



# The Spirit of '76 and '88



**Monthly Newsletter of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association**  
... Dedicated to Amateur Radio and to Public Service ...

Editor: Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL  
Associate Editor: Bryan Torok, N8OOF

Publisher: Jeannie St. Marie, KC8MNV

## January 2004 Edition

### About LEARA

LEARA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to Amateur Radio and to Public Service. Club information packets and applications for membership are available from Marv Grossman, W8AZO, 440-248-0031, or may be downloaded from our web site at [www.leara.org](http://www.leara.org). Annual membership is \$18.00. LEARA's address is: LEARA, PO Box 22823, Beachwood, OH 44122-0823.

Membership Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except December at Dimitri's Restaurant, 1830 Snow Rd., Parma, OH (in the Mid-Town Shopping Center, just west of Broadview Road). Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. The regular meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating, but reservations are required if you do wish to eat. For reservations, please call Marv Grossman, W8AZO at 440-248-0031 or submit your reservations on-line at [www.leara.org](http://www.leara.org).

Trustees' Meetings are held on the second Saturday of odd numbered months at 9:00 AM at the Parma-Snow Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2121 Snow Rd., Parma, OH (opposite the Mid-Town Shopping Center). Meetings are open to all current members of LEARA.



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## January 2004

### Meeting Program

### Gilmour Students Speak to the International Space Station Tuesday, January 27th

*Presented by Ken Kane, KG8DN*

Some of the team members, including ham operators and the student members of the Gilmour Amateur Radio Club, who contacted the International Space Station from Gilmour Academy, will be featured guests at LEARA's general meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> in a review of the process and the excitement of making contact with the ISS as a satellite passing overhead.

As reported by *The News Herald*\* (1/03/04), 'the students contacted the International Space Station at 9:02 a.m. from a ground site at Gilmour, a private Catholic school for all grade levels. At the time, the space station was flying over Northeast Ohio about 17,500 mph.' As you can imagine, attempting to contact a moving object over huge distances

*(Continued on page 7)*



### SKYWARN Affiliated Club

Cuyahoga County  
SKYWARN Activity can be  
Found on LEARA's  
146.760 Repeater  
(- offset) 110.9pl

**An American Radio Relay League Affiliated Club**  
[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

Mark your calendars now for

## FIELD DAY 2004

June 25th and 26th



## Meet the Board of Trustees

|                                 |  |
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| Trustee,<br>Membership Chairman | Marv Grossman, W8AZO<br>440-248-0031 w8azo@leara.org   |
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## Additional Points of Contact

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunshine          | Don Raith, N8DJG<br>216-921-7546 |
| Newsletter Staff  | editor@leara.org                 |
| Club Web Site     | www.leara.org                    |
| All Board Members | trustees@leara.org               |

## de W2THU . . .



My best wishes to all of you for a healthy, happy and prosperous new year. I want to thank the Board of Trustees for electing me president. I also want to thank Eric, N8AUC, for all his years of dedicated service to our club as president. Eric will

continue to be our license trustee and a member of the Board.

I have been pondering how I can best function as the leader of the largest amateur radio club in northeast Ohio. There are some functions that come automatically to this position, such as presiding over the meetings at Dimitri's, writing this column and making sure that we maintain a presence at the Cleveland Hamfest. However, leadership requires steering an organization in new directions, not just for the sake of change, but also to enrich our wonderful hobby and to serve our community. I welcome any suggestions from the membership that would help us accomplish this goal.

For example, since the last time I was president, a lot of new ideas have come into LEARA, bringing the following results: SSTV via the 146.88 MHz repeater, a much improved Newsletter, club participation in Field Day with the only regular, sustainable site in the city of Cleveland, a regular Thursday night net, and a streamlined membership application and approval system via the internet.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## IRLP Node 8242 is On The Air

*de The Editor*

Thanks to the hard work of Jeff Garvas, N8YNR and a few other members of the Board of Trustees, LEARA's Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) node, number 4282, is up and is on the air.

