

# THE KLARION

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association

Fourth Quarter  
2020 - 2021  
Winter Edition

## Major KLARA Events

**Winter Field Day**  
January 30-31, 2021

**KLARA 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge**  
Spring 2021 TBD

**ARRL Field Day**  
June 26-27, 2021 with setup on June 25

**Annual Red House Picnic**  
TBD

**National Warplane Museum Airshow**  
July 9-11, 2021

**Wine Country Classic Boat Regatta**  
July 17-18, 2021

**KLARA Booth at Steuben County Fair**  
August 17-22, 2021

**KLARA Hamfest**  
August 21, 2021 TBD

**KLARA All Day Tech Question Review and VE Testing**  
TBD

**KLARA Annual Meeting and Elections**  
TBD

**Wineglass Marathon**  
October 3, 2021

**Annual End of the Season Picnic**  
October 2021 TBD

**Annual Christmas Dinner**  
December 2021 TBD



2:00pm Saturday, January 30 to 2:00pm Sunday, January 31

The following is from the Winter Field Day Association website [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com)

“Winter Field Day Association (WFDA) is a dedicated group of Amateur Radio Operators who believe that emergency communications in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that is done each summer but with some additional unique operational concerns.

We believe as do those entities of ARRL Organizations like ARES & RACES that maintaining your operational skills should not be limited to fair weather scenarios. The addition of Winter Field Day will enhance those already important skills of those that who generously volunteer their time and equipment to these organizations. This is why WFD is open to all licensed amateur radio operators worldwide.

Disasters are unpredictable by nature and can strike when you least expect them. WFDA's goal is to help enhance your skills and ready you for all environmental conditions found in the US and Canada during the spring, summer, fall and winter Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event and this is what local and state authorities are expecting when they reach out to the emergency service groups that offer their services.

If you are serious about emergency communications as we are; we welcome you to join us for our yearly event. We are sure you will find this event a pleasant change and challenge to that of a normal summer time field day.”

Please consider joining in on the fun and excitement with fellow KLARA members participating in Winter Field Day.

**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>



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## Third Annual KLARA Winter Field Day 2021 January 30 and 31

CORONA-19 will not stop KLARA members from participating in WFD. Although we can't setup multiple stations at one location and work as a club, we can participate as individuals and receive a club score.

There are three entry categories: Home, Indoor and Outdoor and also three modes: Phone (SSB and FM simplex), Digital and CW. Club members can work from the warmth of their home using existing antennas or perhaps setup a station indoors at a remote location such as a heated cabin. For the brave, you could setup outside. Inside or out you have the option of using commercial power or emergency back-up power such as a generator or batteries. If working from **Home** with a single transmitter your exchange would be **1H WNY**. The WNY is for the ARRL Western NY section. An Indoor station would use **1I WNY**, while an outdoor station would be **1O WNY**.

Individual logs (digital or paper) can be submitted. It's important to submit logs with your own personal callsign but also include our club's name. Everyone must use **Keuka Lake ARA** as the club name. Do not spell out ARA or use KLARA. The WFD group will add up a club score.

Please read the rules at [www.winterfieldday.com](http://www.winterfieldday.com).

Last year KLARA members put fourth an outstanding effort. They placed first in the WNY section and 44th out of 170 nation-wide. Club member Rick Torrey, W2RMT, operated from home as a 1H WNY station. He led the way with 79 digital QSO's. Great job Rick!



Winter Field Day 2020 Antenna Setup

## ARRL January VHF Contest January 16 – January 18

by KLARA Member Harold Scharmberg N2FMS

Many of us live in rural areas with very little VHF non-repeater activity. This is a great opportunity to make some VHF contacts without going through a repeater.

