

# THE KLARION

First Quarter 2025

Winter to Spring Edition

## Quarterly Newsletter of The Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association

### *The Klarion is back!*

*Andy Jackson K2CRV, KLARA President*

Now that global pandemic has come to an end and a new year has begun, I thought that it was time to revive *The Klarion* to better serve our club membership, to provide community outreach and to spur an interest in Amateur Radio. Of course, any publication is dependent upon content. Therefore, I am soliciting you to become content creators for *The Klarion*. If you would like to provide an article for publication, contact W2KDC, Dennis King, [dennis@w2kdc.us](mailto:dennis@w2kdc.us). Articles can be about club activities, your experiences in ham radio, technical topics (antennas, software, new modes, etc), contest experience, etc.

*The Klarion* is a quarterly publication. We will shoot to publish on the following schedule:

• Issue:	Submit by:
• Quarter 1: March 1	February 20
• Quarter 2: June 1	May 20
• Quarter 3: September 1	August 20
• Quarter 4: December 1	November 20

### *Klara Board of Directors*

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### *Upcoming KLARA Events*

• **March 12 KLARA Meeting:** Joel, KC2VAW, to present data collected from the Simplex Challenge, VHF weak signal work.

• **April 9 KLARA Meeting:** John, K2GQG, to present History of KLARA.

• **May 14 KLARA Meeting:** Glenn, W3LSW, to present home-brew QRP transceivers

• **May 10:** Simplex Challenge (details can be found at: <https://klara.us/>)

• **May 16 – 18 Dayton Hamvention** (see page 5)

• **June 11 KLARA Meeting:** Gary, KC2YTD and Andy, K2CRV (possibly Joel) to present information of Fox Hunts, Antennas, and Strategies.

• **June 28–29 Field Day**

• **August 13 KLARA Meeting:** (right before the end of season Picnic): Donna, KD2CZY, and Joel, KC2VAW to present POTA – everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!

• **August 23:** Picnic, POTA activation, and Fox Hunt

• **December (TBD):** Christmas Party!

## Winter Field Day '25

Winter Field Day 2025 has come and gone, but it has left a smile on the faces of many KLARA members. In addition to the smiles, members have gained knowledge on raising emergency antennas, operation of different transceivers, email via HF (Winlink Express), digital modes, phone contact protocols and of course, the mighty CW! We also proved that we were indeed HAM (Have Another Meal) operators.

Winter Field Day is an annual event that takes place on the last full weekend of January. The operational period is 30 hours long, starting at 1600 UTC (11 AM EST) on Saturday and ending at 21:59 UTC (4:59 PM EST) on Sunday. Amateur radio operators are encouraged to set up field operations in remote locations to simulate emergency communications under realistic and difficult circumstances. Winter Field Day helps participants to improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operating skills under adverse conditions.

The KLARA Winter Field Day was held on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Civil Defense Training Center in Bath, NY. The club operated as 5I (5 stations, Indoor). Jim, W2JTC, was the club's Winter Field Day coordinator and our "Rope and Pulley expert." He also brought Dunkin' Donuts! Much appreciated!

Joel, KC2VAW, and Donna, KD2CZY, set-up their station and used their famous POTA set-up with the vertical antenna and loading coil magnetically mounted on their car with radials laid down in all directions. As with POTA, it worked pretty darn good!



Gary, KC2YTD, set-up an end-fed antenna and operated phone and digital modes (digital contacts are worth twice as much as phone contacts!). You should have seen Gary climbing the practice tower to put that antenna up!

Dean, AD2Z, added a multiplier to the KLARA score by successfully sending a Winlink message via HF (email via HF)! Dean added to the KLARA score card with additional phone contacts.



