

Finger Lakes
Chapter #29
Founded March 29, 1966
W2PPS



September
2009
Newsletter

Chapter Information

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www.qcwa.org/chapter029.htm

August Meeting

30 were present at our meeting in Denny's North Syracuse Restaurant on Friday, August 28th. In fact, the room was so crowded that it was decided that, beginning next month, the tables will be arranged in a U-shape, similar to that which we had been using previously at Weber's restaurant. Those present were: Roger Hamilton-WA2AEW; Jim O'Keefe-W2SY; Chuck Silva-KB2DIO; Ken Blume-K2UPI; Sharon May-KA2TNK; Fred Legawiec-W2LGA; John Rockdashil-WB2DVE; Joe Dreher-W2TKG; Dave Moon-N2RGU; Steve Auyer-N2TKX; Bob Jackson-WB2BJW; Fred Herbs-WB2PEM; Jim Mozley-W2BCH; Viv Douglas-WA2PUU; Al Obrist-N2AO; Tim Colson-N2VZD; Rita Colson-KC2GFT; Charlie Floring-W2AK; Bill Kimbell-W2TYO; Gerald Storrs-K2QJB; Frank Wiethuechter-K2RSY; Harry Rothenhoefer—W2HLR; John Gonroff-NT2D; Jack Roubie-K2JDD; Lou Agresti-W2OPF and XYL Marjorie; Hugo "Bud" Keller-K2HH and XYL Betty; John Soergel-WA2DGC and Frank Decker-W2XF.

WB2PEM opened the meeting with several comments: KB2DIO and K2QJB were welcomed as "first-timers"; a donation to the QCWA has been made in honor of K2HH's being licensed for 75 years; a donation has been made to Francis House in memory of George Cook-W2RBK; he has acquired a nearly complete set of National Radio News booklets published by the National Radio Institute that will be donated to the Antique Wireless Association via K2JDD; a hard copy of "Semaphore to Satellites" has been donated to the chapter and will be given as a door prize (W2OPF won it).

WA2DGC commented that NYS is raising the license plate renewal fees. The good news is that the increase for amateur radio plates is small. WA2AEW commented that the cost for sportsman's licensed is also increasing and apparently the age at which one qualifies as a "senior citizen" is increasing from 65 to 70

years of age. Many groans and condemnation of the greedy state government followed.

Sharon May passed out a number of free tickets to the upcoming Syracuse Chiefs game on August 30th. K2JDD, with occasional assistance from W2XF, then reported that attendance and registrations at the recently-ended AWA Annual Conference both showed an increase over 2008's numbers. The status of the move from the Annex to the new museum across the road was also described.

N2TKX presented a short program on several interesting developments in portable computers. He started by describing the configuration of a typical "low end" laptop and then moved on to a discussion of Nick Negroponte's program to provide inexpensive laptops to impoverished areas of the world. The program, termed "One Laptop Per Child", had a target price of \$100 and a uniquely designed, very rugged computer was developed. Unfortunately established computer and software suppliers did not take kindly to this program and attacked it in public – leaving the OLPC with very low sales.

However, in the process, the established suppliers were forced to develop lines of much smaller and less expensive computers, called "netbooks", that are now appearing on the market. Netbooks have smaller screens and keyboards, lack an optical (CD/DVD) drive, but are much lighter in weight. N2TKX passed around an operating OLPC and an Asus 900HD netbook and a number of attendees took time to use them and compare their capabilities. A comparison table handed out by N2TKX is reproduced on page 2.

WB2DVE won the 50/50-affle and donated his winnings back to the club, thus increasing the balance in our treasury by \$58.

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Model	Dell Inspiron 15	OLPC XO	Asus EeePC 900HD
Cost	\$380 - \$700	\$100 - \$200	\$230
T x W x D	1.48" x 14.7" x 9.6"	1.3" x 9.9" x 9.3"	1.3" x 8.9" x 6.7"
Weight	5.8 #	3.2 #	2.5 #
Screen Width	15.6" (diag.)	7.5" (diag.)	8.9" (diag.)
Resolution	1366 x 768 pixels	1984 x 738 pixels	1024 x 768 pixels
Processor	900 mHz Celeron	433 mHz x86	900 mHz Celeron M
OS	Vista Home Basic	Linux	XP Home
Memory	2 GB	1 GB (expandable)	1 GB
Hard Drive	160 GB	none	160 GB
Optical Drive	8X CD/DVD burner	none	none
Ports	USB 2.0 (3), VGA, RJ45 LAN, audio, Express & Media cards	USB 2.0 (3), audio, SD card	USB 2.0 (3), VGA, RJ45 LAN, audio, Media card
Wireless	802.11g	802.1b/g/s	802.11b/g
Software	Works 9	Custom	Works 9
Webcam	none	640 x 480 @ 30 fps	640 x 480

