

# THE KLARION

## Newsletter of the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association

### Is Canada DX?

by KLARA Member Joel Fiske KC2VAW

The short answer is "Yes, definitely!" Canada is on the DXCC list from ARRL for US amateurs. It has been since the list was created.

For those of us who live in the Northeastern US, certain portions of Canada are very common contacts. The provinces of Ontario and Quebec have a fair number of licensed amateur operators. Consequently, they are fairly common QSO's for Northeastern US amateurs.

Some of the other provinces and territories are fairly rare for those of us in the Northeast. The territory of Nunavut (call sign prefix VY0), for example, has only 19 licensed amateurs. Contacts here are very rare! If you get a QSO card hang on to it.

Other "rare ones" from Canada would be Labrador (prefix VO2), with 66 licenses; Northwest Territory (prefix VE8) with 77 licenses; and Yukon Territory (prefix VY2) with 172 licenses. The other "low number" province is Prince Edward Island (prefix VY2) with 335 licenses.

The other very interesting call signs from Canada are prefix VY9, issued to various government ministers (primarily those who are concerned with Canadian affairs in the Arctic) and prefix VE0, issued to individuals working on Canadian flagged vessels working in international waters. Incidentally, these folks do not reside on the seas and would be eligible for a call sign associated with their shoreside QTH. Canada is the only country in the world which issues this type of call sign.

Please don't give our friends from Canada short shrift. As the solar cycle begins to heat up and distance contacts become more and more likely, I think you will find the Canadian amateurs to be a fascinating group of operators. Turn the antenna northerly and give them a try. You won't be disappointed!



## End of Year Issue 2022

### Major KLARA Events

#### Winter Field Day

January 28-29, 2023  
Hammondsport Fire Department

#### KLARA 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge

Spring 2023 TBD

#### ARRL Field Day

June 24-25, 2023 with setup on June 23

#### Annual Red House Picnic

Summer 2023 TBA

#### KLARA Booth at Steuben County Fair

August 14-20, 2023

#### KLARA Hamfest

August 19, 2023

#### KLARA All Day Tech Question Review and VE Testing

TBD

#### KLARA Annual Meeting and Elections

September 13, 2023

#### Wineglass Marathon

September 30, 2023

#### Annual End of the Season Picnic

October 2023 TBD

#### Annual Christmas Dinner

December 4, 2022 at 2:00pm  
Stephanie's Restaurant  
14 W. Steuben St.  
Bath, NY

#### Talk with us on-the-air using our linked repeater system:

Bath, NY 145.190- 110.9  
Arkport, NY 147.045+ 110.9  
Jasper, NY 147.330+ 110.9

#### Visit us on the web:

<https://klara.us>



# Groundhog Hamfest

Sponsored by W2RMT, N1PTB, KD2BPJ, and The Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association

**When:** February 4, 2023

**Where:** Almond Community Building  
1 Marvin Lane, Almond, NY 14804

**Time:** General Public – 8:00 AM  
Vendor Setup – 6:00

**Cost:** \$0 - Free to Vendors and public

## Directions:

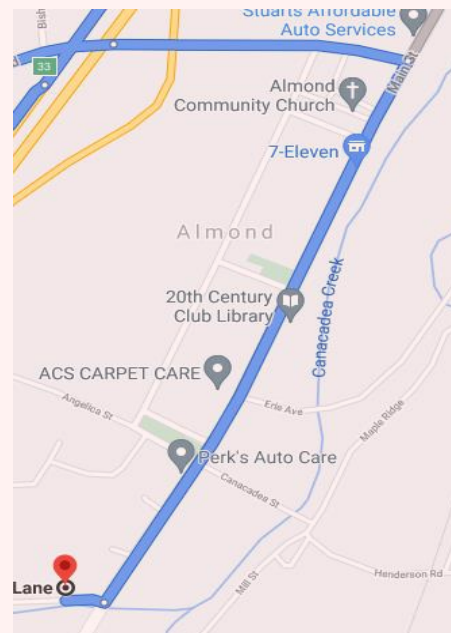
Take Exit 33 off Rout 86.

Follow signs towards Alfred, NY.

Approximately 1 mile from exit on right

## Additional information:

- VE Testing @ 10:00. Preregistration requested.
  - Contact Gary Stratton for details (585) 520-5514
- Tables, chairs, and power (outside walls) available at no charge
  - First come first served.
- Coffee for sure and maybe breakfast sandwiches.



For several years I would go to my brother Rod's KC2BNL house and listen to him talk on his radio.

In 2011 I met Debbi Koehler KB2WEY, now Debbi Koehler Whitehead and said, "Hey wait a minute", as I listened to her talk on her radio. She introduced me to KLARA and on Feb. 16, 2012 I became a licensed Ham. Then in Oct. 2013 Roy Koehler KB2WXV (SK) said "Let's get you going on the NYQSO Party and run as a Rookie". I said, "sure, why not". So off to his house and on to his radio. I was amazed seeing so many knobs! However with patience, coffee and great coaching I was on the air. That year I took 1st place in the NYQSO Party Rookie Division! I won an awesome plaque and Roy was so happy for me! Since then I encourage others to participate in it and it's rare that I miss a year. This year I was shocked when Harold told me the results were posted and I placed 1st in the YL Division. I couldn't believe it; then the plaque



showed up. I had tears as I was reading it and said "Hey Roy, I did it myself this time!"

