

# Goodbye good friend

- N2KZ

Finn O. Poulsen, Wappingers Falls, died peacefully at home on January 23, 2017. He was 92. Born in 1924 and married in Copenhagen, Denmark, his family moved to Chicago in 1953 and to Wappingers Falls in 1964.

He was an IBM engineer for 34 years and an avid ham radio operator with the callsign **WB2UWU**. A loving man, he is survived by his wife of 67 years, Lilli, daughter Heidi, son, granddaughters, grandson-in-law, and great grandson. In Finn's words: "My XYL Lilli is a lovely person who supports me in my ham radio and other interests."



Finn Poulsen, WB2UWU.

Finn was first licensed as **OZ7PO** in 1947 at age 23, but was only on the air a couple of times due to lack of antenna space. Instead, Finn was active attending ham radio club meetings and fox hunts. Marriage, emigration to the United States, and family put ham radio on the shelf for many years.

Finn eventually earned his WB2UWU ticket in 1978 and kept that call through upgrades to 20 wpm Extra. Finn was an active member of the Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club, the QSY Society and the Straight Key Century Club (#1708).

Finn's work experience was vast and diverse. Finn served as an electrician, aircraft radio mechanic, computer field serviceman, and associate engineer in computer development and integrated circuit prototype testing. At IBM, Finn worked on a team developing the very first personal computers and peripherals. Quite a fascinating career!

Finn was a quiet and gentle soul. I first met him at Locust Grove, The Samuel F.B. Morse estate in Poughkeepsie during a special event radio station in April 2012. Finn participated in these events for years at Locust Grove and operated from the carriage house, in the downstairs kitchen and, in the last couple of years, on the porch. I introduced myself and told him how much I loved CW and especially operating with straight keys.

Finn's eyes lit up with welcome. We had a long talk about straight keys comparing our collections and experiences on the air. Finn was quite fond of a Japa-

nese straight key he once received from a friend. I told him all about a Navy spark-proof my Dad and uncle gave me as a kid. We were fast friends from that moment on. Finn always had a wonderful outlook on life and a mellow and genuine smile. A nicer man you would never meet.

Finn had a lot of fun on Mr. Morse's porch. A couple of

years running, Finn would bring a QRP rig to the special event station sessions. He had a homebrewed 50 ohm BNC terminator combined with a little steel whip that he would use as an antenna. As all the other club members were pounding away with their Elecrafts and other exceptional rigs making multiple contacts from the nearby picnic tables, Finn would jump in and work our stations from just a few feet away! 'Hey! Wait a minute! I know that call-sign!' Some great laughs followed!

Needless to say, I will miss his friendship and great conversations. If ever a man were consid-

ered 'a grand old ham' it would be Finn. He loved his family. He loved his life. He loved CW and Morse Code. I will always remember his warm handshake and his smiles. Better men don't exist. Our sincere condolences and prayers go out to everyone in the Poulsen family.

His daughter Heidi said there would be no services, at his and Lilli's request. The Poulsen family asks instead of flowers, people may contribute to the New Hackensack Reformed Church at 1580 Route 376, Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590 or to the New York State Trooper Foundation, State of NY Troop K, 3 Airport Park Boulevard, Latham, NY 12110. Cards may be sent to: The Poulsen Family, 93 Edge Hill Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

Thanks to Shirley Dahlgren N2SKP, The *Poughkeepsie Journal* and Finn's biography on QRZ.com for additional information.



This Morse key was given to Finn by a co-worker who acquired it while stationed in Japan after the end of World War II.



Finn operates /P on the porch at Locust Grove in 2013.

- Karl N2KZ