

Finger Lakes  
Chapter #29  
Founded March 29, 1966  
W2PPS



February 2009  
Newsletter

## Chapter Information

President	Fred Herbs-WB2PEM	115 Hunter Drive	Baldwinsville, NY 13027	635-5947
Treasurer	Jack Roubie-K2JDD	7205 Coventry Road N	E. Syracuse, NY 13057	656-2480
Newsletter	Steve Auyer-N2TKX	3925 Cloverfield Circle	Liverpool, NY 13090	451-7359

N2TKX E-Mail: N2TKX@ARRL.NET

[www.qcwa.org/chapter029.htm](http://www.qcwa.org/chapter029.htm)

## January Meeting

### WHAT HAPPENED?????

A number of us arrived at Weber's restaurant on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> to find the parking areas unplowed and signs in the windows and doors proclaiming, "Closed for renovations, reopening shortly." Given the desire of the owner to sell the restaurant, and its temporary closing by the NY State Tax Authority, we're not sure whether the restaurant has gone out of business, has been sold and is being renovated by the new owner, or is being renovated by the original owner. There WILL be a February meeting – however, even if Weber's reopens by then it is not clear that we will return and other locations are being investigated. If you have any suggestions as to meeting locations, we're sure that WB2PEM would be glad to hear them.

In the meantime, had we had our usual meeting, here are some of the topics that would have been covered:

There has been a lot of discussion about the impact of transitioning from analog to digital TV – especially among those folks who have summer camps remote from the Syracuse area. W2FUU found a nice site at [www.antennaweb.org](http://www.antennaweb.org) that will help you determine what you can and cannot receive at a particular location. You input your street address and answer a few other questions and the site will tell you all the nearby digital stations and what type of antenna you will need to receive their signals. Antennas are rated on a color-coded scale from green (omnidirectional indoor antenna) to violet (highly directional outdoor antenna). If you don't have a street address ("Fourth Lake" probably wouldn't work) and can't find a nearby address to use, the site may not work for you.

N2TKX brought along a copy of a short presentation prepared by KI2K describing his experiences when mysterious charges began appearing on his monthly telephone statement. He traced them back and found that there are several firms that act as billing agents for other companies. When one of these companies tells the billing firm that they have provided you a service, the billing

firm will cause a charge for that service to appear on your monthly bill. KI2K's experiences in tracking down what was happening make an interesting story and you can download his presentation from <http://web.syr.edu/~lhbadman/cram.pdf>

N2TKX would have announced that another session of the entry-level technician course has been scheduled for the four Saturdays in March at the Museum of Science & Technology in Syracuse. Cost is \$25/person and more for more information (and possible registration), contact N2TKX at [n2tkx@arrl.net](mailto:n2tkx@arrl.net).

WA2DGC would have won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to the chapter's treasury (Who asked if the 50/50 raffle is fixed?).

WB2PEM would have passed around a copy of the following article written by Dave Berry:

"But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention, in 1877, was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923, when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879, when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: the electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again. This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact the last year any new electricity was generated in the United States was 1937; the electric companies have been merely re-selling it ever since, which is why they have so much free time to apply for rate increases."

W2XF would have passed around an article that has been widely circulated on the internet (a portion of which is reproduced below:

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

**“24 THINGS ABOUT TO BECOME EXTINCT  
IN AMERICA**

24. Yellow Pages—This year will be pivotal for the global Yellow Pages industry. Much like newspapers, print Yellow Pages will continue to bleed dollars to their various digital counterparts, from Internet Yellow Pages (IYPs), to local search engines and combination search/listing services like Reach Local and Yodle Factors like an acceleration of the print 'fade rate' and the looming recession will contribute to the onslaught. One research firm predicts the falloff in usage of newspapers and print Yellow Pages could even reach 10% this year -- much higher than the 2% -3% fade rate seen in past years.

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**16. Ham Radio—Amateur radio operators enjoy personal (and often worldwide) wireless communications with each other and are able to support their communities with emergency and disaster communications if necessary, while increasing their personal knowledge of electronics and radio theory. However, proliferation of the Internet and its popularity among youth has caused the decline of amateur radio. In the past five years alone, the number of people holding active ham radio licenses has dropped by 50,000, even though Morse Code is no longer a requirement.**

15. The Swimming Hole—Thanks to our litigious society, swimming holes are becoming a thing of the past. '20/20' reports that swimming hole owners, like Robert Every in High Falls, N.Y., are shutting them down out of worry that if someone gets hurt they'll sue. And that's exactly what happened in Seattle . The city of Bellingham was sued by Katie Hofstetter who was paralyzed in a fall at a popular swimming hole in Whatcom Falls Park . As injuries occur and lawsuits follow, expect more swimming holes to post 'Keep out!' signs.

