOM 730 transceiver with scanning mike and pass band filter	\$650
KDK 2016A 2 meter FM transceiver with micro 800 scanning programmer	\$175
Kenwood TR-2400 hand-held 2 meter	\$210
Hammarlund HQ-100A receiver	\$90
Ten-Tec Model 247 Antenna Tuner	\$60
Johnson Matchbox 250 watt model	\$40
Heath HD-1250 Grid Dip Meter	\$60
Sears CB with 10 meter conversion	\$50
Heath encoder mike	\$30
QSTs from early 1950s to present	\$2/yr

For information contact Bill Thiel, K2KGE.

LICENSE COURSE

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The fall license course began on Monday, September 26, 1983 with 35 registered in the Novice class and 20 in the Technician/General class. This will be the first Novice class that will be tested under the new testing regulations. The new regulation allows both the Theory and Code test to be formulated and administered by an Amateur. Upon completion of both elements, a completed FCC form 610 will be forwarded to Gettysberg and a license will be issued.

The FCC has also issued the approval for the Volunteer Examination Program for all classes above Novice. The program calls for the establishment of 13 Volunteer Examination Co-ordinators, one each in the US call districts and 1 each in Alaska, The Pacific Islands and the Caribbean. A team of 3 Advanced class licensees will be able to administer the test for Technician license and all other tests will require a team of 3 Extra Class licensees to act as examiners. The Technician/General testing program will go into effect December 1, 1983 and Advanced/Extra will go into effect after January 1984.

RADIO LICENSE EXAM SCHEDULE -

NOTE: The Radio License Exam Schedule for 1984 will be drastically modified as follows:

A. Examinations at the Buffalo District Office will be given by **appointment only**. These exams will be administered quarterly during the following months:

- February 6 - February 10, 1984
Appointment cutoff date, January 15, 1984
- May 7 - May 11, 1984
Appointment cutoff date, April 15, 1984
- August 6 - August 10, 1984
Appointment cutoff date July 15, 1984
- November 5 - November 9, 1984

November 5 - November 9, 1984
Appointment cutoff date October 15, 1984

B. This office will no longer conduct operator examinations at Syracuse, NY.

RADIO LICENSE EXAM SCHEDULE

The Exam Schedule for the remainder of 1983 will remain the same:

- Commercial Radiotelephone - Thursdays -
9:00 - 12:00 Noon
- Amateur (requiring code) - Fridays - 9:00 a.m.
- Amateur (theory only) - Fridays - 10:00 a.m.

Armored Force Amateur Radio Net

This is an informal and non-profit organization with no dues required for membership. The "A Far Net" as it is called, is a group made up of veterans and active duty personnel from the Armored Forces of the United States, and have a membership roster today of 158 stations in 35 states plus 4 DX sites. The members have a very special QSL card available to them for use that is printed in five colors on a white card and shows the Armored Force patch as a prominent feature.

The Armored Force Amateur Radio Net is not connected with the military in any way, and is seeking additional members who hold a valid amateur license and who are veterans of or active duty personnel from the U. S. ARMORED FORCES.

The "A Far Net" operates skeds on several bands through the week on a year round basis and invites all amateur radio stations to join in on our nets and chat with us. A sample of our schedules are shown below:

1. 40 Meters SSB, Saturday, 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time, 7.285±QRM.
2. 20 Meters SSB, Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time, 14.325±QRM.
3. 15 Meters SSB, Sundays, 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time. 21.375±QRM.
4. 40 Meters CW, Tuesdays, 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 7.115±QRM.

For further information, send an SASE, 4½ x 9, to: The Armored Forces Amateur Radio Net
Harry B. Thomsen, W2PJH
348 Jefferson Avenue, Apt #15
Canandaigua, NY 14424

FOR SALE: Drake TR-4C, RV-4C, DC-4 Power Supply for preceding equipment. Also T-4XC. All equipment spotless, equal to new. All manuals included. 10: Switches (Bird Model 74) coaxial "coax-witch" low loss up to UHF, six position, single pole. Jerry Fink, W2TTQ, 271-1445. Call between 5 and 9 p.m.

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THE RaRa RAG 20 YEARS AGO, NOVEMBER 1963

by Ed Gable, K2MP

Program Chairman Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, announced the annual auction to be the highlight of the November meeting. Cappy Capauldy, K2UXF, to be banging the gavel and moving the wares.

The October meeting was an outstanding success with 170 members in attendance to hear Clara Reger, W2RUF, speak on CW receiving techniques and the National Traffic System. Ron Ray, G2TA, entertained the group with slides of a typical British Field Day outing. Hank Kreutter, WA2IKB, took home the main award of an AR-22 rotator.

Part II of Bruce Kelley's saga on Rochester Amateurs was again a highlight of this issue. Two excellent photographs clearly showed the Radio Club of Rochester's 1925 station, 8PZ. A second photo depicted a top DX station of the day, 8ALY, with Al Balling and Bill DeWitt, W2VZV (ex-8BRD).

