



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

March 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. 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.

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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March 2004 Meeting Program

Annual Skywarn Spotter Training Tuesday, March 30th

Presented by Gary Garnet of the National Weather Service



It's that time of year again, with Spring just around the corner and the start of Ohio's wild weather season. Also at this time of year is our annual Skywarn Spotter Training meeting, presented by Gary Garnet, the Warning Coordination

Meteorologist for the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Cleveland and the head of the Skywarn program for Northern Ohio.

This year's training will feature the multimedia system used in previous years along with more video and other additions and updates.

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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

Mark your calendars now for

FIELD DAY 2004

June 26th and 27th



Meet the Board of Trustees

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Vice-President, Net Manager	Eric Jessen, N8AUC 440-734-3146 n8auc@leara.org
Vice-President	open
Secretary, Radio Officer	Bryan Torok, N8OOF 440-871-5456 n8oof@leara.org
Treasurer	Dave Foran, WB8APD 440-942-0618 wb8apd@leara.org
Trustee, Radio Officer	Raye Bayun, N8NAP 146.760/R n8nap@leara.org
Trustee, Program Chairperson	Sara Cechner, KC8KSU 440-942-8787 kc8ksu@leara.org
Trustee, Membership Chairman	Marv Grossman, W8AZO 440-248-0031 w8azo@leara.org
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Additional Points of Contact

Sunshine	Don Raith, N8DJG 216-921-7546
Newsletter Staff	editor@leara.org
LEARA Web Site	www.leara.org

de W2THU . . .



March is the teaser month in Northeast Ohio. One day last week it was 73 degrees and as I write this column it has been snowy and windy all day with the mercury in the low 20s. March is also traditionally Skywarn month as LEARA hosts the annual Skywarn training program in preparation for the upcoming severe weather season. If you expect to be an effective and recognized spotter then you must attend this training session at our regularly scheduled club meeting at Dimitri's.

If you've been unsuccessful in bringing up the 146.76 repeater recently, be rest assured that there is nothing wrong with your rig. Due to a very high SWR in the transmission line the repeater has been shut down to protect the transmitter. A crew did go up to the repeater site on 6 March intending to take down the antenna, but was stymied by high winds and rain. By the time you read this column, 146.76 should be back on the air. In the meantime, life on 146.88 has gotten a bit cozier.

How many of you are using our IRLP connection via the 444.40 MHz repeater? Are you having a problem getting into this machine? Have you worked any good DX? Please send me an email with your IRLP experiences or write an article for this Newsletter and email it to our editor, Mike, KC8OWL.

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IRLP Node 4282 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.

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

Editor:
Michael A. DiTurno, KC8OWL
editor@leara.org

LEARA News

February 2004 Door Prize Winners

de The Editor

Below is a summary of the door prize winners from the February 2004 club meeting.

Free dinner at a LEARA club meeting

Tom Kimball, KA8BZB

Travel Alarm Clock

Mike Tomechko, KB8YKE

Pocket FM Radio

Alex Manuk, WD8JMM

Pocket Screwdriver

Andrew Juchnowski, AB8MO

Precision Knife Set

David Kennett, W8KFJ

Hot Melt Glue Gun (2)

Jack Andrisin, W8JAK

Darren Turk, W8DMT

50/50 Raffle (\$21):

Sharon Andrisin, KC8ZBP

Congratulations To All

Welcome to the Club

Please join us in welcoming LEARA's two newest members. If you hear them on the air, be sure to pick up the mic and say hello!

Philip Urban, KC8ZBK

Sharon Andrisin, KC8ZBP

(Wife of Jack Andrisin, W8JAK)

Looking Forward

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

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

May 25th: TBA

June 26th and 27th: Field Day Weekend

February Meeting Recap

By Sara Cechner, KC8KSU

Alan Cook, N7CEU, gave a fantastic presentation debunking the myths about the Official Observer Program. He explained that while the ARRL is a self-policing organization, O.O.'s don't actually enforce. They just report. But in any case, they're mostly "nice cops" these days. Due to recent improvements in radio technology, O.O.s have fewer spurious emissions to listen to, and currently give "attaboys" more than warnings at a ratio of 14 to 1!!