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So, all in all, it would have been a pretty good meeting.



## Upcoming Birthdays

### 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

### April

- 9th - Al May-WA2KFV
- 9th - Louis Agresti-W2OPF
- 13th - Norm Hinkle-W2NNJ
- 15th - Richard Goslee-KG2I
- 17th - Harry Rothenhoefer-W2HLR
- 25th - Jack Roubie-K2JDD
- 25th - Richard Steinbach-WA2MRU



## SKs

### W2LR

Richard Joseph Sobus-W2LR of West Melbourne, Florida, died January 22, 2009, at his home, surrounded by his family. He was 75 years old. He was born in Auburn, NY, the son of the late Joseph and Mary Kunkel Sobus. He attended Holy Family High School in Auburn, NY, and Rochester Institute of Technology. He was a communication specialist in the U.S. Army. He was an employee of General Electric, Honeywell and Bull Information Systems. He retired in February of 1989. He was an amateur radio operator with call signs of K2QLE and W2LR. He is survived by his wife, of 49 years, Virginia Wilson Sobus; sister, Ruth Dougherty of Auburn, NY; four children, Lori Fonseca and husband, Miguel of Liverpool, NY, Mary LaBrecque of Isle LaMotte, VT, John Sobus and wife, Rebecca, of Federal Way, WA, and Patricia Monteiro and husband, Cesar of Overland Park, KS; 12 grandchildren, Sheila, Ali, Nathan, Laura, Patti, John, Robert, Sean, Evan, Cesar, Catherine and Isabella; and one great-grandchild, Laila. Services are private. A celebration of his life will be held Sunday, January 25, at 1 p.m. at the Green Wood Village Clubhouse off Sheridan Road in West Melbourne. Relatives and friends are invited to attend this celebration of his life. Memorial donations can be made to Vitas Hospice Charitable Fund, 4450 Eau Gallie Boulevard, Suite 250, Melbourne, FL 32934.



## Rochester Hamfest

Communications continue to be received on this subject. Here are some recent ones:

**From Dick Goslee-K2GI on January 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

*“The RARA web site has the correct news on it. The Board of Directors voted in November to not run the Hamfest at the usual*

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*(Continued from page 2)*

place and as a 2 day event as the expenses were just too much. We have lost 25K in the last 3 years as the weather and the economy has reduced the attendance. Just last year the weather man predicted a 90% chance of rain all day on Saturday and our attendance was down about 1000 people that day. At \$10.00 per head that is 10K. Our loss in 2008 was 10K. The reality was we had rain at 5:00AM and none again till about 2:30PM. The day was dark but dry. We decided we just couldn't continue in that manner. Prior to the decision we had decided to move to the new venue in 2010 anyway. We just decided to do it a year sooner. The new venue has plenty of space, plenty of buildings for food, indoor flea market, a large room for meetings/exams and a large room for commercial vendors. There is also a large food vending area in one of the outer buildings. They have a large car show there each week and it is always well attended. They know how to put on events, and the want us there. This facility has a large Carnival each year and they handle the crowd with space to spare. The league has approved the venue for the Atlantic Division Convention and they are looking forward to it.

More news will be coming in the near future. Meanwhile just keep looking at "www.rochesterham.org" for details. We as a BoD don't control the other web site as it is in Harold's name so we don't control anything that is posted there. Trust em the only hamfest held in Rochester in 2009 will be the one at the Barnard Fire Department grounds."

**From the ARRL Atlantic Division Newsletter on January 4<sup>th</sup>:**

"The Atlantic Division Convention and the 75th Rochester Hamfest will be held on May 30, 2009. It will be at a new venue and it will be a one day event this year. There is a new website for the hamfest at [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) and the old website has not been updated to reflect the change. If you need more information about the new location or directions, check the new website or send an email to Len Crellin KC2PCD at [kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com).

We are very excited about the change and are looking forward to the new location. Hope to see you there!"

**From Lee Badman-KI2K on January 19<sup>th</sup>:**

"The following article from the Syracuse Post-Standard made it to the eHam web site (go to <http://www.eham.net/articles/20875> to read the comments about the article).

Want to buy an advanced ticket for the Rochester Hamfest this year? You may want to make some phone calls and see if you can glean which of two seemingly competing groups will host the "official" Rochester fest this year.

There is some definite weirdness to this year's pending event.