The east-side 70cm repeater, 444.400 + offset, 131.8Hz pl has been reconfigured to serve as the club's IRLP machine. When not connected to an IRLP node the repeater may continue to be used as a regular repeater.

All licensed amateurs with a Technician class license or higher are encouraged to give it a try. For more information on the IRLP and for best-practice operating procedures, please see [www.irlp.net](http://www.irlp.net).

The *Spirit of '76 & '88* is published monthly except in December.

**Editor:**  
Michael A. DiTurno, KC8OWL  
Kc8owl@leara.net

## LEARA News

### November 2003 Meeting

*de The Editor*

True to tradition, the November 2003 meeting of the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association was an opportunity for everyone to get together and spread some holiday cheer. Also true with tradition, it was an opportunity to win some really, really nice door prizes.

Below is a summary of the winners from the November 2003 holiday social event.

#### **Yaesu FT-90 2m/70cm Micro Mobile Radio**

Tom Kopcak, N8ETP (with Bob Winston, W2THU, left)



#### **\$100 Amateur Electronic Supply Gift Certificate**

Betty Downie, Wife of Bill Downie, N8UPZ

#### **One Year ARRL Membership**

Mark Ogilvie, KC8RRC  
Joe Swartz, N8IPC

#### **Radio Shack Universal Battery Pack Charger/Conditioner**

Tom Long, N8QXA

#### **Radio Shack book, Basic Communications Electronics**

Ben Wawzyniak, K8IZ

#### **Free dinner at a LEARA club meeting:**

George Cox, W8PJN

#### **50/50 Raffle Winner (\$37)**

Joe Swartz, N8IPC

**Congratulations To All**

### With Our Deepest Sympathy

*de The Editor*

Please join us in expressing our deepest sympathies to Steve Bellamy, AA8MX, and his family in the passing of his mother, Jean Dessel Bellamy.

The family prefers that those who wish may make contributions, in her name, to Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185th St., Cleveland, 44119 or to St. Ann Catholic Church, 2175 Coventry Rd. (at Cedar), Cleveland Hts., OH.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please also join us in expressing our sincere sympathies to the family of **George Hinds, N8CIX**, who passed away on January 2nd, 2004.

Many may remember George for the articles he routinely contributed to this newsletter, titled '**A View From The Peak**'. Before moving to Colorado, George served LEARA as a former president and newsletter editor.

"Friends, for those of you who did not know, George was a really nice guy, and President of LEARA for many years, ex- WB8JYR, and a veteran of the Michigan Central railroad. When he retired from the United Transportation Union he moved to Colorado. His first wife, Thelma passed away there, and he remarried several years ago. Here's a secret many of you may not have known; George was born in Winnipeg, Canada.

We had kept in touch all these years by mail, packet, 10 meter SSB, E-mail, and face-to-face QSO's. We stayed with them for a few days two years ago, and we had dinner with them this summer when he was in town for only a short overnight stay. I had received a post card from him just recently when he traveled through the Panama Canal on a cruise with Ruth. His last E-mail to me was Dec 28.

He was one of the most amazing sources of railroad history. We could talk radio and trains for days! Another secret - one of his more memorable jobs was as Conductor of the special train move that put the giant steam locomotive C&O 2-6-6 "BigAl" into the Henry Ford museum in Dearborn.

He will be missed, but hopefully is holding a roundtable with Ed Antoniak, K8PYT and Al Severson, AB8P in the great hamshack in the sky."

Jim WD8PFK

*Provided with the permission of Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK*

## LEARA News

### Board Member Resignations

*de The Editor*

With the new year so has come two vacancies on the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's Board of Trustees. Effective January 9th, 2004 long-time board member Jim MacMillian, WA8ZHN and first-term trustee Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL have resigned from their positions on the board.

Please join us in thanking them for their contributions to the club while serving on the board. We all look forward to seeing them at regular club activities and public service engagements in the years to come.

