

THE KLARION

Quarterly Newsletter of the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association

A New Year, a New Editor, a New Look and some New Year's Resolutions

I recently received an email from John Bee, N1GNV, proprietor of Quicksilver Radio Products. Many of you have probably talked with John at the Elmira Hamfest. He has had a booth there for quite some time. Those of us lucky enough to attend the annual Hamvention (Dayton) have also seen him there in a much larger booth. Sure, his email was an advertisement, but it was so much more. He sent his great list of ten New Year's Resolutions for the ham community. He graciously gave me permission to share them with you.

1. If, by chance, you are not yet a licensed Ham Radio Operator, get your license this year. If you have not yet passed your General or Extra test, do it this year. Having trouble studying or passing? I have some tips on my Web Site that I think will be helpful. [Click here to see them](#)
2. Try something. A good friend of mine likes to say that there are 30 different kinds of Ham Radio, and there's something there for everyone. FM repeaters and HF SSB just scratch the surface. You already have a computer. New digital and sound card modes seem to appear weekly. A short while ago, no one had heard of FT-8. It's now, by many accounts, the most popular HF Digital mode. D-Star, DMR, Fusion, and other digital voice modes are growing by leaps and bounds. Have you tried 6 Meters yet? The Magic Band can yield some surprising contacts. How low can you go? There's some interesting action on our newest bands at 630 and 2200 Meters. At (literally) the other end of the spectrum, we have Ham Bands well into the GHz region. Microwaves are useful for more than making popcorn! Or maybe try some SSB or CW on 2 Meters or 70 Centimeters? Every Ham has full privileges on all of the bands above 30 MHz. Antennas for VHF and UHF are small and easy to construct from hardware store parts. It doesn't have to be pretty -- an ugly antenna will radiate just as well. Use your imagination and try something different!
3. Do something. Set an achievable Ham Radio goal for the year -- and then work at it! Earn DXCC or WAS, maybe on a single band? Better your contest score by 10%? Get your CW speed up to 20 WPM? Reorganize and rewire the shack? Order a copy of the ARRL Handbook or Antenna Book, and start increasing your technical knowledge? Convert your paper logs to electronic format and start using Logbook of the World? One of my father's favorite sayings was "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right." Just do it!!

First Quarter 2019 Winter to Spring Edition

Major KLARA Events

January 26-27 NEW FOR 2019

Winter Field Day at Steuben County Training Center

May 18 NEW FOR 2019

KLARA 2 Meter FM Simplex Challenge

June 15

Annual Picnic at Kanakedea Park

June 22-23

ARRL Field Day with setup on June 21

July TBD

Annual Red House Picnic

July 21

Wine Country Classic Boats Regatta and Show

August 12-17

KLARA Booth at Steuben County Fair

August 16-17

KLARA Hamfest

October 6

Wineglass Marathon

October 12

Annual End of the Season Picnic at Kanakedea Park

December TBD

Annual Christmas Dinner

**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:

www.klara.us



4. Build something. Too many years ago, as a newly licensed Ham I got very involved in Packet Radio. With a double throw switch and some mic connectors, I built a box to allow either voice or data use by just flipping the switch. OK, not exactly cutting edge, but it worked and led me to build plenty of other handy gadgets over the years. Simple projects can also be a great way to teach new hams the basics of soldering and kit-building. String up that antenna you've been thinking about forever and see how it plays. Download a free antenna modeling program and learn how to use it to design and build your own BandBlaster. Order a kit and assemble it. Melt some solder and have fun! Once you start you'll be hooked.

5. Learn something. Microcontrollers like the Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and PICaxe are quite inexpensive. With a few LEDs and pushbuttons you can learn simple programming to get started. There are plenty of useful Ham Radio projects that you can find online. And if you have an idea for your own gadget, you'll have a lot of fun learning how to roll your own computer code.

6. Teach something. You know how to do things others don't, but would like to learn. Are you already familiar with programming microcontrollers? How about a club project to teach the basics to other members? Or a demonstration on using Anderson Powerpoles? Or properly installing coax connectors?