As a bonus, Alan caught us up on the current scoop on the current licensing restructuring proposal, and offered his take on the "no-code vs. fists" debate. Some of you might be scratching your heads and saying to yourselves, "Hey, didn't we just get *done* restructuring?" Well, yes we did, but by the time restructuring got through the FCC wringer, only a portion of what the ARRL had hoped to accomplish was implemented. So they've gone back to the drawing board.

Alan is a great speaker, peppering his presentation with witty jokes and personal anecdotes. It was a great evening. If you weren't there...well, what can I say? You missed a great time.

Membership Dues for 2004

As a reminder, please check the mailing label of your newsletter (for those that receive the newsletter via the US Post Office). If the label indicates this is your last newsletter, your membership dues for 2004 are past-due. Please send your 2004 membership dues to the clubs Post Office Box or bring them to the March club meeting at Dimitri's. The March 2004 newsletter will be the last notification sent to past-due members regarding delinquent dues.

Also, please be sure to let Marv Grossman, W8AZO know of any change in your address, license class, phone number, or any other member registration information that have changed over the last year. Marv can be reached by phone or email using the information listed on page two of this newsletter.

LEARA
P.O. Box 22823
Beachwood, Ohio 44122-0823

LEARA News

March Meeting ... continued

(Continued from page 1)

The training is also interactive, allowing input from the audience and will run a full ninety minutes. Following the training, Mr. Garnett will be enrolling volunteer Skywarn spotters and also taking names of those interested in volunteering at the NWS office during severe weather. Please note, The Skywarn training program this year **WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 7:00PM!** This will help ensure all material is covered and that there is ample time for spotter registration. It's best to plan to arrive a bit early as this is generally the most heavily attended meeting during the year. Dinner will still be served at 6:30PM for those wishing to have dinner at Dimitri's prior to the presentation.

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 (except March 2004, see above). Meetings are open to all interested persons. You may attend without eating, but reservations are required if you do wish to eat. Dinner is \$14.50 per person and includes your choice of Sirloin Steak, Chicken Parmesan, or broiled Boston Scrod. All entries include potato, vegetable of the day, coffee, iced tea, desert and gratuity. A vegetarian selection is also available upon request. For reservations, please call Marv Grossman, W8AZO at 440-248-0031 or submit your reservations on-line at www.leara.org.

Cuyahoga County Skywarn

de The Editor

Cuyahoga county Skywarn uses the following local amateur radio repeaters for it's activities. For additional information or to volunteer as a Skywarn storm spotter, net control, or liaison station, please contact the Cuyahoga county Skywarn coordinator, Matt, KC8NZJ at kc8nzj@adelphia.net or check them out on the web at www.ccsww.us.

<u>TX MHz.</u>	<u>RX MHz.</u>	<u>PL Hz</u>	<u>Comments</u>
146.260	146.760	110.9	VHF Primary
146.280	146.880	110.9	VHF Alternate
447.125	442.125	82.5	UHF Alternate and coordination

An IRLP How-To

By Bill Chaikin, KA8VIT

This article will give you a quick overview of how to use IRLP (The Internet Radio Linking Project) to make a contact. If you don't know what IRLP is, you should probably start by visiting the IRLP web site at www.irlp.net. This writer assumes you already familiar with what IRLP is and are ready to try and make a contact. All that is required besides your ham license is a 2-meter or 440 MHz transceiver with DTMF capabilities.

As of this writing, there are two IRLP nodes in the Cleveland, Ohio area. The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association has an IRLP node on our 444.400 MHz UHF repeater (Node# 4282). This repeater requires a CTCSS (PL) tone of 131.8 Hz. Merle, KB8ENV also runs a simplex IRLP node on 147.555 MHz with a CTCSS of 123.0 Hz (Node# 3425). Both of these nodes are open to the general ham radio public and required no special access codes. Both operate in the same manner with the exception that the LEARA 444.4 node also acts as a normal UHF repeater.

