

Finger Lakes  
Chapter #29  
Founded March 29, 1966  
W2PPS



March  
2011  
Newsletter

## Chapter Information

President	John McKee-WB2YGN	62 Pulsifer Drive	Auburn, NY 13021	252-8178
Treasurer	Jack Roubie-K2JDD	7205 Coventry Road N	E. Syracuse, NY 13057	656-2480
Newsletter	Steve Auyer-N2TKX	4780 Lighthouse Vlg Cir	Liverpool, NY 13088	451-7359

N2TKX E-Mail: N2TKX@ARRL.NET

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

## February Meeting

Well, the meeting was ..... it was ..... it wasn't! With the snow early Friday morning and the wind that caused the blowing and drifting, the decision was made to cancel the meeting. However the cancelation did not go as hoped for, prompting this from John McKee-WB2YGN:

“We found out by this that we did not have a clear plan to deal with emergencies. Jack-K2JDD had called the TV station and they for some reason did not announce it. I am going to call the station and ask what the policy is so we can be prepared the next time. Jack and I are working up a plan that will include notifying the public media, announcing it on the three local repeaters, (00, 30 and 91) and advance notices on WWW.CNYHAMS.COM . We are also revising the calling list to be able to split the list and make as many calls as possible. Sorry we did not get in touch sooner but I guess it was - I thought he was..... and he thought I was..... ??”



## New Members

We welcome the following new members to Chapter 29:

Alexander Dutkewych-N2PIG  
P. O. Box 211

Pulteney, NY 14874-0211

John K. Fritze, Jr-K2QY  
4 Normanskill Boulevard  
Delmar, NY 12054

Richard J. Holley-W2QJH  
935 Academy Street  
P. O. Box 6265  
Watertown, NY 13601-6265  
vholley@twcnny.rr.com

Jon P. Valdina-W2WB  
129 South Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

Clyde Washburn, Jr-K2UE  
82 Lasalle Parkway  
Victor, NY 14564-9610  
k2ue@rochester.rr.com



## Birthdays

### March

3rd – Stanley Carpenter-W2LVK  
7th – Jeryl Wright-NK2C  
25th – Fred Herbs-WB2PEM

### April

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

### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> – David Spillett-KA2CTN
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Dave Vittum-W1DV
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Ken Hauenstein-AA2OU
- 24<sup>th</sup> – William Hopkins-AA2YV
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Hugo Keller-K2HH



## Mail

The Field Day stuff was great. It brought back some fine memories of some of the things that happened when our group did it. Our best one was when a blind operator, Tim Magee-WB2KAO, got up from the operating position to go and relieve himself just 30 seconds before the light hanging over the table came crashing down, right where he had just been sitting. Field Day is really about having fun with your fellow hams. We sure did!

73's, Dick Goslee-KG2I



## SKs

### W2TQK

Walter E. Pfiester Jr-W2TQK, 68, of Tully, passed away Friday, January 28, at Fahey Rehabilitation Center. Born in Camden, NJ, he resided in Tully 44 years. He was an Army veteran, graduated from Temple University, retired as an electronics engineer for Lockheed Martin and formerly worked at G.E. Walt was a former member of Tully Rotary, was an avid amateur ham radio operator, was a member of the American Radio Relay League and Cortland Ham Radio Club, and former treasurer of the Navy League. Walt wrote for a magazine called Q S T, a technical magazine for ham radio operators. He was an avid gardener and was

a communicant of St. Leo's Church. Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Katherine Daniels Pfiester; his daughter, Christine (Robert) Tanchak of Jamesville; his granddaughter, Michelle Tanchak; his sister, Mary Ellen Pfiester of Virginia; his brother, Henry Pfiester of Nevada; one niece; and one nephew. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Leo's Church, Tully. No calling hours. Contributions may be made to Parkinson's Support Group, 4224 Trotwood Lane, Clay, NY 13041.