The Rochester Hamfest is noteworthy as many area radio enthusiasts feel it is the second best event of it's kind, with only the Dayton Hamvention outranking it. Long-time attendees are used to going to the Expo Center at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. But this year it's hard to tell where the event will be.

The Web site [www.rochesthamfest.org](http://www.rochesthamfest.org) claims that the fest will be at the traditional site, and that any rumors to the contrary should be disregarded. Telephone and e-mail contact information is provided for more information, and a read-over of the site makes you inclined to believe you've found all you need to know about the event.

However, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA) claims that they will host the official event, and that it has moved to the Barnard Carnival Grounds. RARA's information is at [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org). Local buzz has it that there are two competing groups having a bit of a "turf war" over the event, and so far it is hard to get a straight answer from either side beyond competing claims of legitimacy.

Depending on which group prevails, the fest will be either on May 29 and 30 at the Expo Center, or just May 30 at the Carnival Grounds.

Send news or questions about amateur radio to Lee Badman, KI2K, by e-mail at [features@syracuse.com](mailto:features@syracuse.com) or regular mail at Stars, P.O. Box 4915, Syracuse, NY 13221."

**From Frank Schramm-WB2PYD, on January 19<sup>th</sup>:**

"Mr. Badman, Referring to your article in the Syracuse Post-Standard yesterday:

You mention two websites with "conflicting" information about the Rochester Hamfest. However, you don't mention that the contact information on one site is obsolete and disconnected, while the information on the other site ([RochesterHam.org](http://RochesterHam.org)) is validated by the ARRL. You should verify your sources before you attempt to disseminate information. As a fellow amateur radio operator, you would have done the hobby more of a service by discovering the TRUTH and dispelling the rumors. Instead you did no research and only fostered the confusion. Shame on you.

The alternate website you referred to is maintained by K2HC, an individual that is no longer involved in the Hamfest. The Rochester Amateur Radio Assn. (75 year sponsor of the Rochester Hamfest) has no influence over what he posts on the internet. We have requested he remove the confusing content numerous times, each met with flat out refusal. It's disappointing that someone who has put a great deal of effort into the event in the past, has taken up the position to confuse the public. This certainly demonstrates his disloyalty to the club, the event, and his fellow HAMS. If he is soliciting advance ticket sales, that would be fraud on his part, because according to officials at the Dome Arena he has not rented that facility.

You know what Mark Twain said: "If you don't read the news paper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed." Maybe you could enlighten your readers, and fellow HAMS with the TRUTH. 73, Frank Schramm-WB2PYD, President, Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc."

**From Lee Badman-KI2K, on January 20<sup>th</sup>:**

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

*“Mr. Schramm, Lee, KI2K here. It's unfortunate, but in "checking my sources" (as you imply I didn't do)- I find two web sites claiming that they are the official public face of the Rochester Hamfest. In checking the registrations for the domain names (the web servers), one belongs to the group who has been the long-running official site for the fest (rochesterhamfest.org). And one belongs to you, by name. I'm not looking to spread rumors, as you imply. I am reporting the confusion surrounding the fest, period. And IT IS confusing as the long-running, now ex-sponsor of the fest has a website that very much feels current.*

*And I agree with your suggestion that someone should be providing some clarity about this event- but that task falls to you Rochester radio folks, and you're simply not getting it done. So... in your own words, shame on you.*

*The truth is, there is confusion about who is holding it, where it will be, and how many days it will run. That is the truth, regardless of the ARRL backing RARA- no one should have to conduct an investigation to find out which fest plan is real and which is not.*

*RARA needs to negotiate with whoever is the human being behind rochesterhamfest.org and get them to either pull their confusing website, or to post a link to RARA's/your web site about the event. That's the only resolution, and until that happens, to report that there is some confusion around the Rochester Hamfest is to report the truth.*

*At no point do I support false claims, or spread bad information- my point is that this is a weird situation and folks looking at both sites need to be careful what they read. That was the pointy of my article. Period. Beyond that, I'm not an official mouthpiece for either side of the issue.*

*You quote Mr. Twain eloquently, but inappropriately. To Joe Outsider, this is confusing. Reading the newspaper is irrelevant. I put my writer hat away, and I'd just like to go to a good fest. The bonus would be that this weirdness is put to bed well ahead of it. Respectfully-Lee Badman-KI2K”*

**From Frank Schramm-WB2PYD, on January 20<sup>th</sup>:**

*“To: Daniel O'Shea-N2MRE, Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club*

