



The KLARION

Newsletter of the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association
Summer 2016

NY QSO Party – Get Ready for October 15!

It's all about NY on October 15 as radio amateurs from around the world get on the air to work all 62 NY counties, Chautauqua to Clinton, Niagara to Suffolk. A dozen or more mobile operators will take to the mean streets of NYC or the bucolic surrounds of the Southern Tier and North Country. Brave souls will sneak out to the woodlands to activate a rare county, Field Day style, as temps may dip into the 30's. And good, solid Elmers will open up their shacks to new hams and build excitement as the spotlight is on US!

The NYQP game is easy to play as all operating modes and bands are eligible. The QSO exchange is simple for NY operators: signal report and county. For those eager out-of-state ops wanting to work all 62 counties, they'll send a signal report and their state, province or DX.

There's a category for all operating styles from single-operator-QRP to multi-operator-high-power-mobile! And the 48 plaques, which are awarded to category winners, are simply beautiful and I think they're the best in the business. Serious "furniture" for the discerning ham's shack! The state-wide NYQP Plaque Sponsorship Team and the Rochester DX Association really step up to the plate each year to make all the effort worthwhile.

Please start thinking about your NYQP operations. Mobile or Fixed, SSB, CW or digital, the important thing is to get on the air with friends and make some "noise" and help promote amateur radio spirit in NY. Please consider using this event to introduce new hams into the mix. Elmering has always been an important aspect of our hobby and NYQP is a perfect vehicle from which to teach operating concepts and station engineering. Make a new antenna, try a new digital mode, operate a vintage rig, have fun!

There is a page at the NYQP website (www.nyqp.org) that we've created to announce activity across the state. It's called "2016 Planned Activations" and it's easy to list your plans online to alert others of your activity in that rare or not-so-rare QTH. It helps all of us make informed choices on how to operate to maximize fun. The event's rules are also listed at the site.

In 2015, we had a record 314 logs, 156 from NY, 135 stateside, 14 from Canada, and 9 from DX. 5,670(!) unique call signs participated in the event, with 43,065(!) reported QSOs. Contacts were made in all 62 counties from 49 (missed AK) states, 9 (AB, BC, MB, NB, NT, ON, PEI, QC, SK) provinces, and dozens of DX countries. There were 57 amateur radio clubs (25 New York and 32 out of state) involved in the event. Let's set some new records in 2016!

Need any assistance or have any questions? Wondering which are the rare counties? Have a question about logging software? The NYQP Team is at the ready...send me a note any time at NW2K@arrl.net or check out the great NYQP website (www.nyqp.org) for all the details. We'll help you get on the air on October 15!

NW2K (Dean Faklis)

Should U.S. ham tests be given abroad?

A couple of weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a reader who wanted my opinion about a thread on the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list. The e-mail that started the discussion was a message from an American living in Italy who wanted to take the Technician Class exam. In her e-mail, she told of her troubles finding a test session, and then when she did find one, what she perceived as “irregularities” in the testing process. Reading the thread was a little disconcerting, and I blogged about this issue (<http://www.kb6nu.com/u-s->).

I understand why foreign national go to the trouble of taking the U.S. license exam. Some of them even buy my study guides. About a year ago, for example, I swapped some e-mail with a guy from Malaysia about why he purchased my study guide and why he wanted a U.S. license. He said that it was because a neighboring country offered reciprocal operating privileges to U.S. licensees, but not Malaysian licensees! He mentioned that he tested for the license in Thailand.

Basically, my Malaysian friend was using the U.S. licensing process to circumvent the Malaysian licensing process. Australians seem to do this, too. Apparently, according to one of the VKs who commented on the thread, getting a U.S. Tech license is easier than testing for an Australian Foundation license. So, some Australians get a U.S. Tech license first, then get the Australian government to issue them a VK Foundation license based on the reciprocal operating agreement between the U.S. and Australia.

Another reason that some outside the U.S. obtain U.S. amateur radio licenses is the challenge. That's the reason Martin Butler, M0MRB/W9ICQ, of ICQPodcast fame, gave when I spoke to him about this recently.

Are these reasons "good enough" to continue this program of licensing non-U.S. citizens? My first reaction was that no, it's not good enough, and I questioned whether or not the ARRL VEC should sanction non-U.S. VEs and whether or not the FCC should even allow testing outside of the United States.

I didn't see the need for conducting these test sessions or the desirability (to the U.S.) of licensing foreign nationals. I reasoned that not only was there a greater possibility of test fraud, this program could lead to foreign authorities claiming that the U.S. was meddling in their affairs.

