

Finger Lakes
Chapter #29
Founded March 29, 1966
W2PPS



August 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

July Meeting

The largest group ever at Denny's, 24 in all, overflowed the main table and required the use of at least one "satellite" table when we met on Friday, July 31st. Present were: Jim O'Keefe-W2SY; Tim Colson-N2VZD; Rita Colson-KC2GFT; Frank Decker-W2XF; Fred Legawiec-W2LGA; Diane Legawiec-K2LGA; John Soergel-WA2DGC; Bob Jackson-WB2BJW; Linda Jackson-KC2CZH; Joe Dreher-W2TKG; Sharon May-KA2TNK; Ken Blume-K2UPI; Bill Kimbell-W2TYO; Charlie Floring-W2AK; Steve Auyer-N2TKX; Frank Wiethuechter-K2RSY; Jim Mozley-W2BCH; Fred Herbs-WB2PEM; Melville Sherman-K2CCQ; Al Obrist-N2AO; Ron Walter-N2DMP; Viv Douglas-WA2PUU; John McKee-WB2YGN and Jack Roubie-K2JDD.

WB2PEM kicked off the meeting by asking everyone to stand and introduce themselves. He passed around a recent Post-Standard article describing how Jim Kuhl-N2STK, a science teacher at Central Square Middle School, had been selected to fly as an astronaut on a commercial space flight. We have received a thank you note from the QCWA acknowledging our gift to the scholarship fund in honor of Chapter 29 member Hugo Keller-K2HH. A flyer for Ham Jam 2009, a new Hamfest sponsored by the Central New York ARA to be held in Deerfield, NY on August 22nd, was passed around. If interested, you can find out more about this new Hamfest from their web site at www.cnyara.com. K2CCQ was presented with his 60-year QCWA award plaque.

On a sadder note, cards were available for signing from both Chapter 29 and RAGS for: Phil Lambrinos-WA2IMX and Bill Tully-W2MTG who are long-term residents at St. Camillus Health & Rehabilitation Center; Betty Mozley, XYL of W2BCH who is in the hospital for some "minor repairs"; and George Cook-W2RBK who is at Francis House suffering from heart failure. It was noted that W2RBK welcomes visitors but tires easily.

WB2PEM presented K2JDD and N2TKX with wooden callsign plaques in recognition of their efforts to keep the chapter running. Of course, N2TKX then absent mindedly left the meeting some time later without his plaque and it had to be returned to him by W2LGA.

In honor of his receiving his 60-year award, K2CCQ was asked to pick the winning ticket in the 50/50 raffle and the winner turned out to be Jim Murray-K2HN of Long Lake, NY who donated his winnings to the club – as he has done in the past – thanks again, Jim.

W2TKG had been given some parts (crystals, semi-conductors, baluns, etc.) by a neighbor and he had carefully inventoried and organized them before bringing them to the meeting. We're not sure whether anyone took him up on his offer of "free parts" but many of the items did generate comments ("Oh, look at that crystal frequency. That was my favorite 40M operating frequency.") Speaking of 40M, it was reported that when Von Campbell's son recently visited him, a 40M antenna was installed at W2RDC's QTH and Von may

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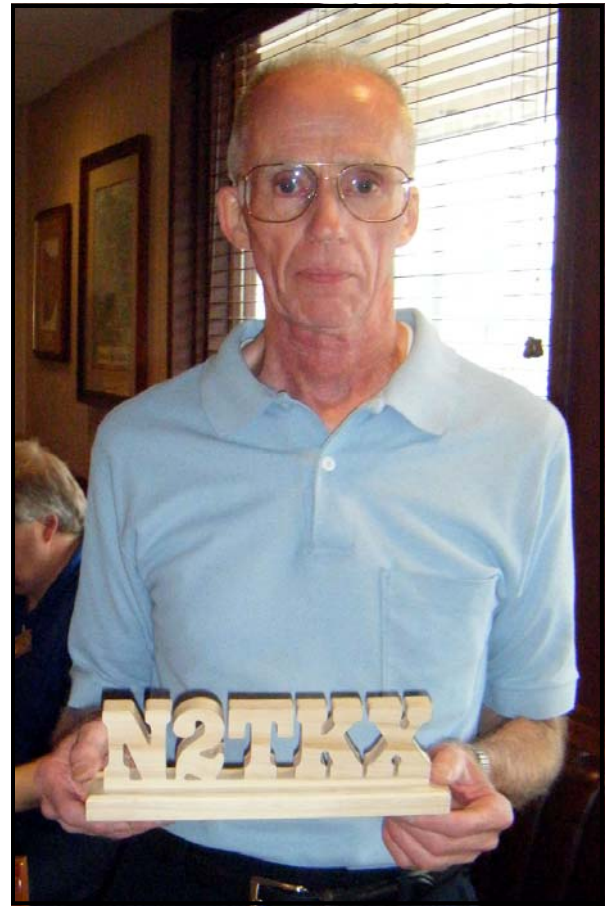
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be found operating on 40M occasionally – or will be once the band comes alive again. Hope. Hope. Hope.

