

Finger Lakes
Chapter #29
Founded March 29, 1966
W2PPS



January
2010
Newsletter

Chapter Information

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www.qcwa.org/chapter029.htm

December Meeting

It might have been due to the holiday rush of activities, or possibly it was because this month's meeting was held one week earlier on the third instead of the fourth Friday to avoid a conflict with Christmas, but our attendance was a bit lower than usual this month. Those present were: John McKee-WB2YGN; Jack Roubie-K2JDD; John Rockdashil-WB2DVE; Tim Colson-N2VZD; Rita Colson-KC2GFT; Gerry Storrs-K2QJB; Joe Molinaro-W2FUU; Gerry Voorhies-KA2DDN; Ken Blume-K2UPI; Al May-WA2KFB; Sharon May-KA2TNK; John Soergel-WA2DGC; Mark Chamberlin-WB2PKO; Dick Steinback-WA2MRU; Al Obrist-N2AO and Lou Agresti-W2OPF.

The meeting was opened by WA2KFB who suggested that we go around the room and introduce ourselves. Following that it was noted that the obituary for Charlie Soper-K2HPT was in that morning's Post-Standard. A card is being sent to his XYL Juanita "Nita" Soper-WB2HGO. Cards were also signed for Phil Lambrions-WA2IMX and Bill Tully-W2MTG who are resident at S. Camillus, and also to Jim Mallette-W2PFD who isn't getting out much these days.

WB2YGN read a communication from QCWA Chapter 112 suggesting that QCWA members should "elmer" new hams to convince them that there's more to the hobby than operating an HT on 2M. N2AO had donated a copy of the book "Low Band DX" by ON4UN as a door prize and that was won by KA2TNK. Showing that luck runs in the family,



WA2KFB won \$13.50 in the 50/50 raffle. Several commented that the couple had been big winners at the LARC Christmas Party the previous weekend. Gotten that 20M rig on the air yet Al? And as a reward for her excellent service, a special \$50 "tip" was given to Michelle, our waitress.

On the sign-in sheet, attendees were asked the question: "Have you been bad or good the past year" and the responses were as follows:

- 4 - Good
- 2 - ?
- 1 - Both bad and good
- 1 - Very good
- 1 - Bad (but enjoyed it)
- 1 - Absolutely
- 1 - Maybe
- 1 - Who can tell
- 1 - I try
- 1 - Depends upon who you ask
- 1 - Yes
- 1 - No answer (from W2OPF maybe?)

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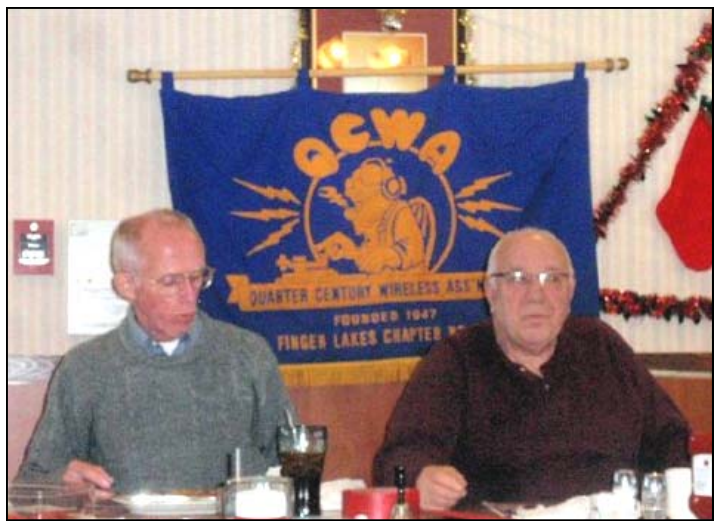
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Evidently we're a diverse group.

The day following the meeting we received the following e-mail from Fred Legawiec-W2LGA: "Darn it!! I forgot about the QCWA meeting again! I got tied up at the Everson again trying to help balance the book keeping from the exhibit and got lost track of time!! Well it's over January 4th so I guess life will be back to normal then ☺. Looks like once again it is my loss

We also received a nice e-mail from Paul Copeland-K4KCS of Greenville, NC who wrote last months article on the VOA station at Greenville :". thanks for the copy of the QCWA Newsletter. I enjoyed reading the whole newsletter - looks like you've got a nice bunch of folks in the chapter. I really appreciate you guys putting my letter in the QCWA. Not many folks know about VOA and many even think that VOA has gone away since the Iron Curtain fell. Believe me, the VOA is still going strong on HF. This newsletter will go into my special file, along with the picture of the GE transmitter that you sent."