The steps outlined below will work for any open IRLP node or reflector. If the IRLP node you wish to use has any special restrictions or access codes, you will need to get that information from the people that run that particular node. There are two main types of nodes. Normal and Reflector. Normal nodes are just another IRLP node and when linked, connect two nodes together for communications. A reflector will connect MANY nodes together. Communications on a reflector get can often get confusing because of the number of stations being heard.

Normal Nodes To connect to another node you need to know that node's node number. You can find this out by going to the IRLP web site at www.irlp.net and clicking the "Node Info" menu option along the left side of the page. This will bring up a page that gives you different options for looking up nodes.

Two of my favorites nodes are #6000 and #6050, both located in Sydney, Australia. I have always been able to find someone to chat with when linking to these nodes. Start by tuning to the IRLP node you wish to connect through (e.g. LEARA's or Merle's) and listening. Listen for a minute or two. Make sure there is no on-going QSO in progress. When you are sure it is clear to transmit you are ready to begin.

Key the radio and hold it for about a full second. Announce something like, "***This is KA8VIT accessing the link.***" Or, "***This is KA8VIT accessing IRLP.***" While keeping the radio keyed, press the DTMF tones for the node you wish to connect to. (In our example, we want to connect to Node #6000). Press each DTMF

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An IRLP How-To ... continued

(Continued from page 4)

digit for about ¼ to ½ second. Press the digits for too short a time and they won't be recognized. Pressing too long can cause the system to think you pressed the same key twice or more. After pressing the last digit of the node number un-key your radio. With in 5-15 seconds you should hear a link active message. It will say something like, "**Welcome to VK2RBM in the Land Down Under. Link Active.**" You have now connected to the other node.

Before transmitting, listen! There may have been a QSO in progress when you connected. Listen for 10-15 seconds. If no one is heard, then go on and transmit. Key the radio **and hold it for a full second before speaking**. This is necessary because of the time required for the various CTCSS (PL) decoders to recognize the tones and for the propagation delays caused by the Internet. Not doing so is sure to cause the first few words you speak in being chopped off. Say something like, "**This is KA8VIT in Cleveland, Ohio listening via IRLP node #4282 and standing-by.**" I have found that stating what IRLP node you are connecting from helps especially when no contact is initially made. Saying which node you are calling from allows someone at the other to call back to your node if they heard you but could not get back to you before you decide to drop the link.

If the node you are trying to connect to is already active or out-of-service, you will hear a different message. In this case there is no need to disconnect. Simply key-up again and say, "**This is KA8VIT no contact. Clear of the link.**" You can try again with a different node or wait a few minutes and try the same node again.

If connecting through the 444.4 machine, (or other node attached to a repeater) you have to remember that the local repeater is also broadcasting your transmission. There is a good chance that someone in your local area may reply to you. Either way, enjoy your QSO. When you are done, you have to take the link down. This is done by sending 73 using DTMF tones. Again, key the radio, wait a full second and then say something like, "**This is KA8VIT in Cleveland, Ohio via node# 4282 closing the link.**" And while keeping the radio keyed, pressing the DTMF tones 73. Remember, press each tone for ¼ to ½ a second then un-key the radio. If the command was recognized you will soon hear a **Link Cancelled** message. If this message is not heard within 10-15 seconds, repeat the command by keying up the radio, announcing that you are shutting down the link and sending the tones again.

Don't leave a linked connection on. If you are done playing, shut down the link. If others are still using the link that you brought up and you wish to leave, be sure that one of the other parties will shut the link down

when the QSO is over.

Reflectors: Reflectors operate in a similar fashion to regular nodes. The biggest thing to remember is that the propagation delays are longer so wait a little longer after keying up before speaking. QSOs on the reflectors can get quite confusing because of the number of stations that can be on at once. Hang in there. Also remember that other local users may be listening to or using the link so query the local users before shutting down a link to a reflector.