Trustee-candidates from the October 2003 election, Alex Manuk, WD8JMM and Grant Hedrick, KV0T were appointed by the Board of Trustees to fill the two vacant positions. A decision regarding the vacant Vice-President's position will be made during the March, 2004 trustee's meeting.

Please join us in wishing the new trustees the best of luck in their new position on the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's Board of Trustees.

## Weekly Net

*de The Editor*

Net Control Operators are needed to help staff the weekly Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association's Thursday night club net at 2000 on the 146.760 repeater. Those interested should contact a member of the Board of Trustees for more information.

## Looking Forward

*Please feel free to contact the 2004 Program Chairperson, Sara Cechner, KC8KSU with any tips or ideas for upcoming meeting programs.*

**February 24th:** ARRL Night or MARCS 800MHz system (to be determined)

**March 13th:** Trustee Meeting - see front cover

**March 30th:** Annual Skywarn Training Night (tentative)

**April 27th:** Digital Signal Processing (DSP) - Dr. Marc Buchner, NB8T

## How-To Tips and Tricks

### Callsign Information the Easy Way

*By Bill Chaikin, KA8VIT*

Do you ever lookup a lot of callsigns? Maybe after a contest or a busy night on the air? Maybe you do verifications for some club activity? Do you do something like sit on-line at the computer and key each callsign into QRZ.com, wait for the information to display and then print it and then enter the next callsign on your list? If so, then keep reading.

Not long ago another ham on one of the Yahoo groups I subscribe to made an off-handed comment about a feature of the QRZ.com web site. He said, "Send an e-mail to 'lookup@qrz.com'. Make the subject 'lookup' and on the first line of the message body, type 'lookup callsign' (replacing callsign with the callsign I wanted to lookup up). If you want to do more than one, place each callsign on a separate line preceding it with the word lookup. In a little while", he continued, "you will get an automatic e-mail reply with the call's information or a message saying it was not found."

I went to the QRZ web site and looked around. I could not find anything on the site that explained how to use this feature. I couldn't even find anything to even show it existed! So I tried sending an e-mail anyway. To my surprise, it worked!

About five minutes after sending the e-mail I got a reply. In it was the callsign information. Included were call, full name of the licensee, address, country, six-letter grid locator, latitude/longitude coordinates, license class, date issued, expiration date, licensee date of birth, license number, e-mail address and home page. It even had the station's QSL Manager if they had one!

This was cool! I tried it a few more times. In one of these e-mails I forgot to put the word 'lookup' in front of the callsigns I wanted to look up. The e-mail reply I received said that the QRZ Callsign Server could not understand my request and went on to explain how to use the automated callsign server.

In brief, it repeated what the other ham had told me. It went on to say that the callsigns being looked up should not have any punctuation marks in them such as KA8VIT/P and that upper and lowercase letters were treated the same.

I often e-mail stations I heard but did not work with signal reports or other comments. I also like to send unofficial e-QSLs to stations I do work if they have an e-mail address listed on QRZ or the ARRL. Many of these "contacts" have developed into good friendships.

Next time you need to lookup a call, give this a try! - 73 de KA8VIT.

**Membership Corner**

**Ham Blast**

*By Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL*

Through the course of many afternoon drive time round table discussions on the 146.880 repeater it became obvious that Scott, N8VCL; Jerry, K8CMI; Tom, K8DMM; and I all shared a number of common interests. Of those common interests, and in addition to amateur radio, we found that we also shared the same keen interest in firearms and shooting. After kicking the idea around on the radio for a few weeks, the first official Ham-Blast was born.

What is Ham-Blast? Well, Ham-Blast is simply a catchy name that I came up with to mark an event where a small group of 'ham' radio operators all got together to participate in another one of our favorite hobbies – shooting. It's amazing how we as amateur radio operators share so many of the same or similar interests beyond amateur radio alone.