W2FUU forwarded an e-mail with the following link in it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWiMGbnhUMo>. This is a mid-1950's video put out by the Air Force describing the Strategic Air Command's Control Center. If you like vacuum tube technology this is for you.



Gee John, you could smile a little more. Being President can't be all that bad!



Upcoming Birthdays

January

- 10th - Roger Hamilton-WA2AEW
- 12th - John Soergel-WA2DGC
- 14th - Al Obrist-N2AO
- 17th - Donald Taylor-KB2BU
- 25th - Lloyd Caves-N2PU
- 27th - James Murray-K2HN

February

- 9th - James Mallette-W2PFD
- 13th - Charles Floring-W2AK
- 18th - Phil Lambrinos-WA2IMX

March

- 3rd - Stanley Carpenter-W2LVK
- 7th - Jeryl Wright-NK2C
- 9th - Don Langham-W2CVJ
- 25th - Fred Herbs-WB2PEM



Silent Key

K2HPT

Charles E. Soper Sr.-K2HPT, 71, of Syracuse, passed away Wednesday, December 16th, at Community General Hospital. Born in Canton, PA, he was raised in Elmira and moved to Syracuse in 1959. He graduated from Southside High School and Alfred State College. Retiring in 1987, Charles was employed for over 30 years with IBM. He was a member of Christ Community Church of the Nazarene and a former member of the Morning Star Masonic Lodge. He enjoyed amateur radio (his call sign was K2HPT), camping and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Surviving are his wife of 51 years, the former Juanita Harwood; daughters, Cheryl (David) Trembley of Syracuse, Patricia (Matthew) Bednarski

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of Marcellus and Pamela (Tom) Lamoureaux of Memphis; sons, Charles Jr. (Liz) of Fayetteville, Richard (Meg) of Elmira, Marc of Camillus and James (Barbara) of Syracuse; and 20 grandchildren. Services will be 11 a.m. Monday in Christ Community Church of the Nazarene. Relatives and friends may call Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at Buranich Funeral Home, 5431 W. Genesee St., Camillus. Charles will be laid to rest in Onondaga Valley Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse, P.O. Box 88, Liverpool, NY 13088.



Moving

Well, your newsletter editor is going to be moving early in 2010, most likely in February. Now Donna and I aren't moving out of town or anything, but we're downsizing from a 4-bedroom, 2-story colonial to a 3-bedroom ranch with a more open layout – basically from the west side of Liverpool to the east side. In the process we've already gotten rid of a full dumpster-load of items we no longer need but there's still a lot left. So for about a month or so we will be in the process of packing and then unpacking, during which time I may not have access to the equipment I need to get out this newsletter. My guess is that there will probably be a February newsletter but not a March newsletter. Of course you never know, you might be lucky (or unlucky as the case may be) and receive newsletters both months, or I might have to skip both February and March, we'll see what happens



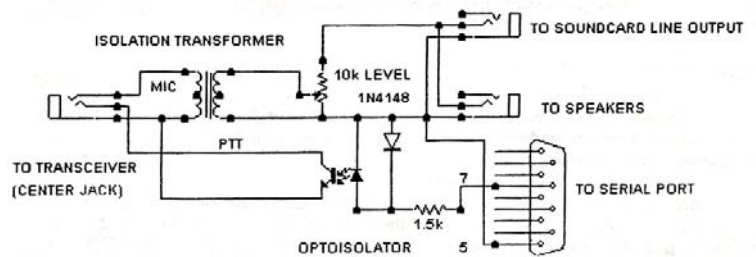
More on PSK-31

At the November meeting, N2TKX made a presentation on a portable PSK-31 system he had put together using the PSK20 transceiver from Small Wonder Labs and a netbook computer. One of his comments was that he had had some problems in the past with using the computer to properly control the T/R switching in the transceiver and the PSK20 included an internal T/R switching control that eliminated that problem.

