



**American Radio Relay League  
2005 Hudson Division Awards Dinner**

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**2005 GRAND OLE HAM AWARD**

**Frank Fix, K2AW**



If you own a legal limit HF amplifier chances are you have four high voltage rectifiers in its power supply made in Frank's bedroom factory on Friend's Lane in Westbury. Frank is known to the world as K2W "Silicon Alley" and has sold rectifiers to the hams and commercial companies for over thirty years.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1914 and first licensed in 1931 W8GUL. He was at the first Field Day 60 plus years ago. He was part of the ham radio group that provided communications at the Cleveland Air Races in 1934. Frank manned one of the pylons checking to make sure the planes made a proper turn around the pylon. That was the year Jimmy Doolittle flew the famous "Gee Bee." Frank married Emma in 1937 and eventually had four children. Three of them are here tonight: Daughters Lauren, Linda and Judith. Son Robert could not attend.

Always interested in flying, Frank got a job with Braniff Airlines in 1939 as a Flight Radio Operator on the Panama run. At the start of World War Two, Braniff became part of Air Transport Command. Frank has some interesting stories about flying military equipment in DC 3's to Newfoundland and Panama during World War Two. He even helped land one in Newfoundland. Frank got a two call in 1945 - W2UHC and acquired K2AW in the early 1970's. From 1945 to 1950 Frank was with American Airlines until they merged with Pan Am and then fired all the radio operators. At that point Frank already had a growing radio and TV shop in Levittown which he worked at full time for nearly ten year. When competition became too keen from NYC shops, Frank found a job with Amprex Electronics and later with General Instrument Corp in Hicksville after the company moved there from NJ. He retired in 1985 at 71.

At ninety one Frank is still attending Field Day and participating in local clubs like the Order of Boiled Owls. He is also managing to find time to play eighteen holes of golf twice a week on Long Island and is still a keen bowler. You will also hear Frank on the air in both SSB and CW contests, primarily DX contests. Frank is truly a "Grand Ole Ham" and a great guy!

Grand OLE Ham Award Sponsored by:

**The Order of Boiled Owls of New York**