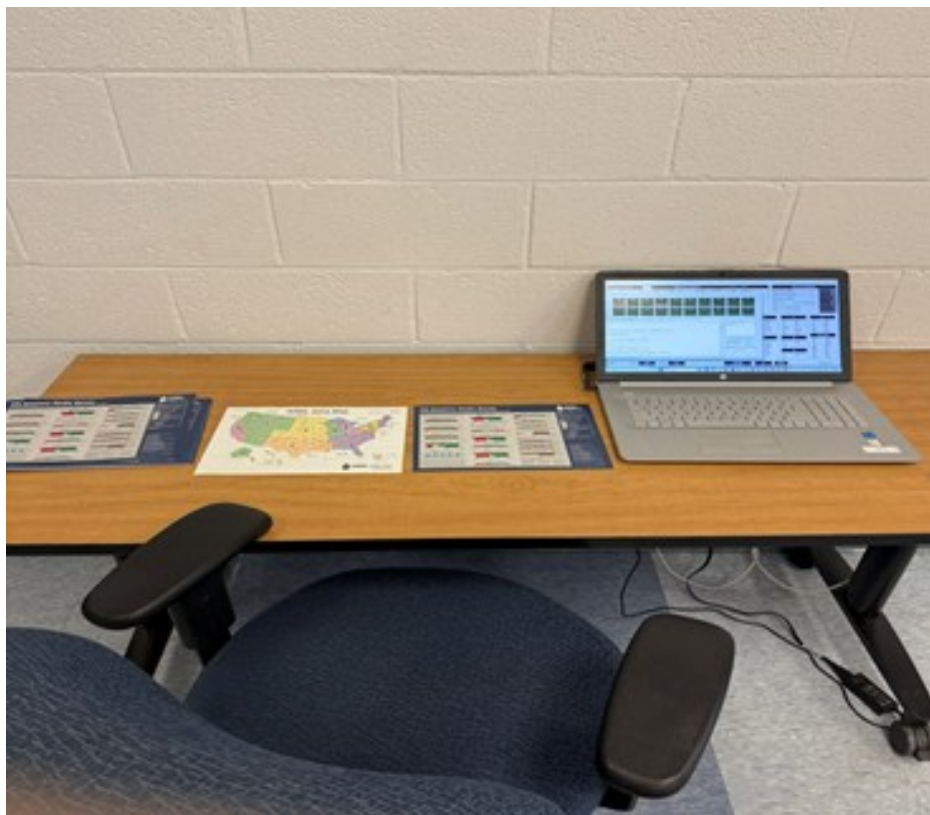
The CW station used a G5RV and were able to operate 10m – 80m. The G5RV was put up in the trees with Gary's Spud Gun! It took a few tries, but the antenna was up and worked flawlessly! The “Ditty Boppers” (aka CW operators), Bob, KC2ORM, Dave, KD2EH, and Andy, K2CRV, racked up over 300 contacts! A high light for the CW operators was when N2AAR was able to work N2FMS, Harold, from his Florida QTH! Hey Harold, where is the QSL card for N2AAR?



Jim, W2JTC, put up a vertical on a telescoping fiberglass mast. The vertical had radials fanned out in the lawn and worked great on the Phone bands, until an unfortunate gust of wind knocked it over! A few minor repairs, a new guy wire and Jim was back on the air.



A highlight (at least for me – K2CRV) was the N3FJP logging program. Gary S had a computer at each station that was running the network logging software into a central database. Each station could see where the other stations were operating so that interference could be kept to a minimum, and the duplicate contact feature worked great to ensure that “dups” were not made. The software also allowed operators to send instant messages back and forth – like, “Time to eat! Again!” or “A fresh pot of coffee is on!”



We had several club members stop by, as well as a group of people looking for a Robotics Demonstration – they were not really interested in the KLARA Winter Field Day, but Donna tried her best to interest them in our great hobby!

Klara received a certificate from Winter Field Day 2025 for making 571 contacts. **WAY TO GO KLARA!** The certificate is shown in **Member Achievements** below.

### Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
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80	31	0	0	31	5
40	111	80	29	220	39
20	113	57	31	201	35
15	47	44	8	99	17
10	6	14	0	20	4
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Total	308	195	68	571	100

With any endeavor, there are always lessons learned. Here are a few:

- Assign someone to be in charge of pictures – something we did not do, thus we have limited pics! We could have added action photos of antennas going up, operators and visitors, feasting, and more!
- Go on a diet a month before Winter Field Day – it will be tough, but necessary to enjoy being a HAM (Have Another Meal) operator!
- Look at the multipliers ahead of time – we probably missed out on a few.
- Put an RFID tag on Dave's (KD2EH) coffee cup – that way he can track it and eventually find it! It is in one of the Pics though – maybe Dave can make a wanted poster for it!

The Civil Defense Training Center is a great place for the Winter Field Day.

In conclusion, those that participated had a great time, learned a lot about emergency preparedness, ate well and had the chance to operate different rigs. This year was a success and will set the benchmark for next year! I sincerely hope that more of our club members, or just those interested in ham radio, will participate in next year's Winter Field Day. It is a great experience!

*Andy Jackson, K2CRV and Gary Stratton, KC2YTD*

## Hamvention '25

### What is Hamvention?

The [Dayton Hamvention](#) is one of the two largest [amateur radio](#) conventions (or [hamfests](#)) in the world.<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[2]</sup> It is held each May in the [Dayton, Ohio](#) area and draws attendees from various parts of the world.

Hamvention will be held May 17, 18 and 19, 2024 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center.