Upcoming Birthdays

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

November

1st – John Gonroff-NT2D
1st – James Mozley-W2BCH
7th – Henry Hampel-KA0TUP
23rd – Von Campbell-W2RDC
28th – Ike Hathaway-W2IH



OLPC XO Laptop

Silent Keys

K2RXG

Clarence Elmer Swartz-K2RXG, longtime Baldwinsville resident, died Friday, August 7, at Van Duyn Home in Syracuse. He was born in 1919 in Indiana. Clarence was an avid ham radio operator and spent more than 50 years operating with the call letters K2RXG. In 1941, Clarence enlisted in the Army Air Force and served in England, France and Germany during World War II. He married Martha A. Taylor of Solvay and resided on Van Ness Road until 2002. Martha preceded him in death in 2005, as did his brother, Donald Swartz, and sisters, Beulah Miller and Edna Reiboldt. Clarence would have been married to Martha 66 years the day of his death. He is survived by sisters, Lillie Henley and Violet Stark, both of Indiana; by sons David, Donald and Andrew; daughters, Martha Ann O'Brien, Chris Liadka and Jessica Wescott; along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Gates Funeral Home of Baldwinsville is handling funeral services. Graveside services will be held at Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery in Warners, NY, Wednesday, August 12, at noon.

W2RBK

George W. Cook Jr-W2RBK, 92, of Syracuse, passed away Friday, August 7, 2009, at Francis House. Born in Staten Island, he was a lifelong resident of the Syracuse area. George was a graduate of North High School and Syracuse University. He was a Navy veteran of WW II. A contract administrator for General

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Asus EeePC 900HD Netbook



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Electric Co., he retired in 1980 after 29 years. He was an enthusiastic member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. He was an avid hiker, canoeist and ham radio operator. Surviving are his wife of 60 years, the former Mary Stahler; sons, Richard (Maggie) Cook of Fayetteville, George Cook of Oceanport, NJ, and Donald Cook of Barnegat, NJ; grandchildren, Christopher, Kyle, Adam and Andrew; great-grandchildren, Chloe, Abigail and Samantha. There will be no services. Relatives and friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at Buranich Funeral Home, 5431 W. Genesee St., Camillus. Contributions may be made to Francis House, 108 Michaels Ave., Syracuse, NY 13208 or to Hospice of CNY, 990 Seventh North St., Liverpool, NY 13088.

W2PHE

Joseph A. Siembor-W2PHE, 92, of, Oswego died on August 26, 2009. Born in Oswego, he was the son of the late John and Sophie (Kon) Siembor. He attended the Chicago Tech Institute. He was a WWII veteran serving during the Battle of the Bulge where he received a bronze star as a captain of the Signal Corps with the 3139th Motor Messenger Company. Joseph was employed as an electrical engineer for General Electric and retired from Oswego Industrial where he worked as a machinist. He was a member of the Holy Name Society and Ham Radio Operator, call sign W2PHE. Surviving are his wife, Cecila (Foley) Siembor; three daughters, Cecila (Brian) McLaughlin of Liverpool, Nancy Siembor and Tom Brown of Ithaca, Natalie Siembor and Patricia Michel of Oswego; two sons, Jim (Tonya) Siembor of Akron, OH, Thomas (Marjorie) Siembor of Fairport, NY; a brothers, Theodore (Rose) Siembor; and one sister, Mary (Raymond) Polczak, both of Oswego; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. Services: 11:30 a.m. Monday at St. Mary's Church. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery. Calling Hours: 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Nelson Funeral Home, 11 West Albany St., Oswego.

K2UZF

Ronald G. Mudge-K2UZF, 67, of 3364 Route 221 West, Marathon, NY, passed away Tuesday, July 28, 2009, at Cortland Regional Medical Center. He was born in Cincinnatus, NY to George and Cleora (Perkins) Mudge on May 5, 1942. He resided most of his life in Marathon and graduated from Marathon High in 1960. He took many college courses for his police work and for his work at Pall Trinity. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Barbara (Boughton) Mudge; his mother, Cleora (Perkins) Mudge; his children, Michelle (Mark) Kinter, Terri (AJ) Herrington and Donald (Renee Tennant) Mudge; sisters, Barbara Karen Wood, Maxine (Charles) Doane; and grandchildren, Michael, Todd and James Herrington, and Marissa and Melonie Kinter. He was predeceased by his father, George Mudge; and brother, Gary Mudge. He is also survived by several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Ron was a member of the Marathon Fire Department for over 40 years, past Captain of Marathon Volunteer Ambulance and past Captain of Marathon Fire Police. He was an active member of the Skyline Amateur Radio Club with the call sign of K2UZF. He was a special deputy and communications consultant for the Cortland County Sheriff's Department. Several other organizations were also a part of his

life. Ron and Barb owned the former IGA store in Marathon. After selling the store, Ron went to work for Pall Trinity Micro Corp., Cortland, NY, where he worked for over 35 years. A memorial service was held at the Marathon Fire Station, Brink Street, Marathon on July 31, 2009. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ron's memory may be made to the Marathon Fire Department and/or Marathon Ambulance Volunteer Corp.