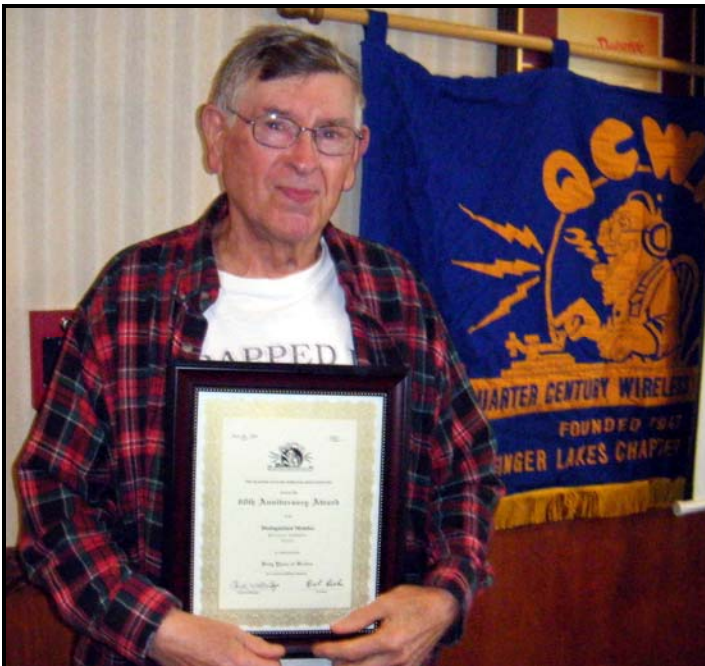
W2LGA put on a very interesting presentation on Computer Controlled Astronomy and showed off some of his equipment. We were fascinated by how Fred can sit in the comfort of his family room and use a laptop to control the camera located 30’ away in his back yard – must be nice in the winter. Also impressive was the number of databases that Fred can use to automatically position his camera on almost any celestial object – including a number of pieces of “space junk.” Fred showed a number of photos of planets, the moon, the ISS and other objects that he had taken with his telescope. WB2PEM provided copies of photos of some beautiful displays of the Aurora Borealis that he had taken at his summer camp on Sandy Pond and W2LGA incorporated those in his presentation.

The program for the August meeting on the 28th will be a discussion by N2TKX of some of the recent developments in the world of computers that have resulted in mini-laptops, termed “netbooks”, that are about the size and weight of a small book, and which can be purchased new for under \$250. N2TKX will have several samples of these mini-laptops on display.

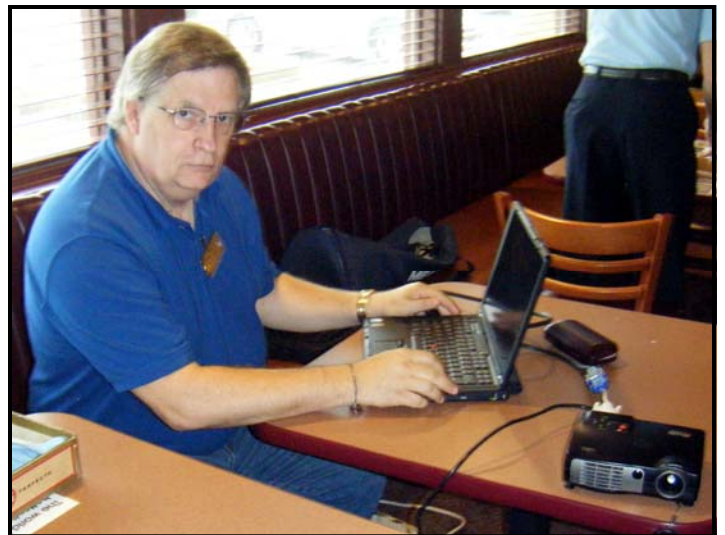
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N2TKX with call sign plaque.