Later on at a meeting of the Fulton Amateur Radio Club, that topic again came up and one of the members commented that he simply used the VOX control on his transceiver to control the T/R switching. Another member commented that he had used that method but depending upon the delay time in the VOX circuitry, that the first couple of characters in the transmission might be lost so he always starts every transmission with 3 or 4 spaces before typing the text message. So that's one solution.

W2FUU sent along a schematic of an interface circuit that he has used for some time and is very happy with. It basically controls T/R switching by using control signals from the computer's RS-232 serial port. While this works well for Joe, if you want to try it, make sure that your computer has an RS-232 serial port on it as most of the newer ones don't. So that's another solution.

DigiPan Isolating Interface for PSK31

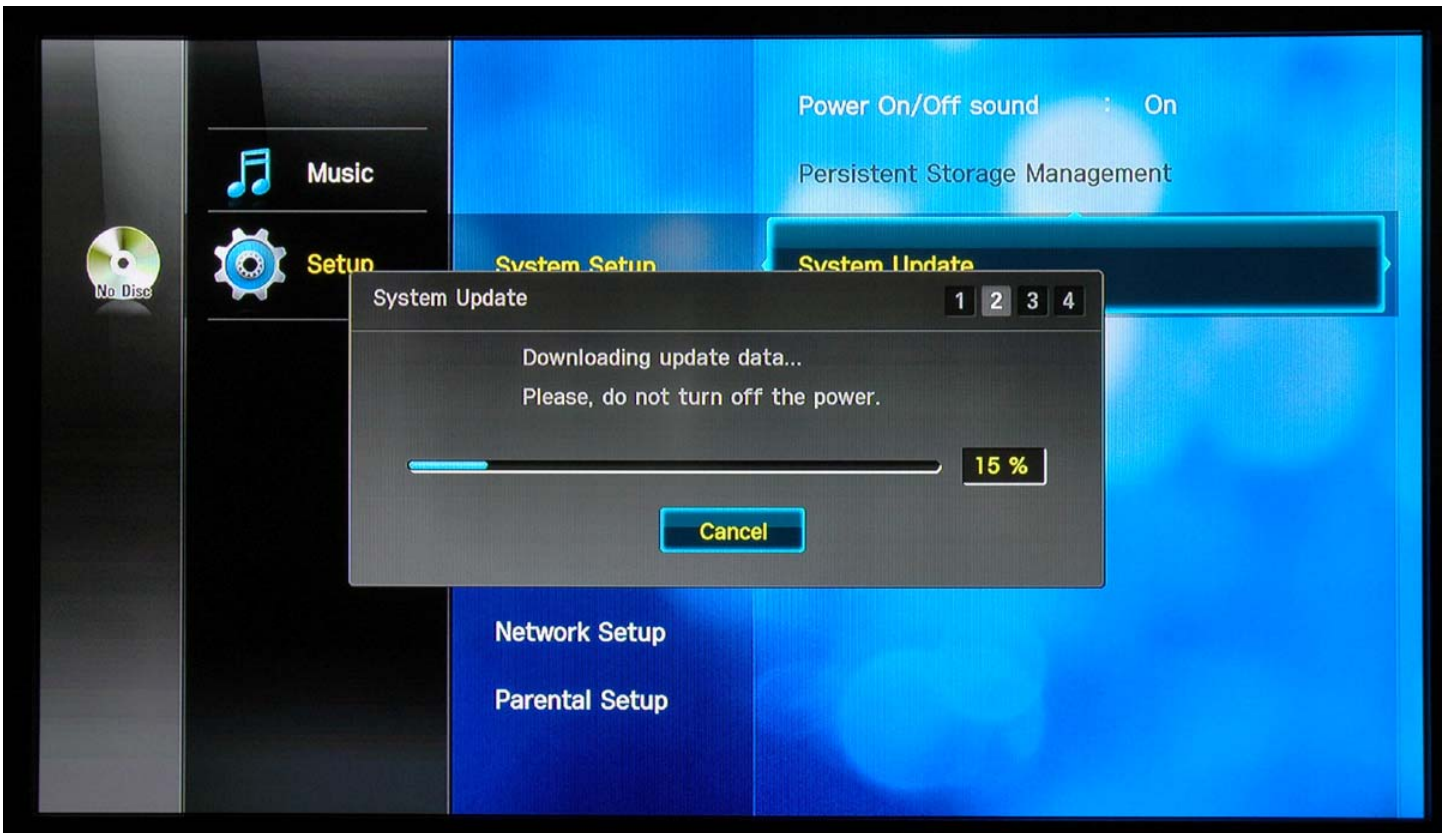


BluRay Updates

By N2TKX

Must have been about a year, or at least six months, since I included a short article on my experience installing and using a Samsung BluRay DVD player. One of the things that I noticed in the instruction manual was that you should periodically check for soft-

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ware updates. With my player, you simply connect an Ethernet cable with a RJ-45 plug from the player to your Internet connection, then open up the player's menu and find "SETUP" and then "UPDATE." Once I did this I got the display shown on the previous page on my TV set. The process wasn't fast – it took over 30 minutes to download the update and this was on a hard-wired connection running at 100MBS. Now I'll have to watch a couple of videos to see whether any of the annoying problems I noted before have gone away (slow load times for DVDs, sound dropouts, etc.). But if you do have a BluRay player, you might want to try the update process with your unit. I understand that other than the direct-connection method I used, you can also download the update to a "thumb drive" and then plug that into your player to transfer the update.



Top Ten

Top ten terrific things about cold weather:

1. Zero mosquitoes

2. Stay clean walking across frozen mud
3. Under 20F justifies hot chocolate
4. Snow squeaks under 14F
5. Boiling water thrown outside turns to vapor under 5F
6. Fill driveway potholes with water
7. Sundogs
8. Men and cats become really affectionate
9. Ice skating
10. Rude gestures ineffective in mittens.

Top ten terrific things about snow:

1. Animal tracks
2. Junk in neighbor's yard looks much nicer
3. Free unlimited sculpture material
4. Snow forts and snowball fights
5. Snow angels (child, adult and canine)
6. Snowshoeing and skiing
7. Snowed on dog smells better than rained on dog
8. You can tell if the mailman has been by
9. Moonlight on sparkly snow