Two of my favorite reflectors are #9200 The Indianapolis Reflector and #9210 The Raleigh Reflector. Both are very active.

IRLP is a lot of fun. Go on and try it. You're not going to break it by using it. If you should make a mistake don't worry. Ask someone for help or assistance. On a recent business trip to Little Rock, Arkansas I took my "baby" HT. It is a small dual-band that puts out a whopping 700 mW. Before leaving for on the trip I looked up what IRLP nodes were nearby. There was one right in Little Rock, eight miles from where my hotel was.

During my trip I was able to call back here on both LEARA's 444.4 node and Merle's 147.555 node. I had QSOs with Tom W8TAB, Alex WD8JMM, Eric N8AUC and a few others. It was great. It sound as though they were just across town. Sure makes you feel good to hear a friendly, familiar voice when you're so far away from home, that's for sure.

A special thanks to my new friends in Little Rock.

73, de KA8VIT

Weather Wizard

By Peter Greene, N8WGE

So you want an easy and informative way to get the current weather condition in your area? Want to bring up the current radar without doing a search or trying to remember that web site address? Well, Channel 3 News has done just that! It's called the Channel 3 Weather Wizard and it's great! Go to <http://www.wkyc.com> and click on the 3 Weather Wizard logo to start the download.

Like other programs, the install is easy. You even get the chance to set it up to your closest airport. This then gives you the local temperature, dew point, wind chill, wind speed, wind direction, barometric pressure, and humidity. Alerts come up with a ticker scrolling across the bottom. The menu allows you to adjust these options to your liking which makes it even more user friendly. I found this to be a very neat way to have finger tip access to radar and weather conditions. Check it out, you'll be glad that you did!

Standards for Interoperable Communications and Equipment

Submitted by Perry Trunick, KB8AYQ

"I was checking up on Tom Ridge's comments on the first anniversary of the formation of the Department of Homeland Security and came across the following in his speech. The whole thing is in the DHS press room, but I thought we as hams might have more interest in the goals he is setting for communications in the coming year." Perry Trunick, KB8AYQ

Many of us know that part of the tragedy of September 11th was that equipment didn't work across jurisdictions and disciplines.

Fire department radios couldn't transmit to police department radios. Firefighters rushing in from other cities and even neighborhoods were, in some cases, unable to assist because the couplings that attach "hoses to hydrants" simply wouldn't fit; they weren't compatible. Our first responders are first on the scene and, they'll tell you, they're often the last to leave; their ability to communicate and work with each other in the event of a crisis is paramount ... and their inability to do so is a long-standing, complex and critical issue facing this nation. And so, we all must work together to give them the tools to do their jobs -- in a way that replaces outdated, outmoded relics with an interoperable, innovative and integrated system.

There are immediate steps the department can take while we focus on long-term, integrated solutions. Already, for example, the Department has identified technical specifications for a baseline interoperable communication system.

If adopted at the state and local level, by the end of 2004, most first responders will have a way to communicate with each other during a crisis, regardless of frequency or mode of communication. Over the course of the year, we will also issue new standards for major pieces of compatible equipment -- such as basic protective gear and clothing. We'll also create a coordinated grant integration web portal that, along with grant information, will provide collaborative tools and other relevant information to promote interoperability at all levels.

But let me emphasize: we want to ensure that when federal money is spent, it fosters interoperability. So, while these immediate steps will begin to build a foundation for longer-term efforts -- longer-term efforts will require a national solution.

And a national solution will require actionable results at the state and local level -- in other words, a resolve not to let an incompatible radio frequency or a too-small/too-large piece of safety equipment impede the ability of brave men and women to save the lives of citizens ... as well as their own. We need to coordinate this effort

together. A truly nationwide interoperable system demands leadership at all levels. And so, I'm grateful and quite pleased that many of our state and local partners have already demonstrated this leadership, and made this vital issue a key priority in their states and in their cities.