This post garnered a lot of comments. Several of them took me to task for voicing this opinion and were in favor keeping the current licensing program in place. There were a variety of reasons.

One of the reasons in favor of using the U.S. licensing process is that in many countries, amateur radio license exam sessions are not very frequent. Another is that they often are quite expensive. This creates

an artificial barrier to getting an amateur radio license. Using the U.S. licensing system breaks through this barrier and allows many more to enjoy amateur radio.

Of course, for everything to be on the up and up, the foreign authorities would have to condone the use of U.S. license tests. Apparently, this is the case in Thailand and Australia. I don't know about Italy, but I'm guessing that the authorities there don't really care about Italians obtaining U.S. licenses.

Perhaps the best comment came from Thida, HS1ASC/KH6ASC. He noted that the tests in Thailand were administered very strictly, and says, "The U.S. may lose some callsigns, but what the U.S. and U.S. hams get from us is goodwill, very positive feeling. Everyone who gets U.S. license is so proud, and others look at them respectfully." Since Part 97.1(e) lists as one of the purposes of amateur radio, "Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill," I'm now all in favor of offering U.S. ham tests abroad.

KB6NU (Dan Romanchick)

TAPS



Below you will find the words to “Taps”, a military bugle call played at dusk, during flag ceremonies, and at military funerals.

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Fading light, dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night.

Thanks and praise, for our days,
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, neath the sky;
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

Sun has set, shadows come,
Time has fled, troops must go to their beds
Always true to the promise that they made.

While the light fades from sight,
And the stars gleaming rays softly send,
To thy hands we our souls, Lord, commend.

The music and words were arranged by Daniel Butterfield, a Union Brigadier General (3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Corps, Army of the Potomac). It is a variation on the tune known as the “Scott Tattoo”, first used in the US in 1835.

Next time this piece of music is used, you may wish to ponder the lyrics, as they give new meaning to the notes.

KC2SBU (Dick Walters)

CONVERTING ZULU TIME TO LOCAL TIME

To make the conversion to your local time, see the chart below. Find your local time in the first column. If you are on Eastern Daylight Saving Time (EDT), you would use the second column to find your Zulu Time/UTC. For instance, if it's 11 a.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time in Washington, D.C., it's 1500 hours in Zulu time/UTC.

LOCAL	EDT	EST	CDT	CST	MDT	MST	PDT	PST
Midnight	0400	0500	0500	0600	0600	0700	0700	0800
1 a.m.	0500	0600	0600	0700	0700	0800	0800	0900
2 a.m.	0600	0700	0700	0800	0800	0900	0900	1000
3 a.m.	0700	0800	0800	0900	0900	1000	1000	1100
4 a.m.	0800	0900	0900	1000	1000	1100	1100	1200
5 a.m.	0900	1000	1000	1100	1100	1200	1200	1300
6 a.m.	1000	1100	1100	1200	1200	1300	1300	1400
7 a.m.	1100	1200	1200	1300	1300	1400	1400	1500
8 a.m.	1200	1300	1300	1400	1400	1500	1500	1600
9 a.m.	1300	1400	1400	1500	1500	1600	1600	1700
10 a.m.	1400	1500	1500	1600	1600	1700	1700	1800
11 a.m.	1500	1600	1600	1700	1700	1800	1800	1900
NOON	1600	1700	1700	1800	1800	1900	1900	2000
1 p.m.	1700	1800	1800	1900	1900	2000	2000	2100
2 p.m.	1800	1900	1900	2000	2000	2100	2100	2200
3 p.m.	1900	2000	2000	2100	2100	2200	2200	2300
4 p.m.	2000	2100	2100	2200	2200	2300	2300	2400
5 p.m.	2100	2200	2200	2300	2300	2400	2400	0100
6 p.m.	2200	2300	2300	2400	2400	0100	0100	0200
7 p.m.	2300	2400	2400	0100	0100	0200	0200	0300
8 p.m.	2400	0100	0100	0200	0200	0300	0300	0400
9 p.m.	0100	0200	0200	0300	0300	0400	0400	0500
10 p.m.	0200	0300	0300	0400	0400	0500	0500	0600
11 p.m.	0300	0400	0400	0500	0500	0600	0600	0700
LOCAL	EDT	EST	CDT	CST	MDT	MST	PDT	PST

LEGEND:

EDT = Eastern Daylight Saving Time
 EST = Eastern Standard Time
 CDT = Central Daylight Saving Time
 CST = Central Standard Time
 MDT = Mountain Daylight Saving Time
 MST = Mountain Standard Time
 PDT = Pacific Daylight Saving Time
 PST = Pacific Standard Time

Steuben County Fair



Glenn and Chris Seiler at the KLARA booth

KLARA, once again, had a booth at the Steuben County Fair, in association with the Citizen Corps, Office for the Aging, and the American Red Cross.