Joan Kirkbright's (WA2RTK) VHF Splatter column told of the recent Syracuse Roundup. This highly popular VHF gathering had Carl Milner, W1FVY, speak on his invention, the "Big Wheel" antenna. Gene Harrison, VE3ERH, of GDE, is to be the featured speaker at the next meeting of the Rochester VHF Group.

RDXA reports their new slate of officers; AL Weller, W2CBA; Dick Bourne, WA2HUV; and Dick Flint, W2EDE. AC3PT in Sikkim is the catch of the month.

Other 1963 Board Members are: Ed Hurysz, WA2YFO; Bill Kirkbright, WA2HWC; and Dave Hassett, K2SQI.

BC Electronics advertises an even dozen brand new 1625 transmitting tubes for \$2.00 post paid.

NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY TO THE PACIFIC ON A PEANUT WHISTLE

by Lee Grills, WB2ZHD

After a number of years on 2 meter repeaters it didn't seem possible. Hank Wielkie, WA2YUC, control operator for the K2XZ repeater (145.39 down 600) and proprietor of the Blue Mountain Radio Shop in Delevan, New York south of Buffalo was talking to me as I was travelling on the Thruway near Buffalo. A hissing started and then he called CQ CQ. There it was, clear, full quieting and strong, a response to his call. K7HI somewhere west of the BAJA in Southern California

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on an 1100 foot oil tanker told him that he read New York loud and clear, the weather was hot and the air conditioning wasn't working too well. Then I jumped in and got the same results.

What went on was a contact on a 10 meter FM link with the 2 meter FM repeater in Southern Erie County. What they have is an Azden 2800 with 10 watts out linked to their Hamtronics 2 meter FM repeater. There is a double phased 4 pole antenna aiming 4 north and 4 south. They run 30 watts out of their duplexer on top of a 2100 foot hill.

The next day I worked the trustee of the world famous Virgin Islands repeater, several W8's, a W9 and a W0 in Kansas. Not bad for 10 watts and a TR 7400A Kenwood 2 meter FM. With the quarter wave on the car I was getting solid copy into LeRoy. Cliff, KA2DBD of Macedon is on this machine all the time with his beam and 80 watts.

Hank, WA2YUC asked me to be sure and get the information about this machine into the RAG, obviously he is encouraging Hams to try out his machine from Rochester. They can turn the link on and off with tones. You can tell by the squelch tail if the link is on or off. If it is off, give Hank a call and he'll turn it on. A beam and a decent location should put you on 10 meters FM with your present 2 meter equipment.

Whats this got to do with P. R., darned if I know, but its a lot of fun. 73's.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ON THE ORIGIN OF THE WIRELESS SIGNALING

from W5YI REPORT

The electric telegraph has a complex and disputed ancestry. America, Russia, Germany and England have approximately equal claim to its origin. While Samuel Morse is remembered above most of his rivals, he was very far from being the first man to transmit information by electricity! The history of the electric telegraph is generally considered to have begun on February 13, 1753, thirty-eight years before Samuel Finley Breeze Morse was even born! It was then that a remarkable letter, signed by a certain "C. M." (whose identity has never been established) was published in "Scots Magazine".

He proposed that a "set of wires, equal in number to the letters of the alphabet, be extended horizontally between two given places, parallel to one another and each of them about an inch distant from the next to it." The letter goes on to explain in detail how the wires are to be connected to the conductor of an electrostatic machine when it is desired to signal a particular letter. It was, of course, known since early times that electrostatic forces would attract small pieces of paper and "C. M." had bits of paper under metal balls suspended from the alphabet wires. The idea was to use electricity from the machine, channel it through one of his wires and let it attract the corresponding pieces of paper with its letter of the alphabet on the receiving side. All of the principal elements of the electric telegraph were present.... a source of electricity, its manipulation to handle the information to be transmitted, the wire conductors and the mechanism on the receiving end to read the information sent.


Eighty years later (during the 1830s), Samuel Morse, who mistakenly thought his was a new idea, devised his telegraph using the newly discovered electromagnet. He was 41 at the time. His original dot/dash device sent only numbers which had to cross referenced to a number-word dictionary! Morse dispensed with the dictionary in 1838 when he discovered the human brain could transcribe the telegraph clicks directly into letters. (Telegraphy tones didn't make their debut until the 1900s!) Another Morse myth is that the first message sent by telegraphy was "What Hath God Wrought!" Actually that biblical quotation (selected by his secretary) merely signalled the opening of the first intercity line between Washington, D. C. (Capitol Building) and Baltimore. It took place 6 years after Morse perfected his dot/dash code. It did, however, mark the first commercial use of telegraphy.

Strangely, Morse's greatest skills were in the art rather than the electronics world. Had he died in 1832, he would have been remembered today as a major influence in American art. After completing college at Yale, he studied painting in England and was a world renowned portrait artist! Morse even ran for mayor of New York.... and for Congress, but was defeated! He died at age 80 on April 2, 1872.

And while we are discussing early non-verbal communication, I researched the forerunner of electric code signalling. Before electricity was discovered, "semaphore" (from the Greek "sema" and "phore" meaning sign bearer) signalling was used. Interestingly, semaphore got its start in France as a result of a prank with schoolboys devising a system so that they could send messages back and forth between two schools!

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