### Who is going to Hamvention?

So far KLARA will be represented by 3 members: Andrew Jackson K2CRV; Dennis King W2KDC; and Dave Hartman KD2EH.

### Can I Go to Hamvention?

Of course you can! If you are interested in going, contact Andrew or Dennis, who are both driving. If you want to drive yourself, that is fine too. Check the [Hamvention](#) website for ticket information. **But don't wait too long. Hotels are filling fast and room rates are climbing.**



## Member Achievements!



Belinda Connor, KD2BPJ, was recently awarded a 10 Years of Service Certificate from the [Young Ladies Radio League](#). **Congratulations** Belinda!



## Member Achievements!



Andrew Jackson, K2CRV, was awarded this certificate from the Straight Key Century Club. Congratulations, Andrew!

The Klarion wants to recognize all member achievements. If you or another member are recognized by an organization, send the information to [dennis@w2kdc.us](mailto:dennis@w2kdc.us) and we will include it in the next edition of the newsletter.

## *J-pole emergency antenna*

**Andy Jackson K2CRV, KLARA President**

Over the years, I have made probably 10 J-pole 2-meter antennas from 300 ohm twin TV feed line. The J-Pole is actually an end-fed, halfwave antenna with a quarterwave matching section to allow feeding with 50 -ohm coax. These antennas are really easy to build, are great for use indoors or outdoors, provide excellent performance, and can be rolled up and put into a suitcase for mobile work and easy transport. When used on your HT, it will dramatically out-perform your rubber duckie antenna!

Twin lead TV line used to be everywhere – it may be more difficult to find, but I purchased 50' at the Elmira hamfest for \$5. So, keep your eyes open for hamfest gold!

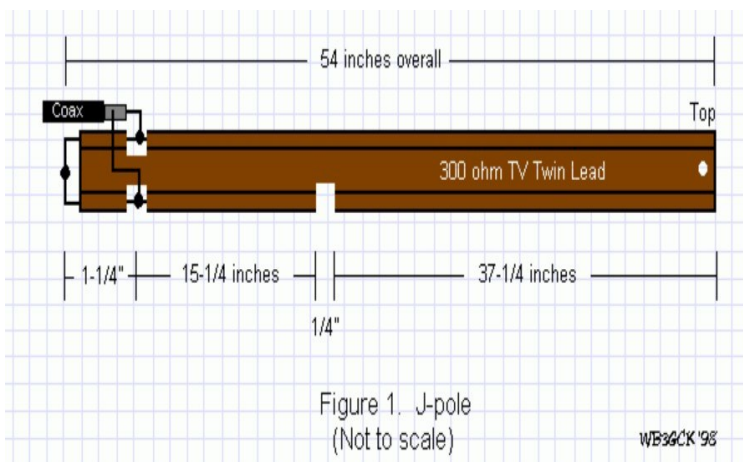
These steps are adapted from WB3GCK's project notebook: <https://www.gsl.net/wb3gck/jpole.htm>

### Materials Needed:

- 300 ohm TV twin lead wire (about 60 inches should suffice)
- Coaxial cable (RG-58, RG-8x, with a connector matching your radio, e.g., PL-259)
- Wire cutters or scissors
- Soldering iron and solder
- Electrical tape or heat shrink tubing

### Steps to Build:

1. Take the 60 inch piece of twinlead and strip back about 1/2 inch from one end. Twist and solder the two wires together. Keep the connection as short as possible. This will be the bottom of the antenna.
2. Measure up 1-1/4 inches from the bottom and carefully remove the insulation, exposing both wires, as shown in Figure 1. Keep the notches small (1/8" or so) and be careful not to cut the wires. This is where we will be attaching the coax later.
3. Now, attach your coax as shown in the Figure.
4. Measure up 15-1/4 inches from the point where the coax braid is attached and make a 1/4-inch notch. This time, you want to cut through the wire. Only cut one notch and make sure it is on the side where the braid is attached. This will form the 1/4 wave matching section.
5. Tape the coax to the twinlead for strain relief. Also, tape or heat shrink all solder connections and add some tape at the 1/4-inch notch for added strength.
6. Measure up from the bottom of the antenna and cut it to an overall length of 54 inches.



To facilitate hanging, punch a small hole in the top of the antenna. Use monofilament fishing line or other non-conductive line through the hole for hanging. The J-Pole is very broadband, so it shouldn't require any tuning. (An SWR check, however, is recommended.) Just unroll it, hang it up, and communicate.

This simple J-pole design provides a good starting point for amateur radio enthusiasts looking for an effective and inexpensive antenna solution for the 2-meter band.

**Check the Klara Website often for the latest information:**

<https://klara.us>