

Finger Lakes
Chapter #29
Founded March 29, 1966
W2PPS



July 2009
Newsletter

Chapter Information

President	Fred Herbs-WB2PEM	115 Hunter Drive	Baldwinsville, NY 13027	635-5947
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June Meeting

Seventeen were present at the June Meeting at Denny's restaurant on June 26th (Your editor apologizes for missing the meeting – he was having so much “fun” renovating a bathroom that he completely forgot about the meeting.): Roger Hamilton-WA2AEW; Jim O'Keefe-W2SY; Tim Colson-N2VZD; Rite Colson-KC2GFT; Charlie Floring-W2AK; Bill Kimbell-W2TYO; John Rockdashil-WB2DVE; Sharon May-KA2TNK; Fred Legawiec-W2LGA; Jack Roubie-K2JDD; John Gonroff-NT2D; John Soergel-WA2DGC; Frank Decker-W2XF; Ken Blume-K2UPI; Ron Walter-N2DMP; Ed Gersten-WB2MWW and John McKee-WB2YGN. Normally present at our meetings but missing this month were: Jim Mozley-W2BCH; Viv Douglas-WA2PUU and Fred Herbs-WB2PEM. We understand they were participating in an ARES/RACES drill involving hospital communications.

Frank Wiethuechter-K2RSY who usually attends our meetings and buys a “lot” of 50/50 raffle tickets was also absent this month with the result that the “pot” was significantly smaller. KC2GFT won the reduced amount of \$12. As usual, Jim Murray-K2HN of Long Lake participated by “remote control.”

K2JDD noted that the QCWA is publishing biographies of 75-year members. Chapter 29 should be in pretty good shape here as we have published biographies of all but Hugo Keller-K2HH in past newsletters and we will be getting in touch with K2HH shortly to

rectify the situation (rectify as in “correct”, not rectify as in “convert AC to DC”).

Courtesy of WB2YGN a World War 2 “spy transmitter” was on exhibit. The 60-year award for Melville Sherman-K2CCQ could not be presented as he was absent from the meeting. And the June 1, 2009 obituary of Donald Robert Hamilton was discussed as it mentioned his lifelong interest in amateur radio but we could find no mention of him in callbooks going back sixteen years.

With that, our lunches were delivered and conversation ceased.



Upcoming Birthdays

July

20th – Scott Bauer-W2LC
22nd – James O'Keefe-W2SY
28th – Tim Colson-N2VZD
30th – Gerald Voorhies-KA2DDN

August

10th – Sharon May-KA2TNK
12th – William Kimbell-W2TYO
12th – Michael Lang-W2ANL

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

12th – Joseph Molinaro-W2FUU

September

10th – Fred Adsit-NY2V

13th – Steve Auyer-N2TKX

21st – John McKee-WB2YGN

26th – James Murphy-WA2MUX

29th – Howard Clark-K2AN



Silent Keys

KB2HKI

“It is with sadness that I must announce the passing of Rudolf ‘Rudy’ Wacht-KB2HKI, this morning, May 29, 2009. Rudy became ill several years ago, and has been confined to his home since then. Rudy suffered from cancer, most recently pancreatic

Rudy was an extremely active ham. He was passionate about the hobby. One of the most memorable things about him was his ‘we can do this’ attitude, and he had a way of getting people excited about a project and wanting to help. This enthusiasm rubbed off on many who knew him. Rudy served the Skyline Amateur Radio Club as President for many years, and by helping with and motivating people to participate in many projects and activities. He loved to help people and to get others involved. Rudy was active on VHF, UHF and dabbled in HF. Rudy participated in and coordinated public service events, and along with Dan-N2MRE, would show up with radios, antennas, coax and supplies. Rudy liked to build and experiment, and was good with computers as well. Rudy was instrumental, with others, in getting the 147.180 repeater on the air. This included building the repeater, climbing the pole to mount the antenna, and providing supplies. When packet was first getting popular, Rudy and Chris-KB2FAF partnered to push the club into building a node and establishing links to as many locations as possible. He enjoyed hamfests, and would invite hams to ride with him in his conversion van. These became training sessions, as we would sometimes watch ARRL videos on the TV in the van. Rudy liked and encouraged contesting. I recall several VHF contests

from a field on the hill on Creamery Rd. with a tent and Rudy’s van as the operating point. Rudy is and will be missed by many.” Andrew Slaugh-KB2LUV