10. Your neighbor just shoveled off your car by mistake.

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Eve ARRL Straight Key Night begins at midnight 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day 2400Z—ARRL Straight Key Night ends 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1800Z—ARRL RTTY Roundup begins
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2400Z—ARRL RTTY Roundup ends Kids Day 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (1st) 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 7:00pm—Rome Radio Club Meeting, Griffiss (1st) 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—Camillus VE Session (KB2ERJ) (1st) 	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1800Z—North American CW QSO Party begins Skyline ARC Winterfest, Marathon (K2BQZ)
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0600Z—North American CW QSO Party ends NYC/LI Section Convention (KC2KY) 	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 7:30pm—Skyline ARC Meeting (AB2G) (2nd) 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm—RAGS Meeting, (AB2PG) (2nd) 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—MOARC VE Session (KG2DI) (3rd) 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1800Z—North American Phone QSO Party Begins
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0600Z—North American Phone QSO Party ends 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Luther King Jr. Day 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (1st) 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2300Z—AWA CW Contest begins 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2300Z—AWA CW Contest ends 	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2300Z—AWA CW Contest begins 1900Z ARRL VHF Sweepstakes begins
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2300Z—AWA CW Contest ends ARRL VHF Sweepstakes continues 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0400Z—ARRL VHF Sweepstakes ends 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm—Madison-Oneida ARC Meeting, Verona (last) 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm—Fulton ARC VE Session (KC2PAM) 7:00pm—Fulton ARC Meeting (W2TQF) (4th) 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—LARC Meeting, (N2IK) 	29 QCWA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am—QCWA Luncheon, Denny's Restaurant (WB2YGN)(last) 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2200Z—CQWW 160M CW Contest begins Lockport ARA Hamfest, Lockport (N2OBX)
31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2200Z—CQWW 160M CW Contest ends 	1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundhog Day 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—Camillus VE Session (KB2ERJ) (1st) 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm—Rome ARC VE Session (K2GVI) (1st) 	6