

THE KLARION

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association



by KLARA Member Belinda Connor, KD2BPJ

JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR 2019 "JOTA" was held at the Howard Community Center on October 18 and 19 for the Boy Scouts. Cub Scouts joined in on the 20th for their soapbox derby races also.

It was a fun weekend. Gary KC2YTD had help from Alan K2ADW setting up antennas ahead of time. Belinda KD2BPJ and Brian KD2GEB built a "Ham Shack"

outside using a 10x10 canopy and a roll of foil wrap around the bottom to hold in the heat. Clear shower curtains were hung from the top. Thank goodness for duct tape and the wind stopping! The 31 foot vertical antenna was set up and the outer material on it broke. Through trial and error we found that metal tent stakes can not be used to support the broken part of the antenna but sticks of wood can be. A Buddy Heater completed the shack and everyone stayed warm. Some good contacts were made on 20 and 40 meters and the Scouts enjoyed talking and listening.



Gary's ham shack, KC2YTD was his camper. He learned how many Scouts can fit inside and they got to learn how you can use your computer with amateur radio. He also learned how cold it can get inside a camper at night with no heat!

Inside the building, Jim Caneen W2JTC had a tablet set up with the JOTA frequency tuned in via echo link and we could listen to Scouts from several countries. The Scouts were amazed that everyone speaks English. They were also amazed at the different countries involved.

Fourth Quarter
2019
Fall to Winter Edition

Major KLARA Events

January 25-26

Winter Field Day

May 9

KLARA 2 Meter Simplex Challenge

June 26, 27 & 28

ARRL Field Day

July 10, 11 & 12

Geneseo Air Show and special event station

July 19

Wine Country Classic Boat Regatta

July TBD

Annual Red House Picnic

August 14, 15 & 16

KLARA Hamfest

August TBD

KLARA Booth at Steuben County Fair

September 5

KLARA All Day Tech Question Review and VE Testing

October 4

Wineglass Marathon

October TBD

End of the Season Picnic

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



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Donna KC2CZY and Joel KC2VAW had a nice 2 meter station set up in the backroom overlooking the ball field. Scouts were very busy talking to each other on this and to several of our members such as Jerrilyn KE2YB, Debbi KB2WEY, Glenn W3LSW, Rick W2RMT, and John K2GQG. Ruth K2RTH joined in while at the Dulles Airport in Washington DC. They also spoke to Poland and were thoroughly amazed!

Alan K2ADW using the KLARA Memorial HF Station was inside running 20 and 40 meters making contacts and amazing the Scouts with some DX contacts.



There were activities outside also. Ron K2TJW and Randy N1PTB of the STARRS radio group showed how to reach out and listen to the International Space Station. Unfortunately, a good contact wasn't in the stars at that moment but they did get to hear what it sounds like and were thoroughly amazed that there were Amateur Radio Operators onboard.



A fox hunt was run by Adam Mahnke KC2ANT. This showed everyone how people can locate where radio transmissions originate by using directional findings.



Mike Hojnowski KD2EAT, a member of the Amateur Radio Club at Cornell W2CMX, did a high altitude Balloon Launch into the upper atmosphere. They were able to track its location. The balloon traveled 70 miles in just over 2 hours reaching altitudes over 100,000 feet. Adam Mahnke KC2ANT had APRS on the balloon. They eventually retrieved the balloon.



Saturday night the Scouts cooked two dishes. One had to include Apples and Pumpkin. The other had to include Turkey and Carrots. Let's say they were interesting. Some were not horrible but not to be repeated. Others were very good and even asked for the recipe. Debbie KB2WEY, Belinda KD2BPJ, Brian KD2GEB, Gary KC2YTD, Brad KD2OFF and another Scout Leader Mike had the honor of sampling these dishes and grading them on a scale of 1-5. Later that evening awards were presented to them at their campfire. I was close enough to the campfire to listen in. Being tired I didn't join them but opened the window and listened. They were saying the alphabet phonetically! I cheered them on as they really did great!

It was a very busy weekend full of laughter and education for everyone. Some of the Scouts really got into it and one told his parents he wants Santa to bring him a radio for Christmas. One Scout did try the Tech exam. He did very well and almost passed it. Amazing considering he really didn't have much time to prep for it. To earn their merit badge in Amateur Radio they had to spend 10 minutes talking on the air plus answer questions so they proved their knowledge of the basics. Ten minutes on the air isn't very long however its amazing how these noisy talkative kids suddenly have nothing to say once handed the microphone! I believe 4 scouts completed their badges and 10 partially accomplished this. The interest is definitely there, and I believe our future is safe and will continue to grow as long as we continue to work with our youth.

The Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association would like to participate with other youth groups in the future.

More 2019 Jamboree-On-The-Air

by KLARA Member Brad Myers, KD2OFF

On October 18 and 19, the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association (KLARA) held its first ever Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) event in partnership with the Five Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America. We had additional support from the Cornell University ARC, as well as Ron Boyle K2TJW, Randy Gudeahan N1PTB, and Adam Mahnke KC2ANT.



Scouts contacted at least 28 stations outside the US and used HF SSB, VHF and D-STAR. When propagation got tough,

local hams stepped up to provide those important 10-minute QSO's on a local repeater. Students from Cornell University launched a High Altitude Balloon (HAB) which provided excellent photos of the Finger Lakes and the "black sky" at 107,000 feet. Satellite radio was demonstrated and an extremely weak signal was pulled in from the International Space Station. Cub Scouts participated in a radio transmitter fox hunt.



K2BSA, the national radio organization within the National Council of the BSA reported that 9,106 scouts participated at 201 stations. Our location in Howard reported 38 scouts; 27 Scouts BSA (previously known as "Boy Scouts") and 11 Cub Scouts. Four Radio Merit Badges were earned over the weekend and another nine badges were completed shortly after the weekend.

For the first time in Five Rivers Council history, two Radio Merit Badges were awarded to young ladies.

The Scouts and leaders were excited by the event and are looking forward to next year's JOTA, to be held October 16 – 18, 2020.

Links

Final JOTA Report from the BSA National Council
<https://k2bsa.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Jamboree-On-the-Air-Report-2019-Final.pdf>

Images of the Finger Lakes (including Keuka Lake) from the Cornell HAB:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYccKp2bnRo&feature=youtu.be>

The Black Sky and Balloon Burst from the Cornell HAB

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLXPgLO1phk>

The Cornell ARC

<https://w2cxm.org/>

KLARA Ham of the Year

by KLARA President Gary Stratton, KC2YTD



I choose David Beeman as this years recipient of the President's Award for outstanding service to the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association. As a member of the Repeater Team he always goes above and beyond in learning about and servicing

our equipment. He is always willing to run up to the Mt. Washington repeater site to help get us back on the air. David never complained once and put up with both the hot and cold weather that can be there at the site. Dave is also more than happy to help out at the other two repeater sites. The Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association and I greatly appreciate his eagerness to help out where he can on the Repeater Team and other activities.



Stephanie's Restaurant • Annual KLARA Christmas Dinner • December 7, 2019



Another wonderful KLARA Christmas gathering. Belinda KD2BPJ made little stockings filled with goodies for everyone. She also made two door prizes won by Nancy KS2YL and Harold N2FMS. Lucky Belinda then won the 50-50 raffle! Joel KC2VAW and Donna KD2CZY made very well designed calendars as gifts for all. No excuse now for missing a KLARA event! KLARA member Brad KD2OFF on behalf of the local Scout Council presented a Certificate of Appreciation for our participation in the 2019 JOTA.



Patterson Loop Antenna

by KLARA Member Glenn Seiler, W3LSW

The Patterson Loop Antenna was developed by the United States Army in the mid 1960's. A magnetic loop antenna is a very subtle variation of the



Patterson. The length of the loop must be more than $1/4$ wavelength of the desired frequency or less than $1/8$. If you use a $1/4$ wavelength it will self resonate and cause many problems. The loop uses the magnetic portion of a radio wave. The loop is a very low noise antenna and has very deep nulls to null out interfering

stations. My antenna only works with QRP power. Even with QRP power you must use caution.

Voltage at the antenna terminals can approach 4000V. The loop having very low resistance would develop high current and produce very strong magnetic radiation. I use a MFJ-9232 HF Mini Loop Antenna

Tuner at the base of the antenna loop. I built the mast and support using PVC pipe. For the loop itself I used $1/2$ inch coax with the shield and center



conductors soldered together at each end and soldered to ring terminals. It's a great antenna for hams with limited space or for portable operation. Even though it's close to the ground it has a low takeoff angle not like a dipole at the same height. It's also very easy to rotate, no rotor needed!

From the Editor...

Please don't hesitate to contact me at n2fms@frontier.com with articles, photos and editorial comments. Thanks to Belinda, Brad, Gary, and Glenn for your articles.



