



The KLARION

Newsletter of the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association
Spring 2017

Amateur Radio Field Day At Sugar Hill Recreation Area

Field Day is amateur radio's open house.

Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate amateur radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation.

Field day combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in amateur radio.

One of this year's events in the Finger Lakes was hosted by the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association at the Sugar Hill Recreation Area, which is part of Sugar Hill State Forest, located in the Towns of Reading, Tyrone, Dix, and Orange in Schuyler County. The Recreation Area includes a 67' 6" fire observation tower, a fire observer's camp, a recreation building, a wash house with flush toilets, and numerous other small facilities.



We had 18 operators in attendance, with 8 stations set up and operational. The event ran from 2:00 PM, Saturday, June 24th to 2:00 PM, Sunday, June 25th. We made over 300 contacts during

that time. In addition, the event also hosted over 25 guests who came to the site to see what was going on, gather information, and learn new skills.

In addition to the field day event, the area also hosted a 15 member Boy Scout troop from Fairport, NY and about 15 horseback riders who were there for the weekend. In a wonderful example of cooperation by all there were no problems or conflicts at all through the weekend, even though the facility was filled to capacity.

Picture above shows Don and Debbie Whitehead attempting 2 meter FM contacts from the top level of the Sugar Hill tower with handheld radios. Unfortunately, no luck!

All field day stations operated without commercial power, using battery banks, charged by either generators or solar cells. While some members of the Association did operate overnight, “quiet hours” regarding generator operations (10 pm to 6 am) were scrupulously observed. We were “Eight Alpha Western New York”!



Nancy works the Morse code (or CW) key. Nearly half of our 300 contacts were made on CW!



Part of the camper line up for the association. Note the vertical antennas at the rear of the campers.



Home of Gary's digital station. Gary used a laptop computer to modulate / demodulate signals to and from his HF radio.



Association members setting up the welcome center. This table had information on amateur radio, as well as a sign up sheet for fall license courses.

The association also graciously provided space for brochures about Sugar Hill State Forest, which were very well received.



Final look at the camper line up. The antennas are 33' vertical antennas. The association states that they were very successful with contacts in the eastern US and Canada, but for some reason contacts to the western US or Pacific were not numerous.

This event was handled under the terms and conditions of a Temporary Revocable Permit issued by NYSDEC. As noted in the main article, despite a recreation area full to capacity, there were no conflicts or problems. A win for all involved!

This same article was also published in the *Forest Leaves* (a DEC newsletter). Thanks to all who participated and provided photos! The planning begins for next year.

Joel (KC2VAW)

Breakfast for Dinner

At the April meeting, Ben (KD2HEM) and JerryLynn (KE2YB) treated us to a pancake supper with homemade maple syrup!

As usual, many other folks added some tasty dishes (bacon, turkey bacon, breakfast sausage, eggs, no sugar added applesauce). We had a blast!

A few pictures, below:



Ben tending cakes on the griddles!

Yumm, just right!

We called these
“dippy eggs” when
I was a kid ...
cause you dipped
your toast in them!

I am happy to report
that pancakes work
just fine in this
application, as well!



We had a great time! A big “**THANK YOU**” to Ben and JerryLynn and all others who cooked for this event. A fabulous idea and flawless execution ... just right!

KC2VAW (Joel) with a big thank you to John and Sue Babitt for the photos

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

I know that the “old hands” have seen this many, many times, but the more newly licensed amateurs may have never seen it. It can stand repetition.

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS

CONSIDERATE

Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL

Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE

With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY

With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED

Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC

With their station and skill always ready for service to country and community

The DX Corner

In amateur radio usage the term “DX” is an abbreviation for “distant station” or, more properly, “signal from a distant station”. Most amateurs do not start their amateur radio activity as a “DXer”. We start by making local and regional contacts with friends and club members. Even experienced amateurs sometimes discover DX after years of local and regional contacts.

The spark which ignites the interest in DX can take many forms. Sometimes it is a visit to a Dixer's station, or hearing a presentation on DX. Most often it is an unexpected contact over a long distance. This is, very definitely, radio magic!

Many amateurs pursue DX for their own enjoyment. Others are very much into the awards portion of DX and collect wallpaper for their stations.

Over the next several newsletters, I thought it might be interesting to spend some time, and ink, in discussing the art, science, and awards of DX.

Let's start with one of the more common awards.

WAC

This award is offered by the International Amateur Radio Union for contacts (or having “worked”) all six continents. The recognized continents are:

North America
South America
Oceania
Asia
Europe
Africa

To apply for WAC, US amateurs must have a current membership in ARRL. Certificates are offered in:

Basic
CW
Phone
Image
Digital
Satellite

Endorsements to the original certificates are offered in:

QRP (all six continents using 5 watts or less)
160 meters (all six continents on the 160 meter band)
80 Meter (all six continents on the 80 meter band)
6 meter (all six continents on the 6 meter band)
2 meter (all six continents on the 2 meter band)
higher bands (all six continents on bands above 2 meters)

A 5 band WAC certificate is also offered, for working all six continents, on the following bands:

10 Meters
15 meters
20 meters
40 meters
80 meters

For any certificate or endorsement, the contacts must take place from the same country. Current rules can be found at www.iau.org/wac/

Next time; Worked All States!

Joel (KC2VAW)

The DX Bulletin

If you are looking for DX stations to work, don't forget about the Sunday evening DX Bulletin, following the regular Sunday night net.

The bulletin is put together by ARRL and read over the air by KC2VAW (Joel) with major assistance from KD2CZY (Donna, who runs the stopwatch).

Be sure to tune in this Sunday evening on 146.550 simplex and give a listen. You might like it! If nothing else, it'll make you curious about parts of the world you are unfamiliar with. Hmm ... just where is Vanuatu? (South Pacific archipelago ... and you can look up the rest! I suggest the CIA World Factbook.)

Father's Day Campout and Car Show at Kanacadea



As you can tell KLARA is more than amateur radio and public service! It's an ever expanding group of friends who enjoy good times, good food, and fellowship.

At Kanacadea we had fun playing "Yardzee" an enlarged game of Yahtzee, with super big dice. The dish to pass picnic was so large it was a struggle to try a bit of everything!

Games, conversation, campfire, food ... relaxing in the sun or shade ... a good time was had by all!

KD2CZY (Donna) with a major thank you to KB2WEY (Debbie) for the picture

For Next Time

- ➔ The Red House Picnic
- ➔ The Geneseo Airshow
- ➔ The Wine Country Classic Boat Show Poker Run
- ➔ The KLARA Hamfest
- ➔ The Wineglass Marathon
- ➔ Possibly a tech article or two

And a whole lot more! Stay tuned!