W2KC

John "Banjo Jack" O'Connor-W2KC took his final bow on August 19th, 2009, at home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on December 6, 1916 in Binghamton, NY. He was predeceased by his father, Martin; mother, May; sisters, Frann, Mary English, Margaret Downs; and brother, Donald. He is survived by Georgina, his devoted wife of 62 years; his children, Colleen Bennett (Mark) and Christine Balsley (Douglas) of Endwell, Susan Howard (Stan) of Vestal, and Martin (Patrice) O'Connor; his grandchildren, Rory and Eileen of Clifton Park, NY; his sister, Beatrice O'Connor of Hillcrest; his sister-in-law, Carla Bernardo, Canton, OH; and his nieces and nephews, Gary, David and Alan Bernardo, Canton, OH, Bridget and Donald O'Connor Jr., Hillcrest, Kara Falcone, New York City, D'Arcy and Mary Downs, Hillcrest, Lia Leahy and Lisa, Michael and Mark Moore, all of Canton, OH. Jack loved entertaining and he started early in life. He danced with his sisters, Mary and Frann, as the O'Connor Trio after "beer came back," and played his banjo on local radio programs. Jack was a Radioman 2nd Class in the U.S. Navy, stationed at Sampson Naval Base during WWII, where he met his "little Georgina.". With his Ham Radio ticket (call letters were W2SOZ and W2KC), he was in regular contact with friends and new acquaintances worldwide. He was an artist. He painted in oils and carved in wood. He was a member of IBM's Quarter Century Club as well as Local 380 of the American Federation of Musicians. Jack cherished his "families" - his wife and children, grandchildren and nieces and nephews, his musician family and his family of fellow ham radio operators. He had an infectious smile ("Smilin' Jack") and brought many smiles to others with his music. He will be sorely missed. Prayer services will be held Monday at 9:15 a.m. at the Barber Memorial Home Inc., 428 Main Street, Johnson City with a funeral mass being offered at 10:00 a.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Endicott. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.



W2RBK Remembered

[Several years ago, W2RBK recounted his career and his lifelong interest in amateur radio. We thought it appropriate to reprint that story in this newsletter.]

Well, back in the '30s, it was the ambition of most young hams I knew to work in broadcasting. In fact, many of them did. It was still a young business with a great deal of glamour and mystique surrounding it. Mention Amos and Andy to the young folks of today and there may be a faint glimmer of recognition, but talk of

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Myrt and Marge, or Billy Jones and Ernie Hare, the Interwoven Pair, and you might as well be discussing quantum physics. It was the golden age of radio when hardly a radio in the country wasn't tuned at seven o'clock to Amos and Andy. It was a magic time when your imagination created the pictures for Suspense and Lux Radio Theatre. The boob tube had not yet arrived.

True, some young hams aspired to become the next Graham MacNamee or Don Wilson, both of whom became famous as announcers and second bananas for Eddie Cantor and Jack Benny. It was a wonderful dream. Others were more practical and wished for nothing more than to expand their ham horizons in the technical field of commercial broadcasting. That thought had always been in the back of my mind, but especially when I was discharged from the Navy in October of '45. That is not to say that in my younger days, before the war, I didn't have fleeting thoughts of becoming the next Harry Von Zell. I was quickly disabused of that idea when, for twelve dollars a week, I was offered an opportunity to announce at WMBO, a 250-watter in Auburn, NY. It didn't require a slide rule to figure out that that princely sum wouldn't cover a room & board in Auburn, or permit me to commute from my home in Syracuse. So much for Harry Von Zell, Don Wilson and Graham MacNamee, et. al. Instead, I settled for a far more mundane job at Crouse Hinds, wiring traffic signal controllers. Needless to say, that venue offered a wonderful source of supplies for my ham construction projects, and it also paid considerably more than twelve dollars a week. In 1940, Uncle Sam called and I was in the Navy.

By October of '45 I was out of the Navy and considering attending the RCA Institute in New York City as a stepping-stone to a career in broadcast engineering. The counselor at the VA testing center, however, persuaded me that the university offered a better career path. Upon starting school, it soon became obvious that I was going to need more than the \$65 a month living expense paid by the VA. Having acquired Radiotelephone First Class, I shopped around and found a part time job at WPEA, the old police radio station on Grant Blvd. The hours were terrible and the pay was worse.