Donald Robert Hamilton

Donald Robert Hamilton, 89, passed away in the early morning hours of June 1, 2009. Born in Syracuse, NY he spent all but the last 4 months of his last 12 years living in Irving, TX. Donald spent his last hours in the Clyde W. Cospers Texas State Veterans Home, Bonham, TX. Donald Hamilton, affectionately known as Ham or Hambone, served as a **ham radio operator** in WWII and received an honorable discharge at the rank of T/Sgt. He was a member of several VFW posts in NY and TX. Donald, predeceased by his wife Veleta, is survived by one daughter, Veleta Lee Moffatt, her husband, Jim, and her daughter, Angelee, all of Irving and Honey Grove, TX. Also surviving are two step-daughters, the eldest Mary Hart of Tyler, TX and her three children, Ronald Hart of Dallas, TX, Robert Hart married to Donna of Shreveport, LA and Kristine married to John Kirst of Tyler, TX and five great-grandchildren. The other step-daughter, Barbara Paladini married to Anthony of Shalimar, FL have four children, Anthony of Valrico, FL, Brenda of Belgrade, MT, Bruce of Santa Rosa Beach, FL and Kathleen Hardwick of Birmingham, AL and four great-grandchildren. Predeceased by three brothers and a sister, Donald is also survived by one nephew, Donald who is his namesake, married to Roberta of Fulton, NY; another nephew, David Mostrom of Liverpool, NY; a niece, Linda Mostrom of Liverpool, NY and a niece, Patricia (Mostrom) Perry of West Palm Beach, FL. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 3 at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4, at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Hambone will be remembered for his strength of will and that he did it his way. Instead of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in his memory be made to the Clyde W. Cospers Texas State Veterans Home, 1300 Seven Oaks Rd, Bonham, TX, 75418-3254; (903) 640-8387



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Secretary's Report

The following report has been submitted to the QCWA and should appear in the Journal in about three months:

“Chapter 29 is on the move again. We now hold our last Friday of the month meeting at Denny's Restaurant in North Syracuse, NY at the intersection of South Bay Road and Lawrence Avenue. Our new site offers a private room with a projection screen to facilitate video presentations.

(insert photo of one of our meetings here)

At our June meeting the Chapter approved a \$200 donation to the QCWA Scholarship Fund in honor of Hugo (Bud) Keller, K2HH. Bud is our third Chapter member to reach the 75 year service mark in amateur radio. We also have another 60 year service award recipient, Melville Sherman, K2CCQ.

In June we welcomed John Gonroff, NT2D, of Cape Canaveral, FL who now "summers in NY" instead of "wintering in FL". We missed several of our regular attendees who were participating in a communications drill involving local hospitals with ARES/RACES.

Don't tell anybody but an AN/PRC-5 "spy radio" attended our last meeting. Disguised as a leather attaché case this transceiver came equipped with everything needed for clandestine CW radio operation. The crystal controlled transmitter has a 6L6 in the final. The 5 tube tunable receiver covers 4.5 to 16 Mc/S, AM and CW. The rig is on the way to the AWA Museum in Bloomfield, NY courtesy of WB2WGH.

Submitted by Jack Roubie, K2JDD, Secretary, Chapter 29”



Earth-Moon-Earth

(Edited from an article in the New York Times, June 27, 2009.)

On Saturday, amateur radio buffs or “hams,” as they call themselves, will hold a global bounce-fest, using as many giant parabolic antenna radio telescopes as they can borrow around the world.

Not that one needs an excuse to hold a moon-bounce, but this one is being held as a kind of advance celebration of the 40th anniversary next month of the Apollo 11 mission.

Moon-bouncing, also known as Earth-Moon-Earth communications, or E.M.E. requires a higher grade of ham-radio technology than that used for traditional earth-bound communication across parts of the radio spectrum approved by governments for amateur use. Only about 1,000 hams worldwide have stations capable of moon-bouncing.

Skill and luck also help. As the hams say, the moon is a poor sounding board, since it is spinning and has a rough surface that can disrupt signals. The hams’ voices must survive atmospheric interference over the long round-trip journey in a discernible form.

“It’s the equivalent of climbing Mount Everest in amateur radio,” said Joseph H. Taylor Jr.-K1JT, a Nobel Prize winner and retired physics professor from Princeton University who has written software to help radio buffs communicate via weak signals. “It’s possible, but only barely possible.”

Large dishes like those owned by the government and communications companies can solve many of these problems by making it easier to send and receive signals. That’s why the hobbyists have searched out retired or rarely used dishes. So far, operators of about 20 large dishes in the United States, Australia and Europe have agreed to participate in the event.

One of them is located on a hill overlooking Stanford University’s campus, and will serve as the command center for the weekend’s event. Known simply as THE DISH, the 150-foot-wide antenna, owned by the federal government, will be outfitted with special equipment and a computerized tracking system to keep a powerful, focused signal on the moon.