Our purpose in having this booth is to engage people about Amateur Radio ... to remind them that we are here ... and also remind them that “when all else fails” Amateur Radio still functions.

Thank you to all who served in watching after the booth this year. You did **great** work!

We do have some ideas to build on this year's success for next year:

- Re-activation of an amateur radio station at the Fair (hopefully an “all bands, all modes” station so we can demonstrate CW, digital modes, and phone on HF, VHF, and UHF).
- An easel and chart paper to display our contacts.
- A renewed and enlarged cache of information from ARRL.

KC2VAW (Joel Fiske) with thanks to WB2SQX (John Babbitt) for photographs

Amateur Radio Humor

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent! Since they were a perfect match, soon they generated harmonics. Wrapped the harmonics in dipoles. But later the harmonics turned out to be parasitic elements!

Q Signs Which Never Made it to the ARRL List

For the CW operators - **QLF** – Try sending with your left foot

For all of us – **QOK** – Your last transmission was Okie Dokie

For all of us – **QZZ** – I fell asleep at the mike (and yes, this has happened!)

Alternate meaning – **QZZ** – Is that a 60 Mhz hum or are you snoring?

For all of us – **QEW** – copy difficult due to earwax (a particular problem with ear buds rather than headsets!)

For all of us – **QBO** – Can you spare some soap? (a particular problem on day 3 of Field Day).

For all of us – **QBS** – It's getting deep in here!

Albert Einstein on Radio

"I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat."

Great Amateur Lies

"You are 599 ... your call sign again please?"

"Your QSL is in the mail!"

"I'll never build another kit project"

"I am just running a few watts ... oops, there goes the circuit breaker!"

Real Call Signs

N0NOT - “No Not” issued to Ron Weston, of Des Moines, IA

N1DIT – issued to Mike Baldino of Bradenton, FL.

N0TAX – issued to Mike Stapp of Tempe, AZ

W1COP – issued to Dave Melochick of Hamden, ME (retired state police supervisory sargent)

N0FUN – issued to Greg Swerden of Seattle, WA

K1SS – Issued to Jack Medina of Kew Gardens, NY (absolutely unrelated to N0FUN!)

N0ALL – issued to Forrest Colston of Walters, OK (and he is SK as of 9/24/2014)

N0WIN – issued to Martin Anderson of Littleton, CO (he really should be in Las Vegas!)

KC2SBU (Dick Walters) and KC2VAW (Joel Fiske)

Wine Country Classic Boat Regatta

The Wine Country Classic Boat Regatta is a regatta held yearly on Keuka Lake for classic boats (those built in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's). The regatta headquarters is in Depot Park in Hammondsport, NY

KLARA provided emergency and priority traffic coverage for this event, as well as relaying regular traffic from the course to the race organizers and the PA announcers.

We had operators stationed on the four turn boats, the start / finish line, regatta central, and at a net control location within the park.

As usual, we had a great time! Hope to see you there next year!



The "blue crew"!



Warm Up and waiting for the start!



Flag is down, and there they go!

Old Home Days in Wallace, NY

KLARA manned an Amateur Radio booth at the Old Home Days celebration in Wallace, NY. Donna, Belinda, and I had a canopy and station set up next to the fire house in Wallace.

We provided amateur radio information to people interested in the hobby and gave people information about the one day ham cram (no takers unfortunately).

We also ran a GOTA (get on the air station) station. Many people were able to talk on the radio with our members; some little people for the first time!

It was beastly hot that day, and we had a hard time getting enough to drink. But, I think overall, a good time was had by all involved!

Many thanks to Ruth (KD2FRT), Glenn (W3LSW), Ben (KD2HEM), and many others who responded to the GOTA station. Your assistance was greatly appreciated!



KLARA Hamfest

The KLARA Hamfest was held on August 20th at the Howard Community Center, located at 7481 Hopkins Road in Howard, NY.

We put on the famous KLARA Hamfest full breakfast, had a lot of flea market vendors, and a very successful VE testing session.

The call in station ran from 7:30 AM to about 11:00 AM. Unfortunately we had only one or two folks who wanted to talk with us. Oh well ... at least we were faithful to our advertisement!