I realize that firearms are not everyone's cup of tea and I am not trying to deliver any hidden agenda or political commentary with this article; what I am doing is simply drawing attention to some interesting similarities that we as amateur radio operators seem to share. Things like this make the camaraderie and fellowship even that much more fun!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments regarding this article or any upcoming Ham-Blast event. Additionally, I invite our readers to share a brief summary of their other hobbies or interests by sending them to editor@leara.org.

Thanks and 73  
KC8OWL  
Kc8owl@yahoo.com

**A Real Elmer**

*de The Editor*

In the world of amateur radio the word 'Elmer' is something that we sadly hear less and less about. Historically, the Elmer was someone who was passionate about amateur radio and found tremendous pleasure in taking new hams under his or her wing and showing them the ropes; from HF to UHF or any of the many operating modes available for use and experimentation.

On November 25th, 2003, during the annual holiday meeting, Bill Chaikin, KA8VIT was presented with the first-ever Elmer of The Year award for his unselfish contribution to the education and mentoring of many local amateur radio operators. Whether it was building an antenna, learning CW, or setting up their first HF station, Bill jumped at the opportunity to help someone out and make sure they get off on the right foot. Congratulations to Bill for his outstanding and greatly appreciated efforts.



From left to right — Bill Chaikin, KA8VIT; Sara Cechner, KC8KSU; and Eric Jessen, N8AUC



From left to right — Mike, KC8OWL; Jerry, K8CMI; Scott, N8VCL; Tom, K8DMM

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*"The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security"*  
**Ohio Constitution, Article I, Section 4**

**Feature Article****ACARS — Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System**

*By Bill Chaikin, KA8VIT*

Do like to listen to or monitor the aircraft band? If so, then you know some pretty neat things can be heard by monitoring. ACARS monitoring will add to this excitement and is easy to do.

What *is* ACARS? ACARS is an acronym for **Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System**. An air-to-ground and ground-to-air digital network similar in operation to the Mobile Data Terminal (MDTs) found in many police cruisers in which ACARS equipped aircraft function as mobile computer terminals linked to a ground-based command and control management system.

During peak hours, there can be as many as 4000 aircraft in the skies over the United States. Besides all of the required FAA air traffic control communications going on there is also a myriad of other communications going on between flight crews and their respective carrier's ground controllers, flight operations centers and fleet management personnel who keep their airline and aircraft operating safely and efficiently.

Much of this voice radio traffic in the past was devoted to reporting such things as pushing back from the gate, take off, landing, gate arrival at destination and other scheduling information. Added to this were messages on aircraft and engine performance, fuel consumption, position reports, etc.

Voice contacts generally require that each message be repeated back in its entirety so that the sender can confirm successful transmission of the message. As flight engineers were eliminated from the flight decks of many aircraft, the reporting aspects of their job fell back on to the pilots and co-pilots. It was soon realized that that some method to handle these routine air/ground communications and reduce the manpower involved needed to be found.

ACARS is born. Designed and developed in the mid-70s by Aeronautical Radio, Inc. (ARINC), ACARS was designed to cut down on flight crew workload by using computers onboard aircraft and at ground facilities to exchange routine messages and reports. Though developed in the 70's, it has taken nearly 20 years for equipment costs and effectiveness to get to the point where ACARS was truly viable.

Information collected from sensors onboard ACARS-equipped aircraft is automatically sent by VHF radio to ACARS ground facilities and linked to ARINC's ACARS computers where the data is converted to inter-airline operations messages through the ARINC Electronic Switching System. Likewise, messages and requests from the ground are uplinked to the ACARS equipped

aircraft and processed automatically or printed on an ACARS cockpit printer for the crew.

Although installed all different types of aircraft, large and small, ACARS is a commercial venture and is not an FAA requirement and is not mandatory equipment.

