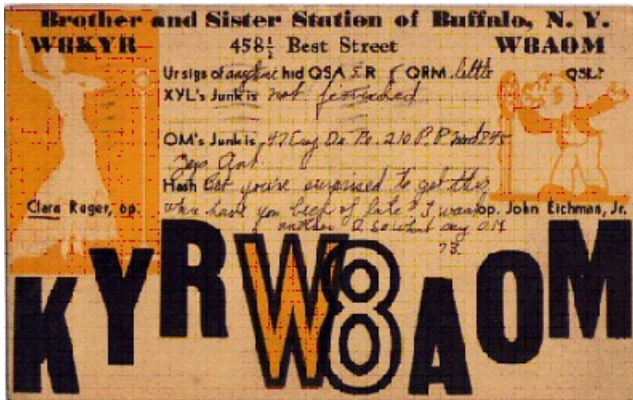


Clara Reger and 33

borrowed from TheMarySue.com



It's impossible to talk about notable female hams without acknowledging the work of Clara Reger, who received her call sign in 1933 at age thirty-five. Reger had a long career as an operator, and managed disaster communications after WWII. Known for her exceptional Morse code skills, Reger spent much of her life teaching others how to become operators. She also received the Edison Award for teaching a fourteen-year-old boy without arms to send Morse code with his feet.

But Reger is also known for her signature salutation, which she created especially for women communicating with other women—the salutation '33,' which meant love sealed with friendship. Reger knew that to hear another girl's voice on the other end was rare

and special. What a gift, to find kinship with women, through the radio, across the ocean, across the globe!

YL 33 is considered sacred by female hams, and there's a poem dedicated to Reger's accomplishments and passion for radio communications. You can read it in full on the [Young Ladies Radio League's](http://YoungLadiesRadioLeague.com) website, but here's a passage:

" There's no real definition
But its meaning is known well.
It's how a YL says good evening
To another friend YL. "

Although these are just a few of the many women who used radio as their medium of choice, their stories as operators are fascinating and inspiring. These women are united in their mutual passion for exploration, technology and adventure, and that still holds true today for many female ham operators. If you're interested in becoming a ham radio operator, consider joining [YLRL](http://YLRL.com) , or the [Sisterhood of Amateur Radio](http://SisterhoodofAmateurRadio.com) , or the [ARRL](http://ARRL.com) .