Thanks from AA8MX

In December my mother passed away. While my wife Gail AA8MY, and I took care of her we received a lot of support from area hams.

I would like to thank particularly Steve, N8TUA, Eric, N8AUC, Robin KC8AWO, Don, N8DJG, and Marv, W8AZO who were a great source of support, counsel and prayer. My thanks also to those who left condolence messages on the Internet site and the nice mention in the January edition of this newsletter written by Mike, KC8OWL. I've never been prouder or more grateful to be an amateur radio operator.

Stephen Bellamy, AA8MX

'Gim-me' a Second!

By Marc Flanagan, KC8SIE

Almost everyone who has an amateur license has worked a repeater. I'm sure it's how many Technicians get their "on the air" start, and it's what we rely on when we are using our low power HT's. A repeater can be invaluable when we are driving and during special events.

But the components of a repeater don't work at the speed of light. It takes a second, or so, from the time you key up until the time it reacts. Occasionally, whatever you say during this time is not transmitted. Also, some people may be scanning their favorite channels...further losing the first few moments of a transmission.

So give the repeater a second...from the time you key until the time you begin to talk. That way everything you say will be transmitted. And if you are reporting an emergency or on an emergency or Skywarn net, the first thing you say may be **very** important.

LEARA, and many amateurs, also have IRLP nodes. Again, the repeater and/or the node needs a little time to "engage" before it transmits. Better give an IRLP TWO seconds!

And ... don't forget to leave a little time between transmissions for other stations to enter the conversation.

Public Service and Emergency Communications

2004 Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon

By Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL



One of the first big opportunities of 2004 to help make a difference through amateur radio is coming up on Sunday April 25th, 2004.

Amateur radio volunteers are needed to staff the 2004 Rite Aid Cleveland Marathon. Our role as amateur radio volunteers is critical in helping to ensure the safety and security of race participants and spectators by taking positions along the route and relaying information back the central communications tent where race officials and EMS dispatchers will be located.

Whether it's injury, severe weather threats, dangerous intersections, or any number of other possible threats, amateur radio volunteers are the only way to effectively monitor and report on events in real-time over the 26 mile route.

Please consider volunteering for this highly visible event. Any amount of time or service you can volunteer will be tremendously appreciated. **Please contact Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL by phone at 216-898-1891 or by e-mail at kc8owl@yahoo.com** for questions or to volunteer. For more information on the marathon, please see their web site at www.clevelandmarathon.com.

2004 March of Dimes WalkAmerica

By T.J. Powell, N8UIR

The March of Dimes will be holding it's annual WalkAmerica this spring.

The March of Dimes is looking for Communications (Ham) and Medical Volunteers to staff the events. Additional information about the events follows:

WALKAMERICA Botanical Gardens (Wade Oval)

May 1, 2004 (Saturday) (07:00 AM to 01:00 PM)

2000 Participants (estimated). 6-8 Medical Volunteers (First Responder Level and Higher) and 6-8 Communications Volunteers are Required.

WALKAMERICA Geauga Lake (Six Flags)

May 2, 2004 (Sunday) (07:45 AM to 01:00 PM)

2000 Participants (estimated). 6-8 Communications Volunteers are Required.

If you are interested in volunteering please send an email to T.J. Powell at tjpowell@neopsv.org

Emergency Communications 101

By Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL

With March being the training month for Cuyahoga County Skywarn, I thought it would be appropriate to write an article addressing the basics of emergency communication techniques.

Merely having a valid amateur radio license does not automatically make someone an asset to public safety communications, much in the same way that having a valid drivers license does not automatically make someone a good driver. To add value to a public safety communications infrastructure one must know how to communicate the maximum amount of information with a minimum of words.

The following sections will provide a high-level overview of some of the most important things to remember during a time when amateur radio may be called upon to support a public safety emergency. This list is by no means complete, and is intended to serve as a foundation to build upon. Moving forward, I may make this column a regular feature, or perhaps prepare a presentation on the basics of emergency communications if this is something that anyone would be interested seeing or participating in. I encourage your feedback and comments; please e-mail me at kc8owl@yahoo.com.