Most of us have all the equipment needed. You might remember the 2 Meter Simplex Challenge sponsored by KLARA. Many of us discovered the amazing coverage you have with a handheld radio operated on a high hilltop. A mobile radio with a whip antenna will even do better. For 2 meter simplex try 146.49, 146.52, 146.55 and 146.58. You might be able to make contacts into the Rochester or the Corning/Elmira areas. Working from the home QTH with a roof mounted antenna also works if you're at a good elevation.

Some of us have radios with 6 meter coverage. You could try SSB near 50.150 – 50.200. Not having a 6 meter antenna myself I load up my 80 meter ladder line fed dipole though an antenna tuner. It's good enough to get me on-the-air and make some contacts. You could also make a simple dipole antenna in about an hour. It's only about 9'-4" long. Nothing fancy and it will work. Any scrap wire will do but you will need some coax for a feed line.

No guarantees you will have some VHF QSO's. A lot depends on propagation and participation. I don't enter as a contester. I do it for fun and to give the testers a few extra contacts.

From the ARRL website:

**Contest Objective:** For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz.

All legal modes are permitted (while CW and SSB/Phone are most common, MSK144, FT8 and FM-Only are gaining popularity - other popular modes include PSK31, FSK441 and JT65).

**Exchange:** Send 4-character Maidenhead grid-square locator ([www.arrl.org/grid-squares](http://www.arrl.org/grid-squares)). A signal report is optional.

## Just a few notes on the hopeful planning of coming events for KLARA

Due to the continued threat of the Covid-19 pandemic we have not been able to have our regular monthly meetings. That being said we are planning ahead and would like to let you know of our future plans, pending the progress against this terrible disease.

As you can see here in this *KLARION* newsletter,



you and many of our other club members are planning to participate in the "Winter Field Day" event this month beginning on Saturday the 30 and concluding on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Although we won't be setting up at the Civil Defense Training Center in Bath as we did last year, we can still participate on an individual basis as outlined in the "WFD" rules included with this issue or from the website for the event, <https://www.winterfieldday.com>.

Looking further ahead we are looking forward to participating in the ARRL Field Day scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Again this event may be different from previous years due to Covid-19, but it is scheduled to proceed. Several members are planning on camping at the Kanakadea County Park for this event and others may be welcome to come and setup and operate "off the grid" in the park. There is no charge to visit the park during the day, only fees for overnight stays.

Finally, we are beginning to seek permission for our own annual KLARA Hamfest to be held at the Howard Community Center owned by the Friends of Howard in Howard, NY. In recent years we have been holding this event on the third Saturday in August. This year that would be August 21. As of today our use of the facility has not been confirmed but we will let you all know by email as soon as that is confirmed.

I hope you all are safe and healthy and can continue to pursue your hobby in Amateur Radio. The social interaction that it provides is of great emotional health in these times of social distancing.

73 and hope to see you in my log soon,  
Jim Caneen, W2JTC, President

Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association

## Tentative 2021 Hamfest Poster



13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association**  
**HAMFEST**  
Saturday, August 21, 2021 Howard, NY

Just off I-86 at Exit 35

follow signs to the Howard Community Center

**Special instructions for GPS users:**

Some GPS systems will recognize 7481 Hopkins Rd., Howard, NY. Since Howard, NY does not have a post office or ZIP Code, some GPS systems will require 7481 Hopkins Rd., Avoca, NY 14809. Or use coordinates 42.3618,-77.510.



**Talk-In**  
on the KLARA  
Repeater System

145.190 – Bath, NY  
147.045 + Arkport, NY  
147.330 + Cameron, NY  
PL 110.9

**Admission and Breakfast**

\$5.00 admission includes one outdoor flea market space or one indoor table space. Also available is a full breakfast with eggs and pancakes. Never ending coffee!

### Hamfest Schedule

7:00 Vendor Admission  
7:30 Open to the Public  
8:00 Breakfast Begins  
8:30 1st Door Prize Drawing  
9:00 2nd Door Prize Drawing  
9:30 3rd Door Prize Drawing  
10:00 4th Door Prize Drawing  
10:00 VE Testing  
10:30 5th Door Prize Drawing  
11:00 50-50 Drawing and More Door Prizes  
Must be present to win prizes



### Friday Night Camping

Join us for free on-site overnight camping. Self contained camping units only. No electric. No water. Yes, an enjoyable evening with very friendly hams.