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:

January 18

March 21

May 2

July 18

August 15 (at our Annual Hamfest in Howard, NY)

September 26 (at the ARAST Elmira Hamfest)

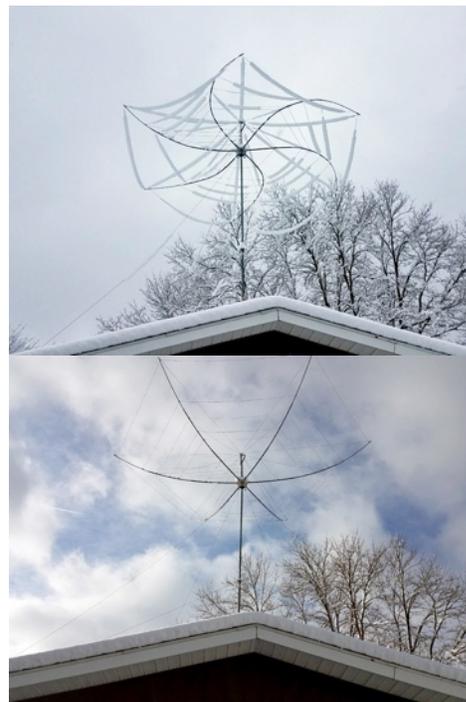
Winter Field Day 2020

by KLARA member Harold Scharmberg, N2FMS

Last year KLARA's first attempt at Winter Field Day was very successful. Two transmitters were in use. N2AAR lead the way in digital QSO's and second place in phone within the ARRL WNY section.

Please consider joining us for this years WFD. Don't worry about the cold as we'll have three stations setup inside the Civil Defense Training Center. One station will be for VHF/UHF, another for digital modes and the third for phone and some CW. Logging will be done using W3FJP software. WFD runs for 24 hours starting at 2:00pm EST on Saturday, January 25.

Stop in for a brief social visit or better yet stay a while and get some on-the-air time. Special note to KS2YL and W3LSW - your CW skills are needed.



After 1.5 inches of ice and snow Jim W2JTC found his hex beam became a pinwheel antenna. Wasn't sure if it would ever work again. After it warmed up and the ice melted, the pinwheel became a hex beam again. You'll have to ask Jim if it ever worked as a pinwheel!

Show Us Your Shack

For this issue of the *KLARION* we are visiting the ham shack of Glenn, W3LSW and Christine, N3XTJ Seiler. Glenn was first licensed in 1962 as WN2LSW. As a Novice class operator he was limited to CW only on the HF bands. Power input to the final tube in the transmitter was limited to 75 watts. Most



hams at the time would be very lucky to get 40-50 watts output. He also had phone privileges on 2 meter AM.

Glenn now holds the Amateur Extra Class license. His primary interest is DX using CW running his equipment barefoot (no amplifier) at no more than 100 watts. He also is active using RTTY and some slow scan TV on 6 meters. While visiting in Glenn's shack I was surprised to hear a 6 meter repeater from Syracuse. The ground wave 6 meter signal was perfect as his QTH is at the top of a big hill. Glenn obtained DXCC (OSO's to at least 100 different countries) four times. He has lived in different states but kept his 3 area callsign. If you move your QTH more than 50 miles you start your DXCC all over.

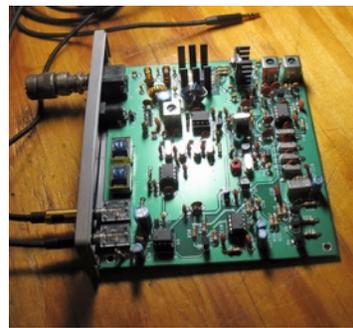
Christine has been licensed for 30 years. She has a Technician class license and 6 meters has been her favorite band. She has the 6 meter WAS (worked all states) award. Christine also has many DX contacts. As a Technician she has also been active on 10 meters.

Their main equipment includes a Yaesu 857 and Icoms 745, 746, and 718. The 718 is used for the occasional SSB QSO. They also have four 6 meter radios, a variety of VHF/UHF equipment and all the required antenna tuners, SWR meters, and power supplies. Glenn also has a well equipped test/repair bench for home brew and repair work.



Living on 12 acres they have plenty of room for antennas. For the HF bands there is a full size 160 meter balanced dipole system fed with twin-lead operating on all bands. Also there is a ground mounted trap vertical and an elevated 20 meter vertical with eight radials. The elevated vertical is his primary DX antenna. You will also find a 6 meter ground plane and a VHF/UHF vertical. All antennas are homemade except the VHF/UHF vertical.

Glenn is especially proud of his Amateur Extra Class License. It allows him to use the lower portions of the bands for great CW DX.



One of many kits constructed by Glenn. This one is a CW QRP transceiver. Another kit used daily is his CW memory keyer. Press a button and it automatically sends your CQ call.



Some of the many certificates on display. Running on the computer monitor is the azmap program. If you zoom in you will see southern Australia in daylight near the gray line. Perfect for 20 meter DX.