Attitude

Attitude is the single most important ingredient necessary to leave a positive and lasting impression with the agencies being served by amateur radio. To add value during a communication emergency, one must be dedicated to helping others, not to trying to impress someone with your technical knowledge or license class. Simply put, it's all about doing everything you can to help, in the guidelines established by the served agency (law enforcement, emergency management, incident commander, etc.). To be part of the solution, one can't be part of the problem.

Responsibilities

Generally speaking, amateur radio's role during an emergency will be to provide communications as a supplement to the existing public safety communications infrastructure. During a large scale event, it is quite possible that the amount of traffic that must flow between points will be greater than the public safety community can accommodate; therefore, an additional infrastructure (amateur radio) may be needed to ensure all traffic from all sources is passed and escalated appropriately. Amateur radio operators do not provide first aid, transport victims, provide traffic control, or attempt to take charge in any way unless directed to do so by the Incident Commander.

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EMCOMM 101 ... continued

(Continued from page 7)

Radio Traffic

Radio traffic during an emergency is best depicted by the phrase 'less is more'. In this case, the fewer words needed to convey the message, the better. A very good example of this can be found on the aviation bands. Listen to traffic that is passed between Cleveland Approach and an aircraft descending for Hopkins Airport; a tremendous amount of critical information is exchanged between the tower and the pilot with a minimum of words. The same should hold true with amateur radio communications during an emergency. Use the following as a guide:

- **Keep it short.** If you can leave a word out without changing the meaning of the message, leave it out.
- **Go slow.** More information can be correctly passed between stations if the message is stated clearly and slowly than if it is blurted out quickly and requires net control to ask for it to be repeated one or two additional times.
- **Plan what you say.** Do not piece thoughts together while transmitting; take a second or two to review in your mind what you need to communicate and then proceed with you traffic in a calm and controlled way.
- **Keep opinions to yourself.** Do not pass judgment on a situation or circumstance on the air. We (amateur radio) have been asked to help, to fulfill our responsibilities with the served agencies, we must abide by their rules.
- **Use proper phonetics and numbers.** When spelling something be sure to pronounce each letter clearly using standard ITU phonetics. Additionally, when passing number traffic, always say each digit. The number 16 should be said as one-six, not sixteen, which can easily be mistaken for 60, six-zero.
- **Always let the net control station know your status.** When entering or leaving a net, always notify net control.
- **Net control is in command of the amateur radio net.** Always request permission from net control before making any call to anyone during a directed or tactical net. All traffic must be handled or directed by the acting net control station.

Know Your Equipment

The time to learn how to change the pl setting or program a new frequency is not during an emergency communication event. Always be familiar with the operating characteristics of your equipment. Also, consider locking the keypad of your radio during emergency communications to prevent an accidental or unintentional change of frequency, memory location, or other operating parameter. This will help ensure missed calls are minimized.

There are a number of other things I could have included in this article, but my intention is to begin the discussion of emergency communications by simply covering some basics we all should be aware of when asked for assistance during an emergency communications situation. Emergencies happen in real-time; therefore, prior planning and practice is the single-most important thing one can do to add value when called upon.

As I mentioned earlier, I would be interested in anyone's comments or feedback, and possible interest in an emergency communications presentation.

One of the best places to practice and develop your emergency communication skills is to help out with some of the many public service opportunities listed in this newsletter and also on the North East Ohio Public Service Volunteers web site at www.neopsv.org.

Mike DiTurno, KC8OWL
 kc8owl@yahoo.com

de W2THU ... continued

Hamfest season is definitely underway. After 24 years in Cleveland I finally attended the much praised Mansfield Hamfest at the Richland County Fairgrounds. I was not disappointed. It is one of the largest after Dayton. Next is the Lake County Hamfest at the Madison High School on 28 March 2004. Not as large as Mansfield, this LCARA sponsored event is very popular as it draws hams from as far away as New York and Pennsylvania. Of course, this helps us work our way up to the magnificent Dayton Hamvention which will take place on 16 to 19 May 2004.