A handful of radio enthusiasts have been working on the structure over the last few weeks, huddling inside a central command center below the towering, rusting

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

web of metal. They gathered around whirring communications gear as if it were a campfire and chortled with satisfaction when their “hellos” bounced back from the moon 2.5 seconds later.

There is a point beyond the “because it’s there” challenge.

The hams also hope to inspire young technology buffs. “People think of ham radio as something Grandpa did down in the basement while he smoked and talked to people around the world,” said Pat Barthelow-AA6EG, who has organized the worldwide moon-bounce, called Echoes of Apollo. “I think moon-bounce retains an exoticness and difficulty that can hook some people and bring ham radio into the modern era.”

Creating a homemade radio capable of hitting the moon can require years of tweaking custom components. The setups cost \$200 to \$2,000.

The United States military began bouncing radio signals off the moon in the 1950s to communicate over long distances when other transmission methods were hampered by atmospheric disruptions. By the mid-1960s, operators at large dishes started building amateur systems capable of moon-bouncing. In 1964, Michael Staal-K6MYC accomplished the feat, linking a setup at Stanford to another one in Australia.

“I got famous very quickly,” said K6MYC, who sells antennas to ham radio operators.

Moon-bouncers often hold contests where they must hunt around different frequencies and both send and receive a signal with another station, logging their activities for review. They’re forbidden from communicating with each other via non-lunar means during the contests, and often win a certificate or free subscription to a ham magazine as prizes for making contact with as many others hams as they can.

“It is the thrill of pulling a weak signal out from a long distance that excites the amateur radio folks,” said Jim Klassen-N6JMK, a ham in Reedley, California.



A radio dish at Stanford is powerful enough to bounce signals off the moon, a tricky endeavor.

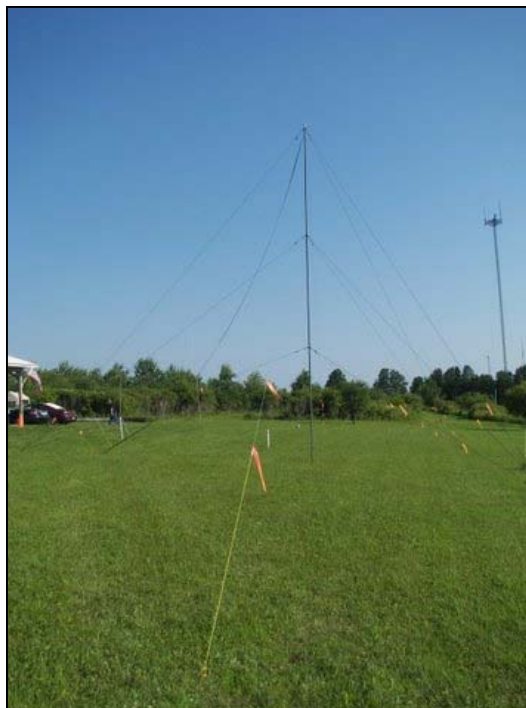


Michael Cousins, an engineer at SRI International, a non-profit that operates the dish, center, in the control room, with Ham operators Lance Ginner, left, and Jim Klassen.



RAGS Field Days Photos

Photographs courtesy of Fred Herbs-WB2PEM.



July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2100Z—ARRL Field Day ends 	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—Madison-Oneida ARC Meeting, Verona (last) • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R • 7:00pm—Rome Radio Club Meeting, Griffiss (1st) 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Camillus VE Session this month 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—Rome ARC VE Session (K2GVI) (1st) 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence Day 
5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (1st) 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—Skyline ARC Meeting (AB2G) (2nd) 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No RAGS Meeting this month 	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1200Z—IARU HF World Championship begins
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1200Z—IARU HF World Championship ends 	13	<p style="text-align: center;">Many club meetings and VE Sessions are canceled during July and August. If you plan on attending a meeting or session you should confirm in advance that it is taking place. We have identified the meetings/sessions that we know are <u>NOT</u> happening.</p>			17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—MOARC VE Session (KG2DI) (3rd) 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utica ARC Hamfest, Frankfort (W2MVB) • 1800Z—CQ WW VHF Contest begins • North American RTTY QSO Party begins
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2100Z—CQ WW VHF Contest ends • North American RTTY QSO Party ends 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (3rd) 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00pm—Fulton ARC VE Session (KC2PAM) • 7:00pm—Fulton ARC Meeting (W2TQF) (4th) 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No LARC Meeting this month 	24	25
26	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower • 7:30pm—Madison-Oneida ARC Meeting, Verona (last) • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 	29	30	31 QCWA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30am—QCWA Luncheon, Denny's Restaurant (WB2PEM) (last) 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesee RA Hamfest, Alexander (KC2MHH) • Tompkins County ARC Hamfest, Trumansburg (KC2MIC)