The NY QSO Party is a contest to make as many contacts as you can and try to get every County in NY State. It's so much fun. The last few years it's been Gary KC2YTD, Rick W2RMT, Harold N2FMS and I going back and forth trying to beat each other. Such a fun competition of cheering each other on!

I highly recommend it. It's held every October. I am so thankful to my brother Rod introducing me to amateur radio, Debbi for introducing me to KLARA, Roy for convincing me I can do the contests and my whole KLARA

family for always encouraging me. Thank you all and I'm very proud to share my plaque with all of you as you all made it possible.

73, KLARA Member Belinda Connor KD2BPJ

## President's Year End Report of Events

*by KLARA Member and President Jim Caneen W2JTC*

As we approach the end of 2022, I thought it would be good to recap our ham activities this year.

In January, the club and many of its individual members took part in Winter Field Day, January 29 and 30. We set up a public station at the rest stop on Interstate 86 near Campbell, NY where six of our members took turns operating a portable station during the 24 hour event.

On April 30 the club initiated our Winter Hamfest at the Almond Community Building. We had a good turnout with about 25 attendees and a dozen vendors for our first attempt. Our goal will be to make this Hamfest grow in 2023.

Likewise, in June the club set up for Summer Field Day at the Hammondsport Fire Department with about eight members setting up their campers and RVs on the fire department's campground. This was an especially nice location at the south end of Keuka Lake for the ham operators and the occasional visitor that would stop by to check out the activity.

In August the KLARA members set up a booth at the Steuben County Fair to introduce our radio activities to the general public and to demonstrate to them the important backup communications role that we might play in a civil emergency. Immediately following the fair we held our annual Hamfest at the Howard, NY Community Center. In addition to the "normal" shopping activities, a VE testing session was conducted with the licensing of 2 of new hams.

In September, we met at the Steuben County Veterans Memorial to hold an election of board members and organize and plan for the coming activities. This year's Officers are myself, Jim Caneen W2JTC President, Joel Fiske KC2VAW Vice President, Belinda Connor KD2BPJ Secretary, Jerrilyn Baker KE2YB Treasurer, John Babbitt K2GQG Historian, with Donna Fiske KD2CZY and Dave Hartman KD2EH Board Members. Our testing team went to the Elmira Hamfest on September 24<sup>th</sup>, where they set up a VE testing session and licensed 6 new/upgraded hams.

In October, nineteen KLARA members provided communication services along the 26.2 mile route of the Wineglass Marathon as we have annually for over the past 20 years.

As we close out the year, we will be holding our annual holiday luncheon for members and their guest on Sunday, December 4 at Stephanie's Restaurant in Bath, NY at 2pm. We are expecting about 25 to attend.

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## KLARA Repeater System Report

*by Repeater Trustee Gary Stratton KC2YTD*

It is safe to say 'All is well with the KLARA Repeater System' with the exception of a few things that need to be done over time. The first one on our list is to have the 145.190 at Mt. Washington in Bath, NY provide a much better and longer courtesy tone when the repeater is keyed up and then released (kerchunk you might say). Secondly we are still waiting on the county to help us replace both the 145.190 and 147.330 (Travis Hill) repeater antennas. The main issue with this is the county does not want KLARA members or anyone else climbing towers and they have been trying to schedule and contract tower work now for over two years.

Now for the good news. The roadway going up to the Travis Hill site has been leveled, re-stoned and widened. And a nice parking area at the site too. We can thank Randy Gudeahn N1PTB for having the road work done. We did put up a new antenna at the Arkport site (147.045) and the repeater is working much better. Another nice accomplishment was that KLARA purchased a new AGM 12 volt battery for the 147.330 site for power backup. The solar panels are still working just fine keeping the new battery charged. We recently had to temporarily remove the solar panels at Travis Hill so the county could replace the roof that was leaking water on other equipment but thankfully not ours. Well I think I have just about covered all the bases of recent repeater maintenance history.

*Continued on next page*

Don't forget to set up your mobiles and handhelds with tone squelch turned on for each of our three repeaters if you do not want to hear the C4FM digital noise on your non-digital transceivers.

We hope to have a presentation at one of our KLARA meetings regarding tone squelch. Thanks for reading and be sure to keep radio-active!

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• **WANTED** •  
Writers • Picture Takers • Story Tellers

Your editor needs articles and photos for your Klarion Newsletter. Also would like constructive criticism to make it better.

Please email your articles, photos and comments to Harold at [n2fms@frontier.com](mailto:n2fms@frontier.com)

## Remembering Ruth K2RTH and Pat W2DHB

*by KLARA Member Joel Fiske KC2VAW*

2022 has been a very difficult year for the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association (KLARA). We have had two of our long time members pass away.