K2CCQ with 60-year award.



W2LGA preparing for his presentation.



W2LGA with his "goodies."

September

- 10th – Fred Adsit-NY2V
- 13th – Steve Auyer-N2TKX
- 21st – John McKee-WB2YGN
- 26th – James Murphy-WA2MUX
- 29th – Howard Clark-K2AN

October

- 9th – Mark Chamberlin-WB2PKO
- 26th – Robert Jackson-WB2BJW
- 26th – John Storsberg-WA2U



Silent Keys

Ed and Betty Gersten were involved in a tragic car accident on July 5th. Ed died that day and Betty lingered for several days before dying on the 11th.

WB2MWW

Edward J. Gersten-WB2MWW, 81, of Liverpool, passed away Sunday, July 5, 2009. He was born in Albany, New York, and was a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a member of Honor Societies Tau Beta Phi and Eta Kappa Nu. Edward was employed at General Electric as a radar design engineer and program manager from 1955 until his retirement in 1988. He was program manager for the development of the Marine Corps' Solid State Tactical Air Defense Radar TPS 59. The solid state transmitting technology developed in this program was applied to the U.S. Air Force's Solid State Air Defense Radar FPS 117. The two radars have been in wide use in the U.S. and other allied countries; the two programs have been the basis of the GE solid state radar business for 35 years. He was a ham radio operator with the call letters WB2MWW, a member of R.A.G.S., L.A.R.C. Elfun Society, Ancient Electronic Wizzards. He was a veteran of the Army Air Force, enlisting at the end of WWII and being recalled for the Korean War. He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol and Gray Hawks Flying Club. Edward enjoyed golfing and loved animals. He was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Elizabeth Gersten; and twin sister, Elizabeth Katz. His wife



A rapt audience.

(Continued from page 2)



Upcoming Birthdays

August

- 10th – Sharon May-KA2TNK
- 12th – William Kimbell-W2TYO
- 12th – Michael Lang-W2ANL
- 12th – Joseph Molinaro-W2FUU

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of 60 years, Betty, passed away Saturday, July 11, 2009. Surviving are his children, Katrina Anderson of North Syracuse, J. Daniel (Diane) Gersten of Cincinnati, OH, John (Laurie) Gersten of Liverpool, Edward C. (Carol) Gersten of North Syracuse, Andrew (Melissa) Gersten of Liverpool and Elizabeth (Scott) Tringali of Clinton, MA; brother, Mark Gersten of Glendale, AZ; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be 9 a.m. Wednesday from Maurer Funeral Home and 10 a.m. in Christ the King Church, Liverpool, with burial to follow in North Syracuse Cemetery. Calling hours will be 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home, 300 Second St., Liverpool. Contributions may be made to the Humane Association of CNY, 4915 1/2 W. Taft Rd., Liverpool, NY 13088.

Betty Davis Gersten, 79, of Liverpool, passed away on Saturday, July 11th. She was born in Union City, Tennessee, and was a very devoted wife, mother and homemaker. She was a communicant of Christ the King Church in Liverpool. Her many hobbies included gardening, sewing, woodworking, remodeling and crafts. She loved music and animals and was an avid bird watcher. She was predeceased by her parents, Nellie and Sam Davis, and brothers, Charles and James. Her husband of 60 years, Edward J. Gersten, passed away July 5, 2009. Surviving are her children, Katrina Anderson of North Syracuse, J. Daniel (Diane) Gersten of Cincinnati, OH, John (Laurie) Gersten of Liverpool, Edward C. (Carol) Gersten of North Syracuse, Andrew (Melissa) Gersten of Liverpool, Elizabeth (Scott) Tringali of Clinton, MA; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brother, Joe Davis of Union City, TN; sisters, Wilma Clark of Haughton, LA, Dr. Bonnie Grant of Memphis, TN, and Linda Rosen of Bartlett, TN. Funeral services will be 9 a.m. Wednesday from Maurer Funeral Home and 10 a.m. in Christ the King Church, Liverpool, with burial to follow in North Syracuse Cemetery. Calling hours will be 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home, 300 Second Street, Liverpool. Contributions may be made to the Humane Association of CNY, 4915 1/2 W. Taft Rd., Liverpool, NY 13088.