ACARS is basically a 2400-baud, packet system that is transmitted using AM in the standard VHF 118-136 MHz aircraft band, (there is some HF ACARS done for overseas flights using upper sideband). A digital mode similar to our own 1200-baud AX.25 packet. The cool part is, like most other digital modes, there are soundcard computer programs available to decode the ACARS packets and display the data in a variety of fashions without requiring the use of an expensive hardware base ACARS modem.

All that is needed to monitor ACARS transmissions is a scanner or radio capable of receiving the 118-136 MHz AM aircraft band, a 100-MHz or faster computer with a soundcard and software to do the actual decoding and display the data.

A couple of the programs I tried were WACARS Version 0.7 available from <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Cockpit/9870/wacars/intro.html> and AirNav's AirNav Suite 4.01 with the AirNav ACARS Decoder which can be found at <http://www.airvansystems.com>. Both of these programs worked well though the displays on the AirNav Suite were far superior to those of WACARS.

The ACARS frequencies are: 131.550, 129.125, 130.025, 130.425, 130.450, 131.125, 131.450, 131.475, 131.525, 131.725, 136.700, 136.750, 136.800, 136.900, 136.925, 136.850, 136.750 and 131.850 MHz.

It took a little playing around to figure out how to best receive the ACARS data. By scanning the various frequencies, I found 130.450 MHz to be the most active ACARS frequency to listen to in my area. The ACARS transmissions sound very similar to amateur radio packet transmissions. (If you never heard packet, tune your scanner or 2-meter radio to 144.390 MHz and listen. It won't be long before you start hearing packet transmissions.)

Once you found an ACARS frequency that seems active, connect the audio from your radio to the line-in jack on your soundcard and run whatever ACARS decoding program you've installed. You may need to adjust the line-in or mic-in recording levels until the program decodes the packets correctly. Also make sure your squelch is open all the way. Turn down the output on your soundcard volume control if the hissing from the open squelch bothers you. You should soon

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Public Service and Emergency Communications

### 2003 Pumpkin Patrol Wrap-Up

*By Joe Swartz, N8IPC*

"I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date.... Yes folks, I was late. I intended to get the article announcing the 2003 Pumpkin Patrol into the September Newsletter, but getting ready for an end of August wedding took precedence. (Being the father of the bride is a little distracting.) Then, the October Newsletter was slightly delayed and I was getting a tad worried. So, I asked for help. Tom KA8BZB, Ken KG8DN, and Mike KC8OWL responded and recruited tirelessly and with great success. Hams showed up from as far west as Rocky River and as far east as Novelty.

Finally, the night of the Great Pumpkin was here and the crew reported to the Shaker Heights Police Station for roll call and assignments by Sgt. Bob KB8CQX, who would relay trouble reports to the pros on patrol. But I was late again. A meeting in Columbus ended after 4:00 PM and Columbus traffic on Friday night is bad. Joanne and I headed north. We arrived only an hour late, which allowed us to participate for an hour.

Despite being a warm Friday night, there was very little to report. We had LOTS of children out scooping up the goodies. Slow moving cars shadowing them occasionally were a problem. But, on the whole, there were no serious incidents, which is great!

A big thank you to those who are logged in on the Shaker Heights Police Department Hams on Halloween Patrol Duty Roster: Sgt. Bob KB8CQX, Don N8DJG, Tom KA8BZB, Bill N8UPZ and his wife Betty, John KC8FOC, John W8NRA, Rich N8RB, Mike K8EHP, Ken KG8DN, Jeff N8YNR, Lori KC8MYE, Matt KC8NZJ, Joanne KB8TGX, and me N8IPC.

### Call for Public Service Information

Your newsletter editor is putting together the 2004 public service listing. If you would like to have your event listed, please send the information ASAP, preferably at least two months prior to the event, to the editor. Any info you have at this time would be appreciated. However, we will eventually need the name of the event, the date, time, duration, location, number of hams needed, and any special qualifications and/or equipment requirements.

#### Check It Out!

**To see this newsletter in color,  
please go to  
<http://www.leara.org/newsletter>**

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

*By Sean Carey, W8SCC*

**Date:** March 17th, 2004,

**Event:** The 137th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

**Coverage Requested:** Ham Radio support from 11:30 am -3:00 pm (parade steps off at 1:05 pm)

Hams are needed to assist marshals with communications to keep things organized for some 225 or more groups divided into 3 divisions for the parade. Contact Sean Carey, W8SCC for more information ( or phone 216-476-1495).

This is the third largest event in the State of Ohio, and hams have played a part in it for over 36 years. Historically, a special radio club, The Emerald Civic Wireless Society, has formed each year for the express purpose of supporting this event. Similarly, this year, the event is to be supported by hams from a number of local clubs. Perks include free, catered food and Coffee for volunteers.

The official meeting place from which hams will be deployed is at the Comfort Inn at E. 18th St. and Euclid (formally Swingos); hams are encouraged to contact Sean prior to 3/17 for details such as where to park to avoid being ticketed, and so he can make advance plans for deployment. Bring your head-set if you have one. This event tends to get noisy! It's grand day to be Irish. Come share in the fun.

### January Meeting ... continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

requires quite a bit of planning and a certain amount of specialized equipment, with a good measure ingenuity thrown in.

Come hear the tale of how this feat was accomplished! The presentation will include a video, a summary of the requirements, and a panel discussion. The team of adults who helped to pull it off included: Ken Kane, KG8DN (club moderator), Dale Reed W8ABZ, Sean Carey W8SCC, and Patt McClain N8RKP along with several Gilmour teachers who worked with the students to prepare questions for the astronauts.

Membership Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except December at Dimitri's Restaurant, 1830 Snow Rd., Parma, OH (in the Mid-Town Shopping Center). Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. The regular meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Meetings are open to all interested persons. For reservations, please call Marv Grossman, W8AZO at 440-248-0031.

## Feature Article ... continued

(Continued from page 6)

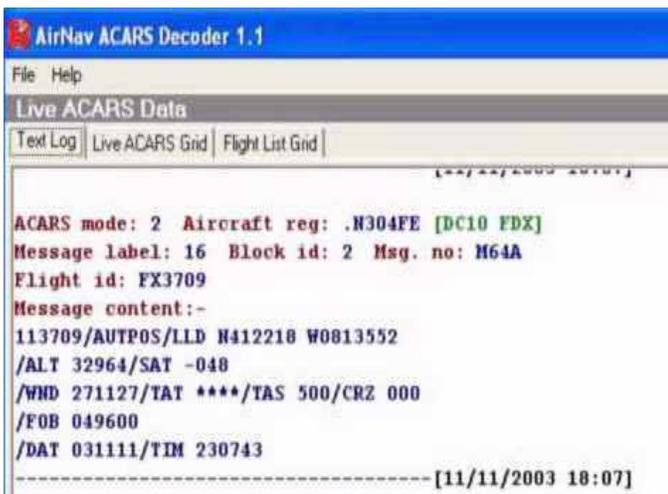
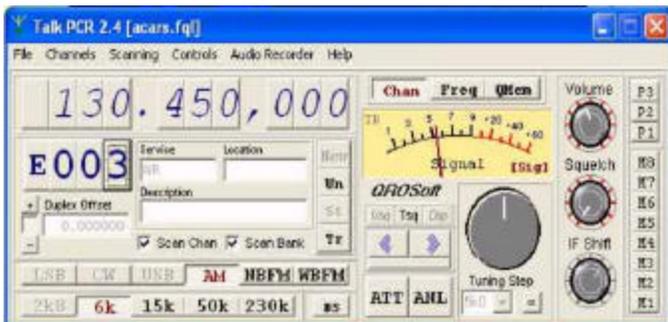
see the ACARS data being decoded and displayed. Keep in mind that you will not be able to scan the ACARS frequencies when trying to actually decode the ACARS data. If any part of a packet is missed (due to scanning or noise), it will not be decoded. It took me a while to figure that out! You will need to stay on the frequency you wish to monitor. That's all there is to it.

The amount of data available from the ACARS transmissions is staggering. Some of the messages I saw sent to the crews were also very interesting. Even Air Force One is ACARS equipped and messages to and from it have been logged and posted to some of the various ACARS groups.

Looking at the AirNav Suite's screens I felt like an air traffic controller. Position reports and tracks were plotted on a map along with flight info such as flight number, aircraft type, airline (carrier), tail numbers and more. Also, there are databases with the programs that can also tell you more about the particular aircraft. I wanted to include some screen shots and printouts from the programs but the space here is limited.

There is more information available on the Internet and there are also a number of Yahoo groups dedicated to ACARS. If you are into aircraft monitoring, or just like stuff about airplanes and their operation, then ACARS just might be for you.

73 – Bill Chaikin, KA8VIT



## de W2THU ... continued

(Continued from page 2)

In the past 6 days I have discovered several LEARA members who have become local celebrities. I was in the Joseph- Beth bookstore where I found Gail Bellamy, AA8MY's new book, *Cleveland Food Memories*, prominently displayed at the checkout. I have been in Cleveland long enough to share some of the nostalgia, such as those Hough white cakes. Gail is a well-known writer for the restaurant industry.

I also caught TV news coverage of Ken Kane, KG8DN at Gilmour Academy's amateur radio club as they communicated with the International Space Station on 2 January 2004. Ken is a physics teacher at Gilmore and he is the faculty club moderator. Other LEARA members participating were Pat McClain, N8RKP, and Dale Reed, W8ABZ. I know that Ken has been patiently waiting for this opportunity for years.

Finally, you could not ignore the large color photo on the first page of the Plain Dealer Metro section where Nina Browner is trying to shush Jeremy, N1OTN's mouth in an article describing the effect of moving to a new city to further one spouse's career over the other. Poor Jeremy has to delay his career as an aviation lawyer while Nina participates in a residency program at the Cleveland Clinic.

And then there was the mega million dollar lottery winner from South Euclid. Was that KA8...? Just kidding Bill. Congratulations to all of you for the fine publicity earned both within and without your amateur radio endeavors.

I look forward to meeting you at this month's regular club meeting at Dimitri's restaurant where **I will bring badges for the new members or new call sign changes**. Send me an email (w2thu@arrl.net) if you expect a badge but can't make the meeting.

## New LEARA Voice Mail Number

*de The Editor*

As many may recall, LEARA has always advertised 440-248-0031 as the number to call for club related information and for making club meeting dinner reservations. In addition to this number, LEARA has also offered the LEARA Voice Mail line as an alternative in the event that Marv, W8AZO was not available to answer the phone.

Effective January 2004, voice mail will be available on 440-248-0031 and 440-942-0154 (the old voice mail number) will be disconnected; there is no longer a need to remember two different numbers.

## Upcoming Exam Sessions

### January 2004

**Date:** 18-Jan-2004

**Sponsor:** LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS

**Time:** 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** CHARLES S HALL  
(216)433-3036  
Email: VE@W8HF.COM

**Location:** AMERICAN RED CROSS  
2929 W RIVER RD N  
ELYRIA, OH 44035

**Web:** WWW.W8HF.COM

### February 2004

**Date:** 15-Feb-2004

**Sponsor:** LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS

**Time:** 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** CHARLES S HALL  
(216)433-3036  
Email: VE@W8HF.COM

**Location:** AMERICAN RED CROSS  
2929 W RIVER RD N  
ELYRIA, OH 44035

**Web:** WWW.W8HF.COM

**Date:** 17-Feb-2004

**Sponsor:** PIONEER AR FELLOWSHIP

**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** RONALD D LIEVING  
(330)724-5981

**Location:** AKRON BAPTIST TEMPLE  
2324 MANCHESTER RD  
AKRON, OH 44314  
PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED  
CHECK-IN AT 6:30 PM