7. Become a "HAMbassador". Get just one person (or two, or three) interested in Amateur Radio. Offer to demonstrate Ham Radio at the Senior Citizens' center, Boy or Girl Scout meetings, the Rotary Club, or any similar organization. Groups like that are always looking for an interesting speaker or activity. A simple but impressive and effective demonstration is to bring an HT and ask for a "Roll Call". Notify your club in advance... all they need to do is reply with "This is (name, callsign) in (town)." Remember that we're Hams because we enjoy talking to other people. The more Hams, the more contacts we can make.

8. Get involved! Join your local Radio Club. If you already belong, attend the meetings. Just about every club (not just Radio Clubs) has the same problem -- 10% of the people do 90% of the work. You don't need to volunteer for everything... select an area that interests you, and help with that. Even better, suggest an activity and then take the lead in organizing it.

Something as simple as "I'm going to set up a portable station at the park on Saturday morning, everyone is welcome to come by" can be a great time. If you add "Free coffee and donuts" to your announcement, you'll draw a real crowd ;-)

9. Stay positive, ignore the negative. Don't listen to the cranky old farts who insist that "Ham Radio is dying". Or better yet, [point them here](#) where they'll find that the number of licensees is at an all-time high. Participation in contests remains strong, even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Manufacturers continue to introduce new models that we could barely dream of just a few years ago. Hamfests that are well-organized and well-run are thriving. Ham Radio has been evolving for over a century now, and it continues to do so. The Magic of Radio never goes away.

10. Most of all, resolve to have more fun with Ham Radio in 2019!

Once again, my sincere best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season and New Year.

Thanks and warm 73,
John Bee, N1GNV
Quicksilver Radio Products
www.qsradio.com

Thanks John for allowing us to share your New Year's Resolutions!

A few notes from your new editor

I wish to extend a great big thank you to Joel Fiske, KC2VAW. Joel has served as editor of the *KLARION* for five-plus years. He has done an outstanding job on each and every issue. He set a very high standard of excellence that I can only hope to approach. I've made some changes (perhaps some might consider them extreme) but change could be good. With your help and a little on-the-job experience maybe I can accomplish what I'm trying to do. Don't hesitate to contact me at n2fms@frontier.com with articles, photos and editorial comment. In person works too! 73.

Harold Scharmberg, N2FMS





The KLARA/ARRL VE Team will be offering testing during the annual Winterfest at the American Legion in Big Flats, NY. Doors open at 8:00am on Saturday, February 23, 2019.

Also in February, the VE Team will be traveling to Keshequa Central School in Nunda, NY. KLARA member Christopher Romanchock, KD2PFE, is the faculty advisor for the student amateur radio club.

Remember the 2018 Field Day?



The results are in. The ARRL published the Field Day scores in the December issue of QST. We had another year of improvement and growth.

2016	18 participants	264 QSO's	2460 pts.
2017	20 participants	385 QSO's	2708 pts.
2018	21 participants	412 QSO's	2808 pts.

In addition to making more contacts the “fun factor” and the “food factor” greatly grew. Maybe for Field Day 2019 we could break the 500 QSO barrier. We’re getting better and we can do it!



January Board Meeting



KLARA Board of Directors

Gary Stratton, KC2YTD - President
 Alan Whiteman, K2ADW - Vice President
 Joel Fiske, KC2VAW - Secretary
 Ruth Walters, K2RTH - Treasurer
 Belinda Connor, KD2BPH
 Donna Fiske, KD2CZY
 Christopher Romanchock, KD2PFE



ARRL Western New York Section Manager Laura Mueller, N2JLM, attended our November meeting. She gave presentations on the organization of the ARRL and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Winter Field Day?

A new activity for KLARA. January 26-27. Brrr! Not to worry - after antennas are up we can use our radios in the heated Steuben County Training Center. We will begin at 10:00am installing antennas and then setting up equipment indoors. The goal for this first attempt at WFD is one SSB station and one Digital station operating for 24 hours beginning at 2:00pm. All radios will be powered using generators. I will supply a SSB station and a generator. Need another HF station for digital. Any members interested in signing up for a shift or two? Please contact Harold, N2FMS.