*Hi Daniel, We need the assistance of the Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club to help clear the air. The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (RARA) has been producing the Rochester Hamfest for the last 74 years. For many years the Hamfest Committee Chairman was Harold Smith, K2HC. At the November meeting of the RaRa BoD it was voted to change the venue and the time frame for the Hamfest. Harold refused to comply and was relieved of his duties. In defiance he refuses to cooperate and because Harold's name is associated with the original Hamfest web site, the BoD at this time does not have control of what is displayed there. Since RARA is the parent organization of the current, and past, Hamfest Committee you can be assured that what RARA says in print and on the web site " www.rochesterham.org" is the TRUTH. The ARRL has already recognized the change in venue and time frame and the "New Rochester Hamfest" is the*

*location of the Atlantic Division Convention for 2009. This can be verified at: “<http://www.arrl.org/sections/WNY.html>”.*

*We realize how confusing this can be if people see Harold's postings on the internet. We have requested he remove the confusing content numerous times, each met with flat out refusal. It's disappointing that someone who has put a great deal of effort into the event in the past has taken up the position to confuse the public. This certainly demonstrates his disloyalty to the club, the event, and his fellow HAMS.*

*We at RaRa would greatly appreciate it if you and the Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club could use your channels of communications to inform your members, and other area HAMS of the TRUTH: There will only be one Hamfest, not two, and The Rochester Hamfest will be held Saturday May 30th, at the Barnard Carnival Grounds. Further details are available at "www.rochesterham.org". Warn them that K2HC no longer has anything to do with the Rochester Hamfest and people should disregard his solicitations for ticket sales. Admission tickets are now only \$5.00 and being sold exclusively at the gate. If anyone is still in disbelief, encourage them to contact their ARRL representative for clarification.*

*The 2009 Rochester Hamfest flyer can be downloaded here: [http://www.rochesterham.org/Documents/2009\\_Rochester\\_Hamfest-Flyer.pdf](http://www.rochesterham.org/Documents/2009_Rochester_Hamfest-Flyer.pdf)*

*Thank you VERY much! Sincerely, WB2PYD, Frank Schramm, President, Rochester Amateur Radio Assn Inc.”*

*As this newsletter goes to press, we hear that the two competing web sites now both point to the correct information for the Rochester Hamfest.*



# February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (1st)</li> <li>• Groundhog Day</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> <li>• 7:00pm—SARC Weekly Net, 147.18R</li> </ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> </ul>	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00pm—Camillus VE Session (KB2ERJ) (1st)</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00pm—Rome ARC VE Session (K2GVI) (1st)</li> </ul>	7
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0000Z-0400Z—North American Sprint</li> </ul>	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1300Z—School Club Roundup begins</li> </ul>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> <li>• 7:00pm—SARC Weekly Net, 147.18R</li> <li>• School Club Roundup</li> </ul>	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> <li>• School Club Roundup</li> </ul>	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30pm—RAGS Meeting (W2BCH) (2nd)</li> <li>• School Club Roundup</li> </ul>	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2400Z—School Club Roundup ends</li> </ul>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valentine's Day</li> <li>• 0000Z—CQWW WPX RTTY begins</li> <li>• 12:00noon—RAGS VE Session, Liverpool Public Library (WA2PUU)</li> </ul>
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2400Z—CQWW WPX RTTY ends</li> <li>• 0000Z-0400Z—North American Sprint</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (3rd)</li> <li>• President's Day</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> <li>• 7:00pm—SARC Weekly Net, 147.18R</li> </ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> </ul>	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00pm—MOARC VE Session (KG2DI) (3rd)</li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0000Z—ARRL International DX Contest begins</li> <li>• North American RTTY QSO Party</li> <li>• CQWW 160M SSB Contest</li> <li>• 2100Z—Antique Wireless Association AM QSO Party begins</li> </ul>
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2400Z—ARRL International DX Contest ends</li> <li>• North American RTTY QSO Party</li> <li>• CQWW 160M SSB Contest</li> <li>• 0000Z—Antique Wireless Association AM QSO Party ends</li> </ul>	23	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30pm—Madison -Oneida ARC Meeting, Verona (last)</li> <li>• 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF)</li> <li>• 7:00pm—SARC Weekly Net, 147.18R</li> </ul>	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30pm—Fulton ARC VE Session (KC2PAM)</li> <li>• 7:00pm—Fulton ARC Meeting (W2TQF) (4th)</li> <li>• 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R</li> </ul>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00pm—LARC Meeting, "DTV &amp; Towers" by Scott Fybush (WB2DVE) (4th)</li> </ul>	27 <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"><b>QCWA</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30am—QCWA Luncheon, location TBD (WB2PEM) (last)</li> </ul>	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1800Z North American QSO Party begins</li> <li>• ARA of the Southern Tier Hamfest, Horseheads (N2OJM)</li> </ul>