Harold Mabes-W2CKY, (now deceased) was the transmitter supervisor at WFBL and a good friend. In the course of relating my dissatisfaction at WPEA, Harold mentioned that WFBL was looking for a part timer to work 20 hours over the weekend and full time during the summer vacation. I was out of WPEA quicker than you could say "Eliot Ness." I had finally arrived; I was really in broadcasting.

The transmitter building in Collamer was a great facility. Besides the transmitter and ancillary equipment, there was a fully equipped kitchen and a very comfortable bedroom. A full-time building maintenance man kept the place spotlessly clean. The transmitter was a rather ancient but very reliable old Western Electric that I believe was installed in the late '20s & upgraded in the '30s. It consisted of a number of very large components enclosed in a wire cage, which covered approximately fifteen by eight feet of floor space. The RF layout was fairly straightforward, starting with a temperature-controlled crystal oscillator, a low-level modulated buffer, a driver, and a pair of large water-cooled finals operating in Class F3. Three water-cooled tubes in a

3-phase half-wave rectifier circuit supplied fifteen thousand volts at one ampere for the amplifier, which delivered five kilowatts to the 405-ft vertical radiator. A single vertical director protected a channel-sharing station between sunset & sunrise. DC filament voltages for the large tubes and some of the lower voltages were supplied by motor generator sets that occupied another large room along with the heat exchanger for the water-cooled tubes. A 50KW gas engine generator located in one of the two garage bays provided emergency primary power.

A well equipped work-shop offered an opportunity to work on ham projects and for some, a place to make a few bucks repairing radios, an activity not looked upon kindly by the management. Unlike the personnel in the studio control room who were always pretty busy with program activities, life at the transmitter could be pretty boring. There was usually little to do other than to take the required half hour meter readings, or in my case, do homework. When trouble did occur, action was usually fast and furious, since downtime was money. Occasional lightning strikes would ordinarily just drop the circuit breakers that were easily reset, but a direct hit would usually wipe out the antenna phasing cabinet, and that was a major repair.

My four years at WFBL were fun times and the crew was a great bunch to work with. In the last year with the station, an FM transmitter was installed up in the hills of Pompey. Unfortunately, FM didn't prove popular at that time, since there were few FM receivers in the area and consequently no revenue from the activity to support it. The station owners also had a TV construction permit, but misjudged the speed with which that medium would spread and let the permit expire. With that miscalculation, things began going downhill and the station was eventually sold. By that time I was back in the Navy for the Korean War & most of the old-timers had been let go by the new owners in a cost cutting move. The broadcast game was never the same thereafter. I guess I was lucky that my wish for a lifetime career in broadcasting never came to pass.



Your editor developed an interest in electronics at an early age.

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 (KB2FAF) 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair • 7:00pm—Rome Radio Club Meeting, Griffiss (1st) • 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair • 7:00pm—Camillus VE Session (KB2ERJ) (1st) 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair • 7:00pm—Rome ARC VE Session (K2GVI) (1st) 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair
6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York State Fair 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Day • New York State Fair ends • 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (1st) 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—Skyline ARC Meeting (AB2G) • 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—RAGS Fall Kickoff Meeting, (W2BCH) (2nd) 	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1800Z—ARRL September VHF QSO Party begins
13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARRL September VHF QSO Party • 0000Z—North American CW Sprint begins • 0400Z—North American CW Sprint ends 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0400Z - ARRL September VHF QSO Party ends • 7:00pm—Utica ARC Meeting (2nd) 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—MOARC VE Session (KG2DI) (3rd) 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAGS Hamfest, Pompey (WA2PUU) • 1800Z—QCWA Fall QSO Party begins • Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day • 6am—ARRL 10
20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1800Z—QCWA Fall QSO Party ends • 12mid—ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest ends • 0000Z—North American Phone Sprint begins • 0400Z—North 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm—OCREC Net, 147.30R (WA2PUU) (3rd) 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Day of Fall • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00pm—Fulton ARC VE Session (KC2PAM) • 7:00pm—Fulton ARC Meeting (W2TQF) (4th) • 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—LARC Meeting, "D-STAR Demonstration", (N2IK) 	25 QCWA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30am—QCWA Luncheon, Denny's Restaurant (WB2PEM) (last) 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARA of the Southern Tier Hamfest, Horseheads (N2OJM) • ARRL VEC Amateur Exam Day • CQWW RTTY Contest begins
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARRL VEC Amateur Exam Day • CQWW RTTY Contest ends 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yom Kippur 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00pm—"This Week In Amateur Radio", 147.18R (KB2FAF) • 7:30pm—Madison-Oneida ARC Meeting, Verona (last) 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—Swap Net, 147.00R 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—Camillus VE Session (KB2ERJ) (1st) 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00pm—Rome ARC VE Session (K2GVI) (1st) • Public Service, "Syracuse Chargers Run", Manley FH (WA2PUU) 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARRL Simulated Emergency test