### W2OMB

Julius "Bud" Vahle-W2OMB, 91, of Baldwinsville, died Friday, February 11, 2011, at St. Joseph's Hospital, surrounded by his family. Mr. Vahle was born in 1919 in Quincy, Illinois, and graduated with honors from the University of Illinois in 1941. He had worked for General Electric for 45 years in Schenectady and Syracuse. He was a licensed professional electrical engineer and a lifetime member of IEEE. The last 30 years of his career were spent on radar development, culminating in the over-the-horizon radar project. Mr. Vahle was an avid golfer and reader. Since retiring he took up painting and drawing and was an accomplished artist. He also held amateur radio license W2OMB. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Ruth; five children, Karen (Allen) Troutman of Catonsville, MD, Susan (Jim) Thornton of Liverpool, Janice (Jim) Ballway of Syracuse, Marcia (Dave Augustine) Wadsworth of Pasadena, MD, and Thomas (Patti Mascone) Vahle of Baltimore, MD; three grandchildren, Shann Smith, Kristy Rinaldo and Jesse Ballway; and three great-grandchildren. Services will be private for the family.

### WA2GXE

John C. Adam Jr-WA2GXE, 64, died suddenly Thursday, February 24th. Born in Washington, DC, on March 17, 1947, he had lived in Syracuse since 1957. He was a member of the 1964 graduating class of Nottingham High School. He attended Niagara University and Le Moyne College. He was an avid amateur radio operator, using the call letters of WA2GXE. He was a lifelong member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and was known for his clarity of Morse Code transmission. In addition, he worked for The Post-Standard as a telephone solicitor. John was predeceased by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Adam, and

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a brother, William J. Adam. He is survived by his seven sisters and one brother, Esther of Manlius, Anne of Syracuse, Mary (Byron) Charles of Reno, Nevada, Joan of Bronxville, NY, Janet Adam of Limas, France, Walter of Watkins Glen, NY, Theresa (Hubert) Lee of Stony Brook, NY, and Madeleine (Michael) Adam-Kearns of Eastford, CT; along with nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and an uncle. John's kindness, sincerity and sense of humor endeared him to one and all. A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, at Holy Cross Church, 4112 East Genesee Street, Syracuse. A wake will be held the evening before, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Fairchild and Meech DeWitt Chapel, 3690 Erie Blvd., E., DeWitt.


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**Meet W2QJH**

There has been a lot of interest in the vanity call sign that I am using. It belonged to my Uncle Jim who was a Ham in the 1930's. Back then New York State was in the 8th call district so it was W8QJH before WWII. My Uncle served in the US Army Air Force during WWII with the 8th Air Force 1596th AFF Base Unit in England. He serviced electrical apparatus on B24 bombers and transports. Returning home he continued his amateur radio activities until he became a silent key in 1956 at the age of 36. There would not be another Ham in my family until his brother Eldred (my father) earned his ticket in 1977. My father preferred to be called Chuck and his call was WB2TNZ. My father served in the US Army as a mechanic during the Korean War and returning home he started a career as a Field Service Engineer with IBM. My father always wanted his own business so he established his own real estate sales office leaving IBM in 1971. My father became a silent key in 1981 at the age of 51. He always wished that he could get his brother's call assigned to him but vanity call signs were not available. So when I was able to have my uncle's call assigned to me I felt it was a tribute to both my father and his brother.


I became interested in radio in the 1970's when I found out how much fun it was to listen to my father's Zenith H500 Trans-Oceanic receiver that he brought back from Korea and I was hooked from then on by all the

**Amateur Radio Station**









**Richard "Rick" J. Holley, KA2GCP**  
 935 Academy St. PO Box 6265  
 Watertown, New York 13601  
 United States of America



Licensed since 1979  
Jefferson County  
Grid FN23bx



Friendship Through  
Amateur Radio



| Call | Date | UTC | MHz | Mode | RST | QSL |
|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
|      |      |     |     |      |     |     |

SWL and DX that I could find. I earned my Novice ticket in 1979 with the call sign KA2GCP. I was active on the VHF Ham bands on and off using different modes. I always admired the CW operators with their skills and it inspired me. I always tried to be good at CW but I just could not pick it up. A few years ago I bought a computer CW practice CD and every morning I would listen to code. After a short while I built up enough confidence to go on the air with CW. Now I'm a CW operator mostly on 40 Meters. You might also find me on 20 or 80 Meters. Recently I have become interested in PSK31 and I am still learning the operations of that mode. I served in the New York Army National Guard for 6 years from 1984 to 1990 as a computer operator with the supply platoon in the 145th Maintenance Co. and later in the 107th MP Co. Currently I am employed by the City of Watertown and I worked for Jefferson County. I have 25 years of service (2011) between the two. I have volunteered for our local Fire Department and I am active in the American Legion. I am a member of the Free and Accepted Masons of Sackets Harbor, NY Lodge 135.