The first, in May of 2022, was Ruth Walters. Ruth was the long time Treasurer for our organization, as well as a very eager radio operator and station watcher during the Wineglass Marathon.

Ruth was born and lived the early part of her life on Long Island, where she volunteered for the Civil Air Patrol and the Girl Scouts. In 1989 she and her husband, Dick, moved to Bath, NY.

While in Bath, Ruth (the spouse of a Navy veteran) was active, and very influential, in serving our Veterans and Military families. Ruth served with the American Red Cross, where she served on the Services to Armed Forces unit as the National Deputy Representative for the Eastern and Mid-Atlantic regions. She also served on the Service to Armed Forces advisory committee as the Veterans Administration lead. She was also active as part of the Red Cross Disaster team. She served the Red Cross on several deployments to large scale disasters.

She was laid to rest alongside Dick at the Bath National Cemetery on May 13 of 2022.

She is greatly missed.

Pat Sheedy was taken by a stroke while he served as an Amateur Radio operator at the Painted Post medical tent at the 2022 Wineglass Marathon. He spent several days fighting the effects of the stroke at Robert Packer hospital in Sayre, PA, but unfortunately was taken from us on October 13, 2022.

Pat was a very interesting man. He was a very dedicated amateur radio operator and a Life Member of ARRL. He was also very active as a member of the Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS). He also liked to build his own radio equipment, particularly in the area of winding his own torroids for baluns and ununs. He was very talented at this, and presented several talks to our club about how this was done.

He was the type of guy who would be available to do whatever he could to help ... anyone.

In addition to being a devoted amateur radio operator, Pat was also a member of the clergy in the Free Methodist Church, serving as pastor of the Brooklyn Free Methodist Church in East Otto, NY and as Chaplin of the First Health facility in Pinehurst, NC.

After his time as Pastor and Chaplin, Pat moved to Painted Post, NY. He went to work for Sun Pipeline, in Big Flats, NY. He worked there for over 33 years.

He had four children and six grandchildren, all of whom were the "apple of his eye".

In addition to all of his other achievements, Pat was also an Eagle Scout, the top scouting rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

He will be and is missed, greatly.

I would strongly encourage you to remember these good folks during our moment of silence at the beginning of our next membership meeting.

Here's hoping 2023 will be a bit cheerier.

## On-The-Air With Pat W2DHB

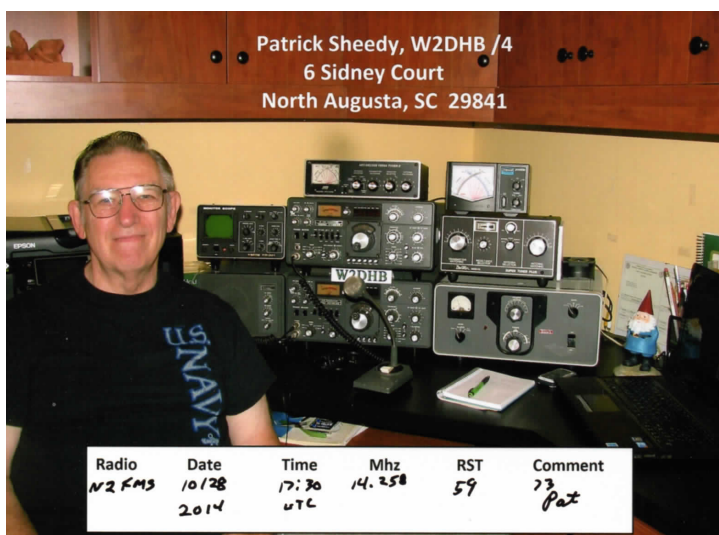
by KLARA Member Harold Scharnberg N2FMS

First QSO with Pat was in the Fall of 1975. I had an old Standard Horizon crystal controlled 2 meter FM transceiver. Had crystals for 52 and 94 simplex (yes, 94 was a simplex frequency at the time) and crystals for 34/94 and 16/76 repeaters. My very first 2 meter FM contact since moving from Long Island was with Pat on the 16/76 repeater. Turns out it was Pat's repeater located in Groveland. He knew all about my old Standard radio and gave me lots of hints on working VHF FM. After retirement, I participated in two weekday nets with Pat. One was an 80 meter AM net during weekday afternoons. His Yaesu FT-101B put out a very potent AM signal. The other net was a 40 meter SSB gathering of hams from the northeast. Pat's Yaesu FT-101ZD did a great job. When conditions were not the best, Pat would fire up his Collins amp. At times he would call it his "after-burner". He enjoyed and always put out a good signal.

Pat was a good and patient teacher/mentor while on-the-air. Often had suggestions to help others with problems. It was always a pleasure talking with Pat.



QSL Card from a 2011 AM QSO



Pat's QSL card from his daughter's home in SC  
We had a 20 meter SSB QSO in 2014