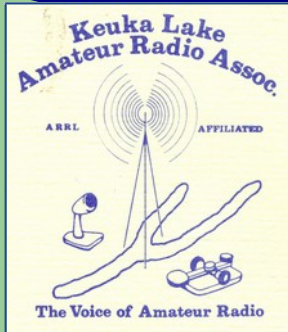
We did make money on this event! It is our primary fund raiser, other than member dues, for the year.

I know I have some pictures from this event, but unfortunately, I can't put my hands on them! Please forgive me.

A flyer for the **2017 Hamfest** is included for your use.

10th Annual

K.L.A.R.A. Hamfest



Contact Info:

Email: KeukaLakeARA@gmail.com
Website: www.klara.us

August 19, 2017 - Howard, NY

Admission: \$5.00

One free flea market or inside table space per ticket.
(i.e. - 3 tickets = 3 flea market or table spaces. Limit 5.)
All spaces first come, first served. Bring your own tables.

Talk-In Frequency: 145.190 (-) PL 110.9

Great food - Hearty breakfast with never-ending coffee!

VE Testing** - Check our website for details

KLARA club meetings 2nd Wednesday 7 p.m. Civil Defense Training Center, Rte 54,

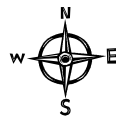
Bath. Weekly net Sunday 8:30 a.m. 145.190, 147.045, 147.330 (PL 110.9)

Send us your email address and we'll keep you informed of the latest Hamfest news and updates.

"Like" us on Facebook: Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association (KLARA)

Schedule of Events

7:00 Vendor Admission
8:00 Open to the Public*
8:00 Breakfast
10:00 VE Testing**
12:00 Door Prize Drawing



About 40 miles west of Corning, 70 miles south of Rochester, between Hornell & Bath. Just off I-86/17 at Exit 35 (easy-on, easy-off). Follow signs to the Howard Community Building, **7481 Hopkins Rd** (GPS - Hornell NY), about ½ mile from the exit.

Near to hotels/motels, supermarkets, and restaurants in Bath and Hornell, NY.

*Vendor set-up and on-site overnight camping (no extra charge, no hookups) available Friday evening - must RSVP!
(SEE CAMPING INFO ON PAGE TWO)

Friendliest
Little Hamfest
in the
Southern Tier!

Again This Year:



Free Weekend Dry-Camping (Friday noon – Sunday noon)



Meet & Greet Potluck dish-to-pass Friday 6 p.m.

Must RSVP to KeukaLakeARA@gmail.com:

Size of rig (self-contained units only)

Whether you are bringing items to
sell/tailgating

Your anticipated arrival and departure
date/time

Number of folks camping with you

No extra charge for camping! All this is included for
the price of each person's ticket!

KLARA One Day Ham Cram

As in years past, KLARA again sponsored a one day “ham cram” at the Civil Defense and Fire Training center in Bath, NY. The event took place on September 17th.

The event consists of exposing the students to **every** question they might see on the Technician level exam, along with the correct answer. The exam is given in very close proximity to the review session.

We tell all of the students, in advance, how this session will be structured. We give them free study material, also in advance. We plead with them to do pre-class preparation, on their own. We also give them web-links to on-line exams and suggest that they test, test, and test, prior to the review session.

This procedure usually gives us an 85 – 90% pass rate, and it did the trick again this year. We added 7 new Technician class licensees, with several attempting the General exam (no joy here, unfortunately).



In a new feature this year, we will sponsor a new workshop on October 15th for all who have passed their technician class exam in the past 12 months. It is titled **“What can you do with your technician license?”**.

As noted above, it will be at the Steuben County Civil Defense and Fire Training Center from 8:00 AM til about noon, although we could go a bit longer depending on interest. We hope you will join us!

KC2VAW (Joel Fiske)

2016 Elections

At the September meeting, the club held our second nomination session and elections to the board of trustees for 2016.

Elected to the board were:

JerriLynn Baker
Nancy Bob
David Beeman
Harold Scharmberg
Ben Woodruff
Ruth Walters
Dick Walters

Following the elections to the board, a brief organizational meeting was held, by the board, and the following officers were elected:

Harold Scharmberg – President
Ben Woodruff – Vice President
Ruth Walters – Treasurer
JerriLynn Baker – Secretary

For Next Time

For sure:

1. Report from the **Wineglass Marathon**
2. Report from the **Say Goodbye to Summer** picnic
3. Report from the **What Can You Do With Your Technician License** workshop
4. Report from the **Christmas Party**

Maybe:

1. maximum permissible exposure – The FCC and Your Station
2. inexpensive Yagi antennas – coat hangers and foam board

A Challenge:

1. write an article – I'll print it!

See You Next Time!