KB2GSD

Walter Cronkite-KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular

Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo 11 lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Begin-Sadat peace accords.

Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur Radio Today" <<http://www.arrl.org/ARToday/>>. Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-hams, focusing on ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, ham radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emergency communications. "Dozens of radio amateurs helped the police and fire departments and other emergency services maintain communications in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC," narrator Cronkite intoned in reference to ham radio's response on September 11, 2001. "Their country asked, and they responded without reservation."

In 1963, it was Cronkite who broke into the soap opera "As the World Turns" to announce that the president had been shot -- and later to declare that he had been killed. CBS called it a "defining moment for Cronkite, and for the country. His presence -- in shirtsleeves, slowly removing his glasses to check the time and blink back tears -- captured both the sense of shock, and the struggle for composure, that would consume America and the world over the next four days."

A private memorial service was held July 23 in New York City. Cronkite will be cremated and his remains buried in Missouri next to his wife Betsy, who passed away in 2005. A public memorial service will be held within the next month at Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Foundation through the Austin Community Foundation <<http://www.austincommunityfoundation.org/>>, which will distribute contributions to various charities the couple supported.



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Historic American Engineering Records

I wasn't aware until recently that the Library of Congress has amassed a collection of photographs and documents relating to historic American buildings (HABS), engineering records (HAER) and landscapes (HALS). The HABS/HAER/HALS database may be searched at <http://memory.loc.gov/pp/hhquery.html>. You can search by the name of a project, a location or any other keyword that interests you. As an example, a search on "Syracuse" resulted in many photographs of historical structures in this area, a few of which are shown below. The quality of the photographs varies – some are comprehensive and interesting – some just show the crumbling remains of what had been a magnificent structure hundreds of years ago. But if you like to browse through this type of material, this web site might interest you. N2TKX



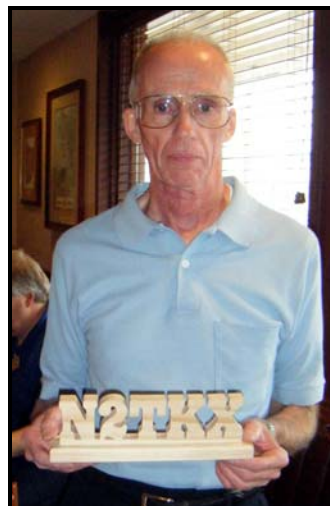
Howe Jewelers



Park Avenue Methodist Church



Kirk Fireproof Building



And for those of you that thought that your editor had made a mistake in the caption of this photo on page 2—nope. This was a test to see how many of you could detect the subtle differences in appearance between N2TKX and K2JDD.

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 	29	30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30am—QCWA Luncheon, Denny's Restaurant (WB2PEM) (last) 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tompkins County ARC Hamfest, Trumansburg Fairgrounds (KC2MLC) • Genesee RA Hamfest, Alexander (KC2MHH)
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARRL UHF Contest ends • North American CQ QSO Party ends 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (1st) 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—Camillus VE Session (KB2ERJ) (1st) 	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keuka Lake ARC Hamfest, Howard (W2RMT)
<p>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>			12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perseids Meteor Shower 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular RAGS Meeting this month 	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rome Radio Club Hamfest, Westmoreland (WA2GBE) • ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest • North American QSO Party
16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:00am—LARC Picnic, Clay Park, 4821 Wetzell Rd. 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (3rd) 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWA Annual Conference begins 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWA Annual Conference continues 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00 noon—Syracuse VE Team, Liverpool Public Library • CNY ARA Hamfest, Deerfield (KG2BV) • AWA Annual
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWA Annual Conference ends • 11:30am—RAGS Picnic, Clay 	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regular LARC Meeting this month • New York State Fair opens 	28 <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">QCWA</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30am—QCWA Luncheon, Denny's Restaurant (WB2PEM) (last) • New York State Fair 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair
30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Preparedness Month begins • New York State Fair • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair