The
KLARION
Newsletter of the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association
Fall 2015

The N2HLT System

Leon Ingerick, of Branchport, NY, originally built and managed a large UHF / VHF repeater system in central and western New York. Leon passed away, unexpectedly, on February 7, 2009. He was only 41 years old.

Leon's wife, Tracy, decided she wished to keep the system up and operational. She obtained her amateur radio license and assumed Leon's call sign (N2HLT). Unfortunately she suffered through many reverses in trying to maintain the system, including the loss of tower space for the Bath portion of the system.

The N2HLT system was “off the air” in the Bath area for a number of years.

This fall, working with Mike Wilcox (KB2SMB) and John DeWitt (KB3DOL), the N2HLT system was able to return to the Bath area. The 146.805 machine is currently located on Wagner Hill in Avoca, NY, with plans to re-locate it to the Bath area.

The chart below shows the current linked repeater system, along with some notes on possible future expansions:

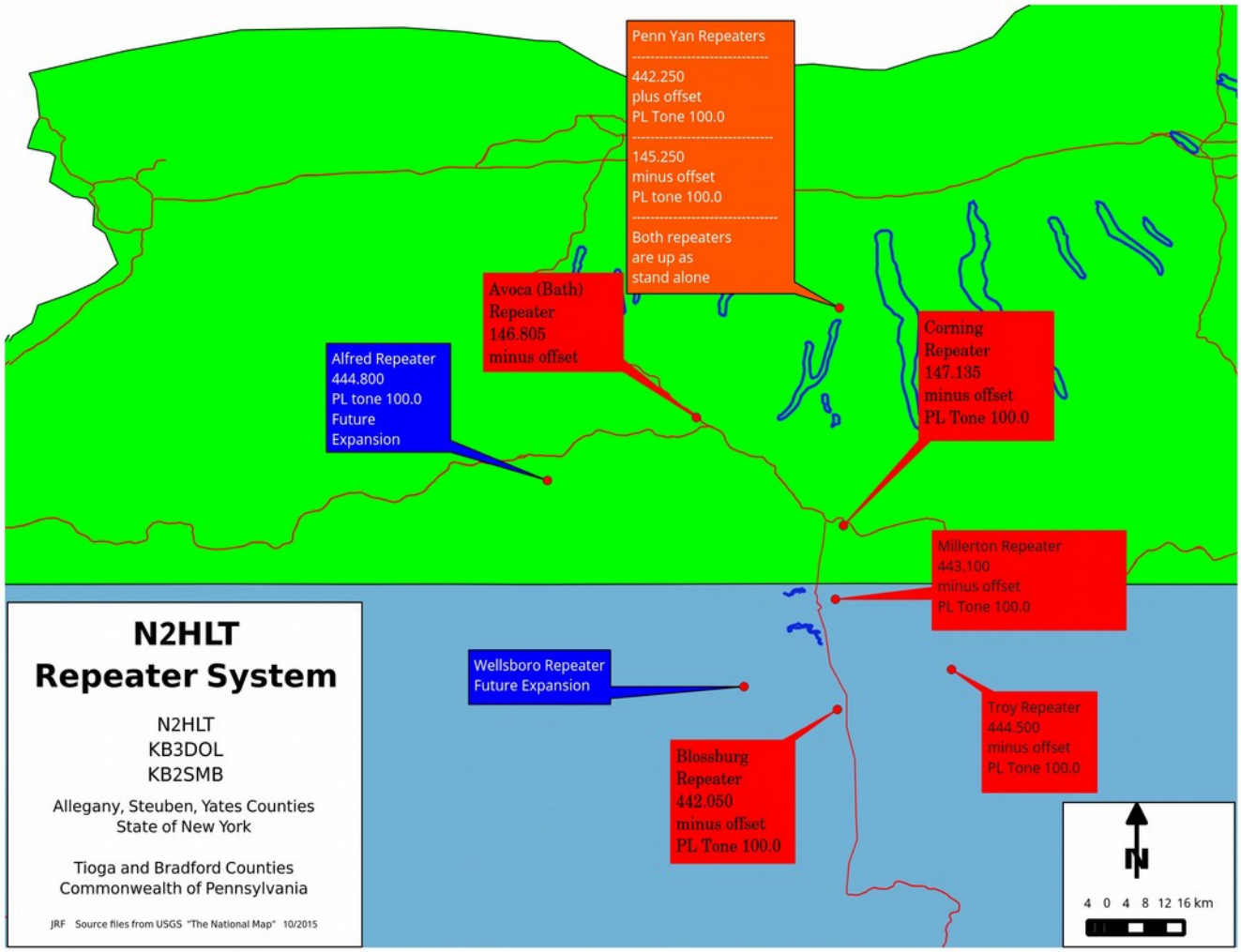
Frequency	Location	PL Tone	Trustee
146.805	Avoca (Bath), NY	100.0	N2HLT
443.100	Millerton, PA	100.0	KB3DOL
444.500	Troy, PA	100.0	KB3DOL
442.050	Blossburg, PA	100.0	KB3DOL
147.135	Corning, NY	100.0	N2HLT
443.250	Bath, NY		KD2HZH
444.800	Alfred, NY	100.0	N2HLT
147.250	Penn Yan, NY	100.0	N2HLT

The two repeaters highlighted in blue are up and operational, but not yet linked into the system. See also the map on the following page.

I have been able to work with Mike on the 146.805. I have learned a lot and have a lot more to learn. It's amazing to me that just one wire unhooked has such a large effect. It's also amazing just how sensitive the connectors are.

I was also amazed to find that my tiny portable DVD player interferes with the 805. I kept hearing static. Mike asked me “what's on”? Nothing but the DVD player, and when I turned it off the static stopped!

To those who work on the repeaters, where ever they may be, a huge thank you. I am so glad you do!



And a tip of the hat to Belinda (KD2BPJ) for putting this article together!

The “Most Rare” DX Entity
North Korea

A very interesting press release from DX World has recently landed in my e-mail inbox.

It appears that 3Z9DX (Dom Grzyb of Sucha, Poland) may soon be activating the “most rare” DX entity, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea). Dom, 3Z9DX, explains he has received a letter from authorities in Pyongyang inviting him to a final meeting to discuss [and for him to accept] rules by the North Korean military and the relevant telecommunications department. This meeting will take place in December with DX activity planned for five days in January or February of 2016. At this time, it is believed that activity will be limited to SSB phone and further limited to three bands (20 – 15 – 10). All activity will be conducted from a “secured government location” in Pyongyang, DPRK. Mr. Grzyb's activity will be watched closely by two government monitors whenever he is on the air. He has asked for, and been assured he will receive, a North Korean call sign for this activity (most likely a P9 prefix followed by a single letter, possibly P9A)

Gear is expected to be an Elecraft K3 and a multi band vertical antenna. Negotiations are continuing on the use of an amplifier and a second antenna (possibly a Spider Beam). Mr. Grzyb is also working hard, behind the scenes, to attempt arrangements for a second operator (CW) operator.

This is a very, very unusual activity. North Korea and Yemen are the only countries in the world which currently decline to license **any** citizens as amateur operators. Thus, the only manner in which you can obtain a QSO with DPRK is through this type of “foreign” amateur activity.

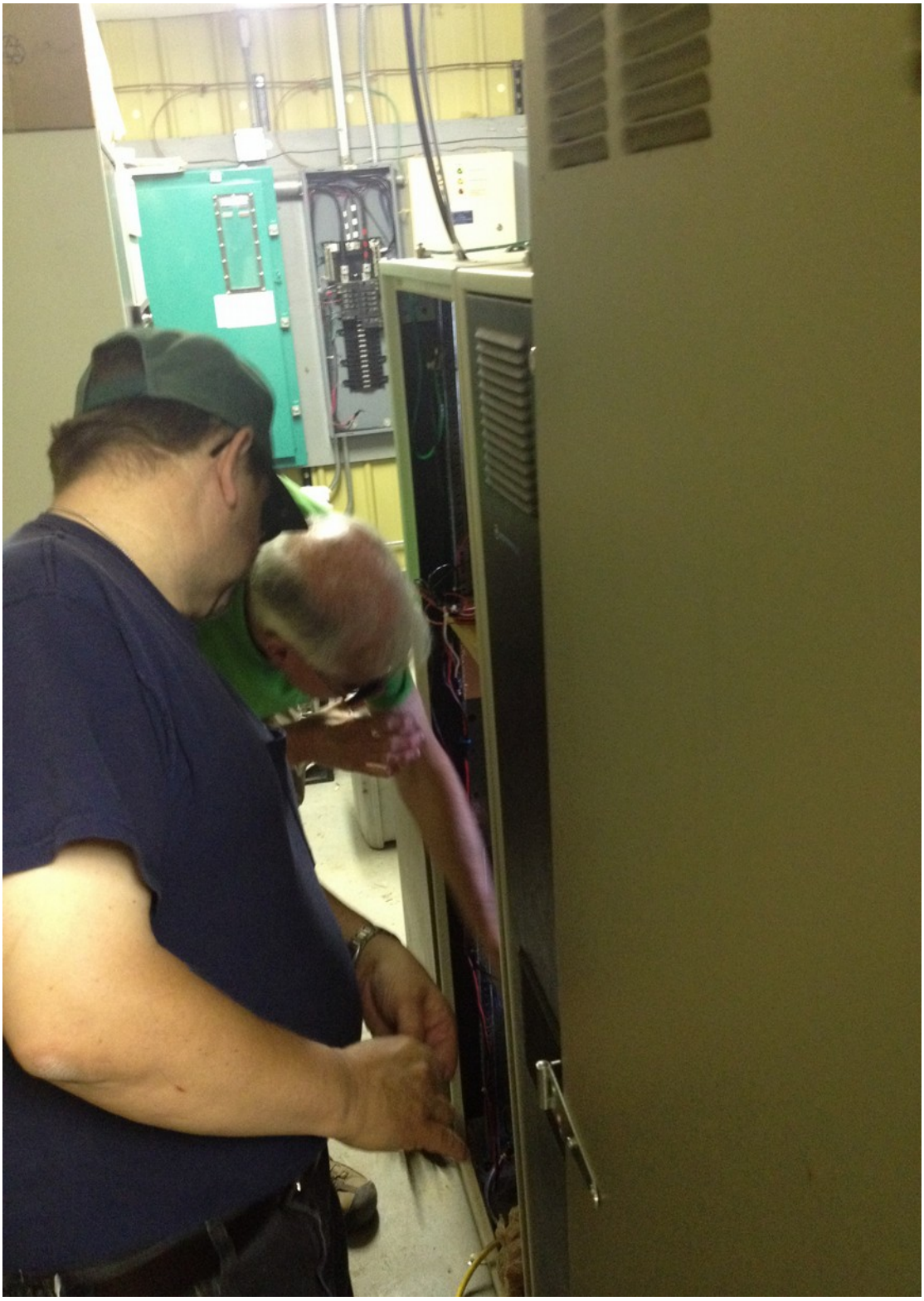
If this ends up being a single person Dx-pedition, I certainly hope that Mr. Grzyb packs plenty of throat lozenges and Tylenol! The last time we heard **any** amateur radio activity from North Korea was in 2001 – 2002 from Ed Giorgadze of the Republic of Georgia, who handed out 265 QSOs.

Thanks to DX World for the initial information and to the CIA World Fact Book for the map.

Further Work
145.190

Some pictures from the recent work on the 145.190, high atop Mount Washington

Cavity filters for the duplexer



Ron (K2TJW) and Harold (N2FMS) working inside the cabinet

Ron (K2TJW) and Harold (N2FMS) doing some fabrication in the garage

Thank you to the repeater committee for all their hard work on the repeater system. A special “thank you” to Gary (KC2YTD) for the photos!

Distress Calling

An amateur in need of immediate assistance should call MAYDAY (on 'phone) or SOS (on CW) on the frequency most likely to receive a response. Continue to transmit until you **do** receive a response.

Be ready with the following information:

- The location of your emergency, with sufficient detail to allow fire and law enforcement responders to locate you. If you are on an Interstate the milepost and direction is hard to beat.
- The nature of the distress and the type of response you are seeking. Note that most of the 911 centers in New York and Pennsylvania will want law enforcement on site first. Very few centers will dispatch EMS on your say so alone.
- Any other information that might be helpful in the emergency area or in sending assistance. This might include roads which have washed out, high water which renders a road unusable, etc.

In the local area, you are most likely to have a 2 meter FM radio. If you are in range of a repeater, please use it. Keep track of the local repeaters which are currently up and operational, as this does change from time to time.

If you are not in range of a repeater, use the Nationwide Simplex Calling Frequency for 2 meters, which is 146.520.

I would also suggest trying the LiTZ procedure, if you have a DTMF microphone. This is done by keying the DTMF zero tone for at least three seconds prior to transmitting your message.

It is interesting to note that MAYDAY is a corruption of the French phrase *m'aidez* (literally, “help me”).

Finally, here's hoping you never need to use any of this! But if you do, now you know how …

Red House Picnic
July 25th 2015

The KLARA membership gathered at the Red House of John and Sue Babbitt for the annual July picnic, meeting, and gabfest.

As John said in his Facebook post:

"GOOD FOOD, GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FUN!"

It was all of that, and a whole lot more. Thank you to John and Sue for hosting us. We hope all of you can join us in 2016!

Thanks also to John (WB2SQX) and Sue (KD2AQR) for the use of the group photo

Latitude and Longitude

A Plane Geography Primer

Latitude and Longitude is a very simple concept. Latitude and Longitude are basically imaginary lines drawn over a map to help describe, accurately, the location of a place on the map.

Latitude are lines parallel to the equator and measures the north – south direction. **Longitude** are lines parallel to the prime meridian (or perpendicular to the equator) and measure distance east – west.

As with a lot of concepts, the basic idea is fairly simple, but the "devil is in the details"! Latitude and Longitude are measured in degrees, minutes, and seconds of an angle.

You will remember that these are lines laid on a map (which is flat, or two dimensional). The earth itself is, of course, three dimensional, and, further, round (or at least ellipsoid).

Thus, the further you get from the "origin" (the spot where the equator and prime meridian intersect), the greater the distortion from the "perfect square" you might expect.

Further complicating the matter is the use of "signs" to indicate which quadrant the figures you have are located in. "Signs" are also used to assure that the degrees figures are always less than 180 degrees (this makes the math for distance between coordinates much easier).

Many times the sign is dropped from the Latitude (assuming, I suppose that you know which side of the equator you are on). "Sign" is usually critical for Longitude, particularly in our part of the world.

A "real world" example:

You have your GPS receiver out with you and measure Lat / Long as 42 degrees / 78 degrees. You put this into Google Maps and discover that this returns a location in Kyrgyzstan. But I know I was in my backyard! What gives?

Simple enough, add the minus sign to the Longitude and try it again. You will find you are along the New York – Pennsylvania Border, not far from the county line between Steuben and Allegany counties (pretty close to Alma, actually).

The New York – Pennsylvania border is supposed to be on the 42nd parallel of Latitude, in this part of New York. Unfortunately, due to some errors in the original survey, it's not … quite, monumented that way. This is what leads to NY 17 / I86 dipping into Pennsylvania for a hundred yards, or so, in the Waverly area!

Simple, once you know, isn't it?

Steuben County Fair
August 18th – August 23rd

Again this year KLARA members manned the Emergency Communications booth at the Steuben County Fair, in Bath, NY.

Our members promoted Ham Radio as well as passed out Emergency Preparedness information. We were successful in signing up several interested parties for our September Question Review and License class.

We offer below some pictures from the fair:

Thanks to all who helped in the booth, and thanks to John Babbitt (WB2SQX) for the photos.

KLARA Hamfest
August 18th

The KLARA hamfest was held at the Howard Community Center on August 15th. This year, for the first time, it was extended to a three day camping event, with members and guests camping on the 14th to the 16th.

In addition to the usual parking lot fleamarket, the club also sponsored a full cooked breakfast, and an auction of amateur radio goods at the end of the hamfest.

In addition to being the prime fund raising effort for the club, this event also serves as an excellent source of fun and camaraderie for the members

The VE testing session yielded two new technician licensees. Thank you to Gary, Patrick, and the rest of the VE team for their efforts. Thanks also to Randy for suggesting the auction and serving as our auctioneer.

Thanks to John Babbitt (WB2SQX) for the use of his photos.

Geneseo Air Show
Special Event
July 11th

KLARA again held a special amateur radio event at the Geneseo Air Show on July 11th, using the club call sign (N2AAR) as the special event call sign. The purpose of this event was to promote the airshow and to introduce people to amateur radio.

Unfortunately, radio propagation was not such that the event was heard over a wide area. Our club call sign trustee, Nancy (KS2YL), reports that, to date, she only has 5 – 6 requests for a QSO certificate.

However, the major event for KLARA, and a big surprise to everyone, was that one of our own, Dick (KC2SBU) was chosen as the rider with Rob Holland's Airshow Hero Flight! Dick was nominated by his wife, Ruth (also one of our own, KD2FRT). Dick is a Korean War veteran of the U.S. Navy.

We offer below a few photos:

and finally, if you have not seen it, check out this link on You Tube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGyqE7dUSbc

Not to be missed!

Thanks to the Genesee Sun for the photos and the Livingston County News for the video!

Ham of the Year

Outgoing President Rick Torrey presented the KLARA Ham of the Year award to Ruth Walters (KD2FRT) during the September meeting.

Ruth is a tireless worker on club projects and a fun person to be around. Please join us in wishing Ruth the best and congratulating her on being selected as Ham of the Year!

Technician License
Question Review
Exam Session
September 15th

KLARA sponsored a question review and test session for prospective licensees on September 15th. The session was held at the Civil Defense center on Route 54, just north of Bath.

For those who have never been involved with this particular activity, a bit of explanation:

1. We don't teach theory in this class. We only review questions from the question pool.

2. Prior study on your own is critical!

3. The format is fairly fast paced … question, answer, question, answer, and so on.

4. Prospective licensees will see every question in the pool at least once … if they seem to be struggling with a specific section of questions, we will return to that section for review before testing.

5. Testing follows the review just as quickly as we can reset the room.

We had three prospective licensees and we are happy to report that all three were successful in gaining their technician amateur license!

Dick (KC2SBU), Belinda (KD2BPJ), and Gary (KC2YTD) discussing strategy

right to left Sean (KD2JMF), Jeremiah (KD2JMG), Terry (KD2JMI), our three new technicians!

Thanks to John Babbitt (WB2SQX) for the use of his photos!

For Next Time

- Report from the Wineglass Marathon
- End of Summer Picnic
- Antenna Article

- Operate in public
- Explain what you are doing
- Use the amateur radio frequency spectrum (or someone else surely will)

Be an Ambassador for Your Hobby