Some of you read a glowing article in the *Wall Street Journal* praising Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) which was written at the time Cinergy announced it will roll out BPL in the Cincinnati area. In response, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ wrote a letter to the editor explaining the interference potential of internet signals radiating from power lines. Thanks to some prompting by our Ohio Section Manager, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, the *WSJ* did print Sumner's letter in its 12 March 2004 edition. Finally, a respected, national publication has published our concerns, as ham radio operators, to this potentially evil system.

Finally, I believe that all of our new members have now received their LEARA badge, Welcome Letter and Repeater User's Guide. If this is not the case, just send me an email and I will respond accordingly.

Best 73, Bob Winston

Upcoming Exam Sessions

March 2004

Date: 28-Mar-2004

Sponsor: LAKE COUNTY ARA - MADISON

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

Contact: SCOTT FARNHAM
(440)256-0320

Location: MADISON HIGH SCHOOL
MIDDLE RIDGE & BURNS RD
MADISON, OH 44057

Date: 28-Mar-2004

Sponsor: WARREN ARA

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

Contact: WILLIAM H SHOWERS
(330)872-1929

Location: NEWTON FALLS COMMUNITY
CENTER
52 E QUARRY ST
NEWTON FALLS, OH 44444
REGISTRATION @ 6:30 PM

April 2004

Date: 10-Apr-2004

Sponsor: SUMMIT CO AMERICAN RED CROSS

Time: 3:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: BRUCE M FERRY
(330)929-2766

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

Date: 18-Apr-2004

Sponsor: LORAIN COUNTY ARA RED CROSS

Time: 1:00 PM (walk-in's allowed)

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

Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
2929 W RIVER RD N
ELYRIA, OH 44035
WWW.W8HF.COM (HOME PAGE)

Date: 24-Apr-2004

Sponsor: WRECS

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

Contact: RAYMOND C DABKOWSKI
(440)729-0110
W8RD@W8RD.NET

Location: BENTLEYVILLE TOWN HALL
6253 CHAGRIN RIVER RD
CORNER SOLON RD & RIVER RD
BENTLEYVILLE, OH 44022

Upgrade Today!

Upcoming Hamfests

March 2004

Date: 21-Mar-2004

Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association

Internet: <http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR
4463 Holly Hill Drive
Toledo, OH 43614

Phone: 419-385-5624

Email: wd8mxr@arrl.net

Date: 28-Mar-2004

Sponsor: Lake County ARA

Internet: <http://www.lcara.org>

Contact: Robert Liddy, K8BL
7321 Enfield Drive
Mentor, OH 44060

Phone: 440-951-0283

Email: k8bl@ameritech.net

April 2004

Date: 18-Apr-2004

Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls ARC

Internet: <http://www.cfarc.org>

Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS
239 Bermont Avenue
Munroe Falls, OH 44262

Phone: 330-688-2013

Email: w8tts@arrl.net

Date: 25-Apr-2004

Sponsor: Twenty Over Nine Radio Club

Contact: Don Stoddard, K18SS
55 Whitney Avenue South
Youngstown, OH 44509

Phone: 330-793-7072

Email: N8LNE2@JUNO.COM

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 or contact Gary Dewey at 216-642-8705 for any of the following classes:

General Class

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

LEARA

*PO Box 22823
Beachwood OH 44122-0823*

LEARA - The Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association

VOICE REPEATERS:

53.230/R-	Highland Hills (136.5 Hz tone)
146.76/R-	Highland Hills (Use 110.9 Hz tone for remote inputs in Lakewood, Newbury & Willoughby)
146.88/R-	Lakewood (110.9 Hz tone)
224.90/R-	Lakewood (141.3 Hz tone)
444.40/R+	Highland Hills (131.8 Hz tone) - IRLP Node 4282
444.70/R+	Lakewood (131.8 Hz tone) (.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
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.