### March 2004

**Date:** 09-Mar-2004

**Sponsor:** SUMMIT CO AMERICAN RED CROSS

**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** BRUCE M FERRY  
(330)929-2766

**Location:** AMERICAN RED CROSS  
501 W MARKET ST  
AKRON, OH 44303

**Date:** 14-Mar-2004

**Sponsor:** CUYAHOGA ARS

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** GARY S DEWEY  
(216)642-8705

**Email:** GDEWEY@EN.COM

**Location:** TOWN HALL  
6652 BRECKSVILLE RD  
STATE ROUTE 21

## Upcoming Hamfests

### January 2004

**Date:** 25 Jan 2004

**Organization:** Tusco ARC

**Contact:** Gary Green, K8WFN  
32210 Norris Road  
Tippecanoe, OH 44699

**Phone:** 740-922-4454

**Email:** k8wfn@tusco.net

### February 2004

**Date:** 1 Feb 2004

**Organization:** Northern Ohio ARS

**Web:** <http://www.apk.net/hoars/winterfe.htm>

**Contact:** Clark Beckman, N8PZD  
3407 West 135th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44111

**Phone:** 216-671-8795

**Email:** electro7@apk.net

**Date:** 8 Feb 2004

**Organization:** Inter-City ARC

**Web:** <http://www.maser.org>

**Contact:** Jack Weeks, K8RT  
1210 East Hanley Road  
Mansfield, OH 44903

**Phone:** 419-756-5301

**Email:** bigdogg@richnet.net

**Date:** 14 Feb 2004

**Organization:** Cherryland ARC

**Contact:** Joe Novak, W8TVT  
201 South Spruce Street  
Traverse City, MI 49684

**Phone:** 231-947-8555

**Email:** jnovak@traverse.net

## CARS License Classes

The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society (CARS) is again holding classes for Amateur Radio Licenses.

Classes will be held at the Independence Civic Center in the Willow Room at 6363 Selig Dr. in Independence, Ohio. A VE session will be held at the last class.

Register at [www.cars.org](http://www.cars.org) or contact Gary Dewey at 216-642-8705 for any of the following classes:

### Technician Class

Classes are Wednesday January 14th through February 11th, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. Fee is \$25.00

### General Class

Classes are Wednesday March 31st through May 12th, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. Fee is \$25.00

### Extra Class

Classes are Wednesday February 25th through March 24th, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. Fee is \$30.00

# LEARA - The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

## VOICE REPEATERS:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>53.230/R-</b> | Highland Hills (136.5 Hz tone)   |
| <b>146.76/R-</b> | Highland Hills (Use 110.9 Hz tone for remote inputs in Lakewood, Newbury & Willoughby)               |
| <b>146.88/R-</b> | Lakewood (110.9 Hz tone)   |
| <b>224.90/R-</b> | Lakewood (141.3 Hz tone)   |
| <b>444.40/R+</b> | Highland Hills (131.8 Hz tone) - IRLP Node 4282  |
| <b>444.70/R+</b> | Lakewood (131.8 Hz tone)<br>(.76, .88, .90 and .70 offer emergency and member-only autopatch lines.) |

## PACKET NODES:

**CLE1** 145.01 MHz: **CLE5** 145.05 MHz: **CLEV220** 223.70 MHz  
These nodes are part of the Cleveland Net Cluster in K8EIW's backbone system.

## GENERAL:

**NBRY** i145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz (KA-NODE)  
**NBRYX** i145.07 MHz ó 223.70 MHz Gateway  
**LEARA** i145.07 MHz & 223.70 MHz PBBS

## INTERNET:

[www.leara.org](http://www.leara.org)  
To subscribe via e-mail, send a message to: **spirit76-request@leara.org**  
Put subscribe in the subject area and your name and callsign in the body.