KLARA Annual Christmas Dinner 2018



KLARA Receives Donations



President Gary Stratton presents a check to Treasurer Ruth Walters during our annual Christmas dinner. The donation came from the Wineglass Committee as a thank you for our participation with the marathon.



Barry Gabriel, N2EUS and Elliott Blauvelt, N2OJM representing the Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier presented a donation to KLARA. Our VE Team filled in at the ARAST Elmira Hamfest at the last minute as their ARRL VE Liaison had a serious medical issue.



The KLARA/ARRL VE Team has scheduled license exams for 10:00am at the Civil Defense Training Center in Bath, NY on the following dates:
March 30
May 25
July 27
August 17 (at our Annual Hamfest in Howard, NY)

Show Us Your Shack

It's been a while since a member's shack has been highlighted in the *KLARION* newsletter. Belinda Connor, KD2BPJ graciously agreed to share her's with us.

Belinda passed her Technician exam on February 10, 2012. She attended the one day KLARA Technician review class organized by Joel Fiske, KC2VAW. In 2014 she passed her General exam. Belinda has been a very active KLARA member. Currently on the Board, she also chairs our emergency communications/preparedness committee. She has served as President, hosted Field Day at Camp Connor and is currently assistant EC with ARES in Steuben County.

You can hear her on our KLARA repeater system and she volunteers as a net control operator for our Sunday night nets. She is also very active on HF digital and SSB. A recent addition to her station is an 80M dipole fed with window line.



Belinda is very proud of her first place "Rookie Operator Award" earned during the NY QSO Party. She was assisted and encouraged by Roy Koehler, KB2WXV (SK)

to participate in this event. Roy made and installed Belinda's first HF antenna - a G5RV Junior.



KD2BPJ using FT-8 on 20 meters



Belinda combines her crafting/sewing activities with her ham radio interests in what she calls, "My Radio Room."



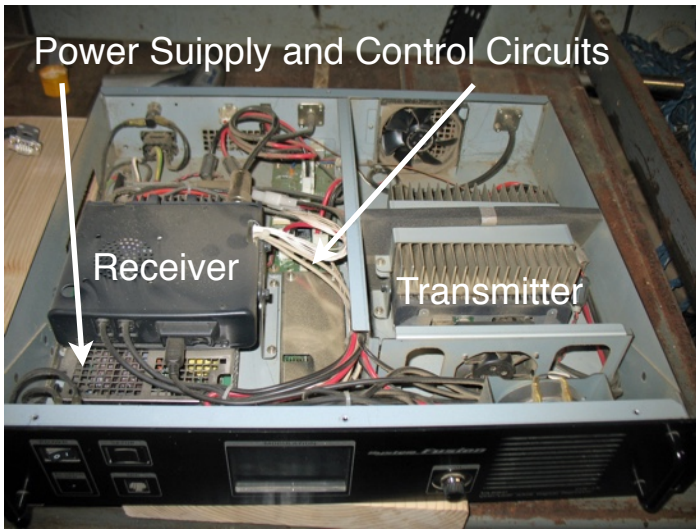
Her OM (ham term for husband) Brian, KD2GEB built the shelf for his XYL (wife).

Arkport 147.045 Repeater Upgrades

The Arkport 147.045 repeater is part of a three repeater linked system owned by KLARA. All three operate under the KLARA radio club callsign N2AAR. The Arkport repeater is hosted by KLARA member Roy Butler, KC2FSW. All of the equipment has been contained in an open rack inside of Roy's workshop and storage area. Recently, Steuben County Emergency Services donated an enclosed rack for our repeater system. Members of the repeater team completed the installation of equipment into the new rack. Also, during this process a firmware update was done. In addition, new interface shielding and cabling was installed.



At the top of the 50' tower is the vertical omnidirectional VHF repeater antenna. The next antenna below that is a UHF beam for the linking system. The beam antenna is aimed toward the hub repeater at Mt. Washington.



Inside the repeater

Repeater Team member Jim Caneen, W2JTC built three shelves for the rack cabinet. One of the shelves has slides for easy access to the computer. He also installed three cooling fans and added a filtered air intake at the base.



Gary, KC2YTD downloading the firmware update



Jim, W2JTC working on the DC power distribution with Gary



Completed Project