My shack is basic - ICOM 746 PRO & 706 MKIIG are the two main rigs. I have a Heathkit HW-101 and a home brew transmitter that my father and I built from the 1964 ARRL Handbook. My antenna is a Alpha Delta DX-CC Dipole up about 20 feet tied to the house and a tree in the back yard. I also have a Buddy Pole antenna that I use for portable camping operations with the 706 MKIIG rig. I have a BENCHER BY-1 Paddle that I use most of the time and a J-38 straight key. I also have a VIBROPLEX bug but don't use it because no one would be able to copy me with it. My next challenge to master is the bug!

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## Upcoming Technician Course

### The Bathtub Test

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person and ask them to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would simply pull the plug. Would you prefer a bed near the window or the bathroom?"

The flyer on the next page describes a Technician course that will be offered in Syracuse during the month of may. Following completion of the course, the Syracuse VE Team will be holding a test session. The course is limited to 10 participants so if you know of anyone who is interested, let them know right away.

### And Then We Age

Three brothers ages 92, 94, and 96, all Ham operators, live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. He puts his foot in and pauses.

He yells down the stairs and says "Was I getting in or out?"

The 94 year old yells back "I don't know. I'll come up and see." He starts up the stairs and pauses. Then he yells, "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

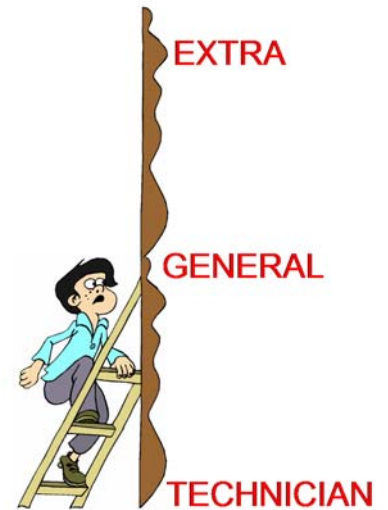
The 92 year old HAM is sitting in front of his HF rig and listening to his brothers. He shakes his head, picks up the mic and says "I sure hope I never get that forgetful."

He knocks on wood for good measure. He then yells into the mic, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see.... who's at the door. OVER."

# Amateur Radio Course



**Amateur Radio is one of the many telecommunications services licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).** The entry level license is the Technician, the next higher class is the General, and the highest class is the Extra. As you progress from the Technician, to the General, to the Extra, you receive additional operating privileges—higher power levels, additional frequency bands, and so forth. But even with the Technician license you can communicate with other amateur radio operators around the world. To get your Technician license you must take a 35-question multiple choice test and get at least 26 questions correct. Once you get your license, you can decide which parts of the hobby you want to participate in—club meetings, contests, public service, emergency communications, build and test kits, experiment with antennas, and much, much more.



**To get your Technician license you can study on your own.** The book “The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual” can be purchased from the American Radio Relay League for about \$25. The book covers the theory that you’ll need to know, and also contains the complete 396 question “pool” from which the 35-question Technician exams are prepared.

Once you think you’re ready, you can attend one of the many Volunteer Examiner sessions run by local amateur radio operators and offered several times every month. Cost of these test sessions is generally \$14.

If you’re not sure about studying on your own, you can sign up for one of the amateur radio courses that are offered several times a year.

## **Here are the details on one of the upcoming amateur radio courses:**

**When:** Tuesday evenings, 6pm—8pm, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. FCC Exam June 7<sup>th</sup>, 6pm.

**Where:** Liverpool First United Methodist Church, 604 Oswego Street, Liverpool, NY 13088—easy to reach, large parking lot, handicapped accessible, video-equipped conference room.

**Cost:** \$25/person—includes course handouts and a copy of “The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual.”

**Instructor:** Steve Auyer, an Extra Class amateur radio operator with the FCC call sign of N2TKX. You can contact Steve at [n2tkx@arrl.net](mailto:n2tkx@arrl.net) or at (315) 451-7359.

**Test:** A special Volunteer Examiner test session will be held for course participants following the class, or you can attend one of the other local sessions.

Class size is limited. Reserve your spot in the class by sending a check in the amount of \$25 to:

Steve Auyer  
4780 Lighthouse Village Circle  
Liverpool, NY 13088-4100

## **And after you get your license:**

Another good course "I Have My License; What Do I Do Now?" starting just after the exam. It's like a GPS of what and where to go now that you have your license. Sponsored by RAGS - call Jim-W2BCH at 488-9051 or Viv-WA2PUU 698-4558 with questions.

# March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>27</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•CQWW 160M SSB Contest</li> <li>•North American RTTY QSO Party</li> </ul>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—QCWA Net, 53.05R</li> <li>•8pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—Swap/Info Net, 146.91R</li> <li>•7pm—Rome ARC Meeting (1st)</li> </ul>	<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—Camillus VE Session (1st)</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—Rome ARC VE Session (1st)</li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ARRL International Phone DX Contest</li> <li>•7pm—SSTV Net, 146.91R</li> </ul>
<p><b>6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ARRL International Phone DX Contest</li> <li>•9am—Communicators Breakfast, Ramada Inn (1st)</li> </ul>	<p><b>7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (1st)</li> </ul>	<p><b>8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—QCWA Net, 53.05R</li> <li>•8pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R</li> </ul>	<p><b>9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest</li> <li>•7:30pm—Skyline ARC Meeting (2nd)</li> <li>•Ash Wednesday</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest</li> <li>•7:30pm—RAGS Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Public Service—St.. Patrick's Day Parade</li> <li>•Lancaster ARC Hamfest, West Seneca (N2GDU)</li> <li>•AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest</li> <li>•7pm—SSTV Net, 146.91R</li> </ul>
<p><b>13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Daylight Savings Time Begins</li> <li>•North American RTTY Sprint</li> <li>•AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest</li> </ul>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—QCWA Net, 53.05R</li> <li>•8pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R</li> </ul>	<p><b>16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—Swap/Info Net, 146.91R</li> </ul>	<p><b>17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•St. Patrick's Day</li> </ul>	<p><b>18</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—MOARC VE Session (3rd)</li> </ul>	<p><b>19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—SSTV Net, 146.91R</li> </ul>
<p><b>20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•1st Day of Spring</li> <li>•9am—Communicators Breakfast, Ramada Inn (3rd)</li> </ul>	<p><b>21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (3rd)</li> </ul>	<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—QCWA Net, 53.05R</li> <li>•8pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R</li> </ul>	<p><b>23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—Swap/Info Net, 146.91R</li> <li>•6pm—Fulton ARC VE Session</li> <li>•7pm—Fulton ARC Meeting (4th)</li> </ul>	<p><b>24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—LARC Meeting "Midway Island DXp." video, Pitcher Hill CC</li> </ul>	<p><b>25</b></p> <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, Denny's Restaurant</li> </ul>	<p><b>26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•CQWW WPX SSB Contest</li> <li>•Orange County ARC Hamfest, Middletown (AC2O)</li> <li>•7pm—SSTV Net, 146.91R</li> </ul>
<p><b>27</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•CQWW WPX SSB Contest</li> </ul>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Madison-Oneida ARC Meeting (last)</li> <li>•7pm—QCWA Net, 53.05R</li> <li>•8pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R</li> </ul>	<p><b>30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•7pm—Swap/Info Net, 146.91R</li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•April Fools Day</li> <li>•7pm—Rome ARC VE Session (1st)</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•QCWA Spring QSO Party</li> <li>•7pm—SSTV Net, 146.91R</li> </ul>