**Campers Must RSVP**  
[keukalakeara@gmail.com](mailto:keukalakeara@gmail.com)



### KLARA/ARRL Testing

10:00am - a perfect time to get your Ham Radio License or upgrade to General or Extra

Visit us on Facebook:  
Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association  
Visit us on the web:  
[klara.us](http://klara.us)  
Contact us at:  
[keukalakeara@gmail.com](mailto:keukalakeara@gmail.com)





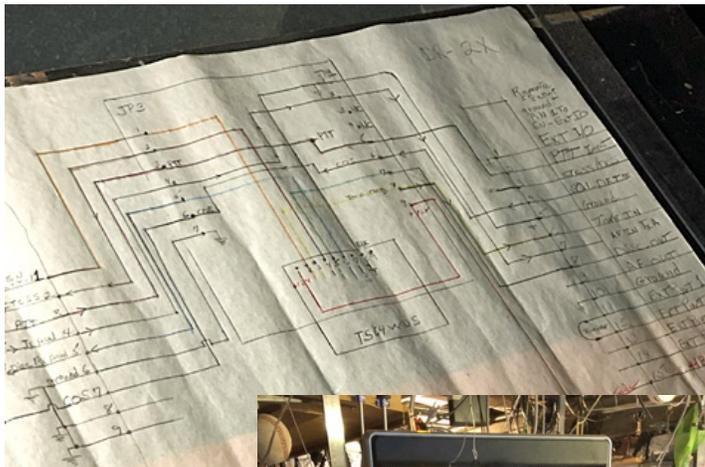
Harold N2FMS at his ham station in 1976. On the left is a home brew transmitter built during his senior year in high school (1966-67). 95% surplus and junk box parts. On top is an Eico 730 modulator for AM. In the center is a Heathkit "Lunch Box" Twoer above a HG-10 VFO. On the right a HQ-160 receiver. Anyone remember working AM on the ham bands?



David AC2BX and XYL from Canandaigua, NY. Dave is a "regular" on the KLARA 80 meter morning net. Nice looking shack.

Talk to Dave and other great hams on the KLARA 80 meter weekday morning net.

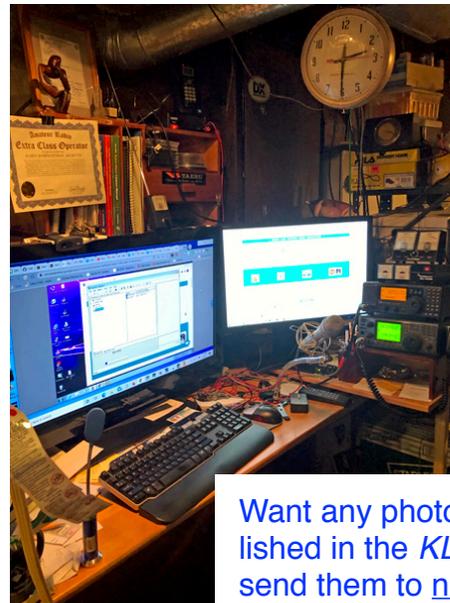
3.896MHz at 8:45 with early check-in at 8:30. Also, check out the KLARA Sunday morning net at 9:00. Same frequency plus or minus a little depending upon activity on the band.



Above: One of the many logic diagrams/flow-charts Gary KC2YTD designed for the 147.330 repeater system.



Right: Gary after a long day of logical thinking and brainstorming!



Gary KC2YTD's basement hamshack and retreat in his basement. He also has a very well equipped service bench.

Want any photos or stories published in the *KLARION*? Please send them to [n2fms@frontier.com](